

John Lavranos Memorial Lecture

What can one say about somebody who knew about virtually 'everything' botanical and professed to knowing 'nothing'? John Lavranos, who died on the 1st February in Loulé last year, was one of those people. Extremely well-informed about the world around him John was an author and an editor, a polyglot and above all a passionate plant collector with an interest in succulents, particularly aloes. His international influence and standing in the botanical world is underlined by the fact that over the years many 'new' plants have been named by him and for him. The last 28 years of his life were spent in his beloved Belvoir (Loulé) where he created a collector's garden of plants. During that time, he was widely respected and loved, becoming president of the Algarve Succulent Appreciation Society (ASAS) and a good friend and advisor not only to members of MGAP but also to all the members of the gardening fraternity both locally and internationally. One example of his international connections is his gift of unique and rare specimens of African and Malagasyian plants to the Botanic Garden in Gibraltar.

In his memory, MGAP will be holding a series of annual lectures. The first of which will be given by Tim Harvey and is being held in conjunction with ASAS and members of other Algarve garden societies.

Tim Harvey is the editor of the American Cactus and Succulent Journal. Tim travelled extensively with John whilst collecting and researching succulents in Africa and contributed photographs to his books. In the years before John's death, Tim was collaborating with John to make John's vast and valuable collection of annotated slides on plant specimens more accessible to botanists.

The topic of the talk is to be announced.

The talk will be held at **Albufeira Library on Thursday February 28th at 10 a.m.** There will be a small plant table with succulents for sale. Please label and price any you bring. Proceeds will go towards Tim's expenses. There will also be a book stall.

As space is limited, please register as soon as possible by emailing Tessa Hearn at MGAP (mgapevents@gmail.com) for MGAP or Elspeth Flood at ASAS (elspeth.a.h.flood@gmail.com). Those registering will be sent directions to the library.

This is a unique opportunity to learn more about this amazing man.

A contribution of €5 will be greatly appreciated.

If you need any further information, contact Tessa Hearn at mgapevents@gmail.com.