

- 26 actions for culture
- 21 actions for environmental protection
- 8 effects to humans
- 55 total actions
- 34 partnerships with service providers Associations
- 162 letters
- 41 Press Releases
- over 180 publications in local and national scope Media

**Annual Report on what has been accomplished by
the Cultural Association 'Skiathos'
August 2012-August 2014**

regarding culture

September 2012

- Following a months-long collaboration with the Byzantine Authority of the Ministry of Culture, we carried out the first rescue operation in the Monastery Eikonistrias, conserving the icons of the iconostasis and in the monastery of Evangelistria, conserving part of the mural iconography.
- In collaboration with the Archaeologist, Mrs Dionysius, we succeeded in having the southern part of the cemetery of Skiathos declared an official 'Historic Site' by the Ministry of Culture. The proposal was based on a scientific study of Ms Dionysius.
- We took steps to restore the lighthouse on Repi island, with the cooperation of the local department of the Greek College Guiding Association, the Municipality and the Greek Society for the Environment and Culture. With the permission of the National Navy Authority we are launching repair projects and the utilization of this important monument of our maritime and cultural heritage
- We took steps to initiate the filming of the wreck of the submarine 'Katsonis' (which was sunk during the WWII, approximately 2 miles northwest of Skiathos) in order to create an historical archive and establish its importance as an integral part of the modern history of Skiathos.
- We have actively pursued the proposal to stage the first major International Triathlon event to be held on Skiathos. We have developed a partnership with the Greek Triathlon Federation in order to organise and stage a world-class test event (scheduled for either September 2013 or the spring of 2014) with the view of establishing it on an annual basis.
- We tabled a letter to the Municipality, proposing to route the restoration of historic buildings with a presentation of a development project by the Prefecture of Thessaly .

- We forwarded a proposal for the official naming the ring road of Kalamaki after 'Dimitris Tsatsos', in recognition of, and gratitude to, the Professor of Constitutional Law: Dimitris Tsatsos. The City Council unanimously accepted the proposal.

October 2012

- On Sunday, October 21 we hosted an event at the Cultural Center of Skiathos Churches, entitled "The lost Skiathos" which involved the study drafted by the Archeologist, Mrs Dionysius, about the highly artistic monuments of the cemetery. Mrs Dionysius, presented the 'Neoclassical monuments of the cemetery era' covering the period from the mid-19th to early 20th century.

- Following the operations of the Association from 2011 to showcase the monument of Alexander Papadiamandis, we sent a request for a grant by Mrs Marianna Latsis so as to implement an interventions promotion, which had previously been approved by the Municipality. The request was not accepted, however, due to the current economic downturn.

November 2012

- On Friday, November 16th at the Cultural Center of Skiathos Churches, we co-hosted, with the Byzantine Authority of the Ministry of Culture, an event entitled: "Monasteries of Skiathos, History and Art." The event involved four speakers, Dr.. Stavroula Sdrolia, Chief Archaeologist of 7 Byzantine Antiquities, Dr.. Architectural History Alexis Alexiou Architect Professor Dr. Maria Nanos theological educator Dr. Vassa Paraskeva theological educator.

It is worth noting that this was the first time such a scientific event, with both the Byzantine Authority of the Ministry of Culture and the local community in attendance, has been organised and held in Skiathos,. The event aimed to inform and increase awareness in order to protect our important historical monuments

- After 19 requests for sponsorship, the Association gathered much of the amount required for the preparation of maintenance studies of the Monastery Eikonistrias. It was given to the Abbot, who, in conjunction with the Byzantine Authority of the Ministry of Culture, will launch the preparation of studies.

- We developed close cooperation with the members of the working group: The Society of the Engineers of Magnesia, who provide a framework for the protection of architectural heritage. As a result, we activated a potential partners group (comprised of archaeologists, historians and architects) and organized a visiting team to join us in a presentation to the

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local community of Skiathos, to indicate typical houses with ground autopsy both indoors and outdoors. Following communication with the group, voicing our suggestions and concerns.

- We have developed a cooperation with the Historical Monuments of the Prefecture of Thessaly, in order to declare the traditional type of residential paving tissue (path) as a modern monument. Our objective is its preservation and enhancement (as it has undergone heavy damage during past 'repairs').

