



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

# 2017 CALENDAR

— 125 Years of Research —

# A Jubilee Message

**D**ear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology in Plön will celebrate several anniversaries in 2017, and we are pleased to invite you to take part in celebrating our Jubilee year with this calendar.

It was 125 years ago that the Institute opened in Plön, and it was 100 years ago that the Institute was inducted into the Kaiser Wilhelm Society/Max Planck Society. Ten years ago, the Institute was renamed to the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, which corresponds to the newly established research direction.

This provides an opportunity to give you a historical overview of our history and highlights the outstanding scientific research that takes place within our walls. Different activities will be organized throughout the 2017 jubilee year, and this calendar is one of them.

Our Institute is one of the oldest institutes within the Max Planck Society. In 1892, Emil Otto Zacharias opened the *Biological Station* in Plön. The aim of this station was to study freshwater biology, while being situated very close to numerous inland bodies of water. Plön offered the best location for this purpose with its surrounding lakes, possessing the largest inland bodies of water between the Baltic and the North Sea.

After the death of Zacharias in 1916, the station was taken over by the Kaiser Wilhelm Society in 1917, exactly 100 years ago. August Thienemann was appointed director of the *Hydrobiological Institution* and became managing director of the institute.

The scientific focus shifted towards the exploration of inland waters as an ecosystem, and Thienemann would play a world-leading role in Plön over the subsequent 40 years.

Shortly after the Second World War, the institute was taken over by the newly-founded Max Planck Society (MPG), which continues the tradition of the former Kaiser Wilhelm Society (KWG). With the *Hydrobiological Institution* of the MPG expanding rapidly, a larger building was constructed just a short walk away. It is here that the MPI is still located. The research institution was first named *Max Planck Institute for Limnology* in 1966.

*We are pleased to invite you  
to take part in celebrating  
our Jubilee year with this  
calendar.*

Limnology and tropical research were the main scientific foci of the Institute after the appointment of the directors Harald Sioli and Hans Jürgen Overbeck. In particular, a cooperation with Brazil was reached for exploring the Amazon basin from the city of Manaus.

The third director came to the Plön Institute in 1984. With his research in the field of ecophysiology, Winfried Lampert laid the foundation for today's scientific orientation of the institute. The Max Planck Society decided to reorient the focus of the Institute to a new field of research, evolutionary biology, but to maintain its location at Plön.

Manfred Milinski was appointed as the fifth director of the institute in 1999, and his *Evolutionary Ecology* department was established. In 2007, after the retirement of Winfried Lampert, the institute's name was changed to its current title, the *Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology*. The previous year, Diethard Tautz became an additional director of the institute and the head of the *Evolutionary Genetics* department. In 2014, the *Department of Evolutionary Theory* was set up under the leadership of the youngest director, Arne Traulsen.

Today, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology consists of three departments with eight affiliated and five independent research groups. Currently, 160 employees from over 25 countries work at our institute.

By the time that you receive this calendar, we are confident that Paul Rainey from New Zealand will be the newest director of our Institute after having successfully completed his negotiations.

The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology hopes that you will enjoy our monthly impressions and retrospectives in this anniversary calendar. ■

Arne Traulsen  
Managing Director  
Dept of Evolutionary Theory  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology

Kerstin Mehner  
Scientific Coordinator  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology





**The City of Plön:** Plön is located in the heart of Schleswig-Holstein, the northernmost of the German states. During the last Ice Age, much of this area was covered in ice; the retreat of glaciers left behind the landscape of gentle hills and numerous lakes that currently shape Plön and the surrounding Holsteinische Schweiz. The 15 lakes surrounding the modest 7.8 km<sup>2</sup> of land area are the last remaining witnesses of this icy period. In 1236, Plön was awarded city rights, and in the following centuries it changed hands between Germany and Denmark several times. The town served as the summer residency of the last Hohenzollern Emperor, William II, whose sons were educated here for a period of time. Today, Plön has around 8,700 inhabitants and hosts the only Max Planck Institute in the state of Schleswig-Holstein - the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology.

