



MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

LANGUEDOC BRANCH

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December 2013 Newsletter No 9

Dear Languedoc members and friends,

Programme of activities for 2014

Thursday 9 January, 11.00am Restaurant Le Tracteur, Argilliers (30)

A talk on mediterranean geophytes, by John Fielding, co-author of *Flowers of Crete*



John is an expert on mediterranean geophytes (bulbs, corms, rhizomes) and will pick out a selection suitable for the climate here in France, including some more unusual varieties. He is a member of the RHS Photographic Committee and will illustrate his talk (in English, but with simultaneous French translation if required) with many photographs of mediterranean bulbs growing in the wild.

* *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *crassifolium*

The cost for the talk will be 7€ per person.

After the talk we will have lunch at the restaurant, <http://www.autracteur.fr>.

Thursday 20 February, 10.15am Pépinière Filippi, Mèze (34)

A workshop on plant propagation by Olivier Filippi

The workshop will take place inside the greenhouses, so is limited to 15 participants. Afterwards we will have a tour of the demonstration garden <http://www.jardin-sec.com>.

Tuesday 4 March, 11.00am Bulb'Argence, Fourques (30)

A workshop on soil by David Bracey

David writes:

Soil is a complex and precious commodity. On the 4th of March we will examine and make a mechanical analysis of our own soils. I would like each of you to bring a soil sample from your own garden and a screw tight jam jar so that we can look at what components you can find in your soil.

Bring some kitchen paper since you will be handing your own soil to hear the sand, roll the clay and feel the silkiness of silt. I will be sending more instructions on how to take your soil sample closer to the date.

It will be a fun day....if messy."

The workshop will be held in the garden of mediterranean bulb specialist, Bulb'Argence, in Fourques, www.bulbargence.com where many early bulbs will be in flower. Please bring a picnic lunch.

28/29/30 March, Algarve, Portugal

3rd International Spring Conference

The theme for 2014 is *Dry Mediterranean Gardening*, with the focus on plant choices for gardens in mediterranean climate zones. There will be lectures on the succulent plants of South Africa and Mexico and Roy Lancaster will talk about the plants of the Siskiyou mountains of California and Oregon. To register your interest, contact Rosie Peddle at rosie@thebtf.net.

Monday 31 March – Saturday 5 April

Gardens of west Cornwall and Tresco, Isles of Scilly, England

This tour of special gardens in Cornwall, includes two of long standing, Trewidden and Tresco, and two relatively recent, Tremenheere and Bonython Manor. Another five are private gardens seldom open to the public. Accommodation is at Budock Vean Hotel, set in 65 acres on the beautiful Helford estuary. Cost: £795 per person including meals, garden entry fees, transport to gardens and flights to the Scilly Isles. For more information, contact UK member Charles Smith chaswsmith113@gmail.com.

Thursday 3 – Sunday 6 April

Gardens of Eastern Sicily, Italy

Clare Littlewood, garden designer and author of *Gardens of Sicily*, will lead this tour of gardens around Taormina and the slopes of Mount Etna. For more information see the MGS Members' Forum→Branch News→Italy, www.mgsmembersforum.org or contact Angela Durnford, angela.durnford@mgstaly.org

Thursday 10 April, Les Jardins de Payan, Tarascon (13)

A talk by paysagiste, Jean-Sylvain Bussac, followed by a visit to the gardens

In the morning, Jean-Sylvain Bussac, garden designer and paysagiste, based in Aix-en-Provence, will talk to us in French about using combinations of colour and shape to create different visual effects in the garden. www.jardinpaysage-bussac.com.

At lunchtime, Sophie de Brignac, owner of the Mas de Payan, has invited us to eat our picnics in the garden, followed by a walk around the 13 hectares of park and gardens. Work on the gardens started in 1981 with the planting of hedges, trees and shrubs. Over the following thirty years the garden was developed and now has an arboretum, a potager and a collection of unusual plants, many raised from seeds and cuttings collected by the owners. It has an alkaline clay soil, pH8. <http://www.lesjardinsdepayan.com/> .

Thursday 24 April, Le Jardin des Sambucs, Saint-Andre-de-Majencoules (30)

Agnès et Nicholas Brückin will give us a tour of their garden including a look at the water recuperation systems on the site and a talk on wild gardens – cost 10€ per person. <http://www.jardinsambucs.com>

Wednesday/Thursday 21/22 May - Sillans-la-Cascade (83)

Two days in the Var with Benoit and Isabelle Beauvallet

This trip will start with a visit to L'Armalette, their nursery and demonstration garden, <http://www.pepiniere-armalette.fr> followed by a visit to a private garden selected by Benoit. On Thursday, Benoit will lead a group of those happy with hill walking for an excursion to look for wildflowers in the mountains around Moustiers-Sainte-Marie.

Thursday 5 June - Ménerbes (84)

A visit to a member's garden in Ménerbes. Please bring a picnic lunch. This visit will be limited to 25 participants.

September

Visits to gardens near Montpellier.

13 – 16 October

Pre-AGM trip to gardens in Languedoc and Provence.

16 – 19 October

The MGS General Assembly and accompanying programme, Menton, Alpes-Maritimes

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

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs

25/26 January	Mimosalia – thème ‘Les plantes du désert’	Bormes-les-Mimosas (83)
12/13 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)

Hortus Programme

7 décembre	Conférence - Histoire de nos légumes	Montferrier-sur-Lez (34)
26 avril 2014	Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)
23/24 mai 2014	Voyage annuelle	Lyon et la Drôme

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

News and information

New on the MGS France website www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com

- A new facility: Click on the ‘**What’s New?**’ button on the menu bar and you’ll find a page listing recently added material and other changes.

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A new plant list: ‘**Roses**’, with 56 varieties recommended by members for the climate and soils of mediterranean France. Almost all are illustrated by photographs sent by members. My thanks to Yan Surguet of *Les roses anciennes du jardin de Talos* for his help in filling in some of the gaps.

* *Rosa* ‘Pierre de Ronsard’

- Additions to the ‘Members recommend’ list:
Pépinieriste Jean-François Giraud of Le jardin de Rochevieille in Viviers (07).
Paysagiste Gabriel Rochard of Atelier Gabriel, based near Paris.

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A report of our trip to the Pyrénées-Orientales with many new photographs.

With best wishes
Christine

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



<p><u>Languedoc Library</u> 288 books on gardening and plants in English and in French</p>	<p>Catalogue: www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com 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, Designers and Garden Products Plants for Late Summer Colour Aromatic Plants Climbing Plants Roses Plants for Difficult Situations Seeds for Flowering Meadows Seeds of Hardy plants</p>	<p>Compiled by branch members, further contributions welcome. www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com David Bracey bracey@wanadoo.fr David Bracey www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com Alec Cobb alec.cobb@wanadoo.fr Chantal Guiraud chantal.guiraud@modulonet.fr. Chantal Guiraud</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>Journal archive service</u> Articles from past issues of our journal <i>The Mediterranean Garden</i></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 2013 General Assembly, the Administrative Committee and Branch Head meetings, and Financial Statements are available on the MGS Members' Forum www.mgsmembersforum.org</p>