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 estaja interessado em jardimagem mediterrânea 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.

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<th>2012</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Info</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sotavento Garden Group Event</td>
<td>Making a Cutting Garden, bulbs of South Africa and floral art demo by James &amp; Susanna Watson Afternoon Garden visit Rob &amp; Rosie Peddle</td>
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<td>January 17th</td>
<td>MGS members and Friends are invited to take part</td>
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<td>Friday 23</td>
<td>All MGS members and friends are invited to take part. Lecture topics will include the scientific background for plant choices and the creation and day-to-day management of a natural garden.</td>
<td>Spring Conference Algarve Mediterranean Flora Hapimag Resort, Albufeira, Algarve Speakers include Prof. Oliver Rackham, Udo &amp; Claudia Schwarzer, Marilyn Kahan &amp; Mrs Joan Head.</td>
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<td>Saturday 24</td>
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<td>Sunday 25 March, 2012</td>
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**Sotavento Garden Group Event – Tuesday, January 17th, Moncarapacho**

MGS members and Friends are invited to take part. Guest charge 2.50 euro

**Location** – Casa do Povo, Moncarapacho. Newly refurbished meeting room. The Casa do Povo is located near the small car park on the crossroads of the Moncarapacho/Estoi road near the Galp station.

**Directions** - From the IP1 motorway, take Junction 15 signed Olhão and follow the slip road round down to the roundabout. Take the exit signed Fuseta, Moncarapacho (N398). Follow this road for 3 km into Moncarapacho. At the roundabout (Galp station is to the left) the Casa do Povo is to the right, above you, up the steps. There is a small car park, entrance opposite the Galp station, and there is some parking on ground immediately next to the Olaria pottery, on your left, just before the crossroads. Please car share if possible.

**Programme**

10.00am Welcome and coffee available at the cafe at the Casa do Povo.
10.30 to 11.30 Talk by James Watson on Making a Cutting Garden with some information on his recommended Bulbs of South Africa
11.30 to 12 noon coffee break
12.00 noon to 1.00 pm Susanna Watson will demonstrate floral art using flowers and materials from her cutting garden in Lagos
1.30pm Disperse – there are several good restaurants in Moncarapacho if you wish to have lunch locally after the meeting – further information on request.
Anyone interested in visiting the nearby garden of Rob & Rosie Peddle will be very welcome to do so in the afternoon after 2.30pm. Tea, cakes and plant sales in aid of MGS!

Please let know as soon as possible if you plan to attend this event. Fortunately, as we are using the meeting room, there should be ample room for all who wish to attend. Please spread the word and send this message if you know of anyone who may be interested in coming along and ask them to contact me to confirm their attendance.

Please contact Rosie to reserve your place for the morning or afternoon activities, map and directions sent to all attending. email rosie@thebtf.net Tel. 289 791 869

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

This talk by Gerald Luckhurst was well attended both by MGS members and those staying at the Hapimag resort with nearly fifty keen folk coming along. Gerald is a well respected historic gardens advisor and landscape architect with much experience of working in Madeira, Sintra and historic gardens throughout Portugal. Gerald wrote the recently published book on ‘The Gardens of Madeira’ and he happily signed, and sold, all the copies available on the day. He has also recently published a new book on the Gardens of Queluz Palace.

In his talk he covered the history of gardening on the island, the influence of agriculture and the extraordinary weather conditions. There were some dramatic slides of the typical steep contours which provide areas with microclimates sheltered from the ocean winds. Quinta das Cruzes and Quinta de Sto. Antonio are two of the oldest extant gardens on the island. The latter still producing wines. Examples of modern day garden restoration projects prove that there is still enormous interest and support for this important aspect of life on Madeira. Colourful highlights were the ravishing photos of the tropical and sub-tropical plants such as Isoplexis canariensis and, of course, Echiums. Luxuriant foliage and running streams reminded us that Madeira is indeed a very different gardening environment to that of the Algarve. This talk was part of a full day of activities, photos available on www.gardeninginportugal.com

Hapimag Resort, Albufeira, Algarve
Friday/ Saturday/Sunday 23 - 24 -25 March

Spring Conference - Algarve Mediterranean Flora

The Portugal Branch invites all MGS members and friends to join them in experiencing the magnificent and diverse flora of the Algarve in the midst of the spring flowering season. We are very pleased to announce that Prof. Oliver Rackham has accepted our invitation to talk to us about the forming of Mediterranean landscapes. We also have a walk on the West Coast with Udo & Claudia Schwarzer, and a talk on The Lavenders of the Iberian Peninsula by Joan Head. Gardens Manager at Hapimag, Marilyn Kahan, will have a presentation on the Algarvean Garden. The full programme will be available shortly. Lecture topics will cover the scientific background for plant choices and the creation and day-to-day management of a natural garden. For more information, to offer to help, and to register your interest email or phone Rosie Peddle, rosie@thebtf.net Tel:00351 289 791 869.

