Welcome to members and friends in Portugal of the Mediterranean Garden Society. If you know of any others who may be interested in Mediterranean gardening please pass this along to them and remember all are welcome to attend our events.

Queremos dar as boas vindas aos sócios e amigos do Mediterranean Garden Society em Portugal. Se souber de alguém que esteja interessado em jardinagem mediterrânica agradecemos que passa a palavra, ou o favor de dar um destes boletins informativos, e não esquecer que todos estão convidados a participar nos eventos por nós organizados.

LIST OF FUTURE EVENTS – to be confirmed

<table>
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<th>2007/8</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Coordinator(s)</th>
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<td>Nov 2007</td>
<td>Watering debate, ways and means – which system? Wim van Putten &amp; John Dommett take sides on when and how much.</td>
<td>Peter Eaton</td>
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<td>8 Dec 2007</td>
<td>Talk by Dr P J Placito on Algarve Native Plants – Faro area (venue to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Rosie Peddle</td>
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<td>June 2008</td>
<td>Possible Olivier Filippi nursery visit South West France – please contact Rosie Peddle if you are interested in this visit.</td>
<td>Rosie &amp; Wim</td>
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ADVANCE NOTICE - Algarve Bons Jardins Garden Group event – MGS members invited.

18th March 2008  Timothy Walker, the Director of the Oxford Botanical Garden will give a talk on “Euphorbias – Probably the Best Garden Plants in the World” This talk will be at the Convento do São José in Lagoa and will start at 7:00 pm. Timothy happens to be in Portugal at this time and we are lucky to be able to have such a distinguished speaker. Judging from the circular he sent on the talks he does, he has a good sense of humour too. As he is charging a fee, there will be a small charge for those who are not members of the Bons Jardins group.

Reports of past events

On 13th February we were very pleased to invite everyone to meet Alan Mason and Marylyn Webb. They had generously accepted a request to hold an extra event during their winter visit to the Algarve and gave us an illustrated Talk on Garden Design - Hints for ‘Plantaholics’! At the Hotel Garbe, Armacao de Pera. Alan gave us an overview of garden design with slides of many different gardens throughout Europe but, there was no sympathy for us plant nutters, he was decisive and very determined – do not buy that plant until you have the garden organised and a space ready for it !!! This may not be what we wanted to hear but his experience and professional approach was a great incentive to try to be more disciplined in our plant buying habits. The afternoon was spent on a very pleasant tour of...
the extensive and mature gardens at the Vila Lara hotel complex with spectacular ocean views. The retention of most of the original trees on the site when the hotel was first built in the early sixties demonstrably added to the quiet and cool atmosphere throughout the gardens.

**Garden Design and Appreciation in 2008** courses run by Alan Mason will be held again on the Algarve this winter. Alan is one of the most experienced and best qualified garden designers in Europe. He is a Royal Horticultural Society speaker and regularly gives lectures to groups regionally, nationally and internationally. A course will be held at the Hotel Garbe, Armaçao de Pera, central Algarve and is open to non-residents. The course will be on 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th February, 2008 This workshop consists of 4 x 2.5 hr. sessions with garden visits. 10.00am till 12.30 pm 2008 and will be tutored by Alan Mason & Marylyn Webb. Price – 140 Euros per person [http://www.gardenexpert.com/](http://www.gardenexpert.com/) Contact Vicky Good [www.hotelgarbe.com](http://www.hotelgarbe.com) or tel. 282 320 260 for more information.

**May 2nd – Moncarapacho.** Carlo Balistrieri kindly offered some time from his holiday here and this gave MGS members an opportunity not to be missed. A short presentation of mouth watering pictures from his time at the New York Botanic Garden was followed by a discussion led by Carlo on topics related to gardening in the Mediterranean zones of the world with particular reference to conditions on the Algarve. Some brave people had brought along plant samples for advice about identification, yellowing foliage etc. Carlo previously worked at The New York Botanic Garden where he had particular responsibility for the historic 2.5 acre rock garden. He has a new and very interesting web site at [http://www.botanicalgardening.com/](http://www.botanicalgardening.com/) and is interested in learning more about gardening on the Algarve from us. We hope to see him again on a future visit to Portugal.

