



# MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

## LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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[www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com](http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com)

### February 2013 Newsletter No 2

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

#### **Programme of activities**

##### **Saturday 16 February at 14.30 in Clapiers (34)**

##### **Talk by Jean-Jacques Derboux at the médiathèque Albert Camus**

Hortus has arranged this talk by Jean-Jacques Derboux, paysagiste, on the subject of his recently published book « *Créer un jardin sans arrosage : De style méditerranéen* », photographs by Béatrice Pichon-Clarisse. The talk will be in French.

##### **Friday – Sunday March 1/2/3 in Albufeira, Portugal**

##### **A programme of talks and visits organised by the MGS in the Algarve**

For a programme and booking form contact Rosie Peddle, [rosie@thebtf.net](mailto:rosie@thebtf.net).

##### **Thursday 21 March at 12.30 in Vers (30)**

##### **Talk on Australian Gardens by Chantal Guiraud and Christine Savage**

This will be held at the Jardin de la Gare restaurant in Vers. We will have lunch followed by the talk.

##### **Wednesday/Thursday 10/11 April in Le Rayol-Canadel and La Londe des Maures(83)**

##### **Visit to the Domaine du Rayol and coastal gardens in the Var**

Domaine du Rayol, [www.domainedurayol.org](http://www.domainedurayol.org), designed by Gilles Clément, has a stunning location on the coast, to the west of St Tropez. We were made very welcome when we had our MGS stand there in October and Stan Alaguillaume, head gardener, has offered to take us on a tour and talk to us about the philosophy and maintenance regimes at this wonderful site. We will meet for lunch on the Wednesday, tour the gardens, then stay overnight in Le Rayol-Canadel. On Thursday morning, Jean-Marie Rey will take us to his favourite garden, owned by Mme Ferrari, which he describes as “petit mais sublime”. He has then invited us to have lunch with him at La Londe and to visit the nursery in the afternoon.

The recommended hotel is Les Terrasses du Bailli <http://www.lebaillidesuffren.com/hotel-terrasses-var/> where rates are from 110 -120€ for a twin room. If you wish to stay here, please state that you are booking as part of the MGS group.

##### **Saturday/Sunday 20/21 April**

##### **MGS stand at Plantes Rares at Serignan-du-Comtat**

The theme this year is «Variations méditerranéennes» and the organisers have invited us to take part, both with our MGS stand and by participating in the conference on mediterranean gardening. I already have a number of volunteers for the conference but more helpers to man the stand would be welcome. This is a great opportunity for us to share our passion for gardening with dry climate plants with others, as this plant fair is one of the best in southern France and always very well attended.

##### **Tuesday/Wednesday 14/15 May**

##### **Visit to gardens in the Pyrénées**

This visit will be based around the small town of Ceret, with its fine Museum of Modern Art. Starting on Tuesday afternoon we hope to arrange a visit to the demonstration garden of a local garden

designer and paysagiste, then on Wednesday we will visit private gardens in Ceret and Oms. The organisation is being done by local member, Lynn Hall. We had hoped to include a visit to Pépinière Bachès, a local citrus specialist, but unfortunately the nursery is closed at this time.

### **Thursday 16 May**

#### **Wine tasting with visitors from the UK branch**

Members of the UK branch are spending a week based in Pézenas visiting gardens and nurseries in the region and have invited us to join them for a day of wine tasting.

Heather Martin (UK Branch Head) writes:

“The UK Branch would be delighted if some local members joined us for a wine tasting day with Master of Wine, Rosemary George, who specialises in wines of the Languedoc. (Rosemary is an MGS member who lives in Roujan and London). At the Château de Flaugergues we will have a tour of the interior, the vineyard and the cellar then have the wine tasting. At the Château de l'Engarran we will have a tour and wine tasting with the owners. Rosemary will give an introductory talk on the coach journey from Pézenas to the first château and will be available to take questions throughout the day. Languedoc members can either leave their cars at Pézenas and travel by coach, setting off at 09.00 or join the group at Chateau de Flaugergues at 09.45. The day will end by around 16.00.

The cost for entrance fees, tours, wine tastings and lunch is €45.50 per person which must be paid in advance. Contact Heather Martin for further details, mentioning any special diet requirements, [hma@clara.net](mailto:hma@clara.net) “

### **Thursday/Friday 3/4 October**

#### **Languedoc 10th Anniversary garden party and AGM in Caunes-Minervois and Cessero**

### **November 7 - 10 Athens, Greece**

The General Assembly and election of the Administrative Committee for the next three years will be held in Athens on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Greek branch is putting together a programme of lectures and garden visits commencing on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact me by email at [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com) if you are interested in attending any of the above events.

### **Other dates for your Diary**

#### **Plant fairs 2013**

January 26/27	Mimosalia	Bormes-les-Mimosas (83)
February 23/24	Fête de la Bigrade	La Caunette (34)

### **News and Views**

#### **Membership Subscriptions 2013**

Please remember to pay your subscriptions for 2013. The society is run by volunteers and it's a great help if members renew promptly. The easiest way to do this is on line at <http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/applicationz.html>, or by completing a renewal form from the membership page on the website.

#### **Directory of MGS members in France**

Our Directory of members living in France continues to grow. Please check your entry and let me have any updates, particularly if you are happy to offer garden visits or Bed and Breakfast to MGS members.

#### **A NEW! Forum for MGS Members**

Anthony Daniels writes:

“The General Assembly in Australia voted for the creation of a new space for the exchange of ideas, information, comments and questions on any subject relevant to the society, other than plants and gardening which are already covered by the existing plant forum. The site is almost

ready and is open for members to test it out. I invite all members of the Languedoc Branch to register and have a look around, create a topic or post a comment.

