



Mediterranean Gardening France

www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org

JANUARY 2019

Dear members and friends

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Saturday 26 January, 15.00, La médiathèque Albert Camus, Clapiers, Hérault

A talk by Olivier Filippi



This event has been organised in conjunction with our partner association, Hortus. Olivier has yet to decide on the subject for his talk, but put the date in your diary because his talks are always informative and thought-provoking.

To register an interest and to receive more information when it is available, contact [Chantal Maurice](#).

Saturday 9 March, 9.00 – 12.00, Prades le Lez, Hérault

A walk in the Domaine de Restinclières to discover edible wild plants



John Walsh, of Les Écologistes de l'Euzière, will guide us on a botanical walk around the domain to discover edible wild plants. We will learn how to recognize the plants and identify the best conditions to pick them. The walk is on flat ground and suitable for all. It will be followed by a wild salad tasting with a glass of local wine.

Bilingual activity French/English. Numbers limited to 20 participants. The price will be from 13 to 25€ per person, dependant on the number of attendees.

This outing has been organised by Nina Guichard of NR Landscaping.

To book a place, contact Nina at [Nina Guichard](#).

Wednesday 20 March, La Bamboueraie d'Anduze, Gard

A garden visit and a talk, "Gardening with Mediterranean Plants in the Cévennes"

by Dr John Feltwell



Dr John Feltwell, botanist, ecologist, author and photographer, was one of the first in Britain to promote wildlife gardening through his books 'Doorstep Wildlife' (Hamlyn, 1985) and 'Naturalist's Garden' (Ebury Press, 1987). His website is named [Wildlife matters](#). John's talk will be based on his observation of the nature and habitats of the Basses-Cévennes over 50 years, and on gardening with drought-tolerant plants that thrive in the limestone conditions of the cévenol Causses around Mont Aigoual and the Lozère. He says he will speak in a "mélange of English, French and cévenol"

Photo: *Lagerstroemia indica* in the Cévennes

Participants may wish to arrive in the morning and explore the gardens of the Bambouseraie. The garden has a fabulous collection of camelias, which will be at their best at this time of year. If 20 people would like to visit the garden, we will be able to benefit from a reduced group admission rate and have a guided tour. We can then eat picnic lunches on a covered terrace next to the snack bar. The talk, organised by Catriona McLean and Aline Rideau, in conjunction with les Amis de la Bambouseraie, will take place in the afternoon. To book a place, contact [Catriona McLean](#) saying whether you are interested in the full day, including the morning garden visit, or just the afternoon talk.

Thursday 28 March, Malaucène, Vaucluse

Atelier de taille

Chantal Guiraud has arranged for Valérie Guillaud, professional teacher at the CFPPA de l'Hérault (Centre de Formation Professionnelle et de Promotion Agricole), to give MGF members a pruning demonstration. This practical workshop will take place in the garden of Christine Daniels who has recently moved house in Malaucène and now has a walled village garden, with many, somewhat neglected, mature shrubs and small trees. More information will be available nearer the time.

To book a place, contact [Christine Daniels](#).

April, near Le Barroux, Vaucluse

A wildflower walk close to Lac du Paty



This event will provide an introduction to some of the tiny but beautiful wild flowers which exist in the Ventoux landscape. The walk will be about 5 – 6 km, and led by an experienced French guide.

Precise location, date and joining instructions will be advised nearer the time to obtain the best wildflower experience and will depend on how advanced the season is. As wildflowers are best viewed in the cool of the morning, we intend to start at 09.00 and finish with a picnic lunch. The walk will therefore be of interest to those living in the Vaucluse, or willing to stay nearby the previous night.

Participants should wear footwear suitable for uneven ground and be prepared to purchase in advance their own loupe (a small magnifying glass) costing around €15. A loupe is essential for viewing the smallest wildflowers.

