floodplain, which results in a relatively large layer of organic material. This layer is rather atypical of sites in the floodplain and stops the growth of typical floodplain geophytes.

Another change is the intense shading by the dense beech growns, which prevents the regeneration of shade intolerant trees and also leads to the decrease of other thermopile plants and animals. In the future it is planned to reduce Common Beech stands especially in sites where they compete with precious English Oak and where regeneration sites for photofilous trees are eeded.

However, it is not planned to fell each and every beech in an indiscriminate manner. Due to their appearance they are an enrichment of the landscape aesthetics.

Numerous holes in beech trees can serve as brooding and breeding spaces for rare species of birds.

EXCURSION POINT 6

"Wilder Mann"

There was a restaurant also named the “Wilder Mann” offering services up to the 70s in this ranger’s district. In the ending of the 70s, the proprietor closed down the premises and this led to a series of burglary and vandalism. A continuation of the operations was ruled out because of the devastating status of the building. In 1995 the Stadt Leipzig (City of Leipzig)

removed the unpleasant and dangerous remainings of the building and renaturated the whole site. Since the middle of the 80s is the playground “Wilder Mann” already in use.

EXCURSION POINT 7

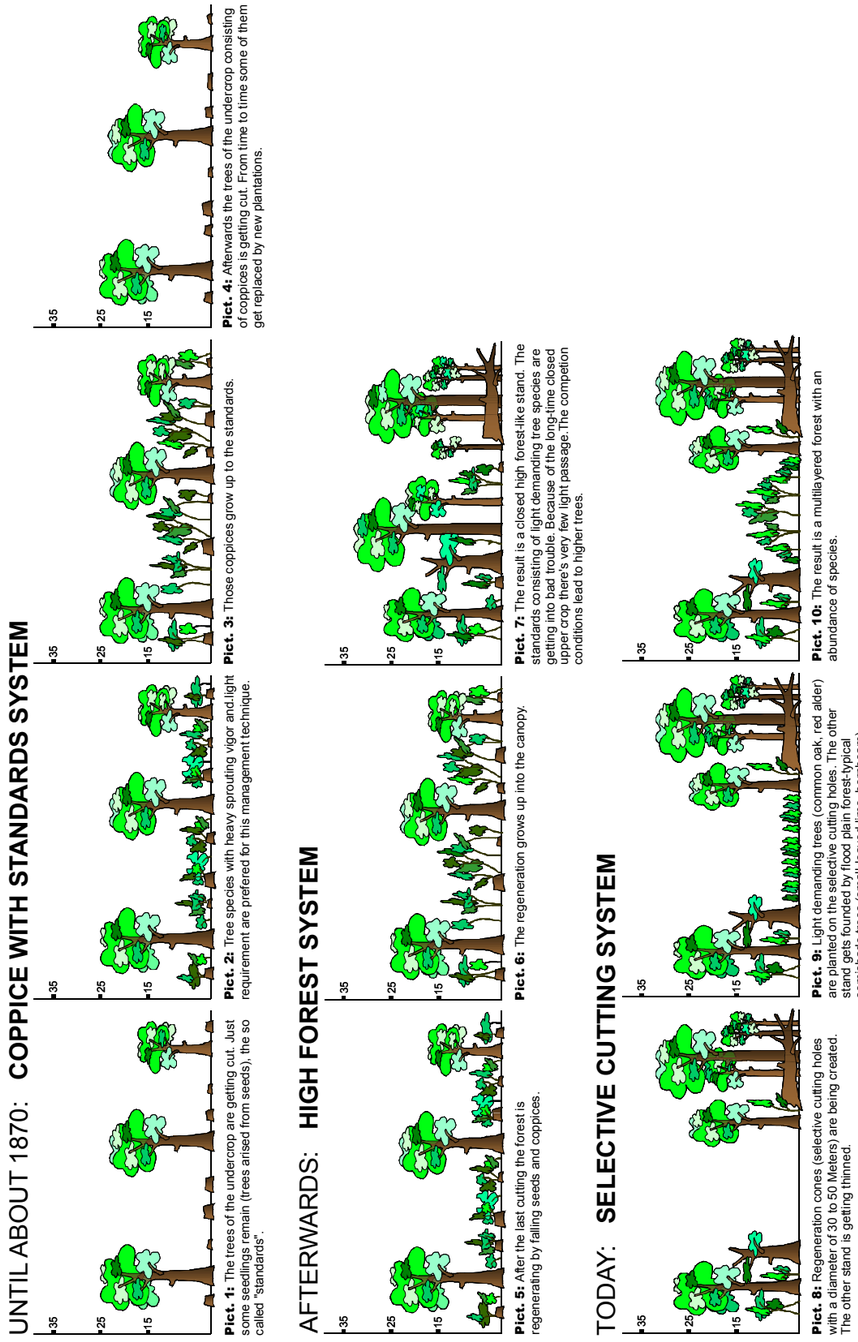
Home territory of the former Königseiche The Strong Oak in the Auenwald

