

TOWER HILL
BOTANIC GARDEN

Tower Hill Presents:
Piet Oudolf & Dutch Wave Gardens Trip

August 8 - 16, 2017

Member \$4100, Non-member \$4200, per person, double occupancy. \$1000 single supplement.

Deposit of \$1000 due upon registration; final payment due May 1.

Tour price includes:

- 4 & 5 star hotel accommodations: Sheraton Amsterdam Hotel and Conference Center (1 night), Hotel Groot Warnsborn (3 nights), Prinsenhof Groningen (3 nights), Doubletree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station (1 night)
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 7 dinners including tips
- Admission to all gardens
- Coach transportation
- Friendly and knowledgeable professional Dutch tour coordinator
- Design and botanical expertise of the CarexTours host

Tour price excludes:

- Airfare. Each tour member books their own flights to arrive at Amsterdam Schipol Airport on 8/16 and depart on 8/24.
- Travel insurance (required)
- 3 lunches, 1 dinner, drinks, and snacks.

Today naturalistic planting styles are being enthusiastically embraced by plant lovers and designers from around the world. At the forefront of this movement is Dutch plantsman, Piet Oudolf (pronounced Peet Ow-dolf), whose work in private and public gardens is celebrated for its artistry in emulating the freedom and romance of natural habitats. Mr. Oudolf has described his approach this way, "My biggest inspiration is nature. I do not want to copy it but to recreate the emotion." In this spirit, our travelers can expect to be awed by the gardens we will see on this tour and captivated by the rich history that continues to shape the trend toward naturalism in gardens today.

The heritage of this popular style can be traced back directly to Germany and The Netherlands where several figures were working in the early 20th century. German plant breeder **Karl Foerster** and his pupil **Ernst Pagels** introduced a new style of gardening with huge drifts of perennials and grasses that required little maintenance. Dutch landscape architect **Mien Ruys** was a friend of Foerster

and she did much to popularize designs using loose groupings of herbaceous perennials that looked like native plants found in natural settings. Mien's influence was widespread. She inspired **Wolfgang Oehme** and **James van Sweden** in the United States, who created the New American Garden style.

In The Netherlands, another naturalistic style, that later became known as the Dutch Wave, was adopted by four designers who began collaborating in the early 1980's. They included **Rob Leopold**, owner of a wildflower seed company; **Ton ter Linden**, painter and garden designer; **Henk Gerritsen**, a designer, writer and plantsman; and **Piet Oudolf**, the designer who continues to inspire and influence the international gardening world.

Day 1, August 8, Tuesday – ARRIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS

- Tour participants will independently arrange travel to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and have the opportunity to get settled before the garden tour starts on Wednesday. We'll gather in the hotel bar to get acquainted at 6:00 PM for Welcome Cocktails.

Day 2, August 9, Wednesday – TOUR STARTS, JAC P. THYSSE PARK, VLINDERHOF, TUIN "DE VILLA"

- What's more appropriate than starting our Dutch Wave tour in a town renowned for its use of Dutch wildflowers? Just around the corner from Schiphol Airport is the suburb of **Amstelveen** with plantings that have been described as "intensified nature." We'll visit **Jac. P. Thyse Park**, named for a biologist who was an ardent devotee of native plants and birds. Designed by the late **Christian P. Broerse**, the park is home to just about every Dutch habitat imaginable and loaded with wild and semi-wild plantings.
- The **Vlinderhof**, or Butterfly Garden, is nestled in Maxima Park in Utrecht, and the garden plan is by acclaimed designer **Piet Oudolf**. Residents in the area asked Oudolf to design a garden within the park, to be maintained by volunteers. Now, over 15,000 plants of 97 different varieties in a naturalistic setting attract not only butterflies, but also bees and many other beneficial insects.
- Next we visit a relatively new private garden, **Tuin "De Villa"**. Started in 2004, the garden is located in a polder between meadows and cornfields on land reclaimed from the sea. Here, **Fried and Lily Frederix**, the owners, have made themselves a contemporary garden. There will be much to enjoy in their crisp, diagonal design that will lead our eyes to the Dutch Wave garden far in the rear. The Frederix's have turned a pasture into a rich tapestry of texture & color. Grasses move in the breeze and pollinators buzz around flowering shrubs and perennials. If you like to shoot videos, this is the garden for you.

