**2022 Annual MSI Meeting in Germany**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**How do I register for the meeting?** The easiest way to register and pay for the meeting is to go to the MSI secure website, [www.magnoliasociety.org](http://www.magnoliasociety.org), and pay in US dollars with either a VISA or Mastercard. You can also register by postal mail as indicated on the Registration Form.

**When is the meeting registration deadline?** The registration deadline to receive the lowest price for the conference is December 31, 2021. You may register online at [www.magnoliasociety.org](http://www.magnoliasociety.org) or by returning the printed registration form as directed. The final registration deadline is January 31, 2022.

**Are there any special requirements for entering Germany or transiting through other countries in route to Germany?**
At this point in time you will need a valid passport and proof of vaccination from Covid-19 to enter Germany. Both must be with you at all times. If you are stopping or visiting in other countries en route to or from Germany, (such as Switzerland) you will need to research their entry requirements. Your entry requirements will also be impacted by the country you are coming from. Please check your country’s official websites for Covid-19 travel and return requirements. These travel issues are not difficult to manage, but they will require some individual research on your part and you need to review these requirements shortly before your trip for any updates.

MSI is dedicated to ensure the safety of all attendees at the Annual Meeting taking place in Germany, April 8-19, 2022. We are excited to once again gather in-person. By participating in the MSI Annual Meeting in Germany you understand and voluntarily assume all risks related to potential exposure to COVID-19. You also agree to abide by the safety protocols outlined below.

**Do I need to bring and wear a mask in Germany? If so, are certain kinds of masks required?** Every attendee must bring a mask. You are required to wear a mask in many places in Germany, including transportation, restaurants and museums. There are no requirements on what kind of mask to use. Bring the mask of your choice. MSI will provide throw away masks for those who may lose or misplace theirs.

**Do I need to bring hand sanitizer and/or hand wipes?** Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus. You may bring your own sanitizer and/or hand wipes if you like.

**What requirements, if any, will there be in advance for a Covid-19 test?** To attend the conference, you must be vaccinated. Check with your airline to see if Covid-19 testing is required for your trip because this requirement may vary based on the country of origin and even transfer locations.

**What kind of documentations do I need to bring for proof of a Covid-19 vaccine?** Every traveler in our group has to be fully vaccinated. Make sure to carry your vaccination documents with you. Please be aware that we have to show the vaccination documents when entering hotels, restaurants and museums.

**What are the Covid-19 requirements for entry and returning home?** Covid-19 travel requirements change frequently. Every attendee must check with their appropriate websites for the latest Covid-19 related requirements. For US travelers it is <https://de.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/> and

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>.

**Will we be entering any other countries besides Germany during the tour?** Yes, we will be taking a day trip to the Netherlands. You will need to check the Covid-19 requirements for entry to the Netherlands before leaving home.

**Do I have to have a Covid-19 booster shot to attend the conference? Will I need to show documentation of the booster shot?** Vaccinations ARE mandatory to enter Germany. If you are eligible for a booster shot, it is recommended.

**Which airports should I use to book my arrival and departure?** There are two options for traveling to Konstanz. Frankfurt Airport, FRA is the best solution. There will be a pick-up service to Konstanz at about 11 am on Friday, April 8, 2022. All attendees who are able to arrive at the Frankfurt Airport, FRA by 11 am and want to take advantage of the pick-up service to Konstanz need to meet at Level 1 (international arrivals) Section B. The bus will be leaving at 11:30 am to take you to your designated hotel. Travel time to Konstanz is between 4 and 5 hours. If you don’t arrive in time for the bus, you can take the train from the airport to Konstanz. The second option is to fly into Zurich, Switzerland, ZRA (Please note that Switzerland has different COVID-19 entry requirements from Germany). From the airport there is a direct train to Konstanz. Our tour ends in Cologne. You will need to provide your own transportation to your designated airport for departure. From Cologne you can reach the Frankfurt Airport, FRA by train in less than one hour. The travel time back to Zurich, Switzerland from the train depot in Cologne to the Zurich International Airport, ZRA is about 6 hours.

If you fly into the Frankfurt Airport, FRA, you can take a train from the airport to Konstanz in about 6 hours. If you fly into the Zurich International Airport, ZRA, you can take a train from the airport to Konstanz in exactly 1 hour. Trains leave from Frankfurt and Zurich to Konstanz frequently and the cost ranges from $20 to $40 USD. Our travel agent Christoph Laade can book train tickets for you. His email address is info@laade-gartenreisen.de. Once you have arrived at the Konstanz train depot, you will need to take a taxi or walk to your hotel. Taxis accept cash and credit cards.

