



MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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September 2013 Newsletter No 7

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

First some seasonal advice from bulb expert Lauw de Jager:

- Reduce the leaves of *Iris unguicularis* and *Kniphofia* to 20-30 cm so that the flowers can be seen well during the winter.
- Cut off *Tulbaghia* flowers and you will have an amazing flower show in September.
- You can divide *Scilla peruviana* clumps until mid September.
- If you have collected bulb seeds this summer, this is the best time to sow them.
- If there hasn't been a good rainfall by mid September bring out the watering hose to get your bulbs started.
- Plant new bulbs as soon you receive them.
- For a spectacular show of late summer flowers without need of a drop of water, try *Allium tuberosum*, native to China but very well adapted to a mediterranean climate.

Programme of activities

Saturday/Sunday 28/29 September

Portes ouvertes - la Soldanelle, Rougiers (83)

Sylvie and Christian Mistre have invited us to have our MGS stand at this convivial event which is perfectly timed for autumn planting. Many of our favourite specialists in dry garden plants will also be there. I'd be delighted to hear from any members who would like to help man the stand. A programme is attached.

Thursday/Friday 3/4 October

Languedoc 10th Anniversary garden party and AGM in Caunes-Minervois and Cessero

Thursday: Walk and Garden Party

For those feeling energetic, the day will start with a walk near the village of Conques-sur-Orbiel led by Gill Pound. We will leave the Petite Pépinière de Caunes, 21 av. de la Montagne Noire, 11160 Caunes-Minervois, at 10.15.

Gill writes:

"It's a nice circuit over limestone garrigue with good views, a good range of vegetation and not much up and down. There are two linked walks, 2km each, which would allow people to do one, or both. The start of the walk is a 15 minute drive from the nursery but bear in mind that the journey includes about 1km of garrigue track which would not be good for low slung cars!"

The garden party will be held in Gill's and Cei's garden from 13.00. For the lunch we will have a picnic comprising lots of members' favourites as featured in the recipe section of the new book. I'll be in contact with everyone who registers for the garden party to ask them to bring a contribution of food or wine.



I'll also bring books for everyone who has placed an advance order, plus some additional copies. Book price: 15€ (MGS members: 13€).

On the subject of books, Jenny Bovaird has had a good idea. Like many of us she has a box of books at home which she would be happy to 'recycle'. Jenny suggested a stand at the garden party where people could exchange their no-longer-needed books with others. So do bring along your books so that we may all have some new winter reading.

In addition there will be our usual **plant exchange**, so think now about what you can prepare. Please remember to put labels on all the pots!

Friday: The MGS Languedoc AGM

This will take place in the newly created Médiathèque in the village of Cesseroas.

The meeting will start at 10.30am and be followed by a buffet lunch at the home of Liz and Jacques Thompson. Cost 20€ per person including wine.

As usual, the principal item on the agenda at the AGM will be a discussion about next year's programme of activities. If you have topics you would like put on the agenda, please send me an email.

Liz has reserved rooms for us for the nights of 2 and 3 October at two bed and breakfast places in nearby Olonzac. When booking, please quote her name so that the hotels will know you are part of the MGS group.

Chambres d'hôtes Sainte-Hélène, 0468 45 69 93

www.sainte-helene.com <<http://www.sainte-helene.com>>

Villa Limonade, 0468 41 78 09

<http://www.villalimonade.com/>

An alternative, recommended by Gill, is

L'Ancienne Boulangerie, Caunes-Minervois, 0468 76 27 17,

<http://www.ancienneboulangerie.com/>

November 7 –13 Athens, Greece

MGS Annual General Meeting

Everything you need to know about this year's annual gathering is on the website at

<http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/agm-2013.html>.

If you will be unable to attend in person but would like to vote by proxy, we will, as in previous years, be offering a service to match up members in France looking for someone to represent them with people who will be going to the meeting in Athens. Sandra Cooper has offered to coordinate this exercise. To offer to carry proxy votes or to find a proxy please contact Sandra, sandrajmcooper@gmail.com

Please contact me by email at cs.savage@btopenworld.com if you are interested in attending any of the above events.

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs

28/29 September	Portes ouvertes - la Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
4/5/6 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (11)
5/6 October	Gondwana, Domaine du Rayol	Le-Rayol-Canadel (83)
19 October	Plantes rares - Bourse d'échanges	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
20 October	Marché d'automne	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
16 November	Autumn sale – La Petite Pépinière	Caunes-Minervois (11)
23/24 November	De l'arbre de la plante et du fruit	St-Jean-du-Gard (30)

Hortus Programme

28 septembre	Visite Jardin Antique	Balaruc-les-Bains (34)
19 octobre	Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)
9 novembre	Conférence sur les piscines biologiques	Clapiers (34)
7 décembre	Conférence - Histoire de nos légumes	Devezou (34)
26 avril 2014	Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)
23/24 mai 2014	Voyage annuelle	Lyon et la Drôme

For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr

News

The MGS France website

Ian Davis, our new website manager, has almost completed work on making improvements to the site prior to its transfer to a new hosting company. News on the re-launch soon.

