

Alpine news

Issue 33 • April 2011

BIG ideas for small plants!

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

As this issue reaches you the **8th International Rock Garden Conference** will be underway and enclosed is your special bumper conference edition of 'The Alpine Gardener'. We hope you will enjoy the range of informative articles and that it will give you a flavour of the talks featured at the Conference.

You will also see overleaf that there is a 'Message to Members' urging everyone to try and recruit a friend to the Society. With this in mind there is a tear-off Membership Form at the back of the Newsletter for you to pass on to a friend or alternatively they can join through the website. **Christine McGregor – Society Director**



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AGS CENTRE OFFICE CLOSURE - EASTER 2011

The Office at the AGS Centre, Pershore will be closed from 5.00 pm on Thursday, 21 April and will reopen at 9.00 am on Tuesday 3 May 2011

Regular Features.....

Local Group News
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Alpine
garden society

A MESSAGE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

As a member of the Alpine Garden Society, you are our greatest asset. Without the enthusiasm, hard work and commitment of our members, we would not be able to offer the wide range of benefits that you, and thousands of others, enjoy.



As well as receiving *The Alpine Gardener* four times a year, you have free entry to 21 AGS shows and plant sales across the country, access to more than 50 local groups with extensive programmes of talks and social events, a seed distribution scheme which is one of the best in the world, discount prices on a wide range of specialist gardening books, a website that is a rich source of information about growing alpine plants, free access to the AGS library and garden at Pershore, and a choice of guided tours to some of the world's most beautiful and fascinating alpine habitats.

Also, with the help of our members, we are constructing an alpine garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. And, with the Scottish Rock Garden Club, we have organised this year's International Rock Garden Conference, featuring an array of world-class speakers.

All of these activities and benefits, which would not be possible without the dedication of our members, bring enormous enjoyment and enhance this wonderful hobby that we all share.

Of course, such a wide range of activities comes at considerable cost.

Our treasurer Colin Smith reported at last November's AGM that the Society is currently running a deficit. Yet he pointed out that if we all enrolled just one new member, we would not only protect the Society's long-term future but pass on the enjoyment of our hobby to a much wider group of gardeners.

Over the past months, the AGS has set up a task force to recruit new members. Task force volunteers will be working hard at all the AGS shows this year, as well as many other events where we expect to attract new members.

To add to their efforts, it would be fantastic if every member took up Colin Smith's challenge this year – to recruit just one new member for the Society. If this happened, we would no longer be running a deficit and the extra money generated could lead to an even greater package of benefits and activities for all members.

Many of our members already give much time and effort promoting the Society, and we should all appreciate what they do. But if each one of us takes up the recruitment challenge, we can help to ensure that the AGS remains the world's leading organisation for alpine gardeners for many years to come.

The AGS belongs to you. Please tell your friends, neighbours and family about your Society and encourage them to join on the AGS website (www.alpinegardensociety.net) by using the 'Membership' link.

Thank you for your support.

Noticeboard

AGS Annual & Literary Awards: Nominations are invited for the following AGS AWARDS

- **Lyttel Trophy** for meritorious work with alpinists
- **The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award** for an outstanding contribution to work with alpinists from those new to horticulture in the last five years
- **The Award of Honour** for sterling work on behalf of the AGS, not necessarily during the previous year, but over a period of time
- **The Ferrier Charlton Award** for outstanding work for the Society in an administrative capacity
- **The Kath Dryden Award** to recognise meritorious work on basic cultivation/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. (Nominations for this award must come from the Local Group concerned)
- **Website Award** to recognise the best contribution to the Society's website during 2010

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 78 2010 contributors for the following awards:

1. **The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award** for the best article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2010 (Vol 78).
2. **The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award** for the best practical alpine gardening article published in The Alpine Gardener in 2010 (Vol 78).
3. **NEW The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award** to recognise photographic excellence in The Alpine Gardener 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 31 July 2011]

MALVERN SPRING GARDENING SHOW

12 – 15 May 2011

AGS Members will once again be eligible for concessionary ticket prices for the Malvern Show on all four days of the Show. [This year the AGS will be staging an Artistic Section on all four days of the main Malvern Show, accompanied by practical demonstrations. The AGS National Plant Show be on Saturday 14 May, only]. Please contact AGS Centre for details of price and allocation entitlement. The deadline for ticket requests will be 28 April 2011.

