

## Autumn Conference booking form

### PRICES

#### 2-day residential delegates:

£199 per person for one night's B&B in a shared room at Stratford Manor Hotel, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

£238 per person for one night's B&B in a single room at Stratford Manor Hotel, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

#### Day delegates:

£55 for Saturday including lunch; £65 for Sunday including lunch

The four-star Stratford Manor Hotel is just five minutes from the M40 and set in 21 acres of landscaped grounds. It offers a range of spa and leisure facilities.

Please tick as applicable or book on our website

- We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total cost £398)
- I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total cost £238)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£55 each)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£65 each)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Saturday excluding lunch (£40 each)
- I/we would like to reserve ..... day delegate places for Sunday excluding lunch (£50 each)

#### YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

County/country: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CHEQUE PAYMENT

I/we enclose a remittance of £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Alpine Garden Society.

#### CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD (Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Switch)

Please charge my card £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number                      Security code

Start date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No. (some debit cards) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

All information is protected by the Data Protection Act. Your information will not be disclosed to a third party. However, the AGS may wish to pass your details to our local groups. If you do not wish to receive information from our local groups then please tick this box.

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK  
 Phone: 01386 554790 Fax: 01386 554801 email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net

# AGS news

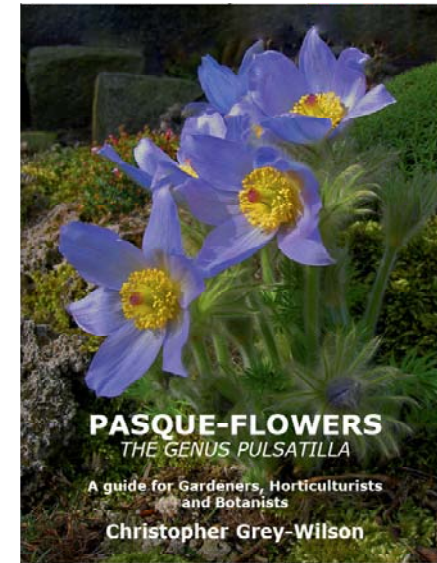
Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

## Pulsatilla book to be published in limited edition

The Alpine Garden Society is proud to announce that it will publish what will be seen as the definitive work on the genus Pulsatilla.

**Pasque-Flowers: The Genus Pulsatilla**, by Christopher Grey-Wilson, will be issued in a limited edition. It will have a slip case and each purchaser will have his or her name printed on the fly-leaf, making each copy unique to its owner. All copies will be signed by the author.

The book, which has been in preparation for several years, includes sumptuous photographs of the species in the wild and in cultivation. Closely related to the anemones, pulsatillas are among the most exquisite of all mountain plants and are an essential



element in any alpine garden. This is the first book devoted to them. It is not only a survey of the genus and a guide to the identification of the various species, but it also examines, in detail, their cultivation and place in the garden.

The book is being offered to members

**Continued on page 21**

### AGS AUTUMN CONFERENCE: SEE PAGE 3

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**NINE NEW TOURS FOR 2014 BEGIN ON PAGE 23**

[www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

Phone: +44(0)1386 554790

Fax: +44(0)1386 554801

Email:

ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions for 2013:

Single (UK and Ireland) £28\*

Family (two at same address) £32\*

Junior (under 18/student) £10

Overseas single US\$54 £30

Overseas family US\$60 £33

\* £2 deduction for direct debit subscribers

For details of life membership apply to AGS Centre.

### AGS CENTRE AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The AGS Centre will close at 5pm on Friday, August 23, and will not reopen until 9am on Wednesday, August 28.

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Send items for the September 2013 issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the address above or email jackie@alpinegardensociety.net. The deadline is July 31, 2013.

## NOTICEBOARD

### AGS shows

June 15: Summer Show North

July 13: Summer Show Mid West

September 28: Autumn Show South

October 5: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 12: Newcastle Show

Full details of each show are in the AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS website and in the shows pull-out that was included with the December 2012 issue of AGS News.

### Take part in the AGS Online Show



The 2013 AGS Online Show is a great opportunity for members who can't normally get to shows – particularly those who live outside the UK and Ireland – to show off their plants and gardens. There are almost 90 classes to enter, ranging from alpine beds in a garden setting to orchids and cut flowers. Visit the AGS website, where you can also view the online shows of the past seven years. GOOD LUCK!

## Book your place now for our autumn Conference

The AGS Conference on November 9 and 10 will feature an impressive programme of speakers, including three from overseas, giving members access to a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The Conference, entitled From Spain to Turkey: A Celebration of European Alpines, will follow the Society's Annual General Meeting at the four-star Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Vojtěch Holubec from the Czech Republic will speak on Eastern European Mountains, Harry Jans from the Netherlands will give a talk on Greece, and Christopher Grey-Wilson will share his extensive knowledge of the Picos de Europa.

In addition, Phillip Cribb from RBG Kew will speak about Hardy European Orchids, while Peter Erskine's subject will be the Western Alps and Apennines.

There will also be talks by Tim Lever from Aberconwy Nursery, Jo Everson and Katie Price from RBG Kew, and primula expert Syd Clark. Practical workshops will be led by Brian Burrow and Tim and Keith Lever.

Before the conference, Oron Peri from Israel has chosen Turkey as his subject for the E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, which is part of the AGM and free to all members.



