

Naucrates Times

conservation biology

December 2007 - No. 18—newsletter

Six nationalities were represented at the Sixth Annual meeting

Members arrived from SIX different European countries at the SIXth Annual Meeting representing Finland, Belgium, Holland, England, Italy and Malta. Unfortunately flights were cancelled or delayed for the Italian transport strike on Friday and therefore some of the members could not make it.

The meeting was held at the Santa Margherita Castle in Cori, the beautiful accommodation site suitable for this occasion!

On Friday morning a visit in the village of Sermoneta and a guided visit to the Caetani castle was organized for some of the participants. In the afternoon, all the participants arrived in Cori and we could all enjoy a nice pizza-dinner.

On Saturday morning, a local guide took the group to visit the historical sites of Cori village. At lunch Italian "panini" were served in the castle patio, in the sunshine.

After an espresso we were all ready and sat in the meeting room, with our mind prepared to listen to Monica's presentation about the Naucrates activities, budget and future plans. A 10 minutes video about the mangrove restoration programme was shown. Alessandra De Lucia presented her work in Thailand concerning sea turtle behavioural observations.

At the end of the presentations, a discussion on how to improve programmes was conducted among the participants.

The winner of the Photographer competition was then selected. For the occasion, hand-painted T-Shirt and a shopping bag was given as present to each participant. The group photo was taken in the meeting room.

After a glass of red wine, we all walked down the hill to reach a nice Italian "trattoria" where an Italian traditional meal was attending the group.....delicious!

Naucrates would like to thank you all of you for coming and would



Naucrates Photographer of the year 2007

WINNERS

In occasion of the Sixth Annual Meeting, held at Castello Santa Margherita, in Cori (LT-Italy) on 10th November 2007, pictures were on display for two days in the room where the meeting was conducted.

A total of 50 pictures participated in the competition. Participants of the competition were: Alain Dohet, Marjut Valtanen, Mark Van der Rijt, Claudio Conti, Ray Shepherd, Monica Aureggi and Joost Vande Denn.

Members who attended the meeting were invited to choose one favourite picture and vote for it. Naucrates secretary with help of the children, counted the votes and proclaimed the winners. The winners of **Naucrates Photographer of the Year 2007** were:

ALAIN DOHET (1° and 2° prize) - **Monica Aureggi** (3° prize)

WINNERS RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE AND A PRIZE GENEROUSLY DONATED BY FERRINO (www.ferrino.it)



Naucrates would like to thank all of you who have participated in this new initiative.

Naucrates would like to thank FERRINO for sponsoring the initiative and sending prizes like back packs, bags for cameras, etc. that are all very useful for people who work in the natural environment.



2° PRIZE



1° PRIZE



3° PRIZE

NAUCRATES ANNOUNCEMENTS

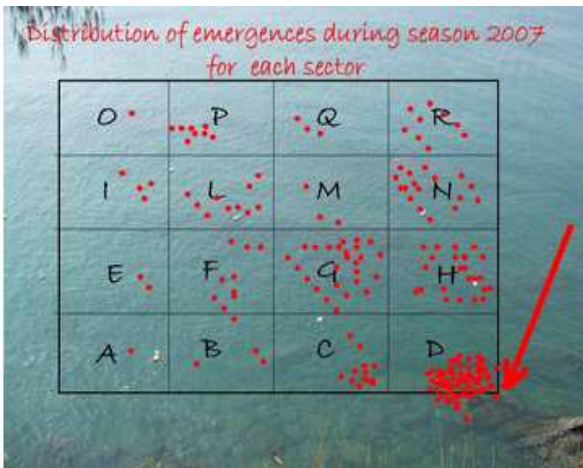
- 🌐 *Volunteers are needed for Thailand project 2008 (January-April).*
- 🌐 *Fundraising campaign to purchase a motorbike: find details on our website www.naucrates.org*
- 🌐 *NAUCRATES NEW POSTAL ADDRESS: Naucrates, Colle Tenne, 04010 Giulianello di Cori (LT) - ITALY*

Observations from the rock—Thailand 2007

The meeting in Giulianello was a good occasion to see the volunteers and to discuss about the results on the last season obtained from "the observations from rocks" activity in Thailand. All the volunteers who attended the meeting, were involved in the activity, spending four hours a day on the observation hill.

