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 esta interessado em jardimagem mediterrânica agradecemos que passa a palavra, ou o favor de dar um destes boletins informativos, e nao esquecer que todos estão convidados a participar nos eventos por nós organizados.

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Sat. 30 Nov. and Sun. 1st Dec.</td>
<td>Plant and Bulb Sales&lt;br&gt;Open to offers!&lt;br&gt;OPEN HOUSE&lt;br&gt;10.30 to 13.00 each day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 2nd Dec. 6.00pm</td>
<td>Geology of the Algarve by Ludo Broothaers</td>
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<td>28/29/30 March 2014 ADVANCE NOTICE</td>
<td>3rd International Spring Conference, Algarve Group Event&lt;br&gt;Lecture by Roy Lancaster on the woody plants of the Siskiyou Mountains of California &amp; Oregon</td>
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ALGARVE/PORTUGAL - NEWS

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND Saturday 30 Nov. & Sunday 1st Dec. 10.30 to 13.00 each day<br>MGS members & friends / All Welcome / Rob & Rosie Peddle, Moncarapacho, East Algarve

Visit the garden, tea & buns available, but mainly there will be bulbs, seeds, plants, books and journals, and perhaps even some home made marmalade, available for you to choose from and take away with you. Second hand books welcomed. Come along and make us an offer for the plants and bulbs we have for sale. If you were unable to go to the Garden Fair, come and see what plants we still have to offer!

Map and Directions available on request, please let Rosie know if you plan to come so that we can get the kettle on and enough cakes made!

On Monday 2 December at 6 pm, Ludo Broothaers will be giving a talk in the Municipal Library, Tavira on the Geology of the Algarve. Ludo Broothaers is a geologist. His career includes prospecting for base metals, setting up mineralogical laboratories and lecturing at a school for mining engineers. He has spent much of his career in Morocco, Indonesia and Surinam. Ludo’s lecture on the geology of the Algarve is aimed at the lay person and as an introduction he will explain some of the basic principles of geology. He will then give a general outline of the geology of the Algarve, describing the composition and origins of local rock formations in the context of their geological date He will make comparisons with similar rocks and geological eras in the UK.
ADVANCE NOTICE - All are welcome to join us for this very special weekend focussed firmly on plant choices when creating dry gardens in mediterranean climate zones. At this time of year the spectacular wild flowers of the Algarve are also looking at their best. Also offered will be Algarve natural history book sales and garden visits with lots of opportunities for good planty chat with other keen gardeners.

A full weekend programme includes talks on succulent plants from South Africa and Mexico, Woody Plants for Mediterranean Gardens, and a new feature of discussion sessions each day with time for Q & A with our speakers. Specialist plant sales and garden visits.

Mr Roy Lancaster, OBE VMH, renowned plantsman, plant hunter and author. An opportunity to hear this world famous, popular and enthusiastic speaker with his personal selection of woody plants from the botanically rich and often over looked Siskiyou Mountains of California and Oregon and other “woodies” Roy suggests as suitable for Mediterranean gardens. We are very pleased to welcome Roy & Sue back for another visit to the Algarve.

Mr Paul Spracklin says that it eventually dawned on him that he should seek out plants that satisfied his desire to grow exotic and architectural plants but also make the whole thing rather more sustainable in a dry Essex garden. This led to him making several field trips to Mexico and his main area of interest now is all the members of the Agave plant family.

Mr Derek Tribble has been growing cacti & succulents as an amateur since teenage years. His passion now is growing and studying South African leaf succulents, after fifteen visits to photograph these plants in nature. Derek will share with us his enthusiasm for the succulent plants of South Africa.

Other presentations include A Beginners Guide to Succulents; Mediterranean garden types – Designing gardens with Nature’s help; and sessions on Agaves and on Aloes. A new feature will be daily discussion sessions with the key speakers and opportunities to ask questions. Put the dates in your diary, spread the word, and register your interest with Rosie Peddle at rosie@thebtf.net for more information in the new year.