*Gentiana lutea* in the Swiss Alps

The Stratford Manor Hotel is set in 21 acres of landscaped grounds and is located just five minutes from the M40. There is a spa offering a range of treatments plus a leisure club with pool and gymnasium.

**Conference numbers are limited, so it is advisable to reserve your place by using the booking form on the back page of this issue of AGS News, or book on our website.**

**A FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME IS PRINTED OVERLEAF**

### FROM SPAIN TO TURKEY: A CELEBRATION OF EUROPEAN ALPINES

#### FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

##### AGM and E B Anderson Memorial Lecture – free to all AGS members

**9.30am** Registration & Coffee

**10.45am** Annual General Meeting & Presentation of Society Awards

**12 noon** Presentation of Show Awards

**12.30pm** Lunch

**1.30pm** Late Conference Registration

**1.45pm** E B Anderson Memorial Lecture: Oron Peri, Turkey

**2.45am** Close of AGM

##### BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE

**2.50pm** Opening remarks and lecture: Christopher Grey-Wilson, Picos de Europa

**3.50pm** Practical Workshops

**4.20pm** Coffee

**4.45pm** Lecture: Phillip Cribb, Hardy European Orchids

**5.45pm** Mini lectures (Tim Lever & Jo Everson)

**6.15pm** Finish

**7.30pm** Conference Dinner & Plant Auction

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**9.30am** Registration

**10am** Lecture: Peter Erskine, Western Alps and Apennines

**11am** Practical Workshops

**11.30am** Coffee

**12 noon** Lecture: Vojtěch Holubec, Eastern European Mountains

**1pm** Lunch

**2pm** Mini lectures (Katie Price & Syd Clark)

**3pm** Lecture: Harry Jans, Greece

**4pm** Closing remarks by David Haselgrove & coffee

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 9, 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY.

(The hotel is situated close to Junction 15 of the M40 on the A46 to Stratford. At the first roundabout take the A439 to Stratford Town Centre. The hotel is one mile on the left).

Full details of the event and a map will appear in the next issue of AGS News.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS (see Note 1 below): President (Mr David Haselgrove), Director of Tours (Mr Chris Barber), Director of Shows (Mr Ray Drew), Director of Seed Distribution (Mrs Diane Clement), Website Director (Mr Jim McGregor), Treasurer (Professor John Galloway).

#### NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS

Nominations, with supporting statements/citations, are invited from members for the following posts:

Two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).

#### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on November 10, 2012.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year.
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see note 2 below).
6. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
7. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the Society Director in writing, no later than August 1, 2013.

Notes on Election of Officers and Members of the Trustee Board

(1) Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. All Honorary Officers listed have agreed to stand for election.

(2) In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

### AGS ANNUAL AWARDS

#### NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AGS AWARDS:

- ✦ **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpinists.
- ✦ **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for an outstanding contribution to work with alpinists from those new to horticulture in the last five years.
- ✦ **The Award of Honour** for sterling work on behalf of the AGS, not necessarily during the previous year, but over a period of time.
- ✦ **The Ferrier Charlton Award** for outstanding work for the Society in an administrative capacity.
- ✦ **The Kath Dryden Award** to recognise meritorious work on basic cultivation and/or new plant introduction within a single genus or group of alpine plants.
- ✦ **Local Group Awards** to recognise outstanding service within a Local Group over a number of years, the impact of which is felt more widely than just the local area. Nominations for this award must come from the Local Group concerned.
- ✦ **Website Award** to recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2012.

### AGS LITERARY AWARDS

The Alpine Gardener sets extremely high standards in horticultural journalism and photography, and every year the Society seeks to honour the very best of the contributions. We do this by appealing to the judgement of the most discriminating and informed critics – you, the readership. Members are invited to nominate contributors to The Alpine Gardener Volume 80 (2012) for the following awards:

- ✦ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2012 (Vol. 80).
- ✦ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2012 (Vol. 80).
- ✦ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2012 (Vol. 80) for the best 'feature' article that must contain a minimum of ten photographs.

**All nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from AGS Centre) and sent to Christine McGregor, Director, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP by July 31, 2013.**

### AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

#### Applications for 2014

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2014, at the latest.

#### TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a limited number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though Awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS Tour if it complements a particular area of interest.

#### HENDRY FUND GRANTS

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available financed by the E. F. Hendry Fund.

Application forms and further details for Travel Awards and Hendry Fund grants are available from: Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: [jackie@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:jackie@alpinegardensociety.net)

#### Successful applicants in 2013 are:

- Francesca Jaroszynska: £500 towards the cost of conducting a survey of the flora of the Breadalbane summits in the Scottish Highlands in order to determine the change in the flora since 2012.
- Dr Anna Trias-Blasi: £900 to assist with the cost of work on the genetic analysis of *Narcissus triandrus*.
- Heather Briggs: £1,000 to complete field work in the Rocky Mountains on the effect of pollinator loss on alpine plant communities.
- Joanne Everson: £2,050 to help fund a field trip to Patagonia.
- Gergely Lunk: £600 to attend the Czech Rock Garden Conference.
- John Watson: £1,000 towards the cost of a field trip to study the species of *Viola* section *Andinium* in Southern Chile.
- Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson (AGS Conference): £578 to fund an overseas speaker.
- Glynn Sherratt (Gatton Trust): £500 towards the restoration of the Pulhamite Rock Garden at Gatton Park, Surrey, to purchase moisture-loving plants for the restored Pulhamite bog beds.
- Andrew Gdaniec: £600 to help fund a field trip to Arizona.
- Thomas McCarter: £200 to help fund a field trip to Colorado.
- Ross Barbour: £1,200 to help fund a field trip to Patagonia.
- Maria Doyle: a John McWhirter Travel Award of £800 to help fund a field trip to the Southern Peloponnese.
- Chris Birchall: £1,150 to help fund a field trip to the Drakensberg.

