



Mediterranean Gardening France

Mediterranean Garden Society



www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org
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May 2014

Dear MGF and MGS members and friends

Programme of activities in France

***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 Chateau of Entrecasteaux.

Tuesday/Wednesday 20/21 May - Sillans-la-Cascade (83)

Two days in the Var including the first AGM of Mediterranean Gardening France

This trip will start at 11.00am on Tuesday with a guided visit to L'Armalette, the nursery and demonstration garden of Benoit and Isabelle Beauvallet, <http://www.pepiniere-armalette.fr>. Bring a picnic lunch to eat in the garden then Benoit will take us to visit to a private garden about 20 minutes away.

The AGM will start at 17.00 in the salle polyvalente in Sillans-la-Cascade. After the meeting there will be a 'verre de l'amitié' followed by dinner at the Restaurant Les Pins. All are welcome to the meeting and apero, please let me know if you wish to book for the dinner - cost 32€ per person including wine and coffee.

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.

Thursday 5 June, 11.00am, Ménerbes (84)

A visit to a member's garden, La Carmejane, in the heart of Ménerbes. Our hosts have very kindly offered to treat us to a simple country picnic in the garden, so no need to bring one with you. 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.

***Friday 4 July, Chateauneuf de Grasse (06)**

A visit to the garden of Daniel and Lillan Wyler. Its designer, Jean Mus, will accompany us on a garden tour.

Thursday 11 September, 2.30pm, Balaruc-les-Bains (34)

A visit to the Jardin Antique Méditerranéen

Now three years old, this ecological garden of almost 2 hectares is maturing well. There are over 1000 varieties of plant, many labeled, in seven thematic gardens. We will have a guided visit, in French, by the director, Laurent Fabre, and learn about the botanical world of the Greeks and Gallo-Romans. The cost will be 6€ per person.

***Friday 12 September, Gattières (06)**

A visit to the Jardins des Fleurs et Poterie.

Monday 13 – Thursday 16 October

Pre-Menton trip to gardens in Languedoc and Provence

Places will be limited to 50 people and priority has been given to members coming from afar.

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. On the Friday and Saturday there will be visits to four classic gardens in the area – the Hanbury Gardens at La Mortola, the gardens of Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, La Serre de la Madone and the Jardin Exotique in Monaco. After the General Assembly on Sunday 19 October, there will be talks by garden writer Louisa Jones and the Italian landscape architect and garden designer Laura de Beden.

At the end of the main programme, there will be two optional extra days with visits to nearby gardens, including Boccanegra, magnificently situated on a steep slope which descends to the sea and Clos du Peyronnet, the garden of three generations of the Waterfield family.

See pages 63-69 of *The Mediterranean Garden*, edition no.76, for more details.

Registration opens on the MGS website on 1 May.

*Outings organised by MGF Provence/Côte d'Azur. For more information, contact Carol and June at mgf.provencecotedazur@gmail.com.

To book a place for all other events in France please contact me at cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Events in other countries

Saturday 7 June

A visit to the garden of rose lovers, Pat and Val Mills in Catalonia. Val tells me that their garden is 40km north of Manresa, about 4 hours driving time from Olivier Filippi's nursery. They suggest staying overnight at the Parador in Cardona or are happy to advise on alternatives. For more information contact Pat and Val at mills.val@gmail.com

To see a list of other events where French members are welcome, including visits to gardens in Italy, Spain and the UK, go to International Forthcoming Events on the MGF website:

<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs

1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (34)
3/4 May	Fête des Plantes	Abbaye de Fontfroide (11)
11 May	Foire aux plantes	Uzès (30)
11 May	Plantes et Fleurs en Fête	Grospierres (07)
17 May	Jardins en fête	Béziers (34)
23 – 25 May	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air(13)
29 May – 1 June	Alterarosa	Avignon (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

9/10 mai	Jardin Zen Erik Borja et Pépinière Rivière	La Drôme
21 juin	Film : le jardin des plantes du Pr Rossi	Clapiers (34)

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

Logo for MGF

After much discussion, the committee decided on the olive tree, a definitive Mediterranean plant, as the image for MGF. With help from a number of professionals, including a members' graphic designer daughter, we selected the small olive branch you see above as the image to go with our dark blue typeface.

New on the Mediterranean Gardening France website

Go to the 'What's New?' page to see a summary of material added in April:

<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infWhatsnew.htm>

Highlights include:

An interesting and amusing account by Marjorie Orr of her first experiences of Mediterranean gardening with her [garden in Roussillon](#).

Photo: *Cotyledon macranthus*



New information in the 'Gardening' section. To supplement his recent workshop, David Bracey has written an [article](#) on soil analysis.

A [report](#) of the soil workshop and visit to the demonstration garden at Bulb'Argence in March.

Photo: *Tulipa sylvestris*



Plant of the Month

David Bracey, technical advisor and website sub-editor will soon be introducing a new section called 'Plant of the Month'. Please send your suggestions for inclusion to him at DavidBracey@mediterraneangardeningfrance.org, including one or more photos and some descriptive text about the plant and its preferred growing conditions.

MGS French website

Jean Vaché writes:

There are two new items on the French MGS website on the Information page:

<http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/information.html>

1. Un document de 24 pages "**Plaidoyer pour la biodiversité**" publié par le site Arbres et Paysages

Extrait : L'arbre est une usine idéale : il s'approvisionne seul, assure sa propre maintenance, écoule ses stocks de manière autonome et n'abandonne aucun déchet. Ce regard est valable pour toutes les parties de l'arbre, aériennes et souterraines, qu'il s'agisse du houppier, du tronc ou des racines, de leur ensemble comme de leurs composants, de leurs produits comme de leurs sous-produits.

Cette fabrique autonome, qui utilise et fixe l'air (ressource locale abondante), ne produit que des matériaux renouvelables à l'infini et des services indispensables au bon fonctionnement des territoires. L'arbre est un producteur, et non un consommateur. Il n'a nul besoin d'arrosage, ni d'engrais...

2. Une interview de deux scientifiques montpelliérains du Centre d'écologie fonctionnelle et évolutive, Edouard Le Floch et James Adamson, "**Le futur de nos jardins méditerranéens**"

Extrait : JV - Pouvez-vous d'abord me confirmer l'hypothèse soutenue par Trevor Nottle ici-même l'an dernier selon laquelle l'évolution climatique relativement rapide que nous observons dans le monde entier et plus précisément dans les zones de climat méditerranéen où nous jardinons permet d'envisager que de « méditerranéen » notre environnement climatique devienne, à terme, de type « semi-aride » ou même carrément « aride » ? ELF - Bien entendu la région

méditerranéenne sera affectée par ces changements et selon la plupart des modèles, il est probable qu'elle connaisse une aridification (c. à d. une baisse de la pluviométrie annuelle moyenne). En conséquence l'espace soumis au climat méditerranéen connaîtra une extension vers le nord et vers des altitudes plus élevées...

Request for information

Lyn Challands, who is creating a garden from scratch in Uzès, writes:

"We are seeking a large, ready trained parasoled *Murier* to plant in the late autumn. We would be most grateful to hear from anyone who knows where one could be sourced".

Please reply to Lyn at challands3kids@aol.com.

Something new



David Bracey found this new 'grow bag' for the garden.

Best wishes
Christine