

# The Garden

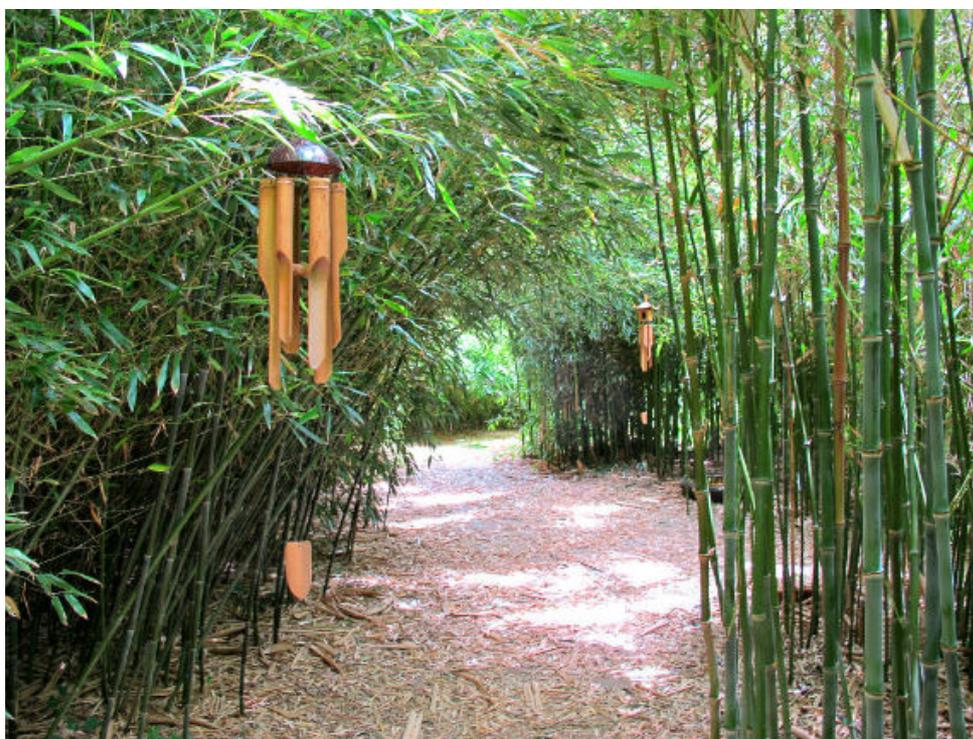
**Bernard Le Neindre** is passionate about gardens. In 2003 he decided to create a bamboo garden at Eyragues in Provence. His main objective was to promote and act in favour of sustainable development.

Not long ago, the non-profit association "**Bambous en Provence**" -Bamboo in Provence- was set up in order to fund and run this project. He is the treasurer of the association.

As far as planting, developing and maintaining the garden was concerned, Bernard Le Neindre benefitted from the experience and the technical advice of **Michel Bonfils**, who had created **Planbuisson Garden** in Dordogne. Planbuisson Garden is located in the municipality of Buisson-de-Cadouin. It covers 1.5 hectares and it exhibits the richest collection of species of plants belonging to the grass family, or gramineae, in Europe -260 varieties of bamboo and 360 varieties of other types of grass. The Planbuisson Garden and the bamboo garden in Provence do not compete against each other, it is quite the opposite: the diverse experiments carried out in one garden increase the knowledge developed in the other and influence its evolution.



**Public opening Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2013**



## "Bambous en Provence": a model of sustainable development.

The plantation "Bambous en Provence" is situated on a 5.5 hectare site. The garden was set up from stocks of bamboo taken out from a previous site that proved to be too small. Many other species of plants have been added. Even though this plantation is still young, it is a very promising site: thanks to the quality of the soil, the natural irrigation and the exceptionally favourable climate the plants grow very well and it allows Bernard Le Neindre to experiment with the culture of new subtropical species. Bird and hedgehog nests have been put in place so that the garden is as natural as can be.