# JANUARY 2017



## BÜRGERMEISTER

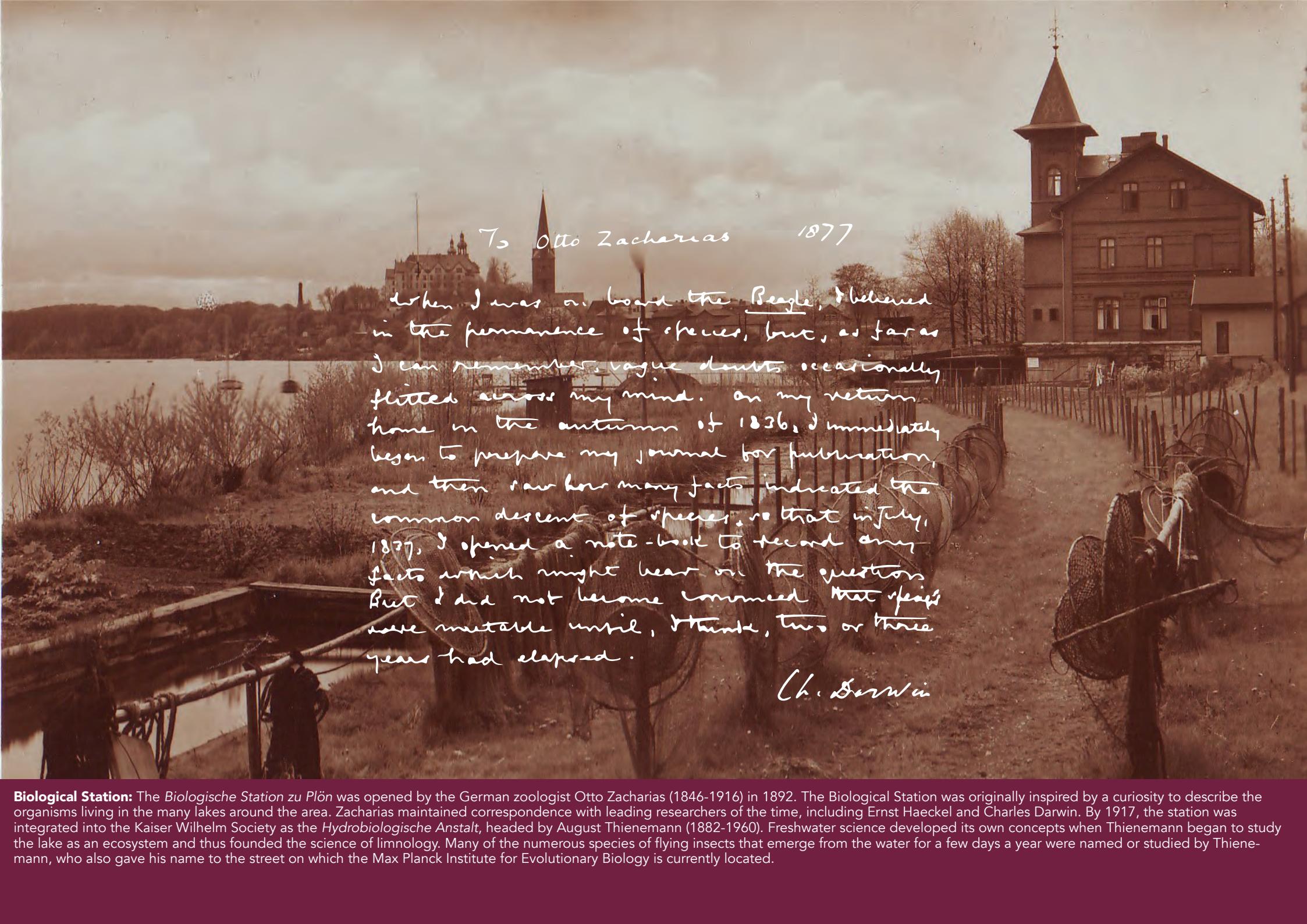


It seems that the present MPI would not exist without the help of the very progressive mayor of Plön, Bürgermeister Kinder, who was excited by the vision of Otto Zacharias in 1890. The very conservative members of the town council were strongly opposed to this supposed waste of money, but when the mayor confronted them with 3000 Goldmark from an anonymous donor, they changed their minds and agreed to build the house at the Großer Plöner See that became the Biological Station. ■

Winfried Lampert  
Emeritus Professor  
Former Director  
MPI for Limnology

Photo: Großer Plöner See, with Plön in the background.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Dec 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1 <i>New Year's Day</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5



To Otto Zacharias 1877

When I was on board the Beagle, I believed in the permanence of species, but, as far as I can remember, vague doubts occasionally flitted across my mind. On my return home in the autumn of 1836, I immediately began to prepare my journal for publication, and then saw how many facts indicated the common descent of species; so that in July, 1837, I opened a note-book to record any facts which might bear on the question. But I did not become convinced that species were mutable until, I think, two or three years had elapsed.

C. Darwin

**Biological Station:** The Biologische Station zu Plön was opened by the German zoologist Otto Zacharias (1846-1916) in 1892. The Biological Station was originally inspired by a curiosity to describe the organisms living in the many lakes around the area. Zacharias maintained correspondence with leading researchers of the time, including Ernst Haeckel and Charles Darwin. By 1917, the station was integrated into the Kaiser Wilhelm Society as the *Hydrobiologische Anstalt*, headed by August Thienemann (1882-1960). Freshwater science developed its own concepts when Thienemann began to study the lake as an ecosystem and thus founded the science of limnology. Many of the numerous species of flying insects that emerge from the water for a few days a year were named or studied by Thienemann, who also gave his name to the street on which the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology is currently located.