December 2012

- In order to preserve the traditional place names of Skiathos (as are known to date, through the oral tradition) we have placed, with the permission of the Municipality, 25 signs (plaques). The plaques are decorated with traditional motifs from the Skiathos' historic craft of weaving.

February 2013

- Following the initiative of the Association to restore the church of Notre Duman since 2009, we have actively contributed the substantial amount required for the completion (including building materials and holy icons)
- We responded to the Municipality's request for our contribution to the program to host Chinese visitors, by assuming their reception and tour of the Castle of Skiathos. The hospitality was an initiative of the Tourism Promotion Group with the support of the Municipality and held the weekend of 12nd and 13rd February

March 2013

- On Saturday, March 2nd, at the Cultural Center of Churches, we organized an event entitled "Travels in the Sea of Souls." During which the Historian-Archaeologist, Mrs Dionysius, shared with the attendees the experiences of the great work done for years in the Mission of Kenya
- We sent a proposal for Skiathos to be 'twinned' with the cultural association of Ikaria "John Melas", to create ties of cooperation and collaboration, based on the historical reference linking our sites.
- We recommended, in a letter to the Mayor of Volos, that the port of Skiathos should be included and linked to all future cultural and sporting events relating to the journey of "Argo". The "Argo" is a true replica of the legendary ship of Jason.

April 2013

- Following our actions for the protection of monuments of the cemetery (carried out after authorization from the Municipality and the Church Council) marble fragments from monuments, that had previously been ravaged and left lying and scattered about the cemetery, have now been moved to the courtyard of the the Panagia Limnia church. This creates a first core of exhibits of the contemporary history of Skiathos.
- Upon the initiative, and at the expense of, the Association, we have restored the most historical source (natural spring) of Skiathos; the source of the Prophet Elijah. The spring was constructed in 1904 and has been a reference and meeting point for Skiathos people for many decades. It was a favorite landmark of the great Nobel Prize awarded poet, George Seferis, and the French Hellenist, Octave Merlier. The aim of the Association is to continue the restoration work of all the sources of our island. They are an important part of our cultural heritage and we believe it is our duty to protect them and pass them on in tact, to future generations.

June 2013

- For the protection and enhancement of the historic path of Skiathos, which connected the medieval castle-state "Kastro" of Skiathos with the current port, we sent a request to the Byzantine Authority of the Ministry of Culture asking for the path to be declared as a monument worthy of maintenance. In furthering their cooperation, the trail was visited by the head of the Byzantine Authority of the Ministry of Culture, Mrs Sdrolia, for the relevant autopsy.
- We undertook to organize the presentation of the theatrical performance 'The Chalasochorides', a proposal from the Director of the Papadiamantis Museum. The play is based on the homonymous novel by Alexander Papadiamantis

July 2013

- By the action of the Association we managed to get Skiathos included in the regions highlighted in the new television series, "Podilatodraseis", produced by the national TV channel SKY. The "Podilatodraseis" is designed to show off the bicycle culture throughout Greece and records countless television bicycle kilometers.

August 2013

- The Association undertook the organization of the concert "Guitar Player" given by Antonis Mitzelos, which took place on August 1st. This was the most important cultural event of the summer and it received a tremendous response. The concert was a qualitative and inspirational music performance, based on an idea of the Skiathos native, and internationally

recognized, musician Antonis Mitzelos, himself. As arguably the most talented Greek rock guitarist, composer and performer of our day, with more than 30 years of progress in music with performances all around the world

- On Friday, August 23 at the Holy Monastery of the Annunciation, we organized an event in memory of Professor of Constitutional Law, Tsatsos Dimitris Th. The event was held in the courtyard of the Monastery and the Speakers were: Mr. Martin Schultz President of the European Parliament, Mr. Evangelos Venizelos, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Dimitris Kourkoulas Deputy Foreign Minister, Ms. Katerina Daskalakis Permanent Representative of Greece to UNESCO and former MEP and Ms Maria Panagiotou former Associate D. Th Tsatsou EP and president of scientists EP. The event was closed by the internationally renowned composer Mr. Antonis Mitzelos with a recital of classical guitar.

regarding environment

August 2012

- In order to protect Skiathos' unique aesthetic, Forestry Association initiatives were undertaken this year in collaboration with the Forestry and Environment Committee of the Municipality. They began with the forests' 'clearings' where timber occur and by, informing citizens (by printed material) of the importance of protecting forests. We asked for their active participation and support of the work of the Governor of the fire Dept.in towards the protection against fire

- We sent a request to Skiathos' Harbour Master for the immediate adoption of a policy, enforced by law, aimed at the visitors of the beach "LALARIA"; to prohibit the taking/removal of its characteristic white pebbles (lalaria), which occur naturally only in the this region. The Harbour Master responded immediately by issuing relevant directive to owners of tourist boats operating in the area while informing of imposing legal sanctions in the event of non-compliance.

