



Newsletter No 13 September 2017

www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

Member of www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MedGardenersPortugal>

Welcome to members and friends in Portugal with an interest in Mediterranean Gardening. 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.

Bem-vindos, membros e amigos em Portugal com interesse no Jardinagem Mediterrânica. Se souber de alguém que esteja interessado em jardinagem mediterrânica agradecemos que passe 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.

| 2017/18 | EVENTS | Info |
|---|---|--|
| Saturday 23 September 10.30 start Sala Polivalente, Municipal Library, Loulé | <i>What Grows Where ? Soils & Plant Communities in the Algarve</i> Illustrated talk by Marilyn Medina Ribeiro A subject vital for successful gardening in the Algarve. The talk will be followed by a discussion session, questions welcome! | ALL WELCOME ! More information from Tessa Hearn mgapevents@gmail.com |
| Saturday 28 October 2017 11.00 to 16.00 (members only from 10.00am) | Mediterranean Garden Fair Museo, São Bras The only specialist Plant Sale on the Algarve – make a date for this autumn extravaganza. Talks, specialist nurseries and good food! | For more info please contact Sue Finlay mgapfairs@gmail.com Offers of help to Rosie Peddle rosie@thebtf.net |
| Wednesday 22 November Date now confirmed | <i>Fungi Talk & Fungi Foray!</i> At the Quinta da Figueirinha By Pat O'Reilly, author of <i>Fascinating Fungi</i> Books on sale on the day | ALL WELCOME ! Details to be confirmed Contact mgapevents@gmail.com |
| 15–22 April 2018 (programme to be confirmed) | GARDENS AND PLANTS IN SPAIN MG<i>i</i> International Spring Conference A plants and gardens event based in two towns in the provinces of Alicante and Valencia, Spain. Residential packages available | Organised by Mediterranean Plants & Gardens, UK Contact Heather Martin to register your interest hma@clara.net |
| 7–11 May 2018 | EUROGARD VIII – 8th European Botanic Gardens Congress: “Botanic Gardens, People and Plants for a Sustainable World” will be held in Lisbon in 2018 | Special event on botanic gardens in Europe Please contact Rosie Peddle Email rosie@thebtf.net |
| Monthly meetings | Western Algarve Group Autumn Programme of events planned for the Lagos area | Please contact Jeanette Fahlbusch jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com |

Message from Burford Hurry

President – Mediterranean Gardening Association of Portugal



Summer again and once more we are forcibly reminded that we have merciless sunshine at this time of year. And with the heat, bush fires taking an awful toll on people, plants and wild life. Although these features are becoming a more regular part of our lives, they are not new.

We gardeners are always mindful of the fact that we should plant wisely, bearing in mind our dry summers and the scarcity and preciousness of fresh water. With those factors in mind we believe that practising water wise gardening is the most sensible way forward. A key element in creating such a garden is to select plants that need little or no water in our summers. That in turn points us obviously in the direction of our local flora which over the millennia have devised various kinds of survival techniques to beat the heat and the drought and so do not need additional water during the summer.

That's the obvious solution, but gardeners are not always known either for obeying all the rules or settling for the easiest answer. Very often they like to be alternative. I'm thinking of the early water features in the Roman gardens in Pompeii or in the later gardens of the Generalife in the Alhambra Granada for example. No water in summer? For the Generalife? It was piped in from the Sierra Nevada. Lack of variety, colour and perfume? Other 'exotic' flowers and plants were grown.

At a very South African birthday party the other evening the question of invasive plant species came up and the fact mentioned that water hyacinths now completely cover a dam outside Johannesburg making animal life or any sort of navigation impossible. This was cited as a frightening example of what can happen. In Portugal we face the similar problems. Probably our most famous plant invader is the *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Bermuda buttercup) that came to us from South Africa itself and now is found in the entire Mediterranean region. However, invaders don't have to come from distant parts of the world. *Allium triquetrum* is one of our local natives but will take over a garden if given half a chance. In its defence it is extremely pretty, entirely edible and is ephemeral.

To help us decide on what not to plant, a guide to the invasive plants in Portugal has been published by the University of Coimbra. Called '*Guia Practico para a Identificacao de Plantas Invasoras em Portugal*', and also available online at <http://invasoras.pt/fichas> The book is fully illustrated and makes a useful reference book. It gives an unsettling list of plants that are now becoming part of our countryside. Ironically, but perhaps not surprisingly, the invasive species are just the ones that can handle our hot dry summers and cool wet winters. Armed with the guide we can at least ensure we will not be adding to the problem.

