

Alpine news

BIG ideas for small plants!

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

Gold Medal Success at Chelsea

The Society has staged another gold medal winning exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year. The exhibit was entitled 'Between a Rock and a Damp Place'. It proved extremely popular with visitors, many of whom stated it was their personal favourite. The exhibit demonstrated a meticulous attention to detail. Grateful thanks to Ray Drew who designed and co-ordinated the planting, to John Humphries who co-ordinated the build and all the other volunteers who assisted with



the build, planting or staffing the exhibit during the week. Thanks also to the Breakdown Team who carry out the hard work of dismantling and removing every trace of the exhibit. More pictures of the exhibit can be found on the AGS website.

Congratulations to the whole team on a great result!

No Change in Subscription Rates

The Society is pleased to report that subscription rates will remain at the current levels for 2012.

Mid-West Show, Tewkesbury - Change to published venue

There has been a late change to the venue for this show. It will now be held at Gloucester Launchpad, International Drive, Tewkesbury Business Park, GL20 8UQ (see page 8 and website for further details)

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Alpine
garden society

8th International Rock Garden Conference - a great success



Harry Jans and David Haselgrove



Roy Lancaster, our after dinner speaker about to give his talk

After many years in the planning the 8th International Conference took place in Nottingham in April attracting delegates from around the world. Everyone appeared to have a really good time, enjoying the lectures and demonstrations. It was also an opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones. The students who received a sponsored place were extremely grateful for the opportunity and benefitted greatly from the experience. Our thanks to the speakers and workshop demonstrators, without whom there would have been no conference. It is important to recognise the support of the volunteers from the Nottingham AGS Group who helped to staff the Registration Desk, stage the Show and run the book sales. Thanks also to the Conference Planning Team, the staff from the Centre and everyone who helped to make the event such a great success.



Retirement of Jill Larner

The Society is to say goodbye to Jill Larner who will be retiring from her post this summer after 20 years of service. Jill is well known to many in the Society and often the first point of contact for members and potential members. She has been an extremely conscientious employee, having given many years of loyal service. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Jill for her support and friendship during the time she has worked for me. The Society will be organising a retirement gift for Jill and if you would like to contribute please send your gift to AGS Centre marked 'Personal' for my attention.

Christine McGregor, Society Director

A personal note from Jill -

This will be my last Newsletter, as I am now retiring at the end of July after 20 years of working for the Society. I would just like to say that I have enjoyed my time here immensely, but it seems to have passed in a flash! I have worked with so many members over the years, both in the UK and Overseas, and made some good friends, it has been a pleasure. I would like to say a big thank you to Christine McGregor, Officers, members of Committee, present and past work colleagues for their great friendship, as well as Michael Upward who gave me the chance to work here all those years ago.

Noticeboard

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 12 November 2011

The Annual General Meeting of the AGS will take place on Saturday, 12 November 2011 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** – Five vacancies (members to serve for up to three years).
- **Officers** – The following Officers are eligible for re-appointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS: President (Val Lee), Director of Tours (Martin Lindop), Webmaster (Jim McGregor), Advertisement Manager (Julie Slimm) and Image Library Manager (Peter Sheasby).

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 6 November 2010.
2. To receive the Report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report.
4. To elect a President and Officers to serve for the ensuing year and to ratify the appointment of Ray Drew as Director of Shows and Professor John Galloway as Hon Treasurer.
5. To elect five Members of Committee to serve for three years.
6. To adopt a new Constitution.
7. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
8. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the Society Director – in writing, no later than 1 August 2011.

[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]

Thank You from Primrose Upward

Primrose would like to thank all those who have sent cards and their good wishes for a speedy recovery. She is now back at home following an operation to repair a broken hip.

Noticeboard

New Constitution for the Society

Your Committee will be recommending the adoption of a new Constitution at the Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2011. The aims of the new Constitution are to make the management of the Society more efficient and effective and to bring us in line with modern charity governance. The text will be published in full in the September Newsletter but the principal changes are:

- To amend the Objects of the Society to encompass our current activities.
- To introduce a system for the appointment of a President Elect that will enable a President to have a full understanding of the Society's affairs before the commencement of their term of office.
- To provide flexibility in the appointment of Officers to reflect the changing needs of the Society.
- To reduce the size of Committee to the President, Treasurer, four Officers and eight other elected members. Committee members will serve for four years rather than the present three. The present three year term of office has been found to be too short a period to enable members to become fully cognisant with all aspects of the Society. This will bring us in line with other charities that have also reduced the size of their governing body. Such a change will enable the Society to run its affairs more effectively and speed up the decision making process. It will also help to reduce some of our administrative costs.
- To clarify the rules for membership for Local and Specialist Groups to permit a limited number of non members.
- The role of Custodian Trustees has been clarified with regard to their appointment and the holding of investments on the Society's behalf.

