



AGS NEWS

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society



BOB GIBBONS

AGS Photographic Competition 2021

Many wonderful images were entered into the 2021 competition, even if the overall number of entries was down. The first, second and third placed photographs in each Class are shown in the March issue of *The Alpine Gardener*, along with a selection of the Highly Commended images that just missed out on a prize. The image of *Thalictrom aquilegifolium* (above) was taken by Bob Gibbons in the Swiss Alps; it was given Highly Commended in Class 3. As

many members will be able to resume travelling this year, that presents a great opportunity to take photographs and enter them into the 2022 competition.

AGS TOURS

Our programme of tours in 2022 has resumed and details of forthcoming trips are shown in this newsletter.

AGS SHOWS UPDATE

The 2022 season has started well with the first show held near Newport in South Wales in an

**AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK**

Phone: +44(0)1386 554790
Email: ags@alpinegardensociety.net
Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions

Single (UK and Ire) by direct debit	£36
Single (UK and Ireland)	£40
Family (two at same address)	£43
Family by direct debit	£39
Junior (under 18/student)	£20
Overseas single	£46
Overseas family	£50

AGS CENTRE OPENING HOURS

The AGS Centre will be closed on Friday 15 April and reopens on Wed 20 April. It will also be closed for bank holidays on Monday 2 May, and Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June

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Send items for the June 2022 issue of *AGS News* to the address above or email

ags@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is 30 April 2022.

NEWS

excellent new venue, despite the attempts of Storm Eunice to interfere! By the time you read this, several other shows will have taken place. Circumstances beyond our control, however, have resulted in the cancellation of the two Kent shows at Sutton Valence and the Midland show at Knowle.

The situation regarding Covid and venue hire is still fluid, so please check the website or with the show secretaries for the latest news before travelling. Remember: the only requirement to have the fun of entering plants in our shows is to be a member of the Society. New exhibitors are always welcome in Novice classes, and help is on hand if you need assistance or advice.

SEED EXCHANGE UPDATE

The AGS Seed Exchange could not function without the input of many members. We would like to thank the hundreds of members who give up their time to help in various capacities, including donors, receivers, packers, order pickers and IT support. The Seed Exchange is now finished for this season and all main and surplus orders have been posted out.

If you live in the USA, Australia or New Zealand, please bear in mind that the packets have to be opened and checked by customs and this can increase the time it takes for your order to reach you.

Please contact Diane Clement if your order has not arrived by the time you read this newsletter. diane.clement@agsgroups.org

ZOOM LECTURES, EVENTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS

Head to the AGS website to find out which alpine experts are giving zoom lectures – available free of charge to members – and how to access them. Some talks in the series will be recorded, which means you can enjoy them at a later date.

Also on the website, under the ‘Local Groups’ menu, is a useful calendar that gives details of in-person meetings plus online talks and events so members can see which local events – and nationally accessible zoom talks – are available. If you want your local group event to be included, please contact Raz on digital@alpinegardensociety.net.

Don’t forget to visit the online AGS Shop, where you can find books on sale and order those titles discounted for members.

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

Here are the answers to the Christmas word search, compiled by Christopher Grey-Wilson. How many of the 55 genera did you find?

Acantholimon, Acis, Adonis, Ajuga, Aquilegia, Arum, Aster, Bessia, Brimeura, Cortusa, Crocus, Cyclamen, Dianthus, Dionysia, Draba, Fritillaria, Galanthus, Geum, Glaux, Hacquetia, Hebe, Impatiens, Inula, Ipheion, Iris, Jancaea, Jasione, Kerneria, Ledum, Liliium, Lloydia, Loasa, Meconopsis, Oxalis, Papaver, Paraquilegia, Paris, Pinus, Poa, Pratia, Primula, Pulsatilla, Ranunculus, Raoulia, Romulea, Sagina, Salix, Saxifraga, Scilla, Sedum, Silene, Thlaspi, Tulipa, Veronica, Viola.

