**THE DENDROLOGICAL GARDEN IN PRZELEWICE**

**Ogród Dendrologiczny w Przelewicach**

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**STRESZCZENIE**


W publikacji opisano także funkcje jakie spełnia Ogród Dendrologiczny i możliwości poszerzenia jego działalności, a związane z otwartym w 2006 roku Botanicznym Centrum Badawczo-Wdrożeniowym.

**INTRODUCTION**

Przelewice Dendrological Garden came into being as a private collection of a tree and shrub lover who strongly believed mankind had been destined to manage nature so that its existence made sense.

The man in question took the palace park he found and reshaped it to his own taste and desi-
On the 1st of July 1835 her body was buried in Przelewice local church.

1835 – mausoleum is built in the park where coffins of Augusta von Prillwitz and her two children (who died just after birth) are laid.

19th July 1843 – prince August dies; according to his last will his son August junior becomes the owner of the property. After his death in 1849 his sisters Malwine von Dachröden, Elisabeth von Arnim, Klara von Arnim and his brother Ludwig von Prillwitz inherit Przelewice.

1879–1922 (approximate dates) – Przelewice property is in hands of Caspar Lachmann and his heirs, later to be taken over by Berlin bank and transferred under administration of The German Settlement Society with the idea of creating 150 smaller farms for German internally-displaced people. When in Lachmann hands, new buildings are constructed in the following order: granary (1880), outbuilding (1884), barns, stables, cow-sheds and alcohol distillery (1910–1914); from 1890 efforts are made to recreate the natural character of the park.

1922–1924 – Conrad von Borsig attempts to purchase the property, which he eventually buys without Louisenhof farm (later to become Lucin village), where 34 farms were created for settlers.

1933 – Conrad von Borsig orders the reconstruction of the park to his own vision; landscape architect Heydenreich in cooperation with Berlin company Späß takes up this challenge; park area increases to 22 hectares.

1938 – park reconstruction works are about to end, during the German Dendrological Society Summit in Szczecin Conrad von Borsig delivers a speech referring to the park, which is later printed in annual NTD nr 51/1938.

13th February 1945 – after being shot dead by Soviet soldiers, the body of Conrad Borsig was buried in the park close to the vicinity of shepherds’ shed; currently the place of his burial is marked with a stone located under a larch opposite the shed.

1948 – the palace, farm premises and the park are under administration of Voivodeship National Council; flats for employees, warehouses and rural community centre are located in the palace.

1951 – Henryk Chylarecki, a student of The Forestry Faculty of Poznań University, draws up an inventory of Przelewice park within his diploma paper supervised by professor PhD Konstanty Stecki; the park receives a status of a dendrological and pomological garden; for the next 9 years a gardener Adam Brzęczyk and an engineer J. Winter become its managing directors – pursuing cultivation and protective works they fenced the park for the first time.

1955 – Scientific Council of Przelewice Arbo-retum under supervision of Professor PhD Stefan Białobok is appointed, the council works until 1965.

1960 – Marian Billik a former major of The Polish Armed Forces becomes a manager of the Arboretum; from 1975 he breeds domestic and decorative fowl and fish in the park, his actions result in the addition of 8 hectares of land to the park for nurseries, and the construction of an office and living quarters.

1965 – Professor PhD S. Kownas from The Agriculture Academy in Szczecin takes over scientific guardianship of the Arboretum.

1971 – the palace deteriorates to such a degree that the residents move out, Voivodeship Sights Conservator funds the construction of an office and living quarters.

1975 – Henryk Chylarecki is appointed a manager of the Arboretum and starts re-evaluation of the collection; a forester H. Gosek, who looks after public forests, holds technical supervision over the property, water reservoir is built in the park area.

1976 – the Dendrological Garden is registered in the monuments registry as entry nr 791, and the palace as entry nr 792.

1977 – Zbigniew Kozak holding a Master degree in forestry becomes a technical manager; from 1980 he reactivates the pre-war pipe network, rebuilds internal roads and a glasshouse-multiplier in the nursery in Kłodzino.

1982 – Łucja Swillo holding a Master degree in gardening and working as a gardening specialist in the Garden from 1980 is appointed a technical manager and overhauls the arboretum and nursery production.

