



Freising, 12th of April 2018

press release



The 22nd International Freising Garden Fair will be held from the 11th to the 13th of May 2018. Highlights include – **The World of Gardening as a Guest at Freising – this Year we Welcome Slovenia** (with nurseries, organizations and special guest speakers)!

Dear Editor,

We would be most grateful if you would announce the **22nd International Freising Garden Fair** in the diary, or perhaps the notebook or events section of your magazine.

From the **11th to the 13th of May 2018** the Freising Garden Fair, which has been the first event of its kind in Southern Germany and probably is the best known one, will welcome the world of gardening within the inspiring atmosphere unique to the courtyards of the former Cloister Freising-Neustift, 25 miles north of Munich in Bavaria.

This year the fair will be dedicated to **Slovenia** and its great landscapes and gardens. When I was a child I travelled through Slovenia with my parents many times. And later as a student I spent my holidays there to botanize. I was enchanted by the stunning landscapes – from the Alpes to the Adriatic coast, with the Karst in the West and the Pannonian flats in the East – there is a rarely experienced richness and variety. Slovenia can be proud to be the country with the highest biodiversity in the whole of Europe. Its wonderful meadows and dry grasslands have deeply influenced many famous plantsmen, amongst them Piet Oudolf, Henk Gerritsen and Christopher Bradley-Hole. Nowhere else we have found as many different orchids, as alongside the turquoise rivers Soca and Koritnica and the most beautiful alpine meadows you can find in the UNESCO-Biosphere reserve Triglav National park. The beauty of all the different landscapes reflects itself in the private and public gardens and parks and especially in the carefully tended cottage gardens and stunningly lush window boxes and pots. In Slovenia people are aware of the rich abundance. They are proud of their natural heritage and propagate environment-friendly tourism which includes modern as well as historic gardens and parks, and a nationwide network of Botanical Gardens. It is all so interesting and new and I am so pleased to be able to present the visitors of this year's Garden Fair with a lecture program that will provide interesting and informative insights into the manifold and fascinating world of Slovenian garden culture.

Our fair will be opened by **Dragica Urtelj**, the Consul General of Slovenia on **Friday the 11th of May 2018** with a **reception at 1.30 pm** (13.30 h). We also welcome the **Oktet Saxfam**, eight saxophonists from the Conservatoire for Music and Ballet at Ljubljana. Before the reception there will be a **guided walk through the fair** for journalists and invited guests at 12.30 h. will open the fair.

I am especially looking forward to our **lecture program** according to the motto **The World of Gardening as a Guest at Freising –Welcome Slovenia!** Well-known experts will share their unique knowledge and great experiences with our Garden Fair guests and will allow first hand insights into the fascinating world of Slovenian gardens. I am very grateful to Stane Sušnik, the editor of the well-known garden magazine Zelenj raj (Green Paradise), who introduced me to our speakers.

We will welcome horticulturist and garden designer Borut Benedejcic from Škrbina in the Slovenian Karst near Trieste. He will tell us how the mystical landscape of the Karst and its diverse vegetation has strongly influenced his approach to garden design. Borut's firm is very successful. Since many years he designs and builds gardens in Slovenia and in Italy which is very close. Water or the lack of it, as well as the native plants

which grow under these conditions, are the main attribute of his garden designs. Borut's gardens at the Hampton Court Flower Show (2009) and also at the Chelsea Flower Show (2012 and 2015) were awarded Silver Gilt Medals. In his lecture on **Friday the 11th of May 2018 at 4:00 pm** Borut will introduce the gardens and his own approach to garden design. He will also talk about professional work in Slovenia.

Since three years, Horticultural Engineer **Gorazd Mauer** and his son **Ignac** participate at the Freising Garden Fair with his nursery **RIFNIK garden & plants** from Šentjur in southeast Slovenia. They present their rare plants with great dedication and who ever meet them, will instantly learn about their deep passion for plants. On **Saturday, the 12th of May 2018 at 2:00 pm** Gorazd and Ignac will talk about **Gardens and Plants – Profession and Vocation**. They will introduce the Slovenian plants which have found their way into our gardens, and also rare and special ones. Climate change and its consequences for the choice of plants, which we will be able to use in the future, will be another of their topics. The garden is their laboratory, where they test plants for three to five years for their hardiness and heat resistance, before they take them into stock – always grown from seeds and in small numbers. It is their leitmotif that his plants do not need to grow in the nursery but in his clients' gardens. Therefore in the nursery his plants will be rarely fertilized and have to resist drought and heat without watering. Mrs. Mauer runs a florist shop and their daughter studies Landscape Architecture. So one can truly say the whole Mauer family lives from their passion for plants.

On **Saturday, the 12th of May at 3:00 pm** we will welcome **Matjaž Mastnak**, who is an internationally known garden historian and the face of Slovenian Garden TV. After his studies for forestry and ecology at the University in Ljubljana, he specialized in ornamental trees and shrubs and especially in roses. Roses are also what he is dedicated to as the secretary of the Slovenian Rose Society. Nowadays he works as a dendrologist at the famous Arboretum Volcji Potok, which is the most visited Botanic Park in Slovenia. In his lecture **Stories about Roses from Central- and Eastern Europe** Matjaž will tell us about the fascinating history of roses from eastern countries and their breeders from the ancient to the modern world.

