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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007/8</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Coordinator(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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. CANCELLED</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 (Postponed as Dr Placito now has to be in the UK – to be held early in 2008)</td>
<td>Rosie Peddle</td>
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<td>12 February 2008</td>
<td>Clematis Day with Mike Brown – Eastern Algarve. Talk, lunch and afternoon workshop session (more info below)</td>
<td>Rosie Peddle</td>
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<td>18 March 2008</td>
<td>Euphorbias – Probably the best garden plants in the World a talk by Timothy Walker of Oxford Botanic Garden (see information below)</td>
<td>Ian Wilson Tel: 282 913 875</td>
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<td>19 – 23 May 2008</td>
<td>Mallorca Gardens with Bons Jardins Garden Group – five day tour includes talk by Heidi Gildemeister &amp; visit to her garden</td>
<td>Ian Wilson Tel: 282 913 875</td>
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<tr>
<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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**Clematis Day – February 12th, Joint event with the Bons Jardins Garden Group**

This day will be organised along similar lines to the Lavender Day held in September 2006 and based in Moncarapacho in the eastern Algarve. There will be an illustrated talk in the morning followed by a light lunch and a workshop session in the afternoon. The emphasis will be on clematis suitable for the Algarve. The workshop session will demonstrate topics such as propagation (seed & cuttings), cultivation and container growing of clematis. We hope to have seed, and perhaps seedlings, for distribution. If you have any specific queries about clematis, plant identification etc. please bring along any plant material or photos to help Mike answer your questions. There will be a charge depending on room hire and numbers attending – the more the merrier! Full details of the day will be sent to anyone interested on request to Rosie Peddle (tel. 289 791 869). Please book in as soon as possible but not later than 1st February 2008.
A ‘Potted’ History – from Mike Brown. “I have been an enthusiastic grower of all types of clematis for over 40 years, specialising in small flowered clematis and growing clematis from seed. I give illustrated talks on ALL aspects of clematis culture. Being entirely amateur, I can speak as I find and I am NOT politically correct. Also, during the summer months, I do a lot of workshops on container growing, cuttings and seed sowing etc.

A Past Chairman of the British Clematis Society (but I am almost human again now) and active member of The International Clematis Society since its formation in 1984. National Plant Collection Holder of Herbaceous Clematis, but this only accounts for about 125 different types.

In my garden near Oxford in the UK (about a third of an acre in size) I manage to grow well over 300 different types of clematis, in island beds and amongst normal garden flowers. Many of the clematis are in long term containers. I have no idea how many clematis I actually have in total but it must be around 2000.”

Pics: Mike & Clematis cirrhosa ‘Wisley Cream’ flowering October/November on the Algarve.

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.

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/ Contact Vicky Good www.hotelgarbe.com or tel. 282 320 260 for more information.

The Mediterranean Garden Society AGM was held in Athens this November and, for the first time, took the form of a conference covering various topics under the banner of ‘Practice & Philosophy of Dry Gardening’. A report will appear in a future edition of the Journal. We now have a new Administrative Committee which has been elected for the next three years. Brief ‘bios’ of all can be found in the October journal.

President Carline Harbouri – Greece MGS (also Editor of the Journal)
Vice President George Brumder – California MGS (also Branch Liaison)
Secretary Fleur Pavlidis – Greece MGS
Treasurer Eleni Martzoukou – Greece MGS
Councilor Jean Vaché – Languedoc Branch, France
Reserve Alisdair Aird – UK Branch
Reserve Fulla Chapple – Greece MGS
Reserve John Rendall – Greece MGS
MESSAGE from Sean O’Hara, Northern Californian Branch MGS
“I have just had confirmation of the dates for the 2008 AGM to be hosted by our Branch in Monterey, California at the Casa Munras Hotel - because of general interest already expressed, this was announced at the 2007 AGM in Athens, Greece. I am now distributing the following planned dates:

8th October 2008 (Wed) - MGS Admin. Ctte. meeting
9th October 2008 (Thu) - MGS Branch Head meeting & AGM reception
10th October 2008 (Fri) - AGM
11th October 2008 (Sat) - AGM & public symposium
12th October 2008 (Sun) - AGM & General Assembly
13th October 2008 (Mon) - optional AGM day
14th October 2008 (Tue) - optional AGM day

We apologize for not having this information sooner - Monterey is a popular event destination and there has been some competition for the available weekends even this far in advance. We are excited about how this venue is coming together and look forward to hosting both local and foreign MGS members next year! Information on the programme to follow.

