

# Alpine news

The BIG Society for small plants!

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

## Free DVD with this Issue

Enclosed with this issue is a DVD that contains the first 11 volumes of 'The Alpine Gardener' from 1930 to 1943. These are in the form of PDF files that are fully searchable. Using Adobe Acrobat Reader you can search for an item within a volume or across all volumes on the disc - brief instructions are given in 'The Alpine Gardener' section of the AGS Website.



## Online Flower show.

Please see page 5 for the details of this years online flower show

## Switch to New Paper

This Newsletter is now printed on paper that is 50% recycled British waste. 100% genuine printed waste is used in the recycling process helping to reduce the pressure on UK landfill sites. The other 50% non-recycled wood pulps used in this paper comes from PEFC and FSC certified forests.



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# Noticeboard

## Annual General Meeting

**Saturday, 8 November 2008**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will be held at 11.00am on Saturday, 8 November, at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0PY.

(See Map)

## AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 10 November 2007.
2. To receive the Report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report.
4. To elect the President and Officers to serve for the ensuing year, there being no other nominations for these posts (see note 1. below).
5. To elect FIVE Members of Committee to serve for THREE years (see note 2. below).
6. To note the appointment by Committee of Mrs L. Joyce as a new Holding Trustee.
7. To declare the appointment of Messrs Kendall Wadley of Worcester, as the Society's Auditors for the ensuing year, there being no other nominations for this appointment.
8. Any other items of business as notified to the President/Society Director.
9. Presentation of Awards: to present Society Literary Awards, Local Group Awards, The Kath Dryden Award, The Ferrier Charlton Award, Awards of Honour, The Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award and The Lyttel Trophy.



## Notes on Election of Officers and Committee Members

- (1) All the Officers retire annually but are eligible for re-election, where stated, the following are willing to serve in 2008: President (Frank Tindall); Treasurer (Professor Colin J Smith, CBE); Director of Publications (Professor John E Good, OBE); Director of Seed Distribution (Colin Dolding); Director of Shows (Jim McGregor); Director of Tours (Martin Lindop); Webmaster (Jim McGregor); Advertisement Manager (Jeremy J Pratt); Slide Librarian (Peter G Sheasby). All Honorary Officers listed have agreed to stand for re-election en bloc at the Annual General Meeting. As no further nominations have been received, no election will be held.
- (2) In accordance with Rule 18, five Members of the Committee retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year. The following have been nominated to serve as new members:

## **Lorraine Birchall (Clyst Hydon, Cullompton)**

*Proposed by Val Lee, seconded by Roger Stuckey*

Lorraine Birchall – an AGS member for a number of years, she is an active, friendly, helpful member of the Exeter Group, where she served on Committee for two terms before accepting the post of Group Secretary in 2006. She has helped set up several Gold Medal shows put on by the Exeter Group at the Axminster Show and, as well as exhibiting at AGS Shows, she has also won a Large Gold Medal for a non Competitive Exhibit of Rhodohypoxis at the AGS Summer Show South and a Gold Medal for an educational exhibit of Sempervivums, again at Summer Show South. Lorraine trained in Horticulture at Cannington College, Somerset over 20 years ago. She is a first class propagator and manager and has worked in this capacity for several Nurseries and at Bicton College. She lectured in Horticulture for 7 years at St Loyes College, Exeter and returned to Bicton College as an Assessor for Horticultural NVQ's. She now works part-time in a private garden and is in the process of setting up Tale Valley Nursery which specialises in small bulbs, alpines and shade herbaceous perennials. The Nursery holds the National Collection of Rhodohypoxis and x Rhodoxis and has won gold medals at the RHS Malvern Spring, and Hampton Court Palace Shows this year. We think the Society would benefit from Lorraine's management skills together with her horticultural experience and her friendly welcoming personality.

## **David K Haselgrove (Brent Pelham, Buntingford)**

*Proposed by Capt. Peter Erskine & Kath Dryden, seconded by Chris Brickell*

Has lengthy experience and a detailed understanding of the management of the Society and of the duties of a Charitable Trustee. A solicitor by profession he has in the past given particularly valuable service as a member of Committee and as Director of Publications where he masterminded the very successful publication of the Encyclopaedia of Alpines and, over a number of years, made considerable surpluses to our great benefit. Holder of the Lyttel Trophy, an important member of the Epping Forest Group and a knowledgeable plantsman, David has recently retired. He offers a breadth of experience and sound judgement combined with a keen interest in the Society's affairs.

## **David Mountfort (Egginton, Derby)**

*Proposed by Colin Dolding, seconded by Jim McGregor*

Dave has been an AGS Member for 28 years. In addition he is a member of the Derby and Nottingham Local Groups of the AGS. Dave has also served as a committee member and ex-chairman of the Derby Group as well as Assistant Treasurer for the three Loughborough shows. Amongst his activities he has acted as outings organiser for the Derby Group for 18 years. He is a well known exhibitor and holder of a Gold Medal and three merit bars. Dave has been an AGS national show judge for last five years. In addition he has lectured at several AGS Groups and numerous local garden groups on various topics related to alpines both in the wild and in cultivation.

## **John Noakes (Long Marston, Tring)**

*Proposed by Bob Wallis, seconded by Robert Potterton*

John has been a member of the Chiltern Group for over ten years, having been programme organiser for over five years and is currently Chairman of the Group. He is keen about growing alpines and all plants in the open garden in varying habitats. Following a medical career he became a member of the Chief Medical Officer's Working Group devising a Health Strategy for England. He enjoys working with a group, organising and running projects.

## **Brian Russ (Ormskirk)**

*Proposed by Dave Riley, seconded by Jack Brownless*

Brian is a long time member of the Society. He has previously been Assistant Director of Shows and Chairman & Show Secretary of the Southport Group. He has run his own gardening business for several years. Brian is very experienced having served on Committee in the past and is still very involved in the Society. He has organized a number of Society exhibits at Southport Flower Show and until recently was a very active member of the Seed Distribution team. Brian is a quiet person but a logical thinker and not afraid to speak his mind.

