

A Visit to the Botanical Garden in Koryciny

Eva Scherer



Eva Scherer was born in Poland and has a Masters Degree in Agriculture from Warsaw University of Life Science (SGGW). After working in the Government Sector in Warsaw, she moved into the self-employed arena practising natural medicine, massage and herbalism. After emigrating to New Zealand in 1996 she created the brand of 'YMassages' with several sports massage clinics operating in Auckland.

For the past few years Eva has been involved with the Ngataringa Community Garden developing and running several programmes for children in the local community; Medicinal Weed Tours, Junior Assistants and, recently, the popular Herb Fairies. They all contain elements of the CMC programme focusing on and developing love, respect and care for nature.

In 2018 she was awarded the Silver Cross of Merit from the Polish Government for her programmes for children.



Poland supplies 12% of all the world's herbal production, with a large proportion coming from Mirosław Angielczyk's business located on his family land in Koryciny. His kingdom is situated in a clean and pristine area approximately 200 km from Warsaw.

Koryciny is hard to reach as there are poor roads inherited from the communist period but when you finally arrive there, you will be amazed with the beauty of this place.



Formally established in 2007 – Podlaski Botanical Garden in Koryciny contains 1,500 taxonomic groups of medicinal and aromatic herbs including 85 under restricted protection - and 13 under semi-protection. The Botanical Garden regularly publishes Index Seminum from its collection and is involved in seed exchanges with 45 national and international institutions.



Plants growing in Podlaski Botanical Garden are classified in different ways from the point of view of:

- 1) The environment they grow in: forest, pasture, swampy areas, or still and flowing water
- 2) The way they are used: culinary, medicinal, dyeing fabrics, building industry and also in shamanic practices
- 3) Botanical family.

Every year the National Institute of Technology www.pwsc.pl organises Herbal Conferences in Koryciny. Last year, my presentation of the Herb Fairies Academy which I created in Ngataringa Organic Garden in Auckland was very well received by participants at the Conference (Nog Garden, 2019).



Koryciny hosts students from PWSC (Institute of Technology) as well as overseas students to offer experience in growing and caring for herbs, as well as teaching them marketing and people skills including how to manage tourists in both a natural and business environment.



A very important part of Miroslaw 's kingdom is based around herbal manufacture and the “Dary Natury” brand which was established almost 40 years ago (Dary Natury, n.d.).

In Koryciny you can feel what was common in older generations of farmers as well as peasants - a feeling of love for nature and herbs, as well as a feeling of love for Mother Earth.



Miroslaw’s vision started in childhood when he helped his grandmother to pick herbs in surrounding forests. It is what Miroslaw and I have in common – a passion to pass the love of herbs and nature – biofilia – onto children. Numerous groups of kindergarten children visit the Botanical Gardens every day.

On the last Sunday of June each year and, at the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere, there is a celebration of Mother Earth and herbs called Wianki which means ‘wreaths’. The holiday is named after the tradition of floating handmade herbal wreaths down the river as a part of the pagan summer solstice. Families with children come to Koryciny to participate in the Festival, listen to music , dance, and watch the performances of children from local schools. This year there were also representatives from New Zealand with Wahine and Rangatira Herb Fairies from Ngataringa Organic Garden depicted as small marionettes which Eva passed to Miroslaw. ✨



All images in this article were taken by Eva Scherer.