To register go to [www.mgsmembersforum.org](http://www.mgsmembersforum.org)

... and follow the simple instructions. It's for members only, so you will need to enter your first and last name as your "username" so that we will be able to recognise you.

I hope you all enjoy visiting the **NEW! MGS Members' Forum.**"

### **\*\*Languedoc in the press\*\***



I'm attaching a wonderful article from the Winter 2012/3 edition of Pacific Horticulture magazine which is distributed in California and worldwide.

Jackie Herald, a London based landscape designer, visited the gardens of Catriona McLean, Benoit Moulin and Olivier Filippi and compares their approach with gardening in the UK.

She also includes information about the activities of the MGS and shows a number of us at work on the garden diary!

### **How to make 'bark cushions' for protecting tender plants during the winter months**

Liz Godfrey writes:

Get hold of some plastic mesh bags as used for storing onions or potatoes. I got mine from the local agricultural merchants. Fill with bark (the volume depends on how big a 'cushion' you want to make) and tie. Fold the tied end under to make a cushion and place over plants that you feel need a bit of protection. The advantages over simply mulching with extra bark are a) you don't risk damaging the plant by raking the mulch off in spring b) you can see where tender plants are and c) you can easily lift off to see progress and replace. I tried this for the first time last winter and successfully kept agapanthus alive despite 2 weeks of -15°C.

### **Plant lists on the website**

The Members Recommend..... area of the MGS France website now includes a new section for plants. Over the next 12 months we hope to transfer all our recommended plant lists to the site, which will give us the opportunity to add photographs. We have started with "Plants for late summer Colour" – right is *Caesalpinia gillesii*.



Go to [www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com](http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com) and have a look, and if you have any good photographs to fill in the spaces please send them to me!

### **New plant society**

I have received the following message about a new plant society, *La Société française d'acclimatation*.

« Avec quelques amis nous avons créé une association et une publication électronique, Plantaexotica. Cette revue est librement téléchargeable au lien suivant :

<http://www.societe-francaise-acclimatation.fr/Plantaexotica2013.pdf>

Comme son nom l'indique Plantaexotica se penche sur la culture des plantes exotiques en Europe et en particulier sous climats tempérés. Nous sommes à la recherche de lecteurs. Alors n'hésitez pas à diffuser ce lien et cette revue à vos amis et contacts. De même nous recherchons des auteurs souhaitant partager leurs expériences. »

Best wishes to all  
Christine

The information below will be repeated at the end of each Newsletter. New items appear in **Bold**.



# The Mediterranean Garden Society

Resources and Information available to  
members

<p><u>Languedoc Library</u> 250 books on gardening and plants in English and in French</p>	<p>To obtain the latest catalogue or to borrow a book, email Chantal Guiraud at <a href="mailto:chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr">chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr</a>. You can collect books from Montpellier, or Chantal will bring them to the next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Directory of Members</u> Town of residence and email addresses of MGS members in France and Belgium</p>	<p>Contact Christine Savage, <a href="mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com">cs.savage@btopenworld.com</a> to be included and to obtain a copy.</p>
<p><u>Lists</u> Nurseries, Garden Products and Designers <b>Plants for Late Summer Colour</b> Aromatic Plants Climbing Plants Roses Plants for Difficult Situations Seeds for Flowering Meadows Seeds of Hardy plants Booklist for Southern Gardeners</p>	<p>Compiled by branch members, further contributions welcome. <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com">www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</a> <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com">www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</a> David Bracey <a href="mailto:bracey@wanadoo.fr">bracey@wanadoo.fr</a> David Bracey David Bracey Alec Cobb <a href="mailto:alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr">alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr</a> Chantal Guiraud <a href="mailto:chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr">chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr</a>. Chantal Guiraud Jocelyn van Riemsdijk <a href="mailto:jocelyn.vanriemsdijk@nordnet.fr">jocelyn.vanriemsdijk@nordnet.fr</a></p>
<p><u>Leaflets</u> Making a Dry Garden Mulches and Compost The Waterwise Garden <b>Drought Tolerant Shrubs</b></p>	<p>These are available in English and French and can be distributed to friends or at places where gardeners gather. Contact <a href="mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com">cs.savage@btopenworld.com</a> for copies.</p>
<p><u>The MGS Website</u> A vast store of information about the society, including our Languedoc branch page.</p>	<p>In English: <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/">www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/</a> In French: <a href="http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/index.html">www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/index.html</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS France Website</u> Information for gardeners in France</p>	<p>In English and French <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com">www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS Seed List</u> A seed exchange for MGS members run by Chantal Guiraud</p>	<p>For a full list and how to order, see the MGS websites: <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html">www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html</a> <a href="http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html">www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html</a></p>
<p><u>The MGS Plant Forum</u> An internet forum for anyone interested in mediterranean plants and gardening</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mgsforum.org">www.mgsforum.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>The MGS Members' Forum</u></b> <b>An internet Forum for ideas, comments and questions on any topic related to the MGS</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.mgsmembersforum.org">www.mgsmembersforum.org</a></p>
<p><u>TMG archive service</u> Articles from past issues of The Mediterranean Garden journal</p>	<p>To receive the text of past articles by email contact the editor at <a href="mailto:petrie.harbouri@on.gr">petrie.harbouri@on.gr</a>. To find articles, go on the website, go to MGS Journal, then 'General Index' for an A-Z by topic.</p>
<p><u>Information about the administration of the MGS</u> Minutes of meetings and Financial Statements</p>	<p>Minutes of the October 2012 General Assembly, Administrative Committee meetings and Financial Statements are available. Contact <a href="mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com">cs.savage@btopenworld.com</a></p>