The Society's Committee will henceforth be known as the 'Board of Trustees' to emphasise their role as charity trustees.

Noticeboard

AGS ANNUAL AWARDS & LITERARY AWARDS

AGS AWARDS

Nominations are invited for the following 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]

AGS AWARDS AND GRANTS

Applications for 2012

The Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually and applications for these awards must be received by 31 January 2012 at the latest.

Noticeboard

Travel Awards

Each year the Society gives a limited number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though Awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS Tour if it complements a particular area of interest. Application forms and further details are available from: Jill Lerner, c/o AGS Centre or email: jill@alpinegardensociety.net

Hendry Fund Grants

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available financed by the E F Hendry Fund. Details from Meg Smith (meg.smith@agsgroups.org), The Hendry Bequest Fund, 23 Richmond Road, Leighton Buzzards, LU7 4RF. The closing date for applications in respect of the Hendry Fund Grants is 31 January 2012.

HENDRY FUND

Successful Applicants in 2011 are:

Lionel Clarkson (AGS Blackpool Show) – £150 to support a lecture at the show.

David Stephens – £300 for a scanner to copy a collection of field notes

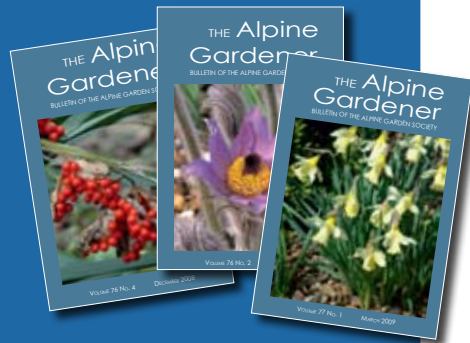
William Petry – £375 towards work on the GLC analysis of plant samples involving *Valeriana edulis*

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.



Items for the Newsletter and Copy Dates

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

Deadline for the September 2011 issue is Friday 5 August 2011

OBITUARIES

The Society sadly reports the death of two longstanding members, John Morris and Rosemary Powis. John passed away in March and had been a familiar face on the show scene, having edited the Exhibitor Newsletter for a number of years and previously held the role of Advertisements Manager. Rosemary Powis had been a very active local group member holding the post of Secretary of the East Kent Group and was also the recipient of a Local Group Award in 2007. Our sincere condolences to their families.

AGS Seed Exchange No 60 (2011- 2012) – Call for Donors

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** is included with this mailing, which will tell you when and where to send your seed. Anyone who requires more information please contact:

Diane Clement: 194 Compton Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9JX, UK
e-mail: diane.clement@agsgroups.org

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.

What's On

FORTHCOMING AGS SHOWS - 2011

AGS Summer Mid-West, 9 July 2011 – Gloucester Launchpad, International Drive, Tewkesbury Business Park, Tewkesbury, GL20 8UQ - M5 Junction 9 left on A438 towards Tewkesbury. First right onto Shannon Way, third right onto International Way. Show Secretary Eric Jarrett – 01453 762812 - PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

AGS Autumn Show-South, 24 September 2011 - Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, ME8 0BX. Tel: 01303 862913

AGS Newcastle Show, 8 October 2011 - The Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9NX. Tel: 01661 871974

Full list of AGS Show Dates is published on AGS website: www.alpinegardensociety.net

The Fritillaria Group of The Alpine Garden Society

The Fritillaria Group is holding its Autumn Meeting and AGM on Sunday 23 October 2011 at Burleigh Community College, Thorpe Road, Loughborough.

The Speakers will be Susan Band of Pitcairn Alpines - whose talk is entitled "Growing Frits Commercially in Scotland" and Jim Almond who is giving a presentation entitled "Frits from A - Z". Further details will appear on the Group's website www.fritillaria.org.uk shortly. All very welcome. There will be sales tables and photographic displays.

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**.

