

STIFTUNG INTERNATIONALER GÄRTNERAUSTAUSCH

International Exchange Project of Gardeners between Botanical Gardens

2014



Watering the Hamburg Bromelia collection

Photo: Bernd Lohse

2013 marked by outstanding variety

The nine exchange projects of 2013 provide an excellent summary of what the International Exchange of Gardeners is about. It is about international cooperation, joining countries like Chile, China, Romania and the United States with Germany. It is about plants, about orchids, alpins, economic

plants, trees and even snowdrops. But most of all it is about people, about dedicated professional gardeners sharing their experience with colleagues all over the world. To get an idea of the zest of the business, have a look inside for glimpses of very individual projects by very individual gardeners.

Broadcast

favourably mentions exchange of gardeners

The city of Hamburg is home to more charitable foundations than any other German city, a fact which was celebrated during the "Foundations Days" in October 2013. Interviewed by 90,3, the leading local radio station, ZEIT-Stiftung CEO Professor Michael Göring spoke highly of our comparatively small foundation. The ZEIT-Stiftung is a big player ranking among the top ten of privately funded foundations in Germany. Still Göring knows us quite well: The ZEIT-Stiftung has sponsored several of our projects in the past ten years, the first contacts having been made by our late patron Loki Schmidt. Quote

Göring: "In our opinion it is highly profitable when gardeners of the world unite. The conservation of plants by cultivation is an important task which is achieved here on a highly practical level."

About money:

Donations and contributions

Charitable foundations are intended for eternity but they have to do their work here and now. The small capital gains realized these days make things difficult for all foundations let alone a small one like ours. Because of this we gladly accept contributions which enable us to continue sponsoring the many excellent projects proposed to us each year. Here we especially want to thank the

WJM Foundation for a sizable grant to further develop our successful programme for young gardeners. The WJM Foundation is a foundation working under the trusteeship of the Haspa savings bank at Hamburg.

But a sound foundation must rest on the firm basis provided by the endowment funds. We are extremely glad therefore to announce that a substantial endowment was contributed to us in November 2013 by Mrs. Marianne Klemm (see last page).

Dear Reader: Your donation is highly welcome. You may consider a contribution to assist us with the current activities of the International Exchange of Gardeners, or an endowment to increase our permanent funds if you wish to help our foundation with a long-term view in mind.

Projects in 2014

A total support of 12.000 Euros was awarded by the council of the foundation for this year's projects. The Botanical Garden of Potsdam is planning a new exchange project with Medellín (Colombia): In order to get it started, gardeners Christiane Benthin and Ingo Kallmeyer will visit Colombia in spring. The Botanischer Sondergarten Hamburg-Wandsbek and the botanical garden at Belo Horizonte (Brazil) have been forming a very active partnership since 2006. The exchange project will be continued this year by Helge Masch from Hamburg who will go to Brazil for three weeks in summer 2014. The Botanical Garden München-Nymphenburg will start a partnership with Nicaragua's first botanical garden in Leon which was founded in 2010. Gardener Emilio Raul Valle will work at Munich for 3 months, and Katja Herzog will return the visit later on. Both botanical gardens have guest houses to accommodate visitors. And finally, to continue the exchange which started 2013, Petronela Camen-Coman and Eugenia Nagoda from Romania will come to Hamburg this year in June.



2014

Exchange of Gardeners in 2013: Hamburg – Bukarest

Invited by director Paulina Anastasiu, gardeners Dorothee Kelch-Leppler, Nils Kuhn und Lydia ThieBen from Hamburg worked at the Bucharest Garden in Romania (Rumänien) in June 2013.

The economic department at the Bucharest garden has one part for vegetables (Grandma's Garden) and one for medicinal plants. Because of the hot midday sun, we could only work in the morning and in the afternoon after 2 p.m. Temperatures may reach 20°C already in May, and the first tomatoes were beginning to turn orange. In contrast to Hamburg, cucumbers and melons can be sown directly outside. But the soil is as hard as concrete which makes weed control a real challenge.



Weeding Grandma's Garden Photo: Mirela Raicu

Hamburg – USA

It was pouring most of the time when Fabian Reppel and Frederic Gilbert travelled the Appalachian Mountains in late summer, but they managed to make 3000 km and to collect 185 seed samples from 26 localities – with support from John Randall (North Carolina Botanical Garden), Tony Avent (Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanic Garden, Raleigh) and Patrick McMillan (South Carolina Botanical Garden).

A first highlight was *Shortia galicifolia*, known from only 3 localities in the eastern USA, to be followed by *Rhodo-*



Fabian Reppel in *Sarracenia* swamp

Photo: Frederic Gilbert

dendrons, *Sarracenias*, *Vacciniums* and rarities like *Lilium carolinianum* and *Botrypus virginianus*. Still suffering from jet lag after an exhaustive flight back, Fabian and Frederic were busy at the botanical garden right away next morning to clean their *Trillium* seeds. It took 4 days to sow the crop. Now they patiently observe the germination, and remove any weed that will show up in the pots.

München – USA

The famous Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University was the place where Munich gardeners Andreas Stadlmayer and Viktoria Domel worked at in August and September together with local arborists Wesley Kalloch and Kyle Stevens.

On my first day I was given professional tools for arboriculture, and they even allowed me to take it home with me. It was highly exciting to ascend a large "sugar" together with Kyle and Bob after they had given me detailed safety instructions of how to climb and how to use the chainsaw. From the tree top we had a wonderful view of the park and the Boston skyline.

