

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

CHELSEA GOLD MEDAL FOR AGS DISPLAY



The AGS was delighted to be awarded a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show last month for its display garden in the Great Pavilion. A full report on the garden's construction and planting will appear in the September issue of *The Alpine Gardener*. Picture: Doug Joyce

ANNUAL CONFERENCE... AUTUMN BULB DAY... SNOWDROP DAY

**Book now:
three AGS
events you
can't afford
to miss**

Booking is now open for the AGS Annual Conference, Autumn Bulb Day and the 2019 Snowdrop Day.

This year's Annual Conference and our Autumn Bulb Day will both be held in new venues.

The AGM and Conference will take place on the weekend of November 17 and 18 at the four-star Alveston Manor Hotel and Spa in Stratford-upon-Avon, which is set in its own grounds just

Continued on page 2

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Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

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Email:
ags@alpinegardensociety.net

Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions:

Single (UK and Ireland) £35*

Family (two at same address) £38*

Junior (under 18/student) £15

Overseas single £37 (\$50)

Overseas family £39 (\$54)

* £3 deduction for direct debit
subscribers

AGS CENTRE AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The AGS Centre will close at
5pm on Friday, August 24,
and will not reopen until
Wednesday, August 29. The
AGS garden is open every day.

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Send items for the September 2018
issue of AGS News to Jo Gildea at
the address above or email
ags@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is July 31, 2018.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



July 7: Pershore Show

Sept 29: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 6: Newcastle Show

October 13: Harlow Carr Show

Full details for each show are in the
AGS Shows Handbook, on the AGS
website and in the shows calendar
that was sent to UK members in
December last year.

Book now for

From page 1

five minutes walk from the cultural
attractions of the historic Shakespeare
town.

This year's E.B. Anderson Memorial
Lecture, which forms part of the AGM
and is free to all members, will be given
by orchid expert Phillip Cribb from the
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Conference speakers will include

BOOK NOW! A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GARDENERS AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 23, 2018, 9.30am to 3.30pm

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Lower Smite Farm, Smite Lane,
Hindlip, Worcester WR3 8SZ. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, lunch, tea and coffee:

AGS members £32, non-members £42

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre. AGS members receive
priority booking. Non-members may reserve tickets after June 1, 2018.

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

John Mitchell: Central Asian Bulbs and Alpines

Robert Rolfe: Erythroniums

Kit Strange: A Bulb Repotting Practical Workshop

Christopher Grey-Wilson: Greek Bulbs – Spring & Autumn

three great AGS members' events

Sarah Carlton from St Andrews Botanic
Garden; former Kew horticulturist
Katie Price talking on the 'Rofan
and Berchtesgaden' in Germany;
David Morris on the joint AGS/RSPB
conservation project: 'Mardale –
Recreating A Mountain Meadow in the
Lake District'; and nurseryman Steve
Furness on 'Trough Planting – 101 Tips
on How to Succeed'. A full programme

will appear in the September issue of
AGS News.

The Autumn Bulb Day on Sunday,
September 23, will be held at the
headquarters of the Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust. Details are above.

Details of the Snowdrop Day, on
February 2, 2019, are on page 5.

To book for any of these events please
call the AGS Centre (details opposite).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 17, 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on **Saturday, November 17, 2018**, at the Macdonald Alveston Manor Hotel, Clopton Bridge, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7HP.

Full details of the event 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): Director of Seed Distribution (Mrs Diane Clement), Director of Shows (Mr Martin Rogerson), Treasurer (Professor John Galloway) and President (Mr Christopher Bailes).

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 11, 2017.
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.
6. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
7. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
8. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the Society Director in writing, no later than August 1, 2018.

Notes on the 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 re-election.

(2) In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year. The deadline for Trustee nominations is July 31, 2018, and these should be sent to the AGS Director Christine McGregor at the AGS Centre (address on page 2).

AGS Snowdrop Day **BOOK NOW**

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre, Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee, two-course lunch:

AGS members £35, non-members £45

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

Tickets are restricted to AGS members until October 31, 2018.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 9.00 Registration, plant sales & coffee
- 11.00 Welcome by AGS President Christopher Bailes
- 11.05 Richard Hobbs – Plants and People: an A to Z
- 12.00 Jim Almond – Snowdrops: the Theme is Green
- 13.00 Plant sales and hot two-course buffet lunch
- 14.30 Anne Wright – Making more Snowdrops
- 15.25 Snowdrop question & answer session with the panel of speakers
- 15.45 Coffee
- 16.00 Event closes

Nurseries attending include: Monksilver, Glen Chantry, Woodchippings, Jim Almond, Matt Bishop and Edulis Nursery

There will also be an AGS stand with a selection of gardening books and merchandise for sale.

