



# Mediterranean Gardening France

[www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org](http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org)

**March 2017**

Dear members and friends

## Programme of activities in France

**Wednesday 15 March, 9.30, Rougiers, near Brignoles, Var**

**Foraging for wild salad leaves at La Soldanelle**

Nicola D'Annunzio has organised a day out foraging for wild salads with Sylvie and Christian Mistre at Pépinière La Soldanelle, near Rougiers, followed by a Bring Your Own picnic lunch to eat along with the collected wild salad leaves. This is how Sylvie describes the day:

« *Reconnaissance, découverte et cueillette (avec un soupçon de botanique, un peu d'Histoire et de culture...et plein de petites histoires pour enrichir nos mémoires) des salades sauvages poussant dans les champs autour de la pépinière. Retour à la pépinière, tri et révision des salades ramassées. Lavage et assaisonnement puis dégustation de notre récolte.* »

Currently fully booked but waiting list open. Contact Nicola at [mgfnicola@gmail.com](mailto:mgfnicola@gmail.com).

**24 April – 1 May, Southern Corsica**

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

This trip has been 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, 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.

For more information contact Françoise Legrand: [fglnew84@yahoo.fr](mailto:fglnew84@yahoo.fr).

**Thursday 4 May, La Plaine des Maures, near Vidauban, Var**

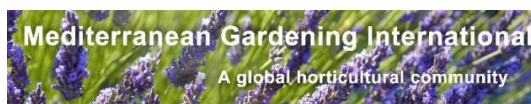
**A wild flower walk with Saskia Newlands around the Lac des Escarcets**



This walk will take 3 to 4 hours and will be stony, with areas of large slabs of rock to be negotiated, requiring some agility. It is also likely to be quite damp underfoot so you will need to wear proper hiking boots. Please bring a picnic to eat at lunchtime. Saskia says we should find several different varieties of orchid, including the bee orchid, *Ophrys apifera*, (pictured) and species of cephalanthera and serapia. We can also expect to see *Centaurea maritima*, *Cynoglossum* sp., *Linaria* sp., *Cistus monspeliensis*, *Cistus salvifolius* and many more.

Numbers are limited. Contact Nicola D'Annunzio to book a place and include your mobile phone number in the email: [mgfnicola@gmail.com](mailto:mgfnicola@gmail.com)

**Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday, 10 - 12 May**



**Art et Jardins**  
**Aix-en-Provence**

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-en-Provence. We're looking forward to welcoming members of MGF and our partner associations from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal, Italy, South Africa and France.

Due to cancellations, there are one or two places available for the full programme.

For more information and a booking form contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

**Thursday 11 May, 18.30 – 20.00, Hotel Aquabella, Aix-en-Provence**

**A talk by Laura de Beden 'The Influence of the Arts on the Making of Gardens'**

Laura de Beden, Italian by birth but now based near Kew Gardens, in London, is a landscape architect, garden designer, international lecturer and plant person. She has recently lectured in the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace on 'Creating a Garden as a Work of Art'.

**Friday 12 May, 18.30 – 20.00, Hotel Aquabella, Aix-en-Provence**

**A talk by Louisa Jones, 'Art and Gardens: Theme and Variations'**

Louisa Jones is an art historian, lecturer, expert on the gardens of Provence and author of over thirty books. She writes "The garden maker has become an artist, and old Mediterranean traditions like hillside terracing merge into new Land Art".

To book for these talks contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto: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. We hope that as many members as possible will attend. The secretary will circulate the agenda to all members nearer the time, but for now, please put the date in your diaries.

**Friday 19 May, 10.30, Méounes-lès-Montrieux, Var**

**Visit to a members' garden**

A visit to Jacqueline and David Potters' botanically fascinating and lovely garden at Méounes-lès-Montrieux, south of Brignoles, followed by a light lunch which will be provided by the Potters.

Contact June Grindley to book a place and please include your mobile phone number in the email. [jngrindley@btinternet.com](mailto:jngrindley@btinternet.com)

**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, rosieriste, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Currently fully booked, but waiting list open.

Contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

**Tuesday 30 May, 10.30, Menton, Alpes-Maritimes**

**Visits to La Citronneraie and Le Jardin des Colombières**



A morning visit to Francois Mazet's La Citronneraie, a beautiful '*Jardin Remarquable*' set on a terraced hillside, with many varieties of fruit trees and tropical plants. <http://lacitronneraie.fr/jardin-citronneraie-menton/>. Bring a picnic lunch to eat on the beach or eat in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we'll visit Le Jardin des Colombières, the classic garden designed by Ferdinand Bac in 1920 and now classed as a '*Monument Historique*' and owned by M.et Mme Likierman. <http://colombieres.likierman.net/index.php?lang=fr> .

Contact June Grindley to book a place and include your mobile phone number in the email:

[jngrindley@btinternet.com](mailto:jngrindley@btinternet.com) .

**Wednesday 7 June, Concoules, Gard  
Visit to the Jardin du Temple**



Elisabeth Gratraud has arranged for us to have a guided visit to the Jardin du Temple, which sits at the foot of Mont Lozère, in the Hautes Cévennes. The garden has more than 5000 varieties of plants, including collections of roses, hydrangeas and peonies. We can take a picnic to eat in the garden. To book a place, contact Christine Savage: [cs.savage@btopenworld.com](mailto:cs.savage@btopenworld.com)

International activities

**20 - 22 April, Rome, ITALY**

**Formal gardens in and around Rome**

A two-day tour with guided visits to several formal gardens in and near to the city, featuring rich ornamentation including sculptures, monuments, grottoes and 'coffee houses'. The tour will include: the Giardino di Villa Barberini, Castel Gandolfo; the Giardini del Vaticano; the 'secret' garden next to the Villa Borghese, il Giardino Segreto di Tramontana; the garden of the Villa Aldobrandini and the mysterious Giardino del Palazzo Colonna, developed in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century by Cardinal Ascanio Colonna and enriched through the centuries by the Colonna family.

