



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

February 2016

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

**Saturday 5 March, 14h00, Maison de la Vie Associative, 11 rue du Moulin à Vent, Sète, (34)
Jardins de Chine, an illustrated talk by Chantal Guiraud and Joelle Moine**



This is a second opportunity to hear this talk about the classic gardens of China and their symbolism, a presentation which was very well received by the audience in Montferrier in January. Our partner association, Sète Côté Jardin, has invited Chantal and Joelle to repeat their talk in Sète, and once again the Chinese student Xueqing Wang will be present to answer questions.

Wednesday 30 March, Cotignac (83)

Olive pruning workshop

This workshop, organised by Nicola D'Annunzio and led by Nicholas Valabregue, will take place in the Nicholson's garden in Cotignac. It will be followed by an olive oil tasting by the UK based company, *The Oil Merchant* <http://www.oilmerchant.co.uk/>. Please bring picnic dishes for sharing at lunchtime.

Tuesday 5 OR Wednesday 6 April (date to be selected according to weather forecast)

A botanical walk with Gérard Weiner on one of the Frioul islands (13)

Sandra Cooper has organised this outing to the Frioul islands, off the coast near Marseille. We will meet at the port of Marseille for the 20-minute sea crossing, then Gérard Weiner, of Pépinière Botanique de Vaugines <http://pepinieredevaugines.fr/> will lead us on a full day's walk to look for wild flowers. Bring a picnic to eat at lunchtime.



Photo: Plantes sauvages sur les îles du Frioul - Andrea Gaifami

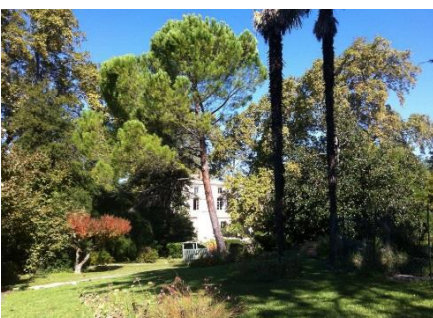
Wednesday 13 April, Correns and Cotignac (83)

A wild flower walk with Saskia Newlands

Saskia Newlands will lead this morning walk to look for wild flowers in the countryside near Correns. The walk will be followed by lunch in Cotignac.

Thursday 14 April, 11.00am, near Orange, (84)

A visit to Les Roches, a family garden planted in the 18th century



Babeth Tomlinson has organised this visit to an old family garden near Orange. The park, which was laid out in the 18th century, contains some interesting old trees and shrubs, including a cedar grown from seed brought to France around 200 years ago. Please bring a picnic to eat in the garden at lunchtime. In the afternoon we will drive to Vacqueyras to explore the *Espace botanique Coste de Coa*, a natural site with wonderful views, and where over a hundred varieties of Mediterranean plants have been carefully labelled.

Friday 6 May, 10.30am, Grasse, (06)

Visits to gardens near Grasse

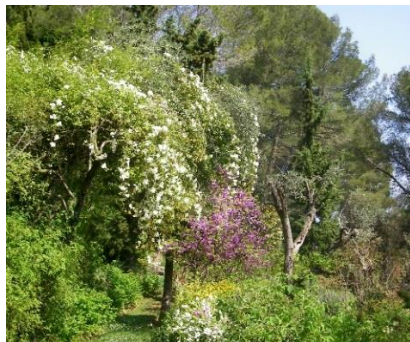
June Grindley has arranged this visit to gardens near Grasse. In the morning we'll get to the garden of Mas de Pivoines. and in the afternoon, visit Villa Noailles, built in 1947 by the Vicomte de Noailles, who chose the location for the presence of a spring providing water for the canal and fountains.

Photo: The wisteria walk at Villa Noailles



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. Joanna Millar, whose garden in Tourrettes-sur-Loup is home to a wonderful variety of roses, has generously offered to host the event.

Photo: Joanna's garden

Programme for the two days:

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|---------------|--|
| 11/05 Morning | A walk around Joanna's garden, the rose baptême and a finger buffet lunch. |
| Afternoon | A visit to La Mouissone for a workshop on pruning then a garden visit. |
| 12/05 Morning | A guided tour of the garden of the Domaine St Jacques de Couloubrier |
| Afternoon | A visit to the garden of the villa de Fort France, now owned by Valérie de Courcel, the painter. |

Saturday 14 May, afternoon, Sausset-les-Pins (13)

A botanical walk with Jean-Paul Maurice



Sausset-les-Pins is a small village on the Côte Bleue, 30 minutes away from Marseille. Jean-Paul Maurice, pharmacist, botanist and mycologist, will lead us along the *sentier botanique* which runs along the coast and into the garrigue.

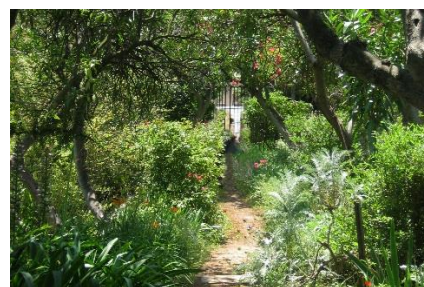
Photo: The footpath running alongside the Tamaris beaches

Wednesday 18 May, La Valette-du-Var and Ollioules (83)

Garden and nursery visits

A morning visit to Domaine d'Orvès, an eight-hectare estate with a system of spring-fed canals which provide water for the gardens. The 17th century house is backed by a dry hillside clothed in vines, almond and olive trees. The garden was started by painter, Pierre Deval, in 1925 and is now cared for by his daughter, Françoise Darlington. A picnic lunch in the garden will be followed by a visit to *La rose de Brignac*, a rose specialist based in Ollioules.

