

CELEBRATING 650 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA: ACTIVITIES AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

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In 2015, the University of Vienna is celebrating its 650th anniversary. It is the oldest university in the German speaking countries and, with more than 90.000 students, also one of the largest in Europe. Paying tribute to this historical milestone, the Botanical Garden as a Core Facility of the Faculty of Life Sciences within the university is actively involved in the preparations of several university-wide events on this occasion. In addition, the Botanical Garden is presenting garden-specific subjects and developing new infrastructure.

The activities of and at the Botanical Garden in the anniversary year can be classified as follows:

(a) University-wide projects

The Botanical Garden is a platform for University presentations. An **exhibition on the University's historical background** was **imbedded in the rare plants market** at the Botanical Garden in April 2015. With 30.000 visitors, this event strengthened the perception of the garden being part of the University in the public, and it gained much awareness within the University itself.

The **guided tours program in the anniversary year is extended and enriched** with participation of colleagues from other universities, faculties, and biological disciplines (for example, bird tours, as well as one on „inclusion“, connecting the Botanical Garden to psychological aspects).

The Botanical Garden participates in university-wide events (e.g. through the Green School Program at the Campus Festival in June 2015) and in exhibitions (e.g. on university collections). The Garden is also present in different publications.

(b) Projects on faculty level

The Botanical Garden organizes / is present in faculty publications (both on research issues and on the historical dimensions) e.g. in the **booklet about the Faculty of Life Sciences** at the University of Vienna, published in April 2015. It participates in faculty events like the Faculty Day or science programs.

(c) Garden specific projects/infrastructure

A new **guidebook to the Botanical Garden** was published in April 2015 („Der Botanische Garten“). The anniversary year was the determining factor to get this project realized.

The Botanical Garden is in urgent need of a new building for public outreach: **Fundraising efforts are more promising** in the context of the anniversary year.

For the first time, the Botanical Garden participated in the **“Fascination of Plants Day”** in May 2015. The reception of both the organizing participants and the visitors was very positive, stimulating further participations in the coming years.

The **„Endlicher-Fenzl-Kerner-Path – Living History“** is realized as a permanent installation in the Systematic group in July 2015. The project reveals different aspects of the history of the Systematic group in the garden.

An **exhibition on the Vienna School of Botanical Illustration**, connected with a publication of reprints of selected drawings is taking place in August / September 2015.

An **autumn exhibition “Apples”**, featuring rare and well-known cultivars, is scheduled for September 2015.

A **new display showing plants on ultramafic soils** will be opened October 2015.

The anticipated effects of these activities include a raised awareness about the work of the Botanical Garden within the University, in the city of Vienna and beyond, and in the general public on a local, regional and national level.

Besides this, the activities at the Botanical Garden within the anniversary year will mark the start and/or (hopefully) the realization of a number of further garden-related projects. Thus historical heritage will be used to trigger modern developments.



The University of Vienna presents an **exhibition at the rare plants market** in the Botanical Garden, April 2015



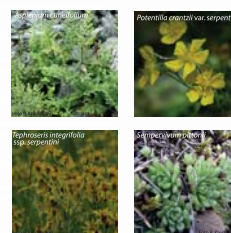
Cover of the **guidebook** to the Botanical garden, published in April 2015



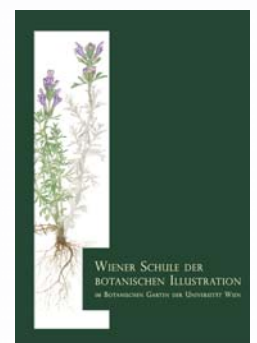
The **“Fascination of Plants Day”** was an attraction for the public and strengthened the relationship between the Botanical Garden and scientists of different institutions



The **Endlicher-Fenzl-Kerner-path** is realized as a permanent installation in the systematic group. This interdisciplinary project deals with different aspects of the garden's history



Plants on ultramafic soils: these highly specialised species will be part of a new garden display opened in October 2015



Cover of the publication on the **Vienna School of Botanical Illustration**; exhibition taking place in August/September 2015