



Newsletter 1/2015

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

the Alpine Research Centre Obergurgl (www.uibk.ac.at/afo/) is a field station of the University of Innsbruck (www.uibk.ac.at) and part of the University Centre Obergurgl (www.uz-obergurgl.at/). It is a base station for a variety of research projects from different scientific fields. Furthermore, the Alpine Research Centre organises and supports courses and excursions, publishes scientific and transfer-oriented literature and collaborates with other institutions.

Dr. Nikolaus Schallhart coordinates the activities of the Alpine Research Centre, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Brigitta Erschbamer (Institute of Botany) is the scientific Director and Ao. Univ.-Prof. Rüdiger Kaufmann (Institute of Ecology) the Deputy Director of the Alpine Research Centre.

To present all our activities and other interesting news concerning the Alpine Research Centre Obergurgl, we will publish electronic newsletters on a regular basis in German and English language. We will inform about events and recent scientific projects, introduce scientists doing research in Obergurgl and present the latest literature. We are grateful for any suggestions.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter!

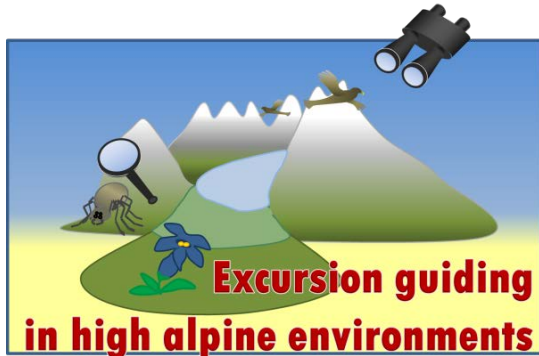
Brigitta Erschbamer

Rüdiger Kaufmann

Nikolaus Schallhart

Announcements

Excursion guiding in high alpine Environments



The Alpine Research Centre organises a course on *Excursion guiding in high alpine environments* in Obergurgl from August 31st to September 4th.

The programme contains excursions and talks on botanical, ecological, geological and glaciological features of the surroundings near Obergurgl. The official language of the course will be English. For registration please contact Klaus.Schallhart@uibk.ac.at till March 15th. For more information on this course please visit: www.uibk.ac.at/afo/aktuelles/

Research funding of the Alpine Research Centre

The Alpine Research Centre Obergurgl announces a funding of scientific, intra- and interdisciplinary start-up projects in the research area of Obergurgl. We will fund 2 projects with € 10,000 over 2 years (€ 5,000 per project and year), one in the field of natural sciences (Biology, Geology etc.) and one of other scientific disciplines.

Please note that we can only accept applications from members of the University of Innsbruck.

Applications of young scientist will be preferred.

For more information visit: www.uibk.ac.at/afo/aktuelles/

Recent research

Colonisation pattern on three glacier forelands of the Ötztal Alps

Andrea Danler (Andrea.Danler@student.uibk.ac.at)

Institute of Botany, University of Innsbruck

The master thesis focused on primary succession of three adjacent glacier forelands – Gaisberg Valley, Rotmoos Valley and Lang Valley. Colonizing species and communities were compared.

Geology was found to be the major factor for the different species composition in the glacier forelands. Gaisberg- and Rotmoos Valley are influenced by the Schneeberg Complex, i.e. a geological unit comprising mica schists with garnets and Hornblende, amphibolites and marble. In contrast, the Lang Valley is determined by the Ötztal-Stubai-Complex, being composed by paragneiss and schists. Calcareous substrate conditions prevail in the Gaisberg- and Rotmoos Valley, siliceous conditions dominate in the Lang Valley. The specific bedrock determines the first colonizers and also the communities of the following and the late successional species.