Photo: Domaine d'Orvès



Friday 27 May, Montauroux (83)

Garden visits

MGF members and friends living near the historic village of Montauroux will be opening their gardens for visits.

Wednesday - Friday 22 - 24 June, Montpellier (34)

MGF Annual General Meeting 2016 and garden visits

For this year's AGM, Chantal and André Guiraud have offered to organise a programme of visits to gardens and nurseries in the Montpellier area

Wednesday afternoon

Chantal and André will be opening their garden for informal visits. This is a plant lovers' delight, full of interesting specimens and home to many of the plants which provide seeds for our seed exchange.

Thursday morning

Visit to the *Parc floral des cinq continents* created by Eric Dubois at his nursery near Marsillargues, on the edge of the *Petite Camargue*. We will have our AGM and a picnic lunch here.

Thursday afternoon

Visits to the garden of retired horticulturalist and nurseryman, Henri Nardy. Henri is passionate about unusual plants which he cultivates both in his garden and in a large greenhouse for the more exotic specimens.

Friday morning

Olivier Filippi will take us round his garden on the edge of the *Etang de Thau* where we will have the opportunity to have an update on the progress of some of his most recent projects, including the experimental area dedicated to plants with allelopathic properties.

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

International activities

12 - 15 April, Alassio, Ventimiglia and Menton

Gardens of the Italian and French rivieras

An opportunity to see gardens on the French and Italian rivieras at their springtime best, organised by Angela Durnford of MGS Italy. The tour will be based at the Hotel Napoleon in Menton and will include visits to the gardens of the Villa la Pergola in Alassio, the Hanbury gardens and Villa Piacenza Boccanegra in Ventimiglia, le Clos du Peyronnet, le Jardin des Antipodes, le jardin exotique de Val Rameh and Serre de la Madone in the Menton area and the specialist nursery Vivaio Noaro in Camproso. For full details and a booking form contact Angela Durnford angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org.

19 - 25 April, MGAP/MGi event in Sintra, Lisbon and the western Algarve, Portugal

Dry Gardens in the Mediterranean 'an undiscovered diversity'

19 - 21 April: A 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.

22 - 24 April: Travel to Lagos. 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.

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

15 -30 May Iran: gardens and historical sights (French-speaking group)

Fanny Lalande Isnard of MGF invites members to join this exciting trip to Iran. Participants will have the opportunity to visit several UNESCO World Heritage gardens in Shiraz, Pasargadae, Yazd, Isfahan and Tehran, as well as to explore the historical sites in and around these beautiful Iranian cities. French-speaking guide. For full details, click [here](#).

Contacts: Fanny Lalande Isnard: isnard2@wanadoo.fr or Agency 'Intersection Voyages' danielbortolan@hotmail.com.

For a full list of international events, go to the MGF website:
<http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/baEvtInt.htm>

Other dates for your Diary

Saturday 27 February and Saturday 12 March, 10.00am, La Soldanelle, Rougiers (83)

Walks to gather wild plants suitable for using in salads

Christian and Sylvie Mistre have organised two outings to collect leaves and flowers from wild plants to eat as salads. The first, on 27 February, will be led by Claude Marco, who has written a reference book on the subject. Leaves will be collected from the fields around La Soldanelle, then washed and tasted. Bring a picnic to eat at lunchtime.

To book, email Sylvie: la.soldanelle.83@gmail.com

Plant fairs and open gardens

5/6 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (66)
19/20 March	Plant fair at Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (83)
20 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)
26/27 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia-Antipolis (06)
4/5 April	Portes Ouvertes la Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
10 April	Foire aux plantes	Figanières (83)
16/17 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
24 April	Marché des plantations	Saint Gély-du-Fesc (34)

Hortus Programme

20 February	La taille des arbustes	Montferrier (34)
2 April	Jardiner autrement	Clapiers (34)
30 April	Bourse aux plantes	Montferrier (34)
9 -11 June	Voyage annuel	La côte d'azur et Italie

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

Sète Côté Jardin

To see the programme of events organised by our partner association Sète Côté Jardin, go to the website: <http://setecotejardin.fr/sci/>

News and information

Mediterranean Gardening France website

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

Highlights include:



In the 'Garden Diaries' section, an [article](#) by Kate Dumbleton about how she and Imogen Checketts have planned, prepared and planted a new dry shade border in their garden in Caunes-Minervois.

Photo: *Calamagrostis brachytricha*, *Aster umbellatus* and *Agastache foeniculum*

To accompany this article a new plant list which includes contributions from many MGF members: ['Plants for dry places in full or partial shade'](#).

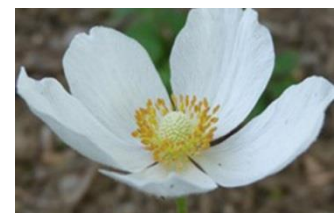


Photo: *Anemone sylvestris*



The spring 2016 update to the [seed list](#). Do have a look at the list and send your order to Chantal either by post or [email](#).

Photo: An interesting climber, *Cardiospermum halicacabum*

Membership Information

Members who joined in January and February

We'd like to welcome the following new members:

Penelope Parkinson	Pyrénées-Orientales
SallyAnn Neame	Vaucluse
Oron Peri	Tivon, Israel
Fanny Lalande-Isnard	Paris
Roseanne McNamee	Aude
Wendy Platt	Hérault

Best wishes
Christine