1983 – partial renovation of the palace (main works focused on foundations and the roof) is suspended because of shortage of funds.

1987 – on order of Voivodeship Office in Szczecin PhD Henryk Chylarecki works on the project of revitalising the Arboretum.

1992 – a change of National Policy on farming and within the process of dissolution of state-
owned farms the Dendrological Garden, the pa-
lace and most of the premises are handed over
to the Rural Property Agency of the State Tre-
asury as assets.

1993 – The Rural Property Agency of the State
Treasury hands over the garden, palace and
other objects to Przelewice Borough, an engine-
er Master of Science Lucja Swillo becomes
a director of the Garden, from 1996 as a deputy
director she looks after the Park collection till
2003; after that an engineer, Master of Science
Katarzyna Miśiak, takes over.

1996 – the Dendrological Garden obtains
a status of an independent budgetary unit; from
this moment a position of managing director is
occupied by an engineer Master of Science Ma-
ria Jolanta Syczewska who currently holds
this post.

2000 – the Botanical Educational Centre comes
into being within the Garden, at the same time
the Garden receives a golden medal from the
Minister of Culture for the best maintained hi-
storical monument in Poland.

2004–2006 – renovation of the palace is in full
swing with the idea of creating a Research and
Development Botanical Centre which is ope-
ned together with new nursery areas, the glass-
house and orangery in May 2006.

History of the collection

The stream that collects and diverts ground
waters from Przelewice fields into Płoń Lake
made a natural boundary of the pre-war park.
Grounds around the garden were a part of Prze-
lewice property fencing it was not necessary.
Waterlogged meadows, grazing lands and
fields behind the stream created a kind of back-
ground for the park and naturally extended the
sight lines. After the war it was necessary to as-
sign land for growing vegetables and as a result
the garden’s shape slightly changed. Today the
Dendrological Garden consists of parts desig-
ned in Conrad von Borsig’s times and brand-
new compositions in areas that had never been
a park before. Species compositions and plant
locations also altered dramatically. Henryk
Chylarecki in his papers assesses that by 1975
40% of species and sub-species of trees and
90% of green plants had died out in the park
due to unsuitable climate and water conditions,
and lack of professional care. It does not howe-
er equal deliberate logging or devastation.

New seedlings were planted but hard market
conditions limited the choice; common species
replaced dendrological rarities. Severe winters,
watering problems, lack of regular (expensive
and laborious) professional tree care treatments
and natural competition with some fast growing
plants resulted in losing the most precious spe-
cimens.

However the very same conditions made the
surviving specimens especially valuable in
terms of scientific research and backwoods.

Renovation of the park after 1975 covered
both planting new specimen and logging self-
sown trees and shrubs that were interfering with
the growth of more valuable ones. Rooted se-
edlings, quicksets and seeds were given by nur-
series in Rogowo and Kórnik; other interesting
plants were gained through seed exchange
channels between national and international bo-
tanical gardens.

Since the Garden became a budgetary unit,
all works connected with implementing new
areas, professional care and protective tree tre-
atments and educational activity are financially
supported by the Voivodeship Environment
Protection and Water Management Fund in
Szczecin. Running costs are covered by Przele-
wice Borough. Financial support to the Garden
is necessary due to the high costs of protective
tree treatments – almost all works are manual.
At the same time the Garden runs very thorough
dendrological documentation of the collection-
in other words it keeps the record of specimens
together with annual plant observation sheets
which also adds costs.

Describing historical parts of the park we
quote its founding father using extracts of his
paper (annual nr 51/1938). Quotations open so-
descriptions and are in italics.

The Japanese Garden – rock garden

‘Obviously the Japanese Garden is not
a real Japanese garden. First and foremost all
stones come from neighbouring fields; secon-
dly it has been planted with trees, shrubs and
perennials from all around the world. A real
Japanese decorates his garden with trees of
unique shapes, rocks, picturesque stone sculp-
tures and very few other plants whereas in
Przelewice the richness of specimens are over-
whelming. The Garden was set up to please the
viewers’ eyes...’
Fig. 1. The Japanese Garden. Tea pavilion
Currently our Japanese Garden takes you by surprise with its slightly too tall, unshapely trees. It has been almost 80 years since it was first set out. Spreading trees and shrubs overlap with each other. As the result one can find here an atypical specimen of common spruce “Conica” (Picea glauca ‘Conica’) whose upper branches starts almost 1,5 metres above the ground. Deciduous trees and English yews growing around this part of the park make a very mild microclimate; it is the warmest place in winter, in summer it gives shadow and wind here is always the weakest a small pond influences air humidity so that even in the hottest days the air is of the right humidity.

