

CEETO - Teasers Parco Alto Appennino Modenese - Trascrizioni Interviste - English Version

Lago Pratignano - Valerio Fioravanti (Direttore Ente di Gestione Parchi Emilia Centrale)

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The High Modenese Apennine Regional Park (or Frignano Park), was established in 1988, together with almost all the other Regional Parks of Emilia-Romagna Region.

It is a high mountain park: it concerns the Apennine summits of the central part of the region; it has an area of over 15,000 hectares and is a park of woods and ridges meadows, with considerable differences in altitude and with very different environments too

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... you go, in fact, from the valley floor (with rivers and streams at quotas of about 800-700 m a.s.l.), up to the summit of Monte Cimone (2165 m a.s.l.) which, moreover, is also the highest peak of the Northern Apennines.

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The woods are about 70% of the park's surface. They are mainly beech-woods, managed and governed in various ways and, in some stretches, those more distant and less accessible, we have very old and also very beautiful forests in terms of landscape and nature.

The meadows of the ridges and the wetlands (here we are in Pratignano Lake, the largest and most significant wetland in the Park and perhaps in the Northern Apennines), are the most rare and interesting elements of biodiversity.

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It is a territory that has a fairly ancient tourist tradition: The ski resort of Abetone, which is in the Tuscan territory but is practically included and surrounded by the Frignano Park, is one of the first national ski resorts and is the oldest in the Apennine area. More recently (in the 60's), the various ski resorts of Monte Cimone have been added. Here, these realities made of the Modenese Apennines, an important reference point for both summer and winter tourism, and with different locations that are some of the pearls of the Mountain holiday within the Emilia-Romagna Region, Sestola and Fanano to name just a few ...

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... but also Pievepelago and Fiumalbo; villages with a medieval origins and recently recovered in fairly "conservative" terms, precisely because they are of tourism interest.

The most important areas in terms of environment and landscape are here, at the Pratignano Lake, the High Tagliole Valley, with the Modenese Saint Lake, Giovo Mountain and residual glacial circles, obviously Mount Cimone and the whole mountain chain up to the limit of the provincial borders.

The trail network is more than 200 km long. It connects all the inhabited places and the Municipalities capitals, to the ridge areas and to the main summits. So the tourist facilities are linked to both a traditional holiday tourism, summer and winter, with lakes and streams also for sport fishing, trails, winter tourism, facilities-based skiing and, lately, also with different winter activities like snowshoes hiking and ski-mountaineering).

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The Modenese Apennines is a tourist area that can be considered straddling between Alpine and pre-Alpine, with a traditional summer component and, more recently, even winter. It is

changing because, beside this type of tourism of the "holiday" (which is gradually fading all over the Italy), is forming a different one, much more interested in direct experiences in contact with nature, the landscape, the history of places, cultural traditions, gastronomy, etc. Compared to these issues, the Park, of course, has an important role for the knowledge and promotion of this tourism that wants to be more and more in direct contact with nature; more experiential and more lived "on the field". And so our role is to lead our visitors in this direction.

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We can say that the challenge is already underway, evident in the social change of how tourism is experiencing the mountains and then also the Apennines. This change will have to be accompanied, but the previous tourism, linked to viability and high-cost tourist facilities (such as ski lifts or infrastructure), will gradually leave more field to another, more experiential, tourism that certainly has less impact.

The role of the park is to bring those who want in this direction, but it has also a role of alliance with the small companies that in the territory want to live and work and have bet more on this type of tourism, first of all the managers of the accommodations inside the park, (then first of all the mountain lodgers), but also low impact and smaller receptive structures. With all these, including producers of products processed from small fruits, or pastors, etc., the Park proposes an alliance to improve or reduce the impact on the territory. To those who want to take this path with us, we decided to grant the park's brand, with the philosophy to support, together with an alliance, the activities that are more compatible in the area, and which may be more interesting for the tourism that, according to us, is the tourism of the future.

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The Park Authority itself is the owner of numerous structures that can already be used for this purpose (bivouacs, shelters), which we have arranged with regional contributions, of the Rural Development Plan, and which we have in these months and in these years, granted in use to economic actors who are doing a great job.

Another activity that we're trying to do at best (compatibly with the budget), is the paths network maintenance, not only in the Frignano Park but also in the Sassi di Roccamalatina Park. Actually the paths are fundamental for us and the shorter distances hiking network (but also the longer distances hikings, with multiple days tours such as the Alta via dei Parchi), are fundamental for this kind of tourism that wants to stay in contact with the nature and the landscape.

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For the future I think, but I would say the body think, that's fundamental to develop a closer alliance between the body (whose main task is to protect the nature, to promote the territory, the environmental education and the knowledge), and the entrepreneurial activities that are still present in the Parks (involved in agriculture, in tourism and also in the craft sector).

It's mandatory to be aware that only the best relationship between human activities and the conservation of nature and landscape, is the card that must be played by these territories; the key for their future.

We are doing this, not only for the Parco del Frignano, but also for the other protected areas we manage, and we hope to find results that will come in time.

Lago Pratignano - Michelle Balboni (Guardia Parco Alto Appennino Modenese)

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Lake Pratignana is located on the ridge of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines within the Frignano Park and is located in a depression that has a tectonic origin, from a gravitative doubling of the ridge. Within this lake there is an important floating peat bog, which is unique in our Apennines at the regional level. Within this floating peat bog we can find a very rare plant called "Drosera Rotundifolia", a carnivorous plant that feeds on insects attracting them on its own leaves (it has small tentacles that close the insect and close the sundew slowly can feed on this insect that gives the nitrogen that would miss her).

