

Alpine news

BIG ideas for small plants!

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



2011 International Conference

– Last chance to book and get the ‘Early Bird’ Rate

Inside you will find details of the Conference Programme, together with information on the planned pre and post conference tours. You can reserve your place and get the ‘Early Bird’ discounted rate by booking now on the AGS website: www.alpinegardensociety.net or by returning the form on the back page. Short biographies of the conference speakers can also be found on the website by following the conference link. If you do not have access to the internet you can obtain a paper copy from AGS Centre.



Society Stand at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2010

The Society once again staged a Promotion & Sales Stand on Eastern Avenue. The stand featured a prominent display of alpiners planted in a raised sleeper bed by Ray Drew and Christopher Grey-Wilson. We also had the kind loan of a Miniature Garden planted by one of our members, John Dower.

The stand proved extremely popular with visitors, helping to raise the awareness of the public to the delights of growing alpine plants, resulting in the recruitment of many new members. The stand was awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the RHS in recognition of its attractive presentation. Thanks to both the volunteers and the staff from AGS Centre who all worked extremely hard during the week to promote the Society.

Appointment of new Book Sales Administrator

Following the retirement of **Susan Clements**, I am pleased to report that **Colin Dolding** has been appointed as the new part-time Book Sales Administrator. Some of you may know of Colin through his work with the Society Seed Exchange scheme and Colin will continue with this role but on a voluntary basis.

Change of Bank Details - The Society has recently changed its bank accounts and anyone who pays their subscriptions directly into our bank will need the new account details. These can be obtained from AGS Centre.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 6 November 2010

This year's Annual General Meeting of the AGS will take place on Saturday, 6 November 2010 at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY. (The Hotel is situated M40, Junction 15 the A46 to Stratford, 1st roundabout take A439 to Town Centre. Stratford Manor 1 mile on left). Full details of the event and a map will appear in the next Newsletter.

ELECTIONS AND AWARDS

Nominations

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

- **Committee** 5 vacancies. Members to serve for three years.
Vacancy – Director of Shows
Treasurer
- **Officers** – The following Officers are eligible for re-appointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS: President, Director of Publications, Director of Tours, Advertisements Manager and Image Library Manager.
[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 28 July 2010]

AGS Annual Awards & Literary Awards

AGS Awards

- **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpinists
- **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for an outstanding contribution to work with alpinists from someone under the age of 35
- **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/new plant introduction within a single genus or group of alpine plants
- **Local Group Awards** these awards 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.
- **Website Award** - to recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2009.

(Nominations for this award must come from the Local Group concerned).

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 The *Alpine Gardener* Volume 77 2009 contributors for the following awards:

1. **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The *Alpine Gardener* in 2009 (Vol 77).
2. **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The *Alpine Gardener* in 2009 (Vol 77).

[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 30 June 2010]

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2011

It is five years since the subscription rates were last increased. During that time the Society has sought to be even more efficient in the use of its resources but inevitably there have been some costs that could not be contained and the number of memberships has fallen. Despite the Society currently holding healthy reserves, these are essentially to ensure the fulfilment of the Society's charitable objectives and to enhance the benefits of membership in the longer term; they should not be used to subsidise current membership subscriptions. It is therefore necessary to increase subscriptions for 2011 as follows:

Rates for Direct Debit Holders

Home Single	£28	£26
Home Double	£32	£30
Overseas Single	£30	£28*
Overseas Double	£33	£31*
Student/Junior	£10	

[*This rate is only applicable to those overseas members who hold a sterling bank account and pay by direct debit.]

These rates still represent excellent value and the increases are not out of line with the rate of inflation over the past five years. Careful scrutiny will continue to be given to items of expenditure and ways are being sought to make the benefits of membership yet more attractive.

Colin Smith, Hon. Treasurer

Noticeboard

AWARDS & GRANTS

AGS Travel Awards for 2010

Successful applicants for AGS Travel Awards in 2010 are:

- **Sean Harkin** was granted a place on the AGS Tour ~ Spring Bulbs of Parnassos and the Peloponnese, as a joint AGS/Merlin Funded Place.
- **Timothy Lever** was granted an award by AGS to help financially support a Study Trip to Bhutan ~ In the Footsteps of George Sherriff.
- **Pete & Jackie Murray** were granted an award to help fund the cost of a photographic study of spring alpinists in the Dolomites.

