



EUFORIA EXTRA

11th June 2007

I am sending out this extra edition of EuForia because some contributors had computer problems and their articles arrived too late for inclusion in the Summer issue.

EuForia 24 – GB State President's Message

European States are coming to the end of their conference season for individual states. As well as being present for the Great Britain Conference, I was able to attend those of The Netherlands and Germany. I wish I could have been at more, but these were the dates that I could manage. In addition, I was delighted to attend the Charter ceremony for Denmark.

At every event, I was struck by the warmth of the welcome and the friendship extended to me. In Amersfoort and Meissen I was able to show PowerPoint slides of the installation ceremony in Denmark, which added a further international dimension to the occasions.

One of our greatest strengths is the international nature of Delta Kappa Gamma. Having started at chapter level, then gradually moved on to regional and international events, I have become a great advocate of the opportunities for travel and friendship that our Society provides.

I urge **all** European members to strengthen the European Region by attending the regional Conference at Strawberry Hill in London from 1st to 4th August. We must show our American members that Europe is growing and developing as a separate region, as we prepare to celebrate 10 years since we were established. There is an exciting and wide-ranging programme waiting for all who come. The details are on the GB website at www.deltakappagamma.org/GB (or you can go via Google if you wish), together with forms to download if necessary. It was a pity that the March/April postal edition of Delta Kappa Gamma NEWS arrived so late, but don't worry! We have persuaded the tour company to extend the booking deadline for one-day tours to 2nd July. We already have so many bookings that we have had to extend the space available for the Saturday Lunch, but there is still room for everyone who wants to come, so please don't delay! As the Conference Registrar, I will be delighted to receive your booking.

During the conference, the new State Presidents will receive their Leadership Training, they will be formally introduced at the Banquet and they will carry their national flags at the Closing Ceremony. Among them will be the State President of our newest member state, Elsebeth Austin from Denmark. Please make sure that you are there to celebrate with them.

All the members in Great Britain look forward to welcoming you to the 'best ever' regional conference, so you must come!

Kate York

SWEDEN

The right of public access - Welcome to the Swedish countryside! In Sweden, everyone has the right to be out in the countryside-- visitors from abroad as well as Swedish citizens. We call this "the right of public access". It is a benefit not found in a great many other countries. One may also look upon the right of public access as a great freedom. But our freedom in the countryside must not infringe upon the freedom of others. The right of public access requires consideration, responsibility and good judgement. We must not damage the landscape or animal life, and we must show consideration for both landowners and for others who are out in the countryside.

The essence of the right of public access is concisely expressed by the phrase, "Do not disturb, do not destroy".

Swedes take pride in the right of public access and could not dream of losing it. That's why children from an early age are taught how to behave in the countryside and how to protect the environment.

Respect others' privacy

You may travel through the countryside on foot, bicycle, horse or skis, and temporarily remain in one place, as long as there is no risk that your presence or activities will damage crops, tree plantations or other sensitive areas. You must respect the privacy of others, and you may not cross or intrude upon private property. Residents are entitled to be left in peace within the areas immediately surrounding their homes, which are not always fenced off. If private areas are open to view, you must keep at a substantial distance so as not to disturb. Also, your presence in the countryside should in no way interfere with the activities of landowners. Horseback riders must exercise special care. There is a great risk of damage to the ground, especially when riding in groups. It is not permitted to ride on marked jogging, hiking or ski trails, or on soft and sensitive ground. Mountain-biking also poses a risk of ground damage and requires special caution. You may cross fenced grazing land and the like, only if you do not damage fencing or disturb livestock. Close gates after passing through them in order to prevent the escape of livestock.

Motor vehicles not allowed

There is no right of public access for motorized vehicles. Sweden's Terrain Driving Act forbids the operation of cars, motorcycles, mopeds and other motor vehicles on snowless terrain. It is also forbidden to operate motor vehicles on private roads that are closed to traffic. Such prohibitions should be clearly indicated with road signs or some other means. Normally, you may park along the side of a road if you

Do not violate traffic regulations, damage ground or interfere with landowners. But do not park in such a way that you pose a traffic danger, or hinder others from passing.

Camping

It is permitted to set up a tent for a day or on ground that is not used for agriculture and is far from the nearest dwelling. The closer to a residence and the greater the risk of disturbing others, the more important it is to ask the landowner for permission. The obligation to show consideration is all the greater when a caravan or motor home is involved; this form of camping is restricted by the Terrain Driving Act. There are usually special regulations for tenting in protected natural areas.

Fires

Never light fires if there is the slightest risk of igniting the surrounding countryside. Open fires are often forbidden during dry periods. If uncertain about conditions and requirements, contact the local municipality's fire brigade or tourist bureau. If you do light a fire, extinguish it thoroughly with water. You may be subject to fines and damages if the fire spreads. Never light a fire directly on rocks. It may cause them to split, and leave ugly scars that never heal.

Do not litter

All sorts of littering are forbidden in the countryside. A cigarette butt in a dry summer forest can destroy resources worth millions. Glass, tins and bottle caps can harm both humans and wildlife, and plastic bags can cause great suffering to animals that ingest them. For this reason, bags full of litter should never be left beside a rubbish bin if it happens to be full.

Blossoms and berries

You may not take such items as twigs, branches or bark from living trees, including birches. Obviously, you may not take entire shrubs or trees, either. But you are allowed to pick wild berries, flowers and mushrooms, as well as twigs and branches that have fallen to the ground. Certain flower species are so rare that they risk becoming endangered. These species are protected and may not be picked. Information about them is available from county administrative boards. Orchids are protected throughout Sweden.

Bathing and boating

You may bathe, moor a boat and go ashore nearly everywhere. The only exceptions are grounds of private homes and special areas that are protected, such as sanctuaries for birds and seals. Otherwise, the same principles of consideration apply as for camping. Boats may only temporarily be moored to someone else's pier, and then only on the condition that they present no obstacle to the owner. If in doubt, contact the owner. You are free to travel by boat on seas, lakes and watercourses. Note, however, that special prohibitions may apply, such as speed limits and entry restrictions. Those who operate motorboats are under an especially great obligation to show consideration. For living on boats, the same rules apply as for camping.

Dogs

Dogs may accompany their owners in the countryside. But they are not allowed to run loose during 1 March – 20 August every year. It is during this period that wildlife is most vulnerable, when even the gentlest little pet dog can cause great harm by its very presence. It is also necessary to ensure that your dog does not harm or disturb wildlife during other times of the year.

Hunting and fishing

Hunting and fishing are not included in the right of public access. You may fish freely with rod and other hand gear along the Swedish coastline – except for salmon-fishing along the coast of Norrland – and in the five largest lakes: Vänern, Vättern, Mälaren, Hjälmaren and Storsjön. Fishing in all other waters requires some form of permission, e.g. a licence. Always inform yourself of the rules that apply for the waters that you want to fish. Never leave hooks or lines by the water's edge – they can be death traps for wildlife. You must leave the young and the dwellings of wildlife in peace; and you may not take birds' eggs, etc., this is classified as hunting. All wild mammals and birds are protected, and may only be hunted in accordance with Swedish hunting law.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This is a notice from the Conference Steering committee. For all those of you who have not yet made a decision about making arrangements to come to the conference, accommodation is going fast, particularly at the College. We have, however, found some additional good value, very simple, basic accommodation at approximately £15 a night. This would be ideal for a group who are willing to share facilities. Full details are available on the GB website so look at what is available and contact registration soon if you are interested.