LEGENDS AND TALES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JESENICE



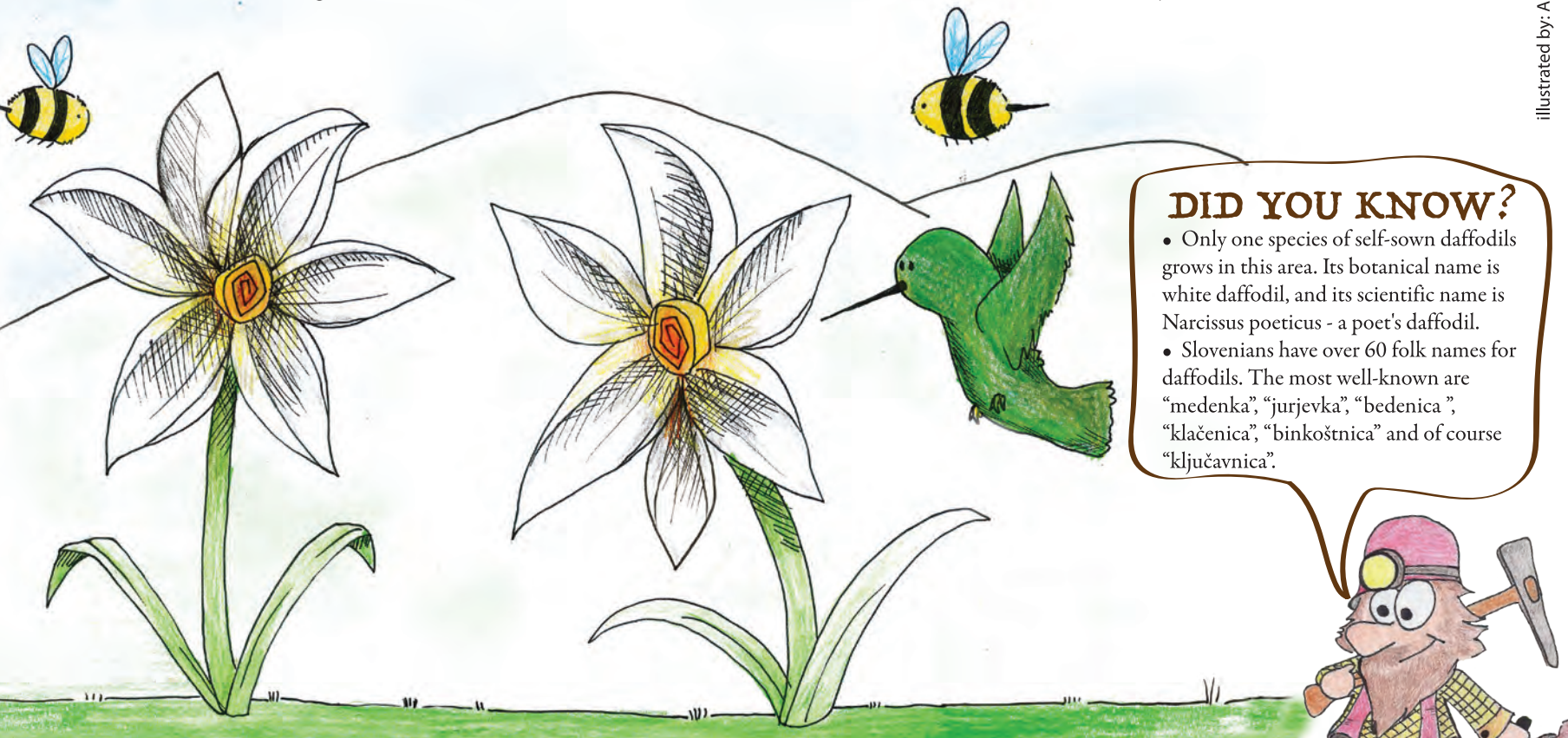
HELLO!

