

AAPA - intriguing life of northern mires

In Lapland, mires are a central element of the landscape. For example in the southern Lapland mires cover over 50 % of the land area, and hence no outdoor person can avoid peatlands. People have generally avoided walking in mires in the summertime, not least because of the abundance of blood-sucking insects. Mires have traditionally been regarded as worthless wasteland, and much ditching have been performed in order to improve timber growth.

On the other hand, mire are eldorados for woodsmen. In fruitful years one can pick dozens of litres of cloudberry, cranberry and bog whortleberry from mires. Flarks of aapa mires are important areas for geese and sparsely wooded mire edges provide habitat for the year-round resident game bird, the willow grouse. Above all, however, the landscape of a pristine mire is like a large lake or fell: slowly changing, beautiful and original.

Aapa -intriguing life of northern mires is a special exhibition produced by the Regional Museum of Lapland, presenting life and biodiversity of northern mires. Story of northern mires goes back in time several million years and their future is forecasted in the perspective of climate change. The rich flora and fauna of peatlands are disseminated with the help of illustrations, photographs and collections of the museum. In addition, archeological findings and cultural history of mires are presented.

Plants, animals and landscapes of five mires were caught in a film, that was produced in the summer of 2018. The film and authentic voices of mires can be enjoyed in the exhibition. Furthermore, visitors can also admire the spacious landscape of the famous Viiankiaapa mire.

The main aim of the exhibition is to present biodiversity and cultural history of mires in the light of recent scientific literature and collections of the museum. The story the exhibition tells on the life and beauty of mires is suited for foreign tourists and domestic visitors. The presentation of the inconspicuous biodiversity of mires, a vital component unknown by most people, is emphasized.

Welcome to the rich world of boreal peatlands!

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