



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

April 2017

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Thursday 4 May, La Plaine des Maures, near Vidauban, Var

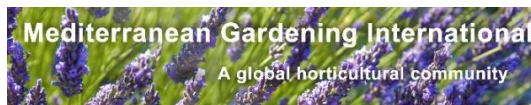
A wild flower walk with Saskia Newlands around the Lac des Escarcets



This walk will take 3 to 4 hours and will be stony, with areas of large slabs of rock to be negotiated, requiring some agility. It is also likely to be quite damp underfoot so you will need to wear proper hiking boots. Please bring a picnic to eat at lunchtime. Saskia says we should find several different varieties of orchid, including the bee orchid, *Ophrys apifera*, (pictured) and species of cephalanthera and serapia. We can also expect to see *Centaurea maritima*, *Cynoglossum* sp., *Linaria* sp., *Cistus monspeliensis*, *Cistus salvifolius* and many more.

Numbers are limited. Contact Nicola D'Annunzio to book a place and include your mobile phone number in the email: mgfnicola@gmail.com

Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday, 10 - 12 May



Art et Jardins
Aix-en-Provence

Two days of garden visits, lectures and walks, with a view to exploring the connections between art and Mediterranean gardens. The welcome reception, lectures and final dinner will take place at the Hotel Aquabella, in Aix-en-Provence. We're looking forward to welcoming members of MGF and our partner associations from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal, Italy, South Africa and France.

Due to cancellations, there are one or two places available for the full programme.

For more information and a booking form contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Thursday 11 May, 18.30 – 20.00, Hotel Aquabella, Aix-en-Provence

A talk by Laura de Beden 'The Influence of the Arts on the Making of Gardens'

Laura de Beden, Italian by birth but now based near Kew Gardens, in London, is a landscape architect, garden designer, international lecturer and plant person. She has recently lectured in the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace on 'Creating a Garden as a Work of Art'.

Friday 12 May, 18.30 – 20.00, Hotel Aquabella, Aix-en-Provence

A talk by Louisa Jones, 'Art and Gardens: Theme and Variations'

Louisa Jones is an art historian, lecturer, expert on the gardens of Provence and author of over thirty books. She writes "The garden maker has become an artist, and old Mediterranean traditions like hillside terracing merge into new Land Art".

To book for these talks contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Saturday 13 May, 10.00, Aix-en-Provence

Mediterranean Gardening France Annual General Meeting

The 2017 AGM will take place in the Hotel Aquabella, close to the historic centre of Aix-en-Provence. We hope that as many members as possible will attend. Michèle Bailey, our secretary, will be writing to members soon, with more information and a proposed agenda.

Friday 19 May, 10.30, Méounes-lès-Montrieux, Var

Visit to a members' garden

A visit to Jacqueline and David Potters' botanically fascinating and lovely garden at Méounes-lès-Montrieux, south of Brignoles, followed by a light lunch which will be provided by the Potters.

Contact June Grindley to book a place and please include your mobile phone number in the email.

jngrindley@btinternet.com

Tuesday 23 May, Allauch and Aubagne, Bouches-du-Rhône

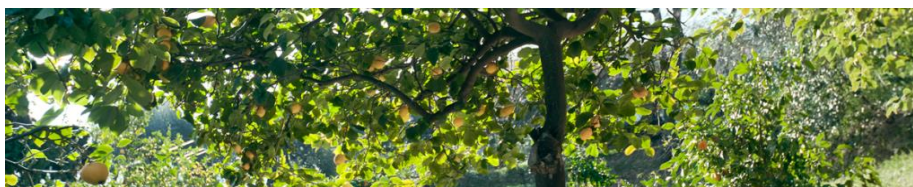
A visit to the workshop and garden of a 'créateur des roses' and to Poterie Ravel

Dominique Massad, rosieriste, has invited us to see his garden and workshop at Allauch, near Marseille. We will start with a demonstration of hybridisation, then look at new roses under assessment in the garden. In the afternoon, we'll visit the 19th century factory of Poterie Ravel, where traditional and contemporary garden pots of high quality are still produced. We'll have a private tour of the workshops to see how the pots are moulded, fired and glazed.

FULLY BOOKED

Tuesday 30 May, 10.30, Menton, Alpes-Maritimes

Visits to La Citronneraie and Le Jardin des Colombières



A morning visit to Francois Mazet's La Citronneraie, a beautiful '*Jardin Remarquable*' set on a terraced hillside, with many varieties of fruit trees and tropical plants. <http://lacitronneraie.fr/jardin-citroneraie-menton/>. Bring a picnic lunch to eat on the beach or eat in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we'll visit Le Jardin des Colombières, the classic garden designed by Ferdinand Bac in 1920 and now classed as a '*Monument Historique*' and owned by M.et Mme Likierman.

<http://colombieres.likierman.net/index.php?lang=fr> .

