

The ARS/DRG 2018 International Rhododendron Conference in Europe

Overall Description of the Conference

The 2018 ARS Convention will be hosted by the Deutsche Rhododendron Gesellschaft (DRG) in Bremen, Germany. There will be three optional tours before the Convention and one optional tour after the Convention. The first pre-tour in the Netherlands will be hosted by the Dutch Chapter of the ARS and will start on Monday, May 7, 2018, in Amsterdam. The second pre-tour in Germany will be hosted by the DRG, and the third pre-tour in Denmark and Sweden will be hosted by the Danish and Swedish Chapters. The post-tour in Finland will be hosted by the Finnish Chapter. Attendees are responsible to make their own way to the first hotel for each option and to make their way home from the last hotel they stay in. All tours connect with the next tour. See the different tabs at ARS2018.org to learn more about the tour options, the tour gardens, the hotels, the speakers and registration. The organized activities in sequence are:

1st Pre-Tour: May 7 to May 12, 2018, Netherlands: starting in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and visiting Dutch Gardens including Keukenhof Gardens. It will be hosted by the ARS Dutch Chapter.

2nd Pre-Tour: May 12 to May 14, 2018, Germany: connecting in Bremen, Germany, and visiting RHODO 2018 Rhododendron Festival in Westerstede, Germany and the famous Hobbie Rhododendron-Park on May 13. It will be hosted by the DRG. This tour overlaps with the next pre-tour and visits Hachmann's Nursery on May 14.

3rd Pre-Tour: May 13 to May 20, 2018, Denmark & Sweden: starting in Bremen and visiting public and private gardens in both Denmark and Sweden. It will be hosted by both the Danish and Swedish Chapters of the ARS. This tour includes an overnight in Bremen on the 13th before leaving for Denmark on the 14th, with a stop at Hachmann's Nursery en route.

ARS six-day Convention in Bremen, Germany, from May 20 to 26, 2018: including three tour days to German gardens, programs by an international array of speakers, and the annual meetings of both the ARS and the DRG. It will be hosted by the DRG. The night of May 20th is included.

Post-Tour: May 27 to May 31, Finland: starting in Bremen, Germany, and visiting gardens in Finland. This tour includes a train from Bremen to Hamburg, air from Hamburg to Helsinki, and hotels and travel in Finland. This tour ends in Helsinki on the morning of May 31. Participants must book their own travel plans from Helsinki. It will be hosted by the Finnish Chapter of the ARS.

Hotels: Attendees are responsible to be at the hotel where their tours start on the starting date and to make their own reservations home after the finish date. If the choices are **NOT** contiguous, guests must arrange their own

lodging for the missing nights. The first hotel on each tour, the hotel where tours connect and the last hotel on each tour are:

Pre-Tour 1, Holland: starts May 7 at Hampton by Hilton Hotel, Schiphol/ Amsterdam, Netherlands; ends in Bremen, Germany.

Pre-Tours 2 (Germany): starts May 12 at Swissôtel Bremen, Bremen, Germany.

Pre-Tours 3 (Denmark/Sweden): starts May 13, Swissôtel Bremen, Bremen, Germany.

ARS Convention: starts May 20 at Swissôtel Bremen, Bremen, Germany.

Convention: ends May 27 & Post-Tour to Finland starts with transfer from Bremen to Helsinki.

Post-Tour, Finland: ends May 31 at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Helsinki, Finland.

GARDENS ON PRE-TOUR 1: NETHERLANDS, DUTCH CHAPTER ARS

(see the Manders article in the 2017 Summer JARS for details)

Zaanse Schans Village has a collection of well-preserved historic windmills and houses. It features a bakery museum, clog warehouse, cheese factory, and pewter foundry. Very photogenic.

Keukenhof Gardens is said to be the most beautiful spring garden in the world. More than seven million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths fill over 32 ha (79 acres) with color and fragrance.

Esveld Nursery raises an enormous variety of plants. Nowhere else in Europe will you find as many different garden plants!

Arboretum Trompenburg botanical garden hosts a large collection of woody and herbaceous plants. It is situated 13 feet (4 m) below sea level, and canals and pumps are used to drain the land.

Dr. Lou Traas' Garden, a private garden in Balaricum. He is a past president of the Dutch Chapter of the ARS. Afterwards, the group will visit historic Utrecht Old City Center.

Fort Hoofddijk Botanic Gardens provides an unparalleled unique collection of thousands of plant species from all around the world..

Van Gimborn Arboretum holds many national plant collections, including conifers (particularly *Tsuga*), Ericaceae (and *Rhododendron* in particular), Aceraceae, Euonymus, Magnolia and more.

Appeltern Gardens provide an exhibition of garden design with over 150 model gardens. There is a large plant collection and designs by well known Dutch garden designers, landscape architects and authors.

Arboretum Belmonte is one of the largest botanical gardens in the Netherlands. It has 1500 rhododendron species and hybrids, the largest rhododendron collection in the Benelux region.

Palace Garden of Het Loo is the former royal palace of the Netherlands. The

gardens of Het Loo are fully restored and look like the original Baroque Dutch style.