Maximum 20 participants, though a second event may be possible if there is substantial interest. There is also the possibility of a wildflower event on Mont Ventoux in May. Attendance is open to members of MGF and a local independent garden group. To register an interest, contact the organiser, [Tony Kell](#), ideally prior to end January, indicating any dates, or days of the week, which are not possible.

Tuesday 14 May, Ménerbes, Vaucluse

A day in the Luberon – Le jardin botanique du domaine de la Citadelle and La Louve



Morning:

First, a discovery and tasting of wild edible plants in the field, with Nadine Maffli, head of the association '*Le Silène et L'Ortie*'. Then, guided by Brigitte Bergeron, head of the association '*Un Savoir oublié*' we will visit the jardin botanique du domaine de la Citadelle. In this vineyard, six terraces have been developed to accommodate a wide variety of medicinal and edible plants. Lunch will be served here, a refined picnic with wild seasonal herbs, prepared by Romain Dumas, chef at the restaurant '*l'Atelier l'art des mets*'. The visit will take place in French. Cost: 26€.

Photo: Le jardin botanique du domaine de la Citadelle

Afternoon:

A visit to La Louve in Bonnieux, a garden created in the 90s by Nicole de Vésian, designer at Hermès and passionate about the Provencal style of gardening. The garden is on a set of terraces, living and contemplative spaces where stone, natural wood and Mediterranean plants subtly match the local landscape. The property is located in Bonnieux, a charming Provencal village perched on the side of a cliff, with beautiful panoramic views of the Luberon. Cost: 10€.

This outing has been organised by Frances Horne and Nina Guichard. To book a place, contact [Nina Guichard](#).

27 – 29 May, Catalonia, Spain

Pre-AGM trip to Figueras and gardens of the Costa Brava



André Guiraud and Jennifer Hastings are putting together an itinerary for a three-day trip to Catalonia prior to our AGM in Céret. The provisional programme includes a choice of a visit to the Salvador Dali museum in Figueras or a coastal walk, and visits to the Jardin Botanique de Marimurtra and the Santa Clotilde gardens in Lloret de Mar.

Photo: *Drosanthemum floribundum* in flower at Marimurtra.

We'd like to get an indication of how many people might come on this trip, so if you are interested please contact [Jennifer Hastings](#) by 12 January.

30 – 31 May, Céret, Pyrénées-Orientales

MGF Annual General Meeting 2019 and garden visits

This year the AGM will take place in Céret, a small town located on the River Tech, in the foothills of the Pyrénées, and conveniently close to the A9 autoroute. Chagall, Dali, Matisse and Picasso all lived here and some of their works can be viewed in the excellent Museum of Modern Art. The programme of events for these two days is being organised by local members Lynn Hall and Penny Parkinson.

Thursday 30 May



Activities will start with lunch at Restaurant Guy Molas, followed by the **MGF Annual General Meeting**.

After the meeting, we are delighted to welcome designers, James and Helen Basson, of [Scape Design](#), who will give a talk on an aspect of their work in designing and creating Mediterranean gardens. The day will finish with dinner in a local restaurant.

Photo: James and Helen with their Chelsea Flower Show gold medal

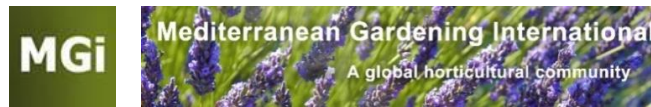
Friday 31 May

The provisional programme for this day includes a visit to [Mas Reynes](#), a stunning garden filled with exotic plants owned by MGF member, Pierre Bianchi, the Tropique du Papillon near Elne, with its Mediterranean and tropical gardens, and the citrus nursery, Agrumes Bachès.