Contact : Angela Durnford [angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org](mailto:angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org)

**16 – 19 May, Piedmont, ITALY**

**Gardens of Piedmont**

A chance to enjoy the varied and beautiful landscapes of Piedmont, a rose nursery and several special private gardens designed by renowned landscape architects. The tour starts at Torino airport, then up into the Alps for a day, and back to the Langhe, with its picturesque hills, vineyards and castles. After a night in Alba, we move onwards to the bell towers and ancient spires of Saluzzo, the Siena of Piedmont, with snow-capped Monviso behind and the vast plains of Padania before. Return to Torino airport on Friday afternoon. Accommodation will be in Oropo di Biella, Alba and Saluzzo.

Contact : Angela Durnford [angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org](mailto:angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org)

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

4 - 5 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (66)
18 -19 March	Plantes Rares et de Collections au Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (83)
25 March	<i>Comprendre les différents milieux du jardin pour mieux réussir ses plantations</i> – La Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
25 - 26 March	Fête des Jardins	Sophia Antipolis (06)
26 March	Primavera	Montpellier (34)
1 - 2 April	Portes Ouvertes à la Soldanelle	Rougiers (83)
2 April	Foire aux Fleurs	Beaumes-de-Venise (84)
8 -9 April	La fête des plantes a MUCEM	Marseille (13)
9 April	Les Florales	Figanières (83)
16 April	Marché des plantations	Saint Gély-du-Fesc (34)
29 - 30 April	Plantes rares et jardin naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (84)
30 April	Bourse aux plantes	Villecroze (83)
1 May	La main verte	Le Vigan (34)
1 May	Foire aux plantes	Forcalqueiret (83)

## Hortus Programme

4 March	15.00 Le film « Demain »	Médiathèque, Clapiers,(34)
22 April	14.30 Bourse aux plantes	Devezou (34)

Chantal Maurice writes:

« **Demain** est un film documentaire français réalisé par Cyril Dion et Mélanie Laurent, sorti en 2015. Devant un futur que les scientifiques annoncent préoccupant, le film a la particularité de ne pas donner dans le catastrophisme. Adoptant un point de vue optimiste, il recense des initiatives dans dix pays de par le monde, face aux défis environnementaux et sociaux du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle, qu'il s'agisse d'agriculture, d'énergie, d'économie, d'éducation ou de gouvernance. Fait rare pour un documentaire, il dépasse le million d'entrées en France. Il remporte en 2016 le César du meilleur film documentaire. »

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](mailto: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 January/February:



#### 'Le Jardin Champêtre'

Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton have written a fascinating account of the creation of their new garden in Caunes-Minervois, in the Aude. Read the first instalment of their Garden Diary and see their entry in Recommended Pépiniéristes.

Photo: *Echinops ritro* 'Veitch's Blue'

An account, by Christine Savage, of the amazing [trip to South Africa](#) organised by Angela Durnford, head of one of our partner associations, MGS Italy.

Cape Town, the winelands, botanical walks and visits to 22 gardens!



Photo: *Protea cynaroides*, the king protea

### **The MGF Seed List**



*Dietes grandiflora*



*Isoplexis canariensis*



*Lessertia frutescens*



*Pseudomuscari azureum*

Chantal has updated our [seed list](#) for 2017, and a number of members have sent new photographs, so do have a look at the latest version. One hundred new types of seed have been added, of which twenty varieties were a generous gift from members of our partner association, the Cape Horticultural Society in South Africa. Last November I gave a talk on 'Creating a garden in Mediterranean France' at their monthly meeting and was rewarded by envelopes full of local seeds to bring back to France for our seed exchange. So, do get in contact with Chantal at [chantal.gouverner@gmail.com](mailto:chantal.gouverner@gmail.com) and order some seeds to try out!

#### **A tip from the Cape Horticultural Society newsletter**

Allan Haschick writes:

"A great tip for planting new plants at your holiday home or someplace where you don't get to water often. Line a large hole with the whole Sunday newspaper, before filling with soil, compost, fertiliser etc. and finally the plant. The paper acts as a water trap; preventing water from draining through the loose, newly turned soil and staying around the roots. The paper also allows the water to spread evenly around the root ball. With time, it rots away and the roots can grow through the paper."

#### **Plantix – a diagnostic app**

David Bracey writes:

"Alfredo Unda, an MGF member living in Chile, sent details of an app called 'Plantix', [plantix.net](http://plantix.net) which he had used, and which can help diagnose plant diseases, insect pests etc. The app is available for use on android platforms (Samsung, Nokia, Sony, Motorola etc) but not yet on Apple products. If you would like to try this app, find Plantix in Google Playstore and install the Beta-Version. It is available in French and English, but you have to pick a country, and the nearest one to us is currently Germany. PEAT GmbH, the producer of the app, told us that France is on the list for the future and that the software will eventually be available for Apple products. We would be interested to hear from any member who tries it out and finds it useful."

Feedback to David please, at [bracey@wanadoo.fr](mailto:bracey@wanadoo.fr).

With best wishes

Christine