



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

July/August 2016

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Wednesday/Thursday 14/15 September, Durban-Corbières and Caunes (Aude)

Garden visits and a talk on grasses



On Wednesday afternoon we'll visit the Jardin Botanique at Durban-Corbières <http://maisonbotanique11.free.fr/> then drive to Caunes for an overnight stay. The following day will include a visit to Gill Pound's garden at la Petite Pépinière with a talk on how to grow, propagate and design with grasses, a visit to Imogen and Kate's very new experimental garden, Le Jardin Champêtre, and a wild flower walk.

Photo: The grass garden at La Petite Pépinière

To book a place contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Saturday 17 September, 10.00am, La Gaude and Vence (Alpes-Maritimes)

Visit to the gardens of L'Argelière and Villa Mariela, and the Matisse chapel

Martin Smith has organised this day out which starts with a visit to the garden of Lysiane Offerhaus, in la Gaude. Lysiane has a passion for plants and an encyclopaedic knowledge of their names. Her tree-filled garden is mostly in shade; plants are allowed to self-seed and some 'weeds' are tolerated to provide food for insects. Lysiane also knows a lot about plant diseases and has an ecological approach to pest control. In 2014, the garden was chosen by France 2 as *Le jardin préféré des Français* in the PACA region.



Sparrmannia africana

We'll have lunch in the terraced garden at Villa Mariela, Martin's home in Vence, where he grows many interesting exotic and some tender species, then visit the nearby Rosaire chapel, designed by Henri Matisse, and inaugurated in 1951 <http://www.vence.fr/the-rosaie-chapel?lang=fr>.

To book a place contact Nicola D'Annunzio: mgfnicola@gmail.com

Thursday 6 October, 10.30am, Opio and Châteauneuf-de-Grasse (Alpes-Maritimes)

A visit to the English Garden Centre and a member's garden



The English Garden Group is on our list of [recommended designers/paysagistes](#) and they have a garden centre with exhibition gardens in Opio. June Grindley has organised a tour of the garden centre followed by lunch, probably in a local restaurant, then William Hartley, a director of EGG, will take us on a tour of a garden the company designed at the home of MGF member, Peter Clarke.

Photo: Peter's garden

To book a place contact Nicola D'Annunzio: mgfnicola@gmail.com

Wednesday 12 October, 10.30am, Saint-Quentin-la-Poterie, Gard
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 2017 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 bring cuttings and surplus plants from your garden.

To book a place contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

International activities

Recently announced:

Thursday/Friday 1/2 September, Lucca, Italy

History and Gardening

If you are planning to visit Lucca for its annual flower show and plant fair 'Murabilia', contact Angela Durnford from MGS Italy to join guided visits to three historical and one private garden.

Contact Angela Durnford : angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org

Thursday/Friday 8/9 September, Algarve, Portugal

Ornamental Trees 'Back to the future - what ornamental trees do I plant?'

Two days in mature gardens in the Algarve, first in Paderne on the chalky clay of the Barrocal, and then in Almancil, on coastal sands. The gardens demonstrate the potential size, spread and shape of many trees which were planted up to 40 years ago. To book a place, contact Burford Hurry, president of Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal, burfordhpt@gmail.com.

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

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

Other dates for your Diary

Plant fairs and open gardens

11 September	Foire aux plantes	Uzès, Gard
16-18 September	SEVE: Oser son jardin. Domaine de Grammont	Montpellier
17/18 September	Les Journées Européennes du Patrimoine	All over France
23-25 September	Fête des plantes d'automne	Saint Jean de Beaugard (91)
1/2 October	Gondwana, Domaine du Rayol Theme : The language of plants	Le Rayol- Canadel
7-9 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Fontfroide, near Narbonne
26/27 November	Les Journées de l'Arbre de la Plante et du Fruit	St Jean du Gard

Hortus Programme

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. In June and July:

[A botanical walk on the Îles du Frioul, Bouches-du-Rhone](#)

A report by Jennifer Hastings with photos by Kevan Kristjanson of this wonderful day out led by Gérard Weiner.

Photo: *Pallenis maritima* (syn. *Asteriscus maritimus*)



[Garden and nursery visits: La Valette-du-Var and Ollioules, Var](#)

Words and pictures by Michelle and Philippe Chrétien Sallerin to describe this visit to the garden of Domaine d'Orvès and the rose grower *la Rose de Brignac*.

[A visit to Le Mas des Pivoines and the Villa Noailles, in Grasse, Alpes-Maritimes](#)

An account by Lesley Dean of our visits to these two lovely gardens. With photos by Lesley and Nicola D'Annunzio.