Contact June Grindley to book a place and include your mobile phone number in the email:

jngrindley@btinternet.com .

Wednesday 7 June, Concoules, Gard

Visit to the Jardin du Temple



Elisabeth Gratraud has arranged for us to have a guided visit to the Jardin du Temple, which sits at the foot of Mont Lozère, in the Hautes Cévennes. The garden has more than 5000 varieties of plants, including collections of roses, hydrangeas and peonies. We can take a picnic to eat in the garden.

To book a place, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

International activities

Saturday 29 April – Saturday 6 May, Evia, GREECE

Wild flowers of Evia

This trip will be based in Karystos and Rovies, and will explore the flora of Evia. It will be led by Graham Kendall, a trained horticulturist and lifelong lover of Greek wild flowers.

Contact: Heather Martin hma@clara.net

Sunday 25 June to Wednesday 28 June, Isle of Wight, UK
Gardens of the Isle of Wight

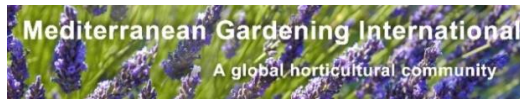
A garden tour on the Isle of Wight including five private gardens, Ventnor Botanic Garden and the walled garden of Osborne House, a retreat of Queen Victoria. There will be a lecture from a local ecologist on the significance of the distinctive climate and geology of the area known as the Undercliff. Cost: £445 per person including standard accommodation, meals, garden entrances and transport between gardens. For more information see <http://www.medpag.org/events.html>

26-30 September (dates to be confirmed) Veneto, ITALY

Villa Gardens of the Veneto

A four-day tour of Veneto including the Brenta riviera, Padova, with the oldest botanical garden in Italy and Verona where other important villas await.

To request further information as it becomes available send an email to angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org



Gardens and plants in Spain
Alicante

GARDENS AND PLANTS IN SPAIN – Mid April 2018

Plans are under way for a garden tour, combined with walks and presentations, based near Alicante. This event is being organised by our partner organisation Mediterranean Plants and Gardens and will be open equally to all members of MGi organisations.

For a full list of international events, go to the MGF website:

<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

8 -9 April	La fête des plantes a MUCEM	Marseille (13)
8 -9 April	Forapais – fete des plantes and open garden	Roquebrun (34)
8 -9 April	Un Printemps sous les Arbres	Saint-Brès (34)
9 April	Les Florales	Figanières (83)
16 April	Marché des plantations	Saint Gély-du-Fesc (34)
22 April	Le Jardin Champêtre Spring Open Day – Ground covers	Caunes-Minervois (11)
29 - 30 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
30 April	Bourse aux plantes	Villecroze (83)
1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (34)
1 May	Foire aux plantes	Forcalqueiret (83)
5 - 7 May	Orticola à Milan	Milan, ITALY
6 - 8 May	Fête des Plantes et du massif	Abbaye de Fontfroide (11)
8 May	Bourse aux plantes	Rousson (30)
10 May	Course – Aromatics for Languedoc Gardens Gill@lapetitepepiniere.com	Caunes-Minervois (11)
12 - 14 May	Floralies d'Antibes Juan-les-Pins	Antibes Juan-les-Pins (06)
13 - 14 May	Iris et Pivoines à La Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
13 - 14 May	Portes ouvertes à Pépinière Braun	Eyragues (13)
14 May	Plantes et Fleurs en Fête	Grospierres (07)
21 May	Journée des plantes	Uzès (30)
22 May	Les Florales	Aurons (13)
25 May	Fête des fleurs	Velleron (84)
2 - 4 June	Rendezvous aux Jardins http://rendezvousauxjardins.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/	Open gardens throughout France
4 June	Le Jardin de la Petite Pépinière	Caunes-Minervois (11)

The Cote d'Azur is organising its first *Festival des Jardins* from 1st April until 1st May with the theme *L'éveil des sens* (the awakening of the senses). It will feature ten ephemeral gardens installed in Cannes, Nice, Menton, Grasse and Antibes-Juan-les-Pins and a programme of garden-related activities throughout the area. For more information see:

<https://festivaldesjardins.departement06.fr/le-festival/presentation-du-festival-14429.html>

If you hear about a plant or garden related event in your area, please do think about sharing the information with other members by putting a post on the Members' Forum – there's a section called Plant Fairs and Garden Events. As a reminder, to access the Members' Forum, go to the MGF website and click on the MEMBERS button. This will take you to the sign-in page where you enter your user name and password. There is a 'Remember me' facility to make it quicker on subsequent occasions. Once in the members' area, click on the yellow ACCESS THE FORUM button on the top of the page.

Hortus Programme

22 April	14.30 Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)
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All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>. To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr.

Sète Côté Jardin

To see the programme of events organised by Sète Côté Jardin, go to its website:

<http://setecotejardin.fr/scj/>

News and information

Mediterranean Gardening France website

The [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page has a summary of material added recently.