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

Local Group News

BEDFORDSHIRE GROUP – Monday, 4 July 2011

The Bedfordshire Group invites all AGS members to join us for the Wilscher Memorial Lecture on Monday 4th July. Tony Goode will be presenting his talk, "From Our Foreign Correspondence". The meeting begins at 19:30 and ends at 21:30 at the Wilstead Village Hall, Cotton End Road, Wilstead, MK45 0BX. Entrance is £3, which includes refreshments. John Spokes from Little Heath Farm Nurseries will have plants for sale. For more information contact Mrs Elsie Willett on: 01767 626 185, or visit the Group's website: www.bedfordshirealpines.com

WEST SUSSEX LOCAL GROUP CONFERENCE – 3 September 2011 *'Alpines and Bulbs of the Middle East'*

Venue: North Mundham Village Hall, Chichester

Time: 09.45 – 16.30

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 and afternoon tea/coffee. Lunch, to be pre-booked is available at £5.00 extra.

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 an application form please contact Diann Berry on 01243 786254 or email Peter Liverman at peter@pgliverman.co.uk

DERBY GROUP AUTUMN BULB & PLANT SALE - Sunday 25 September 2011

The Derby Group of the AGS is holding an Autumn Bulb and Plant Sale on Sunday 25 September, 2011 in the Breadsall Memorial Hall, Brookside Road, Breadsall, Derby, DE21 5LF. (Venue access from the A38 and is about 20 minutes from the M1 – Junctions 25 and 28). Doors Open at 11.00am. and Entry is £1.00 including raffle ticket and refreshment. Unusual, rare and the more common bulbs, Specialist Nurseries and Members' Plant Stall, etc. For more information telephone Eddie Spencer on 01283 734644 or email: cannespencer@aol.com

BRISTOL ONE DAY CONFERENCE - 8 October 2011

The Bristol One-Day Conference is to be held on 8 October 2011 at the Red Maids' School, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW. There will be various Speakers and Plant Nurseries will be in attendance. Final details will be published in the September Newsletter. For further information please contact Mike Taylor, 96 Reedley Road, Bristol, BS9 3TA. Tel. 0117 9686654.

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

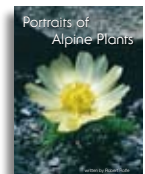
This book is a must for snowdrop lovers. It provides an alphabetic overview including photographs of 500 varieties and a useful key for identification. [No. 795 on list]



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

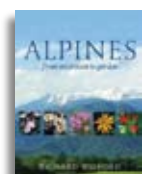
This publication aims to illustrate this rich diversity, and contains plants from mountain ranges around the world. [No.33 on list]



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]

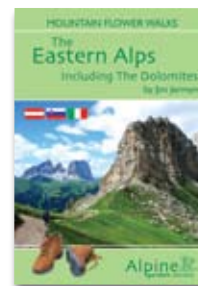


Alpines, from Mountain to Garden

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]

PRE PUBLICATION BOOK OFFER • PRE PUBLICATION BOOK OFFER



Mountain Flower Walks - The Eastern Alps Including The Dolomites

by Jim Jermyn

This publication is the second volume in the series on Mountain Flower Walks published by the Society. It is written by Jim Jermyn who is an experienced mountain flower tour leader. The destinations covered include Austria, Slovenia and Italy, concluding with the Dolomites. It provides the reader with a guide to the many hills and valleys where the mountain flowers of Europe bloom.

The author has listed a range of plants that one could normally hope to encounter on the recommended walks. Detailed instructions are given for access, accommodation, timing and finding the best plant sites. The book is illustrated in colour throughout and maps are provided to guide you at each locality.

Hardback 210 x148 mm, Portrait 224 pages, RRP £22.00 plus post and packing

We are able to offer it to Members at a pre-publication price of UK £16.50, Overseas £19.99

ORDER FORM FOR PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

Please supply the following :

...copy/copies of **The Eastern Alps Including The Dolomites UK @ £16.50**

...copy/copies of **The Eastern Alps Including The Dolomites EU RoW (surface) £19.99**
(for Airmail to RoW £28.00)

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/Switch:

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Start Date _ _ / _ _ Expiry Date _ _ / _ _ Issue No _ (Switch Cards only)

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*Please note that no orders will be accepted at the pre-publication price after 31 July 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	£3.00
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
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£16.00
630	Hebes by Lowrie Metcalf	£24.00
653	Calochortus Mariposa Lilies & their relatives by Mary E Gerritsen & Ron Parsons	£12.00
620	Ceanothus by David Fross & Dieter Wilken	£15.00
TITLES PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY:		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
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	£8.00
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	£6.00
022	The Smaller Daphnes - Summary of Conference Proceedings 'Daphne 2000'	£3.00
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£4.95

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
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
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
699	Hardy Heathers (Gardening with) by Martin Rickard	£24.00
271	Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide) by C Colston Burrell & Judith Knott Tyler	£20.00
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