MY NAME IS BERGMANDELJC, AND I AM A DWARF FROM THE SAVA CAVES. I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON OUR FAIRY-TALE TRAIL. COME VISIT US IF YOU HAVE THE TIME.



THE LEGEND ABOUT DAFFODILS

Beautiful white flowers, daffodils, have always grown on the sunny meadows under Karavanke mountains. Bees adored their scent and could not resist it, even on Sundays, even though God forbade everyone from working on that day, including bees, who should be resting. That angered him so much that he came down to earth and locked away the white flowers. From then on, bees could not get to the pollen, as God created an impenetrable bump in the stem under the blossoms. Bees under our mountains, Carniolan honeybees, remain meek and diligent animals to this day. Locals know the daffodils under the name "ključavnice" (Locks).



DID YOU KNOW?

- Only one species of self-sown daffodils grows in this area. Its botanical name is white daffodil, and its scientific name is Narcissus poeticus - a poet's daffodil.
- Slovenians have over 60 folk names for daffodils. The most well-known are "medenka", "jurjevka", "bedenica ", "klačenica", "binkoštnica" and of course "ključavnica".

illustrated by: Ana Muhar

THE TALE ABOUT FAIRIES FROM PLANINA POD GOLICO

Kind fairies, who help shepherds look after their livestock, live in the mountain village of Planina pod Golico. They are dressed in silk and knee-high dresses and wear flower wreaths on their heads. Fairies spend their days braiding each other's hair, dancing in the meadows and sometimes teasing the dwarf Bergmandeljc. They adore animals, especially cows, horses and sheep. In May, when meadows are covered in "ključavnice" or daffodils, fairies have the most fun. Nowadays, they mostly make sure that farmers don't mow meadows and pastures too soon, so that daffodil bulbs have enough time to grow and gain strength. That is why the meadows under Karavanke mountains are adorned more and more each year by the beauty of these flowers. Locals call these fairies the Guardians of Daffodils.





illustrated by: Lara Šporn

THE LEGEND OF POLJANSKA BABA

Once upon a time, a powerful noble family lived under the Mežakla plateau. They presided over the farmers living in the valley. The lord and lady of the manor were not kind to their loyal subjects: farmers had to perform the most difficult tasks, and instead of getting paid, they were frequently locked up and left hungry. The lord's only daughter was especially mean. One day, the nobility was passing time by hunting game on Mežakla. The lord's mean daughter stood on the edge of the cliff, observing the hunt. Just then, one of the forest beasts attacked an old farmer, and the lord's daughter just stood there and gleefully watched how the beast killed the old farmer. But she was punished for her cold-heartedness - she was petrified right there on that spot. She stands there to this day and will remain standing there until her saviour is born. But first all of the spruce trees on Mežakla plateau will have to be cut down nine times and new ones will have to grow nine times. That is why to this day people call this expressive and unusual rock formation Poljanska baba.



illustrated by: Ajdin Mujić

DID YOU KNOW?

We can reach Poljanska baba from Kočna, a settlement above Jesenice. The trail is marked, and after a half-hour leisurely walk, we arrive at our destination - an eight meter high solitary rock formation, known as Poljanska baba.



HOW PAVEL KOS BOUGHT THE MANOR IN JESENICE



One day, a troop of French soldiers passed through Slovenian territory and stopped in Jesenice. The troop escorted horse-drawn carriages that were loaded with huge barrels. Pavel Kos saw the carriages and thought that the barrels contained wine. When the soldiers dropped their guard for a moment, he quickly snuck away with the largest one off the carriage and hid, as he wanted to try some of the intoxicating wine. However, a surprise awaited him when he opened the barrel. There was not a drop of wine in the barrel, but a myriad of golden coins. He used the golden coins to buy a manor, which carries his name to this day - Kos Manor.

