



THE MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

Portugal Branch - Members & Friends

Contact: Rosie Peddle email rosie@thebtf.net

Newsletter No. 25 August 2012

www.gardeninginportugal.com

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 jardinagem 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.

2012	Event	Info
Saturday 29th September 10.00–16.00	Culinary, Medicinal & Aromatic Herbs A full day of herby activities	Fernanda Botelho will talk on knowing, growing, using and cooking with herbs At Hapimag resort, Albufeira
Saturday 3rd November 11.00-16.00	Mediterranean Garden Fair Theme for 2012 – Succulents <i>Helpers & plants needed for this event.</i>	Estoi Palace Hotel & historic gardens Improved parking & food New Nurseries Talks, Workshops & lots of plants
Tuesday November 13th	Lectures & Fungi Foray At Hapimag meeting room. Sue Parker & Pat O'Reilly will talk and lead groups for a Fungi Foray.	Joint event with Clube dos Bons Jardins ALL WELCOME
Saturday November 17th	Fungi Foray – Part Two Exploring further afield	Please register your interest in taking part with Rosie Peddle. Numbers limited.
Tuesday December 18th	Workshop on Wormeries Joint Event –Sotavento Group www.futuramb.com/en/	Nelson Lourenço on the wonderful world of worms and how they make great compost from our rubbish
1st – 3rd March 2013	Friends & Foes in the Mediterranean Garden 2nd MGS Spring Conference	Expand your plant horizons, know your enemies. Roy Lancaster & Jim Gardiner will lecture on Mediterranean Gardens and Plants

Culinary, Medicinal & Aromatic Herbs – Saturday September 29th 25 plants to know by touch, smell & taste

Programme

10.00 Recognizing, introducing and identifying plants. Local plants and others that adapt easily to a Mediterranean climate.

11.00 Visit Hapimag herb garden, guided tour with Fernanda & Marilyn, collect herbs for afternoon cooking session

11.30 Tea/coffee break

11.45 - More uses of the plants, basic ideas for propagation, cultivation, harvesting, drying and keeping. Share plants and seeds. Learn more about those plants ancient uses, recent uses in the kitchen and as useful remedies for common ailments.

Bring your own plants to identify or share if you so wish. There will be some basic documentation provided about most of the plants.

13.00 Mediterranean Herb Lunch available to order, cooked with some of the plants & herbs we've been learning about.

14.30 Cooking demonstration and tastings, exchange recipes, sample starters, main course & desserts.

There will also be a recommended book list on herbs and medicinal plants as well as some books, cards and posters for sale.

16.00 approx. tea/coffee and disperse.

[Plant sales table for herbs](#), [book sales table](#), [sales of flavoured olive oils & associated products](#)

Fernanda Botelho is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker. She was born in Sintra, Portugal, and lived and worked as a teacher in the UK. She became a member of the UK Herb Society in 1997. She returned to Portugal and developed several projects on environmental awareness in schools, cultural organizations and local borough councils. Besides participating in the Portuguese Eco-Schools project and organising workshops on medicinal plants and herbs, she writes children's books on organic gardening, and writes for different magazines and sites, such as *Portal do Jardim*. Her blog is at malvasilvestre.blogspot.com

Please reserve your place by 24th Sept at the latest, with Rosie at rosie@thebtf.net tel. 289791869 full details and directions sent to all participants. Numbers limited. Please advise of any dietary requirements.

Cost per person for the whole day, including tea/coffee breaks, plant list & recipes €30 - MGS members €25. (Bring your own lunch or order from the standard menu). Special Dish of the day Mediterranean Herb Lunch in the Restaurant.

MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN FAIR – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD 11.00 – 16.00

Estoi Palace Hotel, Faro <http://www.pousadasofportugal.com/portugal/pousada/estoi.html>

Planning for our major fund raising event has already started, improved parking and improved refreshments high on the agenda and some new nurseries. The wonderful French-inspired gardens, decorated with many statues and trees are one of the Palace's main features, originally built in the 19th century it was the ancestral home of the Viscount of Estoi. Please let us know of any good plant nurseries that you can recommend to be invited. Contact Rosie for more information or to offer help and/or plants.