**Are there any Holiday Travel concerns?** April 17 is Easter Sunday.

**What currency is used in Germany?** The currency used in all of Germany is the EURO. The exchange rate is typically better through your local bank than at the airport. The exchange rate is $1.13 (USD) = 1 (EURO) as of November 22, 2021.

**How do I make purchases?** You can use EURO’s or credit cards. All major credit cards are usually accepted. (Visa/Mastercard/American Express).

**What are some guidelines about tipping in Germany?** The guideline for tipping is around 10%.

**Where will the conference be held?** The conference will begin April 8 in Konstanz, Germany. Registration will begin at 6 pm in the Rosgartenmuseum. Then there will be a dinner and introductions for the conference. We will be traveling throughout the conference and end in Cologne.

**How will I get from the airport to my hotel?** There will be a pick-up service by bus from Frankfurt Airport, FRA to Konstanz on Friday, April 8, 2022 around 11 am. The pick-up bus will leave at 11:30 for Konstanz and drop off attendees at their designated hotel. Due to the size of our group, we will be staying at three different hotels that are all within walking distance from each other as well as the train station and the Rosgartenmuseum. If your arrival at FRA is not around 11:00 am on Friday, or if you fly to Zurich, Switzerland, there is a direct train from the airport to Konstanz main station. You will then need to get a taxi or walk to your hotel.

**How do I book and purchase train tickets for traveling to Konstanz and back to my designated airport for departure?** The travel agent, Christoph Laade, is able to book your train tickets. If you are interested in letting them book your train tickets, please email the travel agency, Laade Gartenreisen, at

 info@laade-gartenreisen.de.

**Do I have to make my own hotel guest room reservations?** From April 8 through April 19 all guest room reservations are included in the conference registration price. Due to the size of our group, while in Konstanz, we will be staying at three different, but nearby hotels. You will receive notification of which hotel you will be staying at sometime after you register for the conference.

**While in Germany, what are the names of the hotels the travel agency will be booking us at?** Due to the number in our group we will be booked at one of the following hotels in Konstanz: Hotel Barbarossa, Viva Sky or Hotel Augustiner Tor. In Freiburg we will all stay at the Stadthotel. In Mannheim we will all stay at the Dorint Hotel. In Assmannshausen we will all stay at the Hotel Krone, and in Bonn we will all stay at Hotel Ameron Koenigshof. You do not need to book a reservation to any of these hotels from April 8 through April 19. They are listed for your information only.

**What will the Registration Fees cover?** The registration fees will cover all hotels, breakfast, lunch and dinner every day, transportation throughout the event and all entrance fees. They do not cover your airfare, train tickets or taxi. Bottled water, soft drinks, or alcoholic beverages are not included for lunch and dinner. After the conference, you will need to provide your own transportation to your designated airport for departure.

**Will alcoholic beverages be available at any of our meals?** Alcoholic beverages will be available at dinner for you to purchase.

**Is there a Cancellation Policy?** Registrations cancelled prior to April 8, 2022 will be refunded, but you will be charged an administration fee to cover our expenses. If you cancel your registration before January 15, 2022, you will be charged 5%. If you cancel between January 15 and March 23, there will be a 15% fee. Cancellations between March 24 and April 8, 2022 are subject to a 30% fee. Your registration is not refundable after April 8, 2022. No refunds are given for no-shows.

**What is the weather like?** Germany has an old country saying: Der April tut, was er will. This means: Everything is possible; April does what he wants. You can expect everything from frosty weather to 60 degrees F (20 degrees C). From snow to rain to cloudy or sunny weather is possible. So please pack for flexible conditions. We will not only visit gardens, but also forests. Please be prepared for muddy conditions.

**Are there any dress requirements?** There will be no special dress requirements during our tour. Since we will be visiting gardens and forests, please pack for flexible weather conditions and with suitable shoes for outdoors.

**Is there an auction?** Yes, we will have a small auction on our last evening with books, postcards, seeds, some rare plants, and other items. All proceeds will go to fund MSI research grants.

**Can I bring an item(s) to contribute to the auction?** Yes! If you are bringing an item(s) to place in the auction, first, please email Susan Booth at boothteach@gmail.com stating what you are bringing. When in Germany, please give your item(s) to Thomas Kalb, the host of the Germany tour when we arrive in the town of Bonn.

**How will I get to the airport after the conference April 19?** Train stations are nearby. It will take one hour directly to the Frankfurt Airport, FRA. The travel time back to the Zurich International Airport, ZRA is about 6 hours. Please note that the transport back to the airport is not included in the registration fee. You can have the travel agency, Laade Gartenreisen, book your train tickets by emailing them directly at info@laade-gartenreisen.de.

**What if I have additional questions?** For additional questions please contact Susan Booth, Conference Coordinator at boothteach@gmail.com.