This event is always a sell-out so book now to be sure of your place

Subscription Rates for 2019

The AGS Trustee Board considers the issue of subscription rates each year and is always reluctant to increase them unless absolutely necessary. In 2018 we have experienced an increase in the cost of paper, together with further increases in postage charges, and so it is felt that a modest increase of £1 is necessary to help offset these rising costs.

It is important to remember that the Alpine Garden Society is a charity with education, cultivation and conservation of alpine plants as core objectives. Over the years the Society has been fortunate to be the recipient of legacies and donations from members and these funds are being used in support of our charitable aims and objectives.

Some members may feel that the Society should not increase subscriptions while it has a very healthy cash reserve. Under Charity Commission rules, however, the reserves should not be used to subsidise the costs of membership but should be spent on 'charitable' activities. The subscription rate should cover the costs of the benefits received by members, which include the Society's journal (regarded by many as the finest of its kind in the world), free entry to AGS shows, discounts on publications and access to the world's largest seed exchange. All this represents great value.

The reserves held by the Society are used in many ways, such as the substantial grant to support the ongoing conservation project in the Lake District (jointly with the RSPB), provision of subsidised places at our annual conference for young horticulturists, grants for research projects and travel bursaries. This year we have used some funds from previous legacies to help develop the garden at Pershore and a new alpine house is under construction. A major project is the building of a new AGS website, which is now almost complete and will make it easier for members and the public to access information about alpine plants. We are also sponsoring a one-year trainee placement at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. None of this has been paid for from members' annual subscriptions.

Direct debit is a much more convenient way to pay and saves the Society much time in administration and bank charges. Student and Junior rates remain unchanged.

The new rates for 2019 are as follows:

UK & Ireland

Single: Direct Debit £33; non-Direct Debit £36

Double (two at same address): Direct Debit £36; non-Direct Debit £39

Overseas

Single: Direct Debit £35; non-Direct Debit £38

Double: Direct Debit £37; non-Direct Debit £40

Student/Junior (under 18): £15

News from the AGS Trustee Board

Rebranding and new website: Much discussion has centred around the development of the new website and the facilities it will offer. There will be an enhanced members' area, allowing members to update their own address details etc, together with additional payment facilities. It is anticipated that the launch will be in late summer/early autumn and advance notice will be given on the old website. The development of the Encyclopaedia area will be ongoing as more plant information is added to this part of the site.

AGS funded training placement at RBG Edinburgh: A report about our first sponsored trainee is in the issue of *The Alpine Gardener* that accompanies this newsletter. The Trustee Board has agreed to fund a second placement next year, again with RBGE. Application details will appear in a future newsletter.

90th birthday celebration: The Society will celebrate its 90th year in 2019 and, to mark the occasion, it hopes to stage a more ambitious display at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Plans are currently being drawn up and external sponsorship is being sought to support the cost of such an exhibit.

Local Group Co-ordinators: Members received an update on activities since the last meeting. David Charlton and Ben Parmee are communicating with groups on a variety of issues. They will be circulating some general guidance on the new data protection regulations.

AGS national shows: The policy regarding trade stands at AGS national shows was reviewed and will remain unchanged. Trade stand fees must be consistent for all nurseries, including those for amateur growers. AGS members wishing to sell their surplus plants should offer these for sale on the AGS members' plant sales table. Income from such sales helps to support a show and make it more viable. Members' assistance with this activity is very much appreciated.

Lake District conservation project: Trustees were provided with an update on progress. A meeting of the Steering Group is scheduled to take place in July. Polytunnels have been erected and more plants are being propagated. Some additional survey work has been undertaken and new plant populations mapped. Other possible conservation projects are under consideration, particularly those where the wider AGS membership can play a useful role.

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 a person who works in professional horticulture and who has made a significant contribution in their work with alpinists (cultivation, research etc).
- ✂ **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 must come from the Local Group concerned.
- ✂ **Website Award** to recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2017. Previous winners of this award may be renominated for their ongoing contributions.

