

A report about how Klaus J. Peters , delegate for Germany experienced the last Congress in Holland.

My experience with ISU Congress 2012 Nederland

Postive :

For myself, I haven't slept in Arnhem at this nice quite hotel. It's so close to my place that it would be a waste of money to sleep 20miles away from home. Hopefully we get to see interesting things on the congress, even if it is so close to my place. I have doubts about the interest of this congress personally, because I thought I know most of these places. But all these thoughts were just a waste of time.....

Trompenburg Aboretum

We get a wonderful tour in the Aboretum Trompenburg. The director Gert Fortgens showed us around. He told us the history of the botanical gardens, guided us to the different plantings, explained always the idea behind it and explained also what is performing well and not so well. In this garden you're able to explore it from different views. You walk to different locations and you get fascinated how the landscape architects kept the historical structure and added new ideas to the garden. There are so many trees that you haven't seen before, it's just a good collection of shrubs from all around the world. Finally again a good place to be overwhelmed on the one side and use it as a spot to discuss with colleagues over the industry.

Gerard Heemskerck – Hemerocallis, Iris, Paeonia and Hosta

Businesswise we see us more often, but to see his nursery with a little bit more time, it's just amazing. It was still the right time to watch at amazing flowers of his great selection of daylilies. Of course he toured us around to his new introduction of compact reblooming daylilies. Really interesting and for sure a lot of potential to be one of the big commercial new introduction in the next years.

Young plants production company Alkemade.

We saw the new home of Alkemade. A nice facility, experienced people make impression in growing quality young plants of vegetative material. They use material from their own stock, from suppliers of URC and from perennial gardeners that gave them the mother plants in order to produce youngplants.

Hessenof – all those nice things

The Hessenhof nursery surrounded by a tree fence is an interesting spot to see. A lot of different unique varieties in pots and in the mother plants. The nursery sells mainly to private customers and is well known in Holland for their experience, quality and assortment. Miranda and Hans Kramer are the owners of the nursery. Hans Kramer described his nursery as a nursery where the plants still get the time to grow, everything is made by them self, and since 2010 they have the skal certificate.

Lucassen – bare rooted material.

For myself, this was the most impressive perennial nursery I have seen since a long time. They just grow bare rooted material on contract. In their assortment is the famous Astilbe Younginque from Verschoor horticulture. They grow also masses of Dicentra Burning Hearts. Amazing pictures are taken. Further they grow a large assortment of Echinacea, Lupines, Geraniums But always in masses and it looks just great. It was really hard to find a weed or even a sick plant. None. And please don't forget! We talk about a nursery which has just a field grown product. Congratulations and thanks for the visit. I guess you really don't have to be a afraid of the future.

Floriade Venlo 2012

New trends from all over the world. Nice plantings, nice gardens, buildings and ideas about the future. What should I say, it's an EXPO.

Gardens of Appeltern

We visit the gardens of Appeltern. Again really close to my hometown. Some people said to me in the past that I should have a visit there. I thought maybe next year. When we arrive I directly got the impression what would happen the next few hours. 200 little gardens. Perennials and shrubs all over the place. Nice combinations with the different colors. You get overwhelmed. You get angry with yourself, that you haven't visited this place before. It seems to be that the gardeners at Appeltern really now how to use different perennials together. Everything is really clean. If someone ask me, how did you like it there at Appeltern, I am just going to answer: "You have to go there. For sure. Really!" But you're not alone there, you are together with your colleagues of the perennial world. You walk through the garden and you meet someone from another country, who is involved in perennial business. You discuss with him about a special show garden, a special plant that he or she has seen in Appeltern or talk about the season, the past and the future. How could working be nicer than walking around with ISU-people in a garden like the one in Appeltern. The results of the ISU – trials you can read on the Internet soon. Anyhow a lot of trial plants were at the garden. The Dutch organization of the congress did a great job in pushing people to sent their new items to the trials.

My personal winner is Rudbeckia 'Little Goldstar'®. A new compact form of the Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'. It makes a lot of flowers on one plant.

Another upcoming new commercial star could be the new Hemerocallis Series from Gerard Heemskerk. It has the habit of Hemerocallis 'Stella de Oro' and the interesting colors of the million beautiful cultivars. It's for sure not the last introduction from Heemskerk, but a really interesting start.

A lot of new Echinacea introduction has been done in the past. But if we are honest, there was no good yellow one in the introduction, 'Harvest Moon' was the best till now. 'Cleopatra'® is the new introduction from AB CULTIVAR. It's strong, makes a lot of flowers and like I said, we need good yellow Echinaceas.

Negative :

Evaluation trail commission and delegate meeting on Sunday

Evaluation discussion on Friday. Nico Rijnbeek asked me to join the Evaluation trails commission. Taking part as the German delegate in the delegates meeting I was happy to see some people before, enter the trails earlier and get to know a little bit how the trial commission was working.

First I have to say that NEDERLAND was doing a great JOB in bringing plants to the trials.. THANKS For that, but the discussion which was going before the committee started their final work (the evaluation) was more or less useless. 25 people, most of them own their nursery themselves. And all of them wanted to bring their ideas to the top. No problem at all. But I got the feeling that the members of the table were more or less just thinking in their own interest. It was a 4hour discussion without important results in my opinion. The meeting was a waste of time. The important topics were discussed fast in order to keep the time schedule. The different members were not able to discuss objectively. They were more or less just interested in pushing their subjective meanings. The only positive things that reminds me from that meeting is: Paul Spijker and Rickard Nordström get more involved in the ISU and Nico stays for a while. Hopefully all of you get on the right way to forget about personal issues and spend the time in finding a clear vision of what ISU wants in the future. If I would have to make a topic about the delegates meeting, it would be named: MISSING A MISSION

Klaus J.Peters , delegate for Germany at the ISU



Thank you Klaus for your open opinion.

We appreciate it and will take it in account (also the negative items) Jo Bogaerts