As there are no further nominations, no election will be held at the AGM on Saturday, 8 November 2008, and the above named will serve for the period 2008 – 2011.

## **PROGRAMME FOR THE AGM**

**10.30** onwards - Coffee

**11.00** Annual General Meeting

**12.30** Lunch

**13.30** Presentation of Show Awards

**14.00** The E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture, by Keith Wilely, entitled

### **'Gardening Inspiration from Wild Landscapes - including woodland areas and some of the special plants at home there, notably Erythroniums'**

(Keith will also be bringing a selection of plants for sale)

**15.30** Afternoon Tea and Disperse

**Catering** - A two course Hot & Cold Buffet lunch will be available served in the Restaurant. (Sample menu: Chicken A-La-King/Oriental Vegetable Stir Fry, also cold meats, fish and vegetarian options, selection of salads and desserts).

The cost will be £13.50 per head (including VAT). Bookings must be accompanied by a cheque payable to the "Alpine Garden Society" and should be sent to the AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore WR10 3JP by Friday, 17 October 2008. Your pre-booked lunch tickets will be available for collection from the AGS Booksales stand on the day.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea are provided free of charge.

**Plant Sales** – Members plant sales table will be available.

**Car Parking** – The hotel has car parking for approximately 200 cars.

## OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the death of John Saxton, a past Committee Member and Director of Seed Distribution. John was a long standing supporter of the AGS and well-known to many members. He was a familiar face at AGS Shows, both as an Exhibitor and Judge.

We send our deepest sympathies to his wife Gill and son Nicholas at this sad time. A full acknowledgement of John's contribution to the Society will appear in The Alpine Gardener at a later date.

## MEMBERS' WANTS

PLANT WANTED.- *Shortia soldanelloides* 'Askival Iceberg'

'Askival Iceberg' gained an AM from the Joint Rock Garden Committee on 12th May 1990. and for a while was available commercially Unfortunately the original plant has been lost and the strain may be extinct. Does anyone still have this plant growing in their garden? If so, would they be willing to donate/sell a small offset or cuttings so that I can attempt to rescue the clone. I can swop other Shortias in exchange. If you can help please phone 01224 867469. or email s.wilson036@btinternet.com and we can discuss the optimum method to propagate *Shortias*.

Another Shortia 'Askival Sunrise' gained a PC at the same time has also disappeared, again any information about surviving plants would be appreciated.

Thanks - Brian Wilson.

## Online Flower Show

The Online Flower Show for 2008 is currently accepting entries. You can submit pictures of your plants at Shows or in your garden. Plants exhibited must have been cultivated by the exhibitor and photographed during the last growing season. Details of how to participate in this event are posted on our website.



For more information please visit our website:  
[www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

# Noticeboard

## AGS AWARDS AND GRANTS 2009

THE Society now considers applications for AGS Travel Awards twice yearly and applications for these awards must be received either by 31 January 2009 or 31 August 2009 at the latest.

### Travel Awards

Each year the Society gives a limited number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though Awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS Tour if it complements a particular area of interest. Application forms and further details are available from: Jill Lerner, c/o AGS Centre or e-mail [jill@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:jill@alpinegardensociety.net)

### Hendry Fund Grants

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available financed by the E F Hendry Fund. Details from Meg Morgan, The Hendry Bequest Fund, 23 Richmond Road, Leighton Buzzards, LU7 4RF. The closing date for applications in respect of the Hendry Fund Grants is 31 January 2009.

## MERLIN TRUST - ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

### Travel Scholarships - TOUR AWARDS for 2009

In 1990 The Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2009 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society four fully paid travel scholarships on AGS organised plant tours.

Two places will be available on each of two tours, the destination of which are yet to be decided. If you would like to receive this information and an application form, when it becomes available, please send your contact details.

Applicants should be enthusiastic about plants with a particular interest in alpinism. They must be under 35 years of age and have British or Irish citizenship. Students belonging to other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

For details and more information contact: Fiona Crumley, Merlin Trust/AGS Tours, 55 Deodar Road, London SW15 2NU. Tel 020 8874 7636

## ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 2008

### Lyttel Trophy

The Society's premier award to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the world of alpine plants.

**Henrik Zetterlund.** Henrik has been 'Horticultural Curator for Alpines and Propagation' for almost 30 years at the renowned Göteborgs Botaniska Trädgård in southern Sweden. He is a highly-skilled, multi-talented promoter of alpine plants. He is also a consummate gardener, as his progressive remodelling of the main rock garden there, and of the important, glass-protected collections, powerfully attest. His very broad expertise encompasses such genera as *Colchicum*, *Corydalis*, *Crocus*, *Iris*, *Tulipa* and *Dionysia*. He is a mesmerizing, diverting lecturer of international standing. As an author he has written various articles for 'The Alpine Gardener' and other specialist societies, together with the AGS publication 'Corydalis' (1977) in collaboration with Magnus Liden and more recently has co-authored 'Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis, after Relatives'. Henrik has traveled widely to places such as northern Pakistan, western China various parts of North America, the Caucasus, Turkey, Iran, the Alps and Greece. Plants established in cultivation through his efforts and generosity are far too numerous to list in full.

### Sir William & Lady Lawrence Award

An international Award given to someone under 35 years of age who has made a contribution to work with alpiners - cultivation, research etc.

