



June 2020 \* Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation \* No. 1+2 Vol. 23



*A fine veil of morning mist covers Mt.Tron and the Alvdal valley after a night of rain, at 06:28 on June 17th 2020. Photo: BP.*

## Awaiting the further destiny of Mt.Tron

In the previous edition of The Mt.Tron Mail we wrote about the great pressure for activity of various kinds that has befallen Mt.Tron over the last couple of years. In this double edition we follow up some of those cases to bring you the latest updates.

Since the various joint ownerships of landowners on Mt.Tron became organized into specific ‘mountain joint ownerships’ they have been particularly active to assert their rights. Most recently there is a new court case at the local Land Consolidation Court about the ownership and use of “The Mt.Tron Road”, which starts at Tronsvangen and ends at the very top of Mt.Tron. The case is now proceeding and a sketch for agreement has been submitted to the parties. Final judgement is awaited.

# Many actors and great activity on Mt.Tron

## New land consolidation court case

After great confusion last year as to who is the rightful owner of "The Mt.Tron Road", in January of this year the newly organized local mountain joint ownerships, three in all, brought a new case to the local Land Consolidation Court to determine the ownership and use of the road. This was absolutely appropriate and timely since the Alvdal municipality, who was actually the rightful owner of the road as determined by the court, no longer wanted to take responsibility as owner and practically handed all of it over to "Tronfjell Maskin" Inc. and Jan Inge Gjermundshaug, who had been engaged by the municipality for the road's operation. Mr. Gjermundshaug then went to the local public media and declared himself to be the owner.

During our May 2019 meeting with the municipality we - the representatives of the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation - were told that the municipality was not the owner of the road, the owner was probably Norkring (the national telecommunication firm). This was very frustrating as we knew for certain that the municipality was the rightful owner - something that the court had already decided both before (1997) and after (2020) this meeting, but which the municipality denied because, according to themselves, they didn't want to own it due to economical reasons.

Our concern and the purpose of this meeting was to get the municipality, as the owner of the road, to do something in relation to "Rally Tron", which we strongly opposed. But the municipality asserted that there was nothing they could help us in this case. The most incredible statement we heard from them was uttered at the very end of the meeting: "But if we had been the owner of the road we most certainly could have done something in relation to "Rally Tron".

## "Rally Tron"

The organizers of the so-called "Rally Tron" were clever to promote and ballyhoo the arrangement beforehand, but clearly it wasn't the great success they had anticipated. The local media only interviewed the participating drivers after the race, who, of course, were very enthusiastic, but Facebook revealed that many angry and frustrated spectators who felt they had paid a lot of money for nothing much and therefore felt fooled. In spite of great support from local government, businesses, private sponsors and organizations, the event made a loss of NOK 80,000 which the organizers asked the municipality to settle. Luckily, the local council used its head this time and refused the request. On account of the Corona pandemic situation the organizers have publicly declared that there will be no rally this year.

## Disclaimer of "Disclaimer"

Immediately after the previous edition of The Mt.Tron Mail was issued the editor received a phone call from Jan Inge Gjermundshaug who, expressed in harsh words (to put it mildly), his opinion that we had given completely wrong information about him when we wrote that he was the "original idea holder and initiator" to Rally Tron, and that we characterized it as "lack of history and respect" on his side in relation to our project for the University of Peace. As we always take a person at their word and therefore believe that he was speaking the truth, and as we naturally did not want to print something that isn't right, a "Disclaimer" was immediately written and sent out to all our subscribers. The disclaimer was read and approved by Jan Inge before it was published. There it was reported that "he has not, nor has had anything to do, with Rally Tron or any motor sport on Mt.Tron".

However, on taking a closer look at Rally Tron's homepages on the Internet it became clear that Tronfjell Maskin Inc. and Jan Inge Gjermundshaug actually figured as a "general sponsor". And later, shortly before the day of the event at the beginning of September last year, he was interviewed in local media as one who had been decisive for its realization and that actually he had been working towards this every year since 2011. At the same time he did nothing to hide his great enthusiasm for this kind of activity on Mt.Tron. Further comment should be superfluous!

## Mt.Tron University of Peace

In the previous issue of The Mt.Tron Mail we reported that we had sent a written request to Tronsvangen and Nysætra Joint Mountain Ownership (17.07.2019) "for the purpose of working out an agreement of intent for buying land for the Mt.Tron University of Peace within the regulated area on the Peace Plateau", and that we were awaiting a response from them. After several written reminders during autumn last year, we are, after nearly a year later, still waiting for a reply from this joint ownership!

We hope that the reader, through reading that column in the previous edition of The Mt.Tron Mail, can understand a little of the time perspective in our project with The Mt.Tron University of Peace, and all the hurdles we have to face at any time. Essentially, as long as money, business or entertainment are not involved, but it is something that aims at changing the very human nature, and that in addition one has only one's given, natural resources to go by, then, yes, absolutely nothing runs smoothly in our society!

