



# Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

**January 2016**

Dear members and friends

## Programme of activities in France

### **Change of date!**

**Saturday 23 January, 2.30pm, Devezou, Montferrier (34)**

**Talk, in French, by Chantal Guiraud and Joelle Moine: *Jardins de Chine***

Joelle Moine and Chantal Guiraud will talk to us about their recent travels in China. Joelle will start by talking about gardens and bonsai trees in northern China and Peking. Chantal will then take us along a journey through southern China, through Canton, Guilin and especially Suzhou where she saw masterpieces of Chinese garden art. This event has been organised by our partner association, Hortus, and will include a traditional seasonal *galette*.

**Wednesday 3 February, 11.00am, Saint-Didier (84)**

**Plants and birds spotted by Eric and Françoise on their world travels**



Photographed in Ethiopia

Eric and Françoise would like to share images of plants and birds spotted during their recent trips to Argentina, Chile, Ethiopia and Burma. This will not be a long boring slide show, rather an illustrated commentary on what they saw, with the hope that the group may be able to identify some of their unnamed plant photographs. Please bring food to share with others as a 'picnic' around the fire and Eric and Françoise will provide wine and dessert. If weather permits, Françoise will take people on a short tour of interesting houses in the old village. As this will be a mainly indoor event, places are limited to 10 people.

**Wednesday 30 March, Cotignac (83)**

**Olive pruning workshop**

This workshop, led by Nicolas Valabrègue, will take place in the Nicholson's' garden in Cotignac. It will be followed by an olive oil tasting by the UK based company, *The Oil Merchant* <http://www.oilmerchant.co.uk/>. Please bring picnic dishes for sharing at lunchtime.

**Tuesday 5 OR Wednesday 6 April (date to be selected according to weather forecast)**

**A botanical walk with Gérard Weiner on the Frioul islands (13)**

Sandra Cooper has organised this outing to the Frioul islands, off the coast near Marseille. We will meet at the port of Marseille for the 20 minute sea crossing, then Gérard Weiner, of Pépinière Botanique de Vaugines <http://pepinieredevaugines.fr/> will lead us on a full day's walk to look for wild flowers. Bring a picnic to eat at lunchtime.



Photo: Wild flowers on the Frioul islands - Andrea Gaifami

**Wednesday 13 April, Correns and Cotignac (83)**

**A wild flower walk with Saskia Newlands**

Saskia Newlands will lead this morning walk to look for wild flowers in the countryside near Correns. The walk will be followed by lunch in Cotignac.

### **Friday 6 May, 10.30am, Grasse, (06)**

#### **Garden visits**

A morning visit to the garden of Mas de Pivoines, near Grasse, and in the afternoon, a visit to Villa Noailles, organised by June Grindley.

### **Wednesday/Thursday 11/12 May, Tourrettes-sur-Loup and Grasse (06)**

#### **Charity rose 'baptême' and garden visits**



MGF has been invited to host the 'baptism' of a new rose, created by *rosiéristes* Jean-Pierre Dittiere and Dominique Massad for the charity Rainbows4Children [www.rainbows4children.org](http://www.rainbows4children.org). Although developed in the Loire valley, the new rose will have characteristics which make it suitable for growing in the Mediterranean climate conditions of southern France. All profits from the sale of the rose will go to Rainbows4Children. Joanna Millar, whose garden in Tourrettes-sur-Loup is home to a wonderful variety of roses, has generously offered to host the event.

Photo: Joanna's garden

Programme for the two days:

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|---------------|--|
| 11/05 Morning | A walk around Joanna's garden followed by the rose baptême and a finger buffet lunch.  |
| Afternoon     | A visit to La Mouissone, Maggie Lockett's garden. Cyril Valherie will give us a demonstration and talk on the pruning and care of trees, hedges and ornamental shrubs then we can wander round the garden, followed by tea and cakes.      |
| 12/05 Morning | A guided tour of part of the 8 hectare garden of the Domaine St Jacques de Couloubrier, led by Pierre JeanJean the head gardener. The garden was laid out in the 1950s by Russell Page and has a large collection of Nabonnand roses.      |
| Afternoon     | A visit to the garden of the villa de Fort France, constructed in the thirties by Lady Fortescue and now owned by Valérie de Courcel, the painter. The terraced space is filled with mediterranean plants, perhaps 1000 different species. |

For those who will need accommodation for this trip, the owners of la Mouissone and of the Domaine St Jacques de Couloubrier have offered bed and breakfast in their homes/guest cottages at reasonable rates.

### **Wednesday 18 May, La Valette-du-Var and Ollioules (83)**

#### **Garden and nursery visits**

A morning visit to Domaine d'Orvès, an eight-hectare estate with a system of spring-fed canals which provide water for the gardens. The 17th century house is backed by a dry hillside clothed in vines, almond and olive trees. The garden was started by painter, Pierre Deval, in 1925 and is now cared for by his daughter, Françoise Darlington. A picnic lunch in the garden will be followed by a visit to *La rose de Brignac*, a rose specialist based in Ollioules.

