

NAVARINO ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATORY

NEO Management

Friday, 27 July 2012

NEO NEA #5 (April-June, 2011)

NEO stands for Navarino Environmental Observatory. But NEO in Greek (νέο) means news as well and NEA is its plural. So this is our news!

Activities

Past

- A Master course, entitled "Plant biodiversity and evolution – a global perspective" took place 5-11 May at NEO. Associate Prof. Catarina Rydin, Department of Botany, Stockholm University, was the instructor of the course. The students were introduced to the natural and cultural flora of the Mediterranean and in particular Messinia.
- The Annual Report 2012 and a Student Project Catalogue were completed and uploaded on MONDO.
- The volunteers for Natura Hall for the period June-July, Karin Ekstedt, Karin Widström and Stathis Charitos arrived on 2 June. An introduction by Nikos Kalivitis, Vasilis Karakousis, Fotis Stavrianopoulos took place 4-6 June.
- The Teachers' Collegium of the Geology Department, Stockholm University took place at Costa Navarino 5-8 June. The Collegium was led by the Head of the Department, Prof. Alasdair Skelton
- A joint course between Stockholm University and Cornell University on "Ecohydrology: a Mediterranean perspective" was held during 17-23 June at NEO. Eight postgraduate and

PhD students attended this international course that was developed and run by Dr. Steve W. Lyon, Department of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology, Stockholm University (Sweden) and Dr. M. Todd Walter, Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University (USA) for the Navarino Environmental Observatory (NEO) to explore some of the central concepts of ecohydrology. The course brought together students from both universities to investigate processes driving plant-water interactions in the Mediterranean environment surrounding Costa Navarino. Students designed and carried out several field experiments highlighting both the location's uniqueness and potential sensitivity to climatic changes (Pictures 1-3). The students, together with their instructors, plan to put together an education paper from the course and submit it to a special issue of EGU's Hydrology and Earth System Sciences .

- Following an announcement and recruitment process, a new Station Manager was recruited for NEO. Giorgos Maneas, former leader of the Hellenic Ornithological Society project at Gialova lagoon was selected to replace Nikos Kalivitis who moved to a research position.
- The first NEO-atmospheric research group workshop was held at NEO 25-30 June with the participation of Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Academy of Athens, HC Hansson, Peter Tunved and Radovan Krejci ITM, SU. The first year of data was evaluated, a paper outlining the results was prepared and future research activities were planned.
- An experiment on atmospheric composition was performed from 06 June until 13 July at NEO. The mobile unit of the Academy of Athens was transported to Costa Navarino for continuous measurements. This was the first time that LIDAR measurements were performed at NEO (Pictures 4,5).
- Two requests for research collaboration with NEO has been received. The first was from Prof. Konstandopoulos, Director, Aerosol & Particle Technology Laboratory, Chairman of the Board and Managing Director, Centre for Research & Technology Hellas and President of the Hellenic Association for Aerosol Research (HAAR). The request has been forwarded to Prof Christos Zerefos. The second one was from Dr. Elias Dimitriou, Institute of Inland Waters, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research. This request was forwarded to Prof Gia Destouni.

- A NEO information leaflet was produced to be distributed to Costa Navarino guests and others interested in NEO. The leaflet is available on request by NEO Management.
- A EU research proposal within the 7th Framework Programme for research, called WATERFALL, led by Dr. Gerritt deRoy, Helmholtz-Zentrum fuer Umweltsforschung, Leipzig, Germany and with NEO-researcher Gia Destouni as co-applicant (part of the proposal focuses on Gialova lagoon and Costa Navarino) got high scores and passed the first round, but unfortunately did not make it in the final round. The research consortium has decided to give it a second chance in the next call.
- Associate Prof. Nicholas Zacharias, University of Peloponnese has, together with Dr. Nikos Kalivitis and Karin Holmgren, submitted a research proposal entitled “Digging the Past of Crete During the Holocene: Proposing an Holistic Assessment of Archaeological, Environmental and Landscape Data” to the Greek Private Funding Agency: Latsis Public Benefit Foundation.
- Karin Holmgren has, together with Dr Panagiotis Karkanias, Nikos Kalivitis and Dr Elin Norström, submitted a research proposal entitled “Late Quaternary climate variability and vegetation dynamics in southern Greece” to the Swedish Research Council, VR. Here we apply for research focusing on Alepotrypa Cave, Mani, and Schiza Island and Sapiensa Island, Messinia.
- A new PhD student, Meighan Boyd has been employed at Dep of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology. Karin Holmgren is the supervisor and research focus is paleoclimatology, using cave speleothems. The cave to be investigated in Greece within this project is Alepotrypa Cave, Mani

