Background

The Brandis, Schenck, and Pinchot names are etched into the foundation of modern forestry. The three men Sir Dietrich Brandis, Carl Alwin Schenck, and Gifford Pinchot were united by a common ambition that the forests were to be preserved as a resource for the people and future generations. Together, they set their sights on the United States of America. At the end of the nineteenth century the nation was teetering on the edge of environmental collapse. Generations of clear cutting and forest exploitation left the wooded lands of America with a bleak outlook. Recognizing the urgency that America was facing in the 1890s, Sir Dietrich Brandis began to take pupils to deliver the scientific field of forestry across the Atlantic Ocean. Brandis derived his insight and wisdom from his own experience of establishing a national forest system in British India. His two chosen pupils were to become America’s first foresters were Gifford Pinchot, and Carl Alwin Schenck. Both were young and able men driven by a passion for forest sustainability. Through the trio’s fortitude and perseverance, they were able to deter the young nation from environmental catastrophe while developing a number of universities of forestry as well as the United States Forest Service. Modern environmentalism owes much to these three families. However, as the world faced the hurdles of the twentieth century the relationships that these families shared was set adrift. Now the historical tide has reversed course and the forthcoming event will allow the three families to rekindle the relationships that their forefathers began, relationships that sculpted environmentalism as we know it.

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introduction**: Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer, Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
- **Reuniting Legacies**: Jameson Karns, Historian, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), PhD Candidate, University of California, Berkeley
- **The Heritage of Sir Dietrich Brandis**: Widow of Prof. Dr. Henning Brandis, the Grandson of Lady Katharina Brandis, and Co-Founder of the Sir Dietrich Brandis Foundation, Bonn
- **The Brandis Foundation**: Dr. Andreas Sedlatschek, Nephew of Dr. Ursula Brandis, Member of the Sir Dietrich Brandis Foundation Board
- **Recovering the Schenck Heritage – Introduction**: Klaus Bräunig, Great Grand Nephew of Carl Alwin Schenck
- **The Schenck Family in Darmstadt**: Leopold Jaroljmek, Great Great Grand Nephew of Carl Alwin Schenck, historian, Darmstadt
- **Carl Alwin Schenck in Lindenfels – A retrospective**: Dr. Christoph von Rhöneck, Grand Nephew of Carl Alwin Schenck
- **Living with and interpreting History**: Robert Beanblossom, United States Forest Service, Cradle of Forestry in America, Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina; Volunteer Caretaker
Symposium Participants

The Schenck Family
Herr Klaus Bräunig
Herr Christoph von Rhöneck
Herr Leopold Jarolemek

The Brandis Family
Frau Dr. Ursula Brandis
Herr Dr. Andreas Sedlatschek

The Cradle of Forestry
Frau Judy Beanblossom
Herr Robert Beanblossom

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
Herr Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer
Herr Jameson Karns
Herr John Karns

Some Visual Impressions

Opening Session in Oberkirch’s “Saal”
Jameson Karns introducing the symposium
Opening Session in Oberkirch’s “Saal”
From left to right – Robert Beanblossom, John Karns, Leopold Jaroljmek, Klaus Bräunig, Christoph von Röhneck

Continuing Session in Oberkirch’s “Wohnzimmer”:
Johann Georg Goldammer, Leopold Jaroljmek, Klaus Bräunig and Christoph von Röhneck

Ursula Brandis and Andreas Sedlatschek presenting the heritage of Sir Dietrich Brandis
Jameson Karns listening to Robert Beanblossom

Judy Beanblossom, Ursula Brandis, Andreas Sedlatschek and John Karns

Jameson Karns handing over a remnant of Sir Dietrich Brandis’ Office (front shield of the drawer that contained the files of 1902) to Ursula Brandis
In return, Ursula Brandis donated a painting of Lady Katharina Brandis to Jameson Karns

The Brandis and Schenck Families reunited: Andreas Sedlatschek, Ursula Brandis and Klaus Bräunig

Note by GFMC

The Symposium Proceedings will be published jointly with the memoirs of Carl Alwin Schenck, covering the years 1868 to 1887. Planned date of publication: June 2019: