



MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

LANGUEDOC

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www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com

February 2014

Dear Languedoc members and friends

Programme of activities in France

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 and will be followed by a tour of the demonstration garden <http://www.jardin-sec.com>. This event is now fully booked.

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. Bring a picnic lunch to eat in the garden or eat at a local restaurant.

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> .

Friday 25 April, 10.00am, Nice (06)

Guided visit to the Botanic garden of Nice. Information: mgs.provencebranch@gmail.com .

Friday 2 May, 10.30am, Tourtour (83)

Visit to the new garden of the hotel Domaine de la Baume near Tourtour, www.domaine-delabaume.com , picnic lunch at the home of Pamela and Angus Mackintosh followed by visit to the Entrecasteaux Chateau. Information: mgs.provencebranch@gmail.com .

CHANGE OF DATE!

Tuesday/Wednesday 20/21 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 Wednesday, 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.

Monday 2 June, 10.00am, Placassier, near Grasse (06)

Visit to Domaine de Manon where roses are grown for the perfume industry.

Information: mgs.provencebranch@gmail.com.

Thursday 5 June, Ménerbes (84)

A visit to a member's garden in Ménerbes. Please bring a picnic lunch.

The visit is limited to 25 participants and is now fully booked.

Saturday 14 June, 10.30am, Pierrefeu- du-Var (83)

A visit to two gardens, Jardin de la Gravière which has ponds, an arid zone with cacti, a shady zone with tree ferns, lots of unusual trees and lovely roses plus sculptures and Frédéric Vallée's small garden with a pond area and exquisite bonsai of olive trees.

Information: mgs.provencebranch@gmail.com.

Friday 12 September, Gattières(06)

A visit to the Jardins des Fleurs et Poterie. Information: mgs.provencebranch@gmail.com.

Monday 13 – Thursday 16 October

Pre-AGM trip to gardens in Languedoc and Provence.

Places will be limited to 50 people and priority will be given to members coming from outside Europe.

Thursday 16 – Tuesday 21 October

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

The core events of the General Assembly programme start with a reception in the evening of Thursday 16 October and finish with dinner on the evening of Sunday 19 October. There will be two optional days of garden visits on Monday 20 October and Tuesday 21 October.

The organising team is keen to know how many participants to plan for, so please can you let me know if you are thinking of attending. Registration will open in May.

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

MGS events in other countries

Portugal

28/29/30 March, Algarve, 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. Full details are on the MGS Members' Forum under 'Branch News and Information – Portugal'. www.mgsmembersforum.org.

To register your interest, contact Rosie Peddle at rosie@thebtf.net.

Italy

19 March, Rome

Seed workshop by Chantal Guiraud

30 April, Florence

Talk by Helena Atlee "*The land where lemons grow*" and garden visit.

16/17 May, Pisa

Nature walk in the dunes and pineta of San Rossore.

For more information contact Angela Durnford, angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org.

UK

Sunday 6 April to Sunday 13 April - Crete

This trip based in Plakias and Omalos will concentrate on wild plants, and will be accompanied by John Fielding, co-author of *Flowers of Crete*. There will be guided walks and a visit to Phaestos and Gortys. The cost (£472 - £542) includes accommodation in simple hotels and some meals but excludes air fares.

10 May, Eccleston Square, London

Plant writer and ceanothus expert, Roger Phillips, will lead a tour of the gardens which are the home of the National Collection of ceanothus.

5 June to 8 June, Lincolnshire - Third UK Branch Annual Meeting

Visits to Mill Farm, Grasby; Goltho Gardens; Overbeck, Scothern; Garden House, Saxby; and Hall Farm, Harpswell – most with an introduction by the owners. There will be a talk on peony species in the wild and a visit to the Bennison Peony Nursery. We shall stay in the Lincoln Hotel close to Lincoln Cathedral. Cost: £280 - £370 to include hotel, meals and garden entrances.

26 July, North-West Kent

Morning visit to William Dyson's private salvia collection and nursery sited at the entrance to the Great Comp Garden, followed by an afternoon visit to Downderry Lavender, guided by Simon Charlesworth.

For more information contact Heather Martin, hma@clara.net.

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs

30 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)
12/13 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
31 May, 1 June	Portes ouvertes, La Petite Pépinière	Caunes-Minervois (11)
31 May, 1 June	Rendez-vous aux jardins	Throughout France

Hortus Programme

22 février	Conférence 'Sans pesticides' - Joel Avril	Clapiers (34)
26 avril	Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)
22 mars	La pépinière de Mylène Bertetto	Garrigues-Ste-Eulalie (30)
9/10 mai	Voyage annuelle	Lyon et la Drôme

For information on Hortus activities contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr or go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>

News and information

New on the MGS France website



A report on a visit to Olivier and Clara Filippi's garden in May 2013 has been added to the Garden Diaries section

<http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/gdGL2013May.htm>

and to accompany it, a new plant list,

'Plantes pour une terrasse végétale' in the Plants section

<http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/piTV.htm>.