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

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	Gymnocalycium 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
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SAMOS SPRING

Mid April 2012

LEADERS: MARGARET & DAVID THORNE

Cost: circa £1,200

Residents of mountainous Samos have fought hard over several centuries to remain Greek, but the island's flora has much in common with Turkey which lies barely 2 kilometres away. The combination of European and Asian floristic elements and a wide altitudinal range, on a beautiful and culturally rich Aegean Island, make Samos an irresistible destination for an AGS Tour. Our base will be a comfortable hotel in a fishing village on the sunny south coast. From here we will explore the length and breadth of the island: the peaks of the Ambelos range at its centre, down through wooded slopes (some now sadly depleted by fire) and meadows, to lakes and salt pans at sea level. We may have to search to find *Galanthus elwesii*, *G. gracilis*, *Crocus balansae* and *C. nubigena* in flower, but *Iris suaveolens*, *Fritillaria bithynica*, *F. carica*, *Gladiolus italica*, *G. illyricus* and the beautiful yellow grape hyacinth, *Muscari macrocarpum* should all be at their best. *Paeonia mascula* brightens forest clearings, *Campanula hagielia* covers limestone rock faces, local endemics *Aristolochia incisa*, *Lithodora hispidula* and *Erodium vetteri* are special finds, and the cheerful colours of *Anemone pavonina*, *Chrysanthemum coronarium* and *Anthemis chia* are widespread. As ever in Greece, we should see plenty of orchids. No less than 58 species have been recorded from the island, but more importantly there will be a good selection close to the hotel for those who enjoy a pre-breakfast walk. The island is also an excellent place for birds, butterflies, reptiles and marine animals.



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 specialities 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.

FORTHCOMING AGS TOURS

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

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

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

Crete – October (Leaders: David & Margaret thorne)

For further information on these tours please contact AGS Centre.

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

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.

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

GARDENS AROUND GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

May 25th – June 1st 2012

LEADERS – GERBEN TJEERDSMA (GOTHENBURG BOTANIC GARDENS)

Cost – in the region of £1170 per person to include flights from London to Gothenburg. Single Supplement £215.

The tour will be based at a hotel in central Gothenburg and travel within Sweden will be by private coach to each of the gardens. Accommodation will be on a bed and breakfast basis, with members free to arrange their own lunches and evening meals.

Gardens to be visited include many private gardens not normally open to visitors around Uddevall, Varberg, and Kinnekulle as well as the Gerbianska Gardens, Peter Korn's garden at Eskilsby and, of course, the Gothenburg Botanic Garden where the tour will be led by Henrik Zetterlund and his staff. The tour will be rounded off by a 'Potting Shed' Party at the Botanic Gardens.

If you are interested in receiving further information about the tour as plans are finalised, or would like to reserve a place, please contact Sandra Rice, Deputy Director of Tours on sandra.rice@agsgroups.org or leave a message with Kim Matthews at the AGS Centre, Pershore – 01386 554790 and we will keep you updated and send a detailed itinerary as soon as it is available.



The rock garden at Gothenburg Botanic Garden

For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.

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

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.

For safety, all of the glass supplied is **toughened safety glass**, making it much stronger than standard horticultural glass—the roof glass will stand 2' (0.6m) of snow on it. If the glass does break, it shatters into tiny pieces rather like a car window, ensuring there are no large shards.

The architectural aluminium framework is very sturdy and comes with a **25 year guarantee** - Access have been producing these aluminium cold frames for nearly 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 6 colours: Racing Green, Cotswold Green, Chestnut Brown, Powder Blue, Antique Ivory and Arctic White. Please call for prices.



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 1/2" 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.



A new addition to the range is a louvre vent. This replaces one of the 2' x 2' sheets of glass at the end of the Cold 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*	Solid Staging	Delivery
FF3	3' 11" / 1.21m	£199	£149	£93.60	£60.80	£24
SF3	6' 0" / 1.83m	£254	£199	£116.10	£89.30	£34
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)
 Bases are approx 3' / 6cm wider and longer than the frame dimensions.
 *Please call for prices of other base heights.
 Aluminium finish shelf set - one narrow and one deep £27.55
 Manual louvre vent £65.55 Automatic louvre vent £84.55



Recruit a friend

Membership Form

Simply complete your personal details, together with either the direct debit form overleaf or payment instructions below and return to the address on the back. A reduced subscription rate is offered to those paying by Direct Debit. (Please allow 28 days for processing your membership application.)

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