# FEBRUARY 2017



## TO OTTO ZACHARIAS



When I was on board the Beagle, I believed in the permanence of species, but, as far as I can remember, vague doubts occasionally flitted across my mind. On my return home in the autumn of 1836, I immediately began to prepare my journal for publication, and then saw how many facts indicated the common descent of species, so that in July 1839, I opened a note-book to record any facts which might bear on the question. But I did not become convinced that species were mutable until, I think, two or three years had elapsed. ■

*Ch. Darwin*  
Charles Darwin  
English Naturalist  
Personal Correspondence  
1877

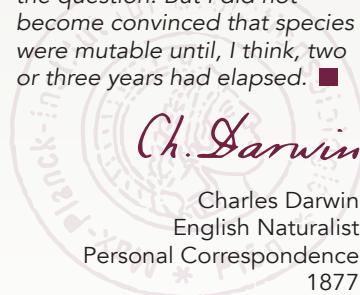


Photo: Biologische Station, ~1900.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Jan 30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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*Public lecture by  
Chaitanya Gokhale*

*Darwin Day*

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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*Valentine's Day*

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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*Founding of the MPG in  
succession of the KVG;  
admission of the Anstalt  
in MPG as the  
Hydrobiologische Anstalt  
der MPG*

27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
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**MPI for Limnology:** In 1948, the Hydrobiological Institution became part of the Max Planck Society, and in 1966 under the direction of Harald Sioli (1910-2004) it received the name of Max Planck Institute for Limnology. Initially, there were two departments: General Limnology, led by Hans Jürgen Overbeck (1923-2013), and Tropical Ecology led by Harald Sioli. In 1984, the Department of Ecophysiology was established and headed by Winfred Lampert, while the workgroup of Wolfgang Junk continued research into Tropical Ecology. During this time, the institute made numerous significant contributions to understanding aquatic and terrestrial environments throughout the world. For example, the institute played an important early role in the development of the concept of food webs, diagrams of which can be seen in most school biology textbooks to this day.

# MARCH 2017



## NO DAY IS THE SAME



Responsibility over mice and men, tackling scientific and technological challenges, and the administration over animal welfare – these aspects compose the colorful mixture that paints the different challenges I face each day. They fill me with happiness and serenity, and better equip me for my own life. To me, the most beautiful aspect of my work is the freedom to pursue and implement my own ideas. No day resembles the next, and I never face the risk of settling into a routine. "No day is the same - routine is different!" ■

Christine Pfeifle  
Head of Mouse Management  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology

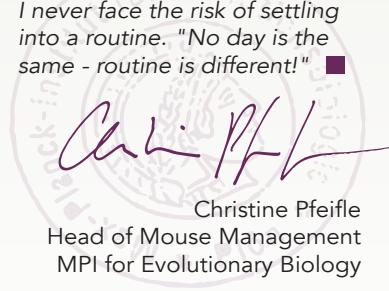


Photo: Peter Zwick, Limnologische Fluss-Station in Schlitz, Germany, ~1970.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Feb 27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
		Ash Wednesday				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Public lecture by John Baines					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			MPI for Limnology renamed to MPI for Evolutionary Biology, 2007			Daylight Savings Begins
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2



**MPI for Evolutionary Biology:** During the late 1990s, the Max Planck Society decided to change the research direction of the institute from Limnology to Evolutionary Biology. At that time, the field of Evolutionary Biology was not well established in Germany, and the Max Planck Society wanted to support its development. As a result, in 1999 the department Evolutionary Ecology was established with Manfred Milinski as its head. Diethard Tautz arrived in 2006 as head of the Department of Evolutionary Genetics, and Arne Traulsen has led the Evolutionary Theory department since 2014. In 2007, after Winfried Lampert retired as the last director of the MPI for Limnology, the institute changed its name to the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology. The institute has quickly grown, and today it hosts more than 80 scientists from all over the world, more than 70 technical and administrative staff, and three departments with eight affiliated and five independent research groups.

# APRIL 2017



## FIRST TIME IN PLÖN



The first time I came to Plön was in late autumn of 2006. The weather was not good, and because Plön didn't have enough hotel capacity at that time, we stayed in Malente. Therefore, I got the same opinion as so many others who arrive for the first time: it's a very remote place, detached from everything, and not worth returning to. As it happens, my second visit was that December together with my wife, where we were greeted with a wonderful snowy landscape, a very warm welcome by members of the institute, and a memorable "Gänseessen" at the Prinzeninsel. I have never regretted my decision to come here, and of course, once you know Plön better, you understand that this is actually the place to which you want to return! ■

Diethard Tautz

Director

Dept. Evolutionary Genetics  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology

Photo: Max Planck Institute for  
Evolutionary Biology, aerial view.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Monday			Good Friday			
Founding of Plön Biological Station, 1891			Admission of Biological Station into KWG, 1917			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Girls' and Boys' Day					Application deadline for IMPRS program	



**Amazonian Research:** Prof. Wolfgang J. Junk arrived at the INPA (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia) in Manaus in 1967 and came to the MPI for Limnology in 1980 together with Winfried Lampert. Working in the Brazilian rainforests, he had to deal with poor facility conditions that made it necessary to transport specimens to Germany for controlled experimentation, and Plön became home to many colorful and exotic creatures. During Brazil's military dictatorship (1964-84), no foreign institution was permitted to do research in the country, with the exception of the Max Planck Institute in Plön. This was due to the excellent partnership that MPI director Harald Sioli had set up with the INPA — one that afforded the MPI for Limnology with a unique research opportunity that set it ahead in the world of Amazonian research.