Hot off the press, Julia Bradley's account of John Fielding's recent talk on geophytes

<http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/baRpt2014n01.htm>

and an illustrated list, with John's notes, of the plants he recommends

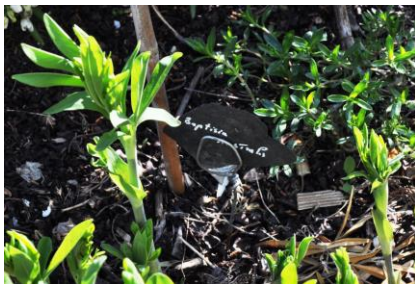
<http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/plGeo.htm>.



Plant labels

Eric Legrand recommends an interesting way of making indestructible plant labels from re-cycled materials. This is the website which explains how to do it <http://www.amis-hom-arts.com/article-29023659.html>.

Eric writes:



I use pieces of slate which had fallen off a church roof. The label in the photo has been outside for over three years and has remained undamaged through rain, wind, snow, sun etc. It is very practical for marking the spot where plants which disappear in summer or winter are sited.

The key to success when making the labels is to make use of a good vice, without which one needs to use a lot of force!

Seed catalogue

David Bracey writes:

The Chiltern Seed catalogue 2014 is extensive. Here are some seeds, new this year, which may do well in a mediterranean garden www.chilternseeds.co.uk.

Allium farreri

Argyrea nervosa (Woolly morning glory)

Asphodelus albus

Bomarea multiflora

Citrus aurantifolia (Key lime)

Datura discolor (Desert Thorn Apple)

Gaura lindheimeri 'The Bride'

Phlomis lychnitis 'Lampwick'

Scilla peruviana var *album*

Verbena hybrida 'Mammoth'

Gardening in Languedoc and Provence

Book Review by Trevor Nottle, Head of the South Australia MGS

Our tenth anniversary book has been a great success. 450 copies were printed and already 325 have been bought, both by MGS members and the gardening public. Another 60 copies have been reserved by members and I'll be contacting everyone who has ordered but not yet received their books to discuss delivery options.

The book has been sent to Italy, Spain, the UK, Greece, California and Australia and has even been reviewed in the South Australia MGS quarterly publication. Here's what Trevor had to say: *"The Languedoc branch of the MGS has published a handbook guide to gardening in the region. It is beautifully produced and well-designed. With contributions from many branch members and published in a side-by-side English-French format it represents a good cross-section of branch members' interests and expertise, from history and photography to propagation and cookery. Topics covered include soils and soil-building, water and irrigation, plant lists for trees, shrubs, climbers, perennials, a season-by-season gardening calendar, gardens to visit and a comprehensive bibliography.*

While few South Australia members are likely to purchase a house and garden in France, the book is well worth having even if mostly for its usefulness as a resource in planning a tour of Languedoc

and Provence. The list of open gardens is extensive and varied and many are off the usual tourist beats. Illustrated in colour throughout it is available via the branch link on the MGS website"

The Directory of Members

Attached is Edition 9 of our Directory of Members with a home in France and Belgium. If you are not currently included and would like to be, please drop me a line.

Addendum to the Minutes of the Meeting at Le Tracteur 09.01.14

Jean Vaché has written to ask that the following Addendum be added to the minutes (translation by Michèle Bailey):

Jean Vaché took the floor: "I would like to remind everyone that we are about to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Society at Menton next October. It would be a shame if the Languedoc branch were absent. However that's what would happen if we put into effect the project of seceding that I have heard about today..."

Translator on his travels

Eric Legrand, who translates all the MGS newsletters and official documents into French, will be setting off soon with his wife Françoise on an exciting trip. They will be away until end of April travelling through Argentina and Chile. Eric and Françoise are hoping to visit mediterranean gardens in Chile, so I'm looking forward to seeing some interesting photographs (perhaps even a talk later in the year?). Whilst he's away, Alain de Galembert, Gabriel Rochard, Elisabeth Tomlinson, Chantal Guiraud and Jason Spencer-Cooke have kindly offered to help with translation.

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: http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/libCat.pdf To borrow a book, email Chantal 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 Plants for naturalising on a terrace 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. http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/mRec.htm http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/plLSC.htm http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/plTV.htm David Bracey bracey@wanadoo.fr David Bracey http://www.mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/plRoses.htm 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>www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/</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 website: www.mediterraneangardensociety.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 November 2013 General Assembly, the Administrative Committee and Branch Head meetings, and Financial Statements are available on the MGS Members' Forum www.mgsmembersforum.org</p>