



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

January 2017

Dear members and friends

Programme of activities in France

Wednesday/Thursday 1/2 March, Assignan and Cesseroas, Hérault

Talks on the plants and gardens of Iran and of Arizona and a walk with Gill Pound

If the weather is good, on Wednesday afternoon Gill will lead us on a walk of about 6km from Assignan, through both limestone and schist landscape, so with contrasting vegetation. On Thursday, we will have two talks in Cesseroas, one in English, one in French.

Liz Thompson's talk is entitled: **Origins of Paradise**

An account of a journey through Iran with reference to its gardens - ancient and modern, plants and trees, and their influence on Iranian culture, decoration and the love of nature and the outdoors.

After lunch, Gill will show us photos of desert wild flowers and landscapes observed during her recent trip to Arizona and Utah, and talk about how some of these may be interesting for Mediterranean gardeners.

Photo: *Castilleja* sp. - The Desert Paintbrush

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



24 April – 1 May, Southern Corsica

A wild flower and sightseeing trip accompanied by a local botanical guide



This trip has been researched and organised by Françoise Legrand and will be led by an experienced botanical guide (French-speaking) from Cyrnéa Découverte <http://www.cyrnea-decouverte.com/>. The itinerary will include botanical walks, both inland and coastal, a trip to the Lavezzi islands, plus opportunities for sightseeing in Ajaccio, Sartène (the most Corsican of Corsican towns) Propriano and Bonifacio. The trip will start and finish in Ajaccio and accommodation will be in a hotel in Sartène.

Travel to Corsica to be organised individually.

The group size will be limited to 10 participants and booking will be open until 24 January 2017.

Photo: *Digitalis purpurea* (Cyrnéa Découverte)

For more information contact Françoise Legrand: fglnew84@yahoo.fr. Booking is open until 24 January.

Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday, 10 - 12 May, Aix-en-Provence

Art et Jardins - a Mediterranean Gardening International event

Two days of garden visits, lectures and walks, with a view to exploring the connections between art and Mediterranean gardens. The welcome reception, lectures and final dinner will take place at the Hotel Aquabella, in Aix.

Our lecturer on Thursday evening will be garden designer Laura de Beden and on Friday evening, the author, Louisa Jones. Local members not wishing to attend the full programme are very welcome to attend the lectures, which will commence at around 18.30.

For a full programme and a booking form contact Christine Savage: cs.savage@btopenworld.com

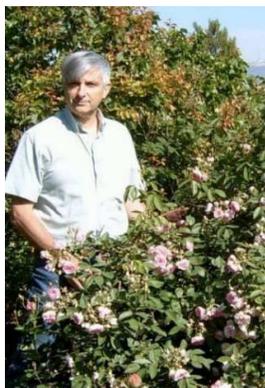
Saturday 13 May, 10.00, Aix-en-Provence

Mediterranean Gardening France Annual General Meeting

The 2017 AGM will take place in the Hotel Aquabella, close to the historic centre of Aix-en-Provence. Please put the date in your diaries.

Tuesday 23 May, Allauch and Aubagne, Bouches-du-Rhône

A visit to the workshop and garden of a 'créateur des roses' and to Poterie Ravel



Dominique Massad,rosiériste, and creator of *Rosa* 'Rainbows4children', launched at Joanna Millar's garden in 2016, has invited us to see his garden and workshop at Allauch, near Marseille. We will start with a demonstration of hybridisation, then look at new roses under assessment in the garden. After eating our picnic lunches we'll drive to Aubagne. Here we'll visit the 19th century factory of Poterie Ravel,where traditional and contemporary garden pots of high quality are still produced. We'll have a private tour of the workshops to see how the pots are moulded, fired and glazed. This outing is limited to 20 participants.



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

International activities

27 April – 4 May, MADEIRA

Jardins de Madère

Un voyage organise par notre partenaire Sète Côté Jardin. Visites de huit jardins, y compris le Jardin Tropical Monte Palace Funchal, le Jardin Botanique de Madère, plusieurs 'quintas', et une randonnée botanique. Il y aura aussi l'occasion de visiter le marché de Funchal. Le logement sera à l'Hôtel Alto Lido à Funchal et un vol spécial, Marseille - Funchal (transit à Lisbonne), et retour, a été organisé.

Contact: [Evelyne Biollet](mailto:Evelyne.Biollet)

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

28 -29 January	Mimosalia	Bormes-les-Mimosas (83)
4 - 5 February	Salon des Orchidées	Vergèze (30)
4 - 5 February	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (66)
25 - 26 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia Antipolis (06)
26 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)

Hortus Programme

14 January	Les arbustes suivi de la galette	Devezou (34)
25 February	Causerie - Prévention des maladies	Devezou (34)
4 March	Le film « Demain »	Médiathèque, Clapiers,(34)

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus,go to the website <http://hortus.acl.free.fr>. To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.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 November/December:

A report by Elisabeth Gratraudon our October visit to [Graham and Julia's garden](#), in St Quentin-la-Poterie, in the Gard.



'*Débuter un jardin à Tourbes*'- a fascinating [article](#) written by Liliane et Roland Leclercq, in the form of a diary describing how they approached this challenge and their progress so far. We'll be invited to visit in the autumn of 2017.

An account by Rosemary Halford of the October visit to the [English Garden Centre](#) and to Peter Clarke's garden in Châteauneuf-de-Grasse.



A new article from David Bracey in the Plants section on the [arbutus](#), *Arbutus unedo* - a plant for all seasons.

A report by June Grindley and Michèle Bailey on the visit to the vineyard, [Clos des Roses](#) along with an explanation of how its flower meadow is cultivated.



A new [plant list](#), 'Plants with fragrant flowers' compiled by David Bracey from recommendations received from members.

Photo: *Viburnum x bodnantense*

An addition to our list of Recommended Garden Designers. Landscape designer and MGF member Julia Fogg has moved to the Gard and you'll find her contact details on the website.

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



Ornamental trees for Mediterranean gardens

A number of members have asked for suggestions for good small to medium-sized ornamental trees which will grow well in our climate. Please send your recommendations (and photographs) to David Bracey: bracey@wanadoo.fr so that we can add to our lists of recommended plants for gardens in Mediterranean France.

An exhibition in Paris

Katharine Fedden writes:

"I have just spent a few days in Paris and saw an exhibition with its accompanying book that might be of interest to members. It is at the Jardins des Plantes: Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in the 5^{ème}. The exhibition, which is open until 15 January, is called *Secrets des Vélins* and shows part of the collection of botanical water colours on vellum done for scientific research under royal patronage starting in the 17th century. It has beautiful images and very interesting text, both historical and technical. The exhibition is to celebrate the publication of a wonderfully produced book, price over 400€, but fabulous."

Les Vélins du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle

Sous la direction scientifique de Pascal Heurtel & Michelle Lenoir

Coédition Muséum & Mazenoud

800 planches retracent l'histoire des vélins.

<http://www.jardindesplantes.net/fr/preparez-votre-visite/agenda/exposition/precieux-velins-trois-siecles-illustration-naturaliste>

With my very best wishes for the festive season and for rewarding gardening in 2017.

Christine