



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

November 2015

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Wednesday 4 November, Le Puy-Ste-Réparate, (13) Visit to Château la Coste

A walk through a park of woods, hills, olive groves and vines to look at many installations of contemporary art and architecture. Cost 10€ for entry into the park and 30€ for lunch, including wine and coffee.

<http://chateau-la-coste.com/en/walk/>

Visit organised by Nicola D'Annunzio



2016

Saturday 16 January, 2.30pm, Devezou, Montferrier (34)

Talk, in French, by Chantal Guiraud and Joelle Moine: *Jardins de Chine*

Joelle Moine and Chantal Guiraud will talk to us about their recent travels in China. Joelle will start by talking about gardens and bonsai trees in northern China and Peking. Chantal will then take us along a journey through southern China, through Canton, Guilin and especially Suzhou where she saw masterpieces of Chinese garden art.

This event has been organised by our partner association, Hortus, and will include a traditional seasonal *galette*.

Wednesday 3 February, 11.00am, Saint-Didier, (84)

Plants and birds spotted by Eric and Françoise on their world travels



Photographed in Ethiopia

Eric and Françoise would like to share images of plants and birds spotted during their recent trips to Argentina, Chile, Ethiopia and Burma. This will not be a long boring slide show, rather an illustrated commentary on what they saw, with the hope that the group may be able to identify some of their unnamed plant photographs. Please bring food to share with others as a 'picnic' around the fire and Eric and Françoise will provide wine and dessert. If weather permits, Françoise will take people on a short tour of interesting houses in the old village.

As this will be a mainly indoor event, places are limited to 10 people.

Wednesday/Thursday 11/12 May, Tourrettes-sur-Loup and Grasse, (06)

Charity rose 'baptême' and garden visits

MGF has been invited to host the 'baptism' of a new rose, created by *rosiéristes* Jean-Pierre Dittiere and Dominique Massad for the charity Rainbows4Children www.rainbows4children.org. Although developed in the Loire valley, the new rose will have characteristics which make it suitable for growing in the Mediterranean climate conditions of southern France. All profits from the sale of the rose will go to Rainbows4Children. Joanna Millar, whose garden in Tourrettes-sur-Loup is home to a wonderful variety of roses, has generously offered to host the event.

Programme for the two days:

- 11/05 Morning A walk around Joanna's garden followed by the rose baptême and a finger buffet lunch.
Afternoon A visit to La Mouissone, Maggie Lockett's garden. Cyril Valherie will give us a demonstration and talk on the pruning and care of trees, hedges and ornamental shrubs then we can wander round the garden, followed by tea and cakes.
- 12/05 Morning A guided tour of part of the 8 hectare garden of the Domaine St Jacques de Couloubrier, led by Pierre JeanJean the head gardener. The garden was laid out in the 1950s by Russell Page and has a large collection of Nabonnand roses.
Afternoon A visit to the garden of the villa de Fort France, constructed in the thirties by Lady Fortescue and now owned by Valérie de Courcel, the painter. The terraced space is filled with mediterranean plants, perhaps 1000 different species.

For those who will need accommodation for this trip, the owners of la Mouissone and of the Domaine St Jacques de Couloubrier have offered bed and breakfast in their homes/guest cottages at very reasonable rates.

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

International activities

19 - 25 April 2016, MGAP/MGi event in Sintra, Lisbon and the western Algarve, Portugal Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean 'an undiscovered diversity'

This event, organised by the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal, in conjunction with Mediterranean Gardening International, will be in two parts.



19 - 21 April: A pre-conference tour based in the UNESCO world heritage town of Sintra, with two full days of guided visits to historic and private gardens in Lisbon, Colares and Sintra.

Photo: Monserrate Palace, Sintra

22 - 24 April: Travel to Lagos for the main conference weekend. The weekend will include a talk by Olivier Filippi, guided wild flower walks and garden visits. Lagos is close to the Cape St. Vincent Peninsula National Park, an area of immense botanical importance with numerous endemic and rare species. The area is also famous for bird watching on the nearby Sagres Peninsula.