Day 3, August 10, Thursday – NOËL VAN MIERLO, KASTEEL GELDROP, VAN NATURE

- We'll start the day by visiting a private garden designed by **Noël van Mierlo**. Known for his naturalistic style, van Mierlo is a three-time winner of the National Garden of the Year Award plus the Most Sustainable Garden, Netherlands and the Most

Natural Pool. Getting a chance to see a garden by such an accomplished designer is a treat we'll long remember.

- Next we travel to **Kasteel Geldrop**, a 14th century castle, to see the work of planting designer **John Schoolmeesters**. He came to this garden in 2005 to turn the walled fruit and vegetable garden into a contemporary naturalistic perennial and grass garden. The end result is a prime example of a post Dutch Wave garden with an emphasis on color, texture, and shape.
- **Van Nature** is also a post Dutch Wave display garden and nursery, started in 2013, by landscaper **Frank van der Linden**, nursery woman **Caroline van Heeswijk**, and garden designer **Frank Heijligers**. Here we'll see ornamental grasses and perennials that may be difficult to find but have been trialed in the display garden for low maintenance & good habit in all seasons. That's a tall order but it will be fascinating to see what combinations they recommend.

Day 4, August 11, Friday – OUDOLF/HUMMELO, HORTVS

- **Piet Oudolf's** private garden at **Hummelo** has become a place of pilgrimage for thousands of followers from around the world. As the master designer of the New Perennials style of naturalistic planting (which, of course, started as Dutch Wave), Oudolf's garden is a place of experimentation and testing and therefore, constant change. Enclosed by typical Dutch hedges, the interior garden explodes with familiar and new plants in an exuberant, unconventional display. Oudolf has said, "What I try to do is build an image of nature." Here we'll see his current image of nature and draw inspiration from Oudolf's own innovations. This will be a garden experience we'll never forget.
- We'll dip into Germany to see **Hortvs**, the private garden of designer and author **Peter Janke**, considered a rising star in the German landscape design world. The design is inspired by the work of British plantswoman, Beth Chatto, with whom Janke studied in England. We'll see a meadow, a gravel garden, a woodland garden with simple mulched paths, and a wild, abundant herb garden. It's geometric and organic, a beautiful mixture of classic and modern styles.

Day 5, August 12, Saturday – HET LOO, KRÖLLER-MÜLLER

(Today we take a break from Dutch Wave gardens and visit two places that are important to Dutch culture. One is historical and the other is modern.)

- At **Het Loo Palace**, we'll see an example of 17th century formal Dutch garden design, heavily influenced by the French – about as far away as one could get from Dutch Wave. The Great Garden in the back of the palace was designed by a nephew of André Le Nôtre and has a symmetrical axial layout with radiating gravel walks, parterres, statuary, and fountains. In the 18th century, the original Baroque garden was destroyed to make way for a landscape park but it was restored for the palace's 300th anniversary in 1984. There continue to be renovations. Recently the boxwood in the parterres were pulled out due to boxwood blight and replaced with a cultivar of *Ilex crenata*.
- The **Kröller-Müller Museum** is an art museum and sculpture garden set in a national park. We'll spend some time here at the museum itself, seeing the second-largest collection of paintings by Vincent Van Gogh (after the Van Gogh Museum in

Amsterdam) and works by Picasso, Gauguin, Mondrian, and Seurat among many other artists. We'll also want to see the sculpture garden, which has an equally renowned collection of modern sculptures in a beautiful park setting. Then, if there's time, we'll walk along the **Ecological Walking Route** or perhaps take advantage of the free bikes and cycle around the 75 acre national park.