At the end of our lecture series on **Sunday, the 13th of May at 2:00 pm**, we are glad to welcome **Dr. Jože Bavcon**, the head of the department of Biology at the Botanical Garden of the University of Ljubljana and his assistant in research **Blanka Ravnjak**. Since 1995 Dr. Bavcon's research is dedicated to the native flora of Slovenia and he is the top expert in this field. He internationally published countless books, scientific papers and also articles in magazines and newspapers. He lectures all over Europe, organises workshops about city trees, and meetings of the European Botanic Garden Consortiums, and attends meetings of the Global Botanic Gardens Congress where his expertise and lectures are well received. Jože shares his passion for the Slovenian flora with Blanka, who works alongside him since 2009. Blanka was and still is involved in many research programs dealing with biodiversity to this time. She was responsible for the Slovenian contribution to the Kew Gardens Millennium Seed Bank. Blanka is a Europe-wide sought-after lecturer and author of many important scientific publications. She also writes for magazines and runs workshops about the importance of melliferous plants. Together Blanka and Jože will take us on an exciting expedition to the **colourful meadows of Slovenia**.

At the end of each talk the lecturers will be happy to sign their books which will be on sale.

The International Freising Garden Fair has become an **institution in the gardening world** – a place to meet experts, friends and colleagues. By now, more than 200,000 people have visited the fair, enthralled by the atmosphere and the opportunity to buy plants. 22 years ago we set a trend: now there are new Garden Fairs every year. And I am so pleased that we found a means to spread Garden Culture as well as Garden Design not only in Germany but also in our neighbouring countries.

The emphasis of the Garden Fair is on **Special Plants for the Garden**, which makes Freising unique in comparison to other fairs. From a wide range of interested applicants, we have carefully chosen over **120 exhibitors**. More than **60 of the best nurseries from Austria, Slovenia, Czech Republic**

and **Germany** will show a wide range of rare and special plants. Therefore, we not only guarantee displays of the highest standards and quality but can also offer advice from specialists who go out of their way to be helpful and informative. Furthermore, there will be exhibits of organic gardening products, organic fertilizers, biological pest and weed control, organic substrates, garden furniture, garden antiques, pots, benches, trellis, pavilions, fences, mosaics, stones, garden sculptures, willow work, books, and magazines. Gardeners and constructing firms will present their expertise with an attractive range of small Show Gardens.

A **competition** will reward the most interesting and original contributions in the following categories: 1. best designed exhibition stand, 2. most interesting plant display, 3. best information for customers. The winners will be selected by an international jury and will receive a medal which will be on display during the exhibition.

Interesting exhibitions complete the program and show the important work of the many plant societies we will welcome. One highlight that will be especially appreciated in the 'City of Roses – Freising', are the exhibitions **Stories about Roses from Central and Eastern Europe** and **Roses on Slovenian postage stamps** kindly supported by **Matjaž Mastnak** and the **Arboretum Volcji Potok** in Radomlje, Slovenia. The other highlight will be the exhibition **Meadows and colorful Gardens**, which **Blanka Ravnjak** and **Dr. Jože Bavcon** from the department of Biology at the Botanical Garden of the University of Ljubljana together with **Stane Sušnik**, the editor of the Slovenian garden magazine *Zeleni raj* have arranged especially for the Freising Garden Fair.

Since the year 973 there are close relationships between Slovenia and the diocesan town Freising. Through a town twinning 1994 with **Škofja Loka** these relationships were intensified – a connection that is thoroughly horticulturally characterized. For instance, last March, a descendant of the world's oldest grapevine from Slovenia was planted on the southern slope of our Freisinger Domberg. With an especially for the Freising Garden Fair designed exhibition, **Rudolf Goerge** will create a link to our Slovenian partner town **Škofja Loka**.

The consulate general of Slovenia and Skofia Loka will present an exhibition to the first world-bee-day 20th of May 2018 together with the **Slovenian Association of Beekeepers**. The world-bee-day was proclaimed by the United Nations at the instigation of Slovenia with the support of the EU member states.

A **Labyrinth in the Cloister Garden** will be created especially for the show and further interesting **exhibitions** complete the program and enhance the atmosphere.

The **22nd International Freising Garden Fair** will be **open for the public** on Friday, the 11th of May 2018 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm (13:00-19:00 h) and on Saturday, the 12th of May and Sunday, the 13th of May 2018 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (10:00-18:00 h).

Tickets will cost 9 €. Reduced Tickets will cost 7 € and there will also be a 3-Day Enthusiasts Ticket for 15 €.

The **address of the show venue** is Landratsamt Freising, Landshuter Straße 31, 85356 Freising, Germany.

For further information please contact:

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I am sure this will be of great interest to your readers and I hope I have given you sufficient information for you to include it within your magazine. However, please do contact me if you would like any further information.

With best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anita Fischer and the Garden Fair Team