To express an interest and to receive a list of suggested accommodation, please contact the secretary, [Michèle Bailey](#).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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



1 – 8 April, International Spring Conference, Évora, Portugal – organised by MGAP “Bringing the Mediterranean Landscape into your Garden”

1 – 4 April: Pre-Conference tour based in Armação de Pera, Algarve

Activities will start with welcome drinks on the evening of Monday 1 April and on Tuesday and Wednesday will include visits to private gardens, a guided walk through developing native forest and a coastal wild flower walk along part of the [Rota Vicentina](#). On Thursday there will be a guided visit to the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal’s botanic garden at Silves, which is dedicated to the native flora of the Barrocal region. In the afternoon participants will travel by coach to Évora.

5 – 8 April: Évora

Évora, capital of Portugal's south-central Alentejo region, is a lively university city, and classified as a UNESCO world heritage site. On Friday, participants can choose to either spend a free day exploring Évora, or join a guided visit to the private garden of Conde de Monsaraz, followed by a boat trip to Alqueva Lake for an island wildflower walk and a visit to hill top mediaeval town of Monsaraz. The conference will start on Friday evening with a pre-dinner talk on the history, culture and ecology of the Montando cork oak forests, then on Saturday and Sunday there will be talks in the mornings and outside activities in the afternoons. Speakers include James Basson and Olivier Filippi. Visits will include guided walks and jeep tours of the Montando cork oak forest where there will be many spring flowers in bloom and visits to private and historic gardens.

For those who can stay another day, Marion and Arnold ter Horst have organised a day out in the Alentejo region, to include visits to the Quetzal Winery and restaurant, the Alcáçovas Garden and Paço dos Henriques and an organic herb nursery.

Full details of the various elements and a Booking Form can be downloaded from the [Mediterranean Gardening International website](#). Any questions, contact [Rosie Peddle](#).

There is currently a Ryanair flight from Marseille to Faro scheduled to leave on Monday 1 April at 13.20, arriving at 14.40, with prices starting at €62.21. Flights from Lisbon to Marseille by Ryanair are daily, leaving Lisbon at 14.00 and arriving at 17.20, with prices from €62.21. TAP Air Portugal also has reasonably priced daily flights from Lisbon to Marseille.

5 – 11 May, Tuscany, ITALY

Wild plants and flowers of south-west Tuscany and northern Lazio – organised by MPG



This Mediterranean Plants and Gardens trip to an area of stunning scenery with many endemic wild plants, is being led by botanist Goffredo Filibeck of Tuscia University. Click [here](#) for the provisional programme which includes walks off the beaten track. Accommodation is in a hotel right beside the sea and in an inland fortress in the hills. Pictured left is *Cistus creticus* ssp. *eriocephalus* on Giglio Island, included in the tour.

If you are interested please email: [Heather Martin](#).

6 – 9 May, Liguria, ITALY

An MGF trip to the gardens of the Italian Riviera

This trip, organised by June Grindley and Maggie Vance, includes visits to the gardens at Villa Boccanegra, Villa della Pergola, Maurizio Casale's grasses nursery, the village of Dolceacqua and [La Mortola](#), the Hanbury garden. The group will be based at Hotel Villa Elisa in Bordighera.

Now fully booked, but waiting list open. Contact [June Grindley](#).

15 – 17 June, Regensburg, Bavaria, GERMANY

Parks and Gardens of Regensburg – a tour

The main language on this tour will be German, but María Sansoni, the organiser, speaks excellent English. The trip will include visits to the gardens of Herzog Park and of the Nepal Himalaya Pavilion, plus two private gardens, a Bavarian wine tavern and a specialist plant nursery. Accommodation will be in the Münchner Hof, situated in the historic centre of Regensburg. More details [here](#).

Contact: [Maria Sansoni](#)

5 – 9 July, London and the Home Counties, ENGLAND

The Hampton Court Flower Show and gardens around London

The main language on this tour will be German, but María Sansoni, the organiser, speaks excellent English. Maria has organised visits to some of the most well-known and iconic gardens situated in the counties surrounding London. Included will be the Savill Garden at Windsor, the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, Great Dixter, Sissinghurst, Nymans and the Chelsea Physic Garden. A full day will be spent at the Hampton Court Flower Show, which has over 50 specially created gardens and a huge variety of stalls. More details [here](#).