## Subscription rates for 2014

The Alpine Garden Society, like every other organisation, is not immune from rising costs. Despite taking several measures in recent years to reduce expenditure, including cutting staff at the AGS Centre, the Society has continued to run at a deficit. Postal costs have risen considerably in the last few years, affecting the mailing of our journal, and the Society can no longer absorb such increases. Although membership numbers are now holding fairly steady, a decline up until 2011 also affected the Society's income.

The Society does hold healthy reserves, but these are essentially to ensure the fulfilment of our charitable objectives and to enhance the benefits of membership in the longer term. The reserves should not be used to subsidise current membership subscriptions.

In the light of these factors, the Society's Trustee Board felt it had no option but to increase subscription rates and voted for a £3 increase on all bands with effect from 2014. This is only the second time in the past eight years that there has been an increase in subscription rates.

The new rates are as follows:

		Reduced rate for payment by Direct Debit
Home Single	£31	£29
Home Double	£35	£33
Overseas Single	£33	£31*
Overseas Double	£36	£34*
Student/Junior	£13	

*\*These rates are applicable only to overseas members who hold a sterling bank account and pay by direct debit.*

The average weekly cost of a single UK subscription is still less than 60p (the cost of a first-class stamp), particularly if you pay by direct debit. AGS membership represents excellent value and the increases are within the rates of inflation. It also compares well with the average cost of other magazine subscriptions, not to mention items such as the cost of a ticket for a Premier League football match or the cost of a ticket for a concert or West End play.

The Society will continue to scrutinise carefully all items of expenditure, and is always looking for ways to improve the benefits and services offered to members to make our organisation even more attractive.



## The Fritillaria Group of the Alpine Garden Society AGM and Autumn Meeting

September 29, 2013, at the Hillside Events Centre,  
RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey, from 9am to 4pm.

All visitors welcome. Photographic display in the main hall.

### PROGRAMME

- 9.00 Coffee. Plants and bulbs will be on sale during the day.
- 10.00 Annual General Meeting.
- 11.00 Speaker: Laurence Hill: Fritillaria Bulbs – Unearthing the Truth.
- 12.30 Lunch break.
- 14.00 Speaker: Ron Mudd: The Fritillaria Fields of East Yorkshire – Part 1.
- 14.20 Speaker: John Amand: The Dutch Bulb Fields.
- 16.00 End of meeting.

**More information on our website**  
**[www.fritillaria.org.uk](http://www.fritillaria.org.uk)**

## SEED ENVELOPES FOR SALE

Glassine-type envelopes, as used in the AGS seed distribution, are available in two sizes at the following prices:

73x41mm (2.8x1.6in) self-seal **£2 for 50**

98x64mm (3.8x2.5in) gummed **£2.50 for 50**

**Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 2)**

Postage is free to UK members

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre for postage rates



## NOTICEBOARD



### AGS MEMBERS ARE TV STARS IN NAKHCHIVAN

AGS members on a joint AGS/Greentours trip to Nakhchivan, which is an annexed part of Azerbaijan, found themselves being pursued by three television crews. The interviewers wanted to know what the outsiders felt about their country and, importantly, what plants the AGS was interested in studying. Nakhchivan is landlocked and hemmed in by Turkey, Armenia and Iran, so it is not surprising that rare visitors are treated almost as celebrities. Our photograph, taken by John Noakes on the tour in May this year, shows tour leader Ian Green (in black T-shirt) being interviewed alongside the local guide and interpreter, on the right.

### AGS SNOWDROP DAY

**Saturday, February 1, 2014**

In the grounds of the NFU headquarters at Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

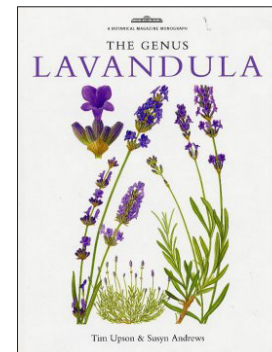
**Plants sales plus lectures.**

Lunches available. Ample parking.

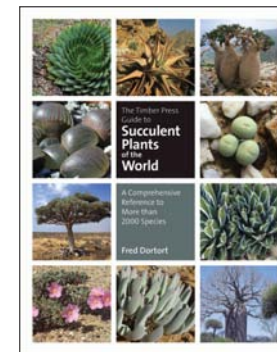
This promises to be a great day out for galanthophiles. Put the date in your diary now – more details in the next AGS News.



