



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

JULY 2018

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Tuesday 2 October, Eguilles (near Aix-en-Provence), Bouches-du-Rhône

Annual planning meeting chez Michèle Bailey and Ian Davis

Come with your suggestions for activities next year and with a dish to share for lunch. Coffee from 10h30, meeting starts 11h00. After lunch, Nina Guichard of [NR Landscaping](#) will give a demonstration of planting up an ornamental pot for a hot dry place. Then you can wander round Michèle and Ian's new garden, intended to be wildlife-friendly as well as economical on watering.

For more information and to book: [Michèle Bailey](#)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 September - Rome and Caserta, ITALY

Guided Visit to Gardens of Palazzo Reale, La Reggia di Caserta

Day One with an optional dinner in Rome. Day Two will be an early departure by coach to Caserta returning by 19.30. <http://www.reggiadicaserta.beniculturali.it/wp/>

For more details contact Angela Durnford: angela.durnford@mgsitaly.org

Two trips (Cornwall, UK and Mallorca, Spain) organised by MGF member Maria Sansoni, owner of Flora Mediterranea, a specialist plant nursery based in Munich, Germany. The main language on the tours will be German, but Maria also speaks excellent English. Prices quoted in the programme details include air travel from Munich, but for those wishing to make their own travel arrangements Maria can quote a special price.

18 – 24 September, Cornwall, UK

Romantik, Gärten und Natur / The romantic gardens of Cornwall

This trip will include visits to many of Cornwall's most famous gardens, including Trebah, Glendurgan, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project. There will also be the opportunity to see a number of private gardens, and, as many of the gardens are on the coast, perhaps to swim in the sea. The main hotel will be Penmorvah Manor, a country house hotel set in peaceful countryside near Falmouth. For full programme details click [here](#).

Contact: [Maria Sansoni](#)

8 – 14 October, MALLORCA

Trauminsel Mallorca – Besondere Gärten und Natur / Gardens of the island of Mallorca

On this tour, Maria has included private and public gardens in all parts of the very diverse island of Mallorca from the mountainous west coast to the quiet and windswept south-east. Well-known gardens to be visited are the Moorish Alfabia and the Botanical Garden of Sóller, but there are also lesser-known treasures in the Serra de Tramuntana, such as the botanical garden of the monastery Santuari de Lluc. Accommodation is in the Hotel Lido Park in Peguera. For full programme details click [here](#).

Contact: [Maria Sansoni](#)

Sunday 14 - Friday 19 October, Lazio, ITALY

Gardens of the Castelli Romani – a trip organised by Mediterranean Plants and Gardens

The verdant hills and volcanic lakes just south-east of Rome have attracted Romans wanting to escape from the city for millennia. So, the Castelli Romani, as the communes are known, are home to some of the most beautiful villas in Italy, with gorgeous gardens and grounds, and to the famous wine town of Frascati, the hilltop Castel Gandolfo, and the scenic Lago Albano.

The group will stay at the elegant Villa Tuscolana Park Hotel, just outside Frascati, and the programme is expected to include visits to: Ninfa, Torrecchia, Villa d'Este, Hadrian's Villa (Villa Adriana), Castel Gandolfo and Villa Landriana. There will also be a full day excursion to Viterbo, to see Villa Lante and the Sacro Bosco, Bomarzo. Christina Thompson will be the guide for the tour. If this trip is oversubscribed a similar tour will be arranged in 2019.

For information on how to book, contact Heather Martin at hma@clara.net

7 – 21 February 2019, Drakensberg and Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Wild flowers of the Sani Pass and the Drakensberg and gardens around Cape Town

MPG is organising a 10-day tour of the Drakensberg with an extension to Cape Town. The guide in the Drakensberg is Elsa Pooley, an inspiring leader and author of books on South African wild flowers. This sector is a field trip and will entail plenty of walking in beautiful scenery, sometimes on rough terrain. The second sector is a 5-day visit to gardens in Cape Town and the surrounding area. An outline of the itinerary for the Drakensberg sector can be found [here](#). Applications for places can be made on the MPG website www.medpag.org.

