



Photo: Frederic Gilbert

Lilium grayi at the wild location.

Plant knowledge

Lilium grayi, the Orange Bell Lily, or Gray's Lily, is one of the highlights of the Hamburg Botanical Garden where it is cultivated in the North America department. This is a spectacular red-flowered plant endemic to a small area in North Carolina and Tennessee. Due to a fungal disease, it is threatened with extinction in its native habitats. The plants at Hamburg came to us with an expedition of the gardeners exchange project some years ago and were derived from a population which now is extinct. Head gardener Niels Kleissenberg from Hamburg and Patrick McMillan from the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson are currently discussing how the plants, which survived at Hamburg, can be used for a re-introduction project in its native place.

The lake quillwort *Isoetes lacustris* is a small pteridophyte growing on sandy bottoms of oligotrophic and slightly acidic ponds. In Germany it is a very rare plant: At the Hamburg Botanical Garden we had repeatedly attempted to cultivate it, when finally in 1999 gardener Tobias Brose finally succeeded. He cultivates *Isoetes* in a shady part of the temperate greenhouse, using tanks with a substrate of black peat and gravel.

It has been happily growing here for the last twenty years reproducing freely and generating numerous offspring. In the wild, the situation seems to be less favourable. Conservationists are trying to augment the remaining populations and have recently turned to our Botanical Garden for expertise in cultivating and propagating this delicate rarity.

Many stories like these can be told in botanical gardens in Germany and abroad. They all show how fundamental the everyday work of Botanical Gardens is for the conservation of rare and threatened plants. Moreover, they demonstrate the crucial significance of the horticultural knowledge that is available in these institutions, and the importance of skilled gardeners to fulfil this task. In contrast with the highly specialized commercial horticulture, Botanical Gardens have remained among the few places where the whole life cycle of a plant is controlled by the same persons at one place: From collections of plants or seeds and the propagation to the final cultivation in semi-natural habitats. The experiences gained can be extremely useful for the conservation of rare plants in the wild. Training of the horticultural staff is es-

sential to disseminate this specialized knowledge. The meetings and the special courses offered by the German Association of Botanical Gardens (Verband Botanischer Gärten) are a good example.

It is good to see that many people have grown aware to the importance of vocational and advanced training of gardeners. The last issue of the journal "Blätterrauschen", published by the German society for garden culture, was entirely devoted to the subject of "gardeners". In her editorial, president Friederike von Ehren states: „We must realize that whatever matter our society is campaigning for, qualified gardeners are of vital importance." And this means: Dedicated, skilful and clear-sighted people for all sections of the horticultural profession. As Mrs. von Ehren pointed out, the beautiful historical gardens, which the members of her society are so eager to visit, can only be preserved as long as the horticultural profession will be able to provide qualified young gardeners for their maintenance.

There is one thing, which we have learned from nearly all of our international projects: In Germany we have a very privileged position as far as the training of gardeners is concerned. This is because with us becoming a gardener is a trained profession with an approved final examination. In other countries, Botanical Gardens have to recruit their staff from untrained personnel. In these cases, an exchange of expertise with trained staff from German Botanical Gardens can be especially rewarding. Our foundation is stimulating this mutual expansion of knowledge by sending German gardeners to countries like Chile or Brazil, and welcoming colleagues from these countries to return their visits and to be guest at German botanical gardens. We have a passion for promoting the education of committed gardeners all over the world.

Hans-Helmut Poppendieck



2020

Our Activities in 2019



Photo: David Eder

Succulent collection at Denver.



Photo: David Eder

Specimen beds for succulents.