**May 5th Gardens Open** in aid of the Royal British Legion on the eastern Algarve, north of Estoi. Monte Alegre and Monte Bouganvillea - two mature settings, a plantsman’s passion and a tranquil retreat. This was a particularly successful event for the RBL and 675 euros was raised. Many thanks to all MGS members who supported this event.

**Roses in Monchique in May** Friday May 11th (A fuller report with more photos of this special day can be seen on our Branch page on the MGS web site.)

We started our visit to the western Algarve at Marie and Peter Giering’s home. Lists of the main rose varieties helped enormously to enhance our visit and were much appreciated. There were old fashioned shrub roses and David Austin collections together with roses collected from the wild and from abandoned gardens locally. These had been used with wonderful effect to establish their terraced garden and we were able to see in flower a wide selection of roses including Bourbon, English, Portuguese and modern selections. The garden was situated on the east facing slope of Foia and surrounded by a large stand of old olives. Marie and Peter were very generous with their time and their obvious love for roses over the twenty five years of their gardening on this site was amply demonstrated.

Our next visit to artist Sigrid Krause was a rare opportunity to view the private Algarve garden of a dedicated rose enthusiast. This was an established small garden with a large collection of modern tea and polyantha roses situated on the south facing slope of Picota where the bedrock is very close to the surface. A triumph of patience and hard work over difficult conditions. The mouth watering displays of colourful flowers had us all feeling ready to rush home and tackle our gardens with renewed energy!
A real contrast in style followed with a visit to the Topaki cactus collection, an eclectic mix of improbable proportions and a reflection of the personal passion for collecting and growing of the owner. As this collection is fairly high up there is protection provided and the small cacti house was soon overflowing with members of our group – but the open windows provided a good vantage point from the outside! The cacti which had grown too big for the house had been planted amongst the rocks and looked spectacular in that setting.

Anthony Lambe, Tres Fontes, Porto de Lagos – this is a mature garden with sumptuous plantings of sub-tropical and tropical trees and shrubs – stretching the limits for the Algarve climate. Anthony’s infectious enthusiasm carried us through to the end of long and interesting day. This garden was started by his mother over forty years ago. Originally a bare and uninspiring hillside now transformed into a tree covered shady enclave surrounding the house. Among other rarities was a large tree with bronze foliage which was *Euphorbia cotinifolia*. What a day, well done to all who stayed the course and staggered homeward, inspired by the gardens and their owners, we had met.

Many thanks to Peter Eaton and John Dommett for organising this special day.


5000 Darwin letters go online

"The scheme is a most magnificent one. We spend about two years in South America, the rest of time larking round the world," said a young Charles Darwin in a letter to a friend, written as he waited to board the Beagle.

The letter is just one of 5000 written by and to the famous evolutionary theorist up to the year 1865 that can now be accessed online in full thanks to a University of Cambridge project. The Darwin Correspondence Project, based at Cambridge University Library, includes all the surviving letters from the Beagle voyage - online for the first time - and all the letters from the years around the publication of On the Origin of Species in 1859. It also includes summaries of a further 9,000 letters.

In an earlier letter written in 1822, 12-year-old Darwin affectionately admitted to his sister Caroline: “I only wash my feet once a month at school, which I confess is nasty, but I cannot help it, for we have nothing to do it with.” “Darwin’s letters are an amazing insight into what he was like as a person. They allow us to listen in to conversations he held throughout his life with friends, family, scientific colleagues and members of the public – from the typical young graduate, excited by the sudden chance to travel round the world, to the successful scientist pushing the boundaries of understanding.”

