

Chairman's Column

by Rikus van Veldhuisen

After just having had the society's Convention in Meise you might think it is very easy to write a few lines for the Chairman's Column. I must admit however that this time I find it very hard to find the right words. The weekend in Meise was the culmination of a period of preparation, a lot of work and also of a bit of stress about whether it would all be what we hoped for. All I can say is: it was more than that and so far I have received only very positive comments.

There were two key factors for the success of the Convention. Right from the beginning the best "Euphorbia authorities" were selected and they immediately volunteered to give a talk. Secondly the hospitality of the Botanic Garden Meise to host the Convention – and what a super location it was. Both the lecturers and the Botanic Garden are very much thanked for that.

I am convinced all attendees were infected with a violent *Euphorbia* virus during these two days, which will lead to spending more time growing their euphorbias and reading *Euphorbia* literature. In future the Society will benefit and even during the Convention four new members were welcomed. It is nice to notice there are indeed people seriously interested in euphorbias, willing to spend the whole weekend on their beloved plants. You might think now the euphorbias here are the most important thing, but that isn't true. People are, and people sharing such a fascination easily become friends. It is my conviction lasting friendships were made this weekend. That was worth the effort.

Good growing
Rikus van Veldhuisen



Publicity Officer Thomas Cammaerts, lecturers Petr Pavelka and Riki Riina discussing Thomas' construction to shade tender specimens (Pictures by Detlef Schnabel, Bob Potter & Volker Buddensiek)



Treasurer Bob Potter and Euphorbia World author Al Laius taking pictures of the many flowering Euphorbia.



The Convention took place in a beautiful castle within the Botanic Garden Meise.



Participants waiting to be grouped for their guided tour through the greenhouses and collections.



The Euphorbia collection – usually not open to the public – is a dream come true for every lover of Euphorbia.



Listening to the lectures, meeting other euphorbiophiles and discussing euphorbias in the greenhouse – this really made the day!



Chairman Rikus van Veldhuisen and I.E.S. President Susan Carter obviously enjoyed the Convention.



Sharing their experience in growing and propagating Euphorbia: Henk Wolven and Jaap Keijzer, Curator of the Reference Collection



A specimen of the true *E. suzannae-marnierae* Rauh & Petignat won its owner the first prize for the most beautiful Euphorbia in contest.



Lecturer Norbert Rebmann talking about pictures of Euphorbia in habitat exhibited in the hallway.