David Eder, from Kiel to Denver. In September, David Eder visited the Denver Botanic Gardens. Being in charge of the succulent collection in his home garden at Kiel, Denver was the ideal place to go to. The area is situated 1700 meters above sea-level, has a semi-arid continental climate, and is home of many hardy cacti. Furthermore, the Denver Botanic Gardens have a substantial expertise in cultivating these plants. They have created special beds for succulents in order to show that water-saving gardens can be highly attractive. David was able to make contact to many persons and institutions sharing his passion for succulents, and he got many tips how to handle his pet plants properly. He states: *The time spent with the colleagues at Denver was an enriching experience and has enhanced my experience in cultivating cacti and other succulent plants.*

A Visit from our Twin Town St. Petersburg. In April 2019, Anna Afanasyeva and Natalia Fedorova from Russia came to visit the Hamburg Botanical Garden. They were accompanied for a few days by their director Professor Vasily Yarmishenko and by Nina Alexeeva, the scientist who started the partnership between the two gardens as long ago as 1992. Anna and Natalia were especially interested to study irrigation methods and the techniques used for the labelling of plants in the garden. They also wanted to know more about the professional education of gardeners in Germany. Gardeners from other countries are fascinated to learn that we have a formal system of education with practical experience, classroom instructions and a final certificate.



Friends from St. Petersburg and Hamburg.



Driving through the Hamburg garden.



Inspecting the polytunnel.



Photo: Fabian Reppel

Looking for plants at special places.



Photo: Fabian Reppel

Professional chat with Patrick McMillan.

A Collection Trip to the Appalachian Mountains. Frédéric Gilbert made another trip to the Appalachian Mountains which he had visited before in 2013 and 2016. He gave us a short outline about the activities so far: *It all started in June and July 2013. We toured the southern part of the Appalachian Mountains, visited five states and fired questions at the staff of quite a number of nurseries, arboreta and botanical gardens. Our chief aim was to see as many of the typical plant communities of the mountain range as possible. In 2016, we travelled at springtime with the special object of collecting Trilliums and other spring flowers.*

For me it was obvious that there had to be a third journey in late summer in order to collect fresh seeds. In September 2019 we travelled about 1000 kilometres through the states of Georgia, South and North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, visited many plant habitats, and were able to collect about 200 samples of seeds. In addition, the South Carolina Botanical Garden supplied us with plants and cuttings. The flora of the Appalachian Mountains is highly attractive and beautiful. It is a great pleasure for me to be able to bring a part of it to our garden at Hamburg.

Photo: Natalia Fedorova

Photo: Natalia Fedorova

Photo: Anna Afanasyeva

STIFTUNG INTERNATIONALER GÄRTNERAUSTAUSCH

International Exchange Project of Gardeners between Botanical Gardens

August 2019: Misael Errázuriz, from Talca, Chile, to Bayreuth. The Bayreuth gardener René Huber visited Talca in 2018 and made friends there with his colleague Misael Errázuriz. He asked us for funds for a return visit of Misael to Germany which we granted. *It is not easy to put all the experiences which I have made to paper – there were so many*, says Misael. The work, the colleagues, the professional ethics, the town of Bayreuth, the countryside, meeting so many people – all of this contributed to the lasting experiences which Misael has taken with him to his native country.

He learned a lot by just watching his colleagues at work, and he recognized their dedication and their professionalism. Like his Russian colleagues, Misael was surprised by the fact that in Germany being a gardener is a profession in its own right, which is not the case in Chile. He enjoyed meeting so many well-trained colleagues who were proud of their profession.



Misael Errázuriz at Bayreuth.



Tropical greenhouse at Bayreuth.



A specialist job: collecting seeds and sowing *Drosera*.

Young Gardener Jonathan Zerr from Hamburg visited Kew Gardens in October 2019.

It was our head gardener who suggested a visit of Kew Gardens when we were discussing my further education. I immediately started to gather information, and this stimulated me go there and work for some time at this great garden.

Here is a sample from his work report: *In the morning, I worked in the greenhouse for temperate carnivorous plants. It sure takes a special know-how to handle these plants. For propagation, we used a special hose in order to Hoover the seeds into a special vessel. We sowed them into grade 13 pots filled with substrate consisting of 2 parts of dried and crushed Sphagnum, 2 parts of perlite and 1 part of black peat surrounded by fringe of gravel.*

Having been to Kew was a great experience for me. I was able not only to enhancing my professional knowledge but I also have considerably extended my horticultural vocabulary. Due to the Brexit and the problems associated with it, things have turned out to be a bit complicated, but it was certainly worthwhile. I have enjoyed it very much visiting Kew Gardens

