



MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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August 2013 Newsletter No 6

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

Programme of activities

****Wednesday 18 September, 11.00am****

Change of date!

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. Please bring a picnic lunch to eat in the garden.

Numbers for this day out are limited to 30 people. Could members who had booked for the original date please confirm to me that they will be able to be there on the 18th.

Saturday/Sunday 28/29 September

Portes ouvertes - la Soldanelle, Rougiers (83)

Sylvie and Christian Mistre have invited us to have our MGS stand at this convivial event which is perfectly timed for autumn planting. Many of our favourite specialists in dry garden plants will also be there. I'd be delighted to hear from any members who would like to help man the stand.

Thursday/Friday 3/4 October

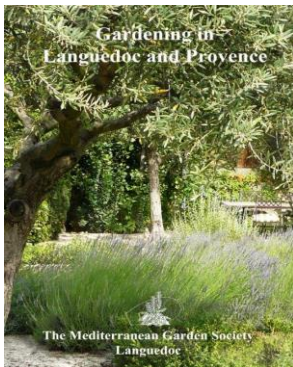
Languedoc 10th Anniversary garden party and AGM in Caunes-Minervois and Cesseroas

Thursday: Walk and Garden Party

For those feeling energetic, the day will start with a walk near the village of Conques sur Orbiel led by Gill Pound. We will leave the Petite Pépinière de Caunes, 21 av. de la Montagne Noire, 11160 Caunes-Minervois, at 10.15.

Gill writes:

"It's a nice circuit over limestone garrigue with good views, a good range of vegetation and not much up and down. There are two linked walks, 2km each, which would allow people to do one, or both. The start of the walk is a 15 minute drive from the nursery but bear in mind that the journey includes about 1km of garrigue track which would not be good for low slung cars!"



The garden party will be held in Gill's garden from 13.00 and will include lunch and the launch of our dual language, tenth anniversary book, *Gardening in Languedoc and Provence*. I will bring books for everyone who has placed an advance order, plus some additional copies. If you haven't already let me know how many copies you would like, please do so as soon as possible as this is a limited edition. A summary of the contents is attached.

Book price: 15€ (MGS members: 13€).

Friday: The MGS Languedoc AGM

This will take place at the home of Liz and Jacques Thompson, La Grande Maison, Rue des Caves Hautes, 34210 Cesseroas.

The meeting will start at 10.30am and be followed by a buffet lunch.

Liz has reserved rooms for us for the nights of 2 and 3 October at two bed and breakfast places in nearby Olonzac. When booking, please quote her name so that the hotels will know you are part of the MGS group.

Chambres d'hôtes Sainte-Hélène, 0468 45 69 93

www.sainte-helene.com <<http://www.sainte-helene.com>>

Villa Limonade, 0468 41 78 09

<http://www.villalimonade.com/>

An alternative, recommended by Gill, is

L'Ancienne Boulangerie, Caunes-Minervois, 0468 76 27 17,

<http://www.ancienneboulangerie.com/>

November 7 –13 Athens, Greece

MGS Annual General Meeting

Everything you need to know about this year's annual gathering is now on the website at <http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/agm-2013.html>. You can choose to come for all of the activities or just certain elements, and there is a range of recommended hotels at different price levels. A number of Languedoc members have already registered and are researching flight options so if you're interested, send me an email and I can put you in touch with others planning to go.

If you will be unable to attend in person but would like to vote by proxy, we will, as in previous years, be offering a service to match up members in France looking for someone to represent them with people who will be going to the meeting in Athens. Sandra Cooper has offered to coordinate this exercise and I will be writing more about it in September. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the voting process, please contact me.

Pre-AGM Trip

Monday 4 to Wednesday 6 November, Mani, Peloponnese

Botanical excursions and garden visits

Two days of botanical excursions and one day of garden visits in the company of horticultural expert John Fielding and cyclamen guru Melvyn Jope, with convivial evening meals and talks. For details and to request details about available accommodation contact Sandra Panting spanting@me.com or Katerina Georgi katininsideout@gmail.com, local group leaders, MGS Peloponnese.

Please contact me by email at cs.savage@btopenworld.com if you are interested in attending any of the above events.