Caveat Emptor ..... A Note from Peter Eaton. The upper picture is the root from an *Acacia* (?*saligna*) which died two years after planting. The lower picture is the root from a *Cestrum elegans* which also died two years after planting. Both plants were purchased in pots from nurseries. I did not open up the root ball that had been formed by poor production and sale management at the nursery. Be warned; never plant out without opening the root ball or trusting the seller to have done his job properly. Has anyone else had problems like this?
Sometimes an unsolicited email brings an automatic reach for the delete button, but, this time it looked quite interesting. A new design for that old favourite, the garden spade! How many of us have broken a spade at the point where the wooden bit meets the metal bit - read on .......

Besides several big differences in use there is another important difference between the APPELSPADE and the common spade:

The APPELSPADE is made into one piece, whereas the common spade has usually two joints that tend to give movement as years go by, due to shrinking of the wood. With that, through weathering, wood loses more and more elasticity through the years, so getting increasingly breakable. Stainless steel doesn't have that problem.

See also web pages http://home.wanadoo.nl/arie.appel/characteristics.htm and http://home.wanadoo.nl/arie.appel/tests.htm

Olivier Filippi has produced a new book and catalogue – an excerpt from the book was translated into English for the April Journal. The price of the catalogue (128 pages) is 5.00 euros plus postage. It contains many new plants introduced to the nursery following the latest trips by Olivier and Clara to Turkey, Morocco, Spain and Greece. The text has been entirely reviewed and corrected with descriptions for each species and variety including information on type of soil, tolerance for alkalinity and exposure. There is also a code signifying drought resistance and a table at the end of the catalogue showing flowering time and colour – all this information allows us to choose those plants best suited to our own conditions.

This new catalogue has no photos, all photos are now contained within the new book, (208 pages, 425 photos) ‘Pour un jardin sans arrosage’ or are available on the web site for the nursery. It is possible to order the book online at www.jardin-sec.com/ or by telephoning 0033 467 438869 for credit cards. We hope to organise a trip to this nursery early in 2008.

The Mediterranean Garden Society AGM will be held in Athens this November and, for the first time, will take the form of a conference covering various topics under the banner of ‘Practice & Philosophy of Dry Gardening’ You will find information in the Journal but here are some details from the web site for those without access to the internet. Travel costs to Athens are not included. Further information from Katie Papadimitriou, Symvoli Ltd., 16-20 I. Tsaluhidi Street, GR-542 48 Thessaloniki, Greece, tel. +30 2310 433099 fax +30 2310 433599, e-mail mgs2007@symvoli.gr.

• There is a 30 Euro registration fee
• The cost for the program of events, including the Welcome Reception on the evening of the 9th, the Farewell Dinner, transport costs at the AGM and lunches on the 10th and 11th, is 270 Euros.
• One can make one’s own hotel arrangements, but the per night rates at the suggested hotels range from 55 Euros per night for single occupancy to 110 Euros per night for double occupancy.
• I believe a cost-free stay with an MGS member could be arranged for anyone who’d rather not stay in a hotel. Contact MGS main office for further information.
• The one-day optional trip to Karystos on the island of Evia will cost an estimated 60 to 70 Euros, including transportation, lunch, coffee and entrance to the museum.
• The four-day optional trip to the Peloponnese with George Sfikas will cost 300 Euros per person double occupancy and 340 Euros per person single occupancy.
• Half the cost of the program of events --135 Euros -- is due on registration, and the remainder is due September 20th.

**MGS AGM – Proxy Voting**

This year it may be possible for members to have a proxy vote delivered on their behalf to the General Assembly by another MGS member. It is planned to have a list of candidates, and their CV’s, for the Administrative Ctte, Reserve Members and the Auditing Committee, in the October Journal together with details of how to vote. A list of members attending the AGM is available from the MGS Secretary in Athens – Fleur Pavlidis email: mgssecretary@gmail.com or contact Rosie Peddle.

