**Christmas Trees for a Good Cause**

Once again this year, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn has a great many pine and spruce trees in various sizes to give away. The trees come from the Eifel region and are cut down by the students themselves to give native plants and animals more room to spread out once again. Over the past few years, numerous areas of land have been restored to their natural state in this way, and a natural process of forest conversion has been encouraged. This initiative collects donations that support conservation and welfare causes.

Since 2015, it has been organized by the Verein für Naturschutz und Landschaftsökologie (NaLa e.V.), an association made up of former Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology students from the University of Bonn. The initiative also took place in 2020 during the pandemic, albeit in a modified form. Entitled “Crazy Christmastree, jeder Weihnachtsbaum ist schön!” (“Crazy Christmas tree, every Christmas tree is beautiful”), the event allowed anyone who was interested to buy surprise trees and have Bolle (www.bolle-bonn.de) deliver them, enabling the whole Christmas tree initiative to happen without any physical contact. The organizations involved gladly took receipt of some €10,000 in donations, which were passed on to Bonner Tafel (bonner-tafel.de), Asociatia Mozaic from Romania (mozaic-romania.org) and Bonn im Wandel e.V. (bonnimwandel.de). A quarter of the sum donated is also made available to projects in the Eifel every year in order to do some good in the region where the trees come from as well.

The Christmas tree initiative is expected to be able to assume its traditional form this year. In other words, you will be able to choose your Christmas tree yourself once again—although all of them are bound to be a bit crazy and unique. Among other causes, the donations will be going in the form of flood relief to Zukunft Dernau e.V. (www.zukunft-dernau.de) and Stiftung Regentropfen (stiftung-regentropfen.com) as well as Asociatia Mozaic from Romania (mozaic-romania.org).

Opening times of the Christmas tree event:
Friday, December 17 to Sunday, December 19, 11 am to 4 pm each day

**N.B. NEW VENUE**

Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation (INRES)
Agroecology and Organic Farming Group
Auf dem Hügel 6, 53121 Bonn

Besides Christmas trees, there will also be a stall with produce from the University’s apiary, organic potatoes from the Wiesengut farm and apples and pears from the Klein-Altendorf campus. The Biologische Station Bonn/Rhein-Erft will be selling apple juice from orchards. The Bonn-based Bolle initiative (www.bolle-bonn.de) will be offering a unique service, transporting your Christmas tree by bike and trailer CO₂-free to your doorstep if you like, in exchange for a donation. No need to bring the car!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event organizers will be sharing the latest information and any changes required at short notice online (Link or QR Code):
Besides the hard work and dedication of the students, the initiative would not have been possible without the concerted support of staff at the Botanic Gardens in Bonn and the agroecology teams at the Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation of the University of Bonn and the Biologische Station Bonn/Rhein-Erft.