Noticeboard

AWARDS & GRANTS

AGS Travel Awards for 2011

Successful applicants for the AGS Travel Awards in 2011 are:

- **Kit Strange** was granted an AGS Award to Study rare and endemic geophytes in habitat in Armenia, especially *Oncocyclus/Scorpiris* sections of Iris and endemic tulips.
- **Guy Moore** has been granted an award by the AGS to again Study rare and endemic geophytes in habitat in Armenia, especially *Oncocyclus/Scorpiris* sections of Iris and endemic tulips.
- **Simon Mitchell** was granted an Award by the AGS to help finance an expedition to Yunnan province in SW. China based at the RBGE field station on the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and the Lijiang Alpine Botanic Garden
- **Sarah Carlton** was also granted an AGS Award to help financially with an expedition to Yunnan province in SW. China based at the RBGE field station on the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and the Lijiang Alpine Botanic Garden.

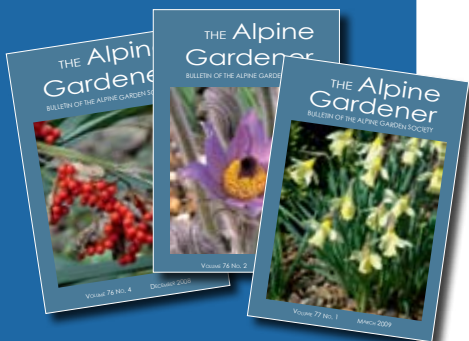
Prize for Best Report/Essay submitted in a calendar year by a recipient of a Travel Award was given to Tim Lever for his Report entitled 'Travels in Bhutan: Central Bhutan Revisited'.

SPECIAL OFFER of ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY BULLETINS

10 Bulletins (pre 2007 issues) for £16.00 (post free)
One Special Offer per member.

We have a large number of back issues available. The choice of issues we send you is ours, but if you have any copies already please state which they are.

Please send your written request to: AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, WR10 3JP. Cheques to be made payable to "Alpine Garden Society" or a card number with expiry date MM/YY and 3 digit security code. If Switch Card please add the issue number or start date.



What's On

COTSWOLD & MALVERN GROUP SHOW

Monday 25 April 2011 - NEW VENUE

The Cotswold & Malvern Annual Group Show will take place at Maisemore Village Hall (2 miles North of Gloucester on the A417) on Easter Monday from 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm. Admission free to AGS Members, Non-Members £1.50. Plant sales, raffle and refreshments. For further details contact Ron Beeston Tel: 01905 453245

ESSEX GROUP SHOW

Saturday 30 April 2011

Held in the New Village Hall, Church Road, Rawreth, Nr. Wickford.
Open to the Public from 12 noon to 4 pm. Free entry
Refreshments, plant sales, tombola, ample parking.

Show Secretary: Mrs. Diana Nice, 162, Parklands, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1SY. Tel: 01702 540443

WEST SUSSEX LOCAL GROUP CONFERENCE

Saturday 3 September 2011 at 9.45 am to 4.30 pm

ALPINES AND BULBS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

To be held at North Mundham Village Hall, Chichester

PROGRAMME

Registration and Coffee

Bulbs of Turkey – Rannveig Wallis

Turkish Alpines – Robert Rolfe

Jordan – Peter Sheasby

Lunch and plant sales

Flowers of the Levant and Iran – Robert Wallis

The Caucasus – Vojtech Holubec

Questions, tea and plant sales

Admission cost £15.00 which includes morning/afternoon tea/coffee. Lunch, to be pre-booked is available at £5.00.

There will be a raffle, trade plant sales and those attending are also invited to bring plants (not necessarily alpines) to sell.

For further details and a Booking Form please contact Diann Berry on 01243 786254 or email Peter Liverman at peter@pgliverman.co.uk

FRITILLARIA GROUP OF THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

NEW DATE AND VENUE

Date and Venue of the Autumn Meeting and AGM

– Sunday 23 October 2011 at Burleigh Community College, Loughborough.

Speakers to be confirmed.

Further information will be available in the Autumn issue of the Fritillaria Bulletin. Please see the Website – www.fritillaria.org.uk for further information

What's On

FORTHCOMING AGS SHOWS - 2011

AGS Cleveland Show, 23 April – Ian Ramsey Church of England School, North Site, Green's Lane/Fairfield Road, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 5 AJ. Show Secretary Norma Pagdin – 01429 268416.