illustrated by: Elma Mulalić, Anastasija Jovanova and Ema Hušić



ABOUT A SMALL DWARF AT JAVORNIK FALLS

At Javornik Falls, everyone is lucky enough to see a rainbow if only they look carefully enough.
Sometimes, a small green dwarf, wearing a long cap, appears next to the rainbow, just for a moment. The small dwarf likes to pull pranks on nearby farmers: he sometimes steals their livestock or tools, and in return, he leaves them valuable objects, such as gold coins, diamonds and valuable rings. He likes to hide in bushes and look at confused farmers' faces, who are at first angry but then surprised and happy, when they see the unexpected gifts.
In the evening, we can often see him in the company of his forest friends. An owl, fox, rabbit and a little bird gather on the forest meadow, where the dwarf reads them a bedtime story. Then everyone, except for the owl, goes to sleep happy. But the owl comes to life at night, observes the starry skies and watches over her friends, who sleep peacefully.
Now quickly brush your teeth and go to bed.



DID YOU KNOW?

Javornik falls are best known to palaeontologists and geologists due to the nearby world-famous fossil site of carbonic marine invertebrates, known under the name Spodnja postaja (the Lower Station).



illustrated by: Lara Šporn and Larisa Karahodžić

FAIRY-TALE CREATURES IN ZOIS' PARK

The botanical park, planted and nurtured by Karel Zois, remains astonishingly beautiful even today. Trees with their mighty treetops and flowery carpets impress even the most demanding visitors. As trees are old and wise, they learned to speak human tongues over the centuries. If a fern seed falls into your shoe by accident on a midsummer night, you will understand not only the trees but also wild and domestic animals, forest fairies and dwarfs.

As this is a very special place, some rare forest creatures have found their home here, such as dwarfs, friendly fairies and even a golden bird. The dwarfs made their home in the caves under the roots, where they protect the roots from rodents. Each night, when the twilight draws near, they go around the park and pick up all the trash that irresponsible ne'er-do-wells leave there. Friendly fairies use mighty treetops as their home. Their mission is to protect the emerald lake, so that not too many algae will grow, and to ensure that frogs, birds, bees, snakes, spiders and other inhabitants live in harmony by the lake. Friendly fairies are the guardians of the natural balance. If farmers treat them kindly, fairies sometimes whisper to them where to plant potatoes or pumpkins and if the harvest will be rich.

If we treat nature well, if we protect and nature it, a golden bird appears every blue moon and charms everyone with its singing. But because it is shy and afraid of hunters, the golden bird appears rarely. If we will take good care of nature, these magical creatures will live for centuries in Zois' Park and the surrounding area.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Karel Zois was the first to find and describe two flowers that don't grow anywhere else: the yellow flowering pansy, also called Zois' bellflower (Viola Zoysii), and Carniolan ragwort (Senecio Carniolicus).
- This area is also known for the fossils, mute witnesses of past eras, that were found here. Some of the fossils found here were named slovenicus, jesenicensis and savensis.
- Both domestic and some foreign tree species can be found at the Zois' Park, such as the Serbian spruce, Canadian hemlock and Greek fir.


illustrated by: Ana Muhar

HOW A MAGICAL UNICORN BEGAN TO APPEAR IN MEŽAKLA FORREST?



illustrated by: Zala Sernel, Ana Muhar, Liza Gregori

A long, long time ago, there lived a girl who was raised in a wealthy family. When she turned sixteen, she had only one birthday wish. She wanted nothing more than a potato sack. Unfortunately, her family only gifted her a magnificent, three-storey cake. In her anger, the girl threw the cake into the Sava river. A hungry cow was grazing by the river, when suddenly she saw the cake, went into the water and ate it. As the cake was full of sugar, the cow became hyperactive and went completely mad, running around the pastures under the Mežakla plateau. A fairy saw her, took pity and sprinkled magic sparkles on her. The cow suddenly grew the horn, tail and mane of a magical unicorn. Over the next few years, she calmed down, fully transformed into a unicorn and repaid the fairy's kindness by performing numerous good deeds.