Gardening articles in The Resident, past and present, can be viewed online via a new web site http://portugalresident.com/categories/gardening-0 Please share your gardening experiences here on the Algarve and put an article together, details from Rosie rosie@thebtf.net We need about 600 words plus one or two images.

Mediterranean Gardening Books as Christmas Presents ? why not check the reading list available on http://www.gardeninginportugal.com/reading-list-for-mediterranean-gardening every Amazon purchase made via our link puts a contribution into group funds ! IF you have suggestions of good books to be added to this list, please pass them onto Rosie.

An organic produce market will be held at Querença on the Algarve on the last Sunday of every month, the market runs from 10.00 to 13.00 and there will be some activities and sweet tastings.
NEWS from the Gardens and Landscapes of Portugal journal

Following a request from my contact at Lisbon and Évora Universities, Professora Ana Duarte Rodrigues, MGS Portugal is one of the partners in a new online magazine on the gardens and landscapes of Portugal.

http://www.chaia_gardens_landscapesofportugal.uevora.pt/journal.html

If you follow the above link you will find all editions. I hope you will enjoy it.

AN ECOLOGY BEFORE ECOLOGY: the respect for the genius loci

A Fascinating CYCLE OF INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS for MASTER AND DOCTORAL COURSES 2013-2014. Please see full programme attached to this email. Next lecture takes place in Évora on 6th December. All Welcome.

Genius Loci Sala 2 | 06 Dec. 2013 (friday) | 18:00pm by Ana Lemos [Pt] IEM/FCSH
Medieval Kalendar: nature’s time versus countryside’s labour
Ana Paula Guimarães e Carlos Augusto Ribeiro [Pt] IELT/FCSH
Talks from the Earth: Nature before Environment
Palácio do Vimioso Tel.: 266 706 581 E-mail: chaia@uevora.pt www.chaia.uevora.pt

The Group Bulb Order has been ably steered by Richard Hickman. This has been a great success and many unusual bulbs not normally available on the Algarve have found their way into our gardens thanks to Richard and his patient negotiation of bulb companies and their catalogues. His advice is based on this experience and we also hope to get some feedback from you about the bulbs and how they perform here. Richard’s advice now is that we should think about getting our orders in earlier next year so that we get the best choice. Look out for a reminder early next year! Please send in your comments and share the successes and any failures so that we can learn more about the best performers.

PLANTS WANTED? Desperately seeking? There is good news and we can now update everyone on this scheme to put plant propagation material into the hands of good nurseries and growers for the benefit of all. Seeds and cuttings material have been distributed and we hope for a good stock of unusual plants such as Ballota pseudodictamnus, Leucophyllum frutescens and Vitex agnus castus. This is very much a long term project but as they say here, “Every journey starts with one small step” We are still looking for your suggestions ……..

Please send your top ten ‘wanted plants’ list to Rosie rosie@thebtf.net

We will compile a list and circulate it to those responding, now is your chance to let us know what plants you are looking for and to share what works in your garden with others.

MGS Portugal is a Partner in a project researching and investigating using green roof technology in Mediterranean climates. A new FCT program for exploratory projects is currently open and we supported the application from Teresa Afonso do Paço, Ph D, of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia in Lisbon.

We are very pleased to let you know that the project was successful and now has confirmed funding from the government sponsored Science Investigation Fund. Our warm congratulations to Teresa and her team for this mammoth effort!