GARDENS ON PRE-TOUR 2: GERMANY, DRG

(see the article in this JARS issue for details, p. 55)

Hobbie Rhododendron Park Westerstede, is Germany's largest rhododendron park established 90 years ago and hosting the country's biggest rhododendrons (trees).

RHODO 2018, Westerstede, Europe's largest rhododendron festival, transforms the cozy center of the town of Westerstede into a magnificent garden of rhododendrons and azaleas once every four years.

Hachmann Nursery, Barmstedt, is the most important European hybridizer of rhododendrons and azaleas! Holger offers 600 rhododendron varieties, 300 of which they hybridized.

GARDENS ON PRE-TOUR 3: DENMARK & SWEDEN, DANISH AND SWEDISH CHAPTERS, ARS

(see the article in this JARS issue for details, P. 80)

Denmark

The Danish private gardens of Jørgen Jørgensen in the little town of Ribes, of **Finn & Linda Bertelsen** in Allerød with many rare rhododendron species, and of **Maren & Søren Tang** in Hadsund, where we will have lunch in their very large garden. <http://www.rhododendron.dk/MTang.html>

Bangsbo Botanical Garden's Rhododendron Valley, Frederikshavn, was planted in 1990. We will have dinner at the Møllehuset Restaurant.

Nivågård Park, Copenhagen, was designed by Edvard Glæsel and laid out in 1901–02. Svend Hansen will show us the large rhododendron garden that was established there in 2007.

Kjeld Didreksen and his wife near Aarhus have a big garden with lots of rhododendrons, and a lot of dogs!

The Zen Garden in Odder is based on Japanese Zen philosophy. We are going to have lunch at the Zen-garden, and this will be a typical Danish lunch with open sandwiches and coffee and home-baked cake.

Henning Andersen's garden in Svinninge is a very large garden and nursery.

The private gardens near Copenhagen are of Mogens Bendix has an historical background, as the garden is very close to an old fortress that was used in the defense of Copenhagen; **of Svend Hansen Kernehuset** with lots of rhododendron species, where we will stay for lunch and coffee while enjoying the large garden; **of Lulo Tophøj**; and **of Jørgen Halse**, a long time standing ARS member of ARS who helped setup the Danish Chapter in 1973.

Asperup gård courtyard garden and gallery is located on the Island of Fuenen, Denmark. It's a species garden with 400 rhododendrons, 250 different magnolias and more than 500 other plants.

Sweden

Kronborg Castle, Nelsingor, is the castle Shakespeare made famous in Hamlet, and is situated at the narrowest point between Denmark and Sweden. Castle life in the 1600s is reenacted.

Gothenburg Botanic Garden in Gothenburg is about 40 ha (100 acres) with about 16,000 different plant species. Sights include The Rhododendron Valley and the Japanese Glade, where we will have lunch afterwards.

Torsten Nilsson Garden, Mölle, consists mostly of rhododendron, with 80-year-old *R. catawbiense* and young plantations of hybrids and wild species, totaling about 400 rhododendrons and 150 varieties.

Sofiero Castle Garden in Helsingborg is **claimed to be** "Europe's most beautiful park" and a place to enjoy the thousands of rhododendron plants. The castle is located above the rhododendron ravine.

GARDENS AT THE ARS/DRG 2018 CONVENTION, GERMANY

(see the article in this JARS issue for details, p. 55)

Bremen Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, began in 1937 at the initiative of the German Rhododendron Society. It has the world's second largest collection of rhododendrons and azaleas with about 600 species and subspecies (including vireyas in a large conservatory) and more than 3300 cultivars.

Zu Jeddoloh Nursery, Edewecht, is a world-class container nursery and an old Ammerland garden with deciduous trees, conifers, rhododendrons, roses, and perennials.

Park of the Gardens, Rostrup, has a collection of about 2000 species and hybrid rhododendrons in a flowering frenzy beneath the shade of giant trees, with over 9000 labeled plants.

Van den Berk Nursery, Rastede, is dedicated to the cultivation of rhododendron's and azaleas. They produce over 180 species of large-flowered rhododendrons, *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum* hybrids and azaleas.

Schröder Nursery, Dringenburg, Wiefelstede, has large flowered varieties, *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum* hybrids and deciduous azaleas. They have one of the largest rhododendron collections in Europe with about 2000 varieties and species.

Bruns Rhododendron-Park, Bad Zwischenahn, has more than 1000 species and hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas. The Bruns set up the collection in the 1950s to study the characteristics of individual varieties.

Gardens on Post-Tour: Finland, Finnish Chapter ARS

(see the Theqvist article in the 2017 Spring JARS issue for details)

Haaga Rhododendron Park was established in 1975 as a plant breeding experimental site. Now the park attracts visitors to admire its thousands of huge rhododendrons and beautiful azaleas.

Porvoo Old Town was founded in 1346; Porvoo is one of six medieval-style towns in Finland and is a colorful and charming city with narrow cobbled streets, wooden houses, and a riverfront setting.

