



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

March 2015

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

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.

Fully booked, waiting list open.

Thursday 9 April, 10.30am, Rougiers (83)

Propagation workshop by Sylvie and Christian Mistre, Pépinière La Soldanelle

Sylvie and Christian Mistre 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. Coffee will be ready at 10.30 am and we finish roughly at 4 pm, with a picnic around noon.

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

The number of participants is limited to 15.

Fully booked, waiting list open.

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 the garden visit, but unlimited places for the lunch and nursery visit.

Garden visit fully booked but places available for lunch and Iris en Provence.

Tuesday/Wednesday 5/6 May, villages in the north Vaucluse (84)

MGF Second Annual General Meeting and programme of activities

The 2015 AGM will take place on Tuesday 5 May in Crestet, a village just south of Vaison-la-Romaine. The programme of activities will begin in the morning with a visit to gardens in Cairanne, <http://www.cairanne.net/jardins-cairanne.html>, followed by a picnic lunch and a wine-tasting. The AGM will be in the early evening and afterwards dinner has been organised at a nearby restaurant, La Fleur Bleue. On Wednesday we will visit a private garden in Le Barroux then explore a natural site next to the Ouvèze river, l'espace botanique des Piboules <http://www.entreachaux.info/activites-loisirs/piboules.php>.

Jennifer Hastings and Kevan Kristjanson, who are organising the programme of events, will also be glad to lead a walk on Mont Ventoux on the Monday for anyone who would like to arrive one day earlier. Accommodation will be in members' homes or local chambres d'hôtes.

Saturday 9 May, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (06)

Visit to a private garden

The small garden of M and Mme Venera is a densely planted, botanic-style garden. At 200 metres above sea level it is a plant lovers' delight, with lovely views over the Mediterranean. More information about this visit to follow.

Tuesday 9 June, Mouans-Sartoux (06)

Garden visit – La Renardière

A visit to the garden of La Renardière followed by a bring-your-own picnic in the grounds. La Renardière, owned by M. and Mme Fuchs, was chosen by Woody Allen as the Catledge family estate in his recent film 'Magic by Moonlight'. The 3 hectare garden was partly designed by Russell Page and renovated in the 1950s by the current owner's father.

There will be a charge of 10€ per person for the visit.

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

Two days exploring the landscape, nurseries and gardens of Quercy

On Wednesday we will spend a full day with Frédéric Prévot, visiting his nursery in Escamps, *Les Senteurs du Quercy* <http://www.senteursduquercy.com/> which specialises in salvias, iris and lavender, and walking on the Causses plateau to view the wild flowers. On the Thursday we will visit *Les jardins de Quercy* in Verfeil-sur-Seye, <http://www.lesjardinsdequercy.fr/> followed by lunch in the garden of member, Liz Godfrey, in Najac.



Photo: Flore des Causses du Quercy

Thursday 15 October, 11.45am, Le Barroux (84)

L'Aube Safran, guided tour and garden visit

Frances Horne has organised this visit to a saffron farm at a date when the crop should be ready for harvesting. Frances writes:

“Saffron, a deep yellow, beautiful spice, prized in Papal times for the wonderful golden hues and intense flavour it gave to food on the banquet tables, was grown around Marseille, Carpentras and Orange until the 19th century. Now it is found mainly around the Mont Ventoux.

Looking to escape the commotion of Paris, François and Marie Pillet fell in love with the beautiful countryside of the Vaucluse. In 2001 they bought a place on the outskirts of Le Barroux, created a bed and breakfast and decided to reintroduce the cultivation of saffron to the area. François will tell us all about growing and harvesting saffron and Marie will give us a tour of the beautiful garden which they have created. The visit will end with a “goûter” of saffron-based, organic home baking.”

We will meet at the nearby home of Jude Baker to eat our picnic lunches, then go to *l'Aube Safran* in the early afternoon. Price for the tour, talk and tea, 12€ per person. Maximum 30 participants. <http://www.provenceguide.com/degustation/le-safran-du-ventoux/mont-ventoux/provence-DEGPAC084CDT0001044-1.html>

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>

Brian Constable has asked me to extend an invitation to MGF members to join in this year's programme of events in Catalonia. These may be of particular interest to members living in Pyrénées-Orientales.