The relevant part of the MGS Charter says

'Membership may not be transferred or inherited; however, a member may be represented by another member appointed to do so by a simple letter. Each regular member may represent up to five other members. A representative is appointed in writing by a general or particular power of proxy given by the member who is to be represented to the member who is to be his/her representative.'

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**http://www.linnaeus.org/**

The 300th anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus is being commemorated internationally in 2007. One of the key priorities is to make the **Linnaean Society's important and historic collections** more widely available. Through the **CARLS** (Computer Access to the Records of the Linnean Society) project, the unique collections held by the Society are being made available on the world-wide web. Click on the links for more information.

**Handbook of Seed Technology for Genebanks - Volume II**

Compendium of Specific Germination Information and Test Recommendations

**http://www.bioversityinternational.org/publications/Web_version/52/**

Click on the link for a valuable online textbook with details of the specific requirements for germinating seed from a full range of plant families. It is best to have the full Latin plant name of the seed ready before consulting the site, the listing is organised by plant family names.

**RECOMMENDED NURSERY specialising in drought tolerant plants.**

This nursery has been recommended by MGS members who have visited recently and is unusual in that they specialise in mediterranean climate plants. Their list includes many varieties of lavender, rosemary, phlomis and cistus.

Viveiro dos Rosmaninhos é um novo viveiro especializado em plantas pouco exigentes em rega, principalmente plantas mediterrânicas, que vem responder à necessidade cada vez mais evidente de reduzir o consumo de água e de adaptar a jardinagem às nossas condições ecológicas.

Para o Outono 2006 - Primavera 2007 o Viveiro apresenta mais variedades das espécies já oferecidas e mais espécies mediterrânicas. Assim, o nosso catálogo tem mais cultivares de alfazema, rosmario, alecrim (rasteiros e erectos), eufórbia e santolina, e inclui novas espécies como as artemisias, os cistus, myrta (murta), phlomis, thymus (tomilhos) e outras.

**O Viveiro dos Rosmaninhos é um espaço novo situado no concelho de Águeda, em Belaizaime do Chão, junto à EN 336 ao lado do Café Carioca.**

Viveiro dos Rosmaninhos, Rua da Devesa s/n  
Belaizaime do Chão, Àgueda  
3750 – 362 Belaizaime do Chão  
Tlf: 234 655 510  
Fax: 234 655 511  
Tlm: 965196448  
ge-mail: geral@viveirodosrosmaninhos.com

Please contact the nursery before visiting – there is an online catalogue and a map of their location available on their web site. **http://www.viveirodosrosmaninhos.com/**

**First impressions of the Serra da Arrabida from George Everett**
As a relative newcomer to Portugal and keen to learn about its Mediterranean vegetation, in 2006 I decided to visit one small patch of the Arrabida limestone outcrop once a month until the heat came, and then every second month until the end of the year. I chose the area beside the viewing point at a height of 365m on the ridge road (near Murteira peak, marked on the Carta Militar de Portugal 465), because it had a view of the coastline across the Sado estuary to the Troia Peninsular, and the blue sea, below the rock face, was a perfect backdrop to spectacular seasonal floral displays.

January was foggy and damp. I found the area had been burned in July 2004 so black from the charred stumps came off on clothes (but also there was a small unburned area). There were shoots regenerating from most of the stumps. The only flower was the blue of rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis* “alecrim”. I realized that I had chosen a “matagal denso”, an area of scrub maquis and low trees growing to about 2.5m, which would have been impossible to penetrate if there had not been a fire. The low prickly leaved kermes oak *Quercus coccifera* “carrascal” predominated, and there was plenty of mock privet *Phillyrea angustifolia* “aderno”, lentisc *Pistacia lentiscus* “areiero”, strawberry tree *Arbutus unedo* “medronheiro”, and the climbing prickly/spiny smilax *Smilax aspera* “legacao”.