# MAY 2017



## AMAZON



In 1989, two American colleagues and I published the internationally recognized 'Flood Pulse Concept', which describes the ecological conditions in floodplains worldwide, and predicts their behavior when environmental conditions change. We expanded the Plön work on the Pantanal of Mato Grosso, a huge floodplain in the area, over a 12-year multi-institutional program funded by the German Ministry of Education (BMBF) and the Brazilian Research Council (CNPQ) Center of South America. The collaboration between the Max Planck Society and the INPA is currently being pursued by the Institute of Chemistry in Mainz, which examines questions about the chemistry of the atmosphere above the tropical rainforest. ■

*Dr. W. Junk*

Wolfgang J. Junk  
Emeritus Professor  
MPI for Limnology

Photo: Dr. Walter Egler, research camp in Manaus, Brazil, ~1960.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Labor Day</i>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>Ascension Day</i>						
29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3	4



**Model Organisms:** The employees of the MPI work on selected model organisms from the kingdoms of yeasts, bacteria, parasites, plants, fungi and animals. These have short generation times and are relatively inexpensive and easy to keep. Often, well-established and documented methods for their study facilitate the work. The majority of scientists study fish, especially the three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), and mice, i.e. the house mouse (*Mus musculus*). Both species are ideal organisms to understand topics such as mate choice and adaptation. However, yeast, bacteria, parasites, plants and birds help us to answer various evolutionary questions. To generate new knowledge, we employ a large variety of genomic and other modern techniques and also use mathematical methods and computer simulations.

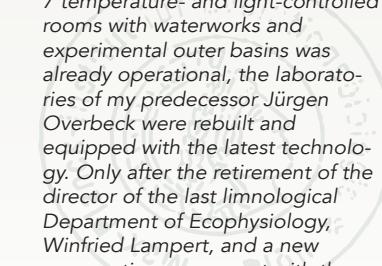
# JUNE 2017



## TRANSITION



The MPG wanted to abandon the limnology in Plön. The president at this time, Professor Hubert Markl, asked me whether I would be willing to change my chair in Switzerland with the position of the founding director of an MPI for Evolutionary Biology. My concept with two empirical and one theoretical department was approved. I started as a director at the Institute and head of the Department of Evolutionary Ecology in October 1999, and later as Managing Director. A new aquarium area with 7 temperature- and light-controlled rooms with waterworks and experimental outer basins was already operational, the laboratories of my predecessor Jürgen Overbeck were rebuilt and equipped with the latest technology. Only after the retirement of the director of the last limnological Department of Ecophysiology, Winfried Lampert, and a new cooperation agreement with the University of Kiel, the Institute was allowed to be renamed MPI for Evolutionary Biology in 2007, although Winfried had already begun the transition to evolutionary biology. ■