Arboretum Mustila is famous for its rhododendrons and azaleas, especially in the Rhododendron Valley with its hundreds of different species and hybrids.

Sapokka Water Garden offers many things to admire throughout the year. In the spring, there are tens of thousands of flowering bulbs, and in the early summer, rhododendrons and azaleas come into bloom.

Fuksinpuisto Park was established in 1995 as a test planting area for azaleas from the Finnish azalea hybridizing program. Later the plantings were diversified with other plants.

Iloa Arboretum demonstrates landscaping that enhances the diverse natural Finnish landscape and includes ponds, rock garden, exotic trees and about 2000 rhododendrons and azaleas.

Arboretum Apaskeri, located in Apaskeri in the southwestern Finnish archipelago, has hundreds of rhododendrons, trees and shrubs in the forest and along the shores of this private Arboretum.

Kristian Theqvist's private Rhodogarden has black peat soil that is perfect for rhododendrons, with over 1000 rhododendrons and azaleas below a canopy of pines. *R. tomentosum* grows in its bogs.

Convention Speakers

Nils Blatt & Gesa Gärtner, Germany: "Contemporary Gardening with Rhododendrons in Germany"

Kenneth Cox, Scotland: "Woodland Gardening-Landscaping with Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Magnolias and Camellias" and "Rhododendron in art, music, and daily life."

Steve Hootman, USA: "The search for new Rhododendron introductions in the outlying regions of south-central and eastern China"

Don Hyatt, USA: "The Crazy World of Rhododendrons"

Ole Jonny Larsen, Norway: "Plant hunting between Lapponicas and Lamas in Sichuan"

Seamus O'Brien, Ireland: "In the footsteps of Augustine Henry in China and Joseph Dalton Hooker in Sikkim"

Ulrich Pietzarka, Germany: "Rhododendrons in Primorje - Exploring the species of the Russian Far East"

Rama Lopez-Rivera, England: "A Quest for Perfection - Plant-hunting on the Pacific Rim"

Dr. Hartwig Schepker, Germany: "Rhododendron expeditions in the past and today" and "Rhododendrons in Europe"

Jürgen Schlenz, Germany: "Ammerland: The world's largest rhododendron production area"

Matthias Ulrich, Germany: "Rhododendrons as medical plants"

Registration is limited to ARS members until Nov. 15th. Register now, don't miss out.

Register at <http://ARS2018.org> or fill out the form below and either 1) snail mail it to Ken Webb, 5008 Old West Saanich Rd, Victoria, BC, V9E 2B2 CANADA; 2) email it to him at kenwebb@live.ca; or 3) FAX it to 250-475-1138. You will then be sent a bill and payment instructions.

Note: Europeans with access to IBAN transfers can save over 5%. Add "IBAN" to "Remarks" line on the next page."



American Rhododendron Society

2018 European Conference

Registration Form



Registration: Check all tours you wish to register for. Submit electronically or print and either 1) mail to Ken Webb, 5008 Old West Saanich Rd, Victoria, BC, V9E 2B2 CANADA; 2) email a copy to registrar@ars2018.org; or 3) FAX to 250-475-1138. You will be sent a bill & payment instructions.

Add all desired	Dutch Pre-Tour 1	German Pre-Tour 2	Danish-Swedish Pre-Tour 3	Convention in Bremen	Finnish Post-Tour
Dates	May 7-12	May 12-14	May 13*-20	May 20-27	May 27-30
Cost (Euros)	1,018 € double 1,325 € single†	292 € double 398 € single†	1,236* € double 1,730* € single†	1,855 € double 2,279 € single†	1,325 € double 1,547 € single†
Check to Add††	<input type="radio"/> check to add	<input type="radio"/> check to add	<input type="radio"/> check to add	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="radio"/> check to add

* Those on the German Pre-Tour receive a 70 € credit double, 140 € credit single for the night of May 13.

† Double means per person double occupancy. Single means per person single occupancy.

†† If choices are not contiguous, you must arrange your own lodging the missing nights. If you would like travel agent assistance arranging additional lodging or booking your flight, indicate under remarks.

Name 1‡ (single or double): _____ (name on badge)

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Name 2 (double only): _____ (name on badge)

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Street Address‡: _____

City‡: _____ State‡: _____

Postal Code‡: _____ Country‡: _____

Email‡: _____ Phone‡: _____

Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____

Select One‡: Double Room, bill for both: Double Room, bill separately: Single Room:

**If you are willing to share a room, we will send you a list of names of other registrants willing to share.

I want the list to share a double room? ** Yes No If so, are you male: or female:

Remarks: _____

‡Underlined Fields are Required. Which ARS Chapter do you belong?‡ _____

Click Here to send electronically or **Click Here to print and mail or FAX**

Within 24 hours you should receive a confirmation and instructions on how to make a secure payment. After your registration is confirmed, payment may be made by credit card either online or by phone or by FAX, or by check or money order in US\$, CDN\$ or €. A fee may be added for payments made by check.

Cancellation Policy: Get Travel Insurance! Refunds (less fees) will only be made if a replacement is found.