

European Basic Course in Aerobiology

Fiskebäckskil, Sweden, 17-24 July 2017

Matt Smith, with contribution from Letty de Weger (EAS Secretary)

The 13th European Course in Basic Aerobiology was held in Fiskebäckskil on the West Coast of Sweden. The course venue, the marine research station Kristineberg, is part of Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Infrastructure. It is situated in the western outskirts of the picturesque fishing village of Fiskebäckskil, on the island of Skaftö by the Gullmar Fjord. The area is characterised by small-scale agriculture, green pastures and meadows, and oak forest groves on shell rich ground that are rich in wildlife (as the author can attest). The course was attended by 16 participants from different countries around Europe and some from as far away as Brazil and Japan. The course was a joint collaboration between the European Aerobiology Society (EAS), University of Gothenburg, and Gothenburg Centre of Air and Climate (GAC). It included a range of lectures related to sampling, analysing and modelling aeroallergens, as well as their health impact, and practical sessions for the identification of common pollen and fungal spore types. Since the EAS wants to encourage young researchers in Aerobiology, it granted €1500 to the Local Organizing Committee, under the direction of Åslög Dahl, to support the costs of participation for EAS members that supplied a funding request. There was also a busy social programme, and one day (in the middle of the course) was set aside to a tour in the beautiful province of Bohuslän, with a world-heritage of Bronze Age rock carvings, and Nordens Ark, a zoological park focusing on the preservation of species under the threat of extinction, and aiming at reintroducing animals to the wild. There was also time to explore the local area, or just relax on the terrace of the research station and take in the idyllic views. I am sure everyone concerned will join with me in thanking Åslög for organising such a successful course!



Smiling lecturers and participants on the 13th European in Basic Aerobiology. Probably the only day the sun didn't shine!