
BAC NEWS AND EVENTS

Exotischer Kräutergarten

On a rainy morning at the end of September, 14 members and friends of BAC met in Teltow for a guided tour of the *Exotischer Kräutergarten*. Heidemarie Stein, chair of the "Flowers and Ribbons" interest group, organized this tour. Dr. Moschiri, a native of Iran, has built up gardens and greenhouses just for growing herbs. The tour started in the gardens, but a rain shower soon sent the group inside one of the greenhouses. It was a rare privilege to be given the tour by Dr. Moschiri himself, and this was appreciated by the whole group, including **three BAC members from Iran**. Dr. Moschiri, who is very enthusiastic about the plants and his work in building up the *Exotischer Kräutergarten*, visibly enjoyed describing the plants as well as their required growing conditions and use in the kitchen. As weather permitted, the tour continued inside the greenhouses and outside in the gardens. The ladies were shown many beautiful herbs, including blue and red ysoop, many different types of peppermint and basil plants, tree spinach, a 30-year-old hibiscus in full bloom, pineapple sage, and sea fennel, to name just a few.

We were encouraged to taste each plant as we went along, and were given suggestions for how to use each one. Dr. Moschiri pointed out that, just as we have special shops for fresh fruits and vegetables, in Iran they have whole shops selling only fresh herbs. A suggestion was made to organize a cooking class with Dr. Moschiri, for cooking with fresh herbs, and many ladies from the tour are looking forward to participating.

The tour ended with a hot cup of herbal tea specially mixed for our group and a taste of fresh dates, raisins, and miniature dried figs. All of the BAC members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the morning and were very pleased that Dr. Moschiri was able to take the time to provide us with this special tour of the *Exotischer Kräutergarten*. - Caroline Rued-Engel

