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 jardimagem 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Info</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20(^{th})</td>
<td>Os Jardineiros do Sotavento</td>
<td>See the work in progress, talk about the club programme, his gardening experiences in the Algarve, and a propagation demonstration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Garden Club At John Vellam’s garden near Moncarapacho MGS Members and Friends Welcome</td>
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<td>10.30am</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Visit to Garden of The Year! Followed by illustrated talk on Sculpture in the Garden</td>
<td>Visit to the lovely gravel garden of Margaret &amp; Jeffrey Jackson in Quinta da Lago, Almancil</td>
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<td>5(^{th}) October</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mediterranean Garden Fair</td>
<td>Learning from each other .... Specialist nurseries &amp; workshops and MGS Plant Stall – helpers needed !</td>
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<tr>
<td>5(^{th}) November</td>
<td>Quinta da Senhora Menina, Faro 11.00am to 4.00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Gardens of Madeira by Gerald Luckhurst</td>
<td>Illustrated talk at the Hapimag resort, Albufeira</td>
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<td>8(^{th}) December</td>
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Message from OS JARDINEIROS DO SOTAVENTO – “Our first meeting will be at John Vellam’s garden on Tuesday September 20\(^{th}\) at 10.30. John will show us what he has achieved in a very short time and discuss his plans for his garden, and for the Club. Please let me know if you will come. New Members welcome to join us at this, our first meeting of the new gardening year.” Please contact Elspeth Flood, Secretary, for map and further info at elspethflood@sapo.pt

Garden Visit – Wednesday, 5\(^{th}\) October 10.00am at No 19, Quinta das Salinas, Almancil
Margaret & Jeffrey Jackson have kindly agreed to open their lovely gravel garden to us. Margaret recently won the ‘Garden of the Year’ award in the competition organised by local garden clubs. Her garden is a lesson in how to use stone, rock and gravel to create texture and interest with carefully selected plants to provide the all important living elements. Truly inspirational.

Following our visit, Margaret has agreed to talk to us about one of her favourite subjects, Sculpture in the Garden. Her profession as an architect and her passion for gardening come together in this very interesting topic. This will take place at the nearby Formosa Park Hotel, situated in the Ria Formosa Nature Park. They have a dedicated meeting room which will available for our use. There will be a charge of €6 for non-MGS members for this meeting, this includes coffee.

Please contact Rosie to reserve your place email rosie@thebtf.net Tel. 289 791 869

PROGRAMME October 5\(^{th}\)
10.00am meet at 19, Quinta das Salinas. Map available on request.
11.00am move to Formosa Park Hotel for coffee etc. in the terrace bar
11.30am Illustrated talk on “Sculpture in the Garden” by Margaret Jackson
1.00pm Disperse - lunch available, for those who wish it, in the hotel restaurant
Mediterranean Garden Fair – Saturday November 5th 2011
Quinta da Senhora Menina, Faro  11.00am to 4.00pm

The theme for this year is “Learning from each other....” and we plan a rolling programme of workshops and demonstrations in the afternoon led by MGS members.

We have a good selection of nurseries (some new for this year) booked to attend including a specialist drought resistant plant nursery. There will also be a demonstration of solar cooking, and the popular mosaic workshop as well as a bookshop and other stands indoors. There will be some seed available. Once again we have the MGS group from the Beira Region travelling down to be with us and they will also have some plants and sundries for sale.

**IF** you are planning to come along and can spare one hour of your time to help out please contact Rosie. Any offers of help you can give will be very welcome and also help to make the day an enjoyable one for everyone there. We can always use people for the entrance gate and for the plant stall. So if you want a nice sitting down job - taking money - let me know !!

**IF** you are planning to bring plants along for our own MGS Plant stall then it would be very helpful if you could tell Tamsin Varley algarvetam@hotmail.com which plants you are bringing, and roughly how many. Tamsin made plant labels with photos and basic information for last year and they made a real difference to sales. **IF** you can send her your list of plants then she may be able to make up some attractive colourful labels to make your plants whizz off the stall.

We also hope to have a few experts around as a ‘Brains Trust’ who may be able to identify your UPO’s – Unidentified Plant Objects ! So please bring along any plants, photos or bits – dead or alive !

**PLANT POT RECYCLING** – please bring along any unwanted plant pots, large or small, there will be a designated point for collecting these. Please feel free to have look and take away any pots that you need. All pots left over will be recycled.

**CARRIER BAGS RECYCLED** – please bring along any unwanted supermarket type carrier bags for use on the plant stall. All bags left over will be recycled.