Upcoming

- The official inauguration of NEO research station is being arranged for 26-28 October. The event includes a 3-day cultural program and a research workshop, preliminary entitled "Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Region". The planning of the event is jointly led by the NEO Director, Marina Papatsoni, Valia Vanezi, Karin Ulfsson-Crepin and Karin Jonsell – a newly recruited communication officer at SU.

Visits to and from NEO

- Julie Lauterbach and Victor Emmanuel post graduate students hosted in Messinia by the Captain Vasilis Foundation visited NEO and met with Nikos Kalivitis.
 - NEO Director Karin Holmgren was at Messinia from 14 until 28 June and will be at NEO from 23 July to 15 August.
 - The Ambassador of Sweden in Greece, Håkan Malmqvist and the Press, Information and Cultural Officer Sofia Keramida visited NEO on 11 June. The guests had a tour in Natura Hall by the volunteers and Nikos Kalivitis showed them around at the atmospheric research laboratories. In a written letter from the Embassy to the NEO Director the visitors expressed that they were very impressed by all NEO activities that have been and are being carried out!
 - Johan Kleman and Ingmar Borgström will be at NEO for field work 17-22 September. They will be our first guests in the NEO Research Building!
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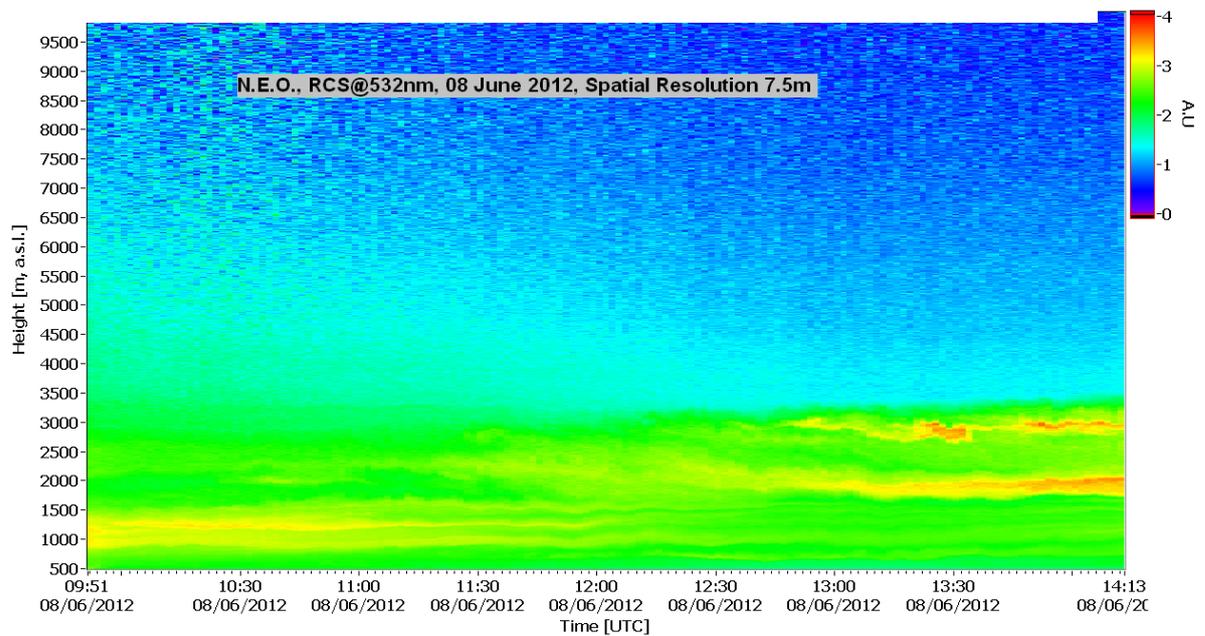
Picture 1-3: Stockholm University and Cornell students taking measurements on the field during the Ecohydrology workshop that took place at NEO.







Picture 2: The mobile lab of the Academy of Athens at NEO



Picture 3: LIDAR measurements performed at NEO on 8 June 2012, presenting aerosol layers up to 3km height