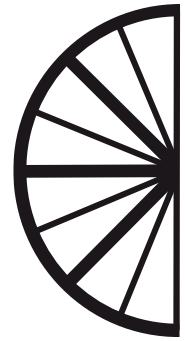


ECO NEWS



ECOMUSEUM BERGSLAGEN

MAN | ENVIRONMENT | LANDSCAPE

Power & Energy

was the name of one of our best Ecomuseum seminars so far. It took place in Ludvika in 2010 and the theme was solar power, water power, horsepower and hand power.

This year, late summer, I experienced both power and energy at two Ecomuseum sites. Last weekend, I visited Riddarhyttan in Skinnskatteberg, and this weekend New Lapphyttan in Norberg. In between the two you will find Fagersta and Dunshammar, with their 5th century blaster pit furnaces. There is a strong connection between these sites.

In Riddarhyttan, people take actively part in non-profit associations and activities en masse. In Norberg, the municipal energy is strong and noticeable. Officials pull their weight there. There is a difference, but power is power. It leads us forward, but in different ways.

This is interesting to watch and follow from where I sit in Ludvika, the mining district in north. I look towards south to Lake Mälaren and Hallstahammar, with all its visitors around Trångfors, Skantzen and Strömsholm. Down there they took care of the iron. In between are Skinnskatteberg, Fagersta and Norberg, a concentrated prehistoric district, where iron was first produced – initially for household needs (the red soil of Röda Jorden) and later for industry (Lapphyttan). Last but not least, there is Dunshammar in Fagersta, where the iron trade once probably started.

Christina Lindeqvist



Ingrid likes minerals

In her basement, Ingrid Grusell from Skinnskatteberg has an extensive collection of minerals. She started collecting with her husband, and took over after his death. He was a mining meter man in Riddarhyttan and, as when he was younger, had studied geology at Bergsskolan in Filipstad.

The shelves are filled with stones. The most magnificent must be the ball of golden pyrite. It is the size of a tennis ball and lies heavy in the hand, a little sharp on the surface, full of fine golden crystals. This is commonly known as Fool's Gold – and is deceptively like gold. Grusell's husband brought it home from the Jakobsgruvan mine in

Riddarhyttan. The black ball appeared after blasting at a depth of 250 meters. But when the dirt came off, it shimmered beautifully. In the photographs taken in August this year, as it lies next to a smaller pyrite crystal, it is astounding to see how much Fool's Gold can vary in appearance.

Grusell is a member of VAGS, Västcrås Amateur Geological Society, and has travelled the world to visit geologically interesting places. Since 2010, she has also been chairman of the society Friends of Geocentrum in Riddarhyttan. The work to create a geopark and visitor centre is supported by Ecomuseum Bergslagen.



Pyrite (iron & sulphur), FeS₂ – look how beautiful the mineral can crystallize!

New Lapphyttan – got a new name

New Lapphyttan in Norberg was on Saturday 1 Sep 2012 renamed

Bergslagen's Medieval Museum

The day of the christening began with an opening ceremony led by medieval archaeologist Ing-Marie Pettersson Jensen. A short drama in beautiful costumes. Pettersson Jensen played Karin from Karbenning, owner of Lapphyttan, who received the superintendent, County Governor Ingemar Skogö. On the king's behalf, he had come to collect more taxes from the miners. From the 13th century onwards, Bergslagen was Sweden's coffers. The county governor gave a beautiful opening speech, informing us that this area is the cradle of Swedish industry. Lapphyttan may have been the first blast furnace in Europe. Today we are facing a new era, and the mines are re-opening. There is an exciting future ahead.

There were about 150 people at the ceremony. The unveiling of the new name and logo was followed by a round of applause. Everyone marched into the works area, where there were plenty of activities. The children have been given quite a lot of space, and there are children's activities such as kids' mining district sessions. Many of the activities are aimed at the schools.

