

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

New Bulb Day to be held this autumn

The AGS will launch a new event for members this year – an Autumn Bulb Day. It will be held on Sunday, September 27, at Pershore College, next to the AGS Centre and garden, and will feature a programme of speakers and plant sales. Admission will be by advance tickets only, which are now on sale. Details of how to purchase tickets are on page 3 of this newsletter.

It is intended that the Autumn Bulb Day will build on the success of the AGS Snowdrop Day, which will go ahead again in 2016 at a new and bigger venue on Saturday, February 6 (details on page 5).

Also to be repeated this year is the AGS Conference that runs alongside the AGM, and this too will move to a new venue – the Holiday Inn in Stratford-upon-Avon. This hotel is



Autumn-flowering *Sternbergia lutea*
(Picture: Peter Sheasby)

situated in the centre of Stratford alongside the canal. It has ample parking and excellent catering and accommodation.

Speakers will include Bob and Rannveig Wallis, Robert Rolfe, Christopher Grey-Wilson, Martin Walsh and Geoff Rollinson. All will give new talks that have not been heard before. A full programme and booking form will appear in the June issue of AGS News.

SAVE 20% ON ACCESS FRAMES: PAGE 18

AGS Awards

4

Trustee Board News

6

Book Shop

8

Tours

19

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:

Single (UK and Ireland) £32*

Family (two at same address) £36*

Junior (under 18/student) £14

Overseas single US\$56 £34

Overseas family US\$62 £37

* £2 deduction for direct debit
subscribers

AGS CENTRE EASTER HOLIDAY HOURS

The AGS Centre will close at
5pm on Thursday, April 2,
and will not reopen until
Wednesday, April 8. It will
also be closed on Bank Holiday
Mondays May 4 and 25. The
AGS garden is open every day.

© Alpine Garden Society 2015

Send items for the June 2015 issue
of AGS News to Jackie Cooper at the
address above or email
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is April 30, 2015.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



March 14: Kendal Show

March 21: Kent Show

March 21: East Lancashire Show

March 28: Northumberland Show

March 28: South West Show

April 4: Cleveland Show

April 11: Chesterfield Show

April 11: Dublin Show

April 18: Midland Show

April 25: Ulster Show

April 26: London Show

May 2: East Anglia Show

May 10: Malvern Show

May 16: Southport Show

May 30: Wimborne Show

June 14: Bakewell Show

July 11: Pershore Show

September 26: Kent Autumn Show

October 3: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 10: Newcastle Show

October 17: 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 included with the December 2014
issue of AGS News.

BOOK NOW! A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GARDENERS

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 27, 2015

Admission is by advance ticket only

At the Frank Parkinson Lecture Theatre, Pershore College,
Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire. Ample parking.
The College is next to the AGS Centre and garden.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee:

AGS members £24, non-members £34

An optional lunch is available for £10, bookable in advance

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

AGS members will be given priority booking.

Non-members may reserve tickets after June 1, 2015.

SPEAKERS

John David, the RHS Head of
Horticultural Taxonomy: Hardy
Nerines.

Richard Hobbs of Walking &
Wildlife Holidays: Colchicum.

Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson:
Flowers of the Greek Autumn.

David Stephens of the Crocus
Group: Crocuses.



**DEMAND FOR THIS EVENT IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGH
AND NUMBERS ARE LIMITED, SO BOOK NOW
TO BE SURE OF YOUR PLACE**

AGS ANNUAL AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AGS AWARDS

- ✦ **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpine.
- ✦ **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for an outstanding contribution to work with alpines 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 2014.

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 discriminating and informed critics – you, the readership. Members are invited to nominate contributors to The Alpine Gardener, Volume 82 (2014), for the following awards:

- ✦ **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2014 (Volume 82).
- ✦ **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2014 (Volume 82).
- ✦ **The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener in 2014 (Volume 82) 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, 2015.