Please get in touch for any more information. Directions & map available on request

Web site with map at [http://www.algarcatering.pt/Localizacao.htm](http://www.algarcatering.pt/Localizacao.htm) or via [www.gardeninginportugal.com](http://www.gardeninginportugal.com)

Rosie Peddle 289 791 869 email rosie@thebtf.net

**Thursday, December 8th** – Illustrated talk on “The Gardens of Madeira” by Gerald Luckhurst

We have been fortunate to be offered a talk by Gerald Luckhurst who is a well respected historic gardens advisor and landscape architect with much experience of working in Madeira. Gerald wrote the recently published book on ‘The Gardens of Madeira’. We will use the meeting room at the Hapimag resort near Albufeira for this talk. There will be the opportunity to see the Algarve garden at another season of the year. There have been some new developments at the garden including a lovely herb garden. Please contact Rosie for more info and to reserve your place.

**REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS/news of upcoming events** are available on [www.gardeninginportugal.com](http://www.gardeninginportugal.com) with photos. There are also **pages** available for you with information on various gardening topics. You can also use this site to post comments, send photos of your garden, pics of plants for identification and send in your gardening queries.

**LATEST ARTICLES IN THE CONTINUING SERIES – LIFE WITHOUT GRASS ......**


**MGS NEWS .......... Management and administration of the society**
The lawyer consulted by the AC has advised that the Administrative Committee’s Minute Book should be available for inspection under reasonable circumstances by members who would like to
see it. Where an organisation has a significant number of members, the lawyer indicated, it may be unreasonable for members to expect to be sent copies of minutes but for all AC meetings from 2011 onwards the AC will post a summary of its meetings on the AC-BH Google Group, of which all AC members and branch heads are members. There have been two meetings so far this year. Please let Rosie know if you would like a copy of these summaries.

**MGS Annual Meeting in Mallorca 13th – 23rd October**

Details of the programme are on the MGS website and in the April edition of the journal. The AGM is always a wonderful event where we get together with members from all over the world and this year there are opportunities for additional days on Minorca and on the Costa Blanca in Spain. The event runs from Thursday 13 October to Sunday 16 October 2011, with more optional day events following this core programme. See [http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/agm-2011.html](http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/agm-2011.html) and if you have questions about hotel accommodation please contact Yvonne Scott by phone 00 34 971 132 814 or email mgs@alturaspain.com.

A new live MGS internet forum is being launched later this month at [www.mgsforum.org/smf/index.php](http://www.mgsforum.org/smf/index.php). Do take a look! You can look without logging in, though to post messages and pictures you will need to register as a member which is all explained on the site. Alisdair Aird is the moderator, helped by Fleur Pavlidis and Oron Peri. A wonderful resource, with access to world experts on mediterranean flora.

**Proposed Directory for MGS Members in Portugal**

MGS Members in France have a Directory available to all members. It now has 79 names. It provides the name, town and email address of MGS members living in France who are happy to share this information in order to facilitate contact between members. I propose to set up a similar Directory for members in Portugal. Please be assured that if you have previously decided that your details should not be distributed, they will not be included unless you specifically ask. I would be grateful if members could let me know if they think this would be a good idea and if it would help facilitate contact between MGS members here. I would also need to know if you would object to this information being sent to MGS members in other branches who may be visiting Portugal.

*Trees do not forget their roots* Genetically identical forest trees raised in different areas and environments react differently when exposed to drought conditions, a study reveals. &lt;[http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/science-environment-14105631](http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/science-environment-14105631)&gt;

**ABSTRACTS from the Conference on Mediterranean habitat** being held in California 6-9 Sept. [http://www.medecos2011.com/index.html](http://www.medecos2011.com/index.html) Below are abstracts of papers being presented at this conference by specialists from Portugal. The International MEDECOS Conferences on the ecology, biodiversity, and conservation of the world’s five mediterranean-climate ecosystems began in 1971 in Valdivia, Chile. This year will mark the 40th Anniversary of this conference.