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 contributions. We do this by appealing to the judgement of the most informed critics – you, the readership. Members are invited to nominate contributors to The Alpine Gardener, Volume 85 (2017), for the following awards:

- ✂ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2017 (Volume 85).
- ✂ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2017 (Volume 85).
- ✂ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2017 (Volume 85) for the best 'feature' article that must contain a minimum of ten photographs.

All nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from the AGS Centre) and sent to Christine McGregor, Director, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP by July 31, 2018.

£600 in cash prizes to be won in the
AGS Photographic Competition

Enter the AGS Photographic Competition for the chance to win cash prizes and points towards AGS Artistic Medals.

There are prizes in each class of £40 for first place, £20 for second and £10 for third. The overall winner will receive a bonus prize of £40.

In addition, the winner of each class will be awarded five points towards AGS Medals. Two first places (ten points) will qualify for a Bronze Medal, five first places (25 points) for a Silver Medal and ten first places (50 points) for a Gold Medal.

The deadline for entries is December 1, 2018. Only digital images can be entered (we regret we can no longer accept transparencies or prints). The eight classes are as follows:

- ① An alpine plant in its natural habitat with both plant(s) and landscape featured.
- ② A portrait of an alpine plant in its natural habitat, featuring the entire plant as the main subject.
- ③ A close-up or detail of an alpine plant in its natural habitat, perhaps concentrating on a flower, foliage or seed head.
- ④ An alpine plant in cultivation in a garden setting. It can be in your garden or a garden you have visited.
- ⑤ An alpine garden or part of a garden showing features used to grow alpine plants such as troughs, raised beds, crevice gardens, pots, screes, alpine houses and so on.



- ⑥ Alpine fauna in the wild, either in the landscape or in association with plants. Insects have been popular subjects in the past, as have birds and mammals.
- ⑦ An alpine landscape not necessarily showing specific plants but concentrating on the scenic beauty and/or geology of the setting.
- ⑧ A quirky, amusing or unusual image featuring alpine plants. Digital manipulation is allowed in this class. In fact anything goes!

All entries must be previously unpublished photographs. The complete rules and details of how to enter can be seen on the AGS website by clicking on the 'Images' button and then 'Photographic Competition'.

All members, whether in the UK or elsewhere, are encouraged to enter at least one image in this year's competition.

NOTICEBOARD

WELL DONE!

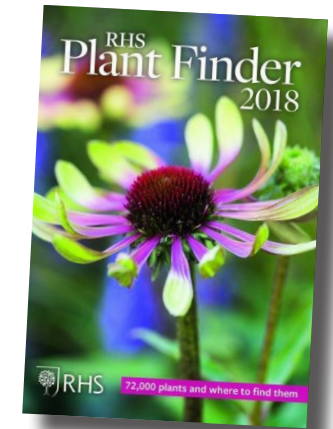
Congratulations to our Cleveland and West Yorkshire groups who were awarded a Silver Medal for their alpine display at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. The display was made up of alpines from around the world with some contributed by AGS members and others bought for the exhibit. The Society provided a grant of £500 towards the cost of the exhibit.



NEW BOOKS

The RHS Plant Finder 2018

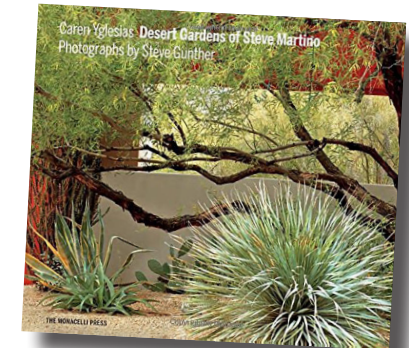
First published in 1987 and providing a snapshot of British garden plants and trends for over 30 years, the RHS Plant Finder is a horticultural bible. Published once a year, it lists 72,000 different plants available from over 470 nurseries in the UK and Europe and the updated 2018 version is now available. First compiled by Chris Philip and his partner Denys Gueroult, who were looking for interesting plants to grow in their garden and recording which nursery was selling what, the original Plant Finder listed 22,000 plants. Since then the book has grown in the plant groups it covers, its comprehensiveness and the number of genera, species and cultivars that are included. The 2018 edition contains over 3,000 plants that have never been included before. Colour articles highlight 25 of these new introductions to the book as well as focusing on Gardening and Climate Change with a list of weather-resistant plants.