Helpers needed – if you plan to come along and can spare an hour or so to help, please let Rosie know. Help with parking needed and sitting down jobs available.

Plants needed for our popular MGS Plant Stall, share what is successful in your garden with your fellow gardeners.

FUNGI & NATURAL ALGARVE, Lectures and Fungi Foray Tuesday November 13th - Hapimag Joint Event with the Clube dos Bons Jardins

The illustrated talk will consist of two parts:

FRUITS OF THE FOREST

Pat O'Reilly will demonstrate the amazing diversity of Algarve woodland fungi, discussing their uses (including stimulating gastric juices as well as providing us with important medicines, dyes and other valuable products). The talk will also explore the roles that various (often unseen) kinds of fungi play in supporting, or in some cases opposing, other forms of life not only in wild places but also in our homes and gardens.

Fungi are among the least understood organisms on our planet, and as human nature abhors a vacuum so myths have emerged to explain the inexplicable; some of these weird beliefs will be explored and explained (where we have an explanation!) in terms of current knowledge.

Most of our woodland fungi are edible (and some of them even taste nice!); however, knowing what's what is crucial if you intend gathering food for free. Fungi are no different from plants and

animals in one important respect: some of them are dangerous and a few are potential killers. Don't be put off: although many of the finest edible mushrooms have toxic lookalikes, this talk will show not only how important it is to identify fungi for food with complete certainty but also how you can do so with confidence.

ALGARVE NATURE – IN THE WILD AND ON THE WEB

Sue Parker's part of the talk focuses more broadly on Nature in the Algarve. Sue's illustrated guide will take us to some of the finest Nature sites in the Algarve (and on the Web at www.AlgarveWildlife.com) to see some of the wonderful plants and animals that live there. While most people may be aware of the international importance of the Algarve as a migratory route for many rare and beautiful bird species, rather less well known is the wonderful range of colourful butterflies, moths and other insects; the amphibians and reptiles; the rarely seen mammals; and of course the wonderful wildflowers (including Sue's particular passion wild orchids) that make the Algarve countryside so very special.

Knowing what you would like to see is a good start to planning a visit to the Algarve countryside; however, plants and animals are not spread out evenly like currants in a bun (a well-baked bun, that is!), and just as there are hotspots for plants, butterflies, birds and so on so also there are 'best times', and Sue will explain briefly how AlgarveWildlife.com is being developed to provide this information and how anyone with a love of Algarve wildlife can contribute to this ongoing project and so help make this online resource even more useful to Algarve residents and to holiday visitors.

For further information and to reserve your place contact Rosie rosie@thebtf.net Tel 289791869

NEWS of a new web site dedicated to identifying wild flowers of the Algarve run by Sue Parker and Pat O'Reilly, authors of wild flowers books for the Algarve and our speakers on Nov. 13th.

<http://www.first-nature.com/flowers/sites-algarve1.php>

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WORMS – Workshop on Wormeries Tuesday December 18th Joint event with the Sotavento Garden Group

A visit to this Messines based company to learn how to turn your waste into compost. Special offers on compost, wormeries and worms. Nelson Lourenço will take us through the science and the art of making compost and liquid feed from our own kitchen and garden waste.

<http://www.algarveresident.com/46521-0/algarve/vermicomposting-how-to-produce-your-own-organic-fertiliser>

SPRING CONFERENCE, MGS ALGARVE 1st – 3rd MARCH 2013

'Friends and Foes in the Mediterranean Garden'

At our second Spring Conference we will be looking at alien invasive plants, plants from other mediterranean-climate zones and highlighting the global contribution of the vast wealth of plants available to us from the mediterranean flora. The aim is to make us 'think before we plant'.

Mr Roy Lancaster, OBE VMH will talk to us on "*New Ones, Old Ones, Loved Ones, Neglected Ones*". A personal selection of plants suitable for Mediterranean gardens. This will include plants in gardens (including his own) and in the wild. A rare opportunity to hear this popular and enthusiastic speaker on a topic relevant to our gardening conditions. Come along and be inspired.