Having entered the garden regardless of the gate most visitors make their way to the ‘tea’ pavilion first (Fig. 1). English yews and Canadian hemlocks make a very light background to its walls and in springtime one can admire Japanese wisteria in bloom whose long blossoms hang from the pavilion’s roof and from surrounding yews’ branches.

Facing the pavilion and looking towards the pond one can observe in the following order: red-leaved Japan maple, azaleas, common hazel ‘Contorta’ with cramped sprouts, ornamental sour cherry trees, Chinese stewartias, nikko maple, a group of viburnum fragrans shrubs blooming in pre-spring. Behind the pond, on the other side of a footbridge one manages to see cherry tree-cerasus sekka, Japanese white pine, female and male katsuratree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum), very old Japanese falsecypress ‘Squarossa’, Japan maple ‘Dissectum Ornatum’ of hanging branches, Ginkgo bilobas and star magnolias. Over a stream estuary there are thickets of hardy clumping bamboo and the second specimen of nikko maple. The pond bank on the pavilion side is planted with rhododendrons, pachystimas (Celastraceae) and box trees. Above them one sees Japanese maple. Behind the pavilion one observes shrubs of Chinese stewartias and Schlippenbach azaleas and two specimens of China fir (Cunninghamia lanceolata) devil maple and finally two big deethorn cedars and ginkgo biloba.

Having crossed the pond one reaches an earth path overhung with (counting from the palace): Jew’s mallow, hoptree (Ptelea trifoliata), Kobus magnolia, Erman’s birch, golden fullmoon maple, already mentioned ‘Conica’ spruce, Japanese barberry and spreading cotoneasters, big golden Japanese falsecypress ‘Squarossa’, dove tree also known as handkerchief tree, and ‘Shirotae’ cherry. Leaving the garden by the same path one sees martagon lilies growing among varieties of azaleas.

The alley to a tree nursery forms one of the boundary lines of the Japanese Garden. Heading towards the palace one can see Chinese tree peonies, Caroline silverbell and blue sausage fruit (Decaisnea fargesii).

The Moors, Borsig’s path, Mary Augustyna’s path, Rose Alley,

‘The moors were to comprise in one half of plants blooming in spring and in the other of those blooming in summertime. By removing some earth from the middle to the fringe of moors valleys had been made where cross-leaved heaths were planted. In contrast Scotch heathers were planted on hilly parts of the moors. Bermuda junipers were taken from Przelewice forests and planted on hilly part. […] The remaining areas were planted with spruces, pear trees, white Spanish brooms, park roses, mezereons, mountain ashes and elderberries. A shepherds’ shelter reminiscent in style of Lunenburg sheep-fold also adorns the moors.’

Shadows cast by overgrown trees and shrubs together with bad climate conditions and postwar neglect were the reasons for the loss of cross-leaved heaths and Scottish heathers planted by Conrad Borsig. Today cross-leaved heath and Scottish heather collections mixed with rhododendrons and azaleas can be spotted mostly in the vicinity of the shepherds’ shelter. Opposite, under the old European larch there is a rock marking the place of burial of the park owner shot dead in 1945. Roses, rowans, pearl-bushes, shrubby cinquefoils and pear trees planted together, after the war, with scarlet firethorns and cotoneasters gave name to a path leading through this part of the old moors – Rose Alley. To the left there is a small path where one can have a closer look at the collection of magnolias, Chinese tulip tree and Chinese dipteronia. Those magnolias are in bloom from early spring e.g. star magnolia to summertime e.g. Siebold’s magnolia but they also look quite interesting in autumn when their cone-like fructifications open up. To the right from Rose Al-
ley there are two paths. Taking the shorter one leading downhill to the pond one gains an opportunity to admire interesting genera of hawthorns and a group of shrubs like: *Stranvaesia, Pterostyrax* i *Callicarpa*. *Callicarpa* also known as beauty berry attracts particular attention in the autumn when it is showered with long-lasting violet and pinkish fruits. At the very end of this path there is a group of Monarch birches. The second path parallel to the pond bears the name of Mary Augusta von Prillwitz. ‘Conica’ spruces, mezereons and ferns grow here in the company of freshly planted cherry laurels, wayfaring trees, Oregon grape hollies, firs, wild hydrangeas, witch hazels, honeysuckles and numerous other perennials. The path leads to Sycamore Maple Alley behind which lies a collection of witch hazels.