## Good books at big discounts!

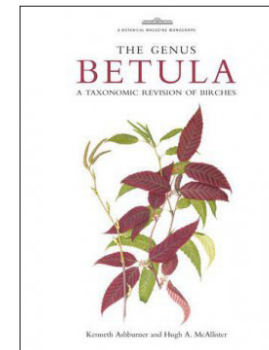


**SAVE £10!**  
The Genus Lavandula by Tim Upson and Susyn Andrews  
Cover price £42  
**AGS price £32**  
Code 380



**SAVE £7!**  
Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort  
Cover price £35  
**AGS price £28**  
Code 264

The Genus Betula by Kenneth Ashburner & Hugh A. McAllister  
Cover price £68  
**AGS price £54.40**  
Code 858



The Complete Guide to Saving Seeds by R & C Gough  
Cover price £16.99  
**AGS price £13.50**  
Code 272



Great Gardens of Britain by Helena Attlee  
Cover price £16.99  
**AGS price £13.50**  
Code 622



Hardy Succulents by Gwen Kelaidis  
Cover price £14.99  
**AGS price £12**  
Code 817

**TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 20 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET**

# PRE-PUBLICATION OFFERS

**SAVE 20%**

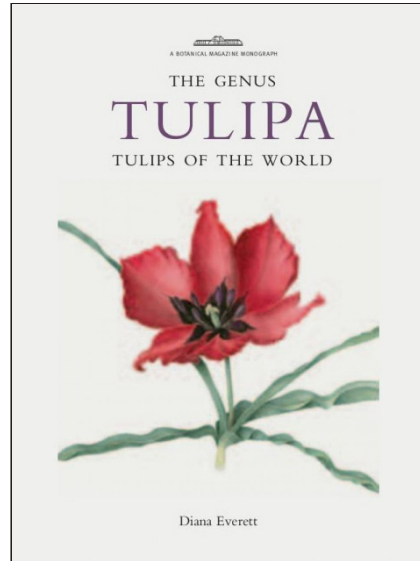
The Genus Tulipa: Tulips of the World, by Diana Everett

To be published in August, this new Kew Botanical Monograph will be the most comprehensive survey of tulip species to date. Each species is illustrated by paintings and photographs, accompanied by habitat maps. A chapter on tulip cultivation is supplied by Richard Wilford.

Cover price £68

AGS price **£54.40**

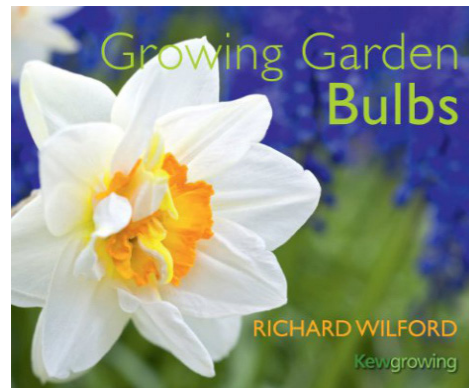
[Order code 859]



**SAVE 20%**

Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford

To be published in July, this is a well-illustrated 64-page guide to bulbs for every season in the garden. With some 30 years experience of growing and writing about bulbs, Richard Wilford shares his expert knowledge on choosing the best bulbs to grow. Richard, who is the collections manager for the Hardy Display section at RBG Kew, offers advice on planting, naturalising, what and when to buy and how to select the best bulbs.



Cover price £7

AGS price **£5.60**

[Order code 860]

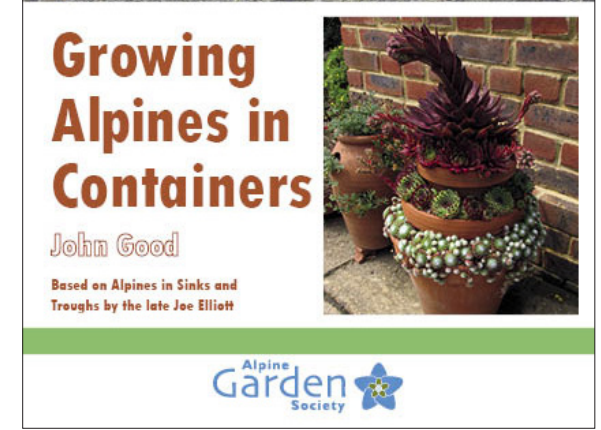
**TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 20 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET**

# NEW AGS PUBLICATION

**SAVE 28%**

Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good

John Good, a leading member of the Alpine Garden Society for more than 40 years, has greatly revised and expanded the original Alpines in Sinks and Troughs by the late Joe Elliott. Joe's book has served alpine gardeners well since it was first published in 1974, and this new 64-page guide is packed with even more advice on choosing containers, how to make your own containers from hypertufa, composts, choosing and placing rock, selecting plants and maintenance.



Cover price £6.95

AGS price **£5.00**

[Order code 857]



**TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 20 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET**

# NEW BOOK OFFERS

**SAVE 20%**

Genus Cyclamen: Science, Cultivation, Art and Culture, edited by Brian Mathew

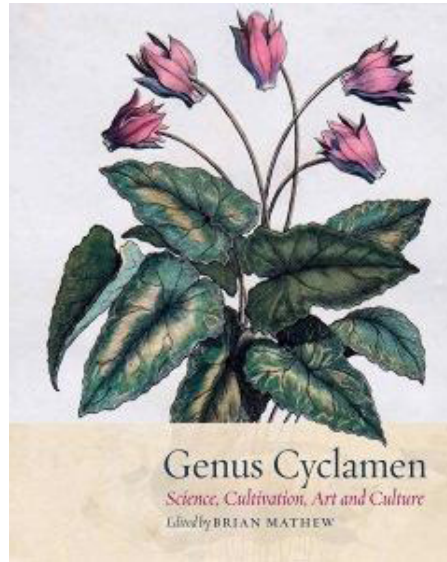
A comprehensive account of the 23 species of Cyclamen. This 600-page volume includes fascinating information on taxonomy, ecology, cultivation and selection, and is illustrated with more than 700 photographs and paintings.

