

**Horticultural Exchange Programme  
between Botanischer Garten München-Nymphenburg  
and Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanical Garden**

**Summer season 2017**

Last year we came to an agreement of work exchange between gardeners of the botanical gardens. From Nymphenburg we received Clara Friedrich. She arrived 12.6 and stayed for two weeks until 25.6. Those weeks are in our most busy period of the season. For us, receiving Clara at that time was a strike of luck, and we are really happy for her strong work and contribution! We welcome her back to Tromsø together with new gardeners from Botanischer Garten München-Nymphenburg!

I got the opportunity to take part in this exchange. However, it had to be before and after the main season in Tromsø. Thus, my period was divided in two: one week in April, and two weeks in August/September.

In April, I stayed in B.G. München-Nymphenburg, from Monday 24'th to Friday 28'th of April. The first day I worked along with Clara, then the rest of the week with Jenny Wainwright-Klein. I got an introduction to the Alpinum and the propagation facilities in the alpine nursery. Also a general introduction to the botanic garden. The week started with nice spring weather, and then it turned cold and started raining and snowing. With snow on the ground, optional working task was somewhat limited. Jenny managed to give me good tasks that also kept me warm. Thursday I joined her, going to Chemnitz visiting the Walter Meusel Stiftung – Arktisch Alpiner Garten, and the alpine nursery of Gerd Stop. I'm in awe of all the exiting species they managed to propagate in their nurseries! Seeing equipment and machines being used is always interesting, especially the 'Heat wave' machine, how it worked and the result.

The next period was from 28'th of August to 8'th of September. I returned Sunday 27'th to München, and Monday morning we left for the Alpengarten auf dem Schachen. For a long time I have wanted to go there, and finally it came through! Driving up to Schachen wonderful panoramas unfolded. Passing through the gate to the alpine garden a delightful rock garden appeared, full of plants and beautiful details. Something new to discover even to the very last

day! Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of September the season ended in the alpine garden. The shutters were closed and the gate to the garden locked.

The work during this period was diverse and interesting! Some tasks' was similar to the work we do in Tromsø in the late season, others were completely different. Closing down for the winter is quite the same, cleaning and putting tools away, mowing benches and posters into storage, taking care that water does not freeze and break barrows and pipes. Also weeding and cutting of seed stems are in this first category. The plants considered weeds however, was different. Some species where allowed to seed freely within parts of the garden. The natural flora I find has a more integrated part in Schachen, compared to Tromsø.

Several species are planted in both gardens', and it was interesting to compare how they were doing; either grown in crevices, on flat ground or in slopes', and exposure to the sun. We talked about mixtures of soil. In Tromsø, the soil is more neutral or slightly acidic, in Schachen it's calcareous.

The landscape in Tromsø botanic garden is constructed, and all rock features are man-made. All stones, big boulders to gravel have been transported into the garden. That is not the case in Schachen. Natural rock outcrops, big stones, and old pines give the structure to the garden. The different parts' – collections, pathways, and stairs' has been incorporated in the natural landscape, using local portable stones. As the stones weather algae's and lichens grow on them, the appearance of the man-made features blend very nicely into the natural landscape of the garden. Thus, it was an amazing task, getting to build a new rock feature in the R1-Rocky Mountains part. Some nice stones was already available. We found even more laying in the lower part of the garden, though they were really heavy and almost impossible to move manually. One could have used smaller stones, but I think the large stones make the feature look more natural. The big blocks are solid and stable, and they provided nice crevices. There are also plans for next year to clean and rebuilding other sections of the garden. Thus, the following days I collected more stones. "Rock hunting" was an existing activity; I found stones shaped in the most peculiar ways.

The Königshaus am Schachen, Schachenhaus, and the Alpengarten lay within the borders of a Nature conservation area. The road leading to Schachen is not open to general traffic, only transport of goods is allowed. Maintenance of the road is a shared responsibility. When the weather turned to rain and snow, we

went with special tools and cleaned the drainage for the trench water. Gravel and stones would otherwise block the drainage and lead to further erosion of the road.

I had a lovely time in Schachen! I'm bringing ideas' back to Tromsø, and a lot of good impressions. I had a good time working along with the entire Schachen crew, and I enjoyed cooking and spending time together! It was all organized so well, making it very easy for me to come to München and Schachen. A special and most heartfelt thank you to Jenny Wainwright-Klein. I believe she got the most work, organizing the internships for me.

Finally, I would like to return and spend more time in Schachen! I also would like Jenny to come to Tromsø, and give a lecture on both South-African and North-American plants! I believe few others can give us better first hand advice on how to grow plants from the Drakensberg!

For the future I hope the exchange program will continue, and for the best of relations between Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden and Botanischer Garten München-Nymphenburg.



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