



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

April 2016

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

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 go 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.

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. |

There are places available for the rose baptême and lunch at Joanna's, but waiting list only for the other visits.

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

A botanical walk with Jean-Paul Maurice, an outing organised in partnership with Hortus



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 from 16.00. 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

Our AGM at the *Parc floral des cinq continents* created by Eric Dubois at his nursery near Marsillargues, on the edge of the *Petite Camargue*, followed by a 'méchoui', a North-African style barbecue.

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 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

For a full list of international events, go to the MGF website:

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

10 - 14 July, Norwich, England

Nine Norfolk gardens, a talk by Nick Bailey and the MPG AGM

Along part of the Norfolk coast is an area with its own microclimate enabling plants, too tender for most parts of the British Isles, to be grown - the East Ruston Old Vicarage gardens are a wonderful example. This four day tour, organised by Sue Bennison of Mediterranean Plants and Gardens and based in Norwich, will visit this garden and eight others. The guest speaker is Nick Bailey, who designed the Beauty of Mathematics garden for this year's Chelsea Flower Show using several Mediterranean plants.

For more information and to book: <http://www.medpag.org/booking-form-norfolk.html>

2 – 8 October 2016 Alicante and Valencia, Spain

Gardens of the Costa Blanca



This trip will be led by Maria Sansoni of Flora Mediterranea, based in southern Germany. The main language used on the tour will be German, but Maria speaks excellent English and will be happy to translate if needed. Maria writes:

“Wir werden zwischen Alicante und Valencia unterwegs sein, wobei wir tunlichst einen Bogen um das legendäre Benidorm schlagen. Eine Fülle privater Gärten, der berühmte Dattelpalmenhain von Elche, ein maurischer Teegarten lassen Sie sich überraschen. Die Hotels werden in Alicante

und in Denia liegen, beide am Strand - das Meer ist um diese Zeit noch wunderbar warm.”

A detailed programme can be found here: [ReiseprogrammSpanien](#).

For more information and a booking form contact [Maria Sansoni](#)

31 October – 9 November 2016 South Africa

Gardens of The Cape, Stellenbosch and Cape Town

A tour organised by Angela Durnford of MGS Italy which includes 25 beautiful gardens – botanical, historic, modern, indigenous, organic and experimental each led by the garden owner or by expert botanists and horticulturalists, two talks from leading lights in the Cape botanical community on water-wisdom in the Cape and climate change in the Cape and a wildflower walk on Table Mountain.

This tour is currently fully booked, but the waiting list is open.

For more information, contact [Angela Durnford](#)

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

9 April	Portes Ouvertes Bulb'Argence	Fourques (13)
9/10 April	Un Printemps sous les Arbres	Saint-Brès (34)
10 April	Foire aux plantes	Figanières (83)
14/17 April	Les Floriales	Mazamet (81)
16/17 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
17 April	Flora'Lez dans le parc Richter	Montpellier (34)
24 April	Marché des plantations	Saint Gély-du-Fesc (34)
30 April/1 May	Fête des Plantes	Abbaye de Fontfroide (11)
1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (34)
5 May	Fête des fleurs	Velleron (84)
5 - 8 May	Alterarosa	Avignon (84)
8 May	Bourse aux plantes	Rousson (30)
8 May	Plantes et Fleurs en Fête	Grospierres (07)
14/15 May	Iris et Pivoines à La Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
20 - 22 May	Journées des Plantes d'Albertas	Bouc-Bel-Air(13)
22 May	Foire aux Plantes	Uzès (30)
28 May	Les jardins de Payan - visite guidée	Tarascon (13)

Hortus Programme

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 Hortus website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>

Sète Côté Jardin

To see the programme of events organised by Sète Côté Jardin, go to its website:

<http://setecotejardin.fr/scj/>

News and information

Mediterranean Gardening France website

The [WHAT'S NEW?](#) page has a summary of material added recently. This month:



A new section: '[Gardening for Wildlife](#)'.

Michèle Bailey and Ian Davis have put together a series of pages about why it's a good idea to encourage wildlife into your garden and how to do it (with lots of examples of their own experience).

Photo: Clouded Yellow butterfly

The English version of an article by Hubert Nivière on [wild orchids in the garden](#) from the web site of our partner Hortus (where the French version can be found).

Photo: *Ophrys scolopax*



A [new entry](#) in the Directory of Members' Gardens. Although the garden is not yet open for visitors, you can get a flavour of it by going to the garden's website.

In the Gardening section, an article by Oron Peri '[Bulbs for Mediterranean gardens](#)', including a link to the talk that Oron gave on the same subject to MPG, our UK partner, in January 2016.

Oron's book 'Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean' has been added to our [recommended books list](#) (under the 'Plants' tab) and there is also a [review](#) of it by Trevor Nottle.

Photo: *Freesia leichtlinii*



Workshops on gardening techniques

Our partner association, Sète Côté Jardin, has started to put reports and photographs of its workshops on gardening techniques on its website. This year, so far, the following topics have been covered:

Pruning by Pierre Martin, a specialist in peach trees

Cuttings by Jean-René Garcia

How to graft tomato plants by Pierre Navratil

http://www.setecotejardin.fr/scj/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=36&Itemid=56

News from La Petite Pépinière de Caunes

Gill Pound writes:

"After nearly 18 years at La Petite Pépinière I am retiring from operating a general nursery. This is being taken on by Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton who are creating an exciting new garden and nursery on a piece of uncultivated land next door to La Petite Pépinière. They will be offering a similar range of plants to La Petite Pépinière but introducing some interesting new grasses and perennials. They are already taking plant orders and will be open every Saturday from 16th April from 10.00 – 17.00. They can be contacted at ichecketts41@gmail.com or katejdumbleton@gmail.com , by phone on 07 80 43 32 62 and you can follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jardinchampetre.

As a confirmed plantaholic I shall, of course, be continuing to experiment with new and unusual plants and will occasionally offer these for sale or exchange via my mailing list and at events here. I shall also be offering occasional gardening courses and will continue to be available for advice and consultation about planting schemes and garden development. The garden here will continue to be open by appointment (<http://www.jardinslanguedoc.com/parcs-jardins.php?jardin=189>) .

We shall hold our annual open weekend at La Petite Pépinière on the weekend of 4/5 June. "

Best wishes
Christine