



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

April 2015

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

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.

Wednesday 22 April, 10.30am, Mormoiron (84) **NEW DATE**

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.

Please bring along a dish for sharing at lunch time.



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**



Les jardins de Cairanne



Jas Crema



Cephalanthera rubra at Piboules

The 2015 AGM will take place at 18.00 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 the gardens of the village of Cairanne, <http://www.cairanne.net/jardins-cairanne.html>, and to a member's garden, followed by a picnic lunch and a tasting of AOC Cairanne wines at Domaine Armand. The AGM will be at 18.00, followed by a *pot amical* and dinner at a nearby restaurant, *La Fleur Bleue*.

On Wednesday we will visit a private garden, Jas Crema, in Le Barroux then explore a natural site next to the Ouvèze river, *L'espace botanique des Piboules* <http://www.entrechaux.info/activites-loisirs/piboules.php>.

Jennifer Hastings and Kevan Kristjanson, who are organising the programme of events, will lead a walk on Mont Ventoux on Monday 4th 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 coastal site with buildings of architectural interest and a private garden

Martin Smith has arranged a tour of 'Cap Moderne', a site of outstanding natural beauty on the coast at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin. The first phase of the restoration of the collection of buildings now known as 'Cap Moderne', comprising Eileen Gray's villa E-1027, Le Corbusier's cabanon and the Etoile-de-Mer restaurant will not be completed until May 15th, however Martin has been able to organise a guided tour before the official opening. The garden is a 'work-in-progress', with further restoration planned for winter 2015/16, but it has been decided to open the site this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Le Corbusier's death on 27 August 1965. www.fondationlecorbusier.fr. Cost of the guided visit €10 per person.



After lunch we will visit the small garden of M and Mme Venera, a densely planted, botanic-style garden. At 200 metres above sea level it is a plant lovers' delight, with lovely views over the Mediterranean.

Fully booked.

Friday 5 June, 10.00am Le Muy (83)

Visit to the Venet Foundation, Thai lunch and talk on local butterflies



[The Venet Foundation](http://www.venetfoundation.com) was inaugurated in July 2014 by the artist Bernard Venet on the site of a 15th century mill and a railway track factory by the river Nartuby. Possessing a roman bridge and a mill pond with black swans, its purpose is to show the work of the artist and of friends such as Frank Stella, whose 'chapel' there houses some of his works. Bernard Venet was born in 1941 in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence and has lived in Paris and the USA. He was a painter and designer before creating the massive iron sculptures which we shall see in Le Muy. M. Maxime Bruyelle will guide us around the property.

Lunch, cooked by Tonia Mees www.popupthai.wix.com/popupthai will be held at the home of John

van Zundert and Dick Kimman near Bargemon. After lunch, Pieter and Brigitte Kan www.filmings-varwild.com will give us a talk on local butterflies. Pieter and Brigitte have lived in Callas since 1996, and after studying the dynamics of the butterfly populations began to film them in 2006. They have also cultivated some species and released them into the wild.

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 10 September, 10.00am, Canet and Servian (34)

Visit to Domaine de la Dourbie and the Jardin de Saint-Adrien



Situated on the banks of the river Hérault, the 4 hectares of garden at La Dourbie include a landscaped park, orchards, vegetable gardens, olive groves, a small lake, a pond and planted areas, bringing together a wide selection of plant varieties native to the surrounding garrigue. The gardens were reorganized in 2006 by Dominique Lafourcade and now hold the *Jardin Remarquable* classification. Chantal Guiraud has organised a visit first to the garden then to the cellar (especially interesting at harvest time), followed by a wine-tasting and a picnic in the garden.

http://www.domainedeladourbie.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=233&Itemid=169

In the afternoon we'll visit the Saint-Adrien garden, <http://www.jardindesaintadrien.com/> another *Jardin Remarquable*. A garden tour led by the owner will be followed by a short film then a glass of wine. Saint-Adrien has been created in a former basalt quarry, now transformed into an oasis of greenery surrounding four small lakes. Cost for this event to be confirmed.

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

For a full list of international events, look on the MGF website:

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

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

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)
19 April	Flora'Lez dans le parc Richter	Montpellier (34)
23/28 April	Les Floriales – Marché aux plantes, concours photos	Mazamet (81)
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)
8 May	Bourse aux plantes	Rousson (30)
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)
6/7 June	Open weekend at La Petite Pépinière	Caunes-Minervois (11)

Hortus Programme

25 April	Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)
25 -27 June	Annual trip 2015	le Gers (32)

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

Sunday 10th May, 10.30am, repeated at 2pm at La Petite Pépinière in Caunes-Minervois Workshop on planting design with Mediterranean native plants

Gill Pound writes:

"Come along to this free event to learn about some great planting combinations and designs using cistus, teucrium, thyme, origanum and Spring bulbs. Gill will give a guided tour to talk about using Mediterranean native plants, looking at the garden's driest and hardiest Mediterranean borders. Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton will then talk through three different design templates which we will place out in the garden. You can take away copies of the planting plans."

For more information contact Gill: Gill@lapetitepepiniere.com

News and information

Mediterranean Gardening France website

There are no new articles on the MGF website this month because our Information Manager has been busy developing a new members' section. This should be open in the next couple of weeks and we'll send out a special mailing to MGF members to explain how to access it. Within the members' area you will be able to consult the Directory of Members, access the new Mediterranean Gardening International forum, view and change your personal information and renew your subscription.

Thank you to all the members who have recently submitted information and articles for publication. These will appear on the website towards the end of the month.

Plan for the creation of an organic rose garden in the foothills of the Pyrénées



Yan Surguet, MGF member and specialist in botanical roses, has decided to create a garden for rare varieties. He has found a 2 hectare site in Saint-Lizier, and hopes to have it open to the public in early 2018. Over 1500 varieties will be displayed, all propagated solely by grafting and certified as organic - a first for a rose garden.

Guided visits are planned, as well as workshops on rose growing. He envisages employing three people to welcome visitors, propagate plants and to maintain the garden.

AXA France has a scheme where each month a selection of worthy projects are put forward to the on-line public for voting. Those receiving the most votes in a one month period will receive financial support from AXA as part of its *Partager-Protéger* operation. If you'd like to support Yan's project, go to <http://partagerproteger.axa.fr> and vote. Voting closes on 30 April 2015. One vote per person per day is allowed until the closing date.

Best wishes
Christine