Prize for Best Report/Essay submitted in a calendar year by a recipient of a Travel Award was given to **Carl Berthold** for his account of his study tour entitled 'Following in the footsteps of Forrest & Ludlow 2008'.

HENDRY FUND

Successful applicants to the E F Hendry Bequest in 2010 are:

AGS Blackpool Show (Mr L Clarkson) - £150 towards the costs of a speaker and lecture at the Show.

RHS Wisley (Mr P Cumbleton) – £499 to fund the attendance of a horticultural trainee at the 8th International Rock Garden Conference in 2011

University of Reading (Mr Kalman Konyves) - £3,000 towards a research project on Molecular markers to aid Narcissus taxonomy

AGS East Lancs Group (John Dower) - £750 to assist with the construction of a rock garden by the group outside Ramsbottom Civic Hall

Cambridge Botanic Gardens - £2,918 to provide cedar shading in the newly refurbished alpine house

Walled Garden at Flete (Andrew Byfield) - £2,500 towards the cost of restoration of a historic greenhouse to house plants of genera that will be of interest to AGS members (eg Hepatica, Pleione etc).

Ms K Price (Alpine Unit, Kew), - £149 towards the cost of a study tour of Belgian woodland gardens.



Items for the Newsletter and Copy Dates

Please note that any copy for the Newsletter should be sent to Jill Larner, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 3JP or email: jill@alpinegardensociety.net

Deadline for the September 2010 issue is Friday 26 July 2010

LOCAL GROUP PUBLICITY CO-ORDINATOR

Applications are invited for this new volunteer role. One of the key tasks will be to give advice and assistance to Local Groups on how best to promote themselves and the main Society, as well as exploring new ideas for publicity activities. The Local Group Co-ordinator will work in close liaison with AGS Centre and provide a link between the Groups and the Centre. Experience of working with the media would be helpful. It is envisaged that eventually other helpers may be recruited around the regions to assist with this role.

*Anyone interested should contact Christine McGregor, Society Director:
Tel 01386 554790 or e-mail ags@alpinegardensociety.net.*

OBITUARIES

The Society has been informed of the sad news that two of our long standing members of the Alpine Garden Society have died.

Michael Northway died on 27 February. His lifelong enthusiasm and consuming interest in alpine plants grew out of his schoolboy holiday jobs at the Oxford University Botanic Garden. Until the late 1970's/early '80's he was a successful exhibitor at AGS Shows. The Societies condolences are sent to his wife, Sheila, family and friends.

David Winstanley. David was very keen on Primulas and also translated the Handel-Mazzetti book - "A Botanical Pioneer in South-West China".
Condolences are sent to his family and friends

Local Group News

LOCAL GROUP CHANGES & AMENDMENTS

Yorkshire-West: Hon. Sec: Miss Liz Barber, 68 Eden Close, Woodthorpe, York, YO24 2RD. Tel: 01904 704459.

Birmingham & District: Hon. Sec [Acting]: Sonia Morris, 55 Grange Road, Stourbridge, DY9 7LH. Tel: 01384 378609.

Lancashire-North: Hon. Sec: Mr Syd Cumbus, 65 Parkfield Drive, Bowerham, Lancs, LA1 4BT. Tel: 01524 67888. Chairman: Frank Hoyle.

Cheshire-East: Hon. Sec: Mrs Liz Maddock, 7 Kingsley Avenue, Wilmslow, SK9 4EN. Tel: 01625 537156. Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Elizabeth.Maddock@agsgroups.org"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:Elizabeth.Maddock@agsgroups.org)
Elizabeth.Maddock@agsgroups.org

Devon-South: Hon. Sec: David Nicholson, 7 Carter Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0RX. Tel: 01752 896307. [HYPERLINK "mailto:David.Nicholson@agsgroups.org"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:David.Nicholson@agsgroups.org)
David.Nicholson@agsgroups.org

Sussex-Central - Due to dwindling numbers the Group has sadly taken the decision to close and is in the process of winding up its affairs.