Cover price £90

AGS price **£72**

Special postage rates apply: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £29)

[Order code 852]



**SAVE 20%**

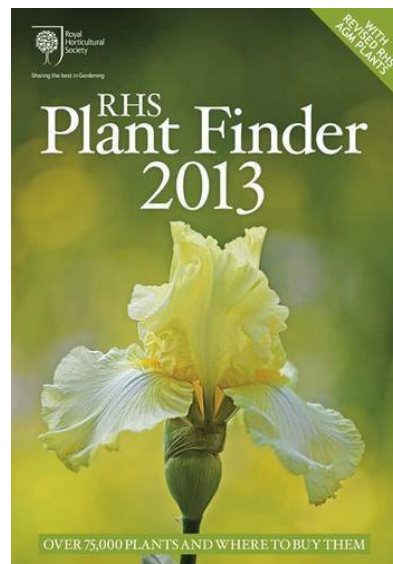
RHS Plant Finder 2013

The latest edition of this essential guide includes more than 4,300 new plants, with a total of over 75,000 plants listed. Includes contact details for nurseries as well as opening times, maps and mail-order information.

Cover price £15.99

AGS price **£13.50**

[Order code 853]



Order code	Title and author	Members' price
<b>GENERAL ALPINE TITLES</b>		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.20
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John E G Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	£4.00
026	Crevice Gardening by Zdenek Zvolanek	£5.50
	Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe <b>**LOW PRICE**</b>	£15.00
729	The Rock Garden Plant Primer by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£16.00
<b>SPECIFIC GENERA</b>		
019	Androsace: The Genus by G.F.Smith & D.B. Lowe	£8.00
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & Their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt et al	£20.00
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£12.00
352	Clematis (The Gardener's Guide to Growing) by Raymond Evison	£10.50
643	Clematis (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Mary Toomey	£12.00
263	Daphnes: A Practical Guide for Gardeners by Robin White	£20.00
669	The Daylily by John P Peat & Ted L Petit	£18.00
008	Dionysia: The Genus by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£8.00
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£34.00
745	Geum by Sue Martin	£6.00
271	Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide by C. Colston Burrell and J. Knott Tyler	£20.00
248	Heucheras & Heucherellas by Dan Heims & Grahame Ware	£16.00
288	Hostas (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack	£12.00
753	New Encyclopedia of Hostas by Diana Grenfell and Michael Shadrack	£28.00
778	The Book of Little Hostas by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack	£14.50
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by Will McLewin and Dezhong Chen	£25.00
799	Phlox: A Natural History and Gardener's Guide by James H Locklear	£28.00
706	Hardy Rhododendron Species: A Guide to Identification by James Cullen	£25.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£30.00
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland	£3.00
766	Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter and Susie White	£8.00

**TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 20 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET**



Order code	Title and author	Members' price
700	Saxifrages (A Definitive Guide to the 2,000 species) by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
<b>BULBOUS PLANTS</b>		
860	<b>**NEW**</b> A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
234	Arisaema: The Genus by Guy & Liliane Gusman	£40.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00
027	Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£25.00
243	Bulbs in Containers by Rod Leeds	£16.00
034	Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£20.00
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives	£8.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet)	£2.50
795	Galanthomania by Hanneke van Dijk	£23.00
673	For Galanthophiles by Clemens Heidger	£28.80
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series - Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
861	The Genus Lachenalia by Graham Duncan	£96.00
608	Pocket Guide to Bulbs by John E Bryan	£12.00
232	Snowdrops: A Monograph of Cultivated Galanthus by Mat Bishop et al	£48.00
246	Snowdrops Booklet by Jackie Murray (second edition, 2011)	£3.50
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardener) by Richard Wilford	£10.00
<b>ORCHIDS</b>		
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	£16.00
804	Growing Hardy Orchids by Philip Seaton et al	£10.00
698	Ophrys: The Bee Orchids of Europe by H Aerenlund Pedersen & N Faurholdt	£27.00
274	Orchids of Britain & Ireland (A Field & Site Guide) by Anne & Simon Harrap	£24.00
658	Orchids of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East by Pierre Delforge	£24.00
597	Orchids of the British Isles by Michael Foley & Sidney Clarke	£36.00
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*Narcissus miniatus* and, above, *Crocus boryi*

## SOUTHERN PELOPONNESE

**October 30 to November 8, 2013**

**Leaders: John and Sheila Richards**

**Cost: in the region of £1,250 (including flights).**

The botanical leader of this nine-day tour is John Richards, author of the AGS book, *Mountain Flower Walks: The Greek Mainland*, and leader of many previous tours to Greece and of the MESE seed expedition. The tour begins at the ancient Byzantine site of Mistras where the ruins provide a magnificent spectacle. Autumn bulbs include *Crocus boryi*, *Prospero* (*Scilla*) *autumnalis*, *Colchicum psaridis*, *C. boissieri*, *C. cupanii* and *Allium callimischon*. We will make excursions from here to see the autumn snowdrop, *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, and the local *Crocus melantherus*.

A highlight in autumn is the village of Lambokambos, which is a sea of colour when millions of bulbs of *Crocus goulimyi*, *Sternbergia lutea* and *S. sicula*

appear. Also present are *Colchicum psaridis*, *C. cupanii* and four other crocus species.