**Tim Lever** is the older son of Keith and Rachel Lever of the well known Aberconwy Nursery. He is fully involved in the operation of the nursery, being a keen grower of a wide range of plants, but especially Dionysias. As well as helping to mount the many prize-winning exhibits put up by Aberconwy Nursery at AGS Shows, Tim has played a prominent part in the construction of our 2007 and 2008 Gold Medal winning exhibits at Chelsea. More Recently Tim has started to lecture to AGS groups. He is also a very keen traveller in search of alpiners and has made several visits to mountain areas, notably two trips to the Himalaya and one to Yunnan. On the AGS Tour to Yunnan in 2006 he was funded by a Merlin Travel Award. His report of the tour won the Valerie Finnis Prize for the best report submitted to Merlin in that year and also the Chris Brickell Award for the best photographs. This year (2008) he was awarded an AGS Travel Award to part-fund his participation in a tour to Bhutan.

# Noticeboard

## The Kath Dryden Award

This award recognises meritorious work and expertise in advancing our knowledge and understanding of the cultivation of a genus or group of alpine plants.

**John Craven**, a Yorkshireman, is one of the foremost growers of pleiones. He has experience of growing them dating over 40 years, and has long championed an 'organic' method of growing them, based on minimum use of 'natural', non-persistent insecticides, a non-reliance on fungicides as some sort of prophylactic panacea, and an emphasis on outdoor cultivation throughout the growing season. He has been a frequent contributor to the Pleione Review, in whose pages he has passed on his advice on how best to cultivate these orchids. Until his recent retirement, John ran a very successful nursery whose exhibits at the Harrogate Spring Flower Shows were consistently one of its annual highlights, routinely winning a premier award. On his artistically-crafted stand could be seen vibrant, faultless clumps of many species and hybrids grown to the highest standard, the latter including some of his own raising, involving for example Pleione aurita and P. chunii. He is particularly skilled in the cultivation of the western Chinese relative newcomers, winning the Farrer Medal at the 2008 AGS North Midland Show with the finest group of Pleione grandiflora that most observers had ever seen.

## The Ferrier Charlton Award

This award recognises outstanding work for the Society in an administrative or managerial capacity.

**John & Gill Saxton** have for over five years run the Society's Seed Distribution Scheme. This involved the organization of the scheme and contact with a large number of members, to achieve the smooth running of all aspects of the distribution. Both John and Gill also administered the seed sales at Shows, offering help and advice to both members and non-members. For 14 years they were joint show secretaries for the Nottingham (now North Midland) Show, with all the administrative work this entailed. Gill has also spent many years administrating the computer records at a number of AGS shows.

## Award of Honour

This award recognizes sterling work undertaken on behalf of the Society, not necessarily during the year, but over a period of time

**Sheila Brown** has been a longstanding member of the Society for over 30 years. In that time she has been a great ambassador of the Artistic Sections of the Shows. Sheila has been Secretary of the Artistic Section of the Kent Show since the first show in 1993. She has assisted other exhibitors by transporting artwork around the shows and also written articles for The Alpine Gardener. She has exhibited both plants and artwork in AGS shows. She has been an active member of three AGS Groups, serving on their Committees as well as acting as Chair of two Groups. Sheila has lectured widely to other AGS Groups and supported various conferences.



## Local Group Awards

These awards recognise outstanding service within a Local Group over a number of years, the impact of which is felt more widely than just the local area.

**Keith Moorhouse** has served, first as Chairman of the Sussex Weald Group, and then, for a considerable number of years, as its Secretary. He has fulfilled his responsibilities in those two offices with consummate skill and dedication, laying great emphasis on a sense of inclusion amongst the members. His energy and enthusiasm have contributed enormously to the survival of this small but lively group. Keith takes his membership of the AGS very seriously and is now serving a second term on the main committee of the Society. He has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to promote the benefits of membership of the AGS to a wide audience through his lectures on alpines in the wild and on growing techniques, not only to the already “converted” but to horticultural societies and garden clubs within Sussex and beyond. He has also been the driving force behind several events to promote the AGS outside its immediate membership.

## LITERARY AWARDS

### The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Northern Peloponnese Delights [June 2007: 200-221] by Tristan Lafranchis

### The Florence Baker Award

*Pinguicula grandiflora* by Ms C M Jackson-Houlston, [June 2007, p196].

### The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Alpine Gardening - Design and Build [June 2007: 159-170] by Vic Aspland.

## SPECIAL OFFER of ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY BULLETINS

### 10 Bulletins for £16.00 (post free)

We have a limited number of back issues available

This is a random selection, but if you have any copies already please state which they are to avoid duplication.

Please contact the AGS Centre (see contact details on back of Newsletter). Cheques should be made payable to “Alpine Garden Society”.



# Whats On

**AGS Loughborough Autumn Show, 4 October 2008** - at Burleigh Community College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, LE11 4SQ. Further information can be obtained from the Show Secretaries, Doreen & Eric Webster [Tel: 01509 261626].

**AGS Newcastle Show, 11 October 2008** - at The Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-tyne, NE20 9NX. Further information from the Show Secretaries, Mike & Pearl Dale [Tel: 01670 787714].

**AGS Autumn Show South, 18 October 2008** - at Rainham School for Girls, Highfield Road, Rainham, Gillingham, ME8 0BX. Further information from the Show Secretary, David Hoare [Tel: 01303 862913].

Provisional Show Dates for 2009 will be published on the AGS Website under the Shows Section

## GROUP CONFERENCES

### BRISTOL GROUP CONFERENCE

**28th One Day Conference – Saturday 27 September 2008**

The conference will be held at Red Maids' School, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW. Speakers include: Bob and Rannveig Wallis, Alan Furness and Peter Sheasby. In addition to the Members' Plant Stall, Parham Bungalow Plants; Kevin Hughes (Heale Plant Centre) and Berried Treasure (Rannveig Wallis) will be in attendance. Refreshments and an excellent lunch will be available. For further information please contact Mike Taylor, 96 Reedley Road, Bristol BS9 3TA. Tel: 0117 9686654.

### BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT GROUP

**18th Annual Roy Elliott Memorial Lecture – 15 November 2008**

The 18th Roy Elliott Memorial Lecture will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 15 November 2008 at the Holy Name Parish Hall, Great Barr. Jim Almond will be speaking on 'Digital Photography Pictures and Presentation' and Alan Furness will talk on "Crevices and 'New' Peat - at Two Ends of the Alpine Spectrum'. Doors open at 1.00 for the sale of plants.

## Fritillaria Group of the Alpine Garden Society

**Sunday 19 October 2008**

The Fritillaria Group will be holding its Annual General Meeting and Autumn Lectures at the Hillside Events Centre, RHS Wisley, Surrey on Sunday 19 October 2008. Admission fee for non-members will be £3.00. However, if you join the group your entry fee will be included as part of the membership fee for the current year. Membership of the Group is open to all members of the Alpine Garden Society.

**09.30** Doors open for coffee

**10.30** Annual General Meeting [lasting approximately half an hour]

**11.00** Lecture by Phil and Gwen Phillips ~ "The Habitats of Fritillaria of North America"

**12.30** Break for Lunch

**14.00** Lecture by W.H.de Goede ~ "Growing Fritillaria in Holland"

**15.30** Raffle

**16.00** Meeting closes

We look forward to seeing you on the day. If you would like further information about the Group please contact: Secretary, Chris Birchall on 01884 277614 or visit [www.fritillaria.org.uk](http://www.fritillaria.org.uk)

## AUTUMN WEEKEND CONFERENCE 2009

**18 – 20 September 2009**

### 'DOWN IN THE WOODS'

The Oxford & District Group are organising a weekend conference to be held at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon - venue of the successful conference in 2007. The theme will be the choice woodland plants that are grown by so many alpine gardeners, including trilliums, orchids, cyclamen, snowdrops and hellebores, and the wealth of exciting new introductions from Asia from Arisaema to Zingiber. Speakers will include:

**John Good (North Wales)**

'Growing in the shade',

**Ian Young (Aberdeen)**

'Woodland Bulbs',

**Chris Bailes (RHS Rosemoor)**

'Shady Characters'

**Guy Gusman (Belgium)**

'The genus Arisaema',

**Nigel Rowlands (Somerset)**

'Choice woodland plants',

**Bill Baker (RBG Kew)**

'Temperate plants in tropical places: a gardener's tour of tropical mountains'

**John Grimshaw (Gloucestershire)** 'Putting the wood in the woodland'



The cost for the full weekend, which includes all meals and refreshments, will be in the region of £200-220. Final costs, together with Day Delegate rates and booking information will be published in the December issue. **Put this date in your diary now!**

## BERKSHIRE GROUP

Mrs Claire Cookson, the Honorary Secretary for the Group, has now retired and the post has been taken on by Mrs Avril Hughes, Holly Hock, North Street, Islip, Kidlington, OX5 2SQ. Tel: 01865 377104.

## MID-KENT GROUP

The Mid-Kent Group have a change of venue from September to the Madginford Village Hall, off Willington Street, Bearsted. Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Sec: Mr David A Underwood, 32 Georgian Way, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0QZ. Tel: 01634 234073. E-mail: davidunderwood@callnetuk.com Meetings: 1st Friday of the month at 7.30pm for 8.00 pm start, September to May. Plant sales, members' plant display table and refreshments. A visit to a member's garden is arranged in June. Annual Subscription: £5.00.

## Silver Medal at Southport

Just as we go to print we have received the news that members of the South Lancs Group have staged another successful exhibit at the Southport Flower Show winning a Silver Medal. Congratulations to Brian Russ and all the team from the South Lancs Group.



### Items for the Newsletter and Copy Dates

Please note that any copy for the Newsletter should be sent to Jill Lerner, AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 3JP or email: [jill@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:jill@alpinegardensociety.net)

**Deadline for the December issue is 7 November 2008**

### SALE OF SEED ENVELOPES

The AGS is selling seed envelopes as part of the Seed Distribution System.

Envelopes are of the glassine type (used by AGS distribution) & are available in two sizes at the following prices.

**50 packets** 73x41mm (2.8x1.6in)  
Self Seal for **£2.00**

**50 packets** 98x64mm (3.8x2.5in)  
Gummed for **£2.50**

They can be purchased from the AGS Centre. Postage is FREE to UK members.

Overseas members should contact AGS Centre regarding postage costs, which will depend on the quantity ordered.

# SEED EXCHANGE 2008/2009



## Seed Donors WANTED

For the first time in quite a few years we will be sending out a Seed List to all current home and overseas members and, therefore, demand for seed will hopefully increase. So please could you all consider donating seed this year? It does not matter if you do not have great quantities of seed. To qualify for donor status, and therefore priority at distribution time, you need to send in at least 5 different types of seed preferably suitable for the rock garden or alpine house.

If you have any questions about collecting and donating seed please contact Diane Clement. Email: [diane.clement@agsgroups.org](mailto:diane.clement@agsgroups.org)

Will all seed donors please ensure that they have sent their seed before 13 October, for details of where to send your seed please refer to the seed donor form that was enclosed with the June Bulletin. (If space on the donor form has been filled, continue on a separate sheet, in the same format.) Further copies of the donor form can be obtained by contacting AGS Centre at Pershore or downloaded from: [www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)

## SEED DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of seed will again be carried out from AGS Centre at Pershore by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. This part of the seed exchange is managed by Sandra Rice. It is hoped that work on the distribution will start in early December and be completed by the end of January. More volunteers are required to help Sandra with this task. If you feel that you are able to give some of your time to this part of the seed exchange then please contact: [Sandra.Rice@agsgroups.org](mailto:Sandra.Rice@agsgroups.org) or Colin Dolding on 01684 594204, email [colindolding@agsgroups.org](mailto:colindolding@agsgroups.org)

## APPLYING FOR THE 07/08 SEED LIST

All current members will receive a Seed List this year, so no action is need.