The question remains should we go completely native to avoid this problem? Trees that have become part of the Portuguese landscape, like olives, were introduced very successfully thousands of years ago. Many of the vegetables and peppers we plant today came to us from South America. It would be foolish to exclude all exotics from our gardens.

However, if we do decide to mix water-wise exotics from other Mediterranean climates with natives in order to achieve more colour or greenery in our summer or winter gardens, and bearing in mind our guide to invasive species, then it might well be a good idea to consult the MGAP or have a dip into the earlier editions of the Mediterranean Garden Society journal which are now also available from MGAP. Something useful to occupy us while we plan our autumn and spring gardens while escaping from the present searing midday heat.

May I remind you all that we hold a library of relevant gardening information in the classroom at Quinta da Figueirinha, and your contributions would be welcome. This includes a full set of MGS Journals as well as other reference books. You can visit by arrangement with Dr Gerhard Zabel gdf@gdf.pt and www.gdf.pt
Happy gardening!

Burford Hurry

We need your help on our **Management Committee** so please consider joining us to help as my Deputy or as Treasurer and be part of the group setting future priorities for the Association.

Autumn Garden Fair – Helpers Needed !

Mediterranean Garden Fair **Saturday October 28 2017**



In the lovely courtyard setting of Museo de Trajo, São Bras de Alportel. Members and guests only, entry at 10.00am – open to the public from 11.00am Entry fee €1 Gardeners under 16 free.

Nurseries selling suitable plants for Mediterranean Gardens and MGAP information centre, Mediterranean garden book shop, seed sales, craft stalls, Plant Creche and **FREE TALKS**

- **11.30 Potential of Barrocal native plants as Ornamentals** - "Vegetação natural potencial do Barrocal algarvio: Espécies características com valor ornamental" by Dr Ricardo Canas of the University of the Algarve - an illustrated talk in Portuguese/English.
- **13.00 Keeping Your Home and Garden Safe from Fire** "Mantendo casas e jardins protegidos do fogo" by Eng. José Filipe who will give advice on plant choices and garden planning to resist wildfires. He will also present a **rolling slide show** of his lovely photographs of **native flowers of the Algarve** for use in the garden in the lecture room between talks and be available to discuss and give information on them. Blog <http://dojavaliconquilha.wordpress.com> In Portuguese/English.
- **14.30 Medicinal Gardens /Jardins Medicinais** by João Beles – João lives and gardens in the Algarve and is a qualified Naturopath. He will talk about how we can grow plants in our gardens which enable us to enjoy both their beauty and their medicinal qualities. In Portuguese/English.

Nature Printing Workshops are a new exciting addition to the programme this year and are with renowned local Olhão artist and Life Member of the Nature Printing Society, **Dr. Rachel Ramirez**. Rachel will demonstrate how to make fascinating prints directly from nature and you will be able to try out the techniques for yourself. These are planned for **12.30 and 14.00** with the opportunity to buy special inks and paper to take home with you to continue making your own lovely art works. More info www.rachelramirezprints.weebly.com

As ever, **VOLUNTEERS are needed** to make the event a success, so please **contact Rosie Peddle** if you can help - sitting down jobs available ! email rosie@thebtf.net

NEXT EVENT - - - ALL WELCOME !

What Grows Where? **Soils & Plant Communities in the Algarve**

Illustrated talk by Marilyn Medina Ribeiro

Saturday 23 September - 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 Free Entry

Please note the **CHANGE OF LOCATION** to Sala Polivalente, Municipal Library, Loulé.

Learn more about creating a beautiful garden in harmony with your soil and the plants it will support. Discover how this understanding of our soils and plant communities will help you to improve and enrich your garden and save water.

Palestra em inglês e discussão adicional também em português.

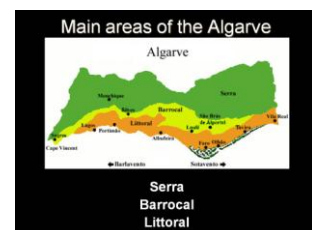
Talk in English and discussion session also in Portuguese.