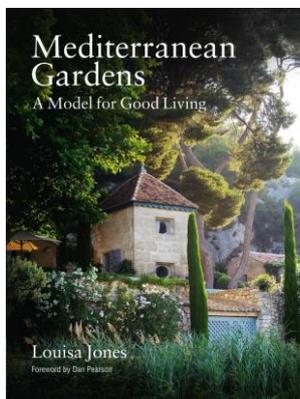
The main MGS website

Jean Vaché has announced that he will retire from the job of website editor on 10 November, to coincide with the end of his presidency. He has asked that any member interested in knowing more about this job, with a view to taking on the role, should contact him so that he can pass on a list of candidates to the new AC.

Sparoza DVD

The DVD made by EBC Communications about Sparoza, the MGS garden, is now available and can be acquired via the MGS website: <http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/dvd.html>, price £12.99 plus postage and packing. For each copy of the DVD sold, the MGS will receive £3, which it will use for the maintenance of the Sparoza garden.

English translation of Louisa Jones book



Louisa will be in Melbourne soon for the launch of the English version of her *Manifeste pour les jardins méditerranéens* (Actes Sud). It's called *Mediterranean Gardens – a Model for Good Living* and will be distributed in the UK by Mark Trotter <http://gazellebookservices.co.uk/> or via Amazon UK.

“The author encapsulates the essence of Mediterranean gardens and landscapes in this beautiful book. Her authoritative writing, evocative photographs and amusing quotations brilliantly celebrate these timeless gardens and lifestyle. The principles of Mediterranean gardening as described in this book will provide meaning and a sense of purpose for gardeners everywhere.”

With best wishes

Christine

The information below will be repeated at the end of each Newsletter. New items appear in **Bold**.



The Mediterranean Garden Society

Resources and Information available to
members

<p><u>Languedoc Library</u> 288 books on gardening and plants in English and in French</p>	<p>To obtain the latest catalogue or to borrow a book, email Chantal Guiraud at chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr. You can collect books from Montpellier, or Chantal will bring them to the next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Directory of Members</u> Town of residence and email addresses of MGS members in France and Belgium</p>	<p>Contact Christine Savage, cs.savage@btopenworld.com to be included and to obtain a copy.</p>
<p><u>Lists</u> Nurseries, Garden Products and Designers Plants for Late Summer Colour Aromatic Plants Climbing Plants Roses Plants for Difficult Situations Seeds for Flowering Meadows Seeds of Hardy plants Booklist for Southern Gardeners</p>	<p>Compiled by branch members, further contributions welcome. www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com David Bracey bracey@wanadoo.fr David Bracey David Bracey Alec Cobb alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr Chantal Guiraud chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr. Chantal Guiraud Jocelyn van Riemsdijk</p>
<p><u>Leaflets</u> Making a Dry Garden Mulches and Compost The Waterwise Garden Drought Tolerant Shrubs</p>	<p>These are available in English and French and can be distributed to friends or at places where gardeners gather. Contact cs.savage@btopenworld.com for copies.</p>
<p><u>The MGS Website</u> Information about the society, including our Languedoc branch page.</p>	<p>In English: www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/ In French: www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/index.html</p>
<p><u>The MGS France Website</u> Information for gardeners in France</p>	<p>In English and French www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</p>
<p><u>The MGS Seed List</u> A seed exchange for MGS members run by Chantal Guiraud</p>	<p>For a full list and how to order, see the MGS websites: www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html</p>
<p><u>The MGS Plant Forum</u> An internet forum for anyone interested in mediterranean plants and gardening</p>	<p>www.mgsforum.org</p>
<p><u>The MGS Members' Forum</u> An internet Forum for ideas, comments and questions on any topic related to the MGS</p>	<p>www.mgsmembersforum.org</p>
<p><u>TMG archive service</u> Articles from past issues of The Mediterranean Garden journal</p>	<p>To receive the text of past articles by email contact the editor at petrie.harbouri@on.gr. To find articles, go on the website, go to MGS Journal, then 'General Index' for an A-Z by topic.</p>
<p><u>Information about the administration of the MGS</u> Minutes of meetings and Financial Statements</p>	<p>Minutes of the October 2012 General Assembly, Financial Statements and Administrative Committee meetings are available on the MGS Members' Forum www.mgsmembersforum.org</p>