What's On

FORTHCOMING AGS SHOWS - 2010

AGS Pershore Show, 10 July 2010 - Pershore College, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP
Tel: 014453 762812

AGS Autumn Show-South, 25 September 2010 - Rainham School for Girls, Highfield Road, Rainham, Gillingham, ME8 0BX. Tel: 01303 862913

AGS Newcastle Show, 9 October 2010 - The Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9NX. Tel: 01670 787714

Alpine Garden Society Chiltern Group

Habitats of Mountain Plants

A one day Conference in the Chilterns - Saturday 11 September 2010

Green Park, Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5NE

Registration 9.30 to 10am

Setting the Scene-The Ecology John Good

Alpine Meadows Chris Grey-Wilson

High Mountain Places Harry Jans

High and Dry Deserts Jim Archibald

Nursery stalls present on the day

Aberconwy (North Wales) / Pottertons

(Lincolnshire)/Little Heath (Hertfordshire)
Long Acre (Somerset).

Conference closes 4.30pm. Cost £25 (for all bookings made by 20 July, 2010) includes lunch and refreshments.

Booking Details from: **John Noakes (01296 660072) john.noakes@btinternet.com**
Mike Baker (01494 763211) mike@mikebaker.mail1.co.uk

BRISTOL ONE DAY CONFERENCE

Change of Date to 9 OCTOBER 2010

Advance notice that this Conference will now be held on **9 OCTOBER 2010** not the 2 October. For further information please contact Mike Taylor, 96 Reedley Road, Bristol BS9 3TA. Tel. 0117 9686654

Fritillaria Group Of The Alpine Garden Society

Autumn Meeting and AGM

Sunday 26 September 2010 (Please note new date) at RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey

PROGRAMME:

9.00 - 9.30 - Coffee

10.00 - Annual General Meeting

11.00 - Lecture - Jon Evans - "Taking better Photos of Flowers"

12.30 - Lunch Break

14.00 - Lecture - Kit Strange - "Growing Frits at Kew"

15.30 - Raffle

16.00 - Close

For any other information please see our website: www.fritillaria.org.uk

AGS WORKSHOPS 2010

Title: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF PLANTS
Tutor: Jim Almond
Date: Sunday, 4 July 2010, Time: 9.30 am - 4.00 pm
Venue: AGS Centre, Pershore

Delegates are encouraged to bring along their camera for the practical sessions.



Title: ASPECTS OF PROPAGATION
Tutor: Jim Almond
Date: Sunday, 1 August 2010, Time: 9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Venue: AGS Centre, Pershore

In this workshop Jim will discuss various aspects of growing bulbs. This workshop is timed to provide useful advice before you start to buy bulbs for planting in the autumn.

There will be a selection of plants for sale at both Workshops. The cost for each Workshop will be £28 for members and £35 for non-members. The price includes lunch and refreshments.

If you would like further information or to register for a place on either (or both) workshops, please contact: Jill Larner (jill@alpinegardensociety.net)

AGS Seed Exchange No 59 2010 - 2011

The Seed Exchange supplies seed to a large number of members during December and January each year and we are greatly indebted to the 200 plus volunteers who help to make the seed exchange such a tremendous success.

However, in order to be successful, we rely on a large number of members to donate their seed to the exchange. Please donate seed of as many varieties as you can, not forgetting seed from spring flowering plants. Please check your plants are correctly named and that the seed is free from chaff and grit and packed in leak-proof packets. Any seed collected should be stored cool and dry, (a plastic box in a fridge is ideal). All donors will receive an increased quantity of seed and priority in processing their order.

A **DONOR FORM** will be included with the June Bulletin, which will tell you when and where to send your seed. Anyone who requires more information please contact:

Colin Dolding: Curlew, Hook Bank, Hanley Castle, WR8 0AZ

e-mail: colin.dolding@agsgroups.org

What's On

8th International Rock Garden Conference **Alpines without Frontiers**

This international event takes place once every ten years and in 2011 will be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham University. This is a joint Conference involving the Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club. Booking is through the Alpine Garden Society. You can complete the attached form or alternatively book on-line: www.alpinegardensociety.net



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 14 April 2011

- 15.00 - 16.00** Registration
16.00 - 16.30 **TEA**
16.30 - 17.30 Welcome & Opening Lecture - Brian Matthew: provisional title 'Ever-changing Frontiers: of all sorts!'
19.30 onwards **DINNER**
David Haselgrove 'Southern Hemisphere Treats'