AGS East Cheshire Show, 30 April 2011 – Wilmslow High School, Holly Road, Wilmslow, SK9 1LZ. Show Secretary Jim Magnall – 01625 423894 – NEW VENUE

AGS Cleveland Show, 23 April – Ian Ramsey Church of England School, North Site, Green's Lane/Fairfield Road, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 5 AJ. Show Secretary Norma Pagdin – 01429 268416.

AGS East Cheshire Show, 30 April 2011 – Wilmslow High School, Holly Road, Wilmslow, SK9 1LZ. Show Secretary Jim Magnall – 01625 423894 – NEW VENUE

AGS Ulster Show, 7 May 2011 – Greenmount Agricultural and Horticultural College, Muckamore, Co. Antrim, BT41 4PU. Show Secretary Pat Crossley - 028 2074 1288

AGS East Anglia Show, 7 May 2011 - Wymondham High School, Folly Road, Wymondham, South Norfolk NR18 0QT. Show Secretary John Foster - 01502 575298

AGS Malvern Show, 14 May 2011 - Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire. Show Secretaries Susan & Richard Clements - 01386 750839 [Artistic Section for the full four days of the main Malvern Show – Plant Show on Saturday only]

AGS Southport Show, 21 May 2011 – Stanley High School, Fleetwood Road, Southport PR9 9TF. Show Secretary Roger Beecham - 01704 211749

AGS Summer Show-South, 28 May 2011 – Queen Elizabeth School, Pamphill, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 4DT. Show Secretary Bill Squire – 01202 387107

Local Group News

Change of Local Group Secretaries

Derbyshire

Doreen Webster to David Charlton

Leicestershire

Doreen Webster to Eric Webster

East Lancs

Shelagh Smethurst to Cliff Booker

Northampton

Sandra Adkins to Richard Jeffery

Shropshire

Robert Llewelyn to Mr W L Jones

Amendments

BIRMINGHAM – Hon. Sec: Mrs Sonia Morris. The Group have a new Venue – The Unitarian New Meeting Church, 31 Ryland Street, Five Ways, Birmingham, B16 8BL.

ESSEX - Hon. Sec. Paul Nice, 162, Parklands, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1SY. Tel: 01702 540443. Meetings, New Village Hall, Church Road, Rawreth, Nr. Wickford, 7.30 pm on the last Thursday of the month, excl. December. Subscriptions £3.00; Partners £3.50; Guests £2.00.

SALE OF SEED ENVELOPES

The AGS is selling seed envelopes as part of the Seed Distribution System.

The envelopes are of the glassine type (as used in the AGS distribution) and are available in two sizes at the following prices.

50 packets 73 x 41mm (2.8 x 1.6in) for £2.00 (self-seal)

50 packets 98 x 64mm (3.8 x 2.5in) for £2.50 (gummed)

They can be purchased from the AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore Worcs, WR10 3JP

Postage is FREE to UK members.

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre regarding postage costs, which will depend on the quantity ordered.



Items for the Newsletter and Copy Dates

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

Deadline for the June 2011 issue is 29 April 2011

Online Flower Show

- Start taking your pictures now!

The Show is open for entries and you can post these anytime up until **24 December 2011**.

**MEMBERS
CHOICE
IN THIS
CLASS**

2010 1ST PRIZE - South facing raised bed

Enjoying full sun until well after noon and getting the shade of the house later on, this bed allows for a diverse planting scheme with : *Delosperma congesta* in the front - further *Dianthus "La Bourboule"*, *Polygala calcarea* lillet, *Oxalis adenophylla* and *O. Ute*, *Iberis candoleana*, *Campanula aucheri* and *C. chamissonis* major. The lawn and the border with *Pieris*, *Azalea's* and *Rhododendrons* provide the background.



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

Order from book List



Dear Christo by Memories of Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter

In Dear Christo, leading garden writers, visitors, photographers and friends share what Dixter means to them using words and images. This collection encapsulates what makes time in all gardens so irreplaceable [No 779 on list].



The Book of Little Hostas

by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack

The Book of Little Hostas features a handpicked selection of diminutive hostas to help steer collectors toward the right plant for their needs [No 778 on list].