Workers in the iron works frequently fell ill due to the red iron dust that they inhaled every day while working. Then one day, everyone was magically cured. The magical unicorn, who hid magical dust in her horn, healed them. When too many people got sick and when some trees dried out due to pollution and the birds flew away, the unicorn opened her horn and sprinkled magical dust all around. The workers got better, the trees restored their dried-out branches and came back to life and the birds also returned and cheered-up everyone with their singing.

ABOUT THE HIDDEN TREASURE AT ŠUM WATERFALL

Vintgar gorge near Bled is a 1.6 kilometres long gorge in Gorenjska region, through which Radovna river flows. Near the end of the gorge, the water flows out of the gorge via the Šum waterfall. Legend has it that a treasure is hidden behind the waterfall that no one has yet claimed. Village children liked to play hide-and-seek at Šum waterfall, swim in the turquois pool and pick forest berries. One hot day, they picked enough forest berries to fill their basket to the brim and then went for a swim. When they returned, the basket was nowhere to be found, so the children started to look for it. The trail led them behind the waterfall, where they found an unusual wooden chest. Inside they found an abundance of gold coins, gold necklaces, diamond bracelets and precious stone rings. But the waterfall started to rumble more and more, and the water level rose and threated to carry the children away, so they became scared, quickly closed the chest and scurried back into the forest. Then the rumble of the waterfall calmed down, and the treasure was never found again.



illustrated by: Andi Tatarević

DID YOU KNOW?

Šum waterfall is the highest river waterfall in Slovenia. It has a strong water flow and a 16-meter high descent.



THE TALE OF BERGMANDELJC

Bergmandeljc is a small, playful and mischievous dwarf that lives in Sava caves. He is dressed in a red blazer and wears a green hat. In the past, when miners still dug ore in the Sava caves, he sometimes stole their lunch and hid their tools. But mostly he was kind and helped them as well as protected them from accidents and injuries. If we are completely quiet and look closely, we can still see him today. During summer, he likes to sunbathe in tall grass, and in the winter, he enjoys sledding on the sledding course.



illustrated by: Igor Živanović



METEORITA

DRAWN BY: ANA MUHAR





DID YOU KNOW?

- On 9 April 2009 at 02:59:45 CET, an approximately 300 kg heavy meteorite entered the atmosphere at a speed of 15km/s.
- Its path from entering the atmosphere to falling on the ground lasted only 4 seconds.
- Three remains of the meteorite were found: the heaviest weighed 996.8g, the medium 361g and the lightest 256.4g. The meteorite is a stony chondrite. It is kept in the Slovenian Museum of Natural History in Ljubljana.



SAVA CAVES

JAVORNIŠKI ROVT

START

FINISH

THE LEGEND ABOUT DAFFODILS

You need time to unlock the lock on the daffodil. Skip one turn!

THE TALE ABOUT FAIRIES FROM PLANINA POD GOLICO

The fairies tease you; go two spaces back.

HOW PAVEL KOS BOUGHT THE MANOR IN JESENICE

You found a barrel full of gold coins! Roll the dice twice.

FAIRY-TALE CREATURES IN ZOIS' PARK

The fairy-tale creatures carry you ten spaces forward.

ABOUT A SMALL DWARF AT JAVORNIK FALLS

The dwarf pranks you. Go six spaces back to get your tools.



THE TALE BERGMANDELJC

Bergmandeljc eats your lunch. Return to THE LEGEND ABOUT KOS space

You found the hidden treasure. Roll the dice again.

ABOUT THE HIDDEN TREASURE AT ŠUM WATERFALL

You acquire super powers and fly six spaces forward.

METEORITA

The rampaging cow scares you out of your wits. Go back three spaces.

MAGIC UNICORN

You are petrified! Skip three turns!

THE LEGEND OF POLJANSKA BABA

MEŽAKLA

LEGENDS AND TALES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JESENICE

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FOR UPPER GORENJSKA
RAGOR


JESENICE
the town of steel and flowers

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VORANCE
OŠ

KB

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KOROŠKA BELA

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