Friday 15 April 2011

- 09.00 - 10.00** Harry Jans 'Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World'
10.00 - 11.00 John Richards 'Asiatic Primulas Old and New'
11.00 - 11.30 **COFFEE**
11.30 - 12.30 Martin Walsh 'The High and Low in the Himalaya'
12.50 - 14.15 **LUNCH**
13.30 - 15.00 **WORKSHOPS**
15.00 - 16.00 Robert Rolfe 'Location, Location, Location: Alpines Near and Far, Narrowly Endemic and Nationalistic'
16.00 - 16.30 **TEA**
16.30 - 17.30 Jim Archibald 'Beyond the Last Frontiers'
19.30 onwards **DINNER**
Plant Auction

Saturday 16 April 2011

- 09.00 - 10.00** Keith Wiley 'An Holistic Approach to Alpines in the Garden'
10.00 - 11.00 Todd Boland 'Alpine Plants of Newfoundland through to the Appalachians'
11.00 - 11.30 **COFFEE**
11.30 - 12.30 Bob Wallis 'Fritillaries on four Continents'
12.50 - 14.15 **LUNCH**
13.30 - 15.00 Free Time (to allow opportunity to see Show)
15.00 - 16.00 John Good 'Alpines in a changing world'
16.00 - 16.30 **TEA**
16.30 - 17.30 John Watson 'Three decades in the Andes'
19.30 onwards **DINNER**
Roy Lancaster 'My world of Plants'

What's On

Sunday 17 April 2011

09.00 - 10.00	Ian Young 'Highland Gathering'
10.00 - 11.00	Michael Kammerlander 'Juno Iris – the Persica Group and some others'
11.00 - 11.30	COFFEE
11.30 - 12.30	John Grimshaw 'Giants and Dwarfs: the Alpines of Africa'
12.50 - 14.15	LUNCH
13.30 - 15.00	WORKSHOPS
15.00 - 16.00	Vojtech Holubec 'Central Asia: Plants under burning sun and cooling snow'
16.00 - 16.30	TEA
16.30 - 17.30	Christopher Grey-Wilson 'A Lifetime of Alpines'
	CLOSE

Workshop Sessions – Provisional

(titles subject to alteration, plus additional topics may be added)

Practical demonstrations and workshops will be a feature in addition to the formal Programme of talks and lectures. The provisional list of demonstrations and workshops is:

Practical Aspects of Alpine Gardening

Maintaining Bulb Collections - Rannveig Wallis

Snowdrops

Meconopsis & Woodland Plants - Ian Christie

Digital Photography - Doug Joyce & Jon Evans

Alpines on the Web - Jim McGregor

Crevice Gardening - Alan Furness

Online Flower Show

The Online Flower Show for 2010 is currently accepting entries. You can submit pictures of your plants at Shows or in your garden. Plants exhibited must have been cultivated by the exhibitor and photographed during the last growing season. Details of how to participate in this event are posted on our website.



For more information please visit our website:
www.alpinegardensociety.net



Eighth International Rock Garden Conference

English Gardens – Pre Conference Tours

Two Pre Conference tours are being offered, both will be led Chris Bailes, Curator of the RHS Garden Rosemoor.

Tour 1- Gardens in the South West from **Monday April 4th –Sunday April 10th** will start from Bristol and visit many of the great gardens in the South West and finish at the RHS Garden at Wisley to look behind the scenes and enjoy the 50th Anniversary Rock Garden. Travel will be by coach with Bed and Breakfast at comfortable hotels- 1 night each at Barnstaple Hotel, Moorland Hotel, Pier House Hotel, and the Holiday Inn, Guildford and 2 nights at the Falmouth Hotel.

Gardens to be included in the tour will be, **RHS Rosemoor, Marwood Hill Garden, The Garden House, Wildside Garden and Nursery, Tregrehan, Trewithen, Trellissick(NT), Glendurgan(NT), and RHS Wisley.**

Cost £600. Single Supplement £25 per night

Tour 2- Gardens of the South East and East Anglia from **Sunday April 10th – Thursday April 14th** will leave from Wisley on April 10th and visit mostly private gardens in the South East and East Anglia before heading north to visit the AGS Centre Garden at Pershore and another private garden and nursery before driving on to the Conference in Nottingham on April 14th. Travel will again be by coach with Bed and Breakfast at comfortable hotels to include 2 nights at Holiday Inn, Guildford, 1 night Holiday Inn, Colchester, 1 night en route to AGS Pershore., tbc.



