

United by true passion



EFFFA International Event Bollendorf (Luxembourg / Germany)

The annual EFFFA meeting was held in Bollendorf on the border to Luxembourg. Last year the event was held in Slovenia and the criteria for 2022 was to move it to a less known region of Europe. I'd like to take this opportunity to announce the upcoming meeting in the Czech Republic, which will take place from 26 - 29 May 2023. It is important to us to keep the event varied and within moderate driving distances.

As a river we had the Sauer at our disposal, which is especially nice to fish in the fall and has very good grayling stocks. Furthermore, there are also many barbel and trout native as well as various species of white fish. The permits there are extremely inexpensive in comparison to the rest of Europe. The weekly permit costs only 5 Euro including the possibility to fish other rivers. In summary, we can say that an incredible number of grayling were caught. However, unfortunately only on nymph and like 80% of the catches were small. Some participants reached a catch size of about 35 cm. I did not catch any bigger fish. With the dry fly practically nothing ran on these 3 days and if, then it was almost exclusively fish under 20 cm. Some people could also land a barbel and there were some trouts too. Basically, however, further education and exchange of experience was the focus of the event. The 1st workshop was intended for prospective masters and was conducted by Mirco Bandi from Italy. The purpose of this session was to go through casts and possibilities of the training sessions. In group discussions tips and solutions were shared and finally of course the different lines and rods were tried out. At this point I'd like to thank Mirco for the great moderation. I am convinced that the 8 participants gained many new approaches regarding the master's exam.

The 2nd workshop was designed by Ferdy Geerdink and Dominik Borrmann and had the same goal, but for future instructors. 8 people attended and could benefit from the profound know-how of the two course instructors. All of them assured me to have profited a lot and to have gained many new approaches. Those, who wanted to know where they stood after the workshop were able to try out the throws according to the examination program, which was led by Valerio Santagostino and me. The throws were done one to one

in both orders. The goal was to get a feeling for where one stands. Many thanks to Valerio, Ferdy, Dominik, Mirko and Herbert, who actively helped in this endeavor.

Due to the resurgence of the pandemic, we unfortunately had to do without the introduction to Italian throwing by Giacomo Catellani. Only 12 members and 3 external visitors had registered for this course. Unfortunately, no substitute could be found during this short time. That's why we moved the workshop "Underhand Singlehanded" with Peter Henggeler, which by the way was very well received, to Saturday morning. What was supposed to last until the afternoon was practiced by individuals the whole day. All those who know Peter are aware of the fact that he knows no limits and likes to pass on his technique. Of course there were also 2 common dinners where many interesting conversations with lively exchange of information took place. It was especially exciting to see how despite all the language differences from English to German, Dutch and Italian, we always found a way to communicate. According to the expectations we could also keep our tradition and hold a competition where thanks to luck of the draw a rod and 2 lines found grateful winners. The time flew by incredibly fast and it was already Sunday again, when for many the day of the return journey had come.

It was really nice and I'm already looking forward to seeing you again in the Czech Republic.

Daniele