

NHS 2013 Tour of German Gardens

June 14 – June 29, 2013



Karl Foerster Garden, Potsdam (near Berlin)

The Northwest Horticultural Society is sponsoring a tour of German gardens from Friday, June 14 beginning in Munich, Germany and ending in Berlin on Friday, June 28 (14 days and 15 nights). The tour will be managed by STITA Group Tours, a professional tour company located in Britain that has been in business for over fifty years. They have led a number of garden tours to Germany and Holland for the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and come highly recommended by them. They will provide a tour manager who is fluent in English, German and Dutch.



Our tour leader will be Robert Herman. Robert has over 30 years of experience as a professional horticulturist, seven of which were spent as Garden Master for the Countess von Zeppelin Nursery in Germany. He currently teaches plant materials and design courses and chairs the Horticulture Department at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, CT. Robert was the introductory speaker at our 2009 Symposium. His talk explained the German ecological approach to design by combining perennials by habitat, where plants are selected and grouped and planted according to their ideal growing situation. This is the basis of the New Perennial gardening movement.

Robert is very knowledgeable about contemporary German gardens and designers. He has personal contacts with designers and has been able to arrange visits to private gardens and is also arranging for us to meet these designers as part of this tour. We will meet three of the speakers who will participate in the NHS 2013 Symposium, in their gardens. You will have an opportunity to meet them when they are here next March.

Robert Herman, Tour Leader

Not all gardens in Germany are in the 'new perennial' style, far from it. There are literally hundreds of large estate and palace gardens built from the middle of the seventeenth century and later. We will visit some of the best of these, including Nymphenburg Palace with its nearby Botanical Garden outside Munich, San Souci Palace in Potsdam, the summer palace of Frederick the Great and the Herrenhausen Gardens around the site of the Herrenhausen Castle, residence of the Kings of Hanover, who during the seventeenth and eighteenth century were also the Kings of England.

The tour will begin in Munich where we will spend four nights. We will visit Nymphenburg Palace and its Botanic garden the first day and get together for a welcome dinner in an authentic Munich Beer Hall that first night.

The next day we will drive to Neuschwanstein Castle for a tour of King Ludwig's homage to Wagner and then go on to Garmisch / Mittenwald, in the German alps. While in Mittenwald you can take a tram ride up the mountain and an alpine wildflower walk back down. We then return to Munich.



Sichtungsgarten Weihenstephan, Freising (near Munich)

The last day in Munich we will visit Weihenstephan. We will see one of the most influential gardens responsible for the new perennial style, the Sichtungsgarten, where much of the scientific research for perennial planting has been developed, including the method of analyzing specific sub-habitats within the garden and matching plants to that habitat.

While in Weihenstephan, we will also tour the oldest continuously operating brewery in the world and evaluate the success of their work. We will have a free afternoon and evening to end our stay in Munich.



From Munich, the tour will go northwest, where we will stop in Stuttgart to visit Killesberg Park (left). We continue on towards Heidelberg, where we will spend the next two nights. On our way, we will stop in Schwabish Hall a charming old German town and then in Mosbsch to visit a garden before arriving in Heidelberg.

From Heidelberg we will drive to Weinheim and visit Hermanshof with its renowned North American prairie garden, a Mecca for designers of the new perennial movement, including the Dutch designer Piet Oudolf, who says Hermanshof is the only garden he visits for inspiration. We will meet with Cassian Schmidt, the curator and garden director. Cassian is one of the

featured speakers at our March 2013 Symposium. From Weinheim we will drive to Nackenheim to visit Gunderloch Winery. Then on to Schwetzingen Castle gardens which are one of best maintained examples of an historic garden in Germany, a combination of a 17th century French formal garden with an 18th century English landscape park. Mozart gave regular concerts at the theater which still exists on the property and is still used today. We will return to nearby Heidelberg for the evening.



Hermannshof, Weinheim

The next morning we will drive to Frankfurt, where we will visit the Orel Park Garden and meet with designer Christine Orel. Christine is another of the speakers at our March symposium and she has generously offered to travel with us for the next day and a half to take us through three gardens that she designed. From Frankfurt we will drive to Bingen on the Rhein, to see the second of Christine's designs. This is a contemporary garden designed in 2008 for a regional garden show. The garden had over one million visitors during the show.

We will visit Schlossgut Diehl winery which is very close to Bingen, where we will tour the winery with the owner, Armin Diehl, and taste some of their wines. Incidentally, Armin comes to Washington annually to consult with several Washington wineries. We then take a ferry across the Rhein to our hotel in Rudesheim for the night.

From Rudesheim we will head toward Koblenz. Part of our trip to Koblenz will be aboard a Rhein tour boat. We will cruise down the Rhein Gorge, past the famous Lorelei Rock to Koblenz, where the Mosel river flows into the Rhein. We will have lunch on the boat. In Koblenz, we visit a garden designed by Christine Orel and another designed by Petra Pelz. Petra is also one of our speakers at the March symposium and we will get to spend a day with her in Hamburg later in the tour.