The first part of the work was to identify the study area. We created a map (with the volunteers help) fixing buoies in the area in the sea in front of Hornbill Hill. A 16 sectors grid was designed and turtle emergences were mapped within the grid. A total of 286 sightings were recorded during the season. Most of them (57%) occurred in the sector near the "SEAWEEDS ROCK" (sector D from the picture).

From the collected data we noticed that most of the sightings occurred in the morning in March: in particular 23% in January, 18% in February and 47% in March. Correlation between temperature and the tide was investigated. The sea temperature increased in March and during most of the morning sightings the tide was coming in (25% in January, 26% in February and 58% in March).



Our main question is: "what do the turtles do in this particular area?". The answer seems to be: feeding. Their short diving times and the fact that sometimes we were able to see them spending a lot of time the rocks, confirmed this idea.

In order to understand what is underwater, four transects were positioned.

It resulted that most of the substrate is composed of rock.

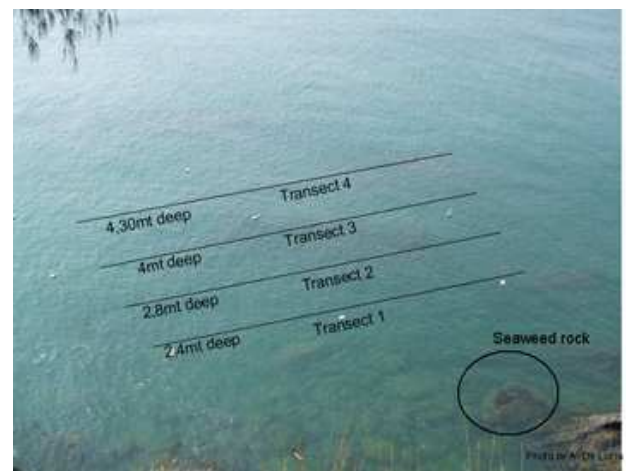
Seagrass was not found, whereas different kind of seaweeds was identified as: *Sargassum* and *Padina* (most common species, in particular on the seaweeds rock), *Turbinaria*, *Laurencia* and *Lithophyllum*.

The study will be continued in 2008. The area will be mapped using fixed buoies. More transects will be positioned and samples of seaweeds will be taken for identification and to create an herbarium of local species.

Volunteers are needed to conduct the work.

We are very grateful to all the people that helped last season. Thanks to everybody,

Alessandra.



STAGE the NATURE - A workshop with children

In occasion of the VI Annual Meeting, Naucrates organized a theatre workshop in collaboration with the set designer Cristiana Aureggi. Children of mixed ages and nationalities (Cori, Giulianello, Belgium and Carimate) spent an afternoon together making a model of a theatrical scene using recycled materials and cardboard boxes. After a brief introduction to the role of a set designer and to the team that makes a show happen children were very excited to start their project. Divided into two teams working on two themes: "The Sea" and "The Countryside", our little set designers produced some colourful



and fun work. Using recycled material such as old medicines boxes, yoghurt pots, crisps packets, match sticks, lids, plastic water bottles, tea bags, cardboard boxes, etc. is one way to stimulate the imagination and creativity of the child and the result at the workshop was excellent! Parents were also involved in assisting their children cutting out shapes, gluing, drying and painting.



There was full concentration and excitement all the way through. At the end Claudio Conti gave each participant a present from Naucrates. The workshop was held at the Castello Santa Margherita, in the cosy meeting room thanks to Barbara Ricci who kindly offered the use of the structure.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR NAUCRATES MEMBERSHIP?

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NaucratesTimes is a quarterly newsletter dedicated to the exchange of information on conservation biology and activities run by Naucrates organization.

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Text revised by Katie Jones.

NaucratesTimes is dependent upon your free and voluntary contributions in the form of articles, news items, announcements and other contributions. Please do not hesitate to contact us or send us any news or contributions.

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