There is also a new great looking website, where you can read about the plans for a museum and how the area can develop:
www.bergslagensmedeltidsmuseum.se

Iron trials are now underway, and will go on for two weeks. There is a fire in the blast furnace, so hurry up if you want to see what's going on. Visitors are shown around every day at 14.00.

The name change, however, came as a surprise to Ecomuseum. New Lapphyttan is an established name, found in guidebooks, brochures and signage. The old name is thus likely to be with us for a little while yet.



The children's Bergslagen



The reconstructed medieval blast furnace



Riddarhyttan the Theatre Machine

Covering the time from Röda Jorden (the red soil) – that is 700 BC – until the birth of Jesus Christ, Teatermaskinen's creative performance gathers speed. And speed, there is! The first time periods are enacted outside, the woods as a backdrop.

Everything started with those who wandered through the woods around Riddarhyttan, stopping for a few weeks to make their own iron out of red soil. Great drama in every scene, and impressive logistics that are difficult to grasp. Everything works, but how? You barely have time to think about it before it's time to move on. About 40 people are involved in the drama. Everything flows. As part of the audience you step into another time, and with a little imagination, you can feel the old harsh conditions.

We are moving in the woods with different companions as time progresses, and after eight hours we arrive in the late 19th century. We have eaten with random people and simple crofters; soup and fried salt herring. We then go home to sleep.

The picture above to the left shows a young smith on his way to Larsbo works. He meets a rebel and can tell him that the great revolt against the king is called off. The adjacent picture shows a wild Bacchanal – a drinks party to celebrate a change of ownership for Färna and Karmansbo.

The following day we watch the third and final part of the Riddarhyttan project. It takes place in the new premises in Teatermaskinen's gigantic house. We are now into the 20th century, and it is all about Marx, social democracy and the welfare state. Riddarhyttan and its people are introduced to us, Per Albin Hansson is Prime Minister, the People's House is inaugurated, the war is over and the future looks bright, or does it?

There is a colossal energy, which is hard to resist. It is easy to become playful and lured into the rollicking events.



The Eco Council Trip

Fri 31 Aug

Skokloster & Sigtuna

This year's Eco Council trip went to Skokloster castle and the town of Sigtuna. As usual, every seat was taken, but after years of sunny daytrips, this one got back at us with a vengeance. It poured with rain!

Skokloster was built in the 17th century by count and field marshal Carl Gustaf Wrangel. Building works started in 1654 but in the years to come, the count only managed to sleep there for 30 nights. He died in 1676, the castle still not completed. When the workers received the news of his death, they laid down their tools and left, worried they wouldn't get paid. This is the reason why the giant banquet hall was never completed. It is left exactly as it was. Wrangel's daughter Margareta Juliana married another count, Nils Brahe, and the castle remained in the Brahe family until the last of its line died in 1930.

The state bought Skokloster in 1967, and the sale included approximately 50,000 fixtures. Today, the castle is a museum and belongs to the Royal Armoury. During our visit, the halls were kept in darkness and the guide used a torch. Photography was permitted, except for in the armoury. It was an exciting walk through Sweden's period as a great power, with strong links to the iron industry in Bergslagen. Morning coffee and lunch was enjoyed in the castle café. It tasted wonderful and was a comfort in the pouring rain.

Our next stop was Sigtuna, for a tour of the town. Water splashed around us, but the town whetted our appetite and many said they would return, as several had never been before. Sigtuna was founded in 980 and became the seat of the first Christian king, Olof Skötkonung. Afternoon coffee and deliciously flaky apple pie was served at the town's most famous café, Tant Brun.

Despite an unforgettably wet day we remained cheerful, as soaked as we were!



Regina da Ré, head of operations at Skantzen, Hallstahammar, came along on the trip.



Gathering in front of Sigtuna town hall, the smallest in Sweden. It was inaugurated in 1744, and became a listed building in 1971



At Tant Brun's café, coffee is served in copper pots. From left are Lars Cambrand from Karmansbo as well as Inger Meijer and Bertil Andersson from Gravendal.