The King's Oak in the Leutzsch Woods on an old postcard

The former Königseiche in the Leutzsch Woods obtained its name during a visit of H.E. the King of Saxony Friedrich August on the 18th of May 1809.The oak had a stem diameter of 2,70 metres, a height of approx. 38 metres and a capacity of 88 cubic metres. It fell down on the 16th of March 1923 at an age of about 900 years. Currently, the former territory of the oak remains in remembrance with the bearing of its name by the present district forest depart.

The tree species common oak and especially the deadwood rich strong oak is one of the ecological valuable elements in Leipziger Auenwald. They have a specific importance for many bird and beetle species, whereby the later are wood inhabitants. The city forest management not only aims at sustaining the oak population but also gradually to raise its proportion.

Presently the oak quota in the Leipziger Auenwald amounts up to 20 %. The aim is that in a period of time a quota of 40% to be reached. Up to the middle of the last century the oak quota was as high as 60%.



Pict. 1: The trees of the undercrop are getting cut. Just some seedlings remain (trees arised from seeds), the so called "standards".

Pict. 2: Tree species with heavy sprouting vigor and light requirement are prefered for this management technique.

Pict. 3: Those coppices grow up to the standards.

Pict. 4: Afterwards the trees of the undercrop consisting of coppices is getting cut. From time to time some of them get replaced by new plantations.

Pict. 5: After the last cutting the forest is regenerating by falling seeds and coppices.

Pict. 6: The regeneration grows up into the canopy.

Pict. 7: The result is a closed high forest-like stand. The standards consisting of light demanding tree species are getting into bad trouble. Because of the long-time closed upper crop there's very few light passage.The competition conditions lead to higher trees.

Pict. 8: Regeneration cones (selective cutting holes with a diameter of 30 to 50 Meters) are being created. The other stand is getting thinned.

Pict. 9: Light demanding trees (common oak, red alder) are planted on the selective cutting holes. The other stand gets founded by flood plain forest-typical semishade trees (small-leaved lime, hornbeam).

Pict. 10: The result is a multilayered forest with an abundance of species.

During this period of time the so-called “coppice with standards system” was applied by the running of the Leipziger Auenwald. This means, quite a larger population of the oak was left to be later used as building timber. (See diagram Mittelwald page7) The so-called “lower wood” consisted of root and coppice shootings of Aspen, Hornbeam, Basswood and Elm.

These were after every 15-20 years cut down to gain firewood. Thereby the strong oak developed the present distinguishable typical form and this consequently led up to the height of the “lower wood” into quite a straight form without branches. In the height of about 10 – 15m, they have developed a wide crown, which is comparable to park trees.

The task of the “coppice with standards system” led to an increase of the “lower storey” trees like Ash, Maple and Elm into a higher number and they partially darkened the crowns, which resulted into the withering of the lower strong branches. This can be detected presently on the remains of branch scars and dead branches.

As long as the strong oak is not freed from the competitive pressure of the fast growing semi and shadow tree types, it will in a foreseeable future perish and thus the need of human help by the regeneration.

Since the Leipziger Flussauen are not covered with forest, the present rare species of animals in this forest which have their existence linked with the oak, would not be able to migrate and they would certainly also vanish.

As a result of this, the commitment to preserve and protect the population of the tree species common oak in the Leipziger Auenwald is of importance.

