



# MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

## LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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**March 2013    Newsletter No 3**

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

### **Programme of activities**

#### **Thursday 21 March at 12.30 at the Jardin de la Gare restaurant in Vers (30)**

##### **Talk on Australian Gardens and Plant Exchange**

We will start with lunch at 12.30, (15€ per person, boisson non compris) then Chantal and I will show photographs and talk about some of the wonderful gardens we visited in Australia. We hope also to have video footage, taken by Ann and Michael, of the fauna on Kangaroo Island. After the talk there will be time for a plant exchange so please bring along any young plants you have been nurturing over winter.

#### **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.

The tour will start at 14.00 on the Wednesday, leaving from the Domaine du Rayol café. Stan suggests that those who wish to lunch together meet around 12.30 at the café, then we will walk around the gardens and nursery and stay overnight in Le Rayol-Canadel. On Thursday morning, Jean-Marie Rey will take us to a private garden nearby, followed by lunch at his home in La Londe and a visit to 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.

#### **Saturday/Sunday 20/21 April at Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)**

##### ***Plantes Rares et Jardin Natural*, Plant Fair, Conference and MGS stand**

The theme this year is «Variations méditerranéennes» and the organisers have asked Louisa Jones, garden writer, lecturer and MGS member, to mastermind the conference programme. Louisa has invited a splendid collection of experts in mediterranean gardening, botany and ecology to take part and members of the Languedoc branch will be contributing on the Saturday.

Our MGS stand will be there throughout the weekend and I would be grateful for a good number of volunteers to help man the stand. 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. A programme for the event is attached.

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

##### **Visit to gardens in the Pyrénées (66)**

This visit will be based around the small town of Céret, with its fine Museum of Modern Art and a number of small hotels. Starting after lunch on Tuesday, we will visit a garden just south of Perpignan owned of one of the founder members of *La Société française d'acclimatation*, a new association which focuses on exotic plants. Next we will go to the Jardin des Plantes Les Capellans at St Cyprien which has a collection of palm trees, bamboos and xerophytic plants. On Wednesday we visit private gardens in Céret and Oms. This event is being organised by local member, Lynn Hall.

#### **Thursday 16 May 9.45 at the Château de Flaugergues, Montpellier (34)**

## **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 member and Master of Wine, Rosemary George, who specialises in wines of the Languedoc. 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 a 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 at l'Engarran or 17.00 at Pézenas.

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, [hma@clara.net](mailto:hma@clara.net) “

## **Thursday/Friday 6/7 June Gardens in the Drôme (26)**

For our June outing we will visit gardens in the Drôme, starting with a tour of Montéliér, one of the ‘villages botaniques’, led by Hervé Canals. Also included will be the Jardin des Sables, Montvendre, Erik Borja’s japanese and mediterranean gardens at Beaumont-Monteux, and, on the way home, the herb garden at La Garde Adhémar and the Harmas de Jean-Henri Fabre.

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

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

## **November 8 - 10 Athens, Greece**

The General Assembly and the 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 Friday 8<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**

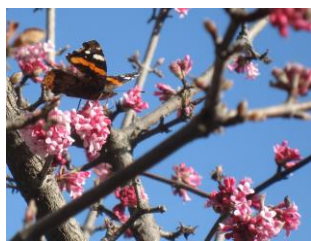
March 9/10	L'Art des Jardins	Isle-sur-Tet (66)
April 13/14	Portes Ouvertes Bulb'Argence	Fourques (30)
April 20/21	Plantes Rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
May 25/26	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air(13)
June 1/2	Rendezvous aux Jardins	Open gardens weekend

### **Hortus Spring Programme**

March 16	Le jardin naturel de Catherine Garnier
April 6	Visite à la pépinière de cactées de Florence Durand à Lunel-Viel (34)
April 27	Bourse aux plantes suivie d'un diaporama
May 23	Visite guidée du Parc de la Tête d'Or, le jardin botanique de Lyon
June 7/8	Voyage en Rouergue pour visiter plusieurs jardins

For more information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at [chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr)

## **News**



### **A City Garden in Montpellier**

Duncan and Catriona have made a winter visit to Chantal's garden and you can read the report and see lots of inspirational photographs on our website. Go to [www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com](http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com) and click on 'A City Garden in Montpellier' - January 2013.

## **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED!**

In January, I wrote asking for contributions to the 'Members Recommend...' lists that David Bracey and I are compiling for inclusion in our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet. Both of us have so far had a disappointing response and we need to get these lists underway.

I'm repeating the invitation to send in your contributions – **please do so by the end of March**, though photographs can follow at any time.

### **1. Recommended Gardens**

Information about gardens to visit in Languedoc and Provence is often requested by visitors to the region and potential new members. Since our current lists were compiled some years ago, we agreed we would start from scratch.

#### Criteria for inclusion:

The garden must be open to the public, either regularly or by appointment

There must be some sections of mediterranean planting or use of dry gardening techniques.

You should have visited it in the last 18 months

#### Details requested:

Name, address, phone number, website

Short description (max 50 words to include special features and approximate size)

If possible – a photograph!

Send contributions to me, [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

### **2. Recommended Plants**

David Bracey is updating three of our current lists:

Roses, Aromatic Plants and Climbing Plants

#### Criteria for inclusion:

Winter hardy to at least -10°C. If you have a favourite plant which is less hardy but you really want to include it, please specify cold tolerance. Once established, recommended plants should cope during summer dry periods with only an occasional, deep watering.

#### Details requested:

Botanical name

Plant type: tree, shrub, perennial, annual, grass, climber, succulent, bulb, rhizome

Deciduous/evergreen

Flowering period and colour of flower

Ideal position/use eg border, against a wall, sheltered, full sun, part shade, ground cover

Any distinctive features eg scent,

Any special cultivation requirements or soil type necessary

If possible – a photograph!

Send text to David at [bracey@wanadoo.fr](mailto:bracey@wanadoo.fr) and photographs to me, [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

### **Seed workshop**

Our January seed workshop at Chantal's house was inspirational and fun.

Michele Bailey has made some excellent notes (in two languages!) which appear on the branch pages of the MGS websites. Go to <http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/branches-fr.html> for the English version and <http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/languedoc.html> for the French one. Hubert Niviere invites us to view his photographs at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=107624346097091147277&target=ALBUM&id=5842568129750404721&authkey=Gv1sRqCIPPwK3DisyH5wE&feat=email>.

Chantal has compiled a comprehensive list of seed suppliers, books and websites which is attached.

### **Report on plants grown under pine trees**

In autumn 2011, Alec Cobb compiled a spreadsheet of plants recommended by members for 'difficult situations' – to obtain a copy see the list below. Alec decided to experiment by growing some of the recommended plants on a site in his own garden, under pine trees. His report on the plants selected, their growing conditions and their progress over the last 12 months is attached.

Best wishes to all

Christine

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



<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>