

CHRONICLE

In memoriam Attila Barczy (1964–2020)

In early March a shocking news reached the representatives of Hungarian landscape ecology. One of us, who has been so active in organizing and popularizing this discipline, has left us for good. Attila BARCZI, associate professor of the Department for Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology at Szent István University, Gödöllő, died with tragic suddenness.

He was born in Budapest on 26 April 1964, but he attended primary and secondary school in Siófok. He began with geographical studies at the József Attila University of Szeged, but finally graduated from the Gödöllő Agricultural University as an agricultural engineer and began to work there at the Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry. After attending postgraduate courses in soil science and agricultural environmental protection, he defended his PhD dissertation in 1997 and became habilitated associate professor in 2004. Recruiting eminent scientists from all fields of landscape study, he undertook a leading role in the organization of the first Department of Landscape Ecology in Hungary and established the journal *Tájökológiai Lapok* (Hungarian Journal of Landscape Ecology). He was active as head of the department and of the Doctoral School of Environmental Sciences, vice-dean of the Faculty, but, first of all, as an enthusiastic and excellent lecturer of soil science and landscape ecology – not only at Gödöllő, but also at other universities. His classroom and field presentations will equally be remembered by the younger generation of soil scientists and geographers.

He had a wide range of research interests: from manuring and composting to soil typology, evaluation, conservation and soil-plant interactions. In paleoecology and paleopedology his investigations of buried soils in tumuli are internationally acknowledged and brought him appreciation in international circles. He won Széchenyi and Bolyai scholarships. He edited a series of full-colour booklets with his professional photos which presented the landscapes of Hungary to the interested public. Only the blind envy and ill-will of his opponents could prevent him from being awarded the title of Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which he would have well deserved.



Attila BARCZI will be painfully missed by the community of researchers in landscape ecology and soil science, but through his positive attitude to work, self-confidence in his profession and in the use of the English language, friendly and cheerful personality, incessant helpfulness and readiness for action, we will keep him in good remembrance.

DÉNES LÓCZY