Cover price **£14.99** AGS price **£11.50** Order code 949

Desert Gardens of Steve Martino
by Caren Yglesias

This survey of 21 gardens by Steve Martino, whose work blends colourful man-made elements with native plants to reflect the sun-drenched beauty of the desert, is sure to inspire. For more than 30 years, Martino has been committed to the development and advancement of landscape architecture in the south-western US. His pioneering work with native plant material and the development of a desert-derived design aesthetic is widely recognised. A recurring theme of his work is the juxtaposition of man-made elements with ecological processes of the region. Though his work is deeply connected to the natural world, he also has a flair for the dramatic, which is apparent from his lively colour selections, sculptural use of plants and keen attention to lighting, shadows and reflections.



Cover price **£45** AGS price **£36** Order code 954

A PASSION FOR PLANTS: AGS Norfolk Group Conference

Saturday, October 6, 2018,
at the Abbey Conference Centre, Norwich

£25 including lunch and refreshments

RAZVAN CHISU: Transylvanian Alpines and Castles

PROFESSOR DAVID RANKIN: The Search for a Long Lost Primula,
and Meconopsis – In the Wild, Growing and Showing

Plant sales, practical workshops, photo display

Contact Roy Mellor, email: mellor459@btinternet.com

AGS Wirral & West Cheshire Group

'ALPINES FOR ALL'

Sunday, June 17, 2018, 10am-3pm,
at Ness Botanic Gardens, CH64 4AY. Free entry.

Specialist alpine nurserymen offering a wide range of
plants, plus demonstrations, advice, refreshments and much more.

Contact 0151 336 3407 or 01325 710787 or more information

**To order use the form on page 15 or visit the online
AGS Book Shop at www.alpinegardensociety.net**

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

(or order on the AGS website)

These books are due to be published in July 2018

Membership number: _____

Order to be sent to (block capitals please): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

Address to which your credit/debit card statement is sent, if different: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

Please supply _____ copies of *Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain Region*

Cover price: £21.99 AGS pre-publication price: just £15.50

Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8

Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to AGS Publications Limited or please charge my debit/credit card with £ _____ as instructed below.

Please supply _____ copies of *Hypertufa Containers*

Cover price: £22.95 AGS pre-publication price: just £16.50

Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8

Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to AGS Publications Limited or please charge my debit/credit card with £ _____ as instructed below.

Visa/MasterCard/American Express details (no extra charge for paying by credit card)

Name on card: _____

Card number: Security code:

Start date: _____ Expiry date: _____ Issue No. (some debit cards): _____

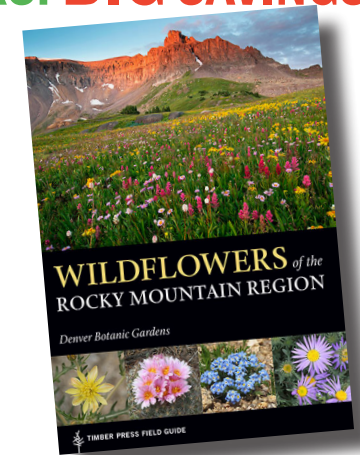
Send this form to AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFERS: BIG SAVINGS!

Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain Region by Denver Botanic Gardens (Timber Press)

Denver Botanic Gardens, this region's recognised leader in horticulture, describes and illustrates more than 1,200 species commonly encountered in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and the northern parts of Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona.

This comprehensive guide includes perennials, annuals and bulbs, both native and naturalised, and is organised by flower colour and petal shape. There are also keys to the plants and information on plant names. Species profiles include colour photographs and range maps. This book is for hikers, naturalists and



gardeners wishing to learn more about the region's diverse wildflowers.

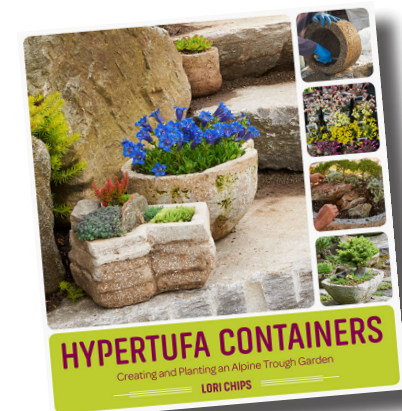
Cover price **£21.99**

Offer price £15.50

Order code 925

Hypertufa Containers: Creating and Planting an Alpine Trough Garden by Lori Chips (Timber Press)

Hypertufa containers are perfect for alpine plants. A mix of cement, perlite, peat and water, they are simple and affordable to make at home. *Hypertufa Containers* details everything a gardener needs to know to make these troughs and grow plants successfully in them. Readers will discover the amazing variety of plants that thrive in troughs. Plant portraits include growing and cultivation information. The book features step-by-step instructions for making hypertufa containers in a variety of shapes and sizes. The instructions are easy to follow and feature colour photography.



