

W O R L D W E T L A N D D A Y

2. of February 2013

Ramsar site Dokkadeltaet nature reserve - Norway

«FLYT - FLOW»



REPORT BY

INGA DANSBERG

DOKKADELTAET NASJONALE VÅTMARKSSENTER

MARCH 2013



Ice Art - Inside the Wetlands

Ramsar site Dokkadeltaet nature reserve – World Wetland Day 2013

For the third year in row, Dokkadeltaet wetland center has marked the World Wetland day by creating ice art in the heart of the Ramsar site Dokkadeltaet nature reserve, located at the northern end of Randsfjorden.

The sculpture of ice has been created in the same place as the years before. It is located right next to the "lensestolper", wooden poles from the time of timber floating. It is a wetland nature room of special qualities, since you can not see it before you have got there. The 800m walk over the ice from Dokkadeltaet wetland centre, never loses its excitement and you ask yourself how will the experience be today? How has the ice changed, how is the light? Have you been there once and you got affected by the place, you have the wish to come back again.

Dokkadeltaet nature reserve has not been a destination wintertime. Not until we in 2011 created the first ice art project. The project is part of our concept art in nature "Chairs of experiences in the ecosystem of Dokkadelta". The ecosystem of Dokkadelta covers a large area. It is stretching from the mountain area Synnfjell, to the fourth biggest lake of Norway, Randsfjorden, covering three municipalities. There are 12 chairs of experiences existing in the ecosystem, being placed in a variety of nature rooms, each room telling a story about flora and fauna, possibly cultural traces and always inviting people to take a break, resting and enjoying, using all their senses to experience nature.

Within a week, 26. of January until the 2. of February, the norwegian artist Peder Istad and his team, were creating the ice sculpture they gave the name "Flyt – Flow" to. During the time of building, the team of four men were living in a sami tent, lavvo, inside the wetlands, near by the art project. Every day, I went to see them, bringing in equipment and food needed, documenting the work and sharing with them the great experience of being inside the wetlands.

For two days during that week of giving shape to the ice sculpture and getting ready for marking the World Wetland Day, 65 pupil by the age of 8-9 years, came to make their own experiences with the element of ice and being out in the wetlands during winter. The children came well prepared for being outside at that time of the year and were keen on using ice and giving it a human touch. During the week, I also had art and crafts classes from the region, visiting the nature room and the artists at work in the wetlands.

Finally on the 2. of February, we had invited associate professor Bjørn Tordsson from Telemark University College to philosophize on WATER. The artist Peder Istad gave an introduction to “Flyt – Flow” and Olaf Henke from the wetland center introduced the meanings of Ramsar and the worldwide importance of wetlands. Being a part of celebrating the wetlands, over 200 people walked over the ice to “Flyt – Flow”.

Now, at the time of writing, more than 2000 people have visited the nature and art room in Dokkadeltaet nature reserve. Most of them on private initiative. Others because of arrangements being organized. Winter has not given space to spring yet, and people are still visiting Dokkadeltaet, experiencing “Flyt – Flow” within the changes of the seasons.

Any time of visiting has its charm and qualities. Nature is open, always.



A long row of people on World Wetland Day on their way into the wetlands. foto inga dansberg



Inside the nature and art room of Dokkadeltaet nature reserve on February the second. foto Thor Østbye



“Lensestolper” to the left in the picture. Lavvo, home for the artists to the right. foto inga dansberg

Dokkadeltaet nasjonale våtmarkssenter as, postboks 135, 2882 Dokka, Norway, www.dokkadelta.no



Ice – powered by nature. foto inga dansberg



Handcraft. foto inga dansberg

Dokkadeltaet nasjonale våtmarkssenter as, postboks 135, 2882 Dokka, Norway, www.dokkadelta.no



“Flyt – Flow” in the arctic light. foto inga dansberg



Ice – more then frozen water. foto inga dansberg

Dokkadeltaet nasjonale våtmarkssenter as, postboks 135, 2882 Dokka, Norway, www.dokkadelta.no



School classes visiting Dokkadeltaet naturreservat. foto inga dansberg



Giving ice a human touch. foto inga dansberg

Dokkadeltaet nasjonale våtmarkssenter as, postboks 135, 2882 Dokka, Norway, www.dokkadelta.no