Pests and Diseases fact sheets available from the following link and useful advice from MGS member, JP Brigand http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/publications/plantPestDiseaseFactsheets.cfm

Rhynchophorus ferrugineus and Paysandisia archon in Portugal – by Jean-Paul Brigand

“In Portugal we have two insects killing palm trees, both the weevil : Rhynchophorus ferrugineus and the butterfly : Paysandisia archon. Understandably, as the weevil is an ally of the butterfly. The adult weevil is a sort of armoured tank whose larvae pierce the crown of the palm (or new shoots) the holes are then used by the butterfly who is less able to penetrate the base of the palm fronds. It
is not uncommon to see palms attacked by several generations of insects and the larvae of both the weevil and the butterfly.

Global research is ongoing to try and find a way to destroy the two killers. As with the Mediterranean fruit fly, a lack of coordinated action at an overall level on the peninsula means that the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture may delay the end of the war, but will not win it.

We must learn to live with it. Prevention is essential, since the enemy is discreet and almost always deadly.

**Preventive measures** - The preventive methods essential to recommend are:

- Never cut, prune, or injure a palm tree during the period of adult insect activity (temp. +15°)

Both insects are attracted by the smell of sap from the wounds. It is a key olfactory cue for them. So any wound not immediately cauterized is a sure signal to the enemy, "Come on over."

- Do not prune or trim except during the winter months: January to March (last August the Valencian Institute for Agricultural Research confirmed that Rhynchophorus ferrugineus and Paysandisia archon eggs don’t hatch below 15 °).

This is the best advice to give to your neighbours and for yourself.

- Carefully prune palms during a waning moon, in January and February, when vegetation has slowed.

- Take extra care with the Phoenix canariensis, (generally avoid planting these palms).

- Keep a look out. If you detect young palm leaves with an abnormal color, defects or holes aligned in the palm leaf itself or holes at the base of the leaves or if there is a seeping liquid - immediate alert!

Ask for confirmation from a specialist if available (other larvae like the Cetonia aurata or common rose chafer may be confused with the killers). Treat with a systemic insecticide (ex. water the crown with “Confidor” (every 30 days in the late summer). You must act quickly, do not hesitate to check your adult palm trees with binoculars, watch out for sawdust at the foot of the tree. You must be sure to remove flowers and fruit before treating as systemic insecticides kill bees. (and bees adore Phoenix flowers). This is one good reason not to generalize the use of systemic insecticides.

It is prudent however to use systemic insecticide (after removal of flowers and fruit) if there is a palm showing visible signs of attack in the neighborhood (the larvae can take up to two years to kill a palm tree, generations of larvae develop into adults 2 to 4 times per year). The number of adult insects that will hatch and survive to attack other palms is between 25 and 100 per generation.

Nematodes are deemed to be an effective organic insecticide but they are very expensive and must be implemented by a qualified professional (which is rare), the November 2011 issue of “Phytoma” indicates that their effectiveness is decreasing while research on insect eating fungus seems promising.

Preventive organic treatments (nematodes, bacillus thuragiencis, Beauvais bassiana) are not really economically viable, and the nematodes tend to pollute swimming pools. Egypt and Saudi Arabia have published research on preventive or curative treatments with plant extracts. The latest publication concerns jojoba oil. They have tested many species of plant-based insecticides.

For the moment we haven’t found any plant based treatments that are sufficiently inexpensive as they have to be applied often and for the lifespan of the palm tree. The least expensive is Biopalm (manufactured by a small French company, Provalis). This is a latex spray that creates a protective film and only needs to be applied once a year. Though it has proven very effective against the butterfly its effectiveness has not yet been demonstrated against the weevil.
Traps don't seem to work. The traps do not attract all of the insects all of the time so some will lay on the palm that they can easily identify visually. There are no known repellents that work. In summary, we must add that most preventive techniques currently available require a difficult implementation that in many cases is not respected.