Contact: Heather Martin at hma@clara.net

For a full list of international events, go to the [MGF website](#).

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant fairs and open gardens

7 – 9 September	Murabilia www.murabilia.com/programma-generale-2018	Lucca, Italy
9 September	Journée des plantes	Uzès (Gard)
15 - 16 September	Journées européennes du patrimoine	Everywhere in France
15 - 16 September	Portes-ouvertes - Le Jardin Champêtre	Caunes-Minervois (Var)
16 September	Salon du livre de jardin - Domaine d'Orvès	La Valette-du-Var (Var)
29 - 30 September	Portes Ouvertes - La Soldanelle	Rougiers (Var)
5 - 7 October	Orchidées à Fontfroide	Narbonne (Aude)
6 -7 October	Gondwana Domaine du Rayol	Le Rayol-Canadel (Var)

Hortus Programme

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the [website](#). To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact Chantal Maurice at chantal.dania@wanadoo.fr.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Mediterranean Gardening France website

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



[A plant drawing class in the Cévennes](#)

Katharine Fedden invited us to her home, deep in the countryside on the edge of the Cévennes National Park. Twelve of us spent two delightful days learning how to draw, using plants from her garden as subjects.



[Bourse aux Plantes in Villecroze and a Provençal garden in Salernes](#)

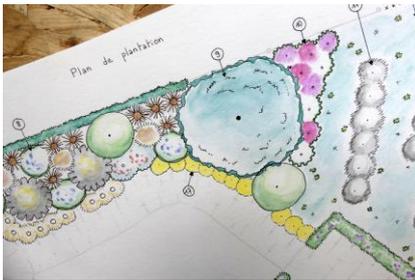
Read Linda Cosby's illustrated account of a day at the plant fair in Villecroze and a visit to Nathalie and David's garden, laid out as a series of different 'rooms'.



[Gardens in the Alpilles, Bouches-du-Rhône](#)

Catriona McLean writes about the garden of Provençal painter, Joseph Bayol and Nanouk Pelen describes Clare and Mark's developing garden in Maussane-les-Alpilles.

Photo: *Achillea umbellata*



[A talk 'Optimiser un petit espace extérieur' by Nina Guichard](#)

Following a talk organised in conjunction with one of our partners, Hortus, Nina has written two articles about the main steps in designing a garden project: [Optimising a small outdoor space](#) and [Playing with colour](#).



In the 'Gardens to Visit in France' section are two new articles by Elisabeth Gratraud:

[Les Jardins de l'Evêché](#), Limoges, Limousin

Le [Parc Oriental de Maulévrier](#), Maine-et-Loire.

Photo : Maulévrier

Mediterranean Gardening International

A new partner: the California Horticultural Society

Christine Daniels writes:

"At the recent AGM in Fayence I announced that Mediterranean Gardening International now has a seventh partner, the California Horticultural Society (affectionately known as Cal Hort), based in San Francisco. This means that our international gardening community now has member associations in every continent with a Mediterranean climate. You can see the full list of members on the MG*i* website <http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/index.htm>, where Cal Hort describes itself thus:

“The cold winter of 1932 brought together nursery personnel, academics, and garden enthusiasts to share information about what perished/survived in gardens. This gathering expanded into a group focused on the challenges and opportunities of gardening in this region, and the plants that thrive in our Mediterranean climate. Our monthly programs feature horticultural professionals, plant collectors, or an avid gardener. We hold a yearly exchange of seeds, organize visits to gardens and nurseries of interest, and also one another’s gardens.”

Any member with a question about Californian plants, or planning a trip to San Francisco and the surrounding area, is welcome to contact Richard Turner at calhort.mgi@gmail.com.

Richard writes:

“Our new website, calhortsociety.org, created by Sean O'Hara, is now up and running. I think you'll find lots of interesting content there, and our hope is that it will grow over time. It includes our schedule of programs and activities, which we hope MGI members will feel welcome to attend.”

