



May 1st, 2nd & 3rd 2009

Today we absolutely must turn back to nature and the urgency of ecological pressure is such that our gardens have become an oasis of peace and resourcing. Overwhelmed by such beauty, innumerable artists, poets, philosophers have immortalised flowers and trees, the wind and the seasons. Let us accept that the poetry of a garden and of nature can inspire us as well. At a time of crisis, we can thus still live an unbelievable adventure. This is why the Jardins d'Aywiers has chosen the rose to represent the traditional, symbolic *Coup de Cœur* in our Spring gardens.

Swaying on a stem, climbing a wall, covering the ground or on a bush, from a delicate pastel to a vivid shade, subtly or strongly perfumed, these are the flowers poets have long praised and that offer us gentleness and poetry.

How can we put them at their best in our gardens, vegetable plots or terraces? What should we plant around them? How to best nurture them? Or, quite simply, how can we decide which ones to choose?

Some 180 participants, enthusiastic specialists in their chosen field, will give well founded advice to our visitors who, for the past 17 years, have appreciated the quality of the articles offered to them, the presentation of the stands and the welcoming atmosphere that pervades this event which has become a classic in Belgium.

A marvelous walk in the Gardens of the old Abbaye d'Aywiers where our visitors revel in the gardens « à l'anglaise », surrounded by the 18th century buildings, the coolness of the ponds and waterspots, the blossoming of the orchards and the signs of spring's first vegetables. This is where everyone can take the time to relax and absorb the poetry and the budding of springtime.

Sophie Collet has given her talent to the drawings that illustrate all our documentation.

Events and activities

The theme

- Francis Peeters and Guy Vandersande, whom we listen to every week on the RTBF programme *Jardins et Loisirs*, are publishing their first book *Un parterre de Vivaces, débiter simplement* (Editions Ulmer - A flowerbed of perennials, a simple start) This book has a thousand ideas for your garden and 40 plants are described in detail.

The authors will be present from Friday to Sunday to autograph and comment on their book.

- Véronique de Miomandre, the storyteller, will compose poetic images for you and your family sending them flying through the treetops. On Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 :30 PM.

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The traditional activities

- Questions & answers on **composting** with Erik Severin (every day from **2 to 6 PM**).
- Quentin Halflants' **magical boats** (Atelier du Rivage) will take you for a ride on the Aywiers ponds.
- Marie-Pascale Sikkink and Marie-Noëlle Cruysmans will answer your questions on the Garden and its secrets.
- **Tours of the former Aywiers Abbey** on Saturday at 3 PM and Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM
- Samuel Verbiese once again offers you a new **labyrinth - fun for all ages** - along with a workshop on the history and designing of labyrinths

Children's activities

- The non-profit organisations « The Belgian Kids Fund for Pediatric Research » and « Les Amis de l'Huderf - Kids' Care with a Human Touch » are organising **creative workshops** for children (their entrance fee goes to these organisations)
- « **Climbing in Trees** » on Saturday and Sunday with the Arboritech stand.
- **Donkey rides** (on Saturday and Sunday, in the afternoon) with the LISANE donkey stables who love to share their appreciation of this exceptional animal !

Calendar

Les Jardins d'Aywiers : Friday, May 1st from 10 AM to 6 PM

Saturday, May 2nd from 10 AM to 6 PM

Sunday, May 3rd from 10 AM to 6 PM

Entrance Fees

Adults, **8 Euros** - free for children up to age 14.

Catering services in the Park, wheelbarrow service for your acquisitions, free parking.

For your diary

The 2009 autumn Celebration of Plants and Gardens in Aywiers will be held on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

For further information :

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Please look at our website : www.aywiers.be, where you will find a **Photo Section** and more information on this event ! A photo of Sophie Collet's drawing is enclosed - it will illustrate all the documentation for this spring's event.