



Amphibian Conservation Training Course at Nordens Ark 2009

A research school, March 22-29, aimed at advanced training in topics of amphibian biology and conservation, breeding and rearing in captivity, and linking husbandry to practical conservation in the field.

The school is centred around the Foundation Nordens Ark at the Aby fiord in mid Bohuslän on the Swedish west coast. The school will combine seminar series of both theoretical and practical character. These will be carried out by teachers, both with a more traditional academic status, and persons with the genuine knowledge of animal husbandry, rearing in captivity, and re-introduction in the field. The course will end with a two days field trip to the Baltic island Öland to see the northernmost population of the Agile frog *Rana dalmatina* during the reproduction period.



Course Directors

Claes Andrén (Scientific leader) & Lena M Lindén (CEO) at Nordens Ark

Course Development team

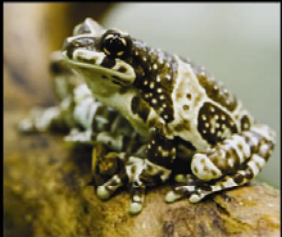
Claes Andrén (Scientific leader, Nordens Ark)

Gerardo Garcia (Head of Herpetology, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Richard Gibson (Curator of lower vertebrates, Chester Zoo)

Peter Janzen (Coordinator DGHT & WAZA)

Kevin Zippel (Amphibian Ark)



Partner Organisations

Nordens Ark (lead partner)

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Chester Zoo



The course will be in English and is meant for 20-24 amphibian curators or keepers, veterinarians and educators. Speakers are prepared to stay at least over night the day they have their talk, allowing the course members to discuss their subjects under more relaxed forms in the evening. Wireless free internet is available in lecture rooms and in the hotel.

Send your contact details at claes.andren@nordensark.se

Follow the updates of the course at www.nordensark.se

Or contact Nordens Ark at Phone +46 (0) 523 79782

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Post Nordens Ark, Åby säteri,

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Topics to be covered

Biology and conservation

1. An introduction with natural/ life history descriptions of the Amphibian orders, and an update on the present state of amphibian decline and conservation status of different groups.
2. Threats to amphibians in a historical perspective and at present, and vulnerabilities to environmental change for the different groups.
3. Why amphibians are important.
4. A description of the general global amphibian conservation work going on how it is organized, with GAA/threats, ACAP and AArk and the role of different organizations.

Confirmed lecturers: Kevin Zippel, Don Church, Frances Orton, Robin Moore

Breeding and rearing in captivity

5. Captive facility design and construction (indoor and outdoor, including water quality and testing, measuring temperature, understanding light, substrate)

Confirmed lecturers: Thomas Wilms, Richard Gibson, Kevin Zippel

6. Breeding and managing captive populations (different orders (Caecilians, Newts & Salamanders, Frogs & Toads), reproductive strategies, different development stages)

Confirmed lecturers: Jean Raffaelli, Henk Wallays, Karl-Heinz Jungfer, additional to be confirmed

7. Diet and nutritional requirements, production of food items

Confirmed lecturer: Cornelia Gabler, Gerardo Garcia

Managing animal health in captivity

8. Amphibian disease (infectious – non infectious diseases, assessing amphibian health, chytrid fungus,

9. Quarantine procedures and disease control (Biosecurity and AArk)

Lecturer: Andrew Cunningham, Frank Mutschmann, Richard Gibson, Gerardo Garcia

Linking husbandry to conservation

10. Global amphibian trade

11. Amphibian conservation and the role of zoos, conservation education, welfare

Confirmed lecturers: Angus Carpenter, Bob Johnson, Kevin Zippel

12. Amphibian conservation research in the zoo

13. Marking methods

Confirmed lecturers: Robert Browne, Gerardo Garcia

14. Principles for re-introduction in the wild (assessment of area for re-introduction and follow up after re-introduction, which development stage to re-introduce, how many)

Confirmed lecturers: Peter Janzen, Richard Griffiths

15. Conservation work in the field

Confirmed Lecturers: Claes Andrén, Franco Andreone, Helen Meredith

How much does it cost?

The course will cost 1300 Euro (12000 SEK); this will include course fee & accommodation (full board for 8 nights), ice breaker, special dinner “eating with wolfs”, guided tour in the park, bus excursion to the Baltic island Öland (with field trip and special lecture). Organising the travel to Sweden and Nordens Ark is the responsibility of the participant (the organizers will help with advice on best connections). Late entry after February 1st 1400 Euro 13000 SEK. Last day of entry March 1st.

What should I do next?

Send your contact details at claes.andren@nordensark.se

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