September 2012

- Upon the initiative of the Association, we enrolled Skiathos in the environmental program 'Some Forests have their own Aura' From 2008 to today, sponsored by the natural mineral water Co, 'AURA', in cooperation with ARCTUROS (investors in the protection of Greek forests). Considering it of utmost importance to ask for the integration of Skiathos in the program, the Association filed its September 2012 participation. After the necessary correspondence and actions we were awarded sufficient funding to implement the planting of 1.000 pine trees (Pinus Pinea) in the habitats of Koukounaries and Mandraki forest. The tree planting is scheduled for next October.

- The Association took steps, in cooperation with the Port Authority, to have the cargo ship "AVANTIS" removed, following its abandonment by its owner in July 2012, at the pier of St. George.

- A letter was written to the Mayor and the Municipal Port Authority requesting the reopening of the 'waiting' area for passengers within the harbor. The unwelcoming sight of the permanently closed building instills no confidence and offers no courtesy to our many visitors and yet, for thousands of them, it is the very first - and last - impression they have of our island. Our request has not been answered but we will continue to pursue this matter until we have a favourable result.

- On the occasion of the publication of the Association in the National Newspaper 3/9/2012 regarding abandoned Xenia Hotel, Members of the Democratic Left, C. Kyritsis and P. Moutsinas, made an interpellation to the Minister of Tourism Olga Kefalogiannis concerning the abandoned Skiathos Xenia making reference to the actions of the Association, and called for action to ensure the utilization of it

- We have succeeded in showing the promotional video 'spot' of Skiathos: " Skiathos - Unique by Nature" at the National Tourism Organisation EOT website and at www.mydestination.com one of the biggest websites for tourism worldwide

October 2012

- The Committee tabled a proposal to the City Council to create the Management Body of the region: "Koukounaries and its Surrounding Marine Area", as is provided by Law 2742/99. Our purpose was the promotion and protection of the unique beauty area alone Natura 2000, an area of the island, identified as of exceptional natural beauty (code AT 5080113)

- We participated in the global campaign 'Cleaning the Coast', organized by the Institute of Ocean Conservancy in cooperation with the HELMEPA. The action took place on Friday, October 5th at Asselinos beach and involved the collection and the support of the Municipality. The coordination was undertaken by the Harbour Master of Skiathos

December 2012

- In light of the illegal deforestation (over 700 m² at Banana-Krassa in May 2012) the Association sent letters, three times, to both the Municipality, the Forest service and even approached the City Council meeting, to ask for information and to express our interest in taking part in the reforestation of the subject area. We asked Mr. Peter Goulandris, as the adjacent property owner, to take up the study of restoration and expense of re-planting. Mr. Goulandris responded to our request and sent the study to the Forest Service for their approval.

January 2013

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- The Association sent a written request to the Nation Communication Organization regarding the unsightly facade of their building, located at Maratha, the main road of Skiathos island. We included a photo of the building showing how the surrounding walls in particular, had been abandoned and allowed to deteriorate to a degrading aesthetic point. The company responded and took care of the building,

- We also sent a request to the Nation's Communication Organization to remove the broken mirror positioned at 'Karyflatzanaka' Skiathos, considering the above action necessary, mainly for reasons of pollution and aesthetic degradation, since this mirror is visible from many parts of the island. The service responded positively and pledged to remove the mirror. Following its removal there will be a proposal sent to the relevant departments, to utilize the already shaped surface of concrete as a base for new sign to promote the protection of the forest.

March 2013

- A request was sent to the Ministry of Tourism, in cooperation with the Municipality, to reuse the building of the biotope of Koukounaries as a new information center, in order to highlight the protected area

- On Saturday, March 23 a meeting was held in the City Council Chamber, to discuss and put forward proposals, to design and implement the so far successful (well-attended and well-established) programme of spring 'Clean up Skiathos', and discuss general environmental behavior.

