



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

AUGUST 2021

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Wednesday 15 September, Roaix, near Vaison-la-Romaine, Vaucluse

A visit to the gardens of Chateau Roaix and to Pépinières Baud



In the morning we will meet in the old village of Roaix, known for its Côtes du Rhône Villages wines, for a guided visit to the gardens of its privately owned chateau. The garden has evolved over the last 30 years, first under the guidance of Alain Idoux, a disciple of Nicole de Vesian, then extended and developed by the owners.

After the visit we'll drive to Pierre Baud's nursery near Vaison-la-Romaine for picnic lunch followed by a talk on the cultivation of fig trees and the opportunity to taste around 30 different varieties of fruit.

Places for this visit are limited. To book, contact [Christine Daniels](#).

Thursday 28 October, 10.00am, Souvignargues, Gard

A visit to Pépinières Quissac



Miriam Quissac has invited us to visit the nursery in order to learn about their pomegranate collection and to taste some of the different varieties, which will be ripe at this time of year.

To book a place contact [Chantal Guiraud](#).

Plans for Spring/Summer 2022

The MGF Annual General Meeting, Pont-du-Gard

We hope that after a two year delay, we will at last be able to hold an 'in person' AGM at the Pont-du-Gard in May 2022.

Gardens in Aude

A two day visit, including Daniel Fiala's garden in Tourreilles, south of Limoux

Fayance, Var

A visit to La Campagne Sainte-Marie and a garden belonging to MGF members

Beaumes-de-Venise / Le Barroux, Vaucluse

A walk and a visit to Tony Stone's garden, La Jeg

Grignan and Nyons, Drôme

A guided rose walk and a visit to an ecological fair

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Hortus Programme

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

New on the website



Our first outing of 2021, [a visit to the gardens of Chateau Pérouse and Henry Nardy](#), has been described in a report in Past Activities. Photos by Liliane Leclercq, Hugues Pelen, Hubert Nivière and Chantal Guiraud.

Photo: Le jardin de l'Henry



The [Garden Diary of Chateau Pérouse](#) has been continued with notes by Chantal Guiraud and Roland Leclercq from their visit in May.

Photo: The experimental garden



[Le Vallon des Auffes – a horticultural haven in Marseilles](#)

Michèle Bailey and Ian Davis discovered this traditional fishing village situated in an inlet right in the heart of Marseilles and explored the *Jardin Rocailleux*, an unusual public garden clinging precipitously to the side of a massive cliff. Their photo-essay is in the Gardens to Visit section.



Roland Leclercq has written [a report](#) on an interesting day visiting the workshop of sculptor Denis Augé, in Fabrezan, the garden of Liz and Jacques Thompson in Cesseroas and a tasting of the wines of the Domaine de Courbissac.

Sketch by Jacques Thompson



In June we visited the gardens of the [Abbaye de Valsaintes](#) where we were given a tour of the rose garden and the dry garden and a private concert of Gregorian chants in the abbey church. Hedwige Lauwaert has written an illustrated report.

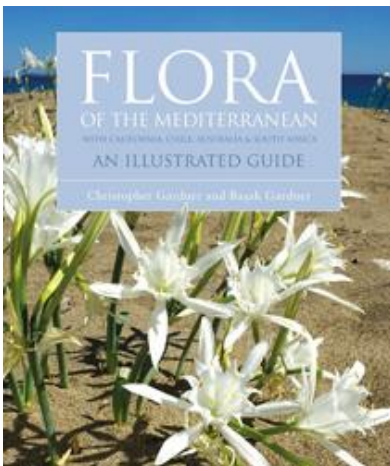
Photo: La voie des roses



Jean-Yves Meignen, co-founder of the garden project at the Abbaye de Valsaintes, gave us a talk on how and why he developed a method of [using essential oils as an aid to plant health](#). Romarin Girardot and Sylvie Dubois have written an article which explains his recommendations.

Photo: *Satureja hortensis*, useful as an essential oil

New book for the MGF library



Flora of the Mediterranean, with California, Chile, Australia & South Africa: an illustrated guide

By Christopher Gardner and Başak Gardner

This magnificent and hugely informative book has been added to our MGF library. The authors have selected 600 plants from the five Mediterranean-climate regions of the world to photograph and describe.

Juliet Walker, a member of Mediterranean Plants and Gardens, has written a detailed and entertaining review of the book, which you'll find on the [MGi website](#).

To borrow a book from the library, send an email to [Chantal](#). You can collect your books from Montpellier, or Chantal will bring them to the next MGF activity. Books can be returned next time you attend an event or passed on to another member for return. View the recently updated library catalogue [here](#).

We welcome reviews of books on garden, plant or related topics. Please send reviews of any books you have enjoyed to [Marjorie Orr](#).

News from Chile

Alfredo Unda, from Mediterranean Gardening Chile, writes:



Here is a short video of the sclerophyll forest that occupies a large area in Central Chile and in the Aurora upper part and ravines.

You may recognize some of the flowers we have described in the blog and will see some of the fauna of the forest (cougars have been seen in the mountains, but aren't shown in the video).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKs59DvN2-o&ab_channel=FantasmaDelBosqueNativo

You can place English or French subtitles by clicking on the toothed wheel at the bottom right of the screen, pressing "subtitles" in the display and then in "Autotranslate", you search for English or French in the list of languages and you're all set! The translation is not perfect, but it helps...

From South Africa

Glenda Thorpe from Cape Horticultural Society writes:



Rising from the ashes

You may enjoy watching this video of the presentation made by our new President, Marianne Alexander, last month. Marianne witnessed the devastation of the January 2019 fire in Betty's Bay. Following the fire, she was amazed to see what was beginning to re-sprout and grow through the ashes. This is a wonderful story of regeneration.

<https://youtu.be/cAES8UWIL88>

Photo: *Haemanthus canaliculatus* (Paint brush lily)

You can also read Marianne's [review of Marijke Honig's book](#) - Indigenous Plant Palettes: an essential guide to plant selection, on the MGi website.

And from California

Dave Tivol from California Horticultural Society writes:



Hello to our MGi affiliates!

The speaker for our May meeting was, at the last minute, unable to appear so we took the opportunity to offer an expanded edition of our Plant Forum — a chance for our members to discuss plants from their gardens. We are pleased to share the link with you:

<https://youtu.be/uV8bn8yfbGU>

Photo: *Rosa* 'Veilchenblau' in Sean O'Hara's garden in Berkeley

A photo from David Bracey



Laurus nobilis pruned into a cloud formation after two years.

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. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](mailto:Roland.Leclercq).

The “What is it?” in the May Newsletter was *Isopogon formosus*. This beautiful plant native to the Perth region of Australia is suitable for our Mediterranean gardens.



The new "What is it" is a beautiful plant that blooms in Pierre Bianchi's garden. Can you guess what it is?



THE PLANT THAT I HATE

From David Bracey



The cruel plant, *Araujia sericifera* :

The flowers can trap pollinating moths by their proboscis. It produces seeds which are distributed by the wind across the garden and germinate wherever they find soil. A very successful plant.

Photo: *Araujia sericifera*

For more information, see the article on [invasive plants](#) on the MGF website

You are welcome to send a picture of the plant that you hate or of your favourite plant (rare or common), accompanied by a short text, to be published in this newsletter. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#)

AND FINALLY

“By believing in flowers, often we see them grow” Edmond Rostand (French writer, author of “Cyrano de Bergerac”)

Editor's comment: No matter how hard I tried, I didn't have much success in my garden.

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq

Newsletter editor

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