



Pro Silva Austria

Close-to-Nature-Forestry

www.ProSilvaAustria.at



15th June 2011

Press release

"Natural forestry is the future of the forest!"

Between 16 and 18 June 2011, more than 40 participants from 25 European countries will meet for the annual conference of "**Pro Silva Europa**" in the forestry training centre in Ossiach. In addition to the conference of delegates chaired by Prof. Jean-Phillip Schütz from Switzerland, the focus will be on practical excursions to exemplary companies.

"Pro Silva Austria" is proud to organise this annual conference for the first time in Austria" says the chairman DI Dr. *Georg Frank* (Vienna). "Pro Silva Austria" has 400 members - from forest farmers to university professors - who are actively involved in the implementation of the principles of near-natural forest management and maintain an intensive exchange of experience.

International Year of the Forest 2011

"Near-natural forest management" is based on a comprehensive concept of sustainability, which includes not only economic, but also ecological and social aspects. The focus is on native tree species in forests of different ages with natural regeneration.

Challenges in times of climate change and environmental disasters

Health - Biodiversity - Production of valuable wood and resistance to climate change and disasters should be secured. These criteria correspond to the framework adopted at the European Ministerial Conference in Lisbon in 1998.

Excursions to exemplary forests

- Thursday 16th June: Visit to the forest enterprise of the "Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta" on the Carinthian-Styrian border on the **Hebalm** and in **Ligist** under the direction of Prof. *Josef* and DI *Clemens Spörk*.
- Friday 17th June: Excursion to the forest of **Gut Poitschach** near Feldkirchen. Manager and owner DI Dr. *Eckart Senitza* says: "*It is a great honour and challenge for us to present our farm to an international audience of experts and to face the discussion about the way of management*".
- Saturday 18. June: Excursion to St. Salvator in the Metnitz valley. The rural forest farms of the **Austrian state prize winners Helmut Wachernig** and *Dietmar Rinner* are presented. The main topics are the use of single tree selection fellings in extreme steep terrain and the regeneration of mixed tree species. *Dietmar Rinner* has made a significant contribution to the development of an innovative small cable crane. Both farmers are members of a network of the project "*Sustainable Forest Management Central Carinthia*", which was carried out via the Central Carinthia region.

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We are pleased about your interest and your participation in an excursion!