Sue & Robin White's garden

Gardens to be included in the tour will be **RHS Wisley, Robin & Sue White's Daphnetum & garden, Peter Erskine's Vale Cottage garden, Davis Hazelgrove's Pelham House garden, Rod and Jane Leeds' Chestnuts garden, Beth Chatto's garden and nursery, Kit Grey Wilson's Red Lion House garden, AGS Pershore and John Massey's garden and Nursery at Ashwoods.**

Cost £440. Single Supplement £25 per night

For persons wishing to book both tours the cost will be - £1000

Please contact AGS Centre, +44 (0)1386 554 790 or www.alpinegardensociety.net for more detailed information.

Scottish Gardens - Post Conference Tours

Tour 1 - The Western tour is from **Monday April 18th** – **Saturday April 23rd** and will leave the Nottingham Conference Centre and head north to Edinburgh for four days visiting fantastic west coast gardens, before returning to the **Royal Botanic Garden**, Edinburgh. Travel will be by coach with Bed and Breakfast at comfortable hotels, 2 nights Edinburgh and 3 nights at Inverary.

Gardens to be included in the itinerary include, **Glenarn, Crarae, Torosay Castle on the Isle of Mull, Arduaine, An Cala, Benmore and Eckford**. It is also hoped to visit one or two alpine nurseries in the Borders en route from Nottingham to Edinburgh

Cost £620.

Single Supplement £25 per night.

Tour 2 -The Eastern tour is from **Saturday April 23rd** – **Thursday April 28th** will leave **Royal Botanic Garden**, Edinburgh to visit many gardens, large and small on the eastern side of Scotland before returning to Nottingham. Travel will be by coach with 4 nights Bed and Breakfast at a comfortable hotel in Perth, and one night in Edinburgh.

Gardens it is hoped will be included in the itinerary are, **Cluny, the Explorers Garden, Glendoick, Margaret and Henry Taylor's garden, Cambo, Evelyn Stevens' garden, Sandy and Anne Leven's garden, Cyril Lafong's garden, Branklyn and Kevock Garden and Nursery**. It is also hoped to drop in at the smallest whisky distillery in Scotland, **Edradour** to sample a wee dram.

Cost £615.

Single Supplement £25 per night.

For people taking both tours, the cost will be £1190.

For both tours it is important that participants are comfortable walking reasonable distances each day with some uphill sites included.

Please contact **AGS Centre**, +44 (0)1386 554 790 or www.alpinegardensociety.net for more detailed information.



Sue & Robin White's garden



Glenarn garden



The Explorers Garden

Post Conference Tour to Parnassos and the northern Greek Peloponnese

29th April-May 9th 2011

We are delighted to offer this eleven-day tour to Parnassos and the northern Greek Peloponnese, to be led by John Richards, former President of the Alpine Garden Society and author of *Mountain Flower Walks – The Greek Mainland*, published by the AGS.

The tour starts on April 29th 2011 at the magical town of Delphi, 'navel of the world', on the lower slopes of Parnassos. Beautiful plants occur on walls throughout the town, and we shall visit *Daphne jasminea* in its most accessible site. Driving up the mountain on good roads we shall see *Tulipa australis*, *Bellevia ciliata*, *Iris attica*, three crocuses, three *corydalis*, two fritillaries and quantities of other bulbs. Delphi is a good orchid site and we will visit the ruins.

Driving to the Peloponnese, we aim to stay in the small town of Kalyvritia, and then move on to a superb hotel at Zarouchia, close to the source of the Styx. In this region, *Cyclamen peloponnesianum* and *Asperula arcadiensis* are widespread, and many rare alpine plants are washed down the Styx onto river gravels. Bulbs and alpine plants high on Chelmos are rich, and we will see *Crocus sieberi* 'tricolor', *C. olivieri*, *Colchicum triphyllum*, *Gymnospermum albertii* and much else. One excursion will take us to see the almost mythical *Adonis cyllenea* and we will visit the lake and ancient monastery of Pheneos. On the way to our last stop in the beautiful Venetian port of Nafplio we shall take in the little-known and superb ancient site of Nemea, full of orchids, and visit a site for the little-known *Biarum sprunerii*.