14 March, near Barcelona

Nursery and garden visits

A guided visit to the *Sala Graupera* nursery with a talk by landscape gardener Fernando Lafuente on selected mediterranean plants and how to use them in the garden. Lunch at the Pancho Tennis Club in Argentona. In the afternoon, a guided visit to the *Balañá* garden with Manel Pradell and Andreu Salato.

11 April, Cadaqués

Garden visits around Cap Roig

In the morning, guided visits to the gardens of landscape gardener Maria Jover in Fontclara and the Roggendorf garden at Cruïlles. After lunch a visit to the Cap Roig gardens guided by Joan Carles Aguilar, head gardener.

16 May, Montserrat, near Barcelona

The flora and landscape of Montserrat

A circular botanical walk, led by Sergi Massanès, from the Santa Cecília shelter to Montserrat. Please bring sandwiches to eat at lunchtime.

13 June, Cassà de la Selva, near Gerona

Plant workshop, clay flowerpots and garden sculpture

In the morning a workshop on medicinal plants by Carme Bosch at the vegetable study garden in Cassà de la Selva. Cost 15€ per person. Lunch at the Centre Recreatiu La Coma.

In the afternoon a visit to Bonadona Terrissers where clay flowerpots are made by hand followed by a visit to Afra López's Stone and Ceramic Workshop in Quart.

11 July, Banyolas

Visit to Joan Parera's Carex nursery and garden

Guided visit to the Carex nursery by owner Joan Parera, focusing on recently introduced plants, followed by an exhibition of Joan's photographs of her garden through the seasons. There will be a discussion on drought codes for plants in the garden based on suggestions from Pat Mills and Olivier Filippi's drought ratings. Please bring a dish to share at a communal picnic in Joan's house.

19 September, Blanes

First technical conference on plants at the Botanical Garden of Marimurtra

This event will be jointly organized by the Botanical Garden of Marimurtra and *Amics dels Cactus i altres Suculentas*, in collaboration with MGS Catalonia. There will be talks on the main cactus and succulent genus, caudiform plants, adeniums, lithops and cycadales. After lunch there will be guided tours of the garden focussing on the cycadales collection and methods of controlling the weevil attacking *Agave americana*.

To book a place for events in Catalonia, contact Brian Constable brian.constable@gmail.com

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

7/8 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (66)
28/29 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia Antipolis (06)
29 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)
4/5 April	Portes Ouvertes la Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
11/12 April	Portes Ouvertes Bulb'Argence	Fourques (30)
11/12 April	Un Printemps sous les Arbres	Saint-Brès (34)
18/19 April	Plantes Rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
23/28 April	Les Floriales – Marché aux plantes, concours photos	Mazamet (81)

25 April	Journées des plantes et jardins	Cours Julien, Marseille(13)
26 April	Marché des plantations	Saint Gély-du-Fesc (34)
1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (34)
2/3 May	Fête des Plantes	Abbaye de Fontfroide (11)
10 May	Plantes et Fleurs en Fête	Grospierres (07)
14 May	Fête des fleurs	Velleron (84)
15/16/17 May	Les Journées des Plantes de Courson	Domaine de Chantilly (60)
22/23/24 May	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air(13)

Hortus Programme

28 March	Visit to the garden at the Fort St Jean	Marseille (13)
25 April	Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)

For more 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.

Highlights include:



An [article](#) on how to create a stylish garden by designer and paysagiste Jean-Sylvain Bussac. The text and photographs are taken from a talk he gave at the Mas de Payan last year.

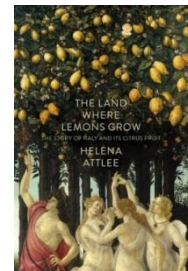
New book [reviews](#) from David Bracey and Joanna Millar.

The Land where Lemons Grow by Helena Attlee

Les orchidées en Camargue by Stéphane Arnassant et Francis Dabonneville

Beth Chatto's Gravel Garden by Beth Chatto

La nouvel esprit des Jardins by Louisa Jones



Membership renewals

Thank you to all members who have already renewed for this year. Very shortly we'll be sending an email reminder to the few of you who so far haven't done so. The membership database will shortly be up and running, so in the future it will be easy for you to check your membership status on line.

Best wishes
Christine