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs

7/8 September	Journées des plantes - Cours Julien	Marseille (13)
8 September	Foire aux plantes	Uzes (30)
28/29 September	Portes ouvertes - la Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
4/5/6 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (11)
19 October	Plantes rares - Bourse d'échanges	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
20 October	Marché d'automne	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)

Hortus Programme

For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr

News

News about our MGS France website

Duncan and Catriona's report on their summer visit to Chantal's 'City garden in Montpellier' is now on the website www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com.

I'd also like to announce a major change – Charles Waterhouse, who set up our MGS France website in August 2011 and has guided us through from small beginnings to the information-packed site we have today, is to retire. I am hugely grateful to him for his encouragement and

advice and for the hours he has put in, loading all the text and pictures onto the site and making it look beautiful and easy to navigate.

Some months ago I put out an appeal for any members with technical expertise to contact me and to my delight (and relief) Ian Davis got in touch. Ian has agreed to be the new 'Webmaster' and is currently teaching himself the skills required. The site will move to a new platform so will look and feel rather different, but the familiar content will be there plus some new ideas from Ian. If any members have suggestions or wish to contribute, please get in touch with Ian at imd26130@gmail.com. He speaks English and French.

Accounts of activities in May and June

Jane Claridge and Jenny Ritchie have written accounts of our visits to gardens in the Pyrénées, with photographs by Hubert Nivière, and Rosemary Halford and Duncan Munford have reported on our two days in the Drôme, see <http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/branches-fr.html>

Placements for horticultural students and for gardeners

Heather Martin, UK MGS Branch Head, writes:

"There are, from time to time, UK trained or partly trained horticulturists looking for work experience in mediterranean-climate gardens. If any member has a garden or knows of a garden which might be able to offer a paid placement with some mentoring and instruction please send me an email, hma@clara.net."

I have also (via Gill Pound) received an offer of gardening work from two British gardeners, Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton. Imogen writes:

"Kate and I are two professional gardeners taking a year's sabbatical from our horticulture jobs in Britain to work in gardens across the south of France, visit gardens and learn/improve our French. We have joined WWOOF and HelpX in France and will also be doing some paid design and landscaping work throughout the year."

I am Head Gardener at Pensthorpe Gardens in Norfolk www.pensthorpe.com, gardening several acres of mixed perennials and ornamental grasses, woodland and habitat gardens, and I used to work for a family nursery whilst studying for my horticulture degree. Kate has a BTEC in Horticulture and co-ordinates STAA Heritage Display Gardens in Nottingham.

We will be staying with Gill in November this year and will be travelling east, further along the coast, from December onwards. We are looking for other gardening work opportunities and would welcome any ideas or suggestions, either for work in your own gardens or with someone that you know."

Contact: ichecketts41@gmail.com

DVD on mediterranean gardens

EBC Communications (who produced the DVD on Sparoza about which Jean Vaché writes in the July journal) has produced a DVD which features the gardens of MGS members in several different countries. Martin Rubach from EBC writes:

"We have finally finished our grand tour of Mediterranean gardens and launched Gardens in the Sun as 3 half hour programmes on one DVD for sale at £12.99. It can be purchased from www.gardensinthesun.co.uk where you can watch a short trailer, or simply search for Gardens in the Sun DVD at Amazon. We are still approaching TV stations but felt we would offer a DVD to spread the word about some of the lovely gardens around the Med."

With best wishes
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> 280 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 chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr. 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, cs.savage@btopenworld.com 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. www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com David Bracey bracey@wanadoo.fr David Bracey David Bracey Alec Cobb alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr Chantal Guiraud chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr. Chantal Guiraud Jocelyn van Riemsdijk jocelyn.vanriemsdijk@nordnet.fr</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 cs.savage@btopenworld.com for copies.</p>
<p><u>The MGS Website</u> Information about the society, including our Languedoc branch page.</p>	<p>In English: www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/ In French: www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/index.html</p>
<p><u>The MGS France Website</u> Information for gardeners in France</p>	<p>In English and French www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com</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: www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html</p>
<p><u>The MGS Plant Forum</u> An internet forum for anyone interested in mediterranean plants and gardening</p>	<p>www.mgsforum.org</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>www.mgsmembersforum.org</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 petrie.harbouri@on.gr. 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 meetings are available on the MGS Members' Forum www.mgsmembersforum.org</p>