Projects for 2020

We are sincerely hoping that the scheduled visits can take place in 2020, but due to the current coronavirus disease, it is very difficult to make any plans or predictions. Probably some of our highly attractive projects will have to be delayed. Jasmin Langhammer from the Wilhelma in Stuttgart wants to travel to the island of Palau in the Pacific Ocean and has already established contacts there. Helge Masch from the Botanischer Sondergarten at Hamburg Wandsbek was asked to go to Campinas, Brazil, in order to assist at the new botanical garden there. From Bochum Botanical Garden, Jan Rasche is planning to visit Perth, Australia, and his colleague Lukasz Wisniewski wants to visit the Lankester Botanical Garden in Costa Rica. A group of eleven gardeners from Germany and Switzerland are planning to travel in South Africa. They all are specialists for succulent plants, and our foundation will give a subsidy to their travel expenses. Ferns are the special subject of Magdalena Fedus-Lutzmann from Heidelberg, who is planning to visit New Zealand which is famous for its fern flora. Khalid Al Hinai is from the Oman, where they are building a new Botanical Garden, wants to visit Dresden this year - hopefully to establish a lasting partnership. The long-term partnership between Hamburg and Shanghai will be continued by Ulrich Hörner and Philipp Ostern-dorff. They plan to visit Hamburg's twin town garden later this year.



Lilium grayi.

Photo: Frederic Gilbert

Reinhard Lieberei sadly passed away on March 5th, 2020. He had been chair of our foundation board for many years. His association with the gardeners exchange project dates back to 1992 when Loki Schmidt appointed him as member of her advisory board. Reinhard Lieberei was professor of applied botany at the University of Hamburg and an internationally renowned expert for tropical plants, especially for the cocoa tree and the rubber tree. Economic plants were both his profession and his passion. He was author of the leading German textbook on this topic, and after his retirement he created a small but beautiful economic plant museum at his new home in the hamlet of Gorleben. He had many friends and colleagues all around the world, and our foundation profited immensely from Lieberei's international connections. When matters became difficult, he always knew the way out. It has been a great pleasure and honour for us to work together with Reinhard Lieberei. He was an amiable, optimistic and energetic person. We will miss him very much.

Prof. Reinhard Lieberei memorial fund: In order to honour the long-time head of our board of trustees, our foundation has set up a special fund named for Reinhard Lieberei. It will be financed by savings and will be used for special exchange projects.

Brigitte Fiebig new chairwoman. On their annual meeting in November 2019, the board of trustees elected Brigitte Fiebig from the Tübingen Botanical Gardens as chairwoman, and Niels Kleissenberg from Hamburg as second chairman.

Exchange project of gardeners. It started in 1987 with an idea of Loki Schmidt. In 2002 Brunhild Kühl's endowment made it possible to turn it into a charitable trust. From the beginning, businessman Heinz Holert from Hamburg has been our most important sponsor. Today we are lucky to have a small but dedicated group of friends and sponsors helping us to promote our international travel projects.

Do you want to help us? *There are many ways for you to contribute. As we are a charitable trust, all donations to our foundation are tax-deductible. Single donations are highly welcome. It only takes some 500 Euros to support a young gardeners going abroad. Why not use a birthday or an anniversary to collect for our foundation? It is also highly welcome if you want to commit yourself for donations over a couple of years. If you want to give 5000 Euros or more, we will treat it as an external donation, which can be named for you if you wish.*

If you want to help us, for details please contact our finance director Frank Schneider: 0172-8913027 - frank.r.schneider@t-online.de



A botanical gardener in paradise.

Photo: Frederic Gilbert



Anna in action.

Photo: Natalia Fedorova

Applications for 2021

are open until September 15th, 2020.
Young gardeners may apply any time for travel funds up to 500 Euro.
For applications from outside Germany, a partner garden in Germany is required.

Contact and information

Stiftung Internationaler Gärtneraustausch c/o Loki Schmidt Stiftung
Steintorweg 8, D-20099 Hamburg
Please contact the executive board
hans-helmut.poppendieck@web.de
or gisela_bertram@gmx.de.
For additional information,
please visit our homepage at
<http://www.gaertneraustausch.de>.

Our bank account

HypoVereinsbank
IBAN: DE74 2003 0000 0000 4288 88
BIC: HYVEDEMM300