Precautionary measures

According to Javier Segura (Palmasur) no palm trees are safe. However, there are palm trees that are at a higher risk from both killer insects:
- Phoenix canariensis: one of the most common palm trees in the Algarve (already considered dangerous because of the spines at the base of the fronds)
- Phoenix dactylifera: the date palm
- Chamaerops humilis: the only native palm to Portugal, it’s young off-shoots are specifically targeted by the butterfly.
Do not plant these. Diversify your palm trees, plant Syagrus romanzoffiana or the Livistonia, or the Cariot if you don’t have too much wind.

We have helped to spread the killers by globalization the trade in palm trees but also by planting in excess Phoenix canariensis. The least we can do now is stop attracting the enemy.”

LATEST ARTICLES
IN THE CONTINUING SERIES – LIFE WITHOUT GRASS ..... 
Lou & Brenda Rutter  http://www.algarveresident.com/43224-0/algarve/a-farewell-to-grass
Chris & Clive Dagnall  http://www.algarveresident.com/0-43251/algarve/no-lawn-thank-you

Proposed Directory for MGS Members in Portugal 
Many thanks to those who are happy to share information in order to facilitate contact between MGS members visiting Portugal. Please contact Rosie if you would like to be included.

A Garden in Languedoc – Olivier & Clara Filippi display garden
An occasional diary in words and pictures can now be viewed, with text in French as well as English thanks to the translating skills of Françoise Darlington, on the new MGS Languedoc website at www.mgslanguedoc.com. The aim is to produce regular seasonal reports on the garden of Olivier & Clara Filippi with photos.

20 October – 1 November 2012 MGS AGM in Australia
The event has been arranged in three separate packages to allow flexibility for participants. The pre-AGM Melbourne package October 20 – 23
The AGM Adelaide package October 24 – 28
The post-AGM optional days October 29 - 30, plus October 31 - November 1
More details are on the website at http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/agm-2012.html

Please tell Rosie if you plan to attend in Australia. I will try to put those going in contact with each other before the event.

REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS/news of upcoming events are available on 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.

MGS subscription renewals! Subscriptions were due on 1st January and it is possible to pay online or via Rosie Peddle. You can pay on the website using Mastercard or Visa, and also by Euro cheque sent to the address in the journal, or using the form enclosed with your October journal, or via the Portugal branch. Renew your subscription to continue receiving the Journal, next edition due
out in January. Most people find paying on the website via the following link the easiest method.
http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/applicationz.html

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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<th>Leaflets</th>
<th>These are now available in English, Portuguese, German and French as printed leaflets or as .pdf attachments to an email. Contact <a href="mailto:rosie@thebtf.net">rosie@thebtf.net</a> for copies.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Making a Dry Garden Mulches and Compost The Waterwise Garden</td>
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<th>The MGS Seed List</th>
<th>A list and information on how to order, see MGS website: <a href="http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html">http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html</a> <a href="http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html">http://www.societedesjardinsmediterraneens.org/seedlist.html</a> MGS members entitled to 10 free packets each year</th>
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<th>The MGS Forum</th>
<th>Moderated by Alisdair Aird, Oron Peri and Fleur Pavlidis this can be accessed at <a href="http://www.mgsforum.org/smf/index.php">www.mgsforum.org/smf/index.php</a></th>
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<td>A new, live, internet forum for anyone interested in mediterranean plants and gardening. Send your garden/plant queries to the forum.</td>
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<th>TMG Index/Archive service</th>
<th>To receive the text of past articles by email contact the editor, Caroline Harbouri, at <a href="mailto:petrie.harbouri@on.gr">petrie.harbouri@on.gr</a>. Find articles by going to the website, go to MGS Journal, then click on ‘General Index’ for an A-Z by topic.</th>
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<td>Articles from past issues of The Mediterranean Garden journal</td>
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<th>Information about the administration of the MGS Minutes of General Assemblies and Administrative Committee meetings Financial Statements</th>
<th>Minutes of the October 2011 General Assembly and Administrative Committee meetings and this year’s Financial Statements are now available. Copies of any of these documents can be sent by email. Contact <a href="mailto:rosie@thebtf.net">rosie@thebtf.net</a></th>
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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 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 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.