AGS SNOWDROP DAY: DATE FOR 2016



Some of the exhibited pots of snowdrops

The AGS Snowdrop Day in February was another successful event, with tickets sold out well in advance. In 2016 the Snowdrop Day will move to a new venue, the Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre in Shropshire, on Saturday, February 6, and tickets will be advertised for sale in the June issue of AGS News. As usual, AGS members will be given priority. Thank you to Doug Joyce for these pictures of this year's Snowdrop Day.



Christine Mole's painted nails



There was plenty to tempt members in the plant sales area

News from the AGS Trustee Board

This is a summary of some of the items discussed by the Trustee Board at recent meetings, intended to keep members up to date with developments.

2021 International Conference: It is the turn of the SRGC to take the lead role in the organisation of the next ten-yearly international conference in 2021. It was agreed that the AGS should sponsor one lecture at the event and, should the event incur a loss, the AGS would bear an equal share up to an agreed limit.

Local Groups will have received an update on progress relating to their comments submitted as part of the consultation with the Trustee Board. The Board is working through all the feedback from groups and a further report will be sent to groups later in the year.

The Speakers List is to be revised and updated. Once complete it will be uploaded on the website in the public area.

The Society is seeking to have an increased presence at various external events to help promote membership. Volunteer assistance will be needed to enable this to happen.

Further work on development of the AGS Plant Encyclopaedia is under way.

The Society Director reported on problems that some groups were experiencing in relation to appointing new committee members. The Board agreed that the period for office holders could be extended by up to three years but groups must submit requests in writing to the Society Director.

Applications are invited for a

Director of Tours

The Alpine Garden Society is seeking a Director of Tours to assume responsibility for the organisation of the Society's programme of international botanical tours. The Director of Tours is involved in selecting, planning, booking and marketing the AGS's tours, with the assistance of staff at the AGS Centre. The Director also becomes a member of the AGS Trustee Board. The role would suit an experienced traveller and is non-stipendiary.

If you are interested in the role and would like more information, please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director (Tel: 01386 554790 or e-mail ags@alpinegardensociety.net).

The deadline for expressions of interest is April 30, 2015.

AGS Bristol Group

All Aspects of Alpines

A one-day conference on Saturday, September 19, 2015, at The Red Maids' School, Westbury Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW. 9.30am to 4.30pm

Lectures by Jim Almond, Christine Skelmersdale, Diane Clement, and Bob and Rannveig Wallis.

The cost is £18 including teas and coffees. An optional hot lunch will be available for £11.

For further information and bookings contact Sheila Ashby on 01275 851254 or e-mail: ian_sheila@hotmail.co.uk

(Previous delegates will be sent an application form)

AGS Norfolk Group

Alpines Home and Away

A one-day conference on Saturday, September 19, 2015, at the Abbey Conference Centre, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2DD.

Speakers will be Peter Korn from Sweden (2 lectures) and Paul Cumbleton. Practical demonstrations, plant sales, and displays.

For further information and bookings contact Diane Blyth dianenblyth@gmail.com



Fritillaria Group of the AGS Spring Show and meeting

Sunday, March 22, 2015, 10am-4pm, at Theydon Bois Village Hall, Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER

Please note change of venue
The speakers will be Martyn Rix and Peter Taggart, with a discussion panel chaired by Bob Wallis with Martyn Rix, Brian Mathew and Laurence Hill.

More information at www.fritillaria.org.uk

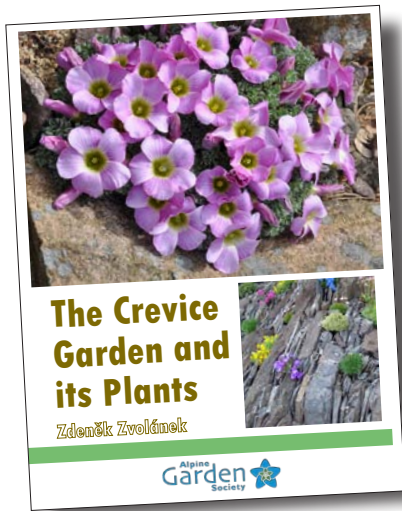
AGS Dorset Group

Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 4, 2015, at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne, BH21 1AS. 11.30am to 3pm. Admission is free for members and £1 for non-members.