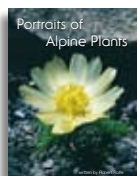
Galanthomania by Hanneke van Dijk

This book is a must for snowdrop lovers. It provides an alphabetic overview including photographs of 500 varieties and a useful key for identification. [No. 795 on list]



Phlox – A Natural History and Gardener's Guide by James H. Locklear

This comprehensive and authoritative work will be of interest to both phlox enthusiasts and alpine gardeners. [No. 799 on list]



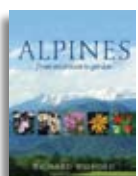
Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe

This publication aims to illustrate this rich diversity, and contains plants from mountain ranges around the world. [No.33 on list]



Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by C Grey-Wilson

A comprehensive guide to the bulbous plants of Greece, including all the islands. Simple descriptions and identifications keys to aid the reader. Profusely illustrated with numerous colour photographs. [No. 34 on list]



Alpines, from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford

This new book 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 [No 772 on list]



Flowers of Western China

by Christopher Grey-Wilson & Phillip Cribb

This book is the most comprehensive single volume publication on plants of western China and contains a large collection of photographs. It provides a wealth of information for gardeners, horticulturists, commercial nurseries and botanists. The book is written and designed as both field guide and reference work and is essential reading for the traveller.

With its diverse scenery, lush forests, huge rivers and massive mountains, western China has been the centre of plant exploration for two centuries, giving rise to Clematis, Gentiana, Primula, Rhododendron and hundreds of orchids, Meconopsis, camellias, peonies and roses. Our gardens, parks and botanic institutes are full of trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs of Chinese origin.

For the traveller, horticulturist and gardener it is the perfect reference, containing the largest collection of photographs of Chinese plants ever published. With the arrangement of the plant families following the latest DNA-based classification, it will meet the discerning needs of plant scientists.

Hardback 240 x 193 mm 504 pages with over 2000 colour photos, 10 maps.

RRP £70.00 plus post and packaging

We are able to offer it to Members at a pre-publication price of **UK £59.00**

Overseas £65.00 (these prices include post & packaging)

ORDER FORM FOR PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

Please supply the following :

...copy/copies of .. **Guide to the Flowers of Western China UK @ £59.00**

...copy/copies of .. **Guide to the Flowers of Western China EU RoW (surface) £65.00**
(for Airmail to RoW £75)

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/Smith:

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'Please note that no orders will be accepted at the pre-publication price after 1 June 2011

	NEW BOOKS	Members Price
795	Galanthomania by Hanneke van Dijk	£23.00
798	Crocuses - A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£25.00
797	Designing with Grasses by Neil Lucas	£16.00
799	Phlox - A Natural History and Gardener's Guide by James H. Locklear	£28.00
	SALE BOOKS & SPECIAL OFFERS	
552a	Supplement of Seed Germination by Norman C. Deno	£7.00
552	Seed Germination Theory & Practice Second Ed.	£25.00
018	Corydalis - A Gardener's Guide by M Liden & H Zetterlund	£5.00
549	Hardy Perennials - The Cultivation of by Richard Bird	£11.00
013	Primulas of Europe & America by G.F.Smith, B.Burrow & D.B.Lowe	£5.00
020	The Woodland Garden - A Guide to Shade loving Plants by Jack Elliott	£6.00
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardeners) by Richard Wilford	£15.00
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£7.00
585	Kalmia Mountain Laurel	£15.00
692	African Violets by Reinhild Raistrick	£16.00
653	Calochortus Mariposa Lilies & their relatives by Mary E Gerritsen & Ron Parsons	£12.00
620	Ceanothus by David Fross & Dieter Wilken	£15.00
667	Garden your way to Health & Fitness by Bunny Guinness & Jacqueline Knox	£8.00
	TITLES PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY:	
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£7.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe	£22.00
034	Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by C Grey-Wilson	£23.00
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	£4.00
031	Mountain Flower Walks – The Greek Mainland by John Richards	£15.00
019	Androsace - The Genus by G.F.Smith & D.B. Lowe	£15.00
025	Consolidated Index 1930 – 2005 (inc free CD version)	£5.00
026	Crevice Gardening by Zdenek Zvolanek	£5.50
027	Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£27.00
028	Alpine Plants Ecology for Gardeners by John E G Good & David Millward	£20.00
08	Dionysia – The Genus by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£8.00
011	Saxifrages by Winton Harding – New and re-written edition with colour	£5.00
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland	£10.00
022	The Smaller Daphnes – Summary of Conference Proceedings 'Daphne 2000'	£3.00
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£4.95

Members' prices shown reflect a minimum 20% discount on the Recommended Retail Price of most titles.

