

IAF newsletter

Spring 2016



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members should have an active and regular part in association life. Therefore, we do a lot of volunteer activities and expect our associates to be our voice whenever they feel they can do it. Using this method, we had a year full of activities that largely surpassed the ones we could have put in place by a more formal organisational scheme.

We have participated in activities where we presented Falconry technics as a major re-invention to assist wildlife veterinary rehabilitation of birds of prey and as an assisting measure to the conservation of wild birds of prey. Still, this year we have also presented Falconry in a school for people with disabilities and at a hunting fair. Included are some photos of our associates engaged on these events.

We also maintained our habit of giving introductory Falconry courses to those who are interested in taking up the sport. We feel that this is an appropriate measure of support but we wish to expand our capability to make these courses happen in more regions and to create a mentorship program that can link established falconers with new ones making heritage transition as personable as it should be.

Although we don't directly support competitions, we know that these have a place in society and falconers are not an exception. Therefore, we helped the City Hall of Salvaterra de Magos (a city closely linked to our Falconry history) organise a 'Stoop competition' for falcons. This provided a good engaging day for falconers with competition being a catalyst to falcon preparation for the season ahead. Being done on the last days of summer, just before the hunting season opened, revealed itself to be tricky for falcons because of the heat but the level of participants was good and we expect to refine this concept in the next few years.

By November we had two major activities around World Falconry Day. One was our Annual National Meeting where falconers from Portugal came together over a single day to fly birds at quarry. The weather was great so we had a brilliant attendance, making this year another success. On 19th of November, an exhibition was opened featuring Falconry and its practice from "West to East". This exhibition, brought to us by the Museu do Oriente, showed more than 180 works of art related to falconry and ran until 6th of March. We were active in

its organization and were at the opening (with birds) to tell invited guests about our art.

To make the last year even more special, we have submitted our application to the UNESCO extension recognition. This was a major task for our small team and we must publicly demonstrate our appreciation to the support given by all other state parties and the IAF. We would not have been able to do it without your help and guidance. We are wishful of a good result from our application and we hope it can help us mould the evolution of our sport in harmony with our funding values and heritage.

Portugal Report

Pedro Afonso



BY THE time you receive this IAF Newsletter, our association will have completed 25 years in service promoting and defending falconry in Portugal. In these last 25 years, we have witnessed Falconry evolve from an almost forgotten story-book sport to a true revival, where an increasing number of

enthusiasts are emerging. Through our activities, we have influenced the sport's evolution and we wish to continue to do so.

Keeping this association alive, especially when it's a small one, is a task that cannot be done only by its board and has to be assumed by its members. We feel that

