



Dear Friends,

Le Soulet d'Ayen, december 2019

This is the ninth annual letter of your *Association des Amis de l'Arboretum de La Tuillière*. The past year 2019 was, as usual, a busy and active one, both with regard to arboretum activities as well as collaborative projects.

### The members

Right now there are 339 members, including 151 'members for life'. There were two board meetings and one general meeting.

### Visitors

There were 8 week-ends 'open gates'. The 'Choir-festival' attracted approximately 500 visitors. 61 people stayed one or more times at La Tuillière, either in one of the houses, or in their own camper or tent. In total more than 1450 people visited the arboretum in 2019.

### Activities

- \* The 'Choir-festival': 5 choirs, 1 children's choir and one duo attracted a total of 500 participants and visitors.

- \* With the support of several volunteers we have transplanted a 30 year old Magnolia tree in Ayen from next to the school to a little park next to the city hall. Thanks to weekly watering the tree survived the hot and dry summer.

- \* For two Syrian refugee families and their supporting Ayen families a Lebanon cedar was planted in the arboretum. The inauguration was attended by 56 people.

- \* Reception (sometimes a guided tour) of different groups: students of the 'Lycée Horticole' from Voutezac, a 'Garden-group' from Limoges, people having a picnic, participants of a painting course, various yoga-groups, etc.

- \* The arboretum becomes well known in the region and the number of visitors increases every year. Visitors organize sometimes their own activities: walking around and enjoying the park, organizing a picnic with children, celebrating one's birthday, etc.

- \* A small 'amphibian-excursion' was organized by the 'Centre Permanent d'Initiatives à l'Environnement du Limousin'.

- \* Again, friends have planted trees for a special occasion: birth, birthday, in memory of a beloved or a special occasion.

- \* During the summer 'Farmers markets' we earned € 640 for the association with our volunteer work: moving and carrying banks and tables, selling French fries.

- \* Weekly rehearsal of the Ayen choir (every Monday evening between 7:30 and 9:00 pm; new members are still welcome!)





- \* During the General Assembly Jan Paauw gave a power point presentation entitled: 'a biological apple orchard yes or no?'
- \* Treasure hunt with educational questions for children.

### Activities in collaboration with the Collectif 'Vivre ensemble durablement' and with Ayen

- \* Contest: tallest sunflower and biggest pumpkin: 25 participants
- \* As usual 'newborn-trees' were planted in Le Soulet for the 'Ayen 2018 newly-borns'. Each tree received an engraved plate carrying the name of the tree as well as the name and birthdate of the child.



### Animal news

- \* Some of our French ducks have brooded and successfully raised their ducklings. The incubator produced a number of chickens, turkeys and Indian runners (a species of ducks). There are now 7 geese. The young adult turkeys all disappeared .... the fox?
- \* The collection rare ducks consists of one yellow male 'Whistling duck', one male white Mandarin duck, two male Carolina ducks and four 4 Indian runners.
- \* Our cat 'Poes' has been sterilized and continues to catch and eat mice (and occasionally a little bird.....).



### Other news flashes from the arboretum

- \* With regard to the climate: 2019 had a soft, dry winter, a very wet spring, an extremely dry and hot summer and a rather dry and soft autumn. In July there was a storm, felling a few trees. Traditionally the sugar maples and other maples showed their magnificent autumn colors.
- \* In 2019 approximately some 100 trees were planted. Despite the severe dryness, regularly watering of the newly



planted trees prevented the loss of any.

- \* In order to better respond to climate change (abundant rainfall, periods of dryness and heatwaves) a 5<sup>th</sup> pond has been dug out (also a refuge for amphibians). Another pond was deepened. The road after the second gate was 'hardened' and is now passable all year round.
- \* At the first gate the parking area has been enlarged.

### Finances

The Association has a small budget but is financially doing well. Several subsidies were received: € 200 for the Choir-festival and € 153 as yearly support of the city of Ayen. Participating at the farmers market in Ayen resulted in € 640. Furthermore: free gifts of visitors (€ 442), extra gifts from members (€ 263) and the sale of plants (€ 128). Also the contribution of 13 new life memberships was a real boost (€ 1300). For the replanting of a *Magnolia grandiflora* in Ayen € 137 was collected.

*But finances of the present are no guarantee for the future. Donations remain always welcome and will become even more important in the future for upkeep and maintenance of the arboretum. Therefore the suggestion to remember the Association in ones will. For further information: [www.tuilliere.fr](http://www.tuilliere.fr)*

### Employment

- \* Willem Straatman (one day per week) is our mainstay for many types of work: repairing many broken things, maintenance of the machinery equipment, small things in the arboretum and renovation and new construction projects.
- \* Benjamin Trouvé (also one day per week) is our esteemed gardener of the large garden work, including pruning high up in the trees.



\* Such as every year the support of many friends should not remain unmentioned: baking pancakes, quiches and cakes for the festival, tending the bar, making new constructions, renovating constructions in decay, pruning etc etc. Many, many thanks!

### **Projects in 2020**

- \* Celebrating **"30 year arboretum" (1990-2020)**: Saturday 25 july 2020 afternoon/evening mini-musique festival and pick-nick. Also various activities will be proposed among which a photo competition (topics to be determined).
- \* Open day-weekends: 8x, march through october, last weekend of every month
- \* Continuation planting trees and shrubs for CO<sub>2</sub> compensation
- \* Participation as volunteer at the Marché de Pays in Ayen
- \* Together with the collectif 'Vivre ensemble durablement': 1. Showing the film: 'le temps des forêts', about forestry. 2. Maintenance and improving the old orchard in Ayen; 3. Planting trees for the 2019 newborn babies in Ayen.
- \* Improvement of the parking at the entrance of the arboretum



**THE ASSOCIATION WISHES YOU  
A VERY HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2020**

***Do know that you are always welcome for a visit or a stay!***