Marilyn Medina Ribeiro is Plant Adviser to MGAP. She has worked in nurseries, parks and private gardens and now lives in the Algarve, where she has managed hotel gardens and native plant gardens. She now runs her own company designing and building sustainable gardens and landscapes. (www.waterwisegardens.com)

Native plant seeds and books on Mediterranean gardening will be on sale

Parking available next to the library

Contact for further information: mgapevents@gmail.com



BARROCAL BOTANIC GARDEN UPDATE – It is a great pleasure to let everyone know that recently our Botanic Garden has been accepted as a Member of Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI). You can see our listing here <http://bgci.org/garden.php?id=5230>

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is a membership organisation representing a network of 500 botanic gardens in more than 100 countries, including the largest and most influential gardens in the sector. BGCI is the largest plant conservation network in the world, and aims to collect, conserve, characterise and cultivate samples from all of the world's plants as an insurance policy against their extinction in the wild and as a source of plant material for human innovation, adaptation and resilience. They also provide guidance for the creation and running of new Botanic Gardens.



Current work at the garden is a monthly programme of deep watering for the new plants which went in this February. The summer will also see a carefully controlled continuation of the cleaning programme for the outer areas of the garden. We have a lovely heap of prunings and dead material ready for shredding which will then be used as a mulch. We also hope to extend the pathway network to complete the 'circuit' as a walk for visitors to see all round the garden.

Stems with engraved plant labels have been ordered and received, ready for engraving with the first batch of plant names.

All work completed so far has been funded directly by MGAP but we hope to shortly announce a series of elements suitable for sponsorship and individual support.

There is also an informal programme of propagating plants to supplement those on site, if you would like to have the list of plants we are actively seeking, please contact Rosie below. We have had great support from local members and friends and plan to build on this by organising a regular **Open Day** when we can provide a guided tour – if you are interested in participating in this, please contact Rosie Peddle email rosie@thebtf.net.

NEWS FROM MEDITERRANEAN GARDENING INTERNATIONAL

----- DATE FOR YOUR DIARY -----



MPG Mediterranean Plants and Gardens UK
www.medpag.org

**PLANTS, GARDENS AND MOORISH INFLUENCES
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALICANTE**

15 –22 April 2018

Based in Alicante and Valencia, garden tours, lectures and nursery visits
An International plant and garden event based in two towns in the provinces of Alicante and Valencia, Spain. Residential packages available, open to all MGAP members.

Please register your interest with Heather Martin if you wish to take advantage of this very special opportunity. <http://www.medpag.org/spain-booking.html>

Please register your interest **NOW** for more details and to secure your place direct with conference organiser Heather Martin email hma@clara.net

Mediterranean Gardening Chile is the newest member of MG*i*.
Originating in Aurora Park, located in the Curacaví valley, which lies between scrubland and sclerophyll forest. The group fosters interest



in Chilean native Mediterranean species, many vulnerable and most endemic, to protect them through observation and knowledge, and to report on their qualities and on the benefits of growing them in gardens. Founding Member, Alfredo Uнда, will be attending the 5th Chilean National Congress on Native Flora at the University of Serena <http://www.congresofloranativa.cl/> on 7 -9 September. The team in Chile will have posters and information material in Spanish and English to publicise the new association to participants there. MG*i* members now have even more places to visit !
More information is on their website <https://medgardenchile.wixsite.com/mg-chile>

MGi Seed Scheme Expanded List – Following the dialogue between Caroline Davies, President of the Mediterranean Garden Society and Burford Hurry, President of MGAP, the MGS agreed that Chantal Guirard would now maintain one list and all seeds would be shared. The question of costs was discussed and Mediterranean Gardening France agreed to share the small amount of costs equally with the MGS. Just to confirm, the seed list is now available to all MGAP members and your donations are also welcome, as before.

This is great news for us as the list of different types of seeds available has gone up from around 450 to over 675. Chantal has recently updated the list and members can access it here: <http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/SeedEx.htm> .

The MGi event “Art et Jardins” in 2017 had over 50 participants from seven countries and made many friends among the members of our sister associations in Portugal, Italy, the United Kingdom and Australia. This was our second international event and we already have some ideas for the future. In 2018, during the third week of April, our British partners Mediterranean Plants and Gardens are planning to host an event in Spain, based in two towns in the provinces of Alicante and Valencia. In 2019, we are invited to Portugal by Mediterranean Gardening Portugal. And we must start saving our pennies, because in 2020, our colleagues in Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River will be inviting us to Perth, capital of Western Australia. We will visit gardens in Perth and then head south to the lovely wine-growing region of Margaret River. Julie Kinney, the head of MGMR, has asked me to give her an idea of the number of people who might be interested in this trip, so please contact me if you’re tempted. cs.savage@btopenworld.com

Portugal will once again host the **MGi International Spring Conference in 2019** on the theme of “*Mediterranean Landscapes Brought into the Garden*”. All MGi and MGS organisation members will be invited to join us. Current plans are for this to be held during mid March to mid April 2019. If you would like to be involved in organising this event please contact rosie@thebtf.net

MEMBERSHIPS 2017 Contact our Membership Secretary, Margaret Jackson to check on your subscription. Email mgapmembers@gmail.com

Members of MGAP will receive early entry to the Mediterranean Garden Fair, open at 10.00am for members and 11.00 public entry.