My visit in February was also wet, and beside the road I saw the first yellow flowers of the hoop petticoat daffodil *Narcissus bulbocodium* “campainhas-do-monte”. In March, honeysuckle *Lonicera implexa* “madressilva” cream flowers were piercing through to the surface of the maquis. Beside the road, at a lower level, but in the course of ascent to the chosen area, the white flowers of laurustinus *Viburnum tinus* “folhado” offset the purplish-pink of the grey-leaved *Cistus albidus* “roselha grande”, and, with the sea behind, the colours were stunning. The flowers of the hoop petticoat daffodil formed a bright yellow carpet to the road verges at a higher altitude. The light yellow flowers of the poisonous milk vetch *Astragalus lusitanica* “tremocao”, and the white flowers, in the form of a pyramid, of the heather *Erica arborea* “torga” were widespread.

April saw the arrival in mass of the whitish pink flowers of the rose garlic *Allium roseum* “alho”, to replace the daffodils, and they even brought their own sharp aroma. In May the Iberian field gladioli *Gladiolus illyricum* “cristas-de-galo” were so abundant that they gave a red sheen to the ground. They were associated with the pinks *Dianthus malacitanus* “cravos”, and a few white candytuft *Iberis procumbens* “assembleias”. The yellow of *Jasmine fruticans* “jasmineiro”, and scorpion vetch *Coronilla valentina* were in more sheltered spots. The sage-leaved *Cistus salvifolius* “estevao” with white flowers were widespread. Some plants appeared to be suffering stress when the heat arrived in June, with fewer colours around. However the fennel *Foeniculum vulgare* “funcho” and the similar shaped but taller and more impressive *Thapsia garganica*, almost 3m in height, became conspicuous.

By the end of 2006, some 29 months after the 2004 fire, the common maquis species had shown regeneration (from the base of the charred stump) in height up to 90 cm in the case of *Arbutus*, 80 cm for *Quercus*, 70 cm for *Erica* and *Phillyrea*, and 50 cm for *Pistacia*. In another three to four years the vegetation in the area burned may have reached its original height. However the phoenicean juniper *Juniperus phoenicea* “Sabina-da-praia”, a common maquis species in the unburned area, was not regenerating in the burned area.
On each visit I noticed the common *Daphne gnidium* “trovisco” but never saw its flower. There were plenty of other less obvious species, in flower in different months. These included the white of asphodel *Asphodelus ramosus* “abrotea”, blue of pitch trefoil *Psorolea bituminosa* “trevo bituminosa”, yellow of the curry plant *Helichrysum stoechas* “perpetua dos montes”, and blue of the gromwell *Lithodora diffusa* “sargacinha”. Throughout the year, and mainly in winter months, sweet alison *Lobularia maritima* “escudinha” enlivened the area with its vivid white colour.

Conclusion? Well, the visits were always full of colourful surprises, and I know I will enjoy further visits, both there and to similar Mediterranean plant communities, even more so in the future.

**Sociedade Portuguesa de Arboricultura**  
Parque Biológico de Gaia, E.M.  
4430–757 AVINTES  
www.sparboricultura.pt  
Telef./Fax: 227 878136  
email: geral@sparboricultura.pt  
For further information on these events contact SPA direct as above.

As actividades previstas para os próximos meses:

2. **Acção de Formação “Poda de Árvores no Meio Urbano”,** nos dias 27 e 28 de Setembro, no Parque Biológico de Gaia. Será orientado por Dr. Francisco Coimbra;
4. **IV Campeonato de Escalada de Árvores**, nos dias 13 e 14 de Outubro, na Fundação de Serralves, no Porto.

**Waste in the Art of the Garden** is the theme for this year’s prestigious third International Garden Festival in Ponte de Lima in the north of Portugal. There is full programme of events and activities taking place as well as eleven purpose built gardens in a lovely riverside setting.