Cost of Tour – expected to be in the region of £1100. Single Supplement £150

Please contact AGS Centre, +44 (0)1386 554 790 or www.alpinegardensociety.net for more detailed information.



Priority will be given to those Conference Delegates who have booked Conference places by 31.08.10. After that date these Tours will be open to all members.

Order from book List



Swiss Plant Life by Ewald Weber

This richly illustrated and readily comprehensible book gives an overview on the diversity of Switzerland's plant life in words and pictures. [No. 730 on list]



Bloom's Best Perennials and Grasses

by Adrian Bloom

There are thousands of perennials and grasses available to gardeners — how can they know whether or not they're making the right choice? In Bloom's Best Perennials and Grasses, Adrian Bloom distills his years of experience as a nurseryman and gardener into 250 reliable choices that are beautiful, easy to maintain, and provide year-round interest. [No. 748 on the list]



New Trees by John Grimshaw & Ross Bayton

This book documents the discovery of over 800 new introductions, supported by beautiful original photographs and line drawings. [No. 732 on list]



Flowers of Greece (set of 2 with DVD)

Volume 1 contains 2000 species, with 1700 colour photos

Volume 2 contains 2200 species with 1800 colour photos

The DVD ROM includes more than 13000 photos. [No. 733 on list]



The New Low-Maintenance Garden by Valerie Easton

This book doesn't just tell you how to garden in a whole new way – it shows you, through profiles and beautiful photographs low maintenance techniques. [No. 734 on list]



The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers

by George E Brown

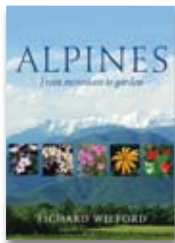
This paperback reprint of a classic work will continue to be trusted and respected as the essential pruning reference for years to come. [No. 735 on list]



Best Hardy Shrubs (The Gossler Guide to the)

by Roger, Eric & Marjory Gossler

This guide to more than 400 of the most beautiful, versatile and grow able shrubs includes tried and tested favourites. [No. 736 on list]



Alpines, from Mountain to Garden

by Richard Wilford

There are many different ways to grow an alpine plant and much will depend on the habitat and climate of a particular species' natural home. *Alpines, from Mountain to Garden* takes a refreshing new perspective on these irresistible mountain dwellers by looking at their discovery and introduction into cultivation, the regions of the world they come from and how this needs to be taken into account when you plant them in your garden.

Nine chapters cover the most important alpine regions – including United States and Canada, South America, Japan, China and the Himalayas, Australia and New Zealand, Europe and Africa. Each chapter considers what plants grow in each region, from high altitudes in lowland conditions, to drainage, climate, light levels, temperature and precipitation.

Over 300 plants are described and beautifully illustrated. Additional chapters cover growing, conservation and the impact of indiscriminate collecting on many species now on the verge of extinction.

Hardcover 280mm x 238mm - 320 pages with over 300 colour photographs, 31 colour botanical paintings and 8 maps .

RRP £29.00 plus post and packaging.

**We are able to offer it to: Members at a pre-publication price of UK £26.00
EU - £31.00 RoW (surface) £33.00 (post and packing free)**

Richard Wilford works in the Hardy Display section at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as collections manager, responsible for alpines, bulbs and hardy herbaceous perennials, including the plants grown and displayed in the new Davies Alpine House. He sits on the editorial panel of Curtis's Botanical Magazine, the world's oldest plant

journal, and has written regularly for Kew magazine since spring 2000, when his first article looked at the propagation of alpine cushion plants. A keen photographer, he has built up a slide collection of plants and gardens, which are often used to illustrate his articles.

ORDER FORM FOR NEW BOOK OFFER

Please supply the following :

...copy/copies of .. **Alpines, from Mountain to Garden UK @ £26.00**

...copy/copies of .. **Alpines, from Mountain to Garden EU £31.00 RoW (surface) £33.00**

Please find enclosed my cheque for £ made payable to AGS Publications Ltd for the above Special Offer. Payment can also be made by credit card. The address to which your credit card statement is despatched must be stated in the right hand panel below.