Mr Jim Gardiner, Director of Horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society, will talk on "*Mediterranean Gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society*". These include the Dry Bank Planting at Wisley and the famous and recently expanded Dry Garden at RHS Hyde Hall Garden in Essex - one of the driest areas of the British Isles, with an average annual rainfall of just 600mm, similar to many parts of the Algarve.

Dr Elizabete Marchante from Coimbra University will give us a presentation on "*The Invasive Plants of Portugal*" – she runs the project and maintains the database. <http://www.ci.uc.pt/invasoras/>

Mr Francis Hurst on “*The Fertile Crescent and the wild progenitors or crop wild relatives (CWR)*” His work on agricultural biodiversity in the Eastern Mediterranean has included the United Nations Development Programme in Egypt on *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants with the people of the St Katherine’s Protectorate.

The conference will be based at the Hapimag Albufeira resort. The native plant garden here was described in TMG Journal No 68 in the article by the Gardens Manager, Marilyn Medina Ribeiro. Copies of the article available on request. Spring wild flower walks and members’ private gardens will be included in the programme plus opportunities for planty talk and moral support.

Please contact Rosie Peddle for more information and to express your interest in making a booking. Email rosie@thebtf.net Tel. 00351 289 791 869 or by post to Quinta das Sesmarias 275-M, Fornalha, Moncarapacho, 8700-091 Olhão, Portugal

The Making of the European Mediterranean Landscape, a presentation by Dr Oliver Rackham at our first Spring Conference in March 2012 is now available on the web. His full talk together with his slides is available. This is a fascinating overview of the history and ecology of the Mediterranean landscape and a rare opportunity to hear from an authority on the subject.

<https://vimeo.com/48385302>

You can also see a report and photos on this event at www.gardeninginportugal.com click on Reports of Past Events in the right hand menu.

SUPPLIER LIST ON THE MGS FORUM - for an international list of plant nurseries with a full range of plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs etc. <http://www.mgsforum.org/smf/index.php?topic=158.0>

BLOG SPOT FOR FRENCH NATIONAL PLANT COLLECTION SCHEME but also has news of plant and garden fairs in France, such as Courson, near Paris. Plan your journey through France to take in some of these marvellous plant fairs and nurseries. <http://ccvs-france.blogspot.co.uk>

PODCASTS FOR ALL www.linnean.org click on this link and look at the list of podcasts in the right hand menu. Some titles below to tempt you let me know what you think. Dates refer to original event. This is also an example of ‘how Rosie spends time inside when it is too hot to garden outside’



14th June 2012

History of Coffee – Dr. Fernando Vega. Coffee is grown in more than 10 million hectares in over 80 developing countries and is one of the world's most valuable export crops. The presentation will introduce various aspects of the coffee trade, including its dissemination from Africa, literature and coffee growing. For an interesting article on coffee written by Dr Vega for American Scientist, click below

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/person/5818/The%20Rise%20of%20Coffee%20-%20American%20Scientist%202008.pdf>

24th May 2012 Impacts of Climate Change on the Environment - Vaughan Southgate, President Linnean Soc.

19th April 2012 Marine Protected Areas in English Waters - James Marsden

15th March 2012 Flora of Tropical East Africa: a very slow cutting edge - Henk Beentje

19th January 2012 Francis Buchanan-Hamilton & his pioneering natural history collections from Nepal 1802-1803 - Mark Watson FLS

27th of September 2012, 6:00 PM Speaker: Robert McCracken Peck on ***The Remarkable Nature of Edward Lear***. A joint meeting with the Society for the History of Natural History. This illustrated lecture is by Robert McCracken Peck, Senior Fellow of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and curator of "The Natural History Paintings of Edward Lear", Houghton Library, Harvard University.

Save Salgados, internationally recognised birding site, petition now approaching 14,000, keep up the good work and get more people to sign up. Even Bill Oddie has signed !