News from Chile

Alfredo Unda writes:

“Please look at our website <https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile/single-post/2018/06/16/Flor-de-julio-2018> to see information about typical endemic flowers found in the Mediterranean climate of Central Chile. So far, all flowers described in our ‘flower of the month’ section can also be found in our La Aurora valley. The articles in Spanish have a version in English. Feedback would be appreciated and we are ready to answer any comment or question aunda4@gmail.com.”

Newly added articles are:



Solanum crispum



Leucocoryne ixiooides



Malesherbia linearifolia



Phycella cyrtanthoides

“We have also created a new section to report on Chilean examples of Mediterranean gardens. So far, two have been published, <https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile/copia-de-valor-ornamental>. I hope to add more examples soon.”

Kokedama

David Bracey writes:

“I read about kokedama in the Daily Telegraph a few weeks ago. In Japan, a local clay called akadama, is mixed with water, shaped into a ball, planted with a variety of plants including cyclamen, hyacinths, primroses, bonsai shrubs, boston and asparagus ferns, anthuriums, ivy, echeverias, aeoniums or pines, in fact you can use your imagination....carnivorous plants....and then the clay is covered with moss. Some of you may like to try and make one. I did!



Plants used, back row l-r: *Aeonium* sp., *Syringa* sp.
Pulmonaria sp., wild cherry, *Aeonium* sp., *Taxus*
bacata. Front row: *Viola* sp., *Sempervivum* sp.

Narcissus sp.

The recommended clay is akadama which is aluminium silicate of volcanic origin. Its function is to glue the ball together. It is expensive, if you can find it, and other combinations can be used. I used cat litter, which sounds exotic, mixed with bonsai soil in a 50:50 ratio. Cat litter, so I found out, is variously Fullers earth (another clay) or diatomaceous soil (a siliceous sedimentary rock).

Moss can be bought in sheets but not in the wilds of the Haute Savoy. Fortunately, I can go into the local woods and harvest wild moss however this could be illegal, so I'm told. I have also tried *Pellia*, an evergreen liverwort. The local pennywort, *Umbilicus rupestris* may be a suitable alternative and may be worth trying.

The soil-mix is soaked in water and then squeezed to remove excess moisture and then formed into a ball. The roots of the chosen plants should be cleaned of soil either by gentle teasing, by washing or a mixture of both. The plants can then be combined with the soil-mix and planted into holes scooped out of the ball of soil-mix. Moss is then wrapped around the ball, sometimes in several layers and then wrapped in string. In Japanese examples the stringing become a work of art as well."

Kokedama is an old art. However, it has recently undergone a contemporary revival. Fedor Van der Valk has created "string gardens" using a variety of plants and moves kokedama to another artistic level."

These websites will show just how effective kokedama is:

<https://trendland.com/fedor-van-der-valk-string-gardens/>
<https://bloomzine.com/garden/kokedama-how-to32014>
<http://www.stringgardens.com>
<http://cityplanter.com/whats-new/city-planter-inquirer>

New in the Members' Forum: MGF photo sharing

Kevan Kristjanson writes:

"Welcome to MGF photo sharing. Do you have photos of an MGF event that you would like to share? Would you like to see photos taken by other members and perhaps download a copy? Welcome to the MGF photo sharing facility! Please refer to the "How To..." section in the Members' Forum to learn how you can easily download photos from others and how to contribute your own. Be sure to check the 'Albums' section frequently for new albums contributed by others."

Go to see the three albums already available with nice pictures! Jardins Campagne Ste Marie, MGF AGM 2018 and Garden of Carla and Herman.

Seeds of Peace

MGF member Oron Peri, who lives in Israel, grows rare geophytes in his specialist nursery. He will despatch these worldwide, either in the form of bulbs, corms and tubers, or as seeds.

Oron writes:



"Happy to announce we now have a website for 'Seeds of Peace' nursery. Many of the species we have are excellent for naturalising in Mediterranean gardens. We had a very dry winter this year, therefore some of the items are in shortage; these are marked in orange colour. Enjoy and thank you for your support!"

www.seedspeace.info

Photo: *Iris nigricans*

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: rolandlec@wanadoo.fr