A collection of witch hazels, the middle-forest clearing, the mausoleum

‘The middle-forest clearing [...] blooms in spring with the variety of flowers: pulmonaria, primrose, hellebore, ...; forget-me-not, lily of the valley and sweet peas and its fringes are decorated by blooming shrubs of lace shrub, witch hazel, dogwood, hawthorn, common privet and willow. Beautiful groups of Easter white pines and the mausoleum of the von Prillwitz family built by the previous owner August Prus make its background. In summertime the middle-forest clearing blooms with cornflowers, goat’s beards, wood ragworts, lilies, yellow loosestrife also known as creeping jenny, heucheras, peas, White Mountain saxifrage and others. Afterwards hydrangeas start blooming and winter starts with coral fungus (Clavicorona) ...’

Shrubs on the edge of the clearing grew so strongly that the space between them can no longer be called a clearing. It would also be difficult to find old paths. Nevertheless this part of the park maintains its charm. In springtime between dense fleece one can spot primroses, spring snowflakes and later on squills in bloom. Witch hazels, Corneliancherry dogwood (close to the mausoleum), red osier dogwood and *Stachyurus* bloom early. Only some trees recalled by Borsig survived; among these, impressive-sized sycamore maple, elm and two Easter white pines deserve mention. One of them although leaning for years, continues to grow. Currently the collection is enriched by interesting species and genera of hollies and weigelas and close to the collection of witch hazels one finds freshly planted spike winter hazels, jasmines, and a shrub of the weigela family called *Dipelta*. The mausoleum is surrounded by beeches, elms, and sycamore maples together with melancholic mood creators- yews and ivies. Post-war devastation of the mausoleum turned it into a ruin; however surviving wall elements not only prove its architect’s talent but also the artistry of the craftsmen of old.

The evergreen trees gorge, Spruce Alley, Rhododendron path, Heather path

‘A gorge [...] in some sense is a natural prolongation of the rock garden. [...] In places it can be described as steppe accumulation due to plants of characteristic steppe features. Numerous dwarf shrubs of various species create here particular charm. Groups of bigger coniferous plants provide the background. Between the shrubs perennials were planted to have something blooming all year round. Single fruit trees remained as the protection.’

Pre-war dwarf conifers grew into substantial trees making Spruce Alley particularly enchanting. Going downhill away from the palace, one comes across rhododendrons and azaleas planted here 20 years ago. When they are in bloom, Norway, Serbian and overhanding various types of dwarf spruces make the perfect background for them. Japanese cryptomeria growing opposite the beginning of Rhododendron path is worth looking at. Further down to the left, Heath path commences; this area is planted with pines: Chinese red, Rocky mountain bristlecone and Limber and two young giant sequoias. The visitor who turns his back towards them spots right behind the azaleas the third giant sequoia planted over 30 years ago and already outgrowing other trees. Closer to Rhododendron path one can see an American relative of mountain ash – *Sorbus pogonopetala* of pink fruits. Behind “woods” of dwarf spruces one finds colourful types of thujas, whitecedars, junipers and false cypresses and between them goat’s beards and *Alchemillae* herb of soft hairy leaves. Right by Rhododendron path Tschonoski’s apple tree of tart fruits, thornless honeylocust, Alaska cedar, a big group of oriental spruces and scarlet oak can be admired. Le-
aving Rhododendron path and heading towards Spruce Alley it is advisable to stop and take a close look at: false spiraeas of various types, butternut of inedible but very decorative seeds, Persian ivy, deerhorn cedar and finally growing in the front of yews tunnel dawn redwood.