	BULBOUS PLANTS:	
234	Arisaema - The Genus - by Guy & Liliane Gusman	£40.00
243	Bulbs in Containers by Rod Leeds	£16.00
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
608	Pocket Guide to Bulbs by John E Bryan	£12.00
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
232	Snowdrops - A Monograph of Cultivated Galanthus by Mat Bishop, Aaron Davis, & John Grimshaw (updated version)	£48.00
	SPECIFIC GENERA:	
777	Practical Bamboos by Paul Whittaker	£12.00
778	The Book of Little Hostas by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack	£16.00
753	New Encyclopedia of Hostas by Diana Grenfell and Michael Shadrack	£28.00
775	Conifers (Timber Press Pocket Guide to) by Richard L. Bitner	£12.00
758	Bamboos (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Ted Jordan Meredith	£12.00
755	Japanese Maples (Fourth Edition) by J.D. Vertrees and Peter Gregory	£28.00
766	Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter and Susie White	£8.00
341B	Cyclamen (Gardeners Guide to) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£24.00
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt, Magnus Liden & Henrik Zetterlund	£20.00
760	New Book of Salvias by Betsy Clebsch	£12.00
761	Palms (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Robert Lee Riffle	£12.00
651	Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden by Andrew Steens	£18.00
289	Camellias (The Gardener's Encyclopaedia) by Jennifer Trehane	£28.00
584	Clematis - An Illustrated Encyclopedia of - by Mary Toomey & Everett Leeds	£36.00
643	Clematis (Pocket Guide to) by Mary Toomey	£12.00
290	Clematis in Small Spaces by Raymond J Evison	£16.00
652	Conifers for Gardens (An illustrated Encyclopedia) by Richard L Bitner	£32.00
727	Cotoneasters by Jeanette Fryer & Bertil Hylmo	£24.00
669	Daylily (A Guide for Gardeners) by John P Peat & Ted L Petit	£18.00
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£20.00
263	Daphnes (A Practical Guide for Gardeners) by Robin White	£20.00
259	Dogwoods (The Genus Cornus) by Paul Cappiello & Don Shadow	£20.00
374	Epimedium - The Genus by William T Stearn	£34.00
670	Ferns (Gardening with) by Martin Rickard	£11.00
339	Growing Fritillaries - The Gardener's Guide - by Kevin Pratt & Michael Jefferson-Brown	£11.00
257	Hardy Bamboos (Taming the Dragon) by) Paul Whittaker	£20.00
601	Hardy Geraniums - Gardening with - by Birgitte Husted Bendtsen	£16.00
699	Hardy Heathers (Gardening with) by Martin Rickard	£24.00
630	Hebes by Lowrie Metcalf	£24.00
271	Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide) by C Colston Burrell & Judith Knott Tyler	£20.00

Members' prices shown reflect a minimum 20% discount on the Recommended Retail Price of most titles.