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Swiath:

Card Number _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ Security Code _ _ _

Expiry Date _ _ / _ _ Issue No _ (Switch Cards only) Membership No: _ _ _ _ _

Please complete both address panels and return this form to:

AGS Publications Ltd, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP

Delivery Address:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Credit Card address (If different):

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

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'Please note that no orders will be accepted at the pre-publication price after 31 August 2010.

	NEW BOOKS	Members Price
740	Gymnocalycium in habitat & Culture by Graham Charles	£48.00
748	Bloom's Best Perennials and Grasses by Adrian Bloom	£18.00
741	Gardening with Shape, Line and Texture by Linden Hawthorne	£31.50
732	New Trees (Recent Introductions to Cultivation) by John Grimshaw & Ross Bayton postage for this book is £8 UK or £14 Overseas	£89.00
743	Meadows by Design by John Greenlee	£22.50
745	Geum by Sue Martin	£6.75
744	Blue Heaven by Bill Terry	£19.00
742	Wild Flowers of South Africa (Field guide to) by John Manning	£18.00
033	Portrait of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe	£22.50
034	Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by C Grey-Wilson	£23.40
735	Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers(The) by George Brown revised and expanded by Tony Kirkham	£13.50
734	(The) New Low-Maintenance Garden by V Easton	£18.00
713	50 High Impact Low Care Garden Plants by Tracy DiSabato-Aust	£22.50
747	Big Gardens in Small Spaces by Martyn Cox	£17.10
749	Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin	£18.00
750	Fearless Colour Gardens by Keeyla Meadows	£17.10
751	Collecting Trees by Simon Toomer	£18.00
752	Wild Garden (Expanded Edition) by William Robinson and Rick Darke	£18.00
753	New Encyclopedia of Hostas by Diana Grenfell and Michael Shadrack	£31.50
754	Uncommon Climbers for Every Garden by Allan M. Armitage	£22.50
755	Japanese Maples (Fourth Edition) by J.D. Vertrees and Peter Gregory	£31.50
756	Flower Colour Companion by Tom Fischer and Clive Nichols	£8.99
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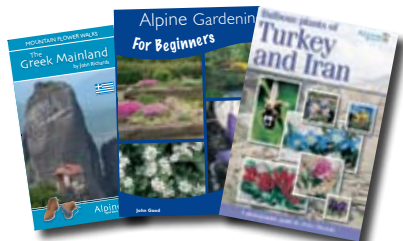
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SOUTH AFRICA- THE EASTERN CAPE

14 DAYS IN JANUARY 2011

Leaders: Cameron & Rhoda McMaster

Cost: expected to be in the region of £2,100 (excluding international flights)

We are delighted to offer a repeat of the very successful tour that we ran in 2009.

South Africa is justifiably famous for the spring flowers of the Cape and Namaqualand. But it has many other botanically interesting areas waiting to be explored and this tour gives the opportunity to see the flora of the summer rainfall regions in the East of the country.

Cameron and Rhoda McMaster have led a number of botanical tours to the Eastern Cape. Cameron also wrote the article on this region that appeared in the September 2006 South African Special Edition of the Alpine Gardener.

This tour will coincide with the peak flowering time in mid-January. The exact dates have yet to be fixed, but the tour is likely to commence in Port Elizabeth on or about 10th January.

The maximum size of the group will be 10 people. This will allow the party to visit many special destinations well off the usual tourist routes, staying mostly on farms and in small villages so as to be right in the countryside. Each day hikes or 4X4 excursions to areas that would not normally be accessible to ordinary tourists form part of the itinerary. Visits to San Rock Shelters and rock art sites as well as game viewing in private reserves form important additions to the botanical experience.

There are a number of major vegetation types in the East Cape from Valley Thicket and Karroo/Namib vegetation to Alpine grassland and Sub-Tropical coastal flora. The tours comprise a round trip of 14 days, starting and ending Port Elizabeth. During this time all the vegetation types are sampled and clients are shown all the specialties in the Eastern Cape, including many rare endemics. Succulents, Geophytes including the Clivias and Cycads are some of the more interesting flora to be seen and guided hikes through Alpine flora, Afromontane forest and Subtropical coastal bush are highlights.

The East Cape not only has spectacular flowers but a wide variety of habitats and magnificent scenery.

At this stage, please send expressions of interest to Jill Larnar at the AGS Centre.



For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.