Details on the Dorset Local Group website page.

NEW BOOK OFFERS



SAVE 34%

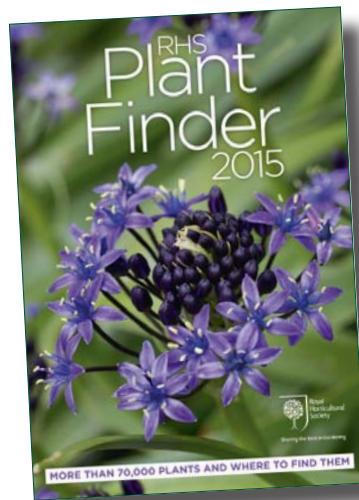
The Crevice Garden and Its Plants
by Zdeněk Zvolánek

This is a revised and expanded edition of the AGS guide to building crevice gardens and the plants to grow in them. The text has been updated and there are many new photographs. The guide is written by Zdeněk Zvolánek, widely recognised as the foremost authority on the construction and planting of these attractive features, which have become an essential element in every alpine garden.

Cover price **£9.95**

AGS price **£6.50**

[Order code 026]



SAVE 22%

RHS Plant Finder 2015

This new 960-page edition of the plant buyer's bible, now in its 30th year, contains more than 70,000 accurately named plants, with 4,000 of these listed for the first time. It includes the most up-to-date list of RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) ornamental plants, which number more than 5,000. It also features new hardiness ratings, which now rank from H1 to H7. The Plant Finder is an invaluable guide for every gardener.

Cover price **£15.99**

AGS price **£12.50**

[Order code 853]

TO ORDER USE THE FORM ON PAGE 16 OR VISIT THE AGS BOOK SHOP AT WWW.ALPINEGARDENSOCIETY.NET

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
GENERAL ALPINE TITLES		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John 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
857	Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **LOW PRICE**	£15.00
453	The Himalayan Garden by Jim Jermyn	£20.00
729	The Rock Garden Plant Primer by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£16.00
SPECIFIC GENERA		
019	Androsace: The Genus by G.F. Smith & D.B. Lowe **LAST FEW COPIES**	£8.00
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & Their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt et al	£20.00
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£12.00
643	Clematis (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Mary Toomey	£12.00
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£36.50
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
778	The Book of Little Hostas by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack	£14.50
881	Meconopsis by Christopher Grey-Wilson **NEW TITLE**	£54.50
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
669	The Daylily: A Guide for Gardeners by John Peat and Ted Petit	£18.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
766	Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter and Susie White	£8.00
BULBOUS PLANTS		
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
866	A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox	£28.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00
027	Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£25.00
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 **LOW PRICE**	£5.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
864	Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury	£14.50
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
240	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Nerines by Graham Duncan	£5.00
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett **NEW TITLE**	£40.00
861	The Genus Lachenalia by Graham Duncan	£96.00
882	The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.50
608	Pocket Guide to Bulbs by John E Bryan	£12.00
848	Snowdrops by Gunter Waldorf	£12.00
246	Snowdrops Booklet by Jackie Murray (second edition, 2011)	£3.50
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett **NEW TITLE**	£54.50
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardener) by Richard Wilford	£10.00
868	Wild Flowers of Turkey: Bulbous Plants by Yasemin Konuralp	£25.00
	ORCHIDS	
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	£16.00
804	Growing Hardy Orchids by Philip Seaton et al	£10.00
846	Hardy Cypripedium by Werner Frosch and Phillip Cribb	£36.00
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
597	Orchids of the British Isles by Michael Foley & Sidney Clarke	£36.00
349	The Genus Cypripedium by Phillip Cribb	£58.50