Your score: 1-20: Could do better
 21-30: Fair
 31-40: Good
 41-50: Excellent
 50+: Outstanding

AGS BOOKSHOP

Order code	Title and author (DENOTES AGS PUBLICATION)	Members' price
GENERAL ALPINE TITLES		
032	<i>Alpine Gardening for Beginners</i> by John Good	£6.50
026	<i>The Crevice Garden and its Plants</i> by Zdenek Zvolanek	£6.50
SPECIFIC GENERA		
890	<i>The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters</i> by Paul and Helen Picton	£14.50
891	<i>The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums</i> by Sally Gregson	£14.50
858	<i>The Genus Betula</i> by K Ashburner & Hugh McAllister	£54.50
933	<i>Meconopsis for Gardeners</i> Ed. Christopher Grey-Wilson Special postage rates: UK £8; EU £15; rest of the world POA	£42.00
942	<i>Peony</i> by David C Michener and Carol A Adelman	£17.50
913	<i>The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis</i> by Linda Beutler	£14.50
914	<i>The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums</i> by Robin Parer	£14.50
911	<i>The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias</i> by John Whittlesey	£14.50
282	<i>The Genus Roscoea</i> by Jill Cowley	£33.50

ORDERING BOOKS FROM OUTSIDE THE UK

Please note that, due to changes in customs procedures, all customers ordering books from overseas must include an email address and phone number with their order. Any customs charges applied to any orders are the responsibility of the customer, and not that of the AGS. Postage and packing rates given here do not include any additional customs fees that may be incurred.

960	<i>Thirty Years of Growing Kabschia Saxifrages</i> by David Walkey	£4.00
881	<i>Meconopsis</i> (monograph) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£54.50
882	<i>The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops</i> by Naomi Slade	£14.50
860	<i>Growing Garden Bulbs</i> by Richard Wilford	£5.50
962	<i>The Galanthophiles</i> by Jane Kilpatrick and Jennifer Harmer	£36.00
963	<i>The Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops</i> (2nd edition) by Freda Cox	£37.50
ORCHIDS		
931	<i>A Pocket Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Ireland</i> by Simon Harrap	£12.00
698	<i>Ophrys: The Bee Orchids of Europe</i> by H Aerenlund Pedersen & N Faurholdt	£27.00
SUCCULENTS AND CACTI		
941	<i>Designing with Succulents</i> by Debra Lee Baldwin	£13.50
749	<i>Succulent Container Gardens</i> by Debra Lee Baldwin	£16.00

NEW BOOK AND SPECIAL WEBSITE OFFERS

The Crevice Garden by Kenton Seth and Paul Spriggs is published in April. A guide to building crevice gardens of all sizes, it also covers 250 plants that thrive in these gardens. Illustrated, hardback, 224pp. Available to members for £20 (RRP £25), it can be ordered using the form on p9 (Code 995) or via the AGS website. The shop on the website has a number of additional special offers on books and gifts – visit alpinegardensociety.net

AGS BOOKSHOP

TRAVEL		
904	<i>Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean</i> by Oron Peri	£28.00
680	<i>Endemic Plants of the Altai Mountain Country</i> by A I Pyak et al.	£37.00
034	<i>Bulbs of Greece</i> by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£8.00
922	<i>Mountain Flowers</i> by Michael Scott	£28.00
809	<i>Mountain Flower Walks: Eastern Alps & Dolomites</i> by Jim Jermyn	£5.00
031	<i>Mountain Flower Walks: Greek Mainland</i> by John Richards	£5.00
454	<i>Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges</i>	£28.00
961	<i>A Plant-Hunter in Afghanistan</i> by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£23.00
944	<i>Joseph Hooker: Botanical Trailblazer</i> by Pat Griggs	£8.00
902	<i>Wild Flowers of New England</i> by Ted Elliman	£12.00
874	<i>Wild Flowers of the Algarve</i> by C Thorogood and S Hiscock	£28.00
938	<i>Wild Plants of Southern Spain</i> by Tony Hall	£24.00
917	<i>Wild Flowers of the Western Mediterranean</i> by Chris Thorogood	£32.00

SUNFLOWER TRAVEL GUIDES		
895	<i>Madeira</i>	£10.00
896	<i>Northern Portugal</i>	£10.00
897	<i>Pyrenees</i>	£10.00
898	<i>Sicily</i>	£10.00
899	<i>Southern Peloponnese</i>	£10.00
900	<i>Turkish Coast: Antalya to Demre</i>	£12.00
901	<i>Western Crete</i>	£10.00
OTHER TITLES		
954	<i>Desert Gardening</i> by Steve Martino	£36.00
838	<i>Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy</i> by Claude Hitching	£28.00
934	<i>Beth Chatto's Shade Garden</i> by Beth Chatto	£24.00
888	<i>Flora of the Silk Road</i> by Chris & Basak Gardner Special postage rates: UK £8; EU £15; rest of the world POA	£28.00
974	<i>Temperate Garden Plant Families</i> by Peter Goldblatt et al	£26.00
849	<i>Marianne North: A Very Intrepid Painter</i> by Michelle Payne	£9.50
952	<i>Plants of the World</i> by M Christenhuusz Special postage rates: UK £8; EU £15; rest of the world POA	£52.00
975	<i>Shrubs</i> by Andy McIndoe	£17.50
935	<i>Sowing Beauty</i> by James Hitchmough	£17.00



AGS TOURS

The Society intends to run the advertised tours in 2022/3, but these are subject to conditions and any travel restrictions.