EXCURSION POINT 8

Conversion of the Poplar area
At the Fasanenweg

A stock of 53 years old black poplar hybrids were found up to the end of the year 1999 in an area of the forest dept number 378. These were showing signs of withering.

The Landesanstalt für Forsten (state’s institute for forestry) in Graupa examined and diagnosed a fungi sickness, the so-called “Poplar bark death” as the main cause.

This led to an inevitable dying of the whole stock. A decision was brought up to get rid of the stock through the means of deforestation.

The felling area was 0,48 hectares and 235 cubic metres of compact wood (7 cm diameter) of which 187 cubic meters were sold as well as realised for use. After fencing the area, a year later 4240 oak and 250 black alder were cultivated. The ample incidence of light presents for both tree species good conditions of growth.

EXCURSION POINT 9

Former district ranger’s dept.
Gustav-Esche-Strasse 2

Das Elsterbecken ist zwischen Palmengartenwehr und Nahlewehr 2600 m lang und hat eine Breite von 155 m. Das entspricht einer Wasserfläche von 400000 m². Im Abstand von 1250 m wird das Elsterbecken von der Zeppelin- und der Landauer Brücke überspannt. Imposant und architektonisch bedeutsam ist die Palmengartenwehranlage mit 2 rundbogigen Öffnungen von je 17 m Breite, die durch Walzen verschlossen werden. Die Wehrbrücke ist 50 m lang und 5 m breit. In ihrer Mitte befindet sich das Schützenhäuschen mit den Windwerken für die Wehrwalzen.
Die wasserwirtschaftliche Funktion als Hochwasserrückhaltebecken hat das Elsterbecken nie erfüllt, denn es wurde entgegen aller hydraulischer Fließgesetze gebaut. Im Elsterbecken haben sich inzwischen knapp eine Million Kubikmeter Sedimente angesammelt. Bei Niedrigwasser sind die kleinen Inseln auffällig. Bereits ab 1926 mussten regelmäßige und kostspielige Entschlammungen durchgeführt werden. Die Schlammmassen wurden beidseitig des Beckens aufgespült und dienten den Sportanlagen als Baugrund. Teil eines integrierten Gewässerkonzepts, das unter anderen auch die Öffnung von Pleiße- und Elstermühlgraben vorsieht, ist auch die Teil-Entschlammung des Elsterbeckens, das zum stehenden Gewässer entwickelt wird.
1924 fand die erste Ruderregatta auf dem Elsterbecken statt.

EXCURSION POINT 4

Das Einlaufbauwerk (The inflow construction of the Burgauenbach and Nahle weir)

The so-called Einlaufbauwerk of the Burgauenbach on the left bank of the Elsterbecken lies approx. 100 metres above the Nahlewehr.The water flows at a height of 103 metres above the normal zero point. With the means of a gate is an adjustable amount of water up to a maximum of 500l/s able to flow in a running trench.
A dam experts firm got an order from the Untere Pleisse to renovate and transform the Nahle weir into one of the final weir outlets of the Elster basin. This project begun in May 2000 and was completed in March 2001.

Besides the building of a new Tos basin and the strengthening of the waterbed through means of cut off walls and gabion, the side slope was replaced with stones. Additionally, the weir facility was then equipped with a sophisticated control and conduct technology as well as a new energy

EXCURSION POINT 5

Stand of the common beech
In the south of the Heuweg

The Leipziger Flussauen (Leipzig’s floodplain) is not the natural habitat of the common beech (fagus silvatica). Therefore the species is not able to regenerate in a natural way. Furthermore the quality of the timber is poor due to the white rot, which frequently occurs in the inside of the tree. The species has been planted in the Leipziger Flussauen for the last 200 years, in the hope of increasing the forestry yields in the course of the forest management. Another reason for the planting of these experimental stands was the improvement of the landscape.

