



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

MARCH 2022

Dear members and friends,

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Thursday 14 April, 10.30am, Saint-Gilles, Gard

A guided visit to the Château Pérouse geophytes collection



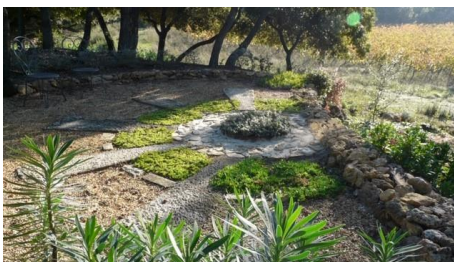
The Château Pérouse botanical garden has been developing an important collection of geophytes from Mediterranean and semi-desert climates for several years. Last year we visited the greenhouses, the nurseries, as well as the river garden. This time, Jan-Willem Vos opens his doors to us to admire these blooming geophytes and more particularly their collection of lachenalias rich in 74 species.

Please bring a picnic lunch to eat in the park. Everything will take place outdoors.

Numbers are not limited, but in order to organise the day, please register no later than March 31 with [Chantal Guiraud](#).

Thursday 28 April, 11.00am, Le Barroux, Vaucluse

A visit to two gardens of MGF members



Hedwige Lauwaert and Paul Kiekens write:

“Our garden is now four years old. We followed the planting layout and concept of our Belgian garden designer and transformed a mainly wooded piece of land, with hardly a view, into grounds laid out in terraces and open to the surrounding landscape. The garden is still a work in progress.”



Tony Stone is a photographer, and together with renowned garden designer, Anthony Paul, he has created a magical mix of sweeping panoramas, beautiful plantings and perfectly framed views. Tony has a love of land art and as you follow the winding paths through the garden you will admire many thoughtfully placed contemporary sculptures.

Photo (Clive Nichols): The view from La Jeg towards Mont Ventoux

To book a place for the visit to these two gardens contact [Hedwige Lauwaert](#).

Thursday 5 May, Fayence, Var

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



In the morning we'll visit La Campagne Ste-Marie, created by author and artist, Nicole Rengade. The garden is a charming, almost English cottage garden in style, with 800 species of plants, lovely old roses a potager and a Zen garden.

We'll eat our picnic lunches here, then move on to the stunning garden of Carla and Herman Buehl.



Carla and Herman have designed a garden to complement the strikingly modern house they built around 20 years ago. At the time, an oak wood and an ancient olive grove dominated the sloping terrain. They terraced the land and built retaining stone walls, which act as an attractive back drop for the planting, which includes collections of hellebores, irises and peonies, and for some magnificent pieces of sculpture.

You can read more about these two gardens, which we last visited in 2018, in [Past Activities](#). To book a place for this outing, contact [Gill Clarke](#).

Wednesday 11 May, Vers-Pont-du-Gard, Gard MGF Annual General Meeting



We are pleased to have been able to re-book Pont-du-Gard as the venue for the 2022 AGM. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its Roman aqueduct, built in the first century AD to carry water to the city of Nîmes, will be a splendid place for us to get together again, two years later than originally planned.

We will hold our meeting in the morning, followed by lunch at the Les Terrasses restaurant. In the afternoon there will be a guided visit to the bridge, including the third level, for up to 30 participants, and members can explore the extensive site with its thousand-year-old olive trees, botanical garden, preserved Mediterranean landscape (Memoires de Garrigue) and a 19c charcoal kiln.

To book, please complete the booking form sent to all members by email on 2 March. If you have mislaid this and would like another booking form, please write to [Christine Daniels](#).

