



Forest excursions on Thursday 31th July 2014

Brief description and practical information

The general topic of the forest excursions is “Multifunctional forestry in Switzerland”. During these excursions, Swiss foresters will share their knowledge and experience about management of forests having different functions.

Beside the forestry topics, you will have the chance to enjoy scenic Swiss landscapes and to visit some touristic spots. Switzerland being known for its cheese and its chocolate, at least one of these elements will be integrated in the programs.

Forest excursion Nr. 1 “Lakes”

You will discover the Plateau & Lakes region of the canton of Fribourg, located in the Northern part of the canton, between the Alps and the Jura mountains.

Main topics of the excursion:

- Multifunctionality in Swiss forestry
- Economical function of the forest / timber production : visit of a the State Forest “Galm” (Oak, Beech, Norway Spruce)
- Biodiversity : Visit of the world heritage nature reserve “Grande Cariçaille” on the shore of Neuchâtel Lake

The excursion will be guided by forest engineer Robert Jenni, in charge of the forest planning at the Forest service of the canton of Fribourg.

Forest excursion Nr. 2 “Gruyère”

The Gruyère region is located in the Southern part of the canton of Fribourg, in the mountainous region of the Prealps. The region is known for its world famous Gruyère cheese, its medieval castle and its scenic landscapes (view on the Gastlosen), with many summer and winter touristic resorts.

Main topics of the excursion:

- Forests in the Alps having a protection function against natural hazards (snow avalanches, rockfalls, erosion, landslides and floods): Forest management to insure the long-term protective effect, organization of logging operations
- Prevention of natural hazards in mountain areas
- Wood transformation for construction and energy

The excursion will be guided by forest engineer Willy Eyer, head of the sector “prevention against natural hazards” at the Forest service of the canton of Fribourg.

Forest excursion Nr. 3 "Emmental"

The Emmental is situated in the Eastern part of the canton of Berne, borders on the canton Lucerne and is drained by the name giving river Emme. Many pictures are associated with the Emmental: the huge and world famous Emmental cheese, the beautiful farm houses in wood, wooden bridges and the dark forests with mostly silver fir, spruce and beech trees, managed by a selection technique (without clearfelling and with a natural regeneration). Private ownership with over 85% of the forests, is dominant. The State forest service works very close with the forest owners.

The excursion will be guided by forest engineer Walter Marti, who was during more than 30 years the leader of the Forest service Emmental as well as active member in multiple functions in cantonal and national organisations for training in forestry. During this field trip the visitors will be informed, mostly in forest, about silviculture in unevenaged forest management, activities of the forest service in mostly private forests and training in forestry. On the touristic side, we will visit an old and new big wooden bridge and a farmer cheese factory. The way back to Schwarzsee leads over the Gurnigel-mountainroad, a very scenic trip in front of the high alpine mountains.

Practical information (for all 3 excursions)

- Departure time and location:** 8:00 at the competition center in Schwarzsee
- Arrival time and location:** 17:30 at the competition center in Schwarzsee
(18:00 for forest excursion Nr. 2 "Gruyère")
- Language:** English (all excursion guides speak also fluently German and French)
- Participation fee:** 15 EURO / 8 EURO for children (H-14/D-14)
Lunch and beverages are included
- Cloths and shoes:** Please take cloths and shoes adapted to walk in the forest and adapted to the weather
- Organization:** Forest service of the canton of Fribourg

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