

Internationaler Gärtneraustausch zwischen dem Ökologisch-Botanischen Garten Bayreuth und dem Jardín Botánico der Universidad de Talca/Chile vom 2. Juli bis 13. August 2019

Bericht von Misael Andrés Errázuriz Montanares aus Talca (Chile)

A month on paper.

It is complex to condense experiences in a report, even more so when those have been as good as the ones that happened to me.



Misael Errázuriz am Eingang des Ökologisch-Botanischen Gartens der Universität Bayreuth

Arriving in Germany was a great adventure. From my departure from Santiago to the landing in Frankfurt. I had no communications, no internet, no phone. I only had my train ticket, my basic English, my even more rudimentary German and a lot of fear. However, I managed to reach Bayreuth without any setbacks. I was pleasantly surprised by the city. It is a very tidy place, very clean, with impressive architecture and history. People are very warm. It is a place where the smile is present in the faces of the inhabitants of the village.

Now, leaving aside for a moment my impressions of the city, I will refer to the work developed during the time of my exchange in the Botanical and Ecological Garden of the University of Bayreuth. I worked in three different sections of the Garden. The first one was in the flora section of Latin America. One of my works consisted of maintenance of the zone where trees and plants from temperate, tropical, subtropical climates are exhibited in summer, outside the greenhouse. My job was to collect organic residue from trees and plants and put it into compost. I also did the same work in the nursery of this section in addition to fertilizing.



Eine Arbeitskollegin beim Wässern der Kübelpflanzen



Die Sandfläche mit den tropischen, subtropischen und mediterranen Kübelpflanzen

The second place in the Botanical Garden where I worked was the tropical greenhouse. Here I also collected organic material and helped with pruning. I also helped in the nursery of this section to fertilize.



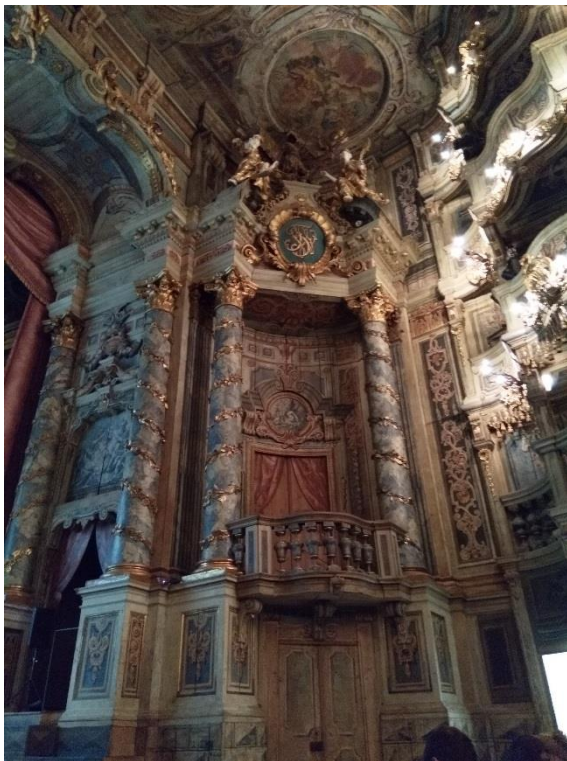
Blick ins Tropenhaus des Ökologisch-Botanischen Garten

The third and final section where I worked was in the orchard of the Botanical Garden. Personally, it is the area of greatest interest to me, in my work at the Botanical Garden of the University of Talca I am in charge of the orchard. The work I did here consisted of removing weeds from the base of fruit trees and from the growing beds, watering and harvesting seeds.

The impressions I got from the Botanical and Ecological Garden of the University of Bayreuth are varied and all positive. The way in which the work is carried out is impressive, it shows the commitment on the part of those who carry out the work. In every corner there is

professionalism and love for what is done. Everything is well designed, space is used efficiently. The gardeners are very well prepared. I must point out that in Chile, gardening is not a profession. There is no education to train gardeners like in Germany. About respect for workers, conditions are also much better in Germany. From facilities to the number of working hours per week. The key concept towards workers, as far as I can see in Germany, is "dignity".

About the human quality I could find in the Botanical Garden I must say that never before have felt so welcome. Everyone was always willing to help me. They responded to my concerns with kindness and clarity. I always got help when I needed it. I can say - though it may sound exaggerated - that the time I worked at the Botanical Garden of the University of Bayreuth has been one of the best experiences of my life. To whom it may concern, I thank you.



Innenansichten des Markgräflichen Opernhaus Bayreuth, eine UNESCO Weltkulturerbestätte



Orangerie mit Sonnentempel, Eremitage Bayreuth, eine barocke Parkanlage

After finishing my exchange time I was able to travel a little through Germany, Belgium and Holland. I knew the cities of München, Nürnberg and Berlin. In Munich I visited the city's Botanical Garden. It was also impressive for me to walk through those gardens. In Nürnberg I attended a music festival (whose name I don't remember) and from there I travelled to Breda, in the Netherlands, to meet a friend who works as a volunteer in the Kalmthout Arboretum, in Belgium. I stayed at her house in the village of Essen, very close to the border between Belgium and Netherlands. On the last day of this part of the trip, I returned to Breda to board my bus to Berlin. I walked a few hours through Breda.

After completing about 20 hours of bus travel I arrived in Berlin. It's a very diverse, multicultural city. I was around five days and I think I need a minimum of two weeks to know all the points of interest. I knew the three places I was most interested in knowing. The Bundestag, The East Side Gallery and the Memorial to the Jews who died in the Holocaust.



Misael Errázuriz in Berlin an der Spree



Holocaust Denkmal

In the summary of my trip I only have words of admiration and gratitude. I met some very interesting people. They opened their hearts to me. Despite being thousands of kilometers from my home, they made me feel at home. I have left part of my own heart in Germany. Friendship and learning. These are the concepts I choose to describe this experience concisely.

To all of you who shared your time with me, thank you very much.

To the foundation that made my exchange possible, thank you very much.

To the „Freundeskreis of the Ecological-Botanical Garden e.V.” also lots of thank, they overtook the costs of the flight.

To René, Alex, Lea and Bernd Huber, thank you very much.

To Heidi, thank you so much.

To Kerstin, thank you very much.

To Roland, thank you very much.

To Hela, thank you very much.

To Heike Schwarzer, thank you very much.

To all of you who shared your time with me, thank you very much.

To Germany, thank you very much.

It will be up to the future.

Misael Errázuriz