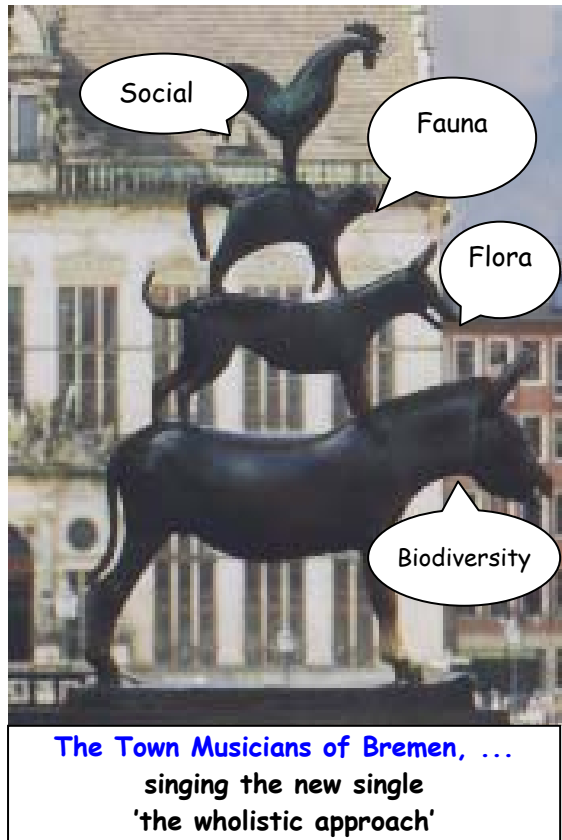


Report:

## PhD-Summer course: Restoration ecology in wet grasslands

University of Bremen, 7 - 11 July 2003

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The European chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, in collaboration with the Universities of Bremen (Germany) and Groningen (Netherlands) organized a summer school on Restoration ecology of wet grasslands for PhD students in Bremen from 7-11 July, 2003.

A total of 21 PhD students from 10 countries, representing 13 European Universities participated. The course was led by leading experts from 9 European Universities. The course involved both theoretical and practical aspects. The courses covered a broad spectrum of restoration ecology of wet grasslands, including general aspects of grassland ecology, progressive successions, community and abiotic

factor interaction, soil organisms, landscape hydrology, spatial modelling, multivariate techniques, faunal diversity, seed ecology and genetic aspects of restoration ecology. From the courses it was highlighted that the socio-ecologic aspects could have as important impact as that of scientific considerations and should be given sufficient consideration.

Practical excursions and work were done at nature reserve sites of 'Borgfelder Wümmewiesen', Hollerland, Eispohl/Sandwehen close to Bremen, where examination of changes in hydrology, vegetation were made and impacts of restoration practices assessed.

The overall atmosphere of the course was friendly and informal with a lively mix of animated discussions. Scientific principles were tested and a broad range of practical problems and socio-economic considerations debated. On the last day, all participants and the course organizers reviewed the outcomes of the training, which was highly appreciated. Nevertheless, ways of improving it even further were discussed and future plans made.

On the social aspect, the evenings provided a well deserved break from a full day work, where both students and lecturers alike sampled what Bremen has to offer ... from Becks beer, and leisurely walks to active night life.

Last, but not least we would like to thank SER Europe, our course organizers especially Professors Martin Diekmann (University of Bremen), Jim Harris (Cranfield University, UK) and Rudy Van Diggelen (Groningen University, The Netherlands), and all academic and support staff of the University of Bremen, for making our stay very enjoyable. Danke vielmals !

Comments by participants:

'Such a successful session – this has indeed broadened my view of wet meadow restoration'

X, University of Y

**Picture 2. Discussions in the field (the author is standing in the middle)**





**Picture 3. Peat layers can tell us a lot about the reference states in the past.....**