This project will be focussed on the creation of green rooves using native species and is directed to this technology for the southern regions of Europe. It is part of the work of the Biosystems
DID YOU KNOW ? that there is a special group dedicated to saving local varieties of fruit and vegetable seeds ? ‘Colher para Semear’ is setting up a national network in Portugal to conserve traditional varieties and improve agricultural biodiversity. For more information contact José Miguel Fonseca colherparasemear@gmail.com

NEW PUBLICATION by Kew Publishing
Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of the Algarve Authors: Chris Thorogood and Simon Hiscock
Find out more at www.kewbooks.com and to learn more about Kew visit www.kew.org

This is the first comprehensive identification guide to the rich Mediterranean flora of the Algarve region of southern Portugal, including the Cape St. Vincent Peninsula National Park, an area of immense botanical importance with numerous endemic and rare species. The Algarve is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Europe (it receives more than 7 million tourists per annum), and this guide is the essential companion for wildlife tourists, and the first comprehensive easy-to-use identification guide to its wild flowers. Information is provided on where and when to see plants with information on their habitat and vegetation types. In addition rare and unusual plants of the region are highlighted, including orchids and parasitic plants. With over 1,000 species descriptions, the book is abundantly illustrated throughout with over 650 stunning colour photographs, 780 line drawings and distribution maps. This is due to be published in February 2013 and we hope to have copies at our Spring Bash.

Five in a Row, and not out ! Mediterranean Garden Fair, 2013
http://portugalresident.com/mediterranean-garden-fair-report for some photos

This year we held our fifth garden fair on Saturday October 26th to take advantage of the extra hour of sunshine but, we had a particular challenge, to hold our event and to comply with the recent changes in local councils, and national legislation. Everyone involved in the organising is very grateful for the help we received from the newly united Estoi and Conceição Junta and the Horse Association of Estoi. We hope to work with them again in the future. It was very disappointing that we could not return to the Palace Hotel in Estoi but the historic gardens there were so unsafe for public access that it was beyond our resources to prepare them.

The Mediterranean Garden Fair has become a firm favourite with keen gardeners, here on the Algarve and further afield. This is not surprising when you consider that one of the main building blocks of our gardens are the plants we use to provide beauty, colour and seasonal interest. Without the small, and usually family-run, plant nurseries we would have a much reduced choice. One of our aims has always been to support this kind of nursery and put them in touch with gardeners seeking a wider range of plants. The fair is also our annual fund raising event to support the programme for the year and our own members plants for sale is a very popular stall. We are very grateful to everyone who brought along plants for us to sell on the day.

This type of event is very common in the UK, France, Belgium and Germany and the model is well known in those countries. Here in Portugal there was no precedent for an event which combines small nurseries with a wide range of plants, larger specialist sellers and the opportunity to talk to and learn from fellow gardeners.

This is an element we have always tried hard to incorporate and willing volunteers have offered their time and expertise freely to share with visitors. This can be passing on basic but practical propagating techniques, looking at one plant family, gardening with native plants or even solar cooking - and eating !
This year, again, we had the challenge of the weather to deal with. It was a very wet week leading up to the day itself and the volunteers involved in the set-up day on Friday were, once again, soaked! Fortunately the following day was bright, clear and sunny and the plants all looked wonderful after their dose of rain water. It was indeed a beautiful day to celebrate the start of the gardening year.

We had some new small nurseries, one specialising in succulents and another with unusual plants grown from seed. The fair ground looked very inviting and the layout allowed everyone plenty of room to show off their plants and trees. We are always very keen indeed to hear about small nurseries with good plants to offer, please let us know of your own recommendations so that we can send invitations in good time. It takes a lot of hard work to prepare plants for this special day. I noticed that there was a larger range of lavenders available including the excellent *Lavandula dentata candicans* in good numbers. Also caper plants, the spectacular semi-tropical African Tulip Tree, *Spathodea campanulata* and, from South Africa, the lovely fynbos tree, *Cussonia paniculata* for those who like a challenge.

We also had good presentations on Propagating from John Vellam, Low Maintenance Mediterranean Gardening from Marilyn Medina Ribeiro and another on The Nasty Stuff, Pests etc. as well as our usual Plant Clinic for questions and identification. This year we had bulbs for sale that are suitable for mediterranean gardens and these flew out on the day, obviously something we may have to include again.