No deposits are being taken at present but deposit and final payment will be due 14 days after confirmation of price.

BOLIVIA

2023 - PROVISIONAL DATES:
24 MARCH-12 APRIL 2023

Leader: Harry Jans

Cost: TBC. Full details to be shown in the June 2022 issue of *AGS News*

This tour starts in Northern Chile. The day after arrival, we travel by bus to a small town called Putre, located at 3,500m above sea level. We will botanise at even higher points on the tour. It is very important to prepare because of the risk of altitude sickness.

The tour will include four days in Chile with a visit to Lauca National Park before the journey continues to La Paz, Bolivia and enters the 'Altiplano' region; a flat semi-desert area located around 3,800m above sea level. We spend four nights in La Paz, visiting the ruins of Tiawanako, the mother of ancient Andean civilizations. From La Paz we fly to the small town of Uyuni, entrance gate to



the impressive salt lake, Salar de Uyuni, and spend two days in a landscape full of gigantic cacti.

After two days, we fly back to La Paz and drive directly to our hotel at the shore of Titicaca Lake.

Then we head back to La Paz and drive to the border of Peru, taking in a scenic route along the Titicaca. Our last place to visit is at Meseta of Ticsani, an area with a lot of nototriches. We then spend a night in Calacoa, then fly to Lima before returning home.



S. AFRICA

1-15 September 2022
(to/from the UK)

Leader: Callan Cohen

Cost: TBC

This tour provides a unique opportunity to see the best of the South African Cape spring bulbs, from breathtaking daubenyas to sparkling romuleas.

In this Cape spring tour with a difference, we focus on the dolerites of both the world-famous Roggeveld and Nieuwoudtville areas. There will be the chance to see some beautiful floral displays that the West Coast is famous for, including some rare irids of the wine-growing regions, not usually seen on tours.

We start by heading to the dramatic mountain escarpment area of the Roggeveld, where our main focus will be both the golden and red forms of the incomparable *Daubinya aurea* (pictured), and well as a host of striking endemic romuleas including the striking pink-flowered *Romulea komsbergensis* and the orangey-red-bloomed *Romulea unifolia*.

Heading westwards to the



Bokkeveld escarpment at Nieuwoudtville, we plan to see further interesting species, including the graceful flowers of *babianas* (and *hesperanthas*, as well as *geissorhizas*, *Sparaxis* (harlequin flower), *Moraea*, (cape tulip) and *Gladiolus*.

We then go on to explore the Cape west coast and the rich soils of the winelands near Tulbagh which are home to a further dazzling array of floral gems.

For further information on these tours please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



PATAGONIA

28 Nov-18 December 2022
(to/from the UK)

Cost: TBC

Leader: Martin Sheader

Patagonia is a remote region that includes the southernmost provinces of Argentina and Chile. It has a diverse range of spectacular landscapes, including vast areas of semi-desert steppe to the east and temperate rainforest to the west, separated by the dramatic peaks of the Andes.

This varied landscape supports many plants that are striking in colour, form and habit. Some are in cultivation, but many, especially the alpine and steppe flora, are not. In addition to the flowers, we should see lots of wildlife, notably guanacos, foxes, austral parrots, condors, skunks and armadillos.

The tour includes botanising on Monte Zeballos, Argentina, which is rich in flowers including rosulate violas, *Benthamiella*, *Hamadryas* and many other alpine species.

Crossing into Chile, there is a further abundance of alpines to see on the mountain slopes of the southern side of the Patagonia National Park, with *Calceolaria*,



many species of *Oxalis* and *Valeriana moyanoi*.

The tour continues with a return to Argentina, heading north to Chubut province in search of beautiful orchids including *Chloraea alpina* and *C. magellanica*.

Venturing further north, there is a stop at Lago Vinnter to photograph *Viola columnaris* and many other interesting steppe and woodland plants.