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Save Salgados a unique internationally recognized birding sanctuary from being destroyed/?fpla](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Save_Salgados_a_unique_internationally_recognized_birding_sanctuary_from_being_destroyed/?fpla)

TREE SURGEON RECOMMENDATION from Algarve gardeners. We recently needed major work doing and had an excellent service from this company. We are happy to pass on their details for others to consider.

www.naturarbo.com info@naturarbo.com 931 810 664 Stuart - English expert and adviser. 914 137 058 Felipe - Portuguese chain-saw man; trainee surgeon (enthusiastic and interested in gardens and plants). They tidy up and will take the residue, if you wish, though we kept ours.

VEGETABLE GROWING ? ...I have received several enquiries from those keen to grow their own veg. Is there a book or web site or other source of information which you have found to be particularly useful and relevant to our circumstances here ? Please let me know so that I can share this information.

NETTLES AND ROSES a new book for children and parents on organic gardening, herbs, vegetables, plus growing and cooking. Some copies available from Rosie and further info from the Author, Fernanda Botelha, please call 912 183 904 or email fernandatojeira@gmail.com . Review in The Resident <http://www.algarveresident.com/46918-0/algarve/cooking-with-garden-produce-for-the-young-and-not-so-young>

SUCCULENT INFO ON FACEBOOK

There are "Planet Euphorbia" "Planet Aloe" and "Planet Agave" groups with approx. 200 world-wide members each on Facebook. For me as a novice succulent gardener it is very useful to see photos of specimens in pots, gardens and natural habitat. Experts are available to help identify plants and pass on advice so it is similar in concept to the MGS Forum but more focussed and very easy to swap photos.

Viveiros Quintanna, News from Tim and Ann Claye and their Elvas nursery. "Tim and I are leaving Elvas to go back to the UK on 21st July. Sadly my daughter died on 10th May and she leaves 2 small children and I want to be back to help look after them. We have found a lovely Portuguese family who are going to rent the quinta for a year with the option to buy. They are young and enthusiastic and have lots of ideas for the property, so we feel we are leaving it in good hands." We wish Tim and Ann well and thank them for their support during their time in Portugal. Please support the nursery at the market in Elvas.

MEMBERS DIRECTORY ... GARDENS DIRECTORY for Portugal ? I have received a suggestion to share our gardens and encourage visits. I propose to put some information onto the blog pages at www.gardeninginportugal.com in the first instance. This would be a basic description of your garden, type of plantings, seasonal interest, & perhaps one or two photos, with your email address or preferred contact information. Potential visitors would contact owners direct and make arrangements with them for any visit. Please let me know what you think and if you would like to take part.

MGS news, details of how to use your proxy vote at the forthcoming AGM in Australia have been distributed for members. I also have reports from the Supervisory Cttee on the Elections for the Admin. Cttee. Please let me know if you would like to receive any of this information.

MONSERRATE, Amigos de - The 'supporters club' for the Monserrate Palace and Gardens in Sintra, near Lisbon has a new web site. News of their events and visits to the marvellous gardens plus the newly refurbished interiors at the Palace. <http://amigosdemonserate.com/en>

ECOTOURISM IN THE ALGARVE News of 1st Catalogue of Ecotourism Activities in the Algarve The Algarve is well known for its mild climate, and particularly for its beautiful beaches. However, the tourism potential of this region is not limited to "sun and sand" holidays. There is also much of cultural and environmental interest for activities which give more depth, and longer seasonal interest, to the strong tourist appeal of this region in rapidly growing sectors of the leisure market: nature tourism, cultural and ecotourism. In view of the great future potential of the region, the company 'ProActivetur Ltd - Responsible Tourism' has just made the first catalogue available. <http://issuu.com/proactivetur/docs/120711134419-153152bb6bea49e3a922ec1ff1bf2d95>

This well illustrated catalogue is available to download or view in Portuguese and in English and it displays the various activities and experiences around the natural and cultural heritage of the Algarve. This book reveals a different Algarve, rich in traditions, in rural practices, and with a unique biodiversity. The local communities are genuine and hospitable, with small towns and villages in landscapes unknown to many and we can all contribute to their preservation.

ProActiveTur Ltd (www.proactivetur.pt), via e-mail mail@proactivetur.pt or phone 289422607 or 966132552

REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS/news and details 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.

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

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 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.

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
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Algarve area - Rosie Peddle, Tel. 289 791 869
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