Bonn – England

Anett Krämer visited England in February 2013 to study snowdrops and other winter flowers, and to see famous gardens like Kew, Wisley and Cambridge.

Byndes Cottage has been certified as a National Collection for *Galanthus* since 2009. A National Collection is a sort of backup for rare plant species and varieties. The MacLennan family started to collect snowdrops 5 years ago, and now they have as many as 1000 species and cultivars. They propagate them by the "Twin-Scaling" method: Dormant bulbs are cut into small slices containing a part of the basal plate and at least two scales. It will take only 3 years until the plants start to flower.



A double flowered snowdrop Photo: Anett Krämer

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Bonn – Schweiz

This year's professional excursion of the superintendents of botanical gardens went to the Val de Poschiavo in the Swiss Alps and was led by Peter Enz (Zurich), and Anne Schulz und Michael Neumann from Bonn were able to join.

The valley extends from the wine growing region well into the High Alps. Passing a scree on 2249m altitude, Peter shouted enthusiastically "Papaver aurantiacum at last!" It stood side by side with *Saxifraga exarata*, *Primula latifolia*, *Androsace lactea*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Doronicum grandiflorum* and *Pulsatilla alpina* ssp. *apiifolia*. We learned to identify plants and plant communities and were able to see alpine plants in their native habitat which was very valuable for us.



Ranunculus glacialis with a view

Photo: Michael Neumann (Swiss)

Edinburgh – Dresden



A Scotsman at Dresden

Photo: Fietsch

Pat Clifford had explicitly wished to work at Dresden during the busiest time of the year. It was May when he returned the visit of Dirk Fietsch who had visited Edinburgh the year before.

I was curious to see biological pest control in practice. Using Chinese quails to get rid of cockroaches and other insects in the greenhouse was something new to me. I have grown rather fond of these little birds and should like to have some of them at Edinburgh. I think that Dirk and I have learned quite a number of tricks from each other.

Shanghai – Hamburg

In continuation of a partnership that started in 2006, Jana Ni and Bao Ruijie from Shanghai worked at the Loki-Schmidt-Garten in autumn.

They gave an interview to the *Elbe-Wochenblatt*, a local newspaper: "I will have to organize an orchid show at Shanghai, so it is important for me to get information about these plants from the specialists", said Jana Ni. Her colleague is fascinated by the genus *Amorphophallus*. "The plants look strange, but I like them" said Bao Ruijie smilingly. Shortly before, *Amorphophallus titanum* had produced its short-lived giant flower in the tropical greenhouses at Hamburg-Dammtor.



Working with Tillandsias: Jana Ni Photo: B. Lohse

Dresden – Chile

In November, Birgit Höde travelled as far as Talca, Chile, to work in their new botanic garden. This exchange project started in 2008 and has been continuously supported by the ZEIT-Stiftung from Hamburg.

We had a wonderful view of the city of Constitution extending to the Rio Maule and to the Pacific Ocean. On the slope there were *Puya coerulea*, *P. chilensis* and *Calceolaria tripartita*. In the crevices we beheld flowering *Copiapoa cacti* together with *Calceolaria tripartita* and smaller bromeliads. The yellow flowering *Puya chilensis* is eaten by native Chileans, and this is why larger specimens are to be found only in inaccessible sites.



Puya chilensis and giant cacti Photo: Birgit Höde



Exchange of Gardeners in 2013



Small gardeners in a big tree

Photo: Roy Bateman

Kiel - Vietnam

Sonja Tobin, Heike Scholz, Georg Menke von Assel und Dieter Maaßen from Kiel visited national parks and botanical gardens in Vietnam in January.

In the Cuc Phuong National Park and Botanical Garden they have an impressive collection of native orchids (*Phalenopsis lobbii*, *Cymbidium aloefolium*, *Dendrobium fimbriatum*, *Phaius mishmensis*) and some very rare native trees: *Anogeisus acuminata* and *Parashorea chinensis* are timber trees used for buildings and furniture, and the bark of *Tetrameles nudiflora* provides a mild laxative. We were guided by the extremely knowledgeable Mr Hay who also explained to us the medicinal properties of many roadside herbs.

The 2014 endowment

Donor Marianne Klemms signed the document about her endowment to the International Exchange of Gardeners on the annual council meeting on November 27th, 2013. This most welcome contribution will help to consolidate the financial basis of our foundation.



Special offer to young gardeners:

Young gardeners may apply any time for travel funds up to 500 Euro. Please contact us.

Applications for 2015

are open until September 15th, 2014. Application is possible together with a German partner institution. Young gardeners may apply any time for travel funds up to 500 Euro.

Contact and Information

Please contact the executive board Hans-Helmut.Poppendieck@web.de or: gisela_bertram@gmx.de, or our special contact person for gardeners Nils Kleissenberg. Nils is a gardener at the Hamburg Botanical Garden and a member of the council of our foundation and will gladly give background information to colleagues: N.Kleissenberg@gmx.de.

Additional copys as well as the German version of this newsletter can be ordered from the foundation. This newsletter and also more information on the gardener exchange can also be found on our website: <http://www.gaertneraustausch.de/>

Our address

Stiftung Internationaler
Gärtneraustausch
c/o Loki Schmidt Stiftung
Steintorweg 8
20099 Hamburg

Our bank account

Konto: 428 888
Bankleitzahl: 200 300 00
HypoVereinsbank
IBAN: DE74200300000000428888
BIC: HYVEDEMM300

Donor Marianne Klemm signing the endowment act in the presence of Frank Schneider, honorary treasurer of our foundation.
Photo: Heinz Holert