Best regards, Seán O’Hara & Nancy Swearengen
Branch co-chairs, Northern California Branch of The Mediterranean Garden Society

MESSAGE from Heather Martin, UK Branch Head
The UK branch is organising a visit to look at the wild flowers in the Zagoria region of northern Greece next May. We will be there for about a week. This trip is offered to all members as Heather expects that it will not fill up completely with UK members. It is a bit different in that there will be no gardens as such, and there will be a bit more walking than on usual MGS trips.

Heather does not yet have exact dates, price or a detailed programme but asks anyone interested to email her direct and she will send on details to anyone who contacts her as soon as possible.

If you Google Zagoria and "flowers" or "walks" you'll find much information about this special area, or look at http://www.photoseek.com/greece/PindosOlympus.html

Many thanks everyone! Contact Heather Martin (UK) hma@clara.net

NEW Gardening magazine for Portugal !!
Members may have seen a new magazine on the shelves – this is a departure from others in that it is taking gardening and garden design seriously and articles discuss examples from throughout Europe. The summer edition has just been published and is worth seeking out. Tudo Sobre Jardins is a small glossy A5 115 page magazine published quarterly and can be sent direct to you for just 14 euros per annum.

More information from geral@lobodomar.net

Caruma ! Pine Needle mulching is back !
Many gardens on the Algarve are taking advantage of the new business set up recently by Algarve resident, Jenny Wilson. She has revived the old practice of ‘cleaning’ forest floors of pine needles and pine cones. The pine needles make an effective and decorative weed suppressing & water saving garden mulch. They are suitable for all soil types, are light and easy to manage. What more could we want …… hopefully we will have some further reports on this from Jenny, she can be contacted via mulch@sapo.pt or tel. 914 114 532

Portugal Branch Report for October 2007 – unfortunately it was not possible to submit this in time for publication in the October Journal so here are the edited ‘highlights’ with reports of past events previously published in the newsletter removed. Following the resignation of previous joint Branch Heads, Marion ter Horst and Pepper Crofoot, we have, thus far, been unable to recruit anyone to fill this post. The last twelve months have seen some major
changes in the way our branch is organised. We are still feeling the impact of these changes and hope that our new and more regionalised structure will give impetus to members throughout the country to organise and to participate in events. A steering group of keen members resident in the Algarve region are currently taking the lead in organising the branch and newsletters. There has been some robust debate locally on the current MGS structure and Charter and a letter about future organisation of AGMs from our members was printed in the MGS Journal. Newsletters are produced and distributed, by both email and post, to members and friends. The main method of communication continues to be by email. This is a very cost effective means of keeping in touch with each other for a young branch with no funds!

Events over the last year have been well attended and have mostly taken place in the south of the country in the Algarve region. Where possible events are open to both members and friends and we have recruited some members following attendance at events. This seems to be in common with the experience of other branches. *Full Reports* of major events have been sent to Fleur in Athens and can be seen on our page on the main MGS web site. The MGS web site continues to be a source of enquiries and contact with other branches. We have been able to invite speakers visiting the area to talk to members on several occasions. This has proved to be a wonderful way of meeting a wide range of mediterranean gardeners from many other parts of the world who visit Portugal.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our regional contacts for their help and support over the last few months. Ben Weijers has bravely offered to take on the large Lisbon area and although his attempt to organise a garden tour of the south of England was unsuccessful this time, we hope he will repeat the offer later this year. It was a great boost to see two articles by members from Portugal in the latest Journal. Well done to Peter Eaton and Christine de Roo for their excellent contributions.

Plans are being finalised for future events based around talks on watering systems, using Australian plants and on undertaking species counts and use of native flora. Sensitive use of garden and land areas continues to be a topic of great interest to members and appropriate ‘waterwise’ planting the overwhelmingly major problem for most members. Portugal has a history of tragic forest fires covering immense areas of the countryside. Some of our members have had to deal with the aftermath of such fires and there is much sympathy for the dreadful recent events in Greece and California.

2008 promises more interesting encounters with a visit by Australian gardeners in April to the Sintra area, the Algarve and to Madeira. We are happy to extend a warm welcome to any MGS members who find themselves in our part of the world.

**AND – members of the MGS are still 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

**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 ‘mediterraneaen’. 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](http://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.

**Regional Contacts:**

- **Lisbon area** – Ben Weijers, Tel: 219 291 841 Email: quintadocorvo@yahoo.com
- **Porto area** – Marion ter Horst, Tel: 235 721 193 Email: arnold-terhorst@netcabo.pt
- **Minho area** – Chloe Parrott, Tel: 966 971 275 Email: chloe@mail.telepac.pt
- **Algarve area** – Rosie Peddle, Tel. 289 791 869 Email: rosie@thebtf.net

Branch co-ordinator & Newsletter Compiler: Rosie Peddle, Quinta das Sesmarias, Fornalha, Moncarapacho, OLHÃO 8700-091 Tel. & Email as above.