This garden was conceived to be a vivid example of what sustainable development is about: taking into account the soil – protecting it from chemical aggression, promoting the regeneration of impoverished or degraded land and the development of humus; taking into account the air – reducing pollution...; taking into account solar power –preparing for the diminishment of energy sources; taking into account the increasing scarcity of water supplies – avoiding waste, excessive consumption and pollution. For instance, concerning irrigation, one of the objectives is that the plants become self-sufficient in a period of 4 to 10 years, drawing water from two metres deep so that they do not need to be irrigated, or hardly ever, during the summer periods.

## TO CONTACT US

### Bambous en Provence

GPS address : petit Mas de l'Hermitte  
CD 29 route de Graveson  
13630 Eyragues  
Land line : 04 32 62 85 31  
Email : [click here](#)



## OPENING HOURS

**The garden will open  
Friday March 29th 2013**

**Open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
and public holidays** from 2 pm to 7 pm  
until November 1st (holiday period).

## ENTRANCE FEES

**Adults** : 5€  
**Inhabitants of Eyragues and Graveson** : 4€  
**Children (under 18) accompanied by their  
parents** : free  
**GRT gaz employees** : free  
> Credits cards not accepted  
**Educational itinerary** : free for schools  
(according to availability)  
**Theme for 2013** : Analysis and observation  
of an insect hotel

## USEFUL LINKS

- > [AEB France](#)
- > [Bambous de Planbuisson](#)
- > [bouddha-style](#)
- > [Ciril Kindervater](#)
- > [La Cabane du Jardinier](#)
- > [newfibamboo](#)
- > [Parc aux Bambous](#)

## Preserving and increasing the number of bamboo species

In the near future, Bernard Le Neindre wishes to keep on developing the garden by introducing new species. In order to do so, he is helped by his friend **Michel Bonfils** and nurserymen who collect rare species like **Jos Van Der Palen**, a bamboo specialist who frequently travels around the world to bring back new varieties. Bernard Le Neindre also benefits from a web of friendly connections that he managed to create when he visited gardens in Holland, Belgium and Italy. He is also a member of the **European Bamboo Association** -l'Association Européenne du Bambou or AEB. This association regularly organizes conferences and tours of bamboo gardens across Europe.

## An educational approach...

The educational activities for young people, primary schools, recreation centres and other associations will mainly aim at raising their awareness of nature and living beings, especially bamboo, birds and insects. Bernard Le Neindre wants to create recreational activities that are above all educational. The garden tours could be continued by a creation workshop during which the children would create objects and instruments in bamboo such as whistles or xylophones.

He also created an orchard with hundreds of fruit trees whose fruits taste different from the commercialized varieties. This garden is a place where children can discover fauna and flora. Thanks to the financial participation of GRTgaz and the Conseil Général des Bouches du Rhône (the board of elected representatives in the Bouches du Rhône region), all the educational activities will be free for schools.

## ...and a civic project

Bernard Le Neindre wishes to place himself within a civic project. He wants his bamboo garden to become a place where people can meet and communicate but also a place where people can rest and find themselves. In the long term he wants his garden to be a place where you can revitalize yourself, a symbol of conviviality.

The park is designed to be a space open for different cultural and educational associations, a space with a local dimension in order to make the culture of bamboo known and loved to the population of Provence. Bernard Le Neindre wants to develop, among others, all the activities linked to the culture of bamboos such as for instance exhibitions of paintings, sculptures or objects in bamboo, concerts by bands using instruments made of bamboo.

## Thanks

Bernard Le Neindre extends his thanks to the **Conseil Général des Bouches du Rhône** for its subsidy and the company **GRTgaz** -for whom he worked for 30 years- for its partnership which enabled him to set up the necessary infrastructure for the garden to open to the public in spring 2012.

As a thank you, the entry to the garden "Bambous en Provence" is free for all the employees of GRTgaz. The educational activities are **free for schools on reservation**.

Let's not forget **Planbuisson Garden** which allowed this dream to come true.



BAMBOUS  
de Planbuisson

