



1935 - 2010
75 Years
German Rhododendron Society

Anniversary Annual Meeting in Bremen

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Special Jubilee Events in the Rhododendron-Park Bremen

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Excursions: Rhododendron Parks and Nurseries in NW-Germany

May 20-23rd, 2010

Numerous international guests will join the members of the German Rhododendron Society to celebrate the Society's 75th anniversary. A wide-ranging programme of guided tours, rhododendron shows, displays, excursions to Rhododendron parks, nurseries and social events guarantees an unrivalled opportunity to get to know the German Rhododendron community and meet many international Rhododendron fellows. The Anniversary Annual Meeting starts right after the International Rhododendron Symposium. The number of participants in workshops, tours and social events is limited.

After half a day full of social events at some of the most remarkable historic places in Bremen, the first full day of the Anniversary Annual Meeting is spent at the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park Bremen. The park holds supposedly the world's 2nd largest collection of Rhododendron species and hybrids which are presented in a broad range of displays.

The 46 ha **Rhododendron-Park** contains a broad collection of historical hybrids (e.g. British Hardy Hybrids by Waterer, Lee, Slocock and others, old German Hybrids by Seidel & Liebig, Dutch Hardy Hybrids); special national collections (e.g. Czech hybrids and the largest collection of American Hybrids in Europe with hybrids from Dexter, Shamarello, Leach and others); modern German hybrids with extensive collections of varieties by Bruns, Hachmann, Hobbie and others; a display garden of approximately 800 different lepidote hybrids planted by alphabet; a display garden of 350 Japanese Azaleas also planted by alphabet; theme gardens for Rhododendron novelties and a collection of 450 deciduous azaleas.

The **Botanic Garden** is the home of about 5.000 taxa, grown in different sections like indigenous plants, medical plants, plants of America & Asia and an Alpinum. It also includes a Rhododendron "Stone Garden" with lepidote species and hybrids and a large collection of Repens-Hybrids.

Right in the middle of the park, the Science Centre **botanika** offers an exhibition on biodiversity and special greenhouses for non-hardy Rhododendrons. The Himalaya Greenhouse contains about 150 different Rhododendron species and many companion plants, grown in a natural-like landscape with waterfalls, ponds and many ethnic exhibits. The Borneo Greenhouse hosts one of the largest collections of *Vireya*-Rhododendron in Europe. About 75 species grow as terrestrials and epiphytes between and on tropical trees in a landscape known as the "Mount Kinabalu" of *botanika*. The Zen Garden Greenhouse displays the largest collection of Indian Azaleas in Germany. 500 historic and modern hybrids are displayed during the Annual Azalea Show.

Special Programme in Bremen:

Thursday, 20 May 2010

8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration at the Swissôtel***** (Conference Hotel), Hillmannplatz 20, 28195 Bremen

3:00 p.m. Guided walking tour of Bremen's historic city centre
(**5,50 € per person**, in English)

6:00 p.m. Reception in the Bremen town hall (UNESCO World Heritage site), opening speech by the Senator of Environment, Dr. Reinhard Loske

7:00 p.m. Gala dinner in Bremen's Ratskeller, a historic restaurant and wine cellar beneath the town hall
(**34,00 € per person** (buffet) without beverages)

Friday, 21 May 2010

Special Jubilee Events in the Rhododendron-Park Bremen

(**45,00 € per person** including guided tours, workshops, lunch, coffee & tea breaks with pastry and dinner including beverages)

10:30 a.m. Guided tours of the Rhododendron-Park, the *botanika* greenhouses and the nursery (in English)

12:00 p.m. Buffet lunch

1:30 p.m. Guided tours of the Rhododendron-Park the *botanika* greenhouses and the nursery (Ger./Engl.) and workshops with German and international Rhododendron experts.

Please enlist at the registration desk for the desired workshops and tours, open from Tuesday, 18 May.

Workshops of 1-1,5 hours on:

- Species identification (Kenneth Cox, Steve Hootman; in English)
- Vireya cultivation (George Argent; in English)
- German Rhododendron Genebank: Rare Cultivars (in German)
- Rhododendron care and propagation (in German & English)

Guided tours of 1-1,5 hours of:

- Rhododendron-Park including Alpinum, Species and Hybrid collection (in German)
- botanika Science Centre and greenhouses (in German)

Rhododendron bazaar (Get a rare Rhododendron species or hybrid for a donation!)

3:00 p.m. Coffee break

3:30 p.m. Repetition of tours and workshops

5:00 p.m. Rhododendron naming ceremony

6:00 p.m. Buffet dinner in the exhibition greenhouses

9:00 p.m. Bus transfer to the city centre, Swissôtel (no 1)

10:00 p.m. Bus transfer to the city centre, Swissôtel (no 2)

Link: www.rhododendronpark-bremen.de or www.botanika.net

Excursions: Rhododendron Parks and Nurseries in NW-Germany

The destination for the following 2-day excursion is the Ammerland in North-West Germany, about one hour drive by bus from Bremen. The Ammerland is the nursery centre and the main production area for Rhododendron in Germany. The first stop on Saturday will be at the „RHODO“ in Westerstede, the biggest Rhododendron show in Europe, held only every four years – definitely one of the highlights of the anniversary programme. The trips on Saturday and Sunday give insight into the work of various Rhododendron nurseries and include guided tours of two of the most well-known Rhododendron parks in North West Germany.

Saturday, 22 May 2010

2-day Ammerland excursion by bus

89,00 € per person (including transport, entrance fees, guided tours, 1x lunch, 1x coffee break and 1x dinner)

- 8:00 a.m. Departure from the Swissôtel
- 9:15 a.m. Visit of the RHODO Westerstede
(self-catering)
- 12:45 p.m. Visit of Gerstenkorn Nursery, Westerstede
- 14:15 p.m. Visit of Ernst Stöckmann Nursery, Bad Zwischenahn, with coffee break
- 17:00 p.m. Guided tour of the Rhododendronpark Bruns, Gristede, with dinner in the park
- 21:30 p.m. Arrival at the Swissôtel

Sunday, 23 May 2010

- 8:00 a.m. Departure from the Swissôtel
- 9:00 a.m. Visit of Diderk Heinje Nursery, Edewecht
- 11:30 a.m. Visit of Timo Schöder Nursery, Wiefelstede, with lunch break
- 3:00 p.m. Guided tour of the Park of the Gardens, Bad Zwischenahn
(self-catering coffee & tea)
- 5:30 p.m. Arrival at the Swissôtel
- 8:00 p.m. Farewell dinner in the restaurant “Ständige Vertretung”, Böttcherstraße
(**29,00 € per person**, incl. mineral water)

Registration: Please register via the society’s website www.rhodo.org/2010. Here you find also more background information about the different destinations.

For organizational reasons the 2-day excursion and the Special Jubilee Event in the Rhododendron-Park Bremen can only be booked as a package. Rooms at the Swissôtel***** (Conference Hotel) are available for delegates at special rates. International Guests from other Rhododendron Societies are welcome to join the post-excursion on May 24 & 25, 2010.

The number of delegates is limited, early registration is therefore advisable.

Contact for further questions: E-Mail: info@rhodo.org or Phone: +49 - 421 - 427 066 22