

Nuuka Association – the Friends of Nuuksio National Park, Finland

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chairperson



Nuuk시오 National Park

- Established 1994
- Area 5400 hectares
- 200 000 visitors annually
- 30 min to the Helsinki Centre
- Visitor Centre Haltia introducing the whole Finland
- Trails, SME services
- Wilderness for a million people metropole



Nuuka Association

- National park society NUUKA ry, was founded before the park itself, **4.4.1993**.
- Statutes point 2: "The Association aims to unite the outdoor activists and societies for co-operation to protect Nuuksio -wilderness and to create a national park and promote outdoor recreation on this site. "
- 70 private persons as Members
- Information media is Metsähallitus luontoon.fi /vapaaehtoistoiminta internet pages and email
- Espoo Outdoor Association and Nuuka publish together a bulletin called SATAKIELI (nightingale)

First meeting of Nuuka Council in 1993 by a small lake in Nuuksio



Actions of the Nuuka

- Since 1995 co-operation with the park manager
- The management plan draft for the park was analysed and commented
- The hunting prohibition in the Nuuksio NP was supported with a lobbying letter.
- Nuuka has also resisted the new large construction plans in Hista area in the vicinity of the park.
- Signed commitment with the park manager about progressive partnership 2012

Events

- Annual park festivals have been organised since 1994
- 20-years anniversary of the Nuuksio NP in 2014 together with the Regional Nature Conservation Society, Metsähallitus and the Scouts Associations of the Helsinki Metropole



Photo 1: Nuuka Archive



Photo 2: Anne Laitinen-Soulagnet

“Creature of the Year”.

- Important part of the program has been the serious or humorous awarding of the Creature.



Photo 1: Hilikka Laitinen



Creature of the Year 2015:
Loxia
pytyopsittacus

Photo 2. Raimo Latja



Creature of the Year 2012:
Lutra lutra

Photo 3: Kaarina Nummela

Festivals, singing

- Park fireplaces are serving as festival venues.



- 20-200 persons singing according the Nuuka-songbook.

Volunteering for park management

- Nests for bird and flying squirrels, meadow management, firewood
- All kinds of hand tools are in use
- Young and old ones participate
- Environmental education camps and walks, day and night, flying squirrel inventories

Photo: Hilikka Laitinen



Clearing meadows

Photo: Pertti Mikkela



Networking

- Nuuka co-operates with Espoo Outdoors Association, organising tours also to other Finnish parks.
- Annual meeting with other Parks Friends associations with Metsähallitus since 2014. Meeting organized 2015 in Nuuksio.



Photo: Anne Laitinen-Soulagnet



Photo: Eveliina Nygren

Stenbacka- house



Photo: Pertti Mikkilä



Photo: Hilikka Laitinen

- Centre venue for Nuuka activities is “Stenbacka”, an old protected farmers house with meadows and old forest just on the border of the Nuuksio NP.

Christmas in Stenbacka-house; it is great have fun with the friends



Photo: Nuuka Archive



Thank You
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Photo: Hilkka Laitinen