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
	SUCCULENTS AND CACTI	
741	Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates by Leo J Chance	£20.00
749	Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin	£16.00
883	The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums by Brent Horvath **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
264	Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort	£28.00
	PERENNIALS	
588	Ornamental Grasses (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Rick Darke	£12.00
589	Shade Perennials (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by W George Schmid	£12.00
725	Tall Perennials by Roger Turner'	£20.00
261	The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials by Daniel Hinkley	£12.00
	TREES & SHRUBS	
840	A Natural History of Conifers by Aljos Farjon	£24.00
775	Conifers (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Richard L. Bitner	£12.00
652	Conifers for Gardens by Richard L Bitner	£32.00
621	Dirr's Encyclopedia Of Trees & Shrubs by Michael A Dirr	£40.00
746	Hardy Heathers from the Northern Hemisphere by E Charles Nelson	£48.00
755	Japanese Maples by JD Vertrees & Peter Gregory	£28.00
660	Japanese Maples (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by P Gregory & J C Vertrem	£12.00
761	Palms (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Robert Lee Riffle	£12.00
751	Planting and Maintaining a Tree Collection by Simon Toomer	£16.00
316	Shrubs: A Gardener's Handbook by Ian Cooke	£8.00
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	£30.00
735	The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers by George Brown	£12.00
250	Timber Press Encyclopedia of Flowering Shrubs by Jim Gardiner	£28.00
	FLORAS, FIELD GUIDES AND PLANT EXPLORATION	
680	Endemic Plants of the Altai Mountain Country by A I Pyak et al	£25.00
885	Fathers of Botany by Jane Kilpatrick	£32.00
245	Flowers of Crete by John Fielding and Nicholas Turland	£56.00
733	Flowers of Greece (set of 2 with DVD) by T Lafranchis & G Sfikas	£95.00
867	Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains by Martin Sheader	£32.00
808	Flowers of Western China by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£56.00
873	Harrap's Wild Flowers by Simon Harrap	£13.50

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
101	In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry by Seamus O'Brien	£32.00
569	Mountain Flowers: The Dolomites by Cliff Booker & David Charlton	£7.00
809	Mountain Flower Walks: Eastern Alps Incl. The Dolomites by Jim Jermyn	£10.00
031	Mountain Flower Walks: Greek Mainland by John Richards **LOW PRICE**	£10.00
869	Mountain Flower Walks: Pyrenees and Picos de Europa by M and H Taylor	£17.50
454	Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges	£28.00
871	Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays by Hilary Little **NEW TITLE**	£24.00
737	Picos de Europa (car tours and walks) by Teresa Farino	£11.00
696	Plantsman's Paradise – Travels in China by Roy Lancaster	£32.00
697	Seeds of Adventure – In Search of plants by Peter Cox & Peter Hutchinson	£28.00
730	Swiss Plant Life by Ewald Weber	£20.00
478	The Caucasus and its Flowers by Vojtech Holubec & Pavel Krivka	£45.00
884	Wild Flowers of Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park by J Alonso NEW	£12.50
874	Wild Flowers of the Algarve by C. Thorogood and S. Hiscock **NEW TITLE**	£28.00
GARDEN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION		
747	Big Gardens in Small Spaces by Martyn Cox	£16.00
303	Colour in the Garden by Val Bourne	£15.00
565	Designing and Planting Borders by Roger Harvey	£10.00
103	Designing Small Gardens by Ian Cooke	£8.00
807	Designing With Conifers by Richard L. Bitner	£16.00
838	Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy by Claude Hitching	£28.00
854	Planting: A New Perspective by Piet Oudolf & Noel Kingsbury	£24.00
PHOTOGRAPHY		
631	Digital Photography (A-Z of Creative) by Lee Frost	£12.00
704	Macro Photography for Gardeners and Nature Lovers by Alan L Detrick	£15.00
OTHER TITLES		
774	Bees, Wasps and Ants (The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens)	£15.00
773	Container Plants (The Encyclopaedia of) by Ray Rogers & Rob Cardillo	£20.00
886	Designing and Planting a Woodland Garden by Keith Wiley	£20.00
336	Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns by Sue Olsen	£32.00
855	Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants by Will Giles	£28.00
885	Fathers of Botany by Jane Kilpatrick **NEW TITLE**	£32.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
610	Gardening with Woodland Plants by Karan Junker	£24.00
629	Ground Covers (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by David S Mackenzie	£12.00
257	Hardy Bamboos (Taming the Dragon) by Paul Whittaker	£20.00
849	Marianne North: A Very Intrepid Painter by Michelle Payne	£9.50
559	Native Plants of Britain & Ireland by Rosemary Fitzgerald	£12.00
307	Ornamental Bamboos by David Crompton	£20.00
703	Plant Form (Illustrated Guide to Flowering Plant Morphology) by Adrian Bell	£28.00
510	Planting the Dry Shade Garden by Graham Rice	£12.00
863	Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker by Ray Desmond	£23.50
850	The American Woodland Garden by Rick Darke	£28.00
247	The Jade Garden by Peter Wharton, Brent Hine & Douglas Justice	£20.00
841	The A to Z of Plant Names by Allen J Coombes	£10.50
844	The Kew Plant Glossary: An illustrated dictionary of plant identification terms	£15.00
856	The Wild Garden by William Robinson and Rick Darke	£16.00
517	Timber Press Dictionary of Plant Names	£20.00
754	Uncommon Climbers for Every Garden by Allan M. Armitage	£10.00
806	Waterlilies and Lotuses by Percy D. Slocum	£20.00
515	Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens by L Springer Ogden & S Ogden	£13.50
222	Wildflower Wonders of the World by Bob Gibbons	£15.00