### **Friday 27 May, Montauroux (83)**

#### **Garden visits**

MGF members and friends living near the historic village of Montauroux will be opening their gardens for visits.

### **Wednesday - Friday 22 - 24 June, Montpellier (34)**

#### **Annual General Meeting and garden visits**

Chantal and André Guiraud have kindly offered to organise our 2016 annual meeting and programme of garden visits. Please put the dates in your diaries – more details early next year.

To book a place for activities in France, contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

## International activities

### **12 - 15 April, Alassio, Ventimiglia and Menton**

#### **Gardens of the Italian and French riviéras**

This opportunity to see gardens on the French and Italian riviéras when they will be at their springtime best has been organised by Angela Durnford of MGS Italy. The tour will be based at the Hotel Napoleon in Menton. It will include visits to the gardens of the Villa la Pergola in Alassio, the Hanbury gardens and Villa Piacenza Boccanegra in Ventimiglia, le Clos du Peyronnet, le Jardin des Antipodes, le jardin exotique de Val Rameh and Serre de la Madone in the Menton area and a visit to the specialist nursery Vivaio Noaro in Camporosso. For full details and a booking form contact Angela Durnford [angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org](mailto:angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org) as soon as possible, as places are limited.

### **19 - 25 April 2016, MGAP/MGi event in Sintra, Lisbon and the western Algarve, Portugal** **Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean 'an undiscovered diversity'**

This event, organised by the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal, in conjunction with Mediterranean Gardening International, will be in two parts.



19 - 21 April: A pre-conference tour based in the UNESCO world heritage town of Sintra, with two full days of guided visits to historic and private gardens in Lisbon, Colares and Sintra.

Photo: Monserrate Palace, Sintra

22 - 24 April: Travel to Lagos for the main conference weekend. The weekend will include a talk by Olivier Filippi, guided wild flower walks and garden visits. Lagos is close to the Cape St. Vincent Peninsula National Park, an area of immense botanical importance with numerous endemic and rare species. The area is also famous for bird watching on the nearby Sagres Peninsula.



25 April, return to Lisbon, with a garden visit in the Alentejo region, on the way.

For members travelling from southern France there is a daily Ryanair flight between Marseille and Lisbon, and TAP Portugal or Easyjet flights between Nice and Lisbon. Find [full programme notes](#) and a [booking form](#) by clicking on the links, or if you have questions, contact Rosie Peddle, [rosie@thebtf.net](mailto:rosie@thebtf.net).

For a full list of international events, look on the MGF website:  
<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

## Other dates for your Diary

### Plant fairs and open gardens

30/31 January	Mimosalia	Bormes-les-Mimosas (83)
6/7 February	Salon des Orchidées	Vergèze (30)
5/6 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (66)
19/20 March	Plant fair at Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (83)
20 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)
26/27 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia-Antipolis (06)
16/17 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)

### Hortus Programme

20 February	La taille des arbustes	Montferrier (34)
19 March	Jardiner autrement	Montferrier
30 April	Bourse aux plantes	Montferrier
9 -11 June	Voyage annuel	La côte d'azur et Italie



For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at [chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr) or go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>

### Sète Côté Jardin

To see the programme of events organised by our partner association Sète Côté Jardin, go to the website: <http://setecotejardin.fr/scj/>

## News and information

### **Mediterranean Gardening France website**

Go to the [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page to see a summary of material added recently.

Highlights include:



June Grindley's account of October's visit to Pépinière Ezavin, *Le Monde des Fougères*, with suggestions for plants to grow in shady situations.

Photo: *Liriope muscari* 'Silver Ribbon' and various ferns

A report by Gill Robinson of the November visit to the wine domaine and sculpture park, Château La Coste, near Aix-en-Provence. Photographs of the park, art and architecture by Gill Robinson and Sara Robinson.

Photo: DROP by Tom Shannon 2009



### ***Un iris hors du commun***

An article by Chantal Guiraud on a rather special iris. This is the first in what we hope will be a series of articles on plants which you have observed in gardens or in the wild, or those you've cultivated in your own gardens. Please be inspired and send contributions for this new section of the website.

Photo: *Iris* 'Jane Philips'

Photo and copyright: Iris Hunter

### **Membership Information**

#### Members who joined in November and December

We'd like to welcome the following new members:

Robin Corwin	California, USA
John Fielding	London, UK
Auriel Folkes	Vaucluse
Diana Gilbert	Vaucluse
Diane Riddell	Var
Leslie Zasa	California, USA
Sharon Simonson	Alpes-Maritimes
Françoise Gasnier	Rhône
Marlene Breene	California, USA
Fanny Lalande-Isnard	Paris
Linda Khalastchi	London, UK
Anne-Marie Seguin	Bouches-du-Rhône

Best wishes  
Christine