



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

NOVEMBER 2019

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Saturday 23 November 2019, 9.00-19.00

Les journées de l'Arbre, de la Plante et du Fruit – Free visit

Espace Paulhan, Avenue de la Résistance, Saint-Jean-du-Gard (Gard)



Michèle Auvergne suggests a day outing to St-Jean-du-Gard, to meet the 170 exhibitors and discover their specialties: nurserymen, producers, craftsmen, artists, environmental associations and small scale farming, specialist bookstore and pop-up eateries. By the way, do not miss the must-haves: sweet onion donuts (from the Cévennes of course!) and chestnut flour crepes. The theme this year will be: Tomatoes - The tree and the forest.

For those who are interested, Michèle suggests a visit to the museum of the Cevennes valleys: the Maison Rouge. It is the last silk spinning mill to have closed down in France in 1965 and which has been transformed into a contemporary museum on the theme of life in the Cevennes during the silk production period. The programme includes a free lecture on humanist photography by Pierre Schwartz at 15.00. We suggest meeting at 14.45 in front of the entrance of the museum in order to benefit from the group half price entry fee (4 euros).

The Maison Rouge: 5 rue de l'Industrie (pedestrian entrance) or 35 Grand'rue 'parking) in St-Jean-du-Gard. Open Wednesday to Sunday from 14.00 to 18.00. Don't forget to dress warmly because it can get very cold.*

More information at: www.maisonrouge-musee.fr

Carpooling advised. Contact : Chantal Guiraud, chantal.gouverner@gmail.com

Thursday 5 December, 10.00

Sauvian, Hérault



Elisabeth Gratraud is organising a visit to an oil mill near Béziers on Thursday, December 5 at 10.00. We will see oil being extracted, and take part in oil tasting. There will also be the opportunity to purchase products. This mill is owned by Mr. DALLENS, gold medalist, olive oil, in 2018 and 2019 at the Concours Agricole in Paris. He also produces table Lucques olives. A lunch will be organised in a restaurant in Sauvian, 5 minutes from the mill, for 15.90 € or 20 € depending on the day's market produce. Starter, main course of the day, and dessert. The menu will be confirmed at a later date.

In Béziers, Elisabeth Gratraud is organising an afternoon visit recommended by the Tourist Office with one of their guides. This will include the Plateau des Poètes, a large park with rare tree and plant specimens

and listed sculptures, and the Old Cemetery, also adorned with old sculptures. The price of the visit is approximately 10 € per person.

We recommend registering quickly with Elisabeth Gratraud since the number of participants for the morning visit is limited.*

Contact : elisabeth.gratraud@free.fr.

Saturday 29 February, 14.00
Montferrier-sur-Lez (Hérault)
Conference on citrus fruit



Franck Curk, a seasoned speaker and agronomist at the agronomic research station INRA-CIRAD, will tell us about the Hesperides expedition, or how citrus fruit have conquered the world. He has also co-authored several books on the subject.

This free conference is organized by Chantal Guiraud and will take place in partnership with Hortus in the Salle du Dévezou, situated on the road from Saint-Clément-de-Rivière to Montferrier-sur-Lez 34980.*

Contact : Chantal Guiraud,
chantal.gouverner@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

21 – 27 April, The Maremma, ITALY
Wild flora and scenery of Southern Tuscany

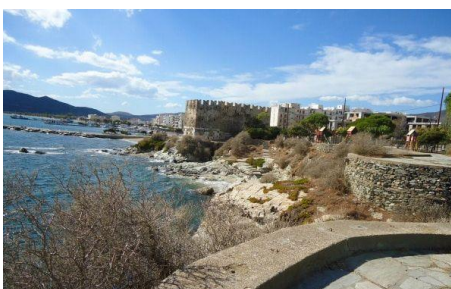


This walking tour, organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens and led by Professor Goffredo Filibeck of the University of Tuscia, is for those who enjoy hiking. The habitats of wild flora will include macchia, woodland, beaches, grassland, canyons and hilltop villages. The first five nights will be spent in Porto Santo Stefano, Monte Argentario, and the last two nights inland in the picturesque ancient village of Sovana, an area of volcanic tuff rock.

The itinerary and links to a plant list and booking form can be found [here](#).

Contact: [Heather Martin](#)

29 April – 6 May, Evia, GREECE
An MPG trip to see the wild flowers



This visit to the second largest island of Greece will focus mainly on wild plants. You will also visit churches, a vineyard and wine cellar, an ancient castle and examples of Evia's extraordinary dragon houses. The group will be led by Graham Kendall, who has specialised in the wild flora of Greece for 40 years. Hotels will be in the southern town of Karystos and Rovies in the north-west.

Please contact [Heather Martin](#) for more information or to request a place on the tour.

8-15 May, Sicily, ITALY
An MPG tour of Eastern Sicily



This seven-night trip includes both public and private gardens in and around Taormina, Mount Etna, Catania and Siracusa, together with two wildflower walks, visits to two nurseries and an archaeological site and a historic site; staying in both Catania and Siracusa. The trip will be led by local horticulturist, [Sergio Cumitini](#), who will introduce us to his area, with the assistance of local gardeners and other specialists.