## Regulations for US Members wishing to order seed through the Seed Distribution

Two years ago, the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a new rule for importing small lots of seed, which means that we no longer need to send seed out with a Phytosanitary Certificate. Instead, US members who wish to order seed from the AGS seed Distribution must send in an Import Licence with their order. If they did not order seed last year, they will need to apply for a permit and send this in with their order. Permits are free and will be valid for 3 years.

Details about the permit can be found at:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_imports/smalllots\\_seed.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/smalllots_seed.shtml)

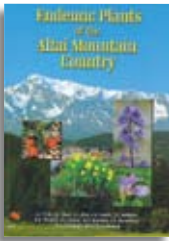
Apply for a permit on-line, go to: [www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq\\_epermits.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq_epermits.shtml)

And click on PPQ 587

AGS Seed Distribution will not be able to complete any orders that are received without a permit.



**NEW BOOK OFFER • NEW BOOK OFFER • NEW BOOK OFFER**



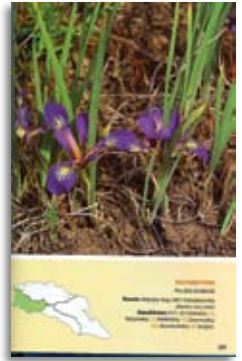
## Endemic plants of the Altai Mountain Country

by A L Pyak, & S. C Shaw

**RRP - £29.95** plus post & packing

**We are offering this new book to members at £27.00 plus post and packing.**

The Altai Mountain country, straddling the borders of Kazakhstan, Russia, China and Mongolia, is one of the most biologically diverse regions on Earth. This book provides the first comprehensive account of the 288 endemic and sub endemic plant species found in the region. It features over 180 stunning photographs, including images of many species never previously published.

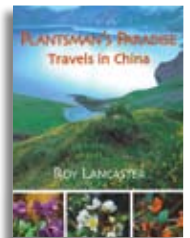


## Plantsman's Paradise – Travels in China

by Roy Lancaster

**RRP £39.95** plus post & packing.

**We are offering this new book to members at £36.00 plus post and packing.**



This book successfully combines a most enjoyable and detailed account of the well-known author's many journeys through China and provides a practical assessment of the plants that are either of ornamental merit or botanical interest to gardeners in the West. Roy Lancaster follows in the footsteps of the great Victorian plant hunters. With a newly revised text and hundreds of Lancaster's own attractive and colourful photographs, many of them new to this edition, are interspersed with fascinating descriptions and anecdotes from his travels.



**NEW BOOK OFFER • NEW BOOK OFFER • NEW BOOK OFFER**

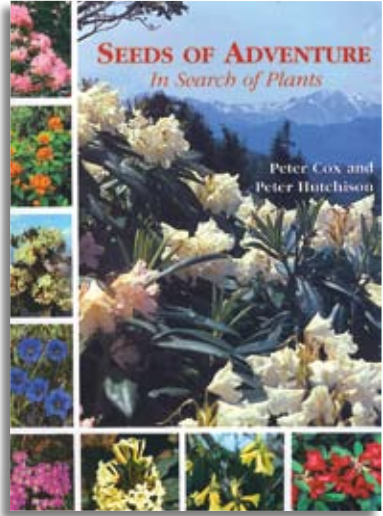
# Seeds of Adventure – In Search of Plants

by Peter Cox & Peter Hutchinson

**RRP - £29.95** plus post & packing

**We are offering this new book to members at £27.00 plus post and packing.**

Every trip was an adventure, and every adventure bore the seeds of success.



## OPHRYS –

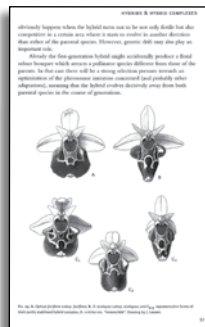
# The Bee Orchids of Europe

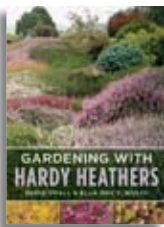
by Henrik Aerenlund Pedersen & Niels Faurholdt

**RRP £33.00** plus post & packing.

**We are offering this new book to members at £29.70 plus post and packing.**

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by David Small and Ella May T. Wulff

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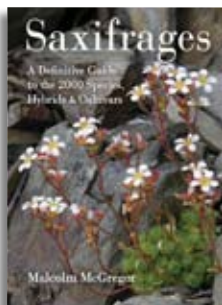
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# TOURS PROGRAMME



## NW YUNNAN AND SICHUAN TOUR - June 2009

Although the earthquake devastated some of the towns between Chengdu and Songpan, the upper reaches of the Min River and the Min Shan were less affected and access is relatively easy. People are rebuilding their lives and tourism provides a significant part of the economy of the region, we therefore offer a new itinerary. The aim of this tour is to see hardy plants, especially hardy orchids and herbaceous plants, in the wild in some of the less well-known places in the region, avoiding the tourist honey-pots and concentrating on species rich but little known areas around them. The trip will be led by Dr. Philip Cribb, former Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium at Kew, who has led many trips to China over the past 25 years. The trip manager will be Dr. Holger Perner whose local knowledge will be invaluable in finding the best plant habitats.

The tour will start in NW Yunnan and travel west of Dali to see the Golden slipper orchid (*Paphiopedilum armeniacum*) in the wild, travelling along some of George Forrest's and Père Delavay's collecting localities en route. The group will visit Lijiang, driving into the Gang-Ho-Ba so that maximum time can be spent in its upper reaches where slipper orchids are still prolific. The route then heads for Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province then move west into the Tibetan Marches via Erlang Shan, the home of many rare herbaceous plants, from where, on clear days, a splendid view to the west reveals the pyramidal peak of Gongga Shan, the highest peak in China at over 7,600m high. The road sweeps down to the Dadu River and we will see the chain bridge that the Red Army fought its way across during the Long March at Luding. The hills above Luding are home to magnolias and hardy orchids, including the very rare *Cypripedium wardii*.

