

## Introduction

We, Martha Gschwandtner and Herbert Plass, welcome you on behalf of the Austrian | naturschutzbund |. This society was founded in 1913, the local group in Bad Ischl now exists for approximately 10 years.

Purpose of this society is safeguarding and, where necessary, re-establishment of our natural and cultural landscape as well as a healthy environment as a basis of our live, including humans, animals, and plants.



Our ultimate objective is to keep the rich biodiversity of local flora and fauna. This includes spectacular resettling of the almost extinguished bear, wolf, or lynx as well as taking care for the small flowers of poor grassland. Another objective is, to support local authorities to enhance quality of life also in urban areas. In this aspect, goal of our work is to keep existing spaces of intact nature, support development of areas which are endangered to get lost or are to be newly

established, and to prevent unnecessary destroying of valuable habitats.

Also an important concern of | naturschutzbund | is, to enhance the awareness of the importance and the beauty of an intact environment. Thus we organize courses and excursions for schools and grown-ups.

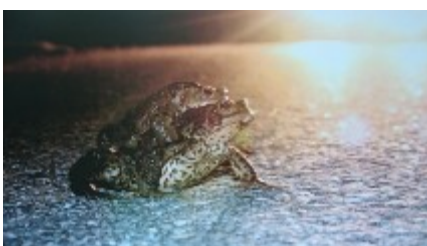


This years initiative is to motivate municipal gardeners as well as private persons to participate in the action "nature connects - every sq m counts". Objective of this action is to maintain or newly set up blooming meadows in order to supply bees, bumblebees, or butterflies. You can register your meadow at an internet site ([naturverbindet.at](http://naturverbindet.at)) and you will have the chance to win a price for the most beautiful spot of land.



## Kaltenbach:

The small river "Kaltenbach", (cold creek) rises north of Kathrin and flows south east and then southwards along the foot of the mountain. Before regulation the river Traun had a lot of branches and the Kaltenbach entered the river somewhere close to the place where the lower terminus of the Kathrin cable car is now located. Due to the regulation a lot of longish cut-off lakes remained and the Kaltenbach found a new riverbed and enters Traun at the northern end of Sissy-Park. One of the longish cut-off lakes ist the Kaltenbachteich - litterally translated cold creek pond - which now is a natural monument.



In spring lots of common toads and grass frogs are on their way to their hatcheries. They come from the mountain slope of Kathrin and wander to lake Kaltenbach. On their dangerous way they have to cross several streets and a housing estate. Pairs of toads usually travel together, the male animal tightly embracing the female.

Since about 30 years the amphibians are protected by a fence more or less east of the southbound Kaltenbach. 2 years ago the fence was extended and has a length of approx. 500 m starting from the terminus of the cable car. Along the fence buckets are dug into the ground to collect the animals. The fence set up by municipal staff together with members of the | naturschutzbund | and other environmentalists. The collected animals then are transported to lake Kaltenbach and released there. In 2015 we collected about 2100 amphibians, this year about 2500.



Sometimes fish get into the lake. Since fish are natural enemies of frogs and tadpoles, the lake has to be emptied in order to remove the fish. This took place with help of members of the NB last time in 2013.

Several years ago the WWF organized re-wilding several rivers in Salzkammergut. This action was named Flussdialog (Dialogue for rivers). Amongst



other groups the | naturschutzbund | attended the discussions. We asked not only to re-naturate the river Traun and its cut-off lake near Engleithen, a few hundred meters south of lake Kaltenbach but also to revive the Kaltenbach, which run in a concrete trough through the park. Finally the northernmost part of the Kaltenbach was freed in course of the garden- show last year and is now part of a recreation area, called Sissi-park.

After re-wilding and connecting the cut-off lake at Engleiten the neophyte Japanese knot weed (*Fallopia japonica*) threatened the newly established riverside. Members of the | naturschutzbund | spontaneously helped removing these plants by digging them out including all roots. Then about 350 trees suitable for the site were planted, this because trees provide shadow, which is an unsuitable environment for knot weed .



### Bauerpark:

The largest public part in Bad Ischl is the Bauer-park. The whole park covers an area of about 8 ha.

About one third of the green area of the Bauer-park is covered by wood. The rest are meadows and trees, which are scattered all over the park. Properties of the soil covers a wide spectrum, from quite dry gravel to swampy grassland.



The biological value can be estimated, when considering that more than 50 identified species of birds and bats inhabit this place. You can find butterflies and also grass snakes (*Natrix natrix*) or the Aesculapian snake (*Zamenis longissimus*). A great variety of plants ranging from small flowers to big trees grow throughout the park. Therefore a signature campaign

was initiated by | naturschutzbund | where more than 1000 supporters signed. This project is supported by the state of Upper-Austria.







front: meadow mowed 1 or 2 times,  
background: meadow frequently mowed

Care for the meadows over-boarding with blooming flowers was taken by the municipality Bad Ischl. When it was found to be beneficial to outsource the care for the park, local farmers took over, but their care was too intensive: The grass was mowed several times a year and fertilized to gain better yield of grass. As a consequence the flowers disappeared and uniformly green meadows remained. Now a committee, consisting of representatives public authorities and Naturschutzbund developed a

new concept for maintaining the meadows. The mowing was done by municipal staff. Members of the NB volunteered collecting the hay from the sometimes quite steep meadows and loading it for transport, which was again done by municipal staff. The effort of | naturschutzbund | members was about 300-500 hours a year. Now also a social organisation (Bildungszentrum Salzkammergut, BIS) is involved. This new concept appears to be successful, although it will take some time until the diversity of flowers is re-established.



A special place is the approximately 2500 sq m area which was most badly affected by the "intensive care" mentioned before. Additionally after those heavy rains, typically for the



Salzkammergut, the meadow was extremely wet. Hence it was decided to remediate the area according to nature oriented rules. Goal was to establish a typical calcareous grassland. This habitat has a rich biodiversity but is extremely endangered.

The layer of earth was removed and replaced by local, lime gravel, which is slightly alkaline due to shell sand (pulverized sea shells). After this members of the | naturschutzbund | removed the big stones. Seeds for about 100 flowers and grasses were purchased from a local company specialized in wildlife. After mixing with little sterilized compost they were sown. Now the biotope exists for 3 years, for full development it will take another 8 - 10 years.

The work was financially supported by an local innkeeper. The | naturschutzbund | invested about 100 working hours to renature this area.



note the two big trees: Oak and Black Pine.  
Stem circumference > 4m, height >35m

## Activities Bauerpark



On the earlier mentioned calcareous grassland two times the "Bauernherbst" took place. Bauernherbst translates to "farmers autumn" and is a feast featuring local, nature related companies. Using a special construction of the foundation, the biotope did not suffer.

The Ischl Group of the | naturschutzbund | participated with a shop, an information-, and activity-desk. In our shop we sold seeds for local plants, self-grown plants as well as nesting aids for birds, bats, or insects. For the latter offered a workshop for children and grown-ups for assembling these nesting aids (c.f. picture). The workload was about 400 hours.

Due to the diversity of the Bauer park a variety of activities can be offered. The | naturschutzbund | organized several tours guided by experts. Topics are bird life, insects, or plants. These events are well accepted, about 40 - 80 participants usually participate.



During school holidays several organizations and NB offer activities for children and youths in the Bauer-Park and elsewhere. The | naturschutzbund | also participates with nature related workshops. In several excursions experts teach to identify animals and plants, or how to prepare scyths for mowing and then cutting the grass with them. The pictures show a raptor demonstration, children's summer activities and scyths mowing.



Find more information about the park at [www.bauerpark.at](http://www.bauerpark.at)

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