

**Invitation
European Champion Tree Forum
8th Meeting**

**Potsdam and Berlin, Germany
Thursday 23th to Sunday 26th May 2019**



Dear friends and colleagues,

This is the invitation to our next meeting, to be held from Thursday 23th to Sunday 26th May 2019 in Potsdam and Berlin. We will be guests of the Deutsche Dendrologische Gesellschaft and the Botanical Garden of the University of Potsdam.



In the coming months, we expect some more changes in our itinerary, in the schedule of presentations and talks and maybe in the terms and conditions concerning travel and the like.

We would like you to think about doing a talk or a presentation. As always, we encourage first-time attendees to talk about their specific projects. Other initiatives may want to report on the progress that has been made. Also, more general subjects

may be discussed as long as they deal with monumental or otherwise noteworthy trees. If so, please send me an abstract – one page maximum.

Organising Committee

The city of Potsdam was not only chosen for its splendid parks and rich history but also because there are a number of highly qualified people who will make sure that our meeting is going to be a success. They are living and working in or near the city and, combined, they know just about everything about the trees of Potsdam.

- Dr Michael Burkart (curator of the Botanical Garden of the University of Potsdam, contributor to the German Champion Trees website)
- Claas Fischer (freelance guide, lecturer and author of two books on the trees of Potsdam, member of the Deutsche Dendrologische Gesellschaft)
- Dr Achim Förster (dendrologist, founder and curator of the Museum Forest in Düppel, Berlin, DDG-member)
- Frank Gyßling (tree photographer and regular contributor to the Monumental Trees website, DDG-member)

Travel & Accommodation

Berlin is situated in the eastern part of Germany. Our capital is served by all means of transport, including two airports (Tegel: national airlines, Schoenefeld: low cost carriers), an extensive rail network, six major motorways. You should have no trouble coming to Berlin.

Potsdam is just around the corner. Public transport between the two cities is easy and fast. However, most of our activities will take place in Potsdam. Two excursions will take us to Berlin.

Everybody should make her or his own travel arrangements, if help is needed we will gladly provide it.

Please also make your own accommodation arrangements. There is a list attached covering ten places from hostel to five-star-hotels which might be suitable for you. As already mentioned we can't do the booking for you. But all of you are seasoned travellers so that I'm sure you will find a place that will meet all your needs. You should also note that we are only making suggestions. Of course you are free to use Expedia and Trivago and their likes to find a hotel according to your taste and budget.

Our headquarters will be the local Mövenpick restaurant at the eastern end of Sanssouci Park close to the palace. There we will have a place to meet and to have dinner with the possibility to have a drink or two afterwards.

We are not yet sure how to organise travel within Potsdam. Walking distances are too great. One option is to go by private cars. Please give us an idea who of you will come by car and how many seats you are able to provide. Public transport is good in Potsdam, turns out we might just take the bus.

Itinerary

Thursday 23rd May

For those who arrive early, we offer an excursion to the Botanical Garden in Berlin-Dahlem. It will not be part of the ECTF program. Achim will give explanations and will accompany you to make sure that nobody is lost in the big city.

Meeting times will be 13:00 hrs at Potsdam main station or 14:00 hrs at the Botanical Garden / entrance Unter den Eichen street. The group will travel back to Potsdam at 17:30 hrs arriving in Potsdam at 18:30 hrs.

The 8th ECTF meeting will officially be opened in the evening at 19:00 hrs with the traditional "Secretary's Drink" at the Mövenpick followed by a buffet dinner. The rest of the evening is reserved for a casual get-together.



Friday 24th May

We will spend all day in the Botanical Garden in Potsdam with an in-depth guided tour by curator Michael, starting at 9:00 hrs. For lunch we will go to the cafeteria. In the afternoon at 14:00 hrs we will meet in the lecture hall for presentations and talks.

The program for the day will end at 18:00 hrs. We will then have dinner at the Mövenpick at 19:00 hrs. The rest of the evening is again reserved for a casual get-together.

Saturday 25th May

From 9:00 hrs onwards, Claas will guide us on a tour of the Sanssouci Garden and Park covering most of the champion trees in the area. Dr Wacker and / or Herr Schurig, staff members of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation, will join us.

In the afternoon we will move to the other side of the river Havel. Achim will guide us on the Pfaueninsel ("Isle of Peacocks"), supported by the local curator and arborist Herr Klöhn.

We will then have dinner at the Mövenpick at 19:00 hrs. The rest of the evening is reserved for a casual get-together as always.

Sunday 26th May

Some of us will have to start their journey back home early. For those with a more generous time budget we offer a visit to the Schlosspark Glienicke, part of the World Heritage Site and one of the finest examples of classical landscaping in this country.

The ECTF meeting will officially end at 13:00 hrs in the historical "Garage du Pont" where we can take a snack and a cup of coffee.

The famous Glienicker Brücke ("Bridge of Spies") is only minutes away. I think it might be interesting to pay a visit to this focal point of the Cold War.

Monday 27th May

Those who travel back on Monday or Tuesday will probably want to visit the ancient Ivenacker Eichen. It takes approximately 3 hours by car to go there. The oaks are the first National Nature Monument in this country. We can arrange for a guided tour. However, this will not be part of the official ECTF program.

Costs

Attendees are asked to look after their own travel arrangements and accommodation and pay their own meals (with the possible exception of the buffet dinner on Thursday). We will ask for a lump sum from everybody so that we can pay admission

fees, transport if needed and other overheads. Currently, we think 150 € per person will be sufficient.

Please bear in mind that we expect some changes within the next couple of months. Those who have not yet registered are asked to do so soon.

With kind regards and best wishes,
Yours,

Gordon

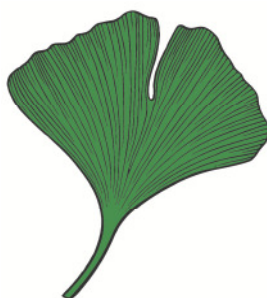
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The 8th meeting of the European Champion Tree Forum is supported by:
Botanischer Garten der Universität Potsdam Deutsche Dendrologische Gesellschaft



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Dendrologische
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