For more information on this project visit:

www.uibk.ac.at/afo/newsletter/afo_newsletter_0115_recent-research.pdf

Researchers in Obergurgl



ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Karl Krainer

Institute of Geology, University of Innsbruck

Karl Krainer is doing research on alpine permafrost for more than 15 years. He investigated numerous rock glaciers in western Austria and northern Italy. In Obergurgl he is involved in the monitoring of the rock glaciers of the "Hochebenkar". He is a highly valuable supporter of the Alpine Research Centre, by assuming authorship in publications (see below) and leading excursions in events of the Research Centre. However, Karl

Krainers scientific field of interest vastly exceeds the topic of rock glaciers. You can find more on the work of Karl Krainer here: www.uibk.ac.at/afo/newsletter/afo_newsletter_0115_researchers-in-obergurgl.pdf

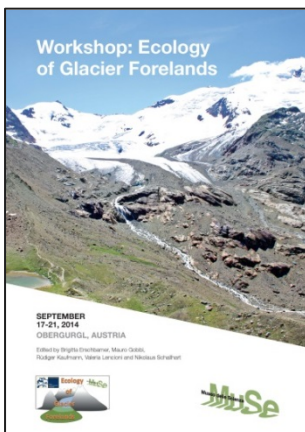
Publications



Forschung am Blockgletscher / Methoden und Ergebnisse

Nikolaus Schallhart, Brigitta Erschbamer (eds.)

The Alpine Research Centre presents its 4th book from the series *Lebensräume im inneren Ötztal*. *Forschung am Blockgletscher (Research on rock glaciers)* takes a closer look at these giant monuments of ice and debris, focusing on the rock glaciers near Obergurgl. Flow velocity, microclimate, hydrology and vegetation are discussed and recent monitoring methods are introduced. The book is written in German language but contains abstracts in English. For more information on our publications please visit: www.uibk.ac.at/afo/publikationen/



Book of Abstracts: "Ecology of Glacier Forelands"

Brigitta Erschbamer, Mauro Gobbi, Rüdiger Kaufmann, Valeria Lencioni, Nikolaus Schallhart (eds.)

The workshop *Ecology of Glacier Forelands* took place in Obergurgl, from 17th to 21st September 2014. This publication contains abstracts of 25 talks and 7 poster presentations of this workshop in English language.

To receive a pdf-document of this publication please visit:

www.uibk.ac.at/afo/publikationen/pdf/erschbamer_et_al_2014-abstractband-ecology-of-glacier-forelands.pdf

Recently published scientific articles from the area around Obergurgl

Fischer, B.; Meyer, E. & Maraun, M. (2014) Positive correlation of trophic level and proportion of sexual taxa of oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida) in alpine soil systems. EXPERIMENTAL AND APPLIED ACAROLOGY 63, 4:465-479.

Mayer, R. & Erschbamer, B. (2014) Ongoing changes at the long-term monitoring sites of Gurgler Kamm Biosphere Reserve, Tyrol, Austria. ECO MONT-JOURNAL ON PROTECTED MOUNTAIN AREAS RESEARCH 6, 1:5-14

Raso, L.; Sint, D.; Mayer, R.; Plangg, S.; Recheis, T.; Brunner, S.; Kaufmann, R. & Traugott, M. (2014) Intraguild predation in pioneer predator communities of alpine glacier forelands. MOLECULAR ECOLOGY 23, 15:3744-3754.

Van Gils, H.; Siegl, G. & Bennett, R.M. (2014) The living commons of West Tyrol, Austria: Lessons for land policy and land administration. LAND USE POLICY 8:16-25.

Pictures from Obergurgl

Fieldwork in
winter wonderland



Freshly fallen snow
on stone pine



Taken by surprise
by winter

Important dates

- 20.03.2015: Open day of the Research Area: Alpine Space – Man and Environment
Klimawandel trifft Alpenen Raum, Innsbruck
(more: www.uibk.ac.at/alpinerraum/aktionstag2015)
- 12.04.-17.04.2015: *The Mountain Research Initiative at European Geosciences Union Meeting*, Wien
(more: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/en/events/mri-egu-2015>)
- 31.08.-04.09.2015: *Excursion guiding in high Alpine environments*, Obergurgl
(more: www.uibk.ac.at/afo/aktuelles/)
- 01.10.2015: Open day of the Alpine Research Centre Obergurgl 2015, Obergurgl

Contact

If you have any suggestions for the next issue, any questions or if you don't want to receive any further newsletter please contact Klaus.Schallhart@uibk.ac.at.

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