



## PRESS RELEASE

It's at the end of autumn that a gardener starts preparing to protect birds for the coming cold weather. Skipping a few days of cleaning up the garden does not automatically mean you are neglectful. Many plants contain seeds which are appreciated by birds and they will show their gratitude by their charming winter visits to you! Leave a few vegetables and flowers in the ground, plant bushes with berries and the birds will know what to do for you!

You can go one step further and plant a few more rows than you need - letting these plants go to seed for the greater joy of your winged guests. Diversity in our gardens is essential - the more plants, the more insects; the more insects, the more birds.

The voracious blue titmouse can't be beaten when it comes to catching aphids, caterpillars and hibernating larvae, worms in apples, right up to the tips of the stems of your roses or branches of the fruit trees. Robins, this well beloved friend to gardeners, will gladly settle down in an old flowerpot nestled in the wall of the potting shed as long as it is protected from the threat of its natural predators. Warblers, greenfinches, nuthatches, wrens, wagtails and all the others have a major role to play in protecting our gardens and orchards. Impossible to exaggerate their importance to our green environment and to protect them!

The magnificent natural parc « à l'anglaise » of the former Abbey of Aywiers will be dressed in the colorful attire of autumn to warm our hearts and feast our eyes ! During your visit you will be able to confer with some of the 170 specialists from Belgium and abroad . They will share with you their ideas on how to protect our birds by offering them the best possible bed and board. How should you organize autumn feeding stations ? How can we develop the right kind of plants that will both bring beauty to our gardens and nourish our singing feathered friends?

This is the theme of this season's fete!

### **Events et activities**

#### **Theme activities**

- How to make birds feel welcome in your garden? Advice, shortcuts and clever bits of knowledge at Natagora and Plumalia's shared stand.
- Marc Migon, researcher in the Laboratory of plant biology in Louvain-la-Neuve is organizing an activity entitled: « Discovering the Insects in our Gardens».

#### **The traditional activities**

- **Pruning roses**, with Rudy Velle, from the Lens Pépinière, Saturday and Sunday at 2 PM
- **Composting** : Questions & answers, with Erik Severin (every day from **2 to 6 PM**).

- Quentin Halfnants' **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

### Children's activities

- Non-profit organisation, « Kids'Care, the Human Touch », is organising **creative workshops** for children. (their entrance fee goes to this organisation)
- « **Climbing in Trees** » on Saturday and Sunday with « From One Branch to Another » 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 !
- **Workshops on cutting up a Pumpkin** at Yves Rossomme's stand

### Calendar

- Friday, October 2nd from 1 PM to 6 PM
- Saturday, October 3rd, from 10 AM to 6 PM
- Sunday, October 4th, from 10 AM to 6 PM

### Entrance fees

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

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

**The springtime Celebration of Plants and Gardens in Aywiers will be held on April 30, May, 1 and 2, in 2010.**

### **For further information:**

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You can also visit our website : [www.aywiers.be](http://www.aywiers.be). Both the **PHOTO SECTION further information on this event** will be sure to interest you ! Sophie Collet drew the attached design. This illustration is on all the documents concerning the Autumn event.

**Thank you for your interest in our activities. Your support has always been very precious to us and areal encouragement.**

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