A provisional itinerary can be seen [here](#). A booking form is available [here](#).
 Contact: Maddy Hughes at madalynhughes@aol.co.uk.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

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|------------------|--|----------------------|
| 23 - 24 November | Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit | St Jean du Gard (30) |
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Hortus Programme

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|-------------|---|-----|
| 30 November | Exotisme en Languedoc (Chantal Guiraud et Annie Nivière) | TBD |
| 7 December | Les orchidées de notre région, par Michel Nicole, de la Société Française d'Orchidophilie Languedoc | TBD |
| 25 January | Les rosiers adaptés à notre région par Françoise Navratil | TBD |

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the [website](#). To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact [Chantal Maurice](#).

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Mediterranean Gardening France website

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



[Petty, Pottery & Co](#) - A pottery themed outing

Julia Petty and Chantal Guiraud have written an account of our August visit to the village of Saint-Quentin-la-Poterie and the Jardin des Oules.

The photo, by David Ash, is of an imposing giraffe at the garden entrance.



In October, Yves Maccagno, a botanist specialising in trees, took us on a walk around Saint-Hippolyte-du-Fort to look at remarkable trees.

Read Elisabeth Gratraud's account of the day [here](#).

Interesting article from CHS News, September 2019

Christine Daniels writes:

This article in CHS News, about TreeKeepers, an organisation dedicated to the protection of urban trees, caught my eye.

Cape Town's tree canopy and treekeepers objectives



TreeKeepers is a citizens' organisation that came together to protect big trees mainly in the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town. A relationship has been formed with the City's Parks Department to help conserve and maintain the urban forest. They assist fellow residents to look after mature trees in their gardens and to work with City Council staff to ensure that no trees along roads and on public land are cut down without good reason.

Visit their website <https://treekeeperscapetown.org.za/> where you can report unnecessary or illegal pruning or felling under "Tree Alerts". Contact details for the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, who have jurisdiction over trees in all public places, are also available.

Henk Egberink, guest speaker at the October CHS meeting, will discuss the benefits of trees in an urban environment, the relevance of the Paris Climate Accord and what other countries and cities have achieved, as well as a short description of TreeKeepers' objectives, what the organisation has achieved and where they need to do more.

This seems to be a very worthwhile project. Does anyone know of a similar organisation in France?

List of plants which survived well during this summer's heatwave (follow-up)

Maurizio Casale (Phytotrend, San Remo, Italy) writes

«This summer is really horrible ... Some grasses drought resistant: *Muhlenbergia rigens* and *Muhlenbergia dubia* very drought resistant, even the other *Muhlenbergia*, may be a little less (*capillaris*, *reverchonii* and *lindheimeri*); *Jarava ichu* and surely *Nassella tenuissima*, *Andropogon scoparius* Blaze, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Pennisetum massaicum*, *Cortaderia selloana* Pumila, *Stipa gigantea*, *Eragrostis curvula*, *E. elliotii*, *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus*, *Miscanthus capensis*, *Sporolobus airoides*, *Lygeum spartum*.»

As a reminder: Annie Nivière has compiled a list of plants which survived well during the hot weather of summer 2019. You can look at the list on the Hortus website: [Une liste de plantes qui ont supporté la](#)

[canicule](#). We also have, in archive files, a list compiled by MGS members following the heatwave of 2003. A new list will be published on the MGF website.

WHAT IS IT?

In this topic, photographs of unusual plants, fruits, seeds or garden tools will be shown without the caption and readers are asked to identify them. The answer will be given in the following newsletter. The photos will also be available in the Members' Forum where you can suggest your answers. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#).

The "What is it?" in the October Newsletter (contributed by David Bracey) was an ancient Mediterranean mill for grinding wheat to make flour, found in Sardinia.



Photo: Ancient flour mill.

The new "What is it?" is below (proposed by Roland Leclercq). This plant can grow in your Mediterranean garden. You can find a clue in the website ("What is it?"). Answer in the next newsletter.



Photo by Jean-René Garcia

What's new in the [members' Forum](#)

Here are some of the new topics being discussed on the members' forum. To see them, log into the member area and click on ACCESS THE FORUM

Plants and gardens/Gardening/Bougainvillea

Plants and gardens/ Plants and Diseases/Two new herbicides

Plants and gardens/ Plants identification/Unknown Puya

Plants and gardens/Mediterranean plants growing wild/Datura stramonium, another plant benefiting from global warming

Plants and gardens/Mediterranean plants growing wild/Global warming

THE QUOTE OF THE MONTH

(from the Treekeepers leaflet, see above)

Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me,
And I 'll protect it now.

George Pope Morris (1802–1864) born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an American editor, poet, and songwriter.

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor
*Translation: Nanouk Pelen

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: rolandlec@wanadoo.fr