

Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology

Department of Integrative Biology and Evolution

University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna

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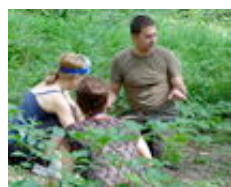
A different take on science: FIWI at the Up to Nature-Unplugged-Festival



Blowing bubbles - a trick to visualize the direction of the wind



Gathering food - how much does a roe deer eat per day?



How do wild boar find their food?

A different take on science: FIWI at the Up to Nature-Unplugged-Festival

As part of the Wiener Festwochen, from 15 to 17 June 2012 the Vogeltennwiese (a meadow near the Jubiläumswarte in the Vienna Woods) became a stage for Outdoor-Performances.

Together with Viennese forest experts the British Live-Art-Duo FrenchMottershead [Link 1] devised some interactive workshops. Theoretical knowledge about the particularities of place was transformed into hands-on experience. On Sat, 16 June from 1pm and on Sun, 17 June from 3pm FIWI's Andreas Duscher was there to lead participants on the path of native wildlife in a workshop entitled "Understory3".

In addition to looking at, touching and comparing different types of antlers, horns, and jawbones, participants pretended to be a wild animal, along the lines of "Right now I'm a deer". Andreas Duscher came up with some interesting ideas to demonstrate what it is like to be a wild animal. The tasks were almost as varied as life in the forest: Crouching like a roe deer to avoid tree branches, threading huge

antlers through gaps between trees without getting stuck in the thicket like a red deer stag, digging in the soil for grubs like a wild boar, or blowing bubbles to determine the direction of the wind that carries scents through the woods. The participants then experienced resting under some bushes, only to be disturbed again by noisy hikers.

"Learning by doing" allowed people to understand the behaviour of wild animals a bit better, and they also gained insights into some of the research areas at FIWI.

In the end everyone got to make their own small horn pendant as a souvenir.



More info

[FrenchMottershead \[Link 1\]](#)

[Festwochen \[Link 2\]](#)

[Brut Wien \[Link 3\]](#)

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- [3] <http://www.brut-wien.at/programm/detail/793/de/>
- [4] <http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/mailto:fiwi@vetmeduni.ac.at>
- [5] <http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/research-institute-of-wildlife-ecology/>

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