

WORKING OUTDOORS FOR A GREEN FUTURE

“If you want to spend your holidays sweating for a good cause, then I recommend a week at a mountain forest project.”

Rudi Kreiner, Automation Engineer, Brückner Maschinenbau

THE BERGWALDPROJEKT (mountain forest project) association was founded in 1987 at the height of the debate about acid rain and forest dieback.

ITS PURPOSE is to protect, preserve and nurture the forest and alpine cultural landscapes as well as to promote understanding of the connections in nature.

Alongside **GERMANY**, the association is also active in Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, Spain and Ukraine.

UPLAND MOORS are fragile, acidic, damp habitats low in mineral salts, with fauna and flora adapted to these extreme conditions.



RUDI KREINER

Lives in: Inzell (Bavaria, Germany)

Brückner Group employee:
since the end of 1987

Loves: the mountains in his home region of Chiemgau

Rudi Kreiner will not forget this holiday for the rest of his life. In June 2019 he decided against sun, beach and sea and instead headed from his home in Upper Bavaria to the Allgäu region, 200 kilometres away. Here a week of hassles, sweat and living in a tent was called for. Together with 15 other volunteers, the engineer worked on “renaturing” an upland moor.

“We filled in drainage ditches in order to raise the water table and removed the thirsty, light-robbing spruces to encourage the re-establishment of sphagnum mosses.” The upland moor in the municipal area of Steingaden once extended over 100 hectares. Kreiner and the 15 other nature lovers helped to renature an area of almost two hectares. “Work had already been done there in the previous year. You could see that something had changed, but it will be a while before nature recovers.”

As well as the feeling of having done something good for the environment, Kreiner also enjoyed the extraordinary company: “From the psychologist, who did yoga before breakfast, to the yeller taking the chainsaw course, the ukulele-playing, constantly-singing jokster through to the physiotherapist, who otherwise always goes sailing on the Baltic, and the agricultural science student, who protests against deforestation in the Hamberg forest, everyone had interesting stories to tell.”

Kreiner’s daughter gave him the idea to support the Bergwaldprojekt with his manual labour. “As a student, she did it herself three years in a row.” And the Brückner engineer does not want to miss out on the experience of a week in the Allgäu mountains this year either: in 2020 he again used his summer vacation to work in and for nature.