



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

July/August 2015

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

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 with 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, 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.jardinesaintadrien.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.

Thursday 17 September, 10.30am, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat (06) Visit to Les Cèdres and the Villa Ephrussi gardens

Les Cèdres, a private villa in 14 hectares of gardens on Cap Ferrat was acquired by Leopold II of Belgium in 1904. During his ownership, he built the lake for his 'friend' Catherine Delacroix, called 'Très Belle'. The villa was bought in 1924 by Alexandre Marnier-Lapostolle, the proprietor of Grand Marnier, who turned it into a *jardin exotique* with an arboretum and 25 heated glass houses. Today the garden contains more than 14,000 species of tropical plants, a palm grove, and collections of bamboos, succulents and epiphytes. We shall have a guided tour followed by a light lunch in the Villa Ephrussi tea room and a visit the Ephrussi gardens in the afternoon <http://www.villa-ephrussi.com/en/home>.



Participants limited to 20. This visit is now fully booked.

Friday 9 October, 10.30am, Saint-Quentin-la-Poterie (30) Planning meeting, garden visit and plant exchange



Graham and Julia Petty have invited us to hold our annual planning meeting at their home in Saint-Quentin-la-Poterie. Please come along with ideas for activities in 2016 and beyond so that we can put together a calendar of events for the next 12 months. After the meeting we'll have lunch, then visit Graham and Julia's garden, which you can read about on the website <http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/dirG3070U.htm> There will also be a plant exchange, so please prepare and bring any surplus plants from your garden.

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. Looking to escape Paris, François and Marie Pillet fell in love with the countryside of the Vaucluse, 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."

<http://www.provenceguide.com/degustation/le-safran-du-ventoux/mont-ventoux/provence-DEGPAC084CDT0001044-1.html>

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.

Maximum 30 participants, now fully booked but waiting list open.

Friday 16 October, 10.30am, Roquefort-les-Pins (06)

Visit to Pépinière Ezavin - Le Monde des Fougères



A visit organised by June Grindley to Olivier Ezavin's nursery which specialises in ferns and plants for shade. Olivier will give a talk about ferns and shade-loving plants suitable for mediterranean gardens, followed by a tour of the nursery.

www.pepiniereezavin.com

After the visit we'll have lunch at a nearby restaurant.

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

International activities

22 - 25 April 2016

Mediterranean Gardening International event in Portugal

Olivier Filippi has confirmed Saturday April 23rd as the date for his talk "*Dry gardening: a new inspiration for gardeners in the Mediterranean region*" which will be the centrepiece of this event. Rosie writes "We are now able to start looking at venues and will be concentrating on the western side of the Algarve so that we can take groups to visit the splendid wildflowers of the protected St Vincent coastal Nature Park." <http://www.first-nature.com/worldsites/pt-stvincent.php>
More information soon.

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

12 September	Plantes d'Ailleurs, Jardins d'Ici, Mas de Payan	Tarascon (13)
13 September	Foire aux Plantes	Uzès (30)
19/20 September	Journées du patrimoine - Domaine d'Orvès Book Fair focused on nature, gardens and cookery	La Valette-du-Var (83)
3/4 October	Gondwana, Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol-Canadel (83)

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

Cape Horticultural Society - South Africa



We are pleased to announce that CHS has become the fifth member of Mediterranean Gardening International. Anyone planning to visit South Africa who would like information about gardens to visit in the Cape area can contact CHS's secretary, [Glenda Thorpe](#). The society has an interesting website www.capehorticulturalsociety.co.za and produces a monthly newsletter which you can request from Glenda.

The CHS writes:

"We promote the growing of a variety of different plants and believes that a garden with birds, butterflies, chameleons, lizards and frogs, and alive with insects, represents a healthy garden in which plants flourish and the balance of nature exists. We advocate the growing of waterwise plants, both indigenous and exotic (if non-invasive), and encourage the use of natural, organic fertilisers. We are based in Cape Town, where a Mediterranean climate prevails, and members meet monthly to listen to talks on a wide variety of subjects, as well as visit gardens or places of horticultural interest."

Summer 2015 seed list update



Chantal has updated our [seed-list](#), adding 28 new plants and lots of new photos. September is particularly recommended for the sowing of Mediterranean plants so now is a good time to have a look on the website and order your seeds. Please do send photos to me if you are able to fill in any of the gaps.

Photo: *Bauhinia purpurea*

Mediterranean Gardening France website

Go to the [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page to see a summary of material added recently.

Highlights include:



Courtesy of our MG*i* partners in the UK and Portugal, an illustrated talk by renowned rose expert, Charles Quest-Ritson: [Roses for Mediterranean gardens](#).

Photo: *Rosa* 'La Folette'

Reports by Rosemary Halford, Jennifer Hastings, Gill Clarke and Annie Nivière on the three days of botanical walks and garden visits which surrounded our 2015 AGM - [the AGM and accompanying programme](#), plus lots of photos, especially from Hubert.

Photo: Jardin '*Horizon vertical*' - Cairanne



A report by Linda Cosby on [the visit to the Venet Foundation](#) and a talk by local expert, Pieter Kan on how to attract butterflies to our gardens.

Photo: *Iolana iolas* (Iolas Blue)

John and Sandy Graham's impressions of a
[garden visit to La Renardière, Mouans-Sartoux, Alpes-Maritimes](#)



[Accounts in English and French](#) of the June trip to Quercy by Catriona McLean and Michèle Auvergne. We spent a day with Frédéric Prévot looking for wild flowers and visiting his nursery then a day organised by Liz Godfrey, visiting gardens near Najac in Aveyron.

Photo: *Clematis viticella* 'Alba Luxurians'

Best wishes
Christine