Beeches have a rather negative influence on the ecosystems of the Auenwald (floodplain forest),

especially if they were planted as monocultures. Due to the high ground water table the trees do not grow cord form roots, which are typical for common beech, but concentrate the root system directly under the surface. This leads to an extreme extraction of nutrients and oxygen in the topsoil layer. Leaf litter does not rot as quickly as in stands of hardwood typical to the

Due to an official call of the Mayor of Leipzig City on the 04.05.1998, a decision was made to have the Leipzig Schützenhof for a period of 50 years leased to the Leipzig Shooting Society. In the same year the society celebrated its 555th anniversary. In June 2000 the permission to erect and operate a 300m shooting-range was conferred. With the resuming of the operations of the 300m shooting-range, is as the only facility presently of this nature in the Free State of Saxony. The sport scenery of Leipzig has received a facility for interested fellow citizens, and shooters, which is useful and posses competitively national and international dimensions. The Schützenhof is neighbouring an area, which is being utilised as a control to determine the ecological forest's state of the Oak tree species. The city forest's administration is using at the moment 4 instrumental categories to asses the health status of the City forest.

- The constant observation and control by the forest rangers and all employees of the department of city forest.

- The report to the forest's state from the Free State of Saxony, which is based upon and derived from the experimental site in the region of Leipzig.

- The vitality interpretation of the Colour-Infrared-Air-pictures, which are prepared every after 5 years and

- The so-called ecological forest state control of 10 experimental sites of which, each is consisting of 30 trees of the Oak species.

The marked and continuously numbered trees from the experimental site are individually with the same applied code assessed every year in late summer by exactly the same person. The research officer then examines crown picture, the leaves density and its change of colour and lastly the vitality. The results are graded are in a scale ranging from 1 – 5 and whereby the grade 1 is considered as a merit and the grade 5 as a bad note. Due to the control measures carried out since 1991, one can notice and come to a conclusion that despite massive environmental stress an average health and stable status of the most of the tree species in the City forests and also the tree specie Strong Oak has emerged.

EXCURSION POINT 3

The Elsterbecken

With the beginning of the 20th century a point was reached whereby Leipzig was at the zenith of an inhabitant's enlargement. In the year 1900 Leipzig had an area of 58,52 square km with 456000 residents (presently 297,5 square km and 493000 residents)

This was equivalent to a resident density of 7800 residents/ hectares and this resulted into a deficit of the building space and an increased pressure on the housing market.The city council reacted to this deplorable state of affairs by realising their resolutions of
1892 which had the aim of constructing the Elster-becken as a flood protection and the setting up of building land at the so called Frankfurter Meadows.

In 1911 the completion of the planning measures for the Elsterbecken and simultaneously the competitive invitation for a bid by the urban development of the Frankfurt Meadows took place. The objective's position to this construction was the exemplary model of Hamburg's inland and outside alster.

The construction of the Elsterbecken begun in 1912 and its premature flooding with the help of a high tide of water took place in 1919. The Palmengartenwehr (Palmengardenweir) was built between 1913 and 1917. (Architect Wünschmann). The development of the Frankfurter Meadows was cancelled due to the huge debts of the city, which resulted from the World War 1, subsequently the world economical crisis and inflation. Instead of the development of the meadows, quite a few suburbs e.g. Leutzsch, Grosszschocher up to Knauthain as well as the northern and southeastern suburbs were incorporated into parts of Leipzig.

As a result of the non-development of the meadows it was historically a chance to have the Elster-Pleisse-Nahle-Luppe-floodplain forest from Zwenkau up to Schkeuditz across Leipzig's municipal area maintained as a gangway. This represents nowadays

Up to the sixties, this building served as a district forester's department. It was built in 1884 as an art of substitute for the old forester's house of the district of Leutzsch. This old house was found at the present home territory of the forest playground in the district area of "Am alten Forsthaus" in the floodplain of the Burg. It was demolished in 1886. The foreground to the original concept and plan by the building of the new forester's house and its adjoining buildings was that it serves as a living and office structure.

This was furthermore used as a residence of the leader of the district's stable team and there was a possibility to accommodate the horses. It later only served as a dwelling house after giving up its use as a ranger's district.

EXCURSION POINT 10

Auengräben (Trenches of the floodplain forest)

(near the Fasanenweg – Altarme)

The well noticeable floodplain forest trench in this Excursion point is part of a network of

trapezshaped laid down drainage trenches, which were set up in the Middle Age. During this epoch, Leipzig was Malaria - Region and it was a must to let water flow off as quickly as possible after the floods. Due to the costly water flow restructuring measures undertaken in the thirties of the last decades especially on the Elster and Luppe rivers, there has been a non-occurrence of the yearly floods ever since.