SEED ENVELOPES FOR SALE

Glassine envelopes, as used in the AGS Seed Exchange, are available in two sizes:

Small 73 x 41mm self-adhesive **50 for £3**

NEW SIZE Extra large gummed 117 x 89mm (previous large size is discontinued) **25 for £3**

Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 2)

Postage is free to UK members

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre for postage rates



SPECIAL OFFER FOR AGS MEMBERS: SAVE 20% ON ACCESS COLD FRAMES AND BASES

Access Garden Products are offering AGS members an exclusive 20% off their range of cold frames and bases until **April 30, 2015**. The popular cold frames are ideal for alpine growers because they offer large amounts of space with **excellent ventilation**. The glass panels on the top and sides slide away for easy access and ventilation. For safety, only **toughened safety glass** is used. It is much stronger than standard horticultural glass – the roof glass will withstand 2ft (60cm) of snow on it. If the glass does break, it shatters into tiny pieces.



The sturdy architectural aluminium framework comes with a **25-year guarantee**. Access have been producing these frames for 35 years and original examples are still going strong! For a really special finish, the cold frames are available with an **optional colour coating**. This hard-wearing finish is available in six colours. Please call for samples and prices. The cold frames are 4ft wide and are available in four lengths: 4ft, 6ft, 8ft and 10ft.



Also available are **sturdy, pressure-treated bases** for the cold frames, which raise the frames to reduce bending. The bases are constructed from 1½in deck board which is mitred at the ends for a neat appearance. Stainless steel screws ensure a long life. The base can be filled with soil for direct planting, or a very sturdy timber floor can be added to allow alpines to be placed either directly on the boards or on a couple of inches of grit. A useful option is the **louvre vent**. This replaces one of the 2ft x 2ft sheets of glass at the end of the frame, providing additional ventilation. The louvre aids winter ventilation as the slats prevent rain ingress. A vent can be fitted at either or both ends and is available as a manual or fully automatic vent.



PRICES AND DIMENSIONS

Code	Length	List price	AGS price	3-tier base	Timber floor	Delivery
FF3	4ft/1.21m	£224	£179.20	£107.10	£84.60	£29
SF3	6ft/1.83m	£299	£239.20	£134.10	£129.60	£34
EF3	7ft 9in/2.36m	£339	£271.20	£161.10	£161.10	£39
TF3	10ft/3.03m	£379	£303.20	£179.10	£197.10	£44

Width: 4ft (1.21m) Height: 2ft 8in (0.82m) Base height: 15in (36cm)

Bases are approx. 3in/6cm wider and longer than the frame.

Manual louvre vent: ~~£76~~ £63.20 Automatic vent: ~~£99~~ £79.20

To order, or for a free copy of the Access 40-page catalogue, call 0800 298 6284 and quote 'AGS-15 offer'.