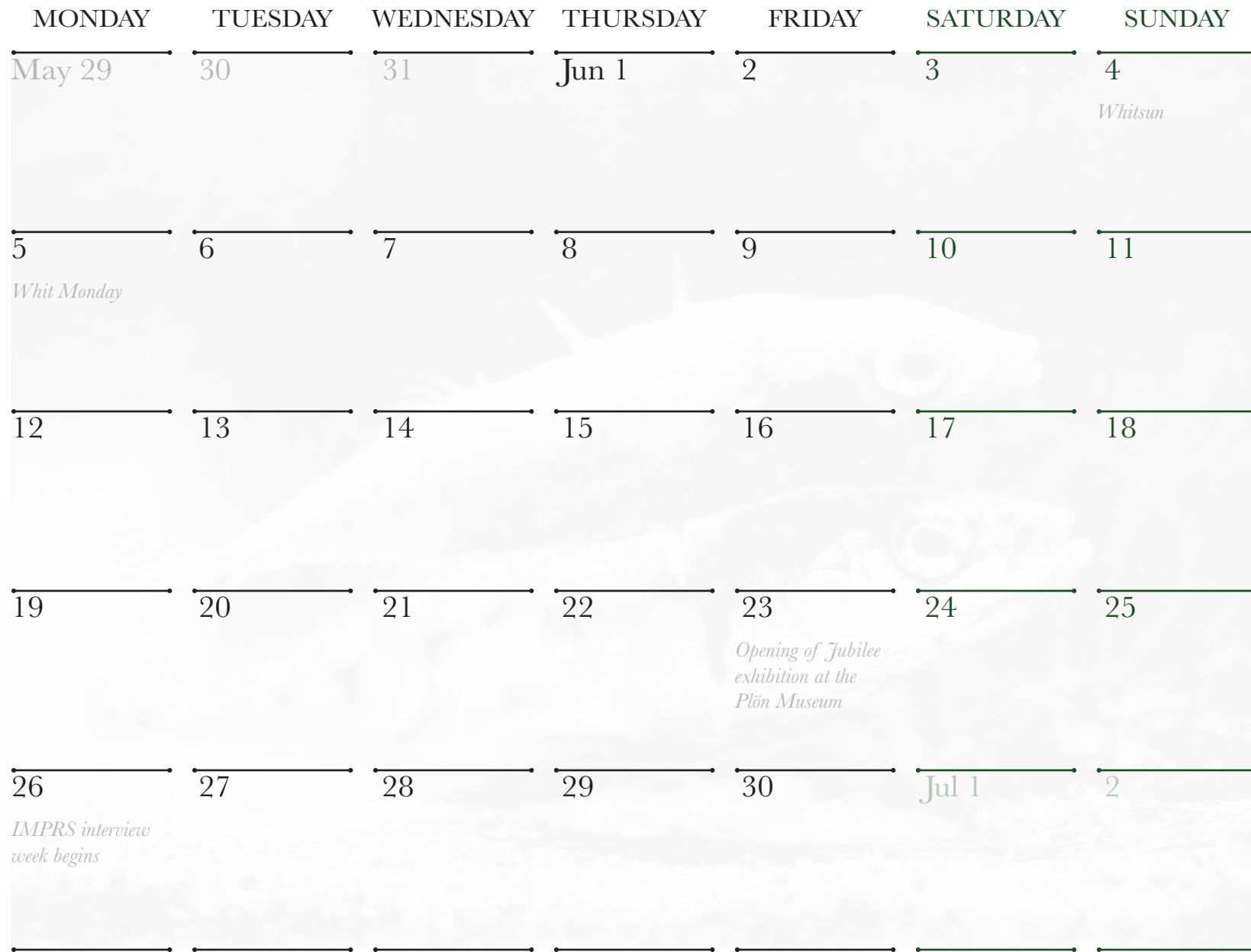


*m. milinski*

Manfred Milinski  
Director

Dept. Evolutionary Ecology  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology

Photo: Model organisms of the MPI.





**Education:** Education has always been a very important aspect of the Institute's activities, even from very early on. The first doctoral student who worked in Plön – Friedrich Lenz - graduated in 1921 and was soon followed by others from Germany and abroad. Many of the Institute's international alumni went on to establish limnology and ecology centers after returning to their home countries. Since 2010, the Institute has been associated with the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Evolutionary Biology, which is established in partnership with University of Kiel (CAU) and the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research in Kiel. The school attracts excellent students from all over the world. Furthermore, proper technical assistance in a scientific institution is crucial to its success, and regular and structured training of the technical staff in Plön began in the 1970s. The first apprentice, or "Azubi", was Inge Grüneberg. She graduated in 1976 and was followed by many excellent Azubis who are continuously being trained here every year.

# JULY 2017



## WORKING AT THE MPI



How did it come about that I came to Plön? Actually, without Prof. Lillelund, the father of a school friend of mine, I would have never even heard of Plön, let alone the MPI. And yet there I arrived, not only to complete my vocational training, but for as long as 20 years! The facilities available at the MPI back then are not at all comparable with those some later years or even more so today. The main part of the education was therefore in Borstel, as at the MPI Plön only the classical departments existed. Water chemistry with Mr. Albrecht dominated! Besides, of course, the beautiful nature surrounding Plön, what I really valued (as I am aware of today) was the informal, laissez-faire atmosphere. Back then, the MPI had a kitchen under the roof and we used to cook our lunch there, talking and eating pleasantly together. I would say the work environment is very people-friendly. Yes, I do feel a little wistful looking back. ■



Inge Grüneberg  
First MPI apprentice, 1976  
MPI lab technician for 20 years  
Currently a translator in Dresden

*Photo: Foundation of the Int. Assoc. of Theoretical and Applied Limnology, 1922*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Jun 26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6

*Hydrobiologische Anstalt  
der MPG renamed to  
MPI for Limnology,  
1966*

*Jubilee Ceremonial  
Act*



**Support Staff:** "Flexibility is key." This statement is the maxim of many of our longest-standing staff members, when asked to describe their job at the institute. The success of the institute is only made possible by a great spirit of cooperation between all scientific and non-scientific staff. Lab technicians, animal caretakers, secretaries, administration, IT, building maintenance, and cleaning personnel make everyday research possible at the MPI. Many of our support staff have worked for different directors, witnessed changes in research directions, study organisms, and learned and developed new methods and technical approaches. Given the constant evolution of science, we rely on support at many different levels in order to operate. After all this time, our institute would not be standing if it was not for this precious stability and collaboration.

# AUGUST 2017



## RESEARCH AT THE MPI



For us, as visitors from behind the just eroding iron curtain, who had to cross four borders on our way to Plön from Warsaw with harsh pass control at each one, the Max Planck Institute for Limnology seemed like a real oasis of openness. There was a free exchange of scientific ideas in a very international and interdisciplinary environment, established and passionately supported by Professors Winfried Lampert. We both experienced the stimulating atmosphere in a friendly, though competitive (in its most positive sense), group of PhD students and scientists (who are now distinguished professors all over the world). Constant and professional assistance of technicians and administration staff, plus modern laboratory facilities, offered a perfect ecological niche. We enjoyed, and eagerly exploited, all of its dimensions.