At the moment there is a perspective reflection to have a part of the dyke slut. The old trenches of the floodplain forest would through this way retain their original function.

NOTES

Excursion Across Leipzig's City forest

Leutzscher Holz
An der Königseiche
Gottge

The Leipzig's forest areas "Leutzscher Holz", "An der Königseiche" as well as the "Gottge" are found in the north-western part of Leipzig and are suitable for going on long distance hikes.There is for instance a possibility to hike across Leipzig's forest area Burgaue and then in

the Landeswald (State forest) and further continue in the western part of the federal state of Sachsen Anhalt (Saxony Anhalt). This area still belongs to the Flussauen (floodplain rivers) i.e. Luppe and Elster.

To go hiking down south, the Leipzig wood division recommends taking a route along the Elsterbecken, (Elsterbasin) across the Clara Zetkin Park and Palmgarten on the way to the Connewitzer Holz (a city forest area), then along the Heuweg (a path) through the Rosental (a city forest area) up to the City Centre.

Origin of the names: The name "An der Königseiche" derives from a very big Oak tree which once stood in this city forest. This splendid tree got the name "Königseiche" (King's Oak) due to a visit of the Königs Friedrich August I (King of Saxony Friedrich August the 1st) on the 18th of May 1809 and it fell down in the year1923 with an age of approximately 900 years.

The name "Gottge" originates probably from the sorben languages and means something like forest thickness.

The "Leutzscher Holz" owes its name to the former manor in the district of Leutzsch. This manor and the forest area that belonged to it were then purchased in 1539 together as a whole by the Stadt Leipzig (City of Leipzig).

The Leipzig Woods Division has some infor-mation to a few chosen excursion points on stock for every visitor, where you can go on your own.

We wish you a relaxing and interesting visit in the Leipziger Auenwald (Leipzig's floodplain forest).

EXCURSION POINT 1

Campfire place Friesenstrasse

This location Friesenstrasse is one of the 3 campfire places (the rest are found in forest areas i.e. Nonne und Rosental). There were built in the Leipziger Stadtwald (Leipzig's city forest) to offer more and improved

recreation facilities. These campfire and barbecue places were built in 1996 and can be used by everybody. The visitors can spend some hours relaxing and resting in a natural atmosphere. Presently there is a gratis service offer (also the providing of firewood), which the citizens of Leipzig and their guests are fond of using. However the recreation facilities are not being taken care of by illaudable fellow citizens. Besides there is a positive effect. Since this facility was put into operation, there is to a larger extent a decrease in the number of illegal fireplaces in the vicinity.

EXCURSION POINT 2

Schützenhof (with neighbouring ÖWK-Area)

As early as the beginning of the 18th century this floodplain area has been divided by the Hans-Driesch-Strasse. In the 30s of the 20th century the gunpowder storerooms of the neighbouring Schützenhof in the "Leutzscher Gottge were developed into decent shooting-ranges. In the 50s a 300m shoot-range was built and in the late 80s its utilisation came to a standstill.

In the beginning of the 90s the front of the former 300m shooting-range was through the heaping up of walls detached and a 50m shooting-range built.

EXKURSIONS-PUNKTE

LEUTZSCHER HOLZ

1 Campfire place Friesenstrasse
2 Schützenhof (with the neighbouring ÖWK area)
3 The Elsterbecken
4 Das Einlaufbauwerk (inflow construction)
5 Stand of the common beech
6 "Wilder Mann"
7 The Strong Oak in the Auenwald
8 Conversion of the Poplar area at the Fasanenweg
9 The former district ranger's department Gustav-Esche-Strasse 2
10 Auengräben (Trenches of the floodplain forest) near the Fasanen weg – Altarme

NOTES

Aerial shot of the Elsterflutbecken with areas of the Frankfurter Wiesen (1926).

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EXCURSION

ACROSS LEIPZIG'S CITY FOREST

LEUTZSCHER HOLZ

The Nahle weir

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