



# MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

## LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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**April/May 2013    Newsletter No 4**

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

Spring is here at last and in my garden the weeds are having a wonderful time due to all those April downpours. However, we had perfect garden visiting weather for the recent trip to the Var and a record number of participants. Here's an update on forthcoming events, a calendar of spring plant fairs and an invitation from Graham Petty to participate in our Directory of Gardens scheme.

### **Programme of activities**

#### **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.

Suggested hotels:

In Céret: Hotel des Arcades \*\*<http://www.hotel-arcades-ceret.com>

Le Cérétan\*\* <http://www.leceretanhotel.com/main.html>

Close by: Mas Trilles \*\*\*<http://www.le-mas-trilles.com>

#### **Thursday 16 May**

##### **Château de Flaugergues and Château de l'Engarran, near 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.

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, led by Hervé Canals, of Montélier, one of the 'villages botaniques'. Also included will be the Jardin des Sables, Montvendre, Erik Borja's Japanese and mediterranean gardens at Beaumont-Montoux, and, on the way home, the herb garden at La Garde Adhémar and the Harmas de Jean-Henri Fabre at Sérignan-du-Comtat.

Suggested overnight accommodation:

In Granges-les-Beaumont : L'Auberge des Collines, <http://www.aubergedescollines.fr>

Hôtel les Vieilles Granges, <http://www.vieilles-granges.com/index.php>

In Chateaunef-sur-Isere : B&B Nature d'Eaux, spa. <http://www.gites-de-france-drome.com/chambre-d-hotes-G84720.html>

#### **Thursday 5 September**

##### **A day with Dominique Lafourcade in St Rémy-de-Provence (13)**

Garden designer Dominique Lafourcade has invited us visit her own garden, Les Confines, and will chose another one nearby to show a different example of her work.

## Thursday/Friday 3/4 October

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

## November 7 –13 Athens, Greece

### MGS Annual General Meeting

Information about this event has now been posted on the MGS website. This is the notice that appears there:

**The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the MGS will take place in Athens between Thursday 7 and Sunday 10 November 2013.**

**During this Assembly the election of the new Administrative Committee will take place.**

**All members are invited to attend the General Assembly, to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 10 November 2013 at the Goulandris Museum, Kifissia, Athens. An optional visit to Messinia, with its beautiful countryside dotted with ancient olive trees will be organised between 11 and 13 November. A highlight of this tour will be the post-classical site of Messine, which was excavated only recently.**

The Athens programme will include a visit to the MGS garden at Sparoza.

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

April 20/21	Plantes Rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
May 1	La main verte	Le Vigan (34)
May 4/5	Fête des Plantes	Abbaye de Fontfroide (11)
May 9	Ganges en fleurs	Ganges (34)
May 18	Jardins en fête	Beziers (34)
May 25/26	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air(13)
June 1/2	Portes Ouvertes la Petite Pepiniere	Caunes-Minervois(11)
June 1/2	Rendezvous aux Jardins	Open gardens weekend

#### Hortus Spring Programme

April 27	Bourse aux plantes à 14h30 au Dévezou
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

#### Garden Visiting

##### Graham Petty writes:

“At our December Branch AGM, we agreed to continue the Directory of Gardens started last year, but to remove the barrier of password protection, which was discouraging use of this section of the site. This has now been done and the Directory of Gardens can be accessed from the Home page.

So far, ten members have put details of their gardens on our MGS France website. They welcome other members getting in contact to make arrangements to visit them and their garden. Whilst we all find inspiration from the organised branch visits to important gardens throughout our region, there is just as much, if not more sometimes, that we can gain from informal visits to the gardens of other enthusiasts. These gardens are likely to be on a scale closer to our own, without the luxury of a paid gardener to do much of the work, and one can discuss in depth what does and doesn't work in this challenging mediterranean climate. There is a lot that we can learn from each other's ideas and experience.

I hope you will find 10 minutes to look at the gardens – go to [www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com](http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com) and click on Directory of Gardens.

At the end of each garden description there is a link to the email address of the member who owns it, click on this if you want to arrange to call by and see the garden. If you are inspired and want to add your garden to the Directory, then email me [petty.graham@gmail.com](mailto:petty.graham@gmail.com) and I will send you a short guidance note, in English or French, which will explain how to prepare your description and photos for inclusion.”

### **Here’s an interesting idea from Jacques Thompson:**

#### **MGS Members’ Skills Register**

“As well as expertise in plants and gardening, the society has many skills at its disposal in the form of its membership. The challenge is to access these skills so that they may benefit the aims and objectives of the society. Members could also benefit from knowing more about each other, for example, what other interests and hobbies.

For instance, we have recently found that (not surprisingly) we have a number of members that have expertise in law. Many fields come to mind ....organisation, communications, graphic design, photography, financial expertise etc etc.

Of course some members may not want to divulge their expertise and that is understandable, but for those that are willing to assist I would welcome your input. You can contact me by email at the following address: [jacques@thompsoncomms.com](mailto:jacques@thompsoncomms.com). We would then put together a directory that would be at the disposal of all members.”

**Note from Branch Head:** I would very much appreciate advice from members with IT skills, in particular, anyone with experience of website creation or administration.

#### **Minutes of March AC meeting**

If you are interested in the work done by the Administrative Committee, minutes of meetings are now available on the Members’ Forum (under the heading The Administrative Committee). To register for the Members’ Forum go to [www.mgsmembersforum.org](http://www.mgsmembersforum.org)

#### **Poll results and update on court case**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the recent poll. 513 members, from 20 countries responded, so almost a third of the membership. As poll-coordinator, I compiled a report which was sent to the AC and to the MGS’s lawyer, for inclusion as part of the papers for the court case. This took place, as scheduled, on Thursday 4 April. We have been told that the judge’s decision will be issued in between 2 and 6 months time.

You can read a copy of my report on the poll results on the Members’ Forum [www.mgsmembersforum.org](http://www.mgsmembersforum.org)

Happy gardening  
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 Plants for Late Summer Colour 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 Drought Tolerant Shrubs</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><u>The MGS Members' Forum</u> An internet Forum for ideas, comments and questions on any topic related to the MGS</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, Financial Statements and Administrative Committee <a href="http://www.mgsmembersforum.org">www.mgsmembersforum.org</a> meetings are available on the MGS Members' Forum</p>