For your subscription, you will get:

- Three **Newsletters** per year including information on upcoming events
- Access to a **Members Forum** where you can see what other members have to say about many aspects of Mediterranean gardening; you can ask questions and answer those posed by others.
- Access to our **free seed distribution scheme**, ten packets free from an extensive list of Mediterranean plants.
- Access to expert knowledge through our **free advice service**
- Access to a rich annual programme of **events** on the Algarve, some at reduced rates for members and early entry to the specialist garden fairs.
- Access to **events and conferences** held by our partner associations, nationally and internationally.
- Access to our **Barrocal Botanic Garden**, Silves
- Access to **members gardens**
- The chance to **meet other Mediterranean gardeners** who share your particular interests

Western Algarve – Mediterranean Garden Group for the Lagos area

A programme of monthly meetings is organised by members and anyone interested in becoming actively involved can contact Jeanette either by email or phone 969 439 867. Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month and start at 10.00am.

Please contact Jeanette for more information and to keep in touch on future plans.

Jeanette Fahlbusch email jeanettealicefahlbusch@gmail.com

NEWS from the AAJBA (Associação dos Amigos do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda) of Lisbon
Visit to Andalucia – Seville, Cordoba and Granada 30 October to 4 November
Visita comentada pelo Arq. Pais. Miguel Coelho de Sousa, Vice-Presidente da Direção da AAJBA e pelo João Monjardino, Vogal da Direção da AAJBA.

Mais info <http://www.aajba.com/pt-pt/Viagens/2017.aspx>

Relembramos que ao participarem nas iniciativas da AAJBA estão a contribuir para o restauro do Jardim Botânico da Ajuda, pois o lucro das viagens será investido no jardim.

Visitem também o nosso [site](#) e a nossa página no [Facebook](#).

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Beira Grass Roots Gardeners – Friendly, free to join, group of enthusiastic gardeners in the Beiras area of Central Portugal. We aim to bring together enthusiastic gardeners to share horticultural knowledge, tips, success stories and failures! We have regular meet-ups, visits to gardens and nurseries, and run many plant and garden events. For more info and to join the email list contact beiragrassroots@gmail.com

Facebook page [Mediterranean Gardeners – Portugal](#) is updated regularly with links and relevant information. Follow and Like to be kept up to date! Latest Info on our Facebook page :- <https://www.facebook.com/MedGardenersPortugal>

EVENTS in Mediterranean Gardening International (MGAP Members will be welcomed at events, subject to availability of places. Please contact the local organiser shown.)
Information on events in France, UK, South Africa and Margaret River region in Australia available via <http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org>

Activities are open to MGAP members, members of partner associations and, where places are available, guests. Where the number of places for a particular event is limited, priority will be given to local members. An exciting and varied programme of international events is available !

Mediterranean Gardening Forum members of MGAP can access this forum via the link at top right of the front page of our web site www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

There are sections devoted to advice, plant identification and wildlife in the garden as well as events. MGAP has a section for all our Minutes of AGM and Board meetings. Please contact our Membership Secretary if you have any trouble gaining access to the forum.

Regional Contacts:

Lisbon area – Ben Weijers Paquete, Tel: 219 291 841

Email: quintadocorvo@yahoo.com

Beira area – Marion ter Horst, Tel: 917 850 235

Email: s.m.terhorst@gmail.com

Algarve area - Rosie Peddle, Tel. 289 791 869

Email: rosie@thebtf.net

Minho area – Chloe Parrott Tel. 966 971 275

Email: chloe@meo.pt

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We have a friendly and informal group for everyone who has a special interest in the plants and gardens of Mediterranean climates. The aims of MGAP (Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal) include education and encouraging the exchange of information and of experiences.

Web site www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org contains articles as well as news, notices, practical information and comment. Please pass on this newsletter to anyone interested. MGAP is now affiliated to The Mediterranean Garden Society, the electronic version of the MGS Journal is available to members of MGAP – contact mgapsec@btinternet.com to be sent your copy.

Membership Secretary Margaret Jackson email mgapmembers@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters then please do let us know by sending a return email with **REMOVE** in the subject line to rosie@thebtf.net