# The Book Fair in Frankfurt



The annual, international book fair in Frankfurt is enormous, the world's biggest. It lasts for a week and fills great halls in many multi-storey buildings. Last year it was held from 14th to 20th October and Norway was the host. From the Mt. Tron University of Peace publishing Kent and Bjørn participated. The purpose was to find

an Indian publisher for Bjørn's English version of Anandacharya's biography, and perhaps subsequently also other titles. Together with Bryan Tovey who helped with the English translation they finally found the National Book Trust, India, and editor Kumar Vikram.  
Under: Bjørn in the middle flanked by Bryan and Vikram.



# Rehabilitation of Shantibu



In August and September last year a number of necessary repars were made at Shantibu thanks to the "Friends of Shantibu" association. Carpenter Inge Slæn with two assistants and entrepreneur Per Arne Bjørn with his excavator were engaged for the work. They were digging all around the North-West corner of the old house, pulled down the old foundation wall, jacked up the building between 15 and 20 cm at the corner, which had been sliding down through the years, put down drainage, insulated and poured concrete into a new footing and new foundation wall.

*The pictures on top:* Dug down to solid rock from outside the kitchen window all along the northern wall of the living room. Here the house is partly resting on pillars only.

*The pictures above:* Workers and employer study the result so far, while Jack and Erlend are doing their best to prevent the building from collapsing!

*Under:* The foundation wall, insulation and protection, drainage and a new basement door are all in place while the excavator flattens and smooths all of the dug area.



*To the left and under:* Gable boards on both ends of the house were also changed, and the space between the gable boards and the roof was also sealed against water leakage. *On top:* They made a very good basement room with concrete floor, solid support beam and pillar for the living room floor upstairs, support for the chimney and the southern wall of the house. *Above:* The final result after also new gutters with outlet were fixed to the house at the beginning of October.

# Various events and news

## Voluntary work at Shantibu

In the days from July 1st to July 7th many of our Tamil friends from Oslo will be coming up to Tronsvangen Seter during which time several things will be happening:

**July 1st:** Triptima's 70th birthday.

**July 2nd-4th:** Voluntary work at Shantibu with preparations for house painting and various garden work.

**July 5th:** Small "course" in the use of wild plants in nature. We are searching for plants in the immediate surroundings of Tronsvangen to see what we can find during the day. Celebration of Guru Purnima at night.

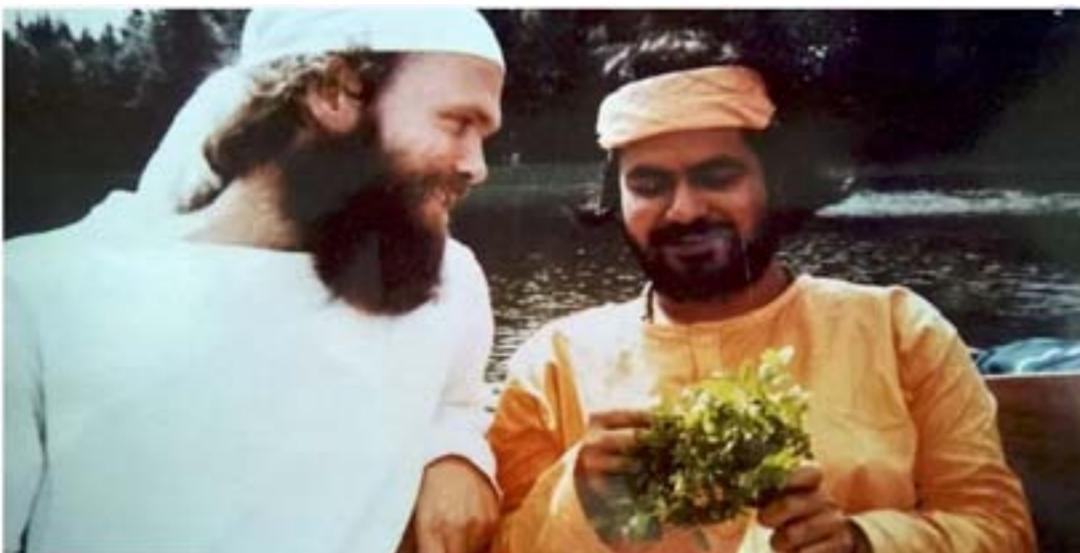
**July 6th:** Voluntary work at Shantibu with house painting.

Unfortunately Tripti Ma is "Corona stuck" in India and is not expected home until later in July. Her birthday will be celebrated together with Guru Purnima on Sunday July 5th by contact via WhatsApp to India.

Our Tamil friends are all coming and going at different times according to the individual holiday programme of the various families. But we will all be here together on Sunday 5th and Monday 6th of July. Then all the rooms and beds will be occupied.

