



## Excursion along the river Zschopau at 2011 December 28

(Written by Harry Weinert, December, 28, 2011)

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 we did a further excursion along the river Zschopau, on this day we discovered the northern part of our route.

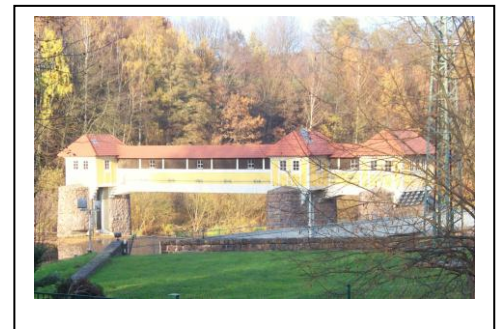
We started in Schönborn-Dreiwerden. There was an old saw-mill. With the beginning of the industrialization a factory for producing of paper and card board packing was erected. At first the existing Waterwheel supplied the factory with the necessary energy. Later a weir was erected and in a special station two water turbines were installed for producing electrical energy. The water power station was modernized after 1990.



Next we went down the river and we were standing in front of the formerly largest cotton spinning mill in Saxony Mittweida. The mill was decommissioned and looks very forlorn now. Although it was started to be converted the whole ground and the building into an industrial complex. But today, the reconstructed water power station is the only bright spot. Three new turbines deliver electrical energy in the Consumption Community Network.



We hiked down the river toward the direction to the pearl of the hydropower plants on the Zschopau. In 1909 the plant was dedicated for producing electrical energy to supply the town. At first the plant was activated by steam engines and generators, later on by hydropower. At least it was one of the first pumped storage plants in the world. Steam engine and pumped storage plant are out of work now. The hydro power station was completely reconstructed and today it is the station with the highest installed power of about 1000 kW along the river Zschopau. The complete ensemble is in the monument list of the FDR. Furthermore it is also an education center of the energy producer "Envia".



There is also an imposing suspension bridge over the weir. Not far from the bridge is a walk, behind the new erected fish ladder to Kokisch. A total reconstructed hydropower station has been in operation since 2009. It is a big station with three hydro turbines with an installed power of about 900 kW.



Only in a distance of 1000m we found a further hydro power station in Ringethal and an old mill. It is a ruin now.

The former weir of the mill and the mill trench are still existing and two years ago, the hydropower station were completely new erected and two turbines were installed.



Our last aim was the cotton mill in Weißthal. But the mill wasn't existing any more.

At the beginning of the 1990s the whole factory was completely torn off with all the machines and the equipment. We were very disappointed and we wanted to leave this place. But I had a small talk with a local, and he alerted me to a roof hidden behind a small wall.

On the place of a former waterwheel station a completely new hydro power station was erected with two turbines and has been in operation for two years.



( Foto by Weinert 2011)