

A Rocha Lebanon

-

December 2023



Happy New Year

Landscaping



The maze was designed without awareness of its location at the bottom of a ‘bowl’ which gathers rain water in winter and makes it a swamp totally opposite to the summer drought. Hence, no plant could tolerate winter immersion and summer drought together.





**Two drains got dung by Samy Hasna,
evacuating the running water to the pond and equalizing humidity along the seasons.**

Plantation





We are thankful to Ing. Tawfiq, Ali and Joe, from Elie Maalouf company for the plantation of an edge of thuya, cupressus and eucalyptus on the Northern side of the site

Biodiversity



Chinaberry, the Arabic zanzaracht (*Melia azedarach*), native from south Asia, acclimated very well to the Bekaa Valley. But when was it introduced in Lebanon? We suspect that all the story began in Deir al-ahmar in the 1920', since the oldest specimen can be seen there.





Some plant associations may lay more on their name than their natural properties, like the habit we adopted to grow roses together with rosemary, or to root fig cuttings in the pads of Barbary fig, the prickly pear.





Collection of fruit bodies of ectomycorrhizal fungi (Boletes, Russula, ...) to be melt with soil in the tree nursery, expecting them to develop symbiotic relationship with seedlings

Myxomycetes (here *Mucilago crustacea*) are neither plants nor fungi.

They are protists, unicellular organisms, that develop in a slime mold, the psalmodium, at the reproductive stage of their development. Although this psalmodium is unicellular, it contains many nuclei and grows by pulsations.

Learn more about this extraordinary living form, [Myxomycetes](#)



Toward the opening



labyrinth

The site will welcome a conservatory of wild bees and traditional beekeeping. Different habitats of wild bees are reproduced to raise awareness on the preservation of habitats.









**Welcome and gratitude to our
new volunteers, Stefan and Bassem,
whose unexpected help is a gift of God**

See you next month