Other important plants we can find in this humid area are the Menyanthes Trifoliata or Trifoglio Fibrino, and the Potamogeton, which is a floating plant.

As species of fauna, always specialized in wetlands, we can find various species of frogs: Rana Temporaria, Newt, Crested Newt, which is very rare, and as a particularity of this lake, there is also the Tinca, a fish that's not typical of these areas but of the plain and that has been brought here by the shepherds over time, but that here it has clearly found a very suitable environment. Species of birds that can be seen here are Ducks, the Gray Heron, which has been staying here for a long time, and the Eagle, which flies over our skies and is always the mascot of the Frignano Park.

Lago Santo - Giovanni Battista Pasini (Presidente Ente di Gestione Parchi Emilia Centrale)

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Abbiamo la presenza di imprenditori, di attività turistiche con dei rifugi che sono sicuramente elementi importanti per questo territorio, per valorizzarlo ma anche per dare un'accoglienza adeguata a quelli che sono i turisti che arrivano su questo territorio.

We are at the Lago Santo, inside the "Frignano Park" or "High Modenese Apennine Regional Park". We are in one of the pearls of the Modenese Apennines; a point of environmental excellence, for some time now it has been, and has become more and more since the Frignano Park exists.

Our commitment is to enhance it from an environmental point of view, because this is certainly the most valuable element. So protect it by one side, but also promote it from the point of view of its tourist attraction. The Park is already very popular but we want it to be even more known and even more exploited, because it is also an economic opportunity.

It is clear, however, that we must also give ourselves rules because the excessive presence of tourists can sometimes create problems, and therefore we want to work more and more to make the tourist presence compatible with the environment and therefore a tourism that is aware and that fully values what is a territory of great environmental value as it is absolutely this here.

We have the presence of entrepreneurs, of tourist activities with shelters that are certainly important elements for this territory, to enhance it but also to give an adequate reception to those who are tourists who arrive on this territory.

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Saint Lake is a point of environmental excellence but it stays within a wider area of great value, bordering the National Park of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines on the West and Corno alle Scale Regional Park at East.

It is an important point of attraction and, as a park institution, we are working to further enhance the trail system that makes this territory more usable for all types of tourism.

It is therefore possible to practice all forms of sport and we are particularly committed to it because even sporting practice (this territory can be defined, a sort of open-air gym), lends itself also to activities and sports both of amateur nature and agonistic, which we absolutely want to enhance more because it is an element that leads to contact with the territory.

We are registering a growing interest from tourists, sportsmen and non-athletes, who come and enjoy the territory. In collaboration with environmental guides associations, we are directly organizing as park institution, guided tours throughout the year, both in summer period and in winter, on snow, with snowshoes, etc., just because it is now a territory that lends itself to tourism all year round, diversified but certainly very interesting.

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As in all cases where there are areas of great touristic appeal (which we want to develop anyway), the problem we are facing is how to work to maintain or make this presence (which is particularly concentrated in certain periods during the summer time), compatible with the territory.

So the use of the infrastructure of network paths, gives the opportunity of a wide exploitation of the territory but sometimes the touristic flows are excessive, so we are working to make this concentration as more "diluted and smoothed" as possible, and to have a significant tourist presence throughout the year so also in spring, autumn and winter and not only in the summer season. To this purpose, we are more and more organizing, in collaboration with several local associations, activities and initiatives of a sporting nature, which lead to attract people not only in periods of greater concentration. So a year-round enhancement that however goes to reduce (or contain at least), an excessive concentration of tourists in the high season that, for the Italian tourists, are those of mid-August or the "canonical" month of August.

Lago Santo - Bruno Bettini (Titolare Az. Capricci del Bosco)

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Good morning, I am Bettini Bruno, owner of the company "Capricci del Bosco" and for over 30 years we have been dealing with the collection and transformation of the undergrowth products. We are a specialized company based in Tagliole di Pievepelago, in the heart of the Frignano Park. One of the very few companies at a height (over 1200 meters), and our specialization is the processing of blueberry. In particular we make a complete range: fruit, jams, pure juice, in addition to other products of the undergrowth (blueberries, raspberries and blackberries), all natural and wild products that are within the Park.

The company is also responsible for promoting these products in commercial realities, to make understand the importance of the typical product, of the genuine product, products without added dyes, preservatives, additives and therefore, in one word, products of the highest quality.

Ponte della Fola (Pievepelago) - Davide Pagliai (Guida Ambientale Escursionistica - La Via dei Monti)

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Hiking is one of the activities that better combine the tourism development of a territory with the environment protection. We move by feet, we move slowly, and tourists who come to visit the territory have all the time to understand what are its peculiarities, what is the history

and what are the fragilities: the ancient fragilities and the modern fragilities of a territory. This can allow us, Environmental and Excursions Guides who do this job by profession, to stay in contact with the tourist for a long time and let him discover all these aspects. This way, the tourist leave our territories not only with a wealth of knowledge but also with a new way of seeing the territory where he/she has been; to understand it, and possibly, to let him/her adopt, in the future, different attitudes: more capable of protecting even the wealth they have discovered.