The rocky headland of Monemvasia is a World Heritage site and one of the great spectacles of Greece. Among many plant treasures is a magnificent population of *Sternbergia lutea* together with *Crocus goulimyi* and *C. laevigatus*.

Further south we will visit *Crocus goulimyi* subsp. *leucanthus* and magnificent displays of the autumn heather *Erica manipuliflora*.

Marathea, to the South of Gytheion, still retains stretches of mature *Quercus macrolepis* and there is a rich autumn flora. The woodlands are full of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *crassifolium*. Also in flower will be *Cyclamen graecum*, *Crocus hadriaticus* and *Arisarum vulgare*.

We shall spend two days further south in the deep Mani, a beautiful remote area. The autumn-flowering *Narcissus miniatus* (*serotinus*) occurs in millions. The whole area is rich in autumn bulbs.

Our last night will be spent in the beautiful Venetian port of Nafplio.



*Gentianella potamophila* and, above, *Nototriche argyloides*

## SOUTHERN PERU

**Around March 9 to April 1, 2014 (21 days in Peru)**

**Leader: Harry Jans**

**Cost: in the region of £4,800 per person (including flights)**

Sometimes referred to as the Switzerland of South America, Peru boasts World Heritage sites such as Machu Picchu and the old cities of Lima, Cuzco and Arequipa.

On the innumerable high peaks can be found a fascinating alpine flora. Expect to see gentianellas in almost every colour imaginable and often in great abundance, nototriches that figure among the world's most beautiful alpine plants, and *Puya raimondii*, whose 10-12m high flowering spike, visited by the giant hummingbird, makes it the tallest of all alpine plants. There are even rosulate violas, some growing on the same hillsides as cacti.

This is the first AGS venture of its sort to Peru. Some areas are remote

but a good standard of hotel or hostel accommodation is available. The roads, occasionally rough but well-engineered, enable you to be driven to within a few strides of high alpine, so a normal level of fitness will be sufficient to enjoy this tour. The route will be based on Robert Rolfe's visit to Peru last March (see the December 2012 issue of *The Alpine Gardener*). However, the final itinerary will be agreed with the local botanist.

Flights will be to Lima, and after a day's sightseeing we will fly on to the southerly city of Arequipa, overlooked by El Misti. This mountain is home to the pale violet, dark-eyed *Nototriche turritella*, in full bloom at this time of the year. The next leg is east to Puno, and several localities lie within an easy day's drive. From there it is a long but rewarding drive north to Macusani. The surrounding mountains have a little-known flora: a three-day stay will allow a chance to see this at its best. A return to Puno, followed by a flight to Cuzco, acts as a stopping-off point for Machu Picchu.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre  
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*Crocus olivieri* and *C. sieberi sublimis* and, above, Githeo Harbour on the Mani Peninsula



## SOUNION, PELOPONNESE & PARNASSOS

March 26 to April 9, 2014 (15 days)

Leaders: Margaret & David Thorne

Cost: in the region of £1,500 per person (including flights)

After a visit to Sounion, we set off for the Mani Peninsula, in the south of the Peloponnese, stopping on the way for *Fritillaria graeca* and a few species of orchid. Our comfortable hotel, on an undisturbed sandy beach, is ideally placed for exploring this beautiful area where endemics include *Tulipa goulimy*, *Fritillaria davisii* and *Teucrium brevifolium*. We find *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum* on woodland edges, curious *Aristolochia elongata*, perhaps some early *Biarum tenuifolium* or the last blooms of *Romulea columnnae*. Among a fascinating range of orchids are *Orchis papilionacea*, *O. pauciflora* and *Ophrys speculum*, *O. argolica* and uncommon *O. aesculapii*.

We visit the impressive rock of Monemvasia and its well-documented

floral treasures including *Campanula andrewsii*, *Procopiana cretica*, and *Stachys spreitzenhoferi* subsp. *virella*. A nearby area of acid soils has *Arbutus unedo*, *Erica arborea*, *Dactylorhiza romana* and *Bellevalia dubia*. We cross a high mountain pass, where scarce endemics *Viola mercurii*, *Linum hellenicum* and *Draba strasserii* grow with *Aethionema saxatile* and *Lithospermum incrassatum*. Further north, we find four species of tulip, *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum* subsp. *vividum*, *Fritillaria messanensis* and *Anemone blanda* in blue and white forms. Here also is a splendid site for the monkey orchid, *Orchis simia*.

Visits to the mountains include the Taygetos, Menalo, Chelmos ranges and Parnassos.

There will be visits to ancient sites at Sounion, Mystras and Delphi. Flights will be from London to Athens and accommodation in comfortable hotels. Transport will be by small coach.



The hanging valley of Cwm Idwal and, above, *Silene acaulis* in North Wales



## NORTH WALES ALPINES

May 8-12, 2014 (four nights)

Leader: To be arranged

Cost: in the region of £700 per person. Single supplement about £40.

This spring sojourn in the dramatic countryside of North Wales will be an opportunity to see Britain's native alpine in the wild and will include visits to renowned gardens and alpine plant nurseries.

A highlight will be a hike up to Cwm Idwal, the famous hanging valley that has populations of *Saxifraga oppositifolia* and *Lloydia serotina*. A less strenuous alternative will be an excursion to see the rich dune and beach flora of the national nature reserve at Newborough Warren on Anglesey.