596	Hellebores - The Gardener's Guide - by Graham Rice & Elizabeth Strangman	£11.00
248	Heucheras & Heucherellas (Coral Bells & Foamy Bells) by Dan Heims & Grahame Ware	£16.00
634	Hollies for Gardeners by Christopher Bailes	£20.00
288	Hostas (Timber Press Pocket Guide to) by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack	£12.00
664	Hydrangea (Encyclopaedia of) by C J & D M van Gelderen	£28.00
604	Iris (A Gardener's Encyclopaedia) by Claire Austin	£28.00
705	The Iris Family by Peter Goldblatt & John C Manning	£32.00
660	Japanese Maples (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Peter Gregory & J C Vertrem	£12.00
380	Lavandula - The Genus - by Tim Upson & Susyn Andrews	£30.00
668	Magnolias (A Gardener's Guide) by Jim Gardiner	£20.00
698	Ophrys - The bee orchids of Europe by Henrik Aerenlund Pedersen & Niels Faurholdt	£27.00
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	£16.00
378	Rhododendrons & Azaleas - Success with - revised edition by H Edward Reiley	£15.00
700	Saxifrages (A Definitive Guide to the 2000 species) by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£30.00
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	£30.00
740	Gymnocalcium in habitat & Culture by Graham Charles	£48.00
745	Geum by Sue Martin	£6.00
744	Blue Heaven-Encounters with the Blue Poppy by Bill Terry	£18.00
	FLORAS & GUIDES TO CONTINENTS & COUNTRIES	
739	Crossbill Guide to Finnish Lapland (including Kuusamo)	£16.00
454	Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges	£28.00
794	Britain's Orchids - Wild Guide by David Lang	£12.00
793	Crossbill Guide to France (Cevennes and Grand Causses)	£16.00
278	Alpine & Sub-Alpine Flora of Mount Jaya (A Guide to the) by RJ Johns, P J Edwards, TMA Uttridge, HCF Hopkins	£75.00
244	Alpine Plants of Europe by Jim Jermyn	£20.00
659	Britain's Rare Flowers by Peter Marren (New paperback edition)	£16.00
285	Crete 'A Unique Paradise of Flowers' by Johannes Flohe	£18.00
683	Crossbill Guide to Hungary (Hortobagy & Tisza river Floodplain) by Dirk Hilbers	£15.00
684	Crossbill Guide to France (The Camargue, La Crau & Alpilles)	£16.00
685	Crossbill Guide to Spain (Andalusian Sierras from Malaga to Gibraltar)	£16.00
686	Crossbill Guide to Spain - Coto Donana	£14.00
687	Crossbill Guide to Spain (Extremadura)	£16.00
688	Crossbill Guide to Poland (Bialowieza Primeval Forest)	£14.00
689	Crossbill Guide to Poland (Biebrza Marshes)	£12.00
425	Easy Ways to the Plants of the Bernese Oberland by Philip & Jean Tallboys	£6.00
680	Endemic Plants of the Altai Mountain Country by A L Pyak & S C Shaw	£25.00
733	Flowers of Greece (set of 2 with DVD) by T Lafranchis & G Sfikas	£95.00
656	Japan (Garden Plants of) by Ran Levy-Yamamori & Gerard Taaffe	£36.00

702	Flowers of the Transcaucasus & Adjacent Areas by E.Gabrielian & O.Fragman-Sapir	£60.00
587	Plants from the Edge of the World by Mark Flanagan & Tony Kirkham	£20.00
737	Picos de Europa (car tours & walks) by Teresa Farino	£11.00
681	Plants of the Falkland Island by Ali Liddle	£8.00
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
453	The Himalayan Garden-Growing Plants from the Roof of the World by J Jermyn	£20.00
657	Wild Flowers of Britain & Ireland by M Blamey, R Fitter & A Fitter	£14.00
262	Wild Orchids of North America by Philip E Keenan (paperback)	£16.00
742	Wild Flowers of South Africa (Field guide to) by John Manning	£16.00
413	Wild Flowers of Spain Volume 1 by Clive Innes	£3.00
413a	Wild Flowers of Spain Volume 2 by Clive Innes	£3.00
413b	Wild Flowers of Spain Volume 3 by Clive Innes	£3.00
	GENERAL TITLES	
780	Teaming with Microbes (Revised Edition) by Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis	£15.00
779	Dear Christo - Memories of Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter	£17.00
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INDIAN HIMALAYAS

**1 PLACE
REMAINING****Saturday 2nd July – Sunday****24th July 2011 (23 days)****LEADERS: MARGARET
& DAVID THORNE****Cost: circa £2,950**

This Tour comprises two treks, both in scenically stunning and botanically rewarding locations in the Indian Himalayas. After 8 days exploring the Rupin and Nalgan Passes above the Baspa Valley, north-east of Shimla, we drive via the Jalori Pass to a comfortable hotel in Manali. From here we visit the Rohtang Pass by Land Cruiser, then trek for 4 days over the Hampta Pass. We follow in the footsteps of Henry and Margaret Taylor who have thoroughly explored all these areas, documented them well in past AGS and SRGC Journals and provided much valuable advice before we reconnoitred the Tour.