Hypertufa Containers is for gardeners looking for a new DIY project.

Cover price **£22.95**

Offer price £16.50

Order code 926

NEW BOOK

Plants of the World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Vascular Plants, by Maarten J. M. Christenhusz, Michael F. Fay and Mark W. Chase

Published by the University of Chicago Press, *Plants of the World* is the first book to systematically explore every vascular plant family on earth—more than 450 of them—organised in a modern phylogenetic order. The 816 pages include 3,000 colour plates, and detailed entries for each family include descriptions, distribution, evolutionary relationships, and fascinating information on economic uses of plants and etymology of their names. All entries are also copiously illustrated in full colour. A collaboration among three celebrated botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, *Plants of the World* is authoritative, comprehensive and beautiful. Covering everything from ferns to angiosperms, it will be an essential resource for practising botanists, horticulturists and gardeners alike.

Kathy Willis, Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, said: ‘This is destined to become a classic reference work — and one where beauty and science are combined to illustrate the incredible diversity and importance of plants to life on Earth. From the first page onwards, the text and illustrations portray the unique, bizarre, functional and useful aspects of the plant kingdom in intricate detail.’

Maarten J. M. Christenhusz has an MSc on historic herbarium and a PhD on Marattiaceae. In 2009 he was founding editor of *Phytotaxa*. He has worked at the Natural History Museum, the Finnish Museum of Natural History and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He grows 160 plant families in his Kingston garden.

Michael F. Fay has a PhD on *Trifolium* and joined Kew in 1986, where he is currently Senior Research Leader in conservation genetics. His research interests include conservation genetics, phylogenetics and genome size. He is Chief Editor, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, and Chair, IUCN Orchid Specialist Group.

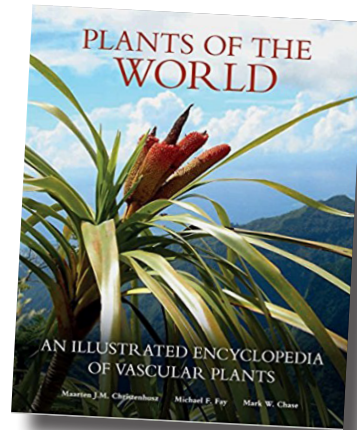
Mark W. Chase has a PhD on *Leochilus* (Orchidaceae). After teaching at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, he moved to Kew in 1992, as Head of Molecular Systematics. His research has been on angiosperm phylogeny and polyploidy, focusing on orchids and, more recently, *Nicotiana*. He is one of the main co-ordinators of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group.

Cover price **£65** AGS price **£52** Order code 952

Because of the weight of this book, special postage rates apply,

These rates are in addition to any other postage for books that you order.

UK: **£7** EU: **£14** Rest of world: **£21** Rest of world air: **£36**



NEW FROM THE AGS: GARDEN TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

We're pleased to offer a new range of garden tools and accessories at discounted prices. They are made by the well-regarded British company Burgon & Ball, and represent British craftsmanship and excellent quality at a very reasonable price. This is a small selection— there is much more on our website!

These should be ordered on the same order form as books, or buy online.



This rockery trowel is an updated classic design, one originally developed by pioneering Victorian gardeners. It's extremely robust, as the metal body extends the full length of the tool for optimal strength. It's incredibly useful for all sorts of transplanting around the garden, not only in rockeries!

Normal price: **£12.99**

AGS price **£11.50**



Brie Harrison secateur and holster set

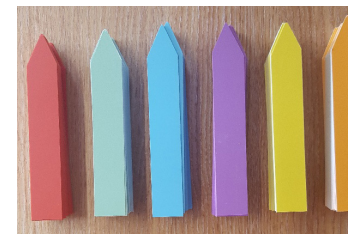
Normal price **£19.99**

AGS price **£16**

Sophie Conran Gauntlet Gloves (blue)

Normal price **£16.99**

AGS price **£14**



4" coloured labels in red, green, blue, violet, yellow or orange.