Photo: The santolina and box *parterre* at Villa Noailles



[Visits to gardens near Montauroux, Seillans and Fayence, Var](#)

June Grindley describes this day out visiting three members' gardens near Montauroux, in conjunction with local gardening group *Amicale*.

Photo: Clipped shrubs and *Rosa* 'La Sevillana' in Jenny and George McNaught's garden

[A rose baptism and visits to gardens near Grasse, Alpes-Maritimes](#)

The baptism of a new rose at Joanna Millar's home, La Prieuré and two days of garden visits described by Frances Horne, Jason Spencer-Cooke, Sara Robinson and Roland Leclercq.

Photo: *Rosa* 'Rainbows4children'



Seed List



Bauhinia yunnanensis

Chantal has included 34 new varieties of seed in the July update, including some brought back from the Mediterranean Plants and Gardens visit to Morocco, and some from our walk with Gérard Weiner on the Islands of Frioul.



Matthiola incana

Stephen Jury has already had success with the climber, *Bauhinia yunnanensis*, so this would certainly be worth a try. Go to the website to see the full list: <http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/infSEE.htm>

Books and Book reviews

Books about Mediterranean gardens and plants, including those specific to any particular corner of the world, are of interest to gardeners everywhere, so the MGi member associations have created a joint book review section on the MGi website to which the MGF book reviews have now been transferred.

To access the MGi book review section, click [here](#).

New book reviews:

Mesembs of the World Steven Hammer *et al.* Briza Publications 1998

A collective work by the world specialists in Mesembryantemaceae. In 400 pages and with over 700 high-quality colour photographs, it reveals the magical charm of these plants, as surprising as they are sublime.

[Review by Michel Gautier](#)

The Garden Wanderer Julie Kinney Margaret River Press 2016

Julie Kinney of MGi association Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River has chosen 20 gardens to illustrate the garden wealth of this beautiful part of Western Australia.

[Review by Trevor Nottle](#)

Gardening with Less Water David A. Bainbridge Storey 2015

Inspired by an ancient Chinese technique, the author has produced a handyman's guide to inventive, low-cost, super-efficient watering systems.

[Review by Michèle Bailey](#)

Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of the Western Mediterranean Chris Thorogood Kew Publications 2016

The most comprehensive and up-to-date plant identification guide to an area which is one of the most important regions in the world for its outstanding biodiversity, boasting over 10,000 plant species.

[Review by Rosie Peddle](#)

The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession Andrea Wulf William Heinemann 2008

This book tells us, in loving detail and with considerable gossip, about some key early plantsmen, the intrepid collectors, the importers and the famous early botanists who contributed so much to the gardens we know today.

[Review by Joanna Millar](#)

The MGF Library

During our visit to Sintra and Lisbon (see below) we were given a beautiful new book, *Jardins de Portugal*, by Cristina Castel-Branco. The book is in Portuguese, but with colour photographs on every page, so of interest to anyone planning a visit to Portugal. This book and over 250 others are available in the MGF library. Look at the catalogue, <http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org/libCat.pdf>, then send an email to [Chantal](#). You can collect your books from Montpellier, or Chantal will bring them to an MGF event. Books can be returned next time you attend an event or passed on to another member for return.

A new section on the MGi website – Event reports

The first report in this newly created section on the Mediterranean Gardening International website is an account written by Michèle Bailey and Christine Savage of the April 2016 event in Portugal. The trip started with garden visits in and around Sintra and Lisbon, then continued with a conference based in Lagos in the Algarve, and walks on Amoreira beach and on Cape St Vincent. Ian Davis has created an interesting slideshow of the many beautiful wild flowers we saw there.

<http://mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/baRptInt2016n02.htm>

Truffle hunting in December

Nicola D'Annunzio writes:

“One of our members who lives near Ampus in the Var, has kindly offered to take a small group (maximum 12 people) to hunt for truffles, with lunch afterwards. This will take place in December but the date is dependent on the availability of truffles and the weather at the time. Please register your interest by sending me an email, mgfnicola@gmail.com and I will let you know a firm date closer to the time.”

Seeds of Peace

This is a small venture in Israel started by MGF member Oron Peri. Collecting wild seed for commercial use is prohibited in Israel and some plants are in grave danger of extinction due to ever-expanding settlements, tourism and wars. Oron has begun, in a small way, to farm indigenous plants and harvest the seed, which he offers for sale. Contact Oron at oronperi@gmail.com for the newly issued list.

Best wishes
Christine