



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

January 2015

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Saturday 24 January, 2.30pm, Devevou, 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.

Thursday 26 February, 10.00am, Cesseroas (34)

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

A lecture 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.

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 Kristjanson 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.

Thursday 9 April, 10.30am, Rougiers (83)

Propagation workshop by Sylvie and Christian Mistre, Pépinière La Soldanelle

Elisabeth Burger writes:

"The Provence/Cote d'Azur group will hold its first workshop on plant propagation at the pépinière La Soldanelle. Sylvie and Christian Mistre, well known to many of us, will show us how to sow, transplant seedlings, and grow cuttings of plants typical of mediterranean gardens. In addition we will have a hands-on session where every participant will make his or her own sowings and cuttings, surveyed by the master-propagators Sylvie and Christian.

Why? The aim of the workshop is to enhance the self-confidence and therefore the eagerness of gardeners to propagate their own plants, when they would like to do so but think it too difficult. You might even grow an interesting plant found in a friend's garden!

Where? The workshop will take place in the Var, in Rougiers, a village close to St Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, in one of the greenhouses of La Soldanelle.

What? If you would like to propagate a particular plant, you can bring along your own seeds and/or some vigorous branches of that plant enveloped in a damp cloth or a plastic sac. But you don't have to, there are plants enough in the nursery...

The workshop will take a day: coffee will be ready at 10.30 am and we finish roughly at 4 pm, with a picnic around noon.

When? The date, April 9, is in the week after Easter which falls on 5 and 6 of April, a busy week for many of us. So, if you are interested, please note the date in your agenda, and let us know your interest now!

The number of participants is limited to 15.

The price of 20€ per person includes the workshop, the pots and potting soil, morning coffee and an aperitif at noon."

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.

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.

Wednesday/Thursday 10/11 June, Quercy (46)

Two days exploring the landscape, nurseries and gardens of Quercy

We will start by spending a day with Frédéric Prévot, the salvia specialist, visiting his nursery, *Les Senteurs du Quercy* in Escamps and looking for wild flowers on the Causses plateau. On the Thursday we will visit the *jardin remarquable*, *Les jardins de Quercy* in Verfeil-sur-Seye followed by lunch in the garden of member Liz Godfrey, in Najac.

To book a place for activities in France, contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

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>

Tuesday 21 – Friday 24 April, Puglia, Italy

Gardens, 'masseria' and botanical walks

This tour of Puglia (or Apulia) is set in one of the oldest rural landscapes of the Mediterranean. Angela Durnford writes:

"We begin in Salento, an area of natural beauty with a dramatic, rocky coastline where we will enjoy myriad wildflowers offset against the blues of sky and sea. Then we proceed to the contrasting Valle d'Itria, a verdant and fertile valley where olive trees the size of oaks extend as far as the eye can see. The colours of this magical place are the red of the soil, the green of the olive groves and the chalky-white of the mysterious beehive-shaped 'trulli' or traditional Apulian dry stone huts with conical roofs.

Hotels are the Hotel Patria Palace in Lecce and the Park Hotel San Michele in Martina Franca."

For full programme details and a booking form contact Angela Durnford

angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org

Friday - Sunday 1 - 3 May, Lisbon and Sintra, Portugal

International Spring Conference Weekend, 'The Portuguese Garden'

Rosie Peddle writes:

"Roy and Sue Lancaster are able to be with us once again. We will be visiting some of the best historic and private gardens in the area. There will be illustrated talks on the historical context for Portuguese gardens and on the plant hunters of the past and their impact on our plant choices. Garden visits will include Monserrate Park and Palace in Sintra with the opportunity to visit the recently restored Mexican garden."

To book, contact Rosie Peddle: rosie@thebtf.net

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

24/25 January	Mimosalia	Bormes-les –Mimosas (83)
28/29 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia Antipolis (06)
29 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)

Hortus Programme

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:



In the 'Gardens' section a link to the [blog](#) of MGF member Françoise de la Porte des Vaux. Françoise writes « Ce blog est la chronique domestique d'un petit jardin méditerranéen créé en 2009 en Provence par une jardinière débutante. C'est un journal qui s'égrène au fil des jours. Les lecteurs peuvent y laisser des commentaires, poser des questions, y répondre, échanger, bref, partager leur expérience. »

Another article on propagation from seeds (this time for beginners) by our expert Chantal Guiraud: '[Easy Seeds](#)'.

Photo: *Michauxia campanuloides*



A [report by Julia Petty](#) on the plant clinic at the Pépinière Arc en Fleurs.

Mediterranean Gardening International

The MGF management committee is pleased to announce that our association has become one of three founder members of Mediterranean Gardening International, an informal community of like-minded societies with a shared interest in Mediterranean plants and gardening. The website www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org sets out our principles and how we operate. We hope that the website will act as a portal for people with similar interests, anywhere in the world, and that in the future, other garden and plant groups from Mediterranean–climate countries will join us.

Best wishes
Christine