We expect to see all the exciting species described in the Taylors' articles which include *Androsace*, *Arenaria*, *Cardiocrinum*, *Corydalis*, *Cremanthodium*, *Iris*, *Lilium*, *Pedicularis*, *Potentilla*, *Primula*, *Rhodiola*, *Rhododendron*, *Saussurea*, *Saxifraga*, *Waldheimia* and a good selection of orchids.

The Tour will be limited to 20 members including leaders and should only be contemplated by the adventurous and fit, as it involves some long walking days to a maximum altitude of 5030m, and camping above 4000m.

The cost of the Tour includes all flights, land transportation by train (including the 'Toy Train' from Kolka to Shimla), coach and 4 wheel drive vehicles, the two treks, accommodation, and food apart from lunches and dinners in Delhi and Manali. A 2-day sightseeing extension, for visits to the Red Fort and Taj Mahal will be arranged at extra cost if there are sufficient members interested in this.

FORTHCOMING AGS TOURS

Turkey – April 2012 (Leaders: Rannveig & Bob Wallis)

Greece (Samos) – *April or October (Leaders: David & Margaret Thorne)

Sweden (Gothenburg only)

Western Australia – August/September (Leader: Mark Hangar)

Crete – *October or April (Leaders: David & Margaret thorne)

[* these tours may be interchanged]

For further information on these tours please contact AGS Centre.

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

SOUTH AFRICA – THE EASTERN CAPE

February 2012

(Leader: CAMERON MCMASTER)

DATES AND COSTS TO BE CONFIRMED

This will be a repeat of the Tour that ran in January of this year. 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 in 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. 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.

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.

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

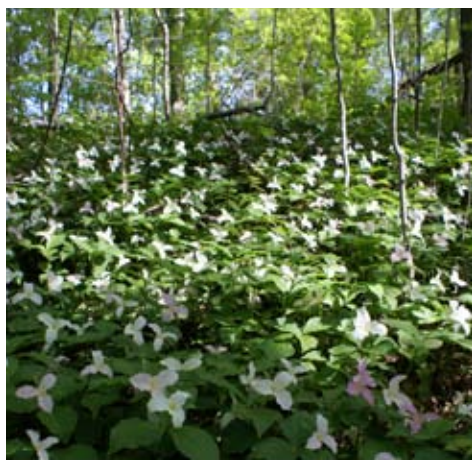
Trilliums of Ontario

9th - 23rd May 2011

Cost= £3195, Toronto to Toronto £2745, Single Supplement = £290

Leaders: Owen Mountford & Terry Underhill

Between winter snows and summer leaf-burst there's a magical time in Ontario's woodlands - the great spring flower show. The Provincial flower, *Trillium grandiflorum*, blooms throughout in magnificent stands of white and green, with dark red *Trillium erectum*, and plentiful yellow *Erythroniums*. The Bruce Peninsula's limestone alvars are home to Goldthread, *Clintonia*, Striped Coralroot and Dwarf Lake Irises, whilst exquisite Calypso Orchids nestle amongst the mosses of Flowerpot Island. Tom Thomson's evocative Algonquian landscapes captured what for many is the perfect tranquillity of the Canadian Backwoods, and in these very woods we'll encounter Pitcher Plants, *Dicentras*, Gaywings, Trailing Arbutus, and fantastic shows of Painted Trilliums. Further south, the waters' tumultuous descent over Niagara Falls is hardly calmed through the deep gorge below. Here forests of the Carolinian realm thrive on the warm slopes and are rich in spring ephemerals such as abundant Trilliums, Twisted-Stalks/*Uvularia*'s and Cucumber-roots, and there's Jack-in-the-Pulpits, all sorts of Violets, Foamflowers and stands of lovely *Aquilegias*. Fauna will include Black Bears and Moose, and everywhere colourful warblers sing amongst some of the finest flowery woodlands in North America.



Oncocyclus Irises of Turkey & Lebanon

3rd - 17th May 2011

Cost from UK = £2695, Cost Beirut to Van = £2485, Single Supplement = £225

Leaders: Ian Green, Kate Clow & Seda Soylu

Irises are amongst the world's most beautiful plants and for many the crème de la crème of this genus are the fabulous *Oncocyclus*. Their improbably large blooms are a feature of some of the Middle-East's finest botanical areas. This tour takes us to strikingly beautiful Lebanon, now again welcoming tourists, where the cedar forests host fantastic purple-lined *Iris cedretii*, stunning pale *Iris lortetii* and impressive *Iris westii*. Elegant *Iris sofarana* is found on the alpine slopes of ten thousand foot Qurnat as-Sawda and Mount Hermon. Between cedars and maquis on the slopes of Ehden are *Komper's* Orchid, whilst on the edge of the Great Rift at Yammouneh are *Allium libani* and *Himantoglossum affine*.