AGS price **£1.75** for 50 Please specify colour




Slate Kneelo

Normal price **£14.99**

AGS price **£12**

To order use the form on page 21 or visit the online AGS Book Shop at www.alpinegardensociety.net

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
	 Denotes AGS publications	
	GENERAL ALPINE TITLES	
032	 Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
857	 Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	 Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **LOW PRICE**	£5.00
026	 The Crevice Garden and its Plants by Zdenek Zvolanek	£6.50
921	Rock Gardening by Joseph Tychonievich	£20.00
	SPECIFIC GENERA	
890	The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters by Paul and Helen Picton	£14.50
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£36.50
891	The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums by Sally Gregson	£14.50
271	Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide by C. Colston Burrell and J. Knott Tyler	£20.00
916	Kniphofia: The Complete Guide by Christopher Whitehouse	£32.00
881	Meconopsis (monograph) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£54.50
933	 Meconopsis for Gardeners Ed. Christopher Grey-Wilson	£42.00
	Special overseas postage rates: Europe £14; rest of the world £16 (airmail £21)	
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by W McLewin and D Chen **LOW PRICE**	£20.00
942	Peony: The Best Varieties for Your Garden **NEW**	£17.50
	by David C. Michener and Carol A. Adelman	
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
913	The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis by Linda Beutler	£14.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon	£14.50
914	The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums by Robin Parer	£14.50
915	The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas by J Mitchell and L Lawson	£14.50
911	The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias by John Whittlesey	£14.50
021	 Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
	BULBOUS PLANTS	
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00
904	 Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri	£30.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
027	 Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£20.00
034	 Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£10.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
268	 Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; Europe £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Nerines by Graham Duncan	£5.00
927	The Amaryllidaceae of Southern Africa by Graham Duncan	£65.00
	Special overseas postage rates: Europe £18; rest of the world £20 (airmail £26)	
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett	£54.50
882	The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade	£14.50
937	The World of Crocuses by Jānis Rukšāns **NEW**	£41.00
	Special overseas postage rates: Europe £13; rest of the world £15 (airmail £21)	
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.50
892	The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips by Richard Wilford **LOW PRICE**	£10.50
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Order code	Title and author	Members' price
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AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS Applications for 2019

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2019, at the latest.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a 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 on the AGS website or by contacting Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

Successful applicants in 2018 are:

AGS Travel Awards

Richard Holman: £1,400. Assistance with the costs of a field trip to the Nujiang Valley to study native alpine plant species in their natural habitats.

Matt Murray: £850. Assistance with the costs of a field trip to study crocuses in the Taurus Mountains.

Lee Schofield: £230. To assist with costs of a study trip to SW Norway to gather information on habitats and species distribution of native plants.

Erin Stoll: combined Award (Hendry & AGS) £1,400. To assist with the costs of field work in Taiwan studying the effects on alpine flora of climate warming and forest advancement at the tree-line.

Hendry Awards

Robbie Hart: £2,500. To assist with the costs of assessing the effects of climate warming on Himalayan alpine plants.

Jason Johns: £2,150. Research work on DNA analysis of various Rocky Mountain *Aquilegia* species to identify the genetic basis of dwarfism.

Stewart McPherson: £1,500. Assistance with the costs of producing an on-line film about alpinism as part of a 16-film series together with an accompanying book.

Heather Rumble: £1,330. For research to study the interaction of *Sedum* species with mycorrhizal fungi at three UK sites.

WESTERN CAPE

August 30 to September 13, 2018

Leader: Callan Cohen

Cost: in the region of £4,400

South Africa owes much of its unique botany to the tiny Cape Floral Kingdom, situated in the mountains of the southernmost tip of the continent.

Although tiny compared with the world's other floral kingdoms, it encompasses a staggering diversity of plant species that are found only here (for example, there are over 670 species of *Erica*!). In addition, the adjacent Succulent Karoo is the world's richest area for succulents, and the clay soils that form the common border of these two regions hold the greatest concentration of bulbous species in the world. We'll explore all these areas in spring, the peak time for flowering.

We'll begin our exploration on the 70km long mountainous spine of the Cape Peninsula. Here the Table Mountain National Park protects the unique 'fynbos' vegetation and patches of rare Afrotropical forest.