Access Garden Products, Crick, Northampton, NN6 7XS
www.garden-products.co.uk sales@garden-products.co.uk



DRAKENSBERG, SOUTH AFRICA

January 9-25, 2016

Leaders: Callan Cohen and David Haselgrove

Cost: TBA

South Africa's rugged Drakensberg Mountains form the spine of the eastern part of the country and have a completely different flora from the Cape that lies over 1,500km away on the south-west coast.

The elevated Drakensberg escarpment, with its dramatic basalt cliffs overlooking sandstone valleys, lies at about 3,000m above sea level and is home to true alpine vegetation. It's from these heights that early explorers brought hardy plants back to Europe which have subsequently flourished in cultivation, including species of *Agapanthus*, *Dierama*, *Eucomis*, *Nerine*, *Gladiolus*, *Moraea*,



Phygelius and *Galtonia*, and which will be a focus of our tour.

The mountains also have a high diversity of orchids, including *Satyrium*, *Holothrix*, *Eulophia*, *Disa*, *Pterygodium*, *Brownleea* and the special genus *Huttonia*, with its fimbriate lips, which is found only in this area.

Midsummer is the peak flowering

Continued overleaf

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



DRAKENSBERG

Continued from page 19

season and we'll also watch out for pollinators, from sunbirds to the mountain beauty (*Aeroptes tulbaghia*) butterfly.

This tour will focus on the different altitudes, rainfall zones and geologies to get the most from this area. We'll

explore from the northern areas of the Drakensberg around the Sentinel Peak, through to the Sani Pass and the Lesotho plateau, known for its sweeping views and bushmen's paintings.

Most of our exploration will take place from famous passes and the walking effort will be easy to moderate, with the option of a longer walk at the Sentinel in search of 'specials'.

OTHER AGS TOURS IN 2016

March/April – Peru, led by Harry Jans

March/April – South-west Turkey, led by Bob and Rannveig Wallis

Full details of these tours will be published in the June issue of AGS News. If you would like to reserve a place on the tours, please contact the AGS Centre (details below)

- The AGS tour to Patagonia in November/December this year is fully booked.
- Bookings have now closed for the AGS tour to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in April/May this year.

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

Iris medwedewii
and, below,
Iris sari



ARARAT: AZERBAIJAN & EASTERN TURKEY

April 27-May 9, 2015

Leaders: Kurt Vickery, Oron Peri & Eylül Dizdaroğlu

Cost: From London, £3,515

Baku to Diyarbakir, £3,085

This is the heartland of the *Oncocyclis* Irises, from furry-falled *Iris paradoxa* to mighty *Iris gatesii*. Ararat is the axis on which the tour revolves. To its east is tiny Nakhchivan, a beautiful Azerbaijani enclave that is home to the magnificent dark flowers of *Iris lycotis*.

Multi-hued *Corydalis seisumsiana* and *Fritillaria crassifolia* bloom in the mountain meadows of Batabat and

there are literally millions of impressive *Iris imbricata*. Ararat's slopes have magnificent shows of *Iris elegantissima* while Van's steppes host blue-purple *Iris barnumiae* and variable *Iris sari*.

A million powder-blue puschkinias bloom all the way up the Karabet Pass, mixing with deep cerise *Merendera kurdica*, bright mauve-pink *Tulipa humilis*, yellow, green, maroon or butterscotch fritillarias and scarlet diphelypaeas.

The tour starts with *Iris acutiloba*, close by Baku's Caspian shore. We'll explore the Talysh Mountains, where alongside *Fritillaria kotschyana* are *Iris grossheimii*, the elegant pale flowers of *Iris lineolata* and gorgeous *Iris medwedewii*. If we are lucky we'll see the last flowers of *Paeonia mlokosewitschii*.

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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 2-15, 2015

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Vanessa Handley

Cost: From London, £3,995
San Francisco to San Francisco, £3,375

Coastal redwood groves, sagebrush-covered hillsides, the snowy Cascades Range and the unspoilt Klamath coast – the western seaboard of the United States is home to a range of habitats that boast a rich flora.