The spring area

‘A road drops down and one faces the spring garden where in the very centre thousands of Japanese primroses started blooming. On the left as well as on the right one sees various old ash trees (Fraxinus) and alders accompanied by giant thujas and Canadian hemlocks (...). There is a spring, right in the middle of it, lined with stone slabs and surrounded by ashes, maples, and lindens. One finds here numerous species of fullmoon maples, willows, alders, poplars, cypresses together with river birches, sweetgums also known as redgums and further down smaller plants like: bilberries, redvein enkianthuses, mountain-laurel kalmias, hoyas, Dirca, Cephalanthus, viburnum – all of them require humid soil. The terrain between them is filled with a rich collection of swamp perennials such as: rodgersia, globeflowers, ragworts, hostas and bamboo (Arundinaria).’

Iron rich soils of high pH combined with high degree of shadow naturally limit the number of plant species growing in this corner of the park. The slopes by the spring are carpeted with snowdrops and three Japanese maples also grow there. When it comes to pre-war planting only beautiful specimens of bald cypress with roots exposed to the air, (mentioned by Borsig) bamboo and rodgersias are in a good state of preservation. A common wetland perennial native to northwest North America of yellowish spathe and gigantic leaves – swamp lantern (Lysichiton americanus) however is the unquestionable king of this section. Other eye-catching plants here are dwarf bamboo (Sasa veitchi) covering one of the slopes and a field of butterbur (Petaites japonicus) of long, rounded leaves with an almost one-metre-long peduncle. A careful observer should spot dogwoods that are attractive both in blooming and in fructification time.

Almost two metre long thickets of common box create a unique framework of the spring garden. They are not shaped and Przelewice microclimate lets them grow and survive winters unharmed for almost 80 years.

The central meadow: a group of wintergreen plants

‘Leaving the spring garden through a previous central park point and passing the monument of architects and gardeners who founded it almost 130 years ago one reaches the part designed for wintergreen vegetation mostly rhododendrons. The blooming season of plants gathered in this part lasts approximately six weeks, through the rest of the year they are considered decorative due to their wintergreen leaves. [...] Groups of evergreen plants are separated by plants of seasonal leaves [...]. Approximately 1000 rhododendrons and 100 azaleas have been collected here and plants like: hydrangeas, magnolias, maples, barberries, viburums, cherry-laurel trees, holies, Stranvaesia, honeysuckles, common box, privets, cryptomerias, false cypresses and others grow around them.’

A park main view line still runs through the central meadow. Its western, external side is the least friendly to collectable plants. The pre-war collection of rhododendrons and other wintergreen species was thinned out by frosty and drying winds blowing from the fields. The plants that survived had to face the next challenge – construction of a sewage treatment plant close to the garden that resulted in lowering of the ground water level. Many trees such as: numerous native trees, the majority of common box, decorative apple trees and false cypresses, silver lindens, one Turkish filbert and several rhododendrons growing by Polish Trees Alley survived this shock. Many more tolerant plants were planted here which at the same time were to create a wind-proof shield; gardeners hope it will also help in a future restoration of the rhododendrons collection here. Slightly further on, by the entrance to Meadow Alley a collection of intensively fragrant mock oranges has been planted.

Fortunately, plants growing around the second part of the meadow were hardly harmed. Among them are: douglas firs, black pines, hornbeams, aged beeches and lindens, ivies, paper birches and elms but also plants from the eastern side of the meadow growing by Common Lilacs Alley. Heading towards the spring garden one can admire a group of yellow birches and behind them the monument mentioned above, decorative apple trees, an
old specimen of sweet cherry tree, red-bud maple, various species and strains of lilacs, sweet chestnuts, monarch birches, red-leaved beech, white Chinese birch of orange and pink flaky bark and by the end, thickets of bottlebrush buckeye and a very old specimen of white cedar.

In May and June in the meadow right in front of the palace classical and folk music concerts take place.

Alleys running from the palace downhill used to end by the current By the Pond Alley. After the war a square-shaped fish breeding pond fed by the stream was dug here. Next three fish breeding ponds were dug on an extension of the central meadow. After historical review it was decided to adjust the new areas in order to widen the plant collection and preserve richness of species. The fish breeding ponds were the first...