## Indian Tamils

Thamba is leading two different yoga-classes. One usually gathers at Ellingrud outside Oslo. This is the original class and has existed for many years, and consists mostly of Tamils from Sri Lanka. Lately he has also been asked to lead a yoga-class at Sandvika, Asker, which consists mostly of Indian Tamils. This latter yoga-class will come to Tronsvangen Seter on July 17th, 18th and 19th, 27 persons in all including children, and will be a new acquaintance.



Swami Paramananda and Bjørn together in a boat on Lake Vannsjø at Moss on July 12th 1989, the day after arriving in Norway from India, for Paramananda's first of a total of four visits to our country.  
Photo: Torleif Sund.

## 75 years since Anandacharya's Mahasamadhi

This year it is 75 years since Swami Sri Ananda Acharya became absorbed into *nirvikalpa samadhi* in his dwelling Gaurisankarseter at Tronsvangen in Alvdal on the Day of Armistice May 8th 1945. On June 13th he left his body and at dawn July 1st his body was buried near the top of Mt.Tron. A simple marking of the occasion will be held in connection with the celebration of Guru Purnima at Setra on July 5th.

## Coming Soon: publication of a new book

In May this year Bjørn completed his new book: "**In Search of Truth. My experiences with Swami Paramananda. Autobiography of a Western Yogi.**"

The manuscript runs to 252 pages of text in Norwegian and 260 in English. In addition there will be lots of photographs. We are now considering how and in which form best to publish this book and we want to have a definite strategy for it before its release.

The book has a 'prologue' and an 'epilogue', an 'induction' and a 'deduction', and in between it is divided into six sections containing nine chapters each - altogether 54 chapters. They cover, in chronological order, Bjørn's direct experiences with his good friend and mentor, Paramananda, through the sixteen years from 1983 to 1999 when Paramananda left his physical body at only 45 years of age.

The "Induction" introduces, in six brief chapters, some selected events from Bjørn's life that lead him to Paramananda, while the "Deduction" is a kind of deduced result or summary in seven chapters of Bjørn's personal quest for truth, based on his practical experiences and the insights they have brought him. At the end of the book there is a richly furnished glossary and an 'appendix' about the "Mt.Tron University of Peace".



Tronfjell and the Alvdal village as seen from South-West. Photo: BP.

## Man and nature

### Conflict

There exists a deep conflict between the human being and nature, especially in the Western world. Here nature has never been good enough and we live by the tragic misconception that we ourselves can do so much better than nature. Therefore, anything natural (read: harmonic) doesn't mean anything, and arrogantly we have put ourselves as a species outside the natural order.

### The human being - a machine

This has come into existence as a result of the world view of material science - which is the only authoritative one today - about how life has risen from "dead" material, and that man therefore is nothing else than an advanced machine of atomic, chemical and biological substances. This is reflected for instance in modern medical science where the human being definitely is treated as a machine.

### Covid-19

The Corona Pandemic seems to have come as a 'fresh breath' to a heavily overexerted world and may be seen as a clear natural reaction to something fundamentally wrong in human society. In many cases it seems to have been just the right medicine. I beg to be excused by the sick and dead, but less people are dying now than before Covid-19.

### The challenges of Humanity

The most important challenges humanity faces today are:

1. Climatic crisis / pollution
2. Destruction of nature by human construction and development / overpopulation
3. Loss of biological diversity / economic greed

### Nature Rights

Nature has no intrinsic value for human society, and that is a huge problem. In Norway almost all of the employees within the public sector of nature management are hunters, and Norway is most probably the only country in the world to permit hunting in its national parks. Nature, therefore, is always the looser and has none to speak on its own behalf. Therefore nature needs its own "ombud" (ombudsman: commissioned officer) and its own "Nature Rights" on equal terms with our human rights.

### Nature - our common mother

Just like the career-oriented society and the perpetual demand for everlasting economical growth, has completely lowered the priority of the mother's decisive importance for the child's healthy development, so has it also completely forgotten the fact that nature is our common existential ground that no-one can survive without.



This little butterfly is a **Violet Copper** with the scientific name *Lycaena helle*. It was seen and photographed in very few numbers at Storbekkhallen in Tronsvanglia, Alvdal, Norway, from mid June to the beginning of July in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

It has a wingspan of only 22 to 26 mm and the host plant is *Bistorta vivipara*. Flowery meadows with brooks or moist clearings in the woods use to be preferred habitats. The main picture above shows a female, while the small inserted picture shows a male. The picture to the left shows the underside of the wings, and here the animal is sitting on the photographers finger.

Special about this species is that it is severely threatened all over Europe because we humans destroy its habitat. In Norway it is extremely sparsely spread across only a very few locations in Hedmark and Oppland. Perhaps by now it is already extinct in Tronsvanglia...

The Mt.Tron Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt.Tron University of Peace

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