Further details from the link below or telephone  
(+351) 258 900 400

http://www.festivaldejardins.cm-pontedelima.pt/

**A READING LIST FOR NEWCOMERS TO GARDENING IN A MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE** – as we have some new members, and some members new to Portugal, we offer this list compiled by Peter Eaton as recommended reference and inspirational reading. If you have any other books you would like to recommend to your fellow members, or any comments on the list below, please let us know.

‘*California Native Plants for the Garden*’ Bornstein, Carol, David Fross & Bart O’Brien  
Cachuma Press ISBN 0 9628505 8 6 2005

‘*Australian plants for Mediterranean gardens*’ Elliot, Rodger 2003  
Rosenberg Publishing ISBN 1 877058 18 1

‘*Pour un Jardin sans Arrosage*’ Filippi, Oliver 2007  
Actes Sud ISBN 2 7427 6730 4 (Also a catalogue from Pepiniere Filippi – a bargain at 5euros)

‘*Mediterranean Gardening*’ Gildemeister, Heidi 1995  
Editorial Moll ISBN 84 273 0749 7 (Also Univ of California Press ISBN 0 520 23647 5 (p/b)

‘*Gardening the Mediterranean Way*’ Gildemeister, Heidi 2004  
Thames and Hudson ISBN 0 500 511837

‘*The Mediterranean Gardener*’ Latymer, Hugo 1990
Frances Lincoln ISBN 0 7112 0631 7 – the original and much consulted book
‘Gardens of the Sun’ Nottle, Trevor 1996
The Timber Press ISBN 0 88192 365 6
‘Plants for Mediterranean Climate Gardens’ Nottle, Trevor 2004
Rosenberg Publishing ISBN 1 877058 14 9
The Crowood Press ISBN 1 86126 548 4
Conservatory and indoor plants (plants for warm climates) Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix 1998
‘Subtropical and dry climate plants’ Rix, Martyn 2006
Timber Press ISBN 0 88192 808 9
‘New 2001 Sunset Western Garden Book’
Sunset Publishing ISBN 0 376 03874 8 (h/b) ISBN 0 376 03875 6 (p/b)
‘Waterwise gardening’ Walsh, Kevin 3rd Ed 2004
Reed New Holland ISBN 1 877069 01 9

See also the MGS Book List TMG #27 January 2002 and #29 July 2002
And TMG #15 Winter 1998/9 pp61-64 Selected list on Californian native plants

And for those who are interested in the ecology of the Mediterranean:

AND – members of the MGS are looking for copies of the following book, if you have one to sell or know of where this book might be purchased please pass the information on to Rosie Peddle.
Algarve Plants and Landscape – Passing Tradition and Ecological Change by D J Mabberley & P J Placito Published by Oxford University Press

DRAALG/DRAPALG – Many members of gardening groups on the Algarve have visited the agricultural research unit near Faro. It is possible to buy plants and trees propagated there from the collections of rare and unusual specimens distributed around the site. Recent Government proposals for the re-organisation of the Ministerio Agricultura mean that some of the valuable scientific research work undertaken on the Algarve is threatened. A letter expressing concern about this has been sent to the Director at Faro and to the President of Portugal, Dr. Anibal Cavaca Silva (he is from the Algarve). We hope that the valuable collections of fruit and native plants can be safeguarded for future research. A copy of all correspondence is available on request from Rosie Peddle at rosie@thebtf.net or tel. 289 791 869.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
Members of the MGS are part of a large international group of amateur and professional gardeners, horticulturists, botanists, and others who appreciate the unique climate called ‘mediterranean’. Annual subscriptions are payable in January. New members joining during the year will receive all four issues of the journal published in the year of joining. To join the MGS, fill out an application and send it along with your membership fee (€35) to The Secretary, The Mediterranean Garden Society, P.O. Box 14, Peania GR-190 02, Greece. New members will be automatically added to the membership list with this Branch. Further information about the MGS can be found on the main web site www.mediterraneangardensociety.org. There is a membership page and application form available on the website, if you would prefer to receive these in the post please let Rosie Peddle know and confirm your address or fax number.

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