Contact: [Maria Sansoni](#)

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 March – 28 April, Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur - Nice, Cannes, Antibes, Grasse, Menton



« *Rêves de Méditerranée* » is the theme selected for the second *Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur*. Throughout April 2019, gardens specially created by professional designers and paysagistes, will be on display, together with others created by local communes.

Plant fairs and open gardens

26/27 January	Mimosalia	Bormes-les –Mimosas (Var)
1/2/3 February	Salon des Orchidées	Vergèze (Gard)
2/3 February	Fête du Mimosa	Sainte-Maxime (Var)
16 Feb – 3 March	Festival des Orchidées et la Fête du Citron	Menton (Alpes-Maritimes)
2/3 March	L'art des Jardins	Ille-sur-Têt (P-O)
24 March	Primavera	Montpellier (Hérault)

Hortus Programme

26 January	Conférence d'Olivier Filippi	Médiathèque, Clapiers (Hérault)
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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](#).

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Mediterranean Gardening France website

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



June Grindley has written an illustrated account of the October visit to the gardens of Le Vallon du Brec, in the hinterland of Nice.

Photo: The Persian-looking turquoise pavilion overlooks a tranquil fish pond and swimming pool.



Gardens of Corfu, by Rachel Weaving, with photographs by Marianne Majerus
You can read Liz Godfrey's [review](#) of this book on the Mediterranean Gardening International website.

More reviews needed! Please send reviews of garden or plant books you have found interesting to [Marjorie Orr](#).

Okanagan Xeriscape Association – a new MGi partner

Some months ago, Alfredo Unda made a visit to the Okanagan Valley, in British Columbia, Canada, where he met members of the Okanagan Xeriscape Association (OXA). He was most impressed with what he saw and the people he met, and we put a link to [OXA's website](#), with its extensive illustrated plant database, on our MGi site. Further talks revealed an energetic and knowledgeable garden society whose mission is to promote waterwise gardening in a climate which has hot summers, cold winters and very little rain. A natural next step was to invite OXA to become a partner association in Mediterranean Gardening International. This has now been agreed by all, so, a warm welcome from MGF to our new Canadian friends!

Alfredo writes:

In July I visited the Okanagan Xeriscape Association in British Columbia, Canada, to learn about their xeriscaping practice. This is an important gardening technique in sites with low water availability as in La Aurora, Chile.

The Okanagan Valley located in the BC's southern interior is part of the large desert region stretching south to the peninsula of Baja California in Mexico. The region's climate has semi-arid desert conditions, very hot and dry summers reflected in the Okanagan desert ecosystems, mild weather and winters with temperatures a little below freezing, similar to many Mediterranean climate zones.

'Xeriscaping' is the combination of xeros (Greek = dry) and landscape. Where the only plants used are those whose natural requirements are appropriate to the local climate, and care is taken not to lose water through evaporation and losses, the following can be achieved:

- a. 50% reduction or greater of the water used in a conventional garden
- b. Less water used means less maintenance and less spending
- c. Increased property value due to an attractive garden that conserves water
- d. Creation of a landscape that survives in drought conditions
- e. Elimination of the need for toxic herbicides and chemical fertilizers
- f. Reduction of the impact on the environment
- g. Provision of food and habitat for fauna



You can read more of Alfredo's article and see photographs of the UnH2O Kelowna demonstration garden [here](#).

What's new in the [members' Forum](#)

Here are some of the new topics being discussed on the members' forum.
To see them, log into the member area and click on ACCESS THE FORUM

Pollinating an olive tree

Metam-sodium intoxication in France

Water lettuce, a new invasive?

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting of 2 October 2018

The quote of the month

Bulb: potential flower buried in Autumn, never to be seen again.
Henry Beard (American humourist)

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq
Newsletter editor

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