There are castillejas, penstemons, phloxes and meadows of blue camassias, not to mention a multitude of irises and kaleidoscopic *Calochortus*, including *C. elegans* (the elegant cat's ear), *C. amabilis* (the golden fairy lantern), the etched blooms of *C. superbus*, rich pink *C. splendens*, furry *C. tolmiei*, *C. monophyllus* and *C. luteus*.

Lilium maritimum holds out beautiful red blooms, though arguably *L. pardalinum* is even more spectacular.

We'll see *Erythronium californicum*, *E. oregonum*, *E. purpurascens* and great swathes of the creamy white *E. citrinum*.

Fritillaries will include *Fritillaria affinis*, *F. atropurpurea*, *F. glauca* and the striking scarlet *F. recurva*.

Colonies of carnivorous *Darlingtonia californica* carpet bogs alongside the Californian lady's slipper orchid. *Cypripedium californicum*. We'll see the hummingbird-pollinated firecracker flower, *Dichelostemma ida-maia*, and the perfect little orchid *Calypso bulbosa*.



Fritillaria recurva and, below, *Calochortus luteus*



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



Saxifraga flagellaris subsp. *flagellaris* and, right, *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*



GEORGIA

June 28-July 11, 2015

Leaders: Shamil Shetekauri, Kurt Vickery & Oron Peri

Cost: From London, £2,595
Tbilisi to Tbilisi, £2,195.

Summer in the wild untamed Greater Caucasus is the perfect time to assimilate fully Georgia's breathtaking floral diversity. *Lilium kesselringianum* blooms with many beautiful delphiniums, foxgloves and monkshoods in meadows on the volcanic Javakheti Plateau.

Dianthus raddeanus glows pink from rocky outcrops, where red *Sedum sempervivoides* blooms with clusters of *Campanula aucheri*. Yellow globe orchids and endemic *Gladiolus dzavakheticus* mix with pink and yellow centaureas. The range of campanulas is impressive and includes several delicate rock-dwelling species such as

Campanula petrophila. Pink and deep purple primulas (as well as creamy-white *Primula bayernii*) bloom alongside azure *Corydalis alpina*, yellow *Corydalis emmanuelii* and gentians. Steel-blue swertias and shining red louseworts line sinuous streams. In scenic Racha the subalpine meadows are alive with many species of geraniums, inulas and salvias as well as *Lilium monadelphum* var. *szovitsianum*, dracocephalums, *Polemonium caucasicum* and the strange primula relative *Sredinskya grandis*. Higher up you will find *Paeonia wittmanniana* alongside the rare *Daphne pseudosericea*.

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

Invite a friend to join the AGS

Introduce a friend to the benefits and services offered to members of the Alpine Garden Society. All they have to do is fill in their personal details, together with payment instructions (or call AGS Centre to arrange payment by Direct Debit), and return this page to the address at the bottom of the page. A reduced subscription rate is offered to those paying by Direct Debit. Please allow 28 days for processing this application.

I/We wish to apply for membership as indicated below. Rates valid for 2014-15.

	UK & Ireland	UK Direct Debit	Overseas
Single	£32 <input type="checkbox"/>	£30 <input type="checkbox"/>	£34 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family (two at same address)	£36 <input type="checkbox"/>	£34 <input type="checkbox"/>	£37 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Junior (under 18 years)	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>		

Subscriptions of members joining after July 31 are valid until the end of the following calendar year. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 and subscriptions are renewable on October 1 for the following year. Direct Debit subscriptions become due annually in the quarter that you joined.

Your details (block capitals please):

Title Name: _____

If family membership, name of second member _____

Address: _____

County/country _____

Post/Zip code: _____

If under 18, please give date of birth _____

If student, please give date of expected end of course _____

To pay by Direct Debit, please contact AGS Centre. To pay by cheque or credit/debit card, please complete either of the sections below.

CHEQUE

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

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

No extra charge for paying by credit card

Name on card _____

Card number Security code

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

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE CUT HERE

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.