Other dates for Spring/Summer 2022

Gardens in Var

- 24 May A visit to Le Jardin du Real at Puget Ville
- 6 June A picnic in a members' garden in Ste Maxime

Gardens in Aude

- 27/28 May A two day outing including visits to the gardens of Château Capitoul, near Narbonne, designed by James Basson, and to Daniel Fiala's garden in Turreilles, south of Limoux.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens 2022

5/6 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (Pyrénées-Orientales)
12/13 March	Expo-Vente Plantes, Nature & Terroir	Nîmes (Gard))
13 March	Primavera	Montpellier (Hérault)
13 March	Festival des Plantes et de la Nature	La Redorte (Aude)
19/20 March	Journée des Plantes Méditerranéennes et de Collection	Domaine d'Orvès La Valette-du-Var (Var)
26/27 March	Fete des Jardins	Antibes (Alpes-Maritimes)
2/3 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)
10 April	Ohhh 4 fleurs !!	Laudun (Gard)
10 April	Foire aux fleurs	Lauris (Vaucluse)
16 April	Fête du Printemps	Le Pontet (Vaucluse)

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



[Shrubs and woody plants suitable for hedges](#)

Having collected information from members, David Bracey has updated the MGF list of plants which are suitable for hedges. New entries include *Myrsine africana*, *Osmanthus x burkwoodii*, *Pittosporum tenuifolium* and *Salvia rosmarinus*

Photo: *Myrsine africana*



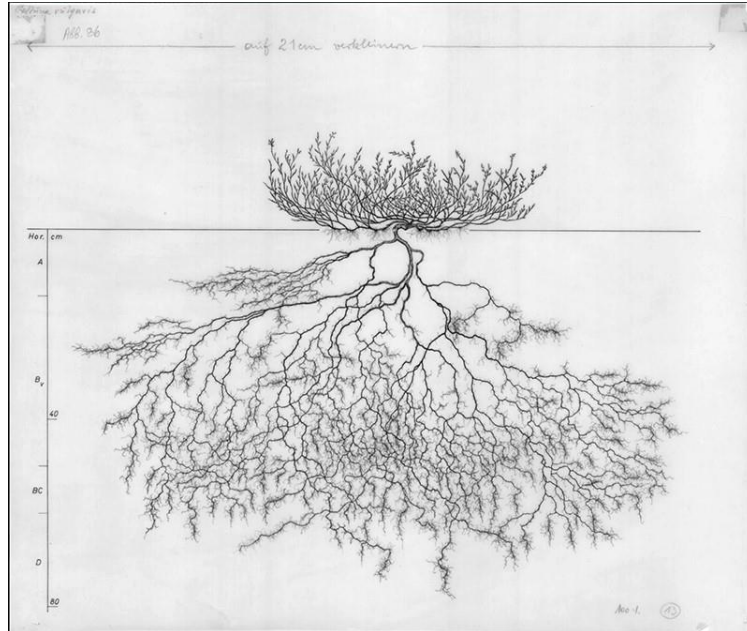
An article by Emile Duhoux, from our partner association, Hortus, '[The ephemeral jewels of the salsify flower](#)'.

Find out how to transform the heads of salsify plants (*Tragopogon* spp.) into ephemeral jewels.

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

California Horticultural Society

The [February issue of the California Horticultural Society Bulletin](#) includes this introduction to some surprisingly beautiful root illustrations:



Roots of Beauty

“An article posted on Open Culture, a free content curator run out of (but not affiliated with) Stanford University, alerted us to the collection of 1,180 root system drawings at Wageningen University & Research. These surprisingly beautiful illustrations were created to enhance scientific understanding and are the outcome of 40 years of root system excavations in Europe, mainly in Austria.”

To read the article: tinyurl.com/2xb7wx4d

To view the collection: tinyurl.com/Root-Drawings

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 February Newsletter (proposed by David Bracey) was *Lotus berthelotii* (Parrot’s beak).



The new "What is it?" is proposed by Roland Leclercq. Leaves, flowers and fruits. The plant can grow in the Mediterranean gardens. Answer in the next newsletter.



MY FAVOURITE PLANT

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

By Roland Leclercq: One of my favourite plants for its winter flowering is *Iberis semperflorens* (not to be confused with *Iberis sempervirens*). The duration of its flowering, from October to April in the sun, is remarkable and it illuminates the rock gardens and the beds during the winter.



AND FINALLY

"I spend delightful afternoons in my garden, watching everything around me live. As I grow older, I feel that everything goes away, and I love everything more passionately." (Émile Zola, 1840-1902, French writer).

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

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