In March:



An article by David Bracey about the [mimosa](#), or silver wattle tree.

Photo: *Acacia podalyriifolia*, an early flowering mimosa, in Marjorie Orr's garden.

David has also investigated an interesting fruit, *Citrus australasica*, (syn. *Microcitrus australasica*), the [Australian finger lime](#), also known as lime caviar. It can be found growing wild along the Queensland /New South Wales border in Australia.



Trevor Nottle, head of our partner association, South Australia MGS, has written an article describing his visit to the [Jardin Antique Méditerranéen in Balaruc](#). We would like to receive up-to date accounts of gardens in Mediterranean France, so please send in your impressions in words and images when you visit gardens, both those on our list and new discoveries.

Members recommend...

Thank you to Sharon Simonson, June Grindley, Tony Stone and Frances Horne for sending in recommendations to add to our website list. New additions are:

Pépinieristes

Les Rosiers de Mougins, Mougins, Alpes-Maritimes
Pépinières Pastorino, Cagnes-sur-Mer, Alpes-Maritimes
La Rose de Brignac, Ollioules, Var
Ventoux Végétaux, Bédoin, Vaucluse
Pépinières Moulin, Lorient-du-Comtat, Vaucluse

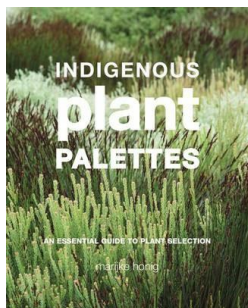
Designers/Paysagistes

Jean-Baptiste Pasquet, who works in the Drôme and the Vaucluse
Jean-Laurent Félicia, based in Bormes-les-Mimosas, Var

Do look at the lists, which can be found under the 'Recommendations' tab on the Home page of our website, www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org and contact me at cs.savage@btopenworld.com with any other recommendations, or equally to let me know of any listings which should be removed.

MGi website

Book reviews



A new review by Marianne Alexander, of the Cape Horticultural Society, of a book she says is sure to become every South African gardener's bible.

[Indigenous Plant Palettes: an essential guide to plant selection](#) by Marijke Honig, lists 440 indigenous South African plants and gives ideas on how to use them. This book is currently available online from Abebooks, or, soon, to borrow from MGF library, as a CHS member has kindly offered to bring a copy to Europe. Book reviews can now be found on the MGi site.

Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

Open Gardens / Jardins Ouverts, www.opengardens.eu, is a registered association which encourages owners to open their gardens to the public. Admission is by an annual Membership Card (10€) which entitles the holder to visit any of the gardens throughout the year on their stated open days. The proceeds are donated to charitable organisations in France. Catriona McLean has recently become the area coordinator for southern Occitanie (a new name for Languedoc-Roussillon) and she has been asked to source garden owners willing to open their gardens for charity.

Catriona writes:

"Would anyone interested in opening their garden, either this year or in 2018, contact me at catriona@catrionamclean.com. For those who have lived in the UK, the scheme is exactly as the Yellow Book scheme there and is really not too difficult to do for a day or weekend. I opened my garden in Scotland and it was really enjoyable as long as one has some gardening friends around to help take the money! You are not obliged to offer looos, or entrance to one's home, just the garden. Provision of tea and cakes is optional, but very nice if you can cope with it. The charities are selected by *Open Gardens / Jardins Ouverts* but garden openers can also put forward their own chosen charity to receive some of the proceeds. This charity must be based in France, and the committee, headed by Mick Moat will try and apportion a minimum of 500€ to the owners chosen charity. Please do look at the website, think about the idea and get in touch with me."

As part of this Open Gardens initiative, two MGF members' gardens in Caunes-Minervois, Le Jardin de la Petite Pépinière and Le Jardin Champêtre, will be open on Sunday 21st May, Sunday 25th June and Sunday 24th September (10.00 to 18.00 each day). In addition, Catriona will open her garden, *Le Jardin des Rossignols*, near Gignac, on Sunday 21 May and Chantal Guiraud will open hers, in Montpellier, on Sunday 28 May, from 14.00 to 18.00.

Seeking volunteers...

Newsletter Editor

We are seeking a volunteer to edit this newsletter, which is published on the MGF website roughly six times each year. Some skills in Word are required to format the information and images sent in by members and there is the opportunity to use creative flair to allow the format to evolve to present an interesting and attractive-looking information sheet. Most copy arrives in English and is translated into French by Eric Legrand, but some ability to read and understand both languages is needed. When the newsletters are fully prepared, in both languages, Ian Davies puts them onto the website.

Updating the Plant Fairs Listing

Could you check the internet every six weeks or so for the latest dates for Plant Fairs, Open Gardens and horticultural events so that they can be listed in this newsletter? The list from previous years provides a starting point and information about new events comes from members and nursery owners.

If you would be prepared to take on either of these small but rewarding tasks, please let me know:

cs.savage@btopenworld.com

With best wishes

Christine