Orel Park Garden, Frankfurt



Drachenfels



Old City Hall on the marketplace, Bonn

From Koblenz we continue on to Königswinter which is just across the Rhein from Bonn, where we will spend the next three nights. In Königswinter we visit the Drachenfels castle which is reached via a short ride on a cog railway for a majestic view up the Rhein river. From there we cross to our hotel in Bonn, the Sternhotel, located by the Old City Hall.

The next day we drive to Hummelo, in Holland, to visit Piet Oudolf's garden. Piet has closed his nursery to concentrate on his design business. This allowed him and his wife Anja to take out his nursery beds and add a new garden, which is designed as a wild garden. It will make an interesting contrast with the older garden on the other side of the House.



Oudolf Garden



Duisburg-Nord

We leave Hummelo and on our way back to Bonn, we stop at the Landscape Park in Duisburg-Nord. This is a now famous and very interesting garden which is built on the remains of an abandoned steel mill in the old industrial area of Germany. Of particular interest for our tour, the landscape architect responsible for its design came to Seattle to study the design of Gasworks Park, so we shouldn't be surprised by some similarities between the two. We return to Bonn for second night there.



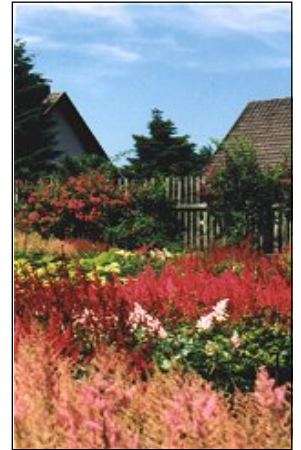
Augustusburg

On Sunday, we take a short drive north to Brühl to visit Augustusburg Palace and Falkenlust, a hunting lodge on the adjacent palace garden grounds. This site has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site since 1984. The palaces were built at the beginning of the 18th century for the Archbishop-Elector of Köln and the current gardens were designed by Lenné in the 19th century and turned into a landscape park. Prior to the German Capital moving to Berlin, Augustusburg was used by the German President as a reception hall for guests of the state.



From here we will drive to Köln to visit the Cathedra (left), which is Germany's most visited Landmark, with over 20,000 visitors a day. The cathedral was begun in 1248 and was not completed until 1880. The Cathedral is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe, holding the second tallest spires and the largest facade of any church in the world. After the Cathedral we return to Bonn.

The next day we depart Bonn and head to Wuppertal, where we will visit the Arends/Maubach Nursery (right) and meet Anja Maubach. Anja is well known to a number of NHS members, as she spoke in Seattle a number of years ago at the NW Flower and Garden Show. The nursery is normally closed on Mondays, but Anja will open it for us. This is the nursery's 125th anniversary, opened by her grandfather, Georg Arends, who bred and introduced numerous world famous perennials into our gardens with the name 'arendsii'. Anja will give us a personal tour of the nursery and provide us with lunch. After lunch she will take us to a private garden nearby which she has designed. That afternoon we continue onto Hannover where we will spend the night.



Berggarten Perennials

In Hannover we visit Herrenhausen and the gardens on the castle estate, including the Berggarten. The Herrenhausen Castle which was damaged by bombs in WW II is scheduled to be completely restored by the time we arrive in 2013. We will spend a single night in Hannover.

The next morning we drive to Hamburg, where we will spend the next two nights. Our time in Hamburg will be spent visiting the International Garden Show (IGS). The IGS occurs once every 10 years and will be held in Wilhelmsburg Island Park, between the northern and southern branches of the river Elbe – close to the harbor. The theme for the show comes from author Jules Verne -'Around the world in 80 gardens'. The show ground will be divided into different garden worlds, such as 'water worlds' and 'world of ports', each displaying inspired designs of horticulture.



IGS Hamburg

Here we will meet Petra Pelz, who will spend the day with us going through the display gardens, especially her designs. This is a large show and will take up the better part of a whole day.

The next morning we will catch the fast train (ICE) to Berlin which gets us there in 1 hour 40 minutes. We will spend the next two nights in Berlin. While in Berlin, we will visit a number of gardens designed by Christian Meyer who has offered to accompany us to his gardens. We will also visit the gardening school of Isabelle van Groeningen, who has designed a number of award winning gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show.

On one of the days in Berlin we will visit Potsdam, a short distance away. Here we will visit San Souci Palace, the summer palace of Frederick The Great, King of Prussia. It is in the style of Versailles, however, as the name implies, smaller and much less formal in style (that's informality in the Rococo style of the 1750's). It is the place Frederick came to relax.



Foerster Garden, Potsdam

We will also visit the house and restored gardens of Karl Foerster, the visionary behind the use of grasses in the garden as well as a champion of the use of American prairie perennials. He can well be described as the Godfather of modern German gardening. The restoration of his garden was finished in 2003 and is just stunning. His old nursery is still operational.

We will also see a garden designed by Christine Orel and Christian Meyer while in Potsdam.

The last night in Berlin, we will share a farewell dinner before we go off on our separate ways the next day.