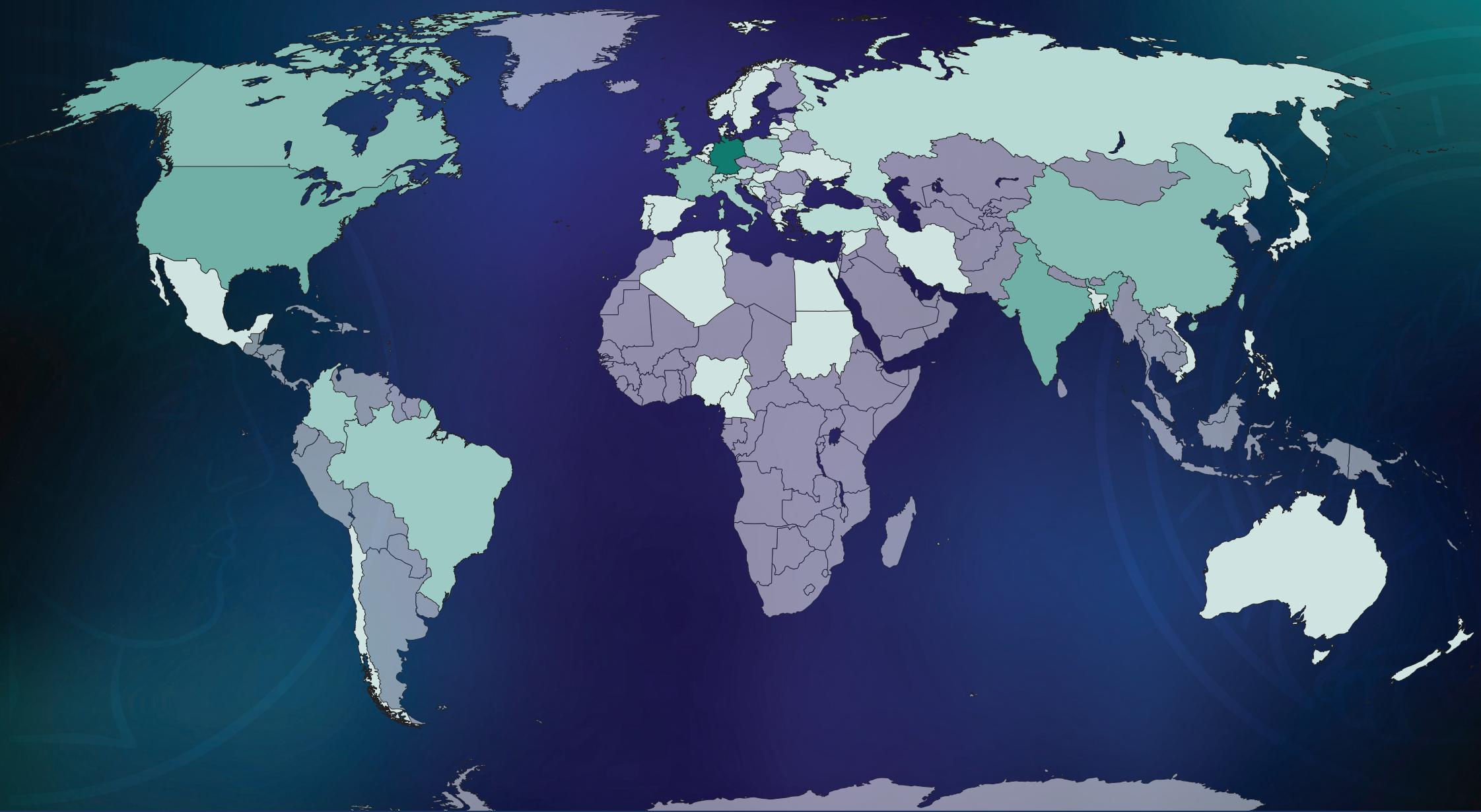
Limnology seemed like a real oasis of openness. There was a free exchange of scientific ideas in a very international and interdisciplinary environment, established and passionately supported by Professors Winfried Lampert. We both experienced the stimulating atmosphere in a friendly, though competitive (in its most positive sense), group of PhD students and scientists (who are now distinguished professors all over the world). Constant and professional assistance of technicians and administration staff, plus modern laboratory facilities, offered a perfect ecological niche. We enjoyed, and eagerly exploited, all of its dimensions.

Piotr Dawidowicz  
MPI Post-doctoral Fellow  
1990-1992

Joanna Pijanowska  
MPI Post-doctoral Fellow  
1991-1993

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Sept 1	2	3

No. of MPI members  
1 3 6 9 12 15 ≥355



**Diversity at the MPI:** As an international institute, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology invites talented scientists, students, and non-academic employees from all over the world. Starting in the 1930's, the Institute attracted its first foreign PhD student, and has been welcoming foreign talents ever since. From 1980 to 2016, 531 people from 52 countries, spanning six continents, have worked and studied at the institute. Currently, 162 people from 29 countries work or study here, with one-third of them being international. All of the MPI's research groups enjoy frequent and close international collaboration, along with a multitude of visiting scientists and interns who visit the institute for shorter durations.