Nestled below Table Mountain is the world-famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, where we will have time to explore the wide collection of plants from across the country.

The sandy shores of the West Coast, just north of Cape Town, hold a completely different flora, and we'll explore both the flashy displays of daisies on the coastal sands and the endemic-rich granites of the West Coast National Park. The nearby shales in the Darling area have



a profusion of bulbs, such as romuleas, babianas and the stunning geissorhizas.

We'll also explore the southern edge of Namaqualand, where the Cape Mountains give way to the valleys and plains of the arid Karoo and the landscape is dominated by small succulent bushes, prone to bursting into pink flower at this time of year. We will stay at charming local guesthouses and lodges.

For further information on these tours please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

THE PELOPONNESE

October 2018 for 10 days

Leader: Răzvan Chișu

Cost: in the region of £1,500.

Although the Peloponnese might be considered the cradle of Greek civilisation, with numerous archaeological sites to be explored, the peninsula is also a hotspot of biodiversity. There are more than 300 endemic plant species here and there are few places in the world that are better for autumn-flowering bulbs. Join us for ten days exploring the Greek countryside in search of a wide variety of bulbs and the very last of the summer flowers.

We will visit Mycenae, where *Sternbergia sicula* and *Arisarum vulgare* grow in profusion; Mystras, a medieval city that has been deserted for centuries but where, apart from glorious views, one can see *Campanula versicolor*, *Allium callimischon*, *Scilla autumnalis* and *Biarum tenuifolium*; and Monemvasia, the island citadel that has good variable populations of *Colchicum cupanii* and *Cyclamen crassifolium*.

For three nights we will be based at Gythio, a lovely coastal town where, on the island of Cranea, *Cyclamen graecum* grows in every nook and cranny and each plant has a different leaf pattern. From there we will make several incursions into the Mani peninsula to visit sites where *Narcissus serotinus*, *Crocus boryi*, *Crocus niveus* and the endemic *Crocus goulimyii* grow.

Other species we hope to see during the tour include the autumn-flowering



Narcissus tazetta and, below, *Sternbergia sicula*



snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, *Narcissus tazetta*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Sternbergia lutea* and *Crocus melantherus*.

Good food, a glass of retsina wine and a touch of history make for the complete Greek experience.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

NORTHERN PATAGONIA AND MENDOZA

November 28 (fly from Heathrow) to December 19, 2018

Leader: Martin Sheader

Cost: With flights in the region of £6,300. Land only in the region of £5,400. Single supplement £780.

The Andean mountains and steppe of northern Patagonia and Mendoza support a rich and fascinating flora set within spectacular landscapes. Our tour begins in northern Argentine Patagonia and from there we travel north into the wine-growing province of Mendoza.

At the very most, we walk a few kilometres a day, generally at a slow pace, to allow time for botanising and photography. At sites visited, altitude should not be a problem – we travel over one high pass at 3,800m. We aim to include elements of exploration in the tour, such as visiting a few sites in Mendoza that are new to us.

Zapala is our base for two nights. Our first visit is to the nearby Laguna Blanca National Park, a reserve supporting a rich steppe flora around a large lake. Here we expect to find several species of *Junellia*, including the rare *J. cedroides*, *Viola tectiflora*, *Rhodophiala mendocina*, cacti and several *Adesmia* species.

Next we travel westward towards the Andes, staying two nights at Villa Pehuenia on the shore of Lago Aluminé, a large glacial lake. En route, we travel through mountain passes with many flowers of interest, including *Jaborosa volkmannii*, *Viola coronifera* and *Calandrinia affinis*. Next we travel north



Viola coronifera

to the town of Caviahué on the slopes of the active Volcán Copahue. Interesting plants in this area include *Viola caviahuenensis*, *V. cotyledon*, *Famatina maulensis*, *Rhodophiala araucana* and *Olsynium frigidum*.

Travelling further north, we spend four nights at Chos Malal, visiting a high pass, Paso Pichachen on the Chile/Argentina border, and spend two days exploring in the Tromen National Park. From here, we drive north to Mendoza Province before crossing the border to Chile, where we will spend a night at Los Andes.

At Malargüe we visit the scenic Reserva Provincial La Payunia, a spectacular dryland reserve, known for its volcanic landscapes, flora and fauna. At Los Molles, we visit a high mountain lake, Laguna Escondida above the ski resort of Las Leñas, where we should find *Viola* aff. *atropurpurea*, *Calandrinia affinis*, *Discaria nana*, *Olsynium bodenbenderi* and *Tristagma sociale*.