**Pathways for resilience in Mediterranean cork oak land-use systems in Portugal, Acácio, Vanda**

*Centro de Ecologia Aplicada Prof. Baeta Neves (CEABN), Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Tapada da Ajuda 1349-017 Lisboa, Portugal*

The landscape in southern Portugal is dominated by a distinctive Mediterranean land use system in which cork oak (Quercus suber L.) is the main tree species; this area constitutes the largest cork oak habitat in the world. Cork oak land use systems are European Union protected habitats, with high biodiversity, economic and cultural value, allowing for the protection of soils in dry environments and providing important ecosystem services. The cork oak land use system of today is the result of long-term combined ecological and land use dynamics that have shaped the landscape. In some cases, overexploitation of the land has led to soil degradation and erosion, failures in cork oak recruitment and decreasing tree density. Areas of degraded soil, where cork oak natural regeneration and establishment becomes difficult, are commonly invaded by persistent monospecific stands of pioneer heathland rockrose shrubs (Cistus spp. shrubs). Although traditionally shrublands have been considered as a transient successional state in Mediterranean Europe, I present evidence that Cistus shrublands may represent a persistent alternative vegetation state characterized by lower plant biomass and diversity in former cork oak areas of Portugal. Recent estimations for southern Portugal show that 60% of the shrubland patches remain
as such after 45 years, and that shrubland persistence is maintained by feedback mechanisms triggered by an interaction of wildfires, drought and inadequate human management and by multiple mechanisms that severely constrain cork oak recruitment in shrubland patches. There are alternative pathways through state and transition models synthesizing the ecological and land use variables that halt cork oak regeneration and recruitment and drive vegetation transitions leading to persistent shrublands. Unless concerted management actions, restoration programmes and multipurpose businesses are undertaken in the short-term, the cork oak land use systems will not be sustainable.

**Natura 2000 habitats of Mediterranean countries are distinct**

CICAE -Centro de Investigação em Ciências do Ambiente e Empresariais, INUAF, Convento Espírito Santo, 8100-641 Loulé, Portugal

2 CEABN - Centro de Ecologia Aplicada Prof. Baeta Neves, Tapada da Ajuda, 1300 Lisboa, Portugal

It is known that the Mediterranean Region is considered a global hotspot of biodiversity. Mediterranean landscapes, more than other European landscapes, have been largely modified over thousands of years, and natural habitats have decreased drastically in the last centuries because of human activities.

Natura 2000 Network was created to protect most valuable and threatened species and habitats in Europe. The 230 habitats types occurring in this network are included in nine classes: (1) Coastal and halophytic habitats, (2) Coastal sand dunes and continental dunes, (3) Freshwater habitats, (4) Temperate heath and scrub, (5) Sclerophyllous scrub (matorral), (6) Natural and semi-natural grassland formations, (7) Raised bogs and mires and fens, (8) Rocky habitats and caves, and (9) Forests. We analyzed different spatial characteristics of the distribution of habitats in the network and compared Mediterranean countries and the other European countries. We confirmed higher habitat diversity in the eight Mediterranean countries (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia) compared with other sixteen countries of Europe. The results show that 29% of the habitat types are entirely endemic from these 8 countries and that 77% of all the natural habitat types protected in Europe are present in the Mediterranean countries. These analyses also show that different habitat types have different sizes in Mediterranean and other European countries. Higher fragmentation is detected for coastal, freshwater, bogs and temperate habitats in the Mediterranean whereas matorral, grasslands, forests and rocky habitats show the opposite behaviour. It is concluded that protected habitats in Mediterranean countries have distinct spatial features that have to be taken into account when considering conservation of biodiversity.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**Mediterranean Algarve Gardeners** is an informal group for everyone who has a special interest in the plants and gardens of the Algarve and who wishes to learn more about appropriate ‘waterwise’ gardening. The aims of the group include encouraging the exchange of information and of experiences. The newsletter & web site [www.gardeninginportugal.com](http://www.gardeninginportugal.com) contain articles on diverse aspects of mediterranean gardening as well as news, notices, practical information and comment. All information is normally distributed via email but can also be posted on request.

If you are interested in taking a more active role in the organising of events or have any suggestions about the running of the Group please contact Rosie Peddle – the success of the group depends on the participation of members and should reflect their interests and needs.

Some members of this group are also members of the Mediterranean Garden Society. Further information about the Mediterranean Garden Society can be found on the main web site [www.mediterraneangardensociety.org](http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org). There is now a facility for joining and paying subscriptions online.

**Regional MGS Contacts:**

- **Lisbon area** – Ben Weijers, Tel: 219 291 841 Email: quintadocorvo@yahoo.com
- **Beira area** – Marion ter Horst, Tel: 235 721 193 Email: arnold-terhorst@netcabo.pt
- **Algarve area** - Rosie Peddle, Tel. 289 791 869 Email: rosie@thebtf.net
- **Minho area** – Chloe Parrott Tel. 966971275 Email: chloe@meo.pt

Contact & Newsletter Compiler: Rosie Peddle, Quinta das Sesmarias 275-M, Fornalha, Moncarapacho, OLHÃO 8700-091 Tel. & Email as above.