The group will then travel towards northern Sichuan and the massive flanks of the Min Shan (Min Range) to the north. The road in the upper Min River Gorge escaped the worst of the 2008 earthquake. There the imperious *Lilium regale* cascades down the cliffs, and the bright blue *Ceratostigma willmottianum* and bright rose-pink *Rosa willmottiae* colour the valley floor. Near Huanglong, a world heritage site famous for its beautiful scenery and flora, the route crosses a pass that rises to over 4100 m where yellow, blue and red-flowered *Meconopsis*, several primroses, *Incarvillea compacta*, and golden *Caltha scaposa* can be seen as the group moves off the normal beaten track towards the top of the wind-swept pass to enjoy a panoramic view of the Min Shan to the north with range upon range of snow-capped peaks stretching to the horizon.

The tour now heads for the rich hunting grounds of the Danyun gorge to the north which runs through towering cliffs eventually down to the Red Basin. It is home to a number of species of slipper and other hardy orchid, lilies, roses and a rich variety of rare trees and shrubs. Penetrating further into the valleys on the southern slopes of the Min Shan to Jiuzhaigou another world heritage site at about 2900 m. elevation where the blood-red pendent flowered *Meconopsis punicea* is common. The tour will then bypass the tourist areas and visit Wanglang, very unspoilt and with tufa pools and a stream with banks of slipper and other orchids set in rich mixed woodlands of spruce, birch, maple, and other rare trees and shrubs.

From Songpan the group will drive to Kalong, another wonderful and isolated limestone tufa valley in Heishui county, some 120 km northwest of Maoxian. After an overnight stay in a simple local hotel the following day will be spent exploring the rich flora in an area free of mass tourism. The tour finally sets out via Maoxian, for the world-famous Wolong reserve, home to the largest population of giant pandas.



**For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.  
Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)**

## SPRING FLOWERS OF CRETE, APRIL 2009

We are pleased to be re-running our successful tour to see the Spring flowers of Crete in April 2009. The exact dates of the tour have yet to be finalised, but is likely to commence on about 7th April 2009. The tour will be for 14 days in western and central Crete, staying in 3\*\*\* or equivalent hotels with private facilities. We hope to hold the cost of the tour to £1200. Some hotels will be booked on a half-board basis with others on bed and breakfast terms, in which case the evening meal will be eaten in a local taverna.

**T**our leaders are Margaret & David Thorne, who led the successful Tour of the Peloponnese for the AGS in 2006, and to Crete 2008. David is an experienced ornithologist and proved an excellent Tour Manager, while Margaret is a knowledgeable and meticulous field botanist.

Our 2-week exploration will be from 3 bases in the west of the island: Plakias (7 nights), Omalos (3 nights) and Georgiopolis (4 nights).

From sunny Plakias on the south coast we will visit the Kakomouri headland and several gorges including Imbros, Kosiphos and Kourtaliatiko. Here we will find chasmophytes or cliff dwellers, such as the pink flowered legume, *Ebenus creticus*, a yellow flax, *Linum arboreum*, *Verbascum arcturus*, a dwarf mullein, and the bellflowers, *Campanula tubulosa* and *Petromarula pinnata*. Many species of *Ophrys* (eg. *episcopalis*, *tenthredinifera*, *bombyliflora*) and *Orchis* (eg. *italica*, *lactea*, *papilionacea*), as well as *Barlia robertianus* and tiny *Cephalanthera damasonium*, will be identified at Gious Kambos. They grow alongside *Narcissus tazetta*, *Tulipa saxatilis*, and *Gynandris sisyrinchium* with *T.doefleri* along nearby field margins.

Georgiopolis lies adjacent to a long sandy beach and freshwater marsh on the north coast. From here we will travel inland for *Paeonia clusii*, the rich pink flowers of *Daphne sericea*, delicate pink-tinged *Tulipa cretica*, *Fritillaria messanensis* and *Gynandris monophylla*, each tiny flower of which has a single curved leaf. We hope to walk down the Aradena Gorge to Loutro & take a boat trip to Hora Sfakion.

From our hotel at Omalos we will climb up the lower slopes of Mount Gingalos in the White Mountains, to see brightly coloured *Crocus sieberi sieberi* in various combinations of purple, yellow and white, with *Chionodoxa nana*, *Corydalis uniflora* and electric blue *Anchusa caespitosa*. Back down on the Omalos Plain, a proliferation of fencing has resulted in an increase in *Tulipa bakeri*, yet more orchids and *Anemone coronaria* beneath spiny *Berberis cretica*. By the path to the Kallergi Refuge grows *Zelkova abelicea*, a small endemic tree with elm-like leaves. *Arum idaeum* and *Prunus prostrata* occur at higher levels. From Zaros, at the foot of Crete's highest mountain, Psiloritis, we will visit some of the ancient sites (e.g. Phaestos, Aghia Triada, Gortyns, Knossos), and find even more species of orchid.





## BHUTAN 2009

As a result of feedback received from a number of trips to Bhutan that were carried out by AGS members in 2008, our original aim of running two trips to Bhutan in 2009 has proved to be impractical. We now plan to run one trip of 21 days duration in June and July, which will be a shorter version of the Jhomolhari trek and substantially less demanding than the 2002 trip. However the trek will cross several passes of between 4500m and 4900m which will maximise the diversity of plants to be seen and, in particular, will allow access to the higher alpine flora.