Members who attended last year's AGS annual general meeting will remember

John Good's excellent talk and images of his beautiful garden in North Wales, and John will give us a personal guided tour. Visits are also planned to the National Trust Garden at Bodnant, to Sir Clough Williams-Ellis's famous Italianate village and gardens at Portmeirion, and to Plas Cadnant, a 'hidden' garden which is slowly being restored in the manner of the lost gardens of Heligan.

Regular visitors to AGS shows will be familiar with the excellent plants grown by Aberconwy Nursery, and Tim Lever will give us a guided tour, with the opportunity of course to stock up on plants! We shall also visit the woodland garden at Crug Farm Plants, near Caernafon, where we are also likely to be tempted to buy many of the rarities on offer.

Travel will be by luxury coach throughout with four nights' accommodation on a half-board basis in the comfortable Dunoon Hotel in Llandudno.

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## YUNNAN, CHINA

June 2014 (16 days in China)

Leader: Phillip Cribb

Cost: likely to be in the region of £4,400 per person, including flights

The south-western Chinese province of Yunnan is rich in plant life, but it is only since the 1980s that the favoured territories of the famous plant collectors have become accessible again to western enthusiasts. Visitors to Lijiang, Dali and Zhongdian can at long last marvel at the abundance of flowers, shrubs and trees that dazzled the early adventurers into these botanical paradises.

This tour will visit some of the richest areas of western and north-western Yunnan. The itinerary has been designed to provide plenty of time to see plants in their natural habitats and to explore some of the best preserved ancient cities.

From Kunming, we will drive west to Baoping and Tengchong, ancient cities that many of the early plant hunters visited. North-west from Tengchong the wooded hills near the Burmese border are rich in rare trees and shrubs and the home of many delightful herbaceous plants, notably arisaemas, pleiones and calanthes.

We will head south to the famous walled city of Dali, nestling beneath the flanks of the Cangshan range. The slopes above the city boast a rich variety of trees and shrubs. Highlights include rhododendrons, *Magnolia wilsonii* and *Paeonia lutea*. Cangshan is most famous for being the home of the golden pleione, that most prized of orchids.



*Arisaema candidissimum*

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain forms the backdrop to Lijiang and is one of the wonders of China. The precipitous limestone slopes are home to a wonderful diversity of plants including many species of rhododendrons, gentians, lilies, meconopsis, primulas and anemones. The golden daphne, whose fragrant mounds can be smelt before they are seen, is a speciality of the screes. In the pine and spruce forest on the flanks above the torrential streams can be found carpets of orchids.

Zhongdian's meadows are rich in candelabra primulas, irises and marsh marigolds. The slopes around the rim of its plateau abound in spectacular rhododendrons beneath which can be found rare slipper orchids, lilies, arisaemas, meconopsis and anemones. This tour will be an experience to savour for a lifetime.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre  
Phone 01386 554790 or email [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)



Mont Aiguille at Vercors and, above, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cottianaea*



## FRENCH ALPS

June 16-26, 2014 (11 nights)

Leader: Christopher Grey-Wilson

Cost: in the region of £1,100 per person (excluding flights and car hire)

This tour is designed to cover the peak spring flowering period in an average year. It is a three-centre holiday to allow as many sites as possible to be visited.

The French Alps, a jewel in the mountainous regions of Europe, encompass deep valleys, high passes, bustling rivers and splendid mountain views. The flora is rich and varied, from lowland pastures and woods to high alpine meadows, screes and rocky peaks. The high passes are often snowbound into late spring and early summer, depending on the season. Expect to see drifts of pulsatillas, gentians and violas and a rich assortment of colourful meadow plants, as well as the discreet gems of the high passes. Once much

visited by AGS members, this region has been rather neglected in recent years for locations further afield and yet it is as rich as any temperate mountain and just as rewarding, containing numerous plants that are widely grown by members. The tour will have three locations spanning the Haute-Alpes and the Vanoise and there will be plenty of time to walk and explore. We will start in Vercors before moving on to Briançon and then Lanslebourg, allowing plenty of time to explore some of the famous passes of the region, such as the Col de Galibier and the Col d'Izoard. Plant highlights include *Gentiana ligustica*, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cottianaea* and subsp. *millefoliatus*, *Primula marginata*, *Ranunculus keupferi* and *Viola calcarata*, but these only serve to whet the appetite.

Accommodation will be in local hotels/auberge. Travelling will be by sharing self-drive hire cars. Flights are available to Lyon or Grenoble from several UK airports.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre  
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*Galanthus alpinus*



*Crocus biflorus* subsp. *crewei*

## NORTH-EAST TURKEY & GEORGIA

February/March 2014

Cost: TBA

The far north-eastern corner of Turkey and its adjacent areas have a unique biome, the Euxine province, in essence a kind of temperate rainforest, and this has resulted in a distinctive flora that includes a large number of species found nowhere else in the world.

Our trip concentrates on the earliest spring bulbs, particularly *Galanthus*

species, of which a number are found only here. On the Georgian side we'll find *Galanthus shaoricus* and *Galanthus alpinus*, while on the Turkish side we'll encounter *Galanthus woronowii* and *Galanthus koenenianus*.

Forests of oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*) are a delight at this time of the year, with the very first hints of green appearing, the silver trunks set against the orange leaf-litter. Higher up we'll explore oak forests as well as mixed woodlands of fir and spruce, hornbeam and wingnut. These are home to *Iris lazica*, all sorts of ferns, parasitic toothworts and some lovely forms of *Crocus biflorus*.