**The Central pond**

To adjust the pond to the naturalistic character of the park its shape has been changed and softened and an island has been built. The southern bank of the pond has been designated for willows, perennials and decorative grass collections (Fig. 2). Many species mentioned by Bor-sig that disappeared from other areas due to heavy shade, grow here. Irises’ The alley running along this bank is bordered by not only rhizome and bulb irises but also by perennials blooming in summer and autumn and botanical tulips and narcissuses, snake’s head fritillaries, crow garlic, autumn crocuses and other small bulb plants and clematises also known as traveller’s joy. The perennial beds smoothly merge into the roses and the butterfly bush collections.

The island apart from willows is planted with decorative Japanese cherry trees and purple smoke trees.

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Fig. 2. The Central pond.
The Dendrological Garden in Przelewice

The slightly boggy terrain that includes a water drainage ditch is home to small woods of poplar and ash where one can also spot numerous shrubs of European spindle, common elderberry and common chops. Closer to the pond there is an old elm and several young bald cypresses and newly planted viburnums.

On the other side of the pond looking from the island direction one can see in the following order: *Staphylea pinnata*, common ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), black walnut, sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), young bald cypresses and Swedish mountain ash. A European beech scrub makes a perfect background for them.

Alongside a little waterfall (the outlet from the pond) groundcover plants such as honeysuckle and fortune spindle grow well. In their thicket one comes across two kinds of elms ‘Hilliera’ and ‘Dampiera’, a young dawn redwood, low spindle, ferns and helleboruses. At the waterfall one sees Japanese walnuts (*Juglans sieboldiana Max*) bearing edible fruits.

Following stony paths alongside the watercourse one spots mezereons, perennials, bird cherries, spindles and other groundcover like ivy, pachystima and pachysandra.

**The rock garden and the hill**

Through the financial support of the Voivodeship Environment Protection and The Water Management Fund in Szczecin, land that previously had been used as nurseries was reassigned. Areas of beech, linden, hornbeam, maple, larch and spruce have been converted into small woods. An open area has become a meadow. A rock garden has been installed and elsewhere mountain ash, lilacs and oaks have been planted.

In the rock garden many dwarf spruces, pines, firs and a collection of junipers were planted to Borsig designs. Numerous species and varieties of cotoneasters, brooms, shrubby cinquefoils and clematises also grow here. Amongst the shrubs are decorative grasses, ferns and perennials. The perennials include...
various carnations, *Sempervivum* and *Sedum*, coconut thyme, thrift (also known as moss pink), creeping forget-me-nots, autumn crocuses, low baby’s breaths, epimedium, white dryas, *Carlina*, and many others.

Leaving the rock garden one can pass behind the beech woods to a collection of mountain ash, birches and oaks. Young mountain ash of various species and kinds already enchant by their autumn colour leaves and fruits. Birches were selected and put in groups by their contrasting bark colour. One can also see here red-leaved birches. The edge of the meadow is surrounded by colourful kinds of oak supplemented by roses, beauty bushes, ashes and lilacs.

Along the park boundary line are the remains of the tree nurseries: larches, spruces, firs, European black pines. The trees now form a kind of wind-proof shield and a beautiful background for new planting. On the side facing the beech woods roses, locust and pea shrub have been planted.

**Three ponds and Viburnum Alley**

The rock garden is linked with the three ponds by Viburnum Alley. This area was developed and opened for visitors through the financial support of Voivodeship Environment Protection and The Water Management Fund in Szczecin. Alongside Viburnum Alley apart from many species of viburnums, there are cherry-laurel trees, a variety of common hollies and black lilacs, hydrangeas, sitka and black spruces and birches. The alley runs almost parallel to the stream allowing one to observe semi-wild wetland vegetation. Ashes and alders are dominant here but in the future small woods of bald cypresses (*Taxodium distichum*) already planted, will have grown taller.

From Viburnum Alley there is a good view of the spring area that is particularly attractive in the blooming season of swamp lantern (*Lysichiton*) that has gradually spread itself over a wider wetland area. The three ponds area was designed to house a collection of water and wetland plants and footbridges were built to make it easier to look at water life. On the pond banks there are various trees and shrubs including a wide variety of willows, dogwoods of red and yellowish shoots and other kinds of gaudy leaves, ginkgos, wingnuts, alders, firs, birches, Chinese tulip tree and viburnums. Right by the smallest pond there is an old, beautiful London plane tree probably old enough to have seen construction of the palace.