Bhutan is a very beautiful mountainous country, with many steep sided valleys, which the few roads wind round as they go over passes from one valley to the next. The mountainsides are covered in trees and rhododendrons to over 4000m and contain a wealth of exciting plants. Plants found on this year's reconnaissance trip included many different rhododendron species, cyripedium, arisaemas, meconopsis, primula, roscoa, anemone, cardiocrinum, paris, campanula and gentians as well as a large variety of trees, climbers, shrubs and ferns.

The group will fly from London to Kathmandu in Nepal, where they will stay for one night before the flight to Paro in Bhutan. Two days will be allowed for acclimatisation and sightseeing before setting out on the 13 day trek. Full details will be available by the end of September 2008.



Final costings have still to be obtained but the cost is expected to be under £4000.

For more information and a detailed itinerary please contact:- Tracy Watterson at AGS Centre, [t.watterson@ags.org.uk](mailto:t.watterson@ags.org.uk)



## Short details of other forthcoming Tours in 2009

### PYRENEES

**A** 13-day tour of the central and eastern French Pyrenees, to be led by Peter Cunnington and Paul Cook in the last week of June and first week of July 2009. This will be a 2-centre holiday, based for the first week in the Haute Pyrenees near to Gavarnie and for the second week in the Pyrenees Catalanes at Saillagouse. The cost is expected to be in the region of £1200. More details will be available shortly and published on the website.



**For further information on this tour please contact AGS Centre.  
Tel: 01386 554790 or email: [ags@alpinegardensociety.net](mailto:ags@alpinegardensociety.net)**

# Taurus Mountains

## 26th October – 9th November 2008

£1995 per person (single supplement £165)

Led by Chris Gardner and Basak Güner

A magical display of autumn bulbs garlands the glorious late autumn landscapes of Turkey's Taurus Mountains. Three species of *Cyclamen* cloak woodland floors and tawny mountain slopes are decorated by white, pink and yellow bulbs. What could be better than the purple-centred ivory flowers of rare *Crocus mathewi*, unless it is even rarer *Crocus wattiorum*, a wonder with purple-blue flowers enriched with scarlet stigmas and yellow and black stamens. Bright pink *Colchicum cilicicum* line rocky defiles. Under ancient gnarled plane trees are massed displays of *Galanthus peshmeni* and pine and juniper dotted slopes host rare *Colchicum sanguicolle*. A cloak of *Cyclamen graecum* colours ancient Phaselis, the ruins secondary to the near perfect setting of little bays and pinewoods. Set in crevices in purest white limestone are pockets of pink *Merendera attica* and *Colchicum stevenii*. Golden *Sternbergia clusiana* and troupes of *Colchicums polyphyllum*, *dolichantherum* and *persicum* adorn high passes around Fezipasa and we'll encounter many-flowered *Colchicum decaisnei* and bizarre *Biarum bovei* near ancient Daphne.



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# Crocuses in Turkey

## 21st February to 7th March 2009

£1995 per person (Ground Cost £1700)

Early spring sunshine draws forth many-hued crocuses that colour the unspoilt slopes of the Turkey's Taurus Mountains. We'll explore Cilician Fir forests in the magnificent Alada , juniper-dotted limestone karsts, and meadows below the lofty snow-capped summits of the Olimpos Mountains. Almost twenty *Crocus* taxa, including half a dozen of the varied and often very beautiful *biflorus* aggregate, populate this region. The limestone massifs of Içel and the Alada are home to recently described *Crocus paschei*, strangely-scented *Crocus graveolens* and pastel-shaded *Crocus reticulatus hittiticus*. Alpine turf should reveal *Crocus biflorus tauri* and in the valleys is *Crocus kerndorffiorum*. Inland of Antalya lie two important crocus areas. To the north around



the great basins that form the 'Turkish Lake District' we'll find pure yellow *Crocus olivieri*, *Crocus danfordiae* and purple-based *Crocus fleischeri*. Further west in the hills around the Bey Da ları we'll find *Crocus antalyensis* and delicate and lovely *Crocus baytopiorum*.



*Iris persica* and *Iris histrio* will already be flowering in the Adana area along with *Galanthus fosteri* and the very tiny *Colchicum minutum*. Indeed *Colchicums* are very varied and we'll find a number of species including the snow-melt specialists *triphylum* and *szovitsii* as well as *serpentinum* and *burtii*. *Iris stenophylla* and *Iris unguicularis* will be found near Antalya where both *Galanthus elwesii* and *Galanthus gracilis* will be blooming. And we'll even fit a couple of the Taurus Mountains' more famous sites of antiquity into the itinerary.

# Northern California

2nd to 17th May 2009

£2995 per person (Ground Cost £2465)

From the cathedral-like atmosphere of Coastal Redwood Groves to Sagebrush-covered hillsides, and from the snowy Cascades Range to the unspoilt shores of Point Reyes and the Klamath Coast, a marvellous variety of habitats is home to a tremendously rich and distinctive flora. Paintbrushes, Penstemons, Phloxes and meadows of blue Camassias provide an arena for a multitude of Irises and kaleidoscopic Calochortuses. These are the signature plants of this tour with nine or more species. Their wonderful local names, such as Elegant Cat's-ear and Golden Fairy Lantern, give an idea of their delicate beauty. The etched blooms of *Calochortus superbus* and rich pink *Calochortus splendens* are two of the finest, along with furry *Calochortus tolmiei* and sun-faced *Calochortus monophyllus*. Erythroniums form great swathes and include the California Fawn Lily as well as *Erythronium citrinum*, palest yellow *Erythronium oregonum* and well-named *Erythronium purpurascens*. The seriously endangered *Lilium maritimum* holds out stunning red blooms though arguably *Lilium pardalinum* is even more spectacular. As well as wild gingers, Snow Plants, gaultherias and rhododendrons, we'll encounter *Fritillaria affinis*, *Fritillaria atropurpurea*, *Fritillaria glauca* and the striking Scarlet Fritillary *Fritillaria recurva*. Colonies of the carnivorous pitchers of *Darlingtonia californica* carpet bogs amidst Douglas Firs and with them the beautiful Californian Lady's Slipper Orchid. There are Giant Trilliums, spectacular *Xerophyllum tenax*, fabulous Calypso Orchid, and a wonder with stunning tubular red flowers, the Hummingbird-pollinated Firecracker Flower. There's plenty of wildlife to enjoy too from Bald Eagles to immaculately-plumaged California Quail, and from Tule Elk to Californian Sea Lions.





