

Allotments: An element of the cultural and natural heritage

Orleans (France) : The allotment gardeners took part in the European Heritage Days.

The allotment site „Abbé Lemire“ opened its doors at the occasion of the European Heritage Days.

It was a first participation for the allotment association in Orleans, which celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2014. More than 200 visitors came to meet the allotment gardeners and to visit their vegetable plots.

In 2014 the subject of the European Heritage Days was the cultural and natural heritage. Therefore we offered several activities:

The first part concerned the cultural aspect which could take place thanks to several friends who spontaneously came to organize activities on our site.

Exhibitions of photographs by Laurent Baude, Christophe Depaz, Claire and Christine Desfeuille, Armelle Doguet, Catherine Hild, Valérie Maldelar. The photographs showed meetings, exchanges, shared experiences with gardeners. The large-sized photographs were copied onto recycled paper with the support of GrDF Loiret and then fixed onto the sheds on the plots, allowing a slow promenade through our allotment site.

The sculptures of Nicolas Crozier on Re-use Art, these „Sculptures-constructions“ born in the artist's imagination were installed in the middle of the gardens. Two gardeners presented their own creations:

- Michael Buckley with his ceramics made a glazing demonstration with raku
- Régis Pelletier, poet, presented his texts on nature and garden.

The second part concerned our allotments with three historical lectures on 110 years of allotment gardening in Orleans, commented visits of the gardens and advice on good practice for an environment friendly gardening, as well as a visit of the beehive animated by the association „Le Hameau de Julien“ welcoming autistic people. A tasting of honey harvested on site completed this visit.

Let us also thank all volunteers, the allotment gardeners, the town of Orleans, the Botanic shop and GrDF for their help. To close these encounters, the organizers of this first success met for drinks among friends.

Jean-Claude Férail, President of the association AOJOF