From the Argentine side of the Andes we botanise on the high slopes before travelling through the Uspallata Pass (3,800m) into Chile.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



NEW CALEDONIA

September 2019 for 15 days

Leader: Mark Hanger

Cost: With flights in the region of £5,100. Land only in the region of £3,850. Single supplement £600.

New Caledonia, an archipelago halfway between Australia and Fiji, is an extraordinary place. While it has all the features you might expect of tropical islands – white sands, blue lagoons and graceful palms – it is also home to some remarkable plants and wildlife. There are abundant conifers belonging to the ancient plant family Araucariaceae, including the Cook pines, or *Araucaria columnaris*, which grow in the coral-derived soils along the coast.

New Caledonia is considered one of the world's most botanically important, and critically endangered places. Unlike many of the Pacific Islands, which are of relatively recent volcanic origin, New Caledonia is an ancient fragment of the Gondwana super-continent and 76 per cent of its flora is endemic.

The factors contributing to such a rich

variety of plant life include the diversity of climate, elevation and the type of soil. The biogeography of the island chain has been shaped by a complex and fascinating geological history.

But New Caledonia is mainly known for its lagoon. It is one of the three biggest reef systems in the world. It contains a rare diversity of coral and fish species, with reef structures that are among the most diverse on the planet.

The New Caledonian lagoon is home to unique marine biodiversity and a considerable number of iconic or endangered species, such as turtles, whales and dugongs: 15,000 of the 23,000 square kilometres of this area have been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ancient plant families are more heavily represented on New Caledonia than their more modern counterparts. The larger flora include *Nothofagus*, *Beilschmiedia*, *Adenodaphne* and members of Winteraceae and Myrtaceae. But the angiosperms are also fascinating, among them *Amborella trichopoda*, which is the sole member of the oldest living flowering plant lineage, Amborellaceae.

For further information on these tours please contact the AGS Centre. Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



Gymnocalycium capillense and, right, *Trichocereus terscheckii*

ARGENTINA CACTI

October 1-17, 2018

Leaders: Willy Smith & Ian Green

Cost: London to London. £5,595; Buenos Aires to Buenos Aires, £4,845

A vast array of cacti species are found in the mind-boggling landscapes of north-western Argentina, ranging from 300-year-old *Trichocereus pasacana* growing 3m tall, to the improbably tiny *Blossfeldia liliputana*.

The extraordinary growth forms of these cacti are many and varied and so are the often magnificent blooms. Tall, white-hairy *Cleistocactus hyalacanthus* has beautiful tubular pink flowers while the impressive orange-yellow blooms of *Lobivia aurea* dwarf the plant itself. We'll see saguaro-like *Trichocereus terscheckii* and exquisite *Parodia mesembrina*, the globular ball of spines overtopped by brilliant yellow blooms. *Soehrensia formosa* is a study



of brilliance, its scarlet blooms obvious from afar, and we'll see the extraordinary *Rebutia senilis*, a beauty whose squat little body is garlanded with magnificent blooms of red, yellow or orange.

Hieroglyph-engraved menhirs sit among dry Chaco forest where the arching columns of *Echinopsis grandiflora* serve as a vase for their red flowers and *Rebutia jujuyana* is encircled with jubilant orange blooms. We'll find plenty of evidence of the Inca's Empire of the Sun and other cultural wonders include picturesque Purmamarca, nestling at the foot of the Mountain of Seven Colours, its church adorned with cactus woodwork!

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit the website at www.greentours.co.uk

Autumn Conference booking form

**AT THE MACDONALD ALVESTON MANOR HOTEL, CLOPTON BRIDGE,
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, CV37 7HP, ON NOVEMBER 17-18, 2018**

Two-day residential delegates:

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Day delegates: £53 for Saturday including lunch; £68 for Sunday including lunch

The four-star Macdonald Alveston Manor Hotel is set in its own grounds just five minutes walk from all the cultural attractions of Stratford-upon-Avon. Stratford train station is one mile from the hotel.

Please tick as applicable or book on our website

We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total £398)

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I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£53 each)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£68 each)

A non-refundable deposit of £50 per person for residential delegates is payable at the time of booking.

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