# Japan

## 10th to 25th June 2009

£4595 per person (Ground Cost £3795)

Though the south of Japan's memorably scenic archipelago experiences a sub-tropical climate the northernmost parts of the island chain have more in common with Siberia. A visit in June thus allows us to find many early spring bulbs where the snows are still receding and the more exotic flora of lower latitudes and elevations. Hakuba-jiri's famous snowy valley on the slopes of Mount Shirouma (almost 3000m) hold *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Anemone flaccida*, *Primula jesoana*, *Paris japonica* and the delicate palest pink *Pogonia japonica*. A cable car allows an easy ascent of Mount Nyugasa in the centre of the Honshu Highlands. Here are *Convallaria keiskei*, *Primula japonica*, *Rhododendron kaempferi*, *Polygonatum humile* and *Rhododendron japonicum*. At Oyomi Bog deepest blue *Iris laevigata* is found with *Iris sanguinea* and our familiar yet still very beautiful Bogbean. Lilies will be a major feature of this tour, as on Niigata we'll see *Lilium rubellum* growing amongst *Rhododendron japonicum*, whilst Oonokame hosts both *Hemerocallis middendorffii* var. *exaltata* and *Lilium maculatum*. *Primula nipponica* and *Geum pentapetala* are two of Mt Zaou's many beautiful flowers. We'll use the Shinkansen (Japanese Bullet Train) to pass back through Tokyo en route to Odawara and the famous spa at Hakone-Yumoto. This is a great place to explore the botanically rich Izu Peninsula where *Lilium auratum*, *Arisaema serratum* and *Astilbe simplicifolia* will be among the highlights.



# Altai Mountains

## 22nd June to 8th July 2009

£2895 per person (Ground Cost £2335)

The far eastern tip of Kazakhstan meets the borders of Mongolia, China and Russian Siberia in the middle of the Golden Mountains, known to us as the Altai. The mountain flowers are amazingly beautiful and varied - Siberian Dogs-tooth Violet, Altai Foxtail Lily, and a rich variety of Saxifrages, Gentians and Irises. A blue carpet of a million *Aquilegia glandulosa* stretches out towards the glaciated peak of Belukha, at 4500m the highest in the region. Along stream banks are dark red *Primula sibirica* and the massed pink blooms of *Paeonia anomala* interrupted occasionally by *Cortusa altaica* and tall yellow *Corydalis nobilis*. The lovely *Papaver nudicaule* comes in whites, yellows and bright oranges and makes for a spectacular sight with pink *Bergenia*s, blue *Iris ruthenica* and yellow *Iris bloudowii*. Siberian-style Tundra in the Naryn Mountains is home to Siberian Rubythroats, Windflowers, Claytonias and Siberian Chipmunks. High meadows have several species of gentian including the fine trumpet-like *Gentiana grandiflora* as well as *Viola altaica*, *Gymnospermium altaicum*, *Callianthemum angustifolium* and *Primula longiscapa*. On wooded rocky ridges we'll find *Androsace lactiflora* and *Aquilegia brevicarata*. The Ivanovskiy peaks host a memorable display of *Delphiniums*, *Pedicularis* and *Aconitums*, whilst damp flushes have massed Musk Orchids and the strange gentian relative *Halenia corniculata*. The Altai has the greatest diversity of butterflies in temperate Eurasia with magnificent Apollos taking centre-stage with up to five species per day, including a yellow one!



# The Karawanken Alps

19th to 28th July 2009

£1595 per person (Ground Cost £1415)

The Dolomitic mountains of the Karawanken Alps bordering Slovenia and Austria have some of the finest flowerscapes in Europe with a host of regional endemics. The impressive limestone massif of Triglav rises from meadows and forests where we'll find *Lilium carnolicum* and Lady's Slipper blooming amid rampions and tall bellflowers. Indeed Campanulas are abundant and growing with yellow *Primula auricula* and pink *Potentilla nitida* on the rockfaces of Triglav itself is the memorable *Campanula zoysii*. *Saussurea pygmaea* and delicate white *Ranunculus traunfellneri* inhabit the almost white screes and above are *Papaver julicum*, *Crepis kernerii* and the scarce and beautiful King of the Alps. Cirques to the north have big purple *Gentiana pannonica* and hopefully still the last flowers of *Primula carnolica*. The hard rocks of Monte Matajur are home to *Saxifraga petraea*, endemic *Saxifraga tenella* and *Campanula caespitosa*. The meadows and open woodlands in these scenic valleys have *Hemerocallis fulva*, bright pink *Centaurea julica*, *Adenophora liliifolia* and many monkshoods including *Aconitum vulparia*, *Aconitum napellus* and endemic *Aconitum angustifolium*. Another group well represented in these mountains are the Primulaceae with several Soldanellas blooming at the highest altitudes along with *Primula halleri* and *Primula wulfeniana*, on rocks widespread *Androsace villosa* and more local *Androsace hausmannii*, and in the damp wooded meadows below, *Cortusa matthiola*. We'll finish the tour at lovely Laghi di Fusine and Monte Canin where we'll see small blue *Gentiana pumila*, yellow *Paederota lutea*, *Primula clusiana*, and a host of *Saxifragas* including *caesia*, *crustata*, *squarrosa*, *hostii* and *burserana*.



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