The tour concludes at the ski resort of San Carlos de Bariloche, with a visit to two mountains, Cerro Catedral and Mirador Nirihuau, to see more *Oxalis*, violas, *Ourisia fragrans* and *Combera paradoxa*.

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THE BURREN

17-23 May 2022

Leaders: Paul Green
& Ian Bernallick

Cost: London-London £2,125;
Dublin-Shannon £1,955

Ribboned with cracks and crevices the limestones of The Burren produces a fabulous show of flowers in late spring. It is famed for orchids such as Dense-flowered Orchid, ivory *Dactylorhiza okellyi*, unique to Ireland, and delicately coloured varieties of Early Marsh Orchid. We'll seek the windflower, beautiful spring gentian, fairy foxglove, large-flowered butterwort, fen violet and heath



dog violet (and their hybrids) and rarities such as pyramidal bugle.

THE ALPS

15-22 May 2022

Leaders: Paul Green
& Stefano Doglio

Cost: London-London £1,955
Nice-Nice £1,795

In lavender-scented valleys we'll find woodlands awash with hepaticas, cowslips, oxslips and the rare *huthii* form of *Paeonia officinalis*. Botanical highlights in the idyllic Parc National du Mercantour will include *Fritillaria involucreta*, swarms of red and yellow *Ophrys drumana* and cascades of white *Saxifraga*



callosa. There's marvellous groups of *Fritillaria tubaeformis* as well as glorious *Saxifraga retusa*, and alpine turf decorated with snowbells, pasque flowers and gentians.

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit www.greentours.co.uk

BULBS OF GALILEE

For 2023: 12–21 March 2023
 Leaders: Oron Peri & Kurt Vickery
 Cost: London-London approx. £2,700
 Tel Aviv-Tel Aviv £2,350

Israel has more than two hundred bulbous species. On magical Mount Hermon are *Fritillaria hermonis*, richly-hued *Hyacinthus orientalis*, gorgeous white-topped *Iris hermona* and the beautiful *Iris lortetii*. On Mount Gilboa is purple-pink *Iris haynei* and near Nazareth, the wonderful *Iris bismarckiana*. In the Negev's deserts are clear purple *Iris mariae* and two near



black species, the well-named *Iris atrofusca*, and the recently described *Iris hieruchamensis*.

EAST TURKEY & NAKHCHIVAN

17–27 May 2022
 Leaders: Kurt Vickery & Yasemin Konuralp
 Cost: London-London approx. £2,600
 Nakhchivan-Nakhchivan approx. £2,300

Ararat forms the centre of the heartland of the *Oncocyclus* irises. In tiny Nakhchivan we'll enjoy rare *Iris paradoxa* f. *atrata*, *Iris lycotis*, and many *Iris imbricata*. Around Van are magnificent shows of *Iris elegantissima*, blue-purple *Iris barnumiae*, *Iris sari* and *Iris paradoxa* f. *choschab*; further west we'll find huge



Iris gatesii and *Iris kirkwoodii*. On a pre-tour to Azerbaijan's Talysh Mountains we'll find *Iris acutiloba* subsp. *lineolata*, *Iris grossheimiana* and gorgeous *Iris medwedewii*.

GEORGIA

30 June–11 July 2022
 Leaders: Kurt Vickery, Tolkha Shetekauri, Ana Kvlividze & Jamie Compton
 Cost: London-London £2,660
 Tbilisi –Tbilisi £2,300
 Antalya –Dalaman £1,650

Georgia has a breathtaking diversity of campanulas – we'll see many species from tall *Campanula lactiflora* to delicate and lovely rock-dwelling species such as *Campanula ardonensis*, *Campanula sosnowskyi*, *Campanula bellidifolia*, and white *Campanula ochroleuca*. We will also see lilies, delphiniums, monkshoods,



gentians, rare *Primula bayernii*, and lots of saxifrages.

SIKHOTE-ALIN MOUNTAINS

6–17 June 2022 Leaders: Ian Green and local leaders | Cost: TBC

Bordering China on one side and the Sea of Okhotsk on the other, the Russian State of Primorye harbours the largest area of pristine habitats in the Russian Far East. At its heart is the Sikhote-Alin mountain range, known for being home to the last population of Siberian tigers (we



won't see one!) but it should also be known for its achingly beautiful scenery, for its diverse forests, and also for some truly lovely flowers.

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