# SEPTEMBER 2017



## COLLABORATION



The diversity, both in terms of research foci, but also cultural differences that I interact with here at the institute, is what fascinates, motivates and satisfies me most. ■

*Sabine Meier*

Sabine Meier  
Secretary  
Dept for Evolutionary Genetics  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology



In terms of science, the presence of many nationalities at the Max Planck Institute creates an environment of diversity in how to formulate and answer questions. As a person, the multiple cultural backgrounds enrich the knowledge and view from the world. All in all, as with the lakes around Plön, the convergence of people all over the world form a unique landscape for science and personal growth. ■

*Juan Sebastian Lugo Ramos*

Juan Sebastian Lugo Ramos  
PhD student  
International Max Planck Research School for Evolutionary Biology

Photo: Distribution of nationalities at the MPI, January 1980 to July 2016.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Aug 28	29	30	31	Sept 1	2	3





**Research Technology:** Perhaps it is surprising, but despite its appearances, Plön has been home to some very advanced technology over the last century, all in the pursuit of answering basic questions about the natural world, with the intent of sharing that knowledge with the public. Amphibious vehicles have parked in the garage, used for collecting lake samples. Enormous 12 meter water columns have pierced the building from top-to-bottom, littered with sampling ports and windows for observing the migration patterns of zooplankton from nearby lakes. Buildings have been erected to study the behavior and evolution of all manner of species from all over the world, and the computational power to analyze that data has kept pace with the advancement of technology. While a casual observer may appreciate Plön for its excellent canoeing or its peaceful atmosphere, it does not take long to realize that it is home to some of the most advanced research technology in all of Schleswig-Holstein.

# OCTOBER 2017



## PLANKTON TOWERS



In 1988 we established the Plankton Towers, a 12 meters high, unique research facility that simulated a lake under controlled conditions in the laboratory. This raised huge interest of colleagues, particularly in the USA, thinking how they could use it to test their hypotheses. They would always ask me "What does it costs to run an experiment there?" When my stereotype answer was "A good idea," they would not believe it, but they learned something about the research strategy of the Max Planck Society. ■

Winfried Lampert  
Emeritus Professor  
Former Director  
MPI for Limnology

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sept 25	26	27	29	30	31	Oct 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Day of German Unity</i>						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Daylight Savings Ends</i>						
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5
<i>Reformation Day Halloween</i>						



**Technology:** In 1968, Professor Overbeck was looking for someone to take care of his data analyses, and found the perfect candidate when he employed the accomplished mathematician Hans-Jürgen Krambeck, who laid the groundwork for the development of the institute's IT department. The early days were characterized by pioneering work. In those days, programs and data were still stored on punchcards that were analyzed at Kiel University on the Zuse – one of the first functional program-controlled computers requiring special training to use. Flipping a switch out of order was enough to break the entire system, so very highly trained specialists were employed. Over the years, the institute developed various measurement- and control-systems, one of which was installed at the Plußsee. This measuring plant collected physical parameters of that lake throughout the year. To collect and download these data, the employees would row or swim to the small island where the measuring facility was installed.

# NOVEMBER 2017



## MPI IN THE '70s



The present generation cannot even begin to imagine how the Institute was operated and run in the 1970s. There was, for example, no Xerox machine – if someone needed a copy of a current article, they would need to physically borrow it using an interlibrary loan. Alternately, the work could be photographed and laboriously developed to generate a copy. As a result of our Department of Tropical Ecology the Institute housed a wide assortment of exotic animals, including coati that gnawed at visitors' shoelaces, scaly caimans, and blue-fronted amazons. The Institute more closely resembled a zoo than it does now. ■

Hans-Jürgen Krambeck  
Former Head of  
Information Technology  
MPI for Limnology

Photo: Arrangement of old and new MPI technology.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Oct 30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3

*Public lecture*

*Remembrance Day*

*Eternity Sunday*



**Looking Towards the New Year:** Here at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, we are focused on research to unravel general evolutionary processes. However, while the species we study have evolved, so too has the Institute itself. Over the last 125 years, it has gradually developed from a small lakeside biological station into a proud member of the prestigious Max Planck Society. With collaborators all around the world, and outstanding research that is expanding our knowledge little by little every day, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology has a long and established history of exceptional scientific investigation, and is poised to continue for many years to come.

# DECEMBER 2017



## EXPANDING RESEARCH



Expertise, a high level of service orientation and a friendly and respectful cooperation are the relevant parameters of a modern administration. We are required to ensure that all rules and regulations are dealt with in a manner that is appropriate for science. A transparent and lively communication between scientists and administrative staff on each other's needs and necessities is the be-all and end-all of good cooperation. For our Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology at Plön, it is my wish that the administrative staff-teams will be allowed to grow as fast as our revolving expanding Institute. In my opinion, that's the only way to continue a professional, appreciative and trustful cooperation between science and administration to enable ongoing excellent research. ■

