



# Freie Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft

Sektion für Landwirtschaft  
Section for Agriculture  
Section d'Agriculture  
Sección de Agricultura

## Professional Group Herbs and Medicinal Plants

### NEWSLETTER 2

December 2017

Dear members and friends of the Professional Group Herbs and Medicinal Plants!

The professional group founded in February at the Agricultural Conference is still a very young plant, which must first be anchored so that it can grow and thrive. We took small, but important steps in this first year, of which we would like to briefly report.

#### **Summer excursion with HORTUS OFFICINARUM and Netzwerk Kräuter Baden-Württemberg to Lake of Constance**

We were fortunate that we were able as a professional group to take part in the summer excursion to the Lake of Constance organized by HORTUS OFFICINARUM, Association for biodynamic seeds of medicinal plants, and the partner organization Netzwerk Kräuter, Association for the promotion of medicinal, spice and cosmetic plant cultivation in Baden-Württemberg. The annual gathering with the HORTUS members' meeting took place on 10 June 2017 near Kreuzlingen (Switzerland) in the Demeter garden center of the Ekkharthof, which, among other things, provides numerous medicinal plants for the Swiss medicine company Ceres, as well as tea and spice herbs for their own commercialization. The excursion to the nearby, culturally rich island Reichenau the next day with the guided tour of the herbal garden "Hortulus", which was created in memory of Abbot Walahfrid Strabo and his important horticultural work from the beginning of the 8th century, was the horticultural highlight and conclusion (detailed report at [www.hortus-officinarum.ch](http://www.hortus-officinarum.ch))

#### **Steering group founded**

In August 2017, we set up a steering group in order to get involved in the development of the Group. We met at the Weleda Visitor Center in Wetzgau near Schwäbisch Gmünd (Germany) which is located in the medicinal plant garden. The meeting was dedicated to getting known to each other and exchange, as well as plan future projects.



The steering group (from left to right): Bettina Pfeffer, Medicinal plant specialist (Germany), Ola Aukrust, Tea and spice herb producer (Norway), Dr. Jasmin Peschke, Section for Agriculture at the Goetheanum (Switzerland), Henrik Hoeren, Business economist and in training for biodynamic farmer and medicinal plant specialist (Switzerland), Michaela Spaar, Medicinal plant specialist and Historian of culture (Switzerland), Michael Straub, Responsible of the Weleda medicinal plant garden (Germany), and Bettina Billmann, Horticultural

engineer and alternative medicine practitioner (Germany).

### **Agricultural Conference 2018**

At the next Agricultural Conference at the Goetheanum from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the themed session "Cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs and the effect of biodynamic preparations" will be chaired by the Group. The agronomist Torsten Arncken from the Natural science section of the Goetheanum will use the example of a medicinal plant to demonstrate different qualities in cultivation (with exercises), the contribution of Michael Straub will deal with the various aspects of biodynamic medicinal plant cultivation (production, species conservation, reproduction, biodiversity, research, visitor magnet) on the example of Weleda in Germany and Michèle Pantalacci, who distils Demeter quality essential oils in Corsica, will report on the effects of biodynamic preparations in the cultivation of medicinal plants using the example of the Immortelle/Curry-plant (*Helichrysum italicum*). The forum will be moderated by Bettina Billmann and Michaela Spaar.

In addition, a professional group meeting will take place on Friday afternoon (9<sup>th</sup> February), where there will be opportunities for discussion and encounters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Section for Agriculture for the support: It kindly takes care of the address administration and the mailing.

The next newsletter will be published in spring 2018. If you have any suggestions, contributions, ideas or concerns, please contact us until the beginning of March at: [info@odilienzeit.ch](mailto:info@odilienzeit.ch)

Best regards

Michaela Spaar with Ola Aukrust, Bettina Billmann, Henrik Hoeren, Jasmin Peschke, Bettina Pfeffer und Michael Straub