



PRESS RELEASE

WILD FOR NATURE

How 'wild for nature' are you?

Exploring the unknown side of well-known natural areas at the BirdLife Cyprus festival

Nicosia, 23 October 2017

When was the last time you found yourself outdoors exploring or trying something new? What do you know about Cyprus' wildlife? Join us on Saturday 4 November 2017 at 09:30am at "Mandra tou Kambiou" picnic site at Machairas Forest for a day full of... nature!

BirdLife Cyprus' 'Wild for nature' festival is the perfect opportunity to explore new and possibly lesser known aspects of a well-known natural area of Cyprus through a series of activities and workshops:

09:30-10:15 Bird ringing demonstration: Watch wild birds being ringed and released back into nature! Learn how we got from Aristotle's theory to today's understanding of bird migration. Why, how and who does bird ringing? Let's see, how many birds will be ringed on the day?

10:30-11:15 Birdwatching 101: Birds are the most visible animal group (and the most impressive, may we add!). Together we will learn to recognize the various bird species we will encounter on the day, with the help of an exciting new publication, a bird guide for absolute beginners, yours to take home with you! Birdwatching becomes even more rewarding as you become more and more familiar with the rich variety of bird species, their remarkable behaviours, and their songs.

11:30-12:15 Mindfulness workshop in nature: Tune in to the natural environment around you. This workshop is an introduction to 'mindfulness', so no pre-existing knowledge is required for your participation. It's an opportunity to try something new, which could not only help you with birdwatching, but your observation skills overall and your peace of mind!

12:00-13:00 Time to rest and refuel! Our friends from Smokey Dee's are taking care of your hunger (you do build up an appetite being out in nature), as they are selling their delicious food (vegetarians, we got your back!).

13:00-15:00 Creative mapping workshop in nature: Forget maps as you know them! Activate your senses, explore the natural area around you and map your experience – this map can take many forms (such as, but not limited to, sculpture, video, photography, artist book...). The workshop starts with a short presentation of the creative mapping methods as well as some examples. Then, the opportunity to explore the surrounding area and make your own creative map

is yours to take! You can register individually or as a group (the mapping will take place in groups of 3 to 6 people). We can't wait to see nature through your eyes and your other senses!

Choose which workshop you are drawn to, if you wish you can leave none behind and take part in all of them! There will also be other parallel activities you can choose from. Don't be afraid to try something new and unusual – maybe this is the day you find an exciting new hobby and learn fascinating things about nature! Nature is waiting for you to explore!

For more information: wildfornature.birdlifecyprus.org

Although not obligatory, you can register for the workshops, so we can better organize the event, until Wednesday 1 November 2017 at: natalie.stylianou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy or 22455072. Participation is free but is on a first come first served basis, due to a limited number of places!

Organised by



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Notes to the editors:

1. BirdLife Cyprus is a registered, non-governmental, not for profit organisation (NGO) that dedicates itself to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Cyprus. It was formed in 2003 through the merge of the two Cyprus Ornithological Societies and now has offices in Strakka, Nicosia comprised by professional staff www.birdlifecyprus.org
2. For those interested to learn more about birdwatching, they can start here: <https://birdlifecyprus.org/birdwatching>