

BUCOVĂȚ



Local Council Office: Bucovăț no. 178, telephone 0256/296282, fax 0256/296283;

Coordinates:

45°45'18" N lat.;
21°22'52" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

- the XVIIth century - the first record of a small settlement called **Beca** ("béka" - meaning frog in Hungarian). It was formed of ten Romanian families;

- many floods determined the villagers to move the location of the village on the current location of Bucovăț;

- according to the researcher **Remus Crețan**, the last Romanian to leave the floodable Beca was **Ștefan Hadeșan**, in 1745;

-1723 - the village was named **Bucova**. Families from Oltenia settled in the village and were named "țărani" by the local inhabitants, meaning people coming from Țara Românească, and their street was called "Ulița Țăranilor";

-1790 - the Bucovăț church bought books printed in Blaj (Transylvania): a "**Pentikostarion**" ("**Penticostar**") (a book of liturgies containing the 50 hymns for the 8 weeks between Easter and All Saints Day, drawn up by Saint Joseph the Studite, the Archbishop of Thessaloniki) and a "**Triodion**" ("**Triod**") (Three hymns);

-1909 - the Bucovăț mixed choir was founded;

-1924 - Bucovăț had 878 inhabitants, and **Ioan Vasiloni** was mayor;

-1926 - the locality of **Bazoșu Nou** was founded by settlers coming from Transylvania (46 families) on the place of an older settlement, founded in 1854, on the estate of Count **Ludovic Ambrozy (Ambrozie)**;

-1935 - Bucovăț had 1,223 inhabitants and

265 houses;

-2007 - the commune of Bucovăț was refounded according to Law no. 374/2007, separating from the commune of Remetea Mare;

Total population on 1 January 2010:

1,455 persons, of which:

- male = 711 persons

- female = 744 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 444**Member villages:**

- Bucovăț and Bazoșu Nou;

Educational institutions:

- Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Bucovăț;

Kindergartens with normal hours: Bucovăț;

Health facilities:

- Local clinic: Bucovăț; Drugstore: Bucovăț;

Cultural institutions:

- Community Centres: Bucovăț and Bazoșu Nou;

Churches:

- Orthodox Churches: Bucovăț (1862) and

Bazoșu Nou; Baptist Churches: Bucovăț;

Adventist Churches: Bucovăț;

Annual Church Festivals:

- Bucovăț (23 April – Saint George) and Bazoșu Nou (14 October - Saint Pious Parascheva);

Citizens of Honour:

Ovidiu Drăgănescu, Cristian Bușoi, Valeriu Tabără.

THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF BUCOVĂȚ

Jivan Tiberiu Ionel	Mayor	Făgețan Florin, LC member	CP
Pop Gheorghe	Vice Mayor	Iancovici Viorel-Ștefan, LC member	NLP
Cheșche Marcel, LC member	GRP	Paven Radu, LC member	SDP
Crișan Marius-Ion, LC member	DLP	Poncea Marius, LC member	CP
Crivineanțu Nicolae-Dorel, LC member	NLP	Țurcanu Cristian-Dorin, LC member	GRP

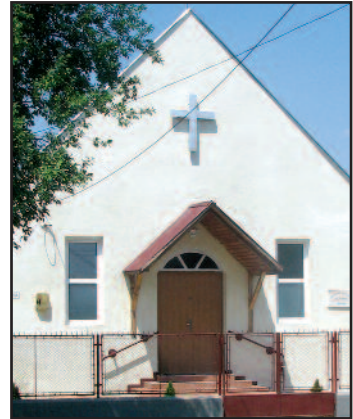
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HIT BY LIGHTNING

In 2004, the Baptist community of Bucovăț, consisting of around 30 families, suffered a severe blow. The Christian Baptist Church of the locality was struck by lightning during a storm.

The roof was the first to catch fire, and then more than half of the place of worship burnt down. Some of the villagers were talking about a curse, but the explanation was much simpler. The building did not have a lightning rod.

The church had been built due to some donations of the American missionaries from Florida and it had cost 15,000 dollars. The Pastor **Gheorghe Schinteie** explained why the intervention of the fire fighters was very difficult, and half of the place of worship was destroyed. The damages reached the amount of 200 million ROL. The roof of the church was made of fir tree wood and it was covered in aluminium, following a Swedish design. Although the fire fighters came very quickly, the water could not reach the burning wood because of the aluminium plates covering it. The church was rebuilt with the help of the local community.



Wetting of the Johns”

Around 90 years ago, 46 families of people from the village of Tălmăcel, the commune of Tălmăciu, located near Sibiu, left their home land for Banat. They were looking for a better living. In 1926, the people settled at the border of the village of Bazoș, on an estate that had belonged to Ludovic Ambroszy (Ambrozie). The settlers called their settlement Bazoșu Nou (Határpuszta in Hungarian), known under the name of “Colonia Hotar”



as well. The people Tălmăcel brought a very old custom with them, preserved for a while by the families from Bazoșu Nou. This was the ritual called “Wetting of the Johns”. On Saint John, the young men by this name dressed in colourful folk costumes, carrying their hip flasks with plum brandy or wine, used to gather in the centre of the settlement to dance the traditional dances. After that they used to go to the river by horses, where they were wetted in order to have a good year full of happiness. Thus, they were protected by evil spirits all year round until the future “Wetting of the Johns” .

THE AMERICAN PARK

The first species of the collection (the American Park) were brought around the years 1909 and 1913 from Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, considered the largest arboretum in the world. The Bazoș Dendrological Park has the richest collections of American oak trees (*Carya hincory*) in Romania, as well as magnolia trees and other unique species in North America. An oak tree, almost 500 years old, 30 metres tall and having a very large diameter, is one of the main attractions of the park.

The park belonged to the Ambroszy family until 1934. The noble Ludovic Ambroszy was a carrier diplomat and ambassador of Austria-Hungary in the USA. He was the one who brought



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exotic species from the USA between 1909 and 1914, which he planted in the park. He also built a castle in the park, finished at the end of 1918. Following the agricultural reform in Great Romania from 1921, the noble's estate was taken over by the state. The same happened to all the estate owners from the old empire that chose to leave Romania. The castle was bought from Ambrozy by the State Foresters' House in 1934. It was torn down and the bricks were sold to the settlers from Transylvania who used them to build their houses and founded



Cornus florida

the village of Bazoșu Nou (in 1926). Only the water tower and the former servants' house survived the demolition of the castle.

In 1954, the Arboretum, stretching over a 60 hectare surface, was given to the Institute for Forest Research and Planning (ICAS). It received the status of scientific reservation at the same time. It has been considered a monument of nature since 1988, and it was declared a protected area for the preservation of the genofund and ecofund biodiversi-

ty in 1994. It is considered essential for the preservation of the ecological balance in the



field part of the Banat region. It contained 150 species of trees in the beginning, while nowadays it has more than 800 protected plants (taxons). The Dendrological Park from Bazoșu Nou benefits from a sub-Mediterranean climate and contains trees brought from five continents.



The "Stejarul" Hostel

THE CROSS AND THE BOOK

The orthodox community from Bucovăț built a wooden church in 1716, according to the parish documents. The current church was built in 1862. In 1776, the settlement had a primary school. The documents mention the teacher Martin Paulovici who had 25 pupils in Bucovăț in 1791. The teachers used the "Pedagogy and Methodology" textbook for teaching since 1818.