Tel: 01386 554790 or email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net



Autumn in Yunnan

16th – 30th September 2010

Cost **£3195 (Ground Only Cost £2565)**

Leaders: Chris Gardner and Başak Gardner

Yunnan has many stunning autumn flowers, in particular its unparalleled Gentians. Amid the fast-colouring autumnal hues of the Zhongdian Plateau are marvellous displays of *Gentiana sino-ornata* and stripe-tubed *veitchiorum* smothering acres of marshes and dry slopes respectively. By the alpine Tianchi Lake grows *Gentiana arethusae* and on the high turf of the Baima Shan are great spreads of pale blue *Gentiana hexaphylla* and perhaps the dazzling deep blue *Gentiana emergens*. However, not all is blue as we will seek out the remarkable climbing gentian-relative *Crawfurdia campanulacea* with pink and white striped bells in the seldom visited Zibenshan and further towards the Burmese border is another species *Crawfurdia angustata* which grows alongside elegant *Aconitum nagarum*. Indeed Monkshoods are a prominent genus at this season with species such as stout *Aconitum forrestii*, the dwarf alpine *pulchellum*, climbing *delavayi* and near black *brevicalcaratum*. The autumn picture is completed with *Cyananthus*, *Delphinium* and members of the bizarre genus *Saussurea* such as *leucoma*, *medusa* and *heiracioides* on the high wild scree of the Baima Shan.



Bulbs of Jordan

8th – 17th January 2011

Cost **£1980 (Ground Only Cost £1580)**

Leaders: Chris Gardner and Başak Gardner

Forming the eastern margin of the deep rift that descends to over a thousand feet below sea level on the shores of the Dead Sea are the mountains of Western Jordan, an area with a rich and distinctive flora set amid stunning landscapes. Surrounding the hilltop villages are terraces which in the cool of the desert winter host abundant bulbous species, most notably Crocuses. We'll see elegant *Crocus aleppicus*, lots of *Crocus hyemalis* and *Crocus cancellatus*, newly described *Crocus naqabensis* and the lovely *Crocus moabiticus*. Colchicums are varied too and include *Colchicum ritchii*, *Colchicum heirosolymitana* and *Colchicum brachyphyllum*. We'll visit a number of Jordan's archaeological sites, most of them excellent areas for flowers, and in particular magnificent Petra, one of the world's most superlative historical sites. The beautiful sandstone mountains surrounding Petra are peppered with Biarums and the simply stunning purple-etched white blooms of the rare juno *Iris edomensis*. Delicate *Bellevalia desertorum* blooms with *Androcymbium palaestinum* and we'll look for *Iris postii* and near Salt, the rare and beautiful *Iris vartanii*.



If you are interested in joining any of the joint tours and would like further information and a detailed itinerary please contact Greentours –
T: **01298 83563** or E: enquiries@greentours.co.uk

Conference 2011 The 8th International Rock Garden Conference *Alpines without Frontiers*

BOOKING FORM

Will take place in Nottingham at the East Midlands Conference Centre from **Thursday, 14 April to Sunday, 17 April 2011**. The Conference Centre has excellent facilities with regard to both space, as well as audio and projection equipment.

You may book by completing this form or alternatively book on-line through the AGS website (www.alpinegardensociety.net)

Residential Rates:

**'Early Bird' Discounted Residential Rate £499 per person
MUST book by 31 August 2010 - A saving of £100!**

Non discounted Residential rate £599 per person

(The above prices are inclusive of 3 nights accommodation. The costs include morning and afternoon refreshments, plus breakfast on Friday, Saturday & Sunday mornings, lunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, together with evening meal on Thursday and Friday. A formal Conference Dinner will be held on Saturday evening, after which Roy Lancaster will take to the stage. (All included in Residential Rate.)

Day Delegate Rates:

Early Bird Day Delegate Rate £125 per person

Non Discounted Day Delegate Rate £150 per person

(Day Delegate rates include lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments but not dinner.)

To qualify for the Early Bird Booking Rate – full payment must be made by: 31 August 2010. This applies to both Residential and Day Delegate Rates.

We wish to encourage horticultural students to attend. Grants covering the cost of attendance are available.

Please apply to AGS Centre for details. If you are interested in booking an additional nights' accommodation, or if you would like information about alternative hotel accommodation in the area, please contact AGS Centre for details.

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