- Upon our request, the Municipality undertook to cover the cost, construction and installation of three signs for the biotope of Koukounaries. For the first time ever the signs now refer to each area as a 'NATURA 2000 region'

- With regard to our study of the master plan for the port of Skiathos, which promotes the Municipal Port Fund Skiathos and the alternatives developed in this, we have tabled a letter to the Mayor, the Municipal Port Authority (and the company that carried out the study) expressing our intense concerns both in terms of feasibility, of implementation of this project and why we believe our interventions qualify as appropriate: the proposals do not comply with the General Framework for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, since they do not follow the scale and character of the area and the harmony of man with nature, which is a prerequisite to the quality of life.

April 2013

- With the intervention of the Association, since last May, the recycling of glass packaging, aluminum and plastic by "General Recycling SA" (which is funded for this program by the Greek Society for the Development of Recycling") has begun. Our Association worked closely with the Municipality to establish a cooperation agreement with the Municipality and

HE.RRCo, for integrated management of municipal waste with the admission to the program of blue bins.

- For the eighth consecutive year, we undertook the organization and coordination of the environmental program "Clean up Skiathos" set for this year was 5-7 and April 12-14, with the participation of 16 local associations and the support of the Municipality of Skiathos. At the time the action was to clean up 11 beaches and areas. The action culminated on Sunday, April 14 with the participation in the nationwide volunteer campaign cleansing " Let's Do It", with the underwater cleaning of the beach Koukounaries. It is the largest and most rapidly growing environmental action on a global scale. By the end of the action we tabled three letters into the Mayor and City Council, communicating specific instances of environmental degradation, the solution of which is the responsibility of the Municipality. We also proposed solutions to the phenomenon of undeveloped waste disposal.

- As part of our "Clean Up Skiathos ", as every year, there was a presentation about environmental programs to the pupils of our primary schools. This year, at the invitation of the Association of the strain of HELMEPA, Mr. Kazas visited two primary schools on the island, where students and teachers were briefed on the operation of the "Children HELMEPA". On the occasion of the visit there was a meeting with members of the Association, where among other things they were briefed about the value of the inventory of waste during cleanings and generated valuable conclusions on the quantities, type and origin and discussed ways for closer cooperation in effective volunteer actions

- We took steps to protect the pine trees of the Bourtzi peninsula, with the permission of the City forester. Under the guidance of our Association, the environmental group of junior high school placed a special material in the trunk of the pine trees in order to trap insects causing the disease.

June 2013

- As far as primary fire control, we have placed, for second consecutive year, in the forest area Mandraki 21 large 'modified' barrels filled with water. (It is worth noting that the barrels were collected by volunteers during the environment, "clean up All Skiathos 2012 and 2013" weeks) As a result, the Fire Protection Dept. now has over 5 tons of water readily available at all times - and we have given a strong message regarding the re-use, the recycling - of waste materials.

Regarding humanitarian support

October 2012

- We were able to assist needy families of Skiathos, by enlisting them in the program of support provided by the Union of Greek Ship Owners. Following the necessary

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correspondence with the Municipality, 32 families now receive a 35kg monthly ' destitute assistance package' which is designed to meet their basic living needs.

December 2012

- For the festive days, the Association, as every year, with tact and sensitivity implemented a program to support the more vulnerable members of our local community. Responding to our request, the Municipality and operators who coordinated a mobilization and disposal effort, distributing 24 gift cheques (of 100 euros each) to those in need, in solidarity with the organizations 'DESMOS' and 'BORUME'.

We also sent requests to (but received no response from)

- ELIN, a petrol company, regarding the availability of free heating oil to needy families through their service stations in Skiathos
- And, acting on behalf of the school children the Association, we requested that they cover part of the cost of heating oil for the High School. In addition, (wanting to deal holistically and not fire their sensibilities) we suggested they consider funding a study on the viability of installing a photo-voltaic installation at school.

January 2013

- We achieved, upon our request to the HELLENIC SEAWAYS, the distribution of free tickets to passengers belonging to vulnerable groups who needed to travel for health reasons in 2013

March 2013

- We supported, financially, the basketball team with 300 euro, upon a request to the Association
- We supported the Toddlers' Parents Association, by donating €100 to cover part of the cost of a children's theatrical performance

August 2013

- We hosted the annual Full Moon Party, on August 24th to increase our funds.