Animal lovers can observe here the mating season of frogs, which are numerous in the park as well as hunting storks and herons and various species of small water fauna.

**Research & Development Botanical Centre**

The Research and Development Botanical Centre was conceived in 2004 when the reconstruction of the palace was underway. The project was funded by the European Union PHARE initiative, CBC Polish-German Border Cooperation, The Voivodeship Environment Protection and The Water Management Fund. The Centre comprises four elements: the reconstructed palace, a new glasshouse, new tree nurseries on 12 ha of land and, using the shell of a derelict farm building, an orangery.

The Centre builds on the resource of the adjacent long-established dendrological garden. The two activities, that of restoring and developing the garden and that of research are complementary.

From the garden a huge range of genetic material is available through the species and varieties and growing conditions whilst the research centre has laboratories that can propagate plants not only from seeds and cuttings, but also using the *in vitro* method.

An early stage in the development of the Centre is the seed bank. The bank forms part of international efforts to safeguard biodiversity that are integral to Botanic Gardens Conservation International to which, for instance, Kew Gardens is affiliated.

The laboratories comprise:

- Plant physiology
- Soil analysis
- Microbiology
- Chemical analysis
- *In vitro* propagation

There is a laboratory housing the most up to date microscopes. Currently these are:

- Electron microscope of a scanning type with a sputtering device and critical point dryer
- Stereo microscope
- Optical microscope

Developing links with other institutions is considered of great importance. There are already working arrangements with some insti-
The Dendrological Garden in Przelewice

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The seedlings are cultivated in cooperation with The Seeds Shelling Association in Jatznick.

One ambition is to use The Centre’s existing facilities and to develop them further so as to accommodate a range of educational initiatives. Broadly these will include research, hosting scientific symposiums, student exchange and Master of Science and PhD diploma studies. A further ambition is to provide a resource for the farming and forestry industry of Northwest Poland. The research on soil chemistry, the effect of weather conditions and other factors can, for instance be used to practical effect. When the performance of species and varieties of vegetables and fruit trees can be compared, agricultural output can be optimised.

The facilities of the whole complex can be made available to help local people to develop new skills. The decline in employment in traditional agriculture through mechanisation can, in this way, be redressed.

The centre itself, including as it does the accommodation including the reception rooms of the palace, can host educational and cultural events. Through expansion and development of such events and the needs of visitors and delegates, there can be employment opportunities for people in Przelewice and in the nearly historic city of Pyrzyce.

The R&D Botanical Centre offers:
– conference and training rooms
– guest rooms
– cafe for palace and garden visitors
– exhibition areas
– herbaceous collections
– library and reading room
– research rooms
– seed bank
– tissue culture laboratory

The Biological Education Centre

The Biological Education Centre established in 2000 offers: open air classes, tours around the Garden, handicraft workshops, consultancy and various occasional events. Not only botanical and nature topics are covered during classes but also subjects such as cultural heritage.

The Dendrological Garden in its educational role established a close cooperation with Szczecin higher education institutions offering internships for students and connections with Ueckermünde Zoo. Two black swans named ADAM and EVE living and breeding in the Central pond from June 2004 are an outcome of this cooperation.

The Dendrological Garden also works with the public Fine Arts High School in Szczecin. Diploma papers of the Fine Arts students are valuable teaching aids for classes.

Decorative tree and shrub nursery

The richness of species and varieties in the Dendrological Garden lends itself to the development of nursery production – so far on a small scale. Thanks to the nursery visitors can buy plants they encountered while touring the Garden. Whilst the majority of the plants on offer are from seeds or seedlings from the Garden, some highly sought after plants can be brought from other nurseries.

The production of nursery material will increase thanks to the glasshouse-multiplier forming part of the R&D Botanical Centre and the tissue culture laboratory on the first floor of the palace. It is planned to enlarge a four-hectare nursery to 15 hectares where 7 hectares will be designed for backwoods broadening the Garden’s collection and 8 hectares for a growing area. Valuable plants vulnerable to cold will be placed in the orangery. The orangery is a skilful conversion of what had been a burnt-down barn.

Przelewice Borough also has plans for the conversion of all existing redundant farm buildings into museums, hotels and a youth hostel. These buildings through their historical value are under conservation protection and are worth seeing while visiting the Dendrological Garden.

REFERENCES