



The FORUM for Garden History Research invites abstracts to be included in an international research-seminar at Fredriksdal open-air museum in Helsingborg, Sweden, October 28, 2016 with the theme

The Open-Air Museum in Theory and Practice

The concept of the open-air museum, a display of buildings from different time-periods in a more or less authentic surrounding environment, was a Scandinavian idea in the beginning of the 1900s which then spread to the rest of Europe and the world. One of the challenges the open-air museums are facing today is the management of the gardens and buildings as a unity. There is also a complexity in what the displayed environments represent and how they are used. They were established to display what was typically Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, English etc. As time has changed the definitions on what is typical has changed and today the open-air museum also has its own history with its own specificity. The different gardens could be seen as a part of the story of a certain time-period on display or as a part of the history of the open-air museum itself. The role of the open-air museums are multifaceted as storytellers of the past, pedagogic environments, popular tourist attractions, locales for conservation of native plant material and displays of conservation methods for buildings.

An open-air museum can be used to present different images of the past. There is sometimes an uncertainty in what stories the gardens should, and could, tell, connected to a certain building. Is the visitor aware of that the presented past is an interpretation? What stories do the museums tell and why? How can the different roles of the open-air museum be satisfied and what roles do the gardens have in this? The open-air museums have a unique possibility to become places for conserving, and displaying, old cultivation methods and historical plant material. How can maintenance, conservation and documentation of the environments as a whole, both building and garden at the same time be enabled? And how can research be a part of the management and development of the gardens and the open-air museum as a whole? What does the future of the open-air museum and its gardens look like?

To this seminar, Friday October 28, we welcome contributions with a wide scope on the theme to discuss the open-air museum and its gardens as representations of, and storytellers about, the past, their roles today and in the future as well as how research on gardens can be incorporated in the maintenance and conservation. The programme will include two keynote lectures, together with 3-4 abstract presentations (about 20 mins) selected from this call. Send an abstract of max 2000 characters, signed with name and title (if any) and affiliation, together with a short CV to Anna.Jakobsson@slu.se. **Deadline for abstracts: May 23, 2016.** The abstract selection will be announced in June.

Confirmed keynote lectures (lecture titles to be announced):

- Dr Danae Tankard, Historian, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum (Topic: The historic gardens at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, West Sussex, UK: a social historian's perspective)
- Katarina Frost, President of the Association of European Open Air Museums, Museum Director and Garden Archaeologist (Topic: Garden heritage and plant collections in Open Air Museums, from a European as well as a national (Swedish) perspective)

Note to participants: the preliminary fee for the seminar will be 500 SEK, including lunch and coffee. **More info about registration will be sent out in June, but mark October 28 in your calendar.**

Just adjacent to this seminar, on October 26 and 27, the organisations "Gartnerihistorisk netværk" and "Nätverket Trädgårdsmästare i Historisk miljö", whom we have cooperated with in deciding venue and theme, will arrange seminars and workshops in Helsingborg. Why not attend all three? For more info on their programme, write to garthistnord@gmail.com or join their facebook page: Gartnerihistorisk konferens 2016.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

(the abstract presentations will be announced in June)

Venue: Fredriksdal Museum and Gardens, Helsingborg, Sweden (meeting room to be announced)

Friday, October 28

- 9:00–9:45 Annual Meeting for members of FORUM (room to be announced)
9:50–10:30 Registration and Coffee/Tea
- 10:30–10:40 Welcome and introduction – chair of FORUM, Anna Jakobsson SLU Alnarp
10:40–11:00 Short presentation of Fredriksdal Museums and Gardens, Cecilia Wånge, Manager
- 11:00–11:45 **Keynote lecture, Dr Danae Tankard**
12:00–12:20 Abstract 1
12:30–12:50 Abstract 2
Questions and discussion between presentations
- 13:00–14:00 Lunch, Fredriksdal's Café
- 14:00–14:45 A few stops in the gardens with guides at Fredriksdal
14:45–15:30 **Keynote lecture, Katarina Frost**
15:45–16:05 Abstract 3
Questions and discussion between presentations
- 16:15–16:50 Coffee/Tea
- 16:50–17:10 Abstract 4
17:20–17:40 Abstract 5
Questions and discussion between presentations
- Concluding discussion and summary of the day – ca 18:15
- 19:00 Dinner at self-cost and continued discussions (restaurant to be announced)



FORUM för
TRÄDGÅRDS
HISTORISK
FORSKNING

FORUM for Garden History Research (FORUM för trädgårdshistorisk forskning) is an interdisciplinary network for those who study or do research on garden history and/or work with historic gardens in different aspects. The network was founded 1995 and has around 80 members.

FORUM arranges a seminar every year and publishes an annual Bulletin.

www.gardenhistoryforum.org