As we were not charging an entry fee then it was difficult to estimate numbers but despite the change of venue and the last minute arrangements to comply with the rules, we were very pleased indeed with the response. So, a big ‘thank you’ to everyone who came along to support this event, we will look forward to seeing you again next year and enjoy the wonderful gardening season ahead.

Reports on previous events can be seen at http://www.mediterranean-gardensociety.org/branches-pt.html http://www.gardeninginportugal.com/category/events/reports-on-past-events

Portugal members were well represented at the 19th Annual General Meeting of the MGS, held in Athens, Greece on 10 November 2013.

Eight members from Portugal were able to attend this meeting and approximately half of our local membership were able to participate in the voting for the new Administrative Ctte. This was a great response and thanks are due to everyone for their effort for our group to be represented. The results are on the MGS web site and have been sent to all those who participated in the voting.

Our plans to form a new association with a formal legal identity in Portugal were discussed at the Branch Head meeting with the Admin. Ctte. Other branches of MGS have encountered similar problems with negotiating local legislation. We have requested affiliation with the MGS and wish to keep close links with Greece.

More news to follow, please get in touch with Rosie if you have any queries or can offer to help with this next exciting stage in our growth here.

From the MGS Members Forum, http://www.mgsmembersforum.org

This forum exists for MGS members to discuss any topic of MGS interest, apart from gardening. There are different threads covering Minutes of meetings, financial information and publicity for branch events. It is simple to join and there are instructions on the home page.

PLACEMENTS - there are from time to time UK trained or partly trained horticulturists looking for work experience in the Mediterranean. If any member has a garden or works in a garden which might be able to offer a paid placement or work share opportunities with some mentoring and instruction please let me know. This is an ongoing request so please keep this in mind and let us know of any young professionals or students who may be interested.
MGS Members Seedlist available on [http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html](http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/seedlist.html)

Examples of some of the wonderful seed available include - three Euphorbias adapted to our gardens here. *Euphorbia antiquorum* (syn. *E. arborescens*), *Euphorbia myrsinites*, *Euphorbia rigida* and also six types of Iris, sixteen types of Salvia …….. There is also a handy list of plants to grow from seed recommended for autumn sowing, what are you waiting for?

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**FRANCE NEWS - Mediterranean Garden Society Languedoc, 10th Anniversary Handbook**

We now have available copies of the attractive spiral-bound handbook containing around 170 pages of articles, plant lists, recommendations and recipes contributed by Languedoc members, illustrated with colour photographs and specially commissioned drawings. All articles and recipes will appear in English and French, side by side, useful for anyone wanting to polish their language skills.

Topics include garden design, practical gardening advice, propagation, pruning and projects. Over 250 plants have been recommended by members, along with nurseries and gardens worth visiting and useful books and websites. An invaluable resource for anyone visiting this lovely area of France.

Cost per copy is 15 euros, it will be for sale at the OPEN HOUSE weekend on 30th Nov/1st Dec.

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**Languedoc NEWS** [http://mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/gdGL.htm](http://mediterraneangardensocietyfrance.com/gdGL.htm)

Click on this link to view a wonderful set of reports on the demonstration garden of Olivier Filippi in south west France. Many of you will know the famous dry garden plant nursery of Olivier and Clara Filippi, [www.jardin-sec.com](http://www.jardin-sec.com) The Languedoc MGS group has set up an occasional diary in words and pictures, starting with a view of the garden at the hottest and driest time of year. Currently there are five reports starting in August 2011 through to June 2012. This is a bilingual site in French and English.

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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 newsletters & 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. Please pass on this newsletter to anyone interested.

We also run a facebook page called Mediterranean Gardeners Portugal, post your plant or garden pics and queries here [https://www.facebook.com/MediterraneanGardenersPortugal](https://www.facebook.com/MediterraneanGardenersPortugal)

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. Subscriptions are due for renewal in January.

**Regional Contacts:**

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