

# CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

## HAUP - 2026



### BECOME THE EYE OF SCIENCE !

Join the global bioblitz locally to connect with nature and scientists all over the world



Grab your **phone** and photograph as many species as possible!



**Interactive workshops** led by experts on local flora and fauna



Stay **overnight** to discover our nocturnal wildlife



Upload your photos on **iNaturalist**, climb the ranking to win amazing prizes!



## City Nature Challenge

**24 - 25 APRIL**

Subscription deadline: **20.04.2026**

Register via :

<https://www.haup.ac.at/veranstaltung/citynaturechallenge-2026/>



# CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2026

## Dates

**April 24, 2026, 9:30 to April 25, 2026, 16:00**

Registration by April 20, 2026 via the PH-Online program under the following link:

<https://www.haup.ac.at/veranstaltung/citynaturechallenge-2026/>

## Location

**Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik**

Angermayergasse 1, 1130 Wien

Tel.: 01 / 877 22 66 0; [www.haup.ac.at](http://www.haup.ac.at)

## Target Audience

Students, Interested people

## Organizers

**HS-Prof. Mag. Dr. Martin SCHEUCH**

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik Vienna

**Alice PETRELLA, B. Sc.**

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik Vienna

## Speakers

**HS-Prof. Mag. Dr. Martin SCHEUCH**

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik Vienna

**Prof. Mag. Manfred BARDY-DURCHHALTER**

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik Vienna

**Prof. DI Karin Elisabeth BÖHM, BEd**

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik Vienna

**Christoph HÖRWEIG, M.Sc.**

Curator Collection Arachnoidea, Natural History Museum  
Vienna

**Prof. Mag. Wilhelm LINDER**

**Katharina POSPISIL, B.Sc.**

Viel-Falter Österreich

**Alice PETRELLA, B.Sc.**

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik  
Vienna

## Objective / Content

The University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (HAUP) contributes to City Nature Challenge Vienna, a global competition dedicated to discovering local wildlife, that will take place 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026. There will be a great program during the 2 days to learn more about the campus diversity and invited experts will give workshops: we share our work and curiosity to spot and identify new species!

Participants will use the iNaturalist app to record local biodiversity for a global research database and to climb our campus ranking. The workshops will cover a diverse range of topics, including mosses classification, citizen science monitoring for bumblebees and butterflies, study of arachnids, soil organisms using advanced microscopy, the historical evolution of the landscape and the plant-animal interactions like galls and leaf miners.

## Catering

Meals can be taken in the cafeteria of the University College of Agricultural and Environmental Education.

Prices:

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Lunch: **€ 6,90**
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Dinner: **€ 9,90**
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Breakfast: **€ 8,30**
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Lunch: **€ 6,90**
- **Special discount** - Dinner + Breakfast: **€ 17,30**

## Overnight-Stay

The event offers the opportunity for an overnight stay on campus to document nocturnal species.

Please bring your own tent, sleeping bag and headlamps.

# Friday 24th April

9.00

**Check-in, Gärtnerhaus foyer**

9.15

**Group start at HS 5**

9.30

**Discovering and Preserving Mosse**

by Manfred Bardy-Durchhalter

Mosses are largely missing from the species lists for the HAUP area. During our City Nature Challenge 2026 timeframe, we want to begin building a moss herbarium by depositing and identifying moss samples with the most precise location data possible.

11.00

**Getting Active with Austrian Bumblebee Monitoring**

by Katharina Pospisil

A short introduction to the identification and ecology of our native bumblebees. This will be followed by an explanation and implementation of the transect method used in Citizen Science bumblebee monitoring.

12.00

**Lunch**

13.00

**Join the European Butterfly Monitoring Now**

by Katharina Pospisil

Motivation for participation in citizen science butterfly monitoring. Insights into the methodology and implementation of a transect walk as well as a 15-minute count.

14.30

**The Fascination of Arachnids**

by Christoph Hörweg

A brief overview of native arachnids, a presentation of the "Spider of the Year" initiative, and an explanation of the fascination behind spiders and pseudoscorpions using selected examples. Afterward, we will go on a joint search for these creatures, including a demonstration of various catching methods. The animals will be photographed, entered into iNaturalist, and can be examined more closely under a binocular microscope if desired.

16.30



16.30

**Pause**

17.00

### **Soil Creatures Among Us**

by Karin Böhm

We begin with the habitat of soil organisms. On the university grounds, there is a soil profile that makes this habitat clearly visible and easy to understand. Following this, we will collect soil material, compost, and leaf litter to observe and collectively identify the soil creatures living within. We will use zoom microscopes for this purpose. There will also be the opportunity to take a closer look at individual soil animals and photograph them with your smartphone.

19.00

**Pause**

**Dinner**

20.30

**Exploring the night fauna**

## **Saturday 25th April**

8.30

**Breakfast**

9.50

**Group start at HS 5**

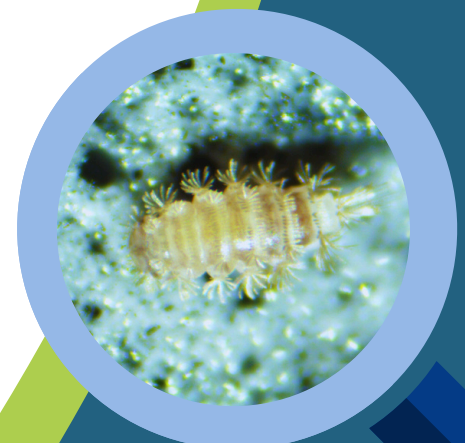
10.00

### **Observations, Uploading, and Identification on iNaturalist**

by Martin Scheuch & Alice Petrella

Uploading the species photographed the previous day and throughout the night, followed by their identification using iNaturalist.

11.00



11.00

### **Is the University Garden an Ecosystem or a Landscape?**

by Willi Linder

This workshop searches for traces and the conditions that have shaped the university grounds—and thus the Tratzerberg (why is it actually called that?)—for thousands of years, navigating the shift between natural conditions and the desire for design. We will discuss the value attributed to such a landscape element and ask for the arguments for its protection: is it material utility, such as its contribution to climate protection? Or is it non-material values, such as aesthetics, symbolism, or history?

12.00

### **Lunch Discussion**

13.00

### **Plants as Nurseries: Galls and Mines**

by Martin Scheuch

Exciting animal-plant interactions that leave lasting traces? This workshop is dedicated to plant galls and leaf mines caused by various animals (and sometimes fungi). We will get to know this coexistence of plants and animals, go on a search for them, and try out different methods of identification.

15.00

### **End of activities**

16.00