Moving into Turkey we'll find shapely *Iris sprengeri* near Nigde before spending nine days moving steadily eastwards visiting populations of variable *Iris sari*, local *Iris kirkwoodii* and some magnificent stands of one of the finest of them all, silken *Iris gatesii*. We finish around gorgeous Lake Van where magnificent *Iris iberica* is joined by blue *Iris barnumae* and furry-falled *Iris paradoxa*. An abundance of superb bulbs en route!



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

Pyrenees

10th - 23rd June 2011

Cost=£2565, Toulouse to Toulouse £2365, Single Supplement = £225

Leaders: Paul Cardy & Tristan Lafranchis

We start our exploration of the wild and craggy Pyrenees in verdant Tor, close to the Andorran border, and in the magnificent 'enchanted mountains' of Aigues Tortes, one of Spain's most beautiful National Parks. Apollos float over carpets of yellow Vitaliana, Viola cornuta, and elegant Snowbells. The two large trumpet gentians/*Gentiana acaulis* and *Gentiana alpina* offer their magnificent blue trumpets in abundance and we'll see plenty of smaller Gentians too. Four pink Primula species make a fine show along with Polygalas and several fine Sempervivums. Lammergeiers cruise the blue skies while white Pyrenean Saxifrages erupt from cliffs like miniature waterfalls and lovely blue *Ramonda myconi* forms pretty gardens on wet rockfaces. On the French side we'll explore the magical Cirque de Gavarnie and the Neouvielle, a land of alpine grasslands, crystal clear lakes, forests of Beech and Silver Fir and snow-capped mountains. Ptarmigan and Alpine Accentors inhabit passes where *Androsaces* and Saxifrages cling tightly to rocks, the former including *chamaejasme/villosa/pyrenaica* and *carnea/subspecies/laggeri/Nigritella austriaca* is abundant in meadows with Pulsatillas, Aconitums, Globeflowers and white *Ranunculus* species.



Autumn Bulbs of Jordan

24th November 2011 - 3rd December 2011

Cost= £2195, Amman to Amman £1795, Single Supplement = £165

Leaders: Oron Peri & Ian Bennallick

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*, newly described *Crocus naqabensis* and the lovely *Crocus moabiticus*. 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* as well as *Colchicum ritchii* and *Colchicum heirosolymitana*. Delicate *Bellevalia desertorum* blooms with *Androcymbium palaestinum* and we'll look for rare *Iris postii* whilst much commoner are both *Crocus cancellatus* and *Colchicum brachyphyllum*.



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

Cold Frames and Raised Base Offer - Save up to 25%

Access Garden Products are offering AGS members an exclusive offer on their range of cold frames and raised timber bases until 31st May 2001.

Their popular cold frames are ideal for Alpine growers, as they offer large amounts of space along with excellent ventilation. Both the top glass and the side glass slides for **easy access and ventilation**, and in Summer the side glass can easily be removed to allow maximum air flow.

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The Cold Frames are 4' wide and are available in 4 lengths: 4', 6', 8' and 10' long. Units can be bolted together for longer runs. Shelf units can be placed at either end to accommodate seed trays of young plants.

A recent addition to the range has been a **sturdy, pressure treated base** for the Cold Frames, raising the frame up to reduce bending. The bases are constructed from 1 1/4" board which is mitred at the ends for a neat appearance. The base is constructed using **stainless steel screws** for a long life, and are available between 1 tier (5" / 12cm) and 5 tiers (24" / 60cm) high. The base can with be filled with soil for direct planting, or a very sturdy solid staging can be added to allow Alpines to be placed either directly on the boards, or on a couple of inches of grit.



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Prices and Dimensions

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EF3	7' 9" / 2.36m	£294	£229	£138.60	£117.80	£34
TF3	9' 11" / 3.00m	£339	£249	£161.10	£141.55	£44

Width: 3' 11" (1.21m) Height: 2' 8" (0.82m) Base height: 15" (36cm)
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