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*Iris grossheimii*

## AZERBAIJAN

May 2014

Cost: TBA

Descending from the snowy High Caucasus, the impressive and beautiful landscapes of Azerbaijan pass through steppe-covered foothills down into the arid basin through which flows the Kura River. Southwards the land rises again to the mountains of Nakhchivan and the Talysh Mountains, straddling the border with Iran.

Throughout are marvellous flowers in spring, and in particular the *Oncocyclus* irises. There are unusual forms of *Iris paradoxa* and of *Iris acutiloba* here, forms now given specific status as *Iris medwedewii* and *Iris helenae* respectively. There is dark-lined *Iris grossheimii* and even darker *Iris lycotis*. The true *Iris iberica* blooms here, its striking white standards making it easy to spot when the sun is low in the sky. And there are two irises which offer a different colour palate from the Turkish or Levantine species, for here are the yellows, blues and whites of

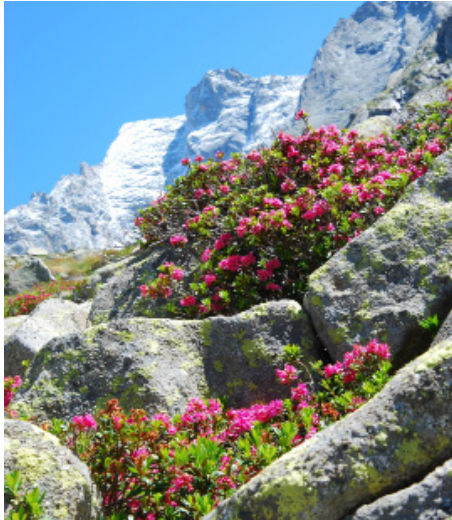


*Iris lycotis*

*Iris schelkownikowii* and lovely *Iris camillae*, which forms hybrid swarms of bewildering variety in dry steppe around Lake Kazan-Gel.

*Galanthus caucasicus* flowers still on the high passes, while lower down are the diminutive *Iris atropatana* and *Tulipa schmidtii*. Add to this a plethora of bellevalias, fritillarias, muscaris, ornithogalums, gageas, a good scattering of orchids and a colourful steppe flora, and you have a very rich mix of wild flowers indeed.

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*Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*



*Physoplexis comosa*

## THE DOLOMITES

July 2014

Cost: TBA

Reckoned by many to be unsurpassed in Europe for their wealth of wild flowers, the Dolomites offer some of the finest mountain scenery anywhere in the world. The great pinnacles and buttresses that rise high above idyllic hay meadows and forests are truly spectacular.

At sunset, the many-hued cliffs of crystalline magnesian limestone – the dolomite rock from which the region takes its name – are a photographer's dream, and during the day a botanist's heaven!

We will stay in a comfortable family-

run hotel, just a 40-minute drive from wealthy Cortina. The hotel has been chosen for its proximity to some glorious flowers as well as classic alpine wildlife such as golden eagle, chamois and the entrancing alpine marmot. The flowers really are amazingly beautiful and diverse. *Nigritella nigra*, *Campanula barbata* and *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* are abundant, while no less than a dozen species of gentians decorate splendid alpine turf.

Cliffs are festooned with the pink *Potentilla nitida*, a variety of pretty saxifrages, androsaces and campanulas, while wooded glades hold phyteumas, aconitums and orchids such as the lovely *Cypripedium calceolus*. In particular, we will search out the remarkable *Physoplexis comosa*.

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## NORTH-WEST INDIA

July 2014

Cost: TBA

The Indian State of Himachal Pradesh, which rubs shoulders with the fabled flower-rich valleys of Kashmir and mysterious arid lands of Ladakh, contains a diverse selection of flora within a leech-free slice of the high Himalaya. It is replete with its own spectacular peaks topping 6,000m, including the 6,220m Indrasan, which rears up close to the bustling hill station of Manali.

Here there are slopes of *Lilium polyphyllum*, stands of *Calanthe tricarinata* and higher passes thronging with alpiners at this time of year, after the snows have finally receded.

This tour will follow a circuit north via the Rohtang Pass, where we'll find the elegant slippers of *Cypripedium himalaicum*, *Roscoea alpina* and the tall, green-flowered *Fritillaria roylei*, while above Marhi are ledges festooned with sweet-scented *Primula reidii*, dwarf *Primula reptans*, choice and delicate *Paraquilegia anemonooides*, shimmering blue *Meconopsis aculeata* and the amazing woolly 'balls' of *Saussurea gossypiphora*, surely one of the finest high alpiners.

From here we will move onto the higher, drier valleys bordering Ladakh towards the breathless 5,100m Bara-lacha La, past stands of *Aquilegia fragrans* and rocky stream-sides with *Geranium regelii* and the lovely, woolly-leaved pink *Waldheimia tomentosa*. We'll also



*Saussurea gossypiphora*

spend time in the Baspa Valley and on some superb high passes to see *Lilium oxypetalum*, *Geranium wallichianum*, *Cortusa brotheri* and tall, golden-yellow *Pedicularis bicornuta*.

A tour extension will take a short trek onto the Nalgan Pass in search of the beautiful *Corydalis meifolia* var. *violacea*, *Saussurea simpsoniana*, *Primula stuartii* and many other choice high alpiners.

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