Day 6, August 13, Sunday – CRUYDT HOECK, PRIONA, MIEN RUYS,

- Today our first stop is **Cruydt-Hoeck**, the seed nursery started by the late **Rob Leopold**, a specialist in wildflower seeds and one of the founding members of the Dutch Wave movement. Leopold established the nursery in 1978 to preserve the biodiversity of wild plants, bees, butterflies, and other animals, offering seed mixtures for native wildflower plantings and flower meadows. His influence continues today. A connection with Leopold's work can be made to the much acclaimed landscaping done with seed mixtures at the recent London Olympics site. Since Leopold's death in 2005, the nursery continues under the leadership of **Jasper Helmantel** and **Jojanneke Bijkerk**, designers who are experts in Dutch Wave principles.
- Next we visit **Priona**, the home garden of the late **Henk Gerritsen**, one of the founding members of the Dutch Wave. Gerritsen is credited with developing the main principles of Dutch Wave design and it shows throughout the garden. Wild and cultivated plants grow next to each other. Weeds and pests are tolerated in the name of naturalism. Gerritsen said his design principle is simple: "What is straight should be curved, what is curved should be straight." We'll discuss what that means after our visit to this garden which author Noel Kingsbury has described as "magical and entertaining ... wild and zany."
- Our last garden of the day is the important **Tuinen Mien Ruys**. Here we'll pay homage to the woman many call the "Mother of Modernism," landscape architect **Mien Ruys** (1904-1999). She made these gardens over a period of 70 years and they're a reflection of her amazing creativity. Her style is distinctly architectural but the plantings are loose and naturalistic. There are 28 gardens in all, incorporating old and new styles while using unusual materials and perennial introductions from her father's internationally renowned nursery. Above all, Ruys was experimental. Never afraid to try new things, her garden was an inspiration to the founders of Dutch Wave as it has been to designers from all over the world.

Day 7, August 14, Monday – LIANNE'S SIERGRASSEN, DEWIT GARDEN TOOLS, JAKOBSTUIN

- The theme of today's first garden could be summarized simply as "Plants, Plants, Plants!" **Lianne's Siergrassen** is a well respected Dutch nursery that specializes in Dutch Wave ornamental grasses and perennials. Not only has the owner, **Lianne Pot**, indulged her passion and brought together a virtual living encyclopedia of grasses, she has also created a demonstration Prairie Style Garden arranged in curving beds with over 12,000 dynamic plants. There's probably not one moment in the year that this garden isn't beautiful.
- The Dutch are known for making some of the finest garden tools in the world so we're very fortunate that **DeWit Garden Tools** has invited us to visit their factory and maybe even get a chance to make our own tools. The company was started by Willem de Wit in 1898, and today, the 4th generation of the family is running the

forging operation. You'll note the old-fashioned, top-notch quality, along with innovative designs.

- We continue our tour at **Jakobstuin**, a garden that falls somewhere between Oudolf's current style and Prairie Style. The owner and designer, **Jaap de Vries**, calls Jakobstuin an "Ode to the Dutch Wave." In addition to warm season grasses typical of the North American Prairie, de Vries also uses many perennial selections favored in the New Perennial movement and arranges plants in the currently popular matrix pattern. Look carefully and you'll notice that he pays particular attention to texture, form, and light, which is probably the reason his daily photo posts on **Facebook** are loved by hundreds of followers.

Day 8, August 15, Tuesday – GARTEN MOORRIEM, DE KLEINE PLANTAGE, TUIN AAN HET WEELTJE

- Our final day starts with a drive into Germany where we'll visit **Garten Moorriem, Ute and Albrecht Ziburski's** garden begun in 2006. Starting at the 300 year old house, we'll see skillful combinations of perennials and grasses starting that get wilder the farther away from the house they are. We'll cross a garden bridge to see the final plantings that come into their full glory in late summer against the backdrop of a wide native meadow landscape. This is a garden that plays with the illusion of naturalness to achieve great atmospheric effect.
- We'll return to The Netherlands to visit, **Kwekerij De Kleine Plantage**, a specialty nursery very much in the spirit of the Dutch Wave. In its beautiful display garden, we'll see the latest in sturdy, textural perennials and grasses planted in alcoves off of a crisp, hedge-lined avenue extending from the house. Since everything is labeled, this will be our chance to find out the names of those plants that we've been seeing all week but didn't know. De Kleine Plantage will remain in our memories as a green oasis showing great love for plants and design.
- The final garden of our tour is **Tuin aan het Weeltje**, a private garden designed by **Piet Oudolf**. Large groups of grasses are combined with delicately colored perennials. Here will be our chance to see how Oudolf's ideas fit into a home garden with typical Dutch landscape elements of water, reed, and ancient willow trees. Maybe we'll pick up some tips to apply to our own gardens when we get home.

Day 9, August 16, Wednesday – DEPART or CONTINUE TRAVELS

- Our time together will come to an end but the true garden lover always finds fresh inspiration wherever she is. Travelers can choose to return home or carry on the adventure. We'll provide coach transfer to the airport at 8:00 AM for those with flights leaving at 11:00 AM or later. Or you can take the train or taxi from Central Station to the airport.