*Isabel Palmtag*

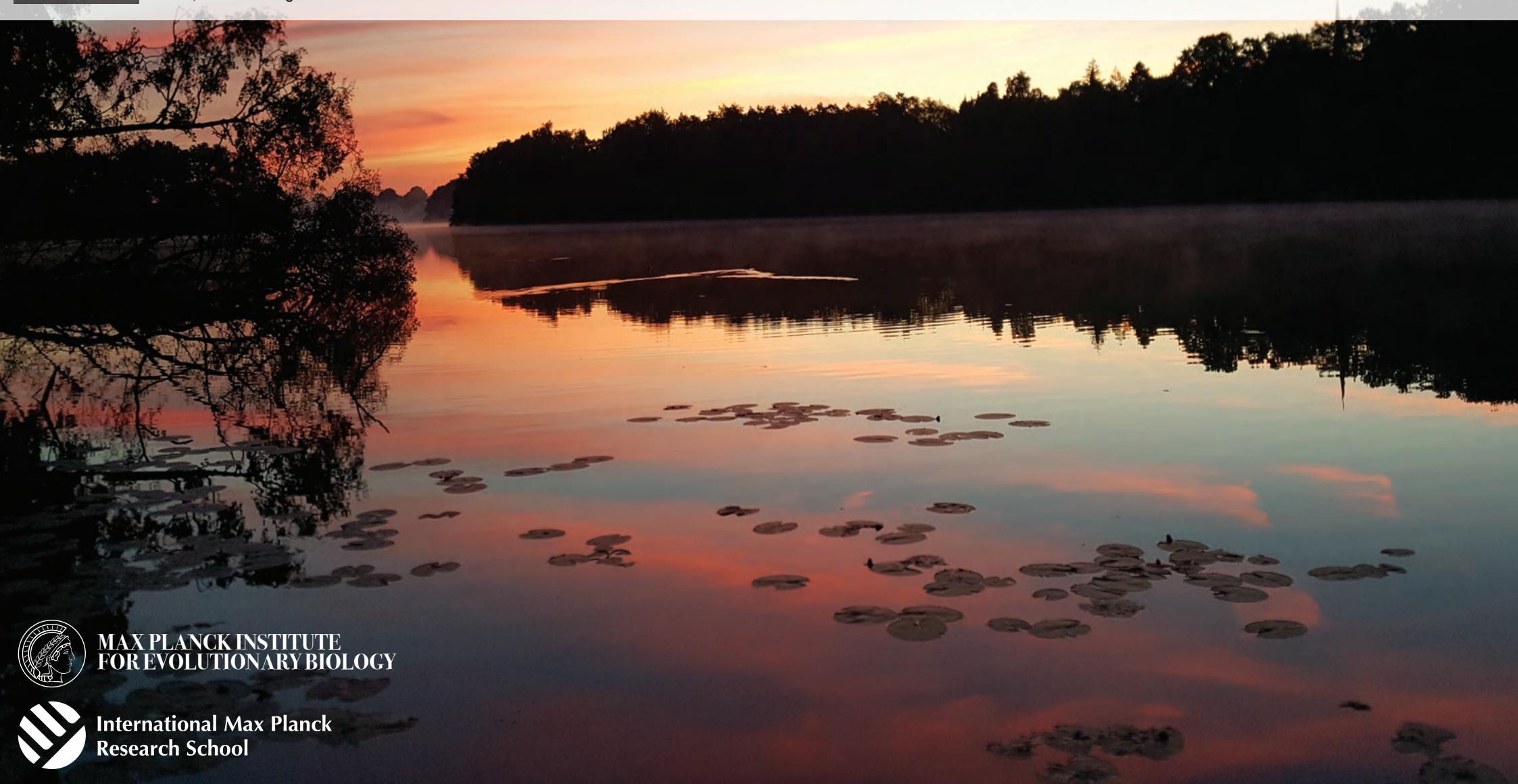
Isabel Palmtag  
Head of Administration  
MPI for Evolutionary Biology

Photo: Frozen Großer Plöner See, 2012.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
						<i>First Advent</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<i>Public lecture</i>	<i>Saint Nicholas</i>				<i>Second Advent</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
						<i>Third Advent</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						<i>Fourth Advent</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						<i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Second Day of Christmas</i> <i>New Year's Eve</i>



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2 **Cover photo:** Iben Martinsen. **Intro page photo:** Heike Harre. **January:** Heike Harre. **February:** Archive photos, Biological Station. **March:** Archive photos, MPI for Limnology. **April:** (1) Archive photos, MPI for Evolutionary Biology, (2) Archive, 1988, (3) Archive, 2007, (4, 5, 6) Heike Harre. **May:** Harald Sioli. **June:** (1) Nina Hafer (2) Camilo Medina, (3) Michael Schwarz, (4) Sunna Ellendt, (5) Gernot Segelbacher, (6, 7) Michael Schwarz, (8) Guy Reeves, (9) Eric Miller. **July:** Archive photos, Hydrobiological Institution. **August:** Archive photo, Plön Hydrobiological Institution. **September:** Chen Xie. **October:** Robert W. Sterner. **November:** Werner Wegner. **December:** (1, 2) Ellen McConnell (3) Chaitanya Gokhale, (4) Neva Skrabar, (5) Iben Martinsen. **Rear page photo:** Christoph Gahr. **MPI staff photo:** Werner Wegner.  
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