



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

November 2014

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Friday 14 November, 10.30, Roquebrune-sur-Argens (83)

A guided visit to Les Orchidées de Michel Vacherot

This company, which has been growing orchids for 30 years, has 2500m of greenhouses. We will hear about how to grow different varieties, what soil and culture conditions work best and how to deal with pests. The visit will be followed by lunch at Restaurant du Lac.

Cost of guided visit 4€ per person.

To book contact June Grindley: jngrindley@btinternet.com

Thursday 20 November, 10.00 - 12.30, Saint Christol (34)

Plant Clinic at the Pépinière L'Arc en Fleurs

David Bracey and Gill Pound will be holding a plant clinic at Jérôme Botella's nursery, L'Arc en Fleurs, at Saint-Christol, north of the A9 (Junction 27).

Please bring outdoor or indoor plants and David and Gill will try to answer your questions:

Plant identification

Identification of pests and diseases with suggested solutions

Growth problems, mineral deficiencies

Identification of weeds and suggestions for control

To book, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Saturday 24 January, 2.30pm, Devezeu, Montferrier (34)

Talk by Olivier Filippi: *Paysages de garrigue, une nouvelle inspiration pour les jardins*

This talk, which Olivier first gave in Narbonne in spring 2014, will be in French. It is jointly organised by Hortus and Mediterranean Gardening France.

To book, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Thursday 26 February, 10.00am, Cesseroas (34)

Lecture by Anthony Noel: *Garden design for small spaces*

A lecture in English, but with translation if required, entitled *Great Little Gardens: Enclosed gardens, courtyards, roof terraces – how to bring style into small spaces*. Anthony is a British garden designer and author with experience of gardening in Morocco. The talk will be in Cesseroas and will be followed by lunch at the home of Liz and Jacques Thompson. Gill Pound will bring along some of her plants - let her know if you have any particular requirements.

To book, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Wednesday 25 March, 10.30am, Mormoiron (84)

Workshop on olives and olive trees

Célia Graud, consultant in *oléiculture* (and daughter of Elisabeth and Jean), will talk to us about how to care for olive trees and use one of the many trees in Sandra and Allan Cooper's garden to demonstrate the art of pruning. Participants may bring their own tools and try out their skills on Sandra's trees, under Célia's supervision.



Célia will also show us how to taste olive oils, demonstrating oils from Provence and from Languedoc, and members are encouraged to bring along oil from their own olive trees so that we can compare different styles. Kevan Kristjansson will also join in, with ideas about how to cure olives and prepare them for use in the kitchen.

Please bring along a dish for sharing at lunch time. Workshop limited to 25 people.

To book, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

**Wednesday 29 April, 10.30am, La Garde and Hyères (83)
Visit to a private garden and Iris en Provence**



In the morning Chantal Guiraud has arranged for us to visit the garden of M and Mme Navarro, where many varieties of succulents and cacti are arranged in mixed beds with perennials. They also have a collection of tropical plants which they over-winter in their greenhouse.

After a restaurant lunch, June Grindley has organised a visit to the iris specialist nursery, *Iris en Provence*, in Hyères.

There is a limit of 25 places for this trip.

To book, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

**Tuesday/Wednesday 5/6 May, Cairanne (84)
MGF Second Annual General Meeting and programme of activities**

The 2015 AGM will take place in and around Cairanne, a wine-making village in the Vaucluse. Jennifer Hastings and Kevan Kristjanson have volunteered to put together two days of activities, including garden visits, wine-tasting and a botanical walk.

International activities

Recently announced events in other countries are listed below. For a full list of international events, look on the MGF website: <http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

Saturday 17 January 2015 at the Chelsea Physic Garden, London

The inaugural AGM of Mediterranean Plants and Gardens (MPG), lunch and an illustrated lecture, *Roses in Mediterranean Gardens* by the famous rose-grower and writer Charles Quest-Ritson. Charles is editor of the RHS Encyclopedia of Roses.

To book, contact Heather Martin: hma@clara.net

Friday 24 April, Cleveland Square Gardens London W2

These beautiful gardens surrounded by Grade 2 listed white stucco-fronted houses have mature trees and a variety of plants more typical of a private plant lover's garden than most London squares. This visit will be led by garden manager Suzanne Etherton.

To book, contact Heather Martin: hma@clara.net

25 May - 2 June, Armenia

A trip led by Katharine Fedden and a local botanical guide to see the landscape and flora of Armenia at an ideal time of the year. The country is situated at high altitude and has hot, dry summers and cold, wet winters so much of the natural flora is of interest to Mediterranean gardeners. This trip is fully booked, but please get in touch if you would like to go on the waiting list.

Contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

25 August - 6 September, South Africa

An 11 day tour of the South African Cape featuring the Kirstenbosch gardens, wild flowers in bloom in Namaqualand, bulbs in Nieuwoudtville, coastal and inland nature reserves, and gardens in Capetown and Stellenbosch.

For full details and to book contact Charles Smith: chaswsmith113@gmail.com

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

15 November	Autumn Sale at la Petite Pépinière	Caunes-Minervois (11)
16 November	Ouverture les Jardins du Redounel	Assas (34)
29/30 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	St Jean du Gard (30)
24/25 January	Mimosalia	Bormes-les –Mimosas (83)

Hortus Programme

8 November	Talk : <i>Les arbres du désert</i>	Médiathèque A. Camus, Clapiers(34)
6 December	Talk : <i>Max Rouquette et les arbres</i>	Médiathèque A. Camus, 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

Mediterranean Gardening France website

Go to the 'What's New?' page to see a summary of material added recently
<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infWhatsnew.htm>

Highlights include:



A report by Michèle Auvergne on the visit to the [Jardin Antique Méditerranéen](#) at Balaruc-les-Bains.

Photo: La fresque de Livie

Bed and Breakfast

At our recent planning meeting, one of the participants reminded us that we used to keep a list of members who would be happy to offer Bed and Breakfast to other members who might be travelling in France and in need of accommodation. It was felt that this type of general 'Open House' is somewhat daunting for most, especially as many of us are not always at our French homes. The suggestion from the group was that anyone living close to a planned event, and happy to offer accommodation on the night before the event, would contact the event organiser to offer rooms for Bed and Breakfast for that specific date.

So, if anyone likes the sound of this idea, lives close to one of the activities in the list above and would like to offer Bed and Breakfast, please let me know and I will put you in touch with the participants who have registered.

The Plant School in Paris

I have received this information from The Plant School which may be of interest to English-speaking members:

"Rosemary Campbell-Preston has been running The Plant School courses at the Garden Museum, London and in gardens around the UK for some years. We are about to establish The Plant School in Paris, based at the Jardin des Plantes, starting with a course on one day each month from February to June 2015. This course will be in English.

On the first day, Maïté Delmas will introduce the Jardin des Plantes and its importance both historically and as a plant collection. On the following three days Rosemary Campbell-Preston will talk on plant identification, plant naming, flower structure, root systems and scented plants. Activities will be based in a lecture room near Metro Jussieu and in the nearby Jardin des Plantes. The course starts at 10.30 each day with a break for lunch at La Baleine restaurant in the garden and will finish at 15.30."

For more information and to book, see http://www.theplantschool.org/?page_id=1213

Best wishes
Christine