25 April, return to Lisbon, with a garden visit in the Alentejo region, on the way.

For members travelling from southern France there is a daily Ryanair flight between Marseille and Lisbon, and TAP Portugal or Easyjet flights between Nice and Lisbon. If flight and train times remain as they are now, and you would like to take part in the whole programme, it would be best to travel out on Tuesday 19 April, returning on Tuesday 26 April.

Find [full programme notes](#) and a [booking form](#) by clicking on the links, or if you have questions, contact Rosie Peddle, rosie@thebtf.net.

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

28/29 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	St Jean du Gard (30)
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Hortus Programme

14 November	Causerie 'La route des épices'	Clapiers (34)
12 December	Causerie 'Souvenir de voyage en Arménie'	

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.

Highlights include:



An account by Sue Shearer of garden visits in Hérault:
[Visit to Domaine de la Dourbie and Le Jardin de St Adrien](#)

Photo: *Mandevilla suaveolens*, a fragrant climber from South America trained along an arbour at le Jardin de St Adrien

Martin Smith has written about our day on Cap Ferrat, visiting the gardens of Les Cèdres and the Villa Ephrussi.

[Visit to Les Cèdres and the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild](#)

Photo: *Nymphaea* 'King of Siam'



Angela Moray's report on our [Visit to L'Hermitage and la Mouissone](#) in the Alpes-Maritimes.

Photo: The view from the house at L'Hermitage



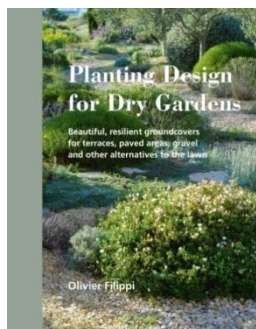
A report about our October outing in the Vaucluse, including the [Visit to a saffron farm in Le Barroux](#).
Report and photos by Guy Cheeseman.

Photo: *Crocus sativa*

Plants for shady spots

One of my winter jobs will be to update the list of plants which members recommend for use in shady places in the garden. You may remember that Alec Cobb put together an excellent list some years ago, and I'll use this as the starting point. Please send your suggestions, with photographs, to me at cs.savage@btopenworld.com.

Pre-publication book offer to members of MG*i* associations



Planting Design for Dry Gardens (An English language version of *Alternatives au gazon*)

Beautiful, resilient groundcovers for terraces, paved areas, gravel and other alternatives to the lawn

Olivier Filippi

"Filbert Press is delighted to announce the publication of this exceptional book on dry garden plants. Pioneering nurseryman Olivier Filippi proposes a selection of low-maintenance groundcover plantings that are so beautiful they might well consign lawns to history.

The book includes profiles of 200 drought-tolerant groundcovers and over 400 exquisite photographs of plants and gardens. It is recommended for anyone who wishes to reduce the watering demands and rediscover the pleasure a flourishing dry garden can bring.

"I challenge anyone not to be inspired by this important work." Nigel Dunnett

A limited number of special signed editions of the book will be available [at the MG*i* price of 35€] at the International Spring Conference in Lagos, Portugal, 22-25 April 2016. Email rosie@thebtf.net to reserve your copy. You may also order a signed copy for posting to you after the conference - postage costs to be confirmed. Thereafter the book will be available from online booksellers and all good bookshops.

Membership Information

New information in the Members' section of the website

We received a request to make information about the composition of MGF membership easily available to all. Ian has put together a page of interesting statistics, including the total number of members, their preferred language and the département where their home is. To see the up-to-date position, go to the Members' area and at the bottom of the 'Your profile' page click on 'Learn more...

Subscriptions for 2016

At the recent planning meeting a number of members asked whether or not they needed to re-subscribe for 2016 because they couldn't remember whether they had paid for one or three years. Here's how to find the answer to this question:

- 1) By looking at the 'Your profile' page in the Members' Area you'll be able to see your subscription status.
- 2) If your subscription expires at the end of this year you'll receive an email reminder in December. If you don't get an email then you've already paid and don't have to do anything.

New members who joined MGF in September and October

We'd like to welcome the following new members:

Elisabeth Tomlinson	Vaucluse
Jeannie Roberts	Alpes-Maritimes
Felicity Munday	Vaucluse
Tracey Johnson	Bouches-du-Rhône
Tessa Papas	Alpes-Maritimes

Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 9 October

Michèle has recently posted these on the MGF forum, in English and in French.

Best wishes
Christine