Bergslagen in Music & Poetry

with Bertil & Per



Bertil Olsson sings in Skattlösberg

Folk singer Bertil Olsson from Skinnskatteberg and poet Per Helge from Västerfärnebo take us on a lyrical and musical journey at The Museum of Work (Arbetets Museum) in Norrköping on Saturday 22 September at 13.00. Props: A bag of books, a guitar, a button accordion and a flute

www.arbetetsmuseum.se

A co-operation between Ecomuseum & The Museum of Work

Cultural Heritage Day

Sunday 9 sep

This day is organised by the National Heritage Board and takes place once a year. This year's theme is "Under the Surface". Information is available on www.raa.se/kulturarvsdagen.

Our local programme:

10.00 – Mineral excursion to Blåkullaberg in Smedjebacken. Meet at Ludvika sports hall, and bring your own car. Arranged by STF and Västerbergslagen's Geological Ass. Evald Persson (+46 240 150 69).

11.00 – Tour of Klenshyttan a well-preserved blast furnace between Ludvika and Grängesberg. Guided by Anna-Karin Fändrik. Price 20 SEK. Arranged by the Municipality of Ludvika.

13.00 – Underneath the Arches and Towers. Tour of Grangärde church. Meet at the church door. Arranged by the Municipality of Ludvika and Gränge Säfsnäs parish.

15.00 – The Grängesberg That Disappeared. A two hour walking tour with Örjan Hamrin. Meet at the station. Price 40 SEK. Arranged by the Municipality of Ludvika.

LECTION

When Gold became Iron

Sundag 9 Sep at 16.00
Västanfors Homestead

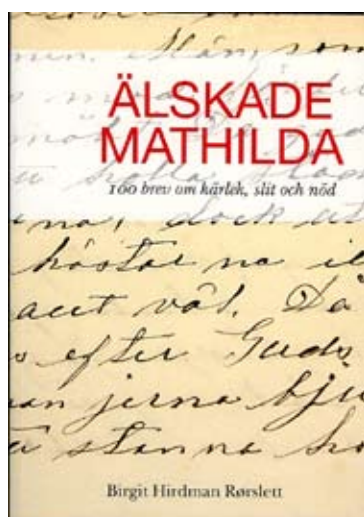
Author & professor of architectural history, **Fredric Bedoire**, recounts from his book about his ancestor Jean Bedoire, owner of Västanfors Ironworks in the 18th century who was also involved in the construction of the Strömsholm Canal the years 1772-1795.

Please note:

Advance booking required on +46 223 175 78. Entrance fee: 85 SEK. The amount of seats is limited. The book will be available for purchase.

Ecomuseums 2012

An Ecomuseum conference will take place on 19–21 September in Seixal near Lisbon. The conference is a collaboration between Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development and Newcastle University. Ecomuseum Bergslagen will contribute with the presentation "Ecomuseum Bergslagen in Progress", about how we can introduce nature into culture as well as contribute to increased knowledge with the help of local initiatives. Ecomuseum Bergslagen will be represented by Erik Hofrén, Örjan Hamrin, Ingvar Henriksson and Christina Lindeqvist.



Buy from Adlibris

From September onwards, our books will be sold at Adlibris book store, making them cheap and quick to get hold of. In Ludvika, the books can also be purchased at Globes book store, or directly from our office.

Älskade Mathilda, 150 SEK -

An authentic portrayal of everyday life in the 1880's in Karlberg, adjacent to Norberg by New Lapphyttan. The family who lost their mansion in Sunne, Värmland are trying their luck in Bergslagen.

Från Berg till Spik, 80 SEK

Full of lovely colour pictures based on Barbro Jadling's drawings. The text is revised after Kerstin Bergström's original script. The book has been available in an A4 format at Ekomuseum's office since the end of the 1990's. Originally intended for teachers and primary/middle school pupils, it is suitable for children and adults alike.

Other books at Adlibris are:

The two Guide Books:

- Om järn och människor
- Of Man and Iron
- Järnladies - från arvtagerskan till kolarhustrun

www.adlibris.com



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