



www.socalhort.org

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

JULY 2002 PLANT FORUM NOTES

In addition to the plants discussed, the following plants, described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*, were also shown:

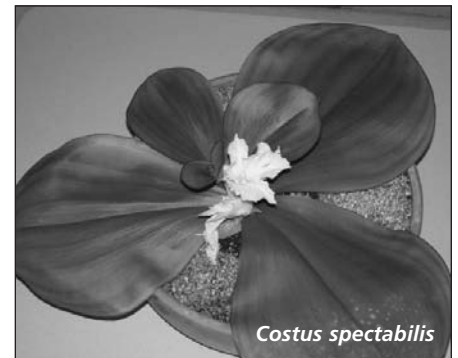
Buddleja marrubifolia
Calliandra californica
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides
Cuphea llavea
Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens*
Eriogonum parvifolium
Helianthus annuus
Malacothamnus fasciculatus
 ssp. *nesioticus*
Manihot esculenta
Perityle incana
Russelia equisetiformis
Salvia pachyphylla
Sinningia tubiflora
Sphaeralcea ambigua 'Louis Hamilton'
Stigmaphyllon ciliatum
Strophanthus speciosus
Tecoma stans
Trichostema lanatum (selection with white fuzz and blue flowers – this was named 'Susanna Bixby Bryant' in November).

Plants that most of us know as *Zauschneria* (or California Fuchsia) are taxonomically complex and have been reclassified to the genus *Epilobium*. From a horticultural point of view, this confuses these plants tremendously. For better or for worse, here are the names that can be applied to the plants shown:

Epilobium canum ssp. *latifolium*
 (*Zauschneria arizonica*),
Epilobium canum ssp. *canum*
 (*Zauschneria californica*),
Epilobium canum ssp. *canum*
 (*Zauschneria cana*).

Thank you to all that brought plants to the July meeting – it was another very good showing! All are encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you do get one free "exhibitor's ticket" for the plant raffle if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the forum table.

FEATURED PLANT: *Costus spectabilis* (Costaceae). Central Africa. No common name. Perennial. Fittingly named (*spectabilis*), this plant was new to everyone(?) at the meeting. The plant shown had three 8 to 12 inch long, broadly ovate, ground-hugging leaves that were lightly covered with short soft hairs. A tuft of showy, broad-petaled, crepe-textured, yellow 3 to 4 inch flowers emerge from the center of the plant. This plant is from central Africa, and has short pencil-like underground rhizomes. Plants normally go dormant in the winter, and typically need to be kept in a greenhouse in our area as they do not like freezing temperatures or winter wetness. At this point in time, there are few plants around and no one is apt to experiment with their plants outdoors. (Dylan Hannon/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden)



Agastache rupestris (Lamiaceae). Mexico. Licorice Scented Agastache. Perennial. Erect plant from 2 to 3 feet tall. Plants have narrow gray-green leaves that are pungently scented licorice. Flowers range from dull-red to orange-red. Individual flowers are narrow and somewhat tubular (like most mints), but are held in showy whorl-like clusters. Plants are often short-lived in our hot climate, but may seed about (rarely, if ever, a pest). Nearly all *Agastache* species and hybrids are excellent choices for a young sunny garden where their fast growth rate is appreciated amongst slower growing permanent plantings. (Chris & Trish Meyer)

Mimulus aurantiacus 'Shirley Beneke' (Scrophulariaceae). Santa Cruz County, California. Shirley Beneke Monkeyflower. Subshrub. The Jepson Manual treatment lumps all but one (*M. clevelandii*) of the shrubby monkeyflowers into a single species – *Mimulus aurantiacus*. This highly unusual off-white-flowered cultivar has smallish flowers that typify sticky monkeyflower plants



*Agastache
rupestris*

The following plants were also shown but are not described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*:

Actinidia chinensis
Agastache aurantiaca
Agastache pringlei
Buddleja 'Lochinch'
Crassula lycopodioides
Eugenia sprengelii
Hedeoma ciliata
Ledebouria crispa
Lobelia dunnii
Petitia oleina
Pitcairnia undulata
Salvia verticillata 'Purple Rain'
Sedum makinoi 'Ogon'
Sphaeralcea fendleri var. *venusta*
Sphaeralcea munroana, and
Sphaeralcea philippiana

Note: The unidentified Arum-like plant shown recently has been identified as *Sauromatum venosum* (aka: *Sauromatum guttatum*).

The identity of the following plant could not be completely ascertained: *Ctenanthe* sp.

from coastal southwestern Oregon through California's central coast. In the wild, plants in that region display remarkable consistency in flower color, shape and size. Cuttings from this plant were originally collected in the sand hills near Ben Lomond by Shirley Beneke and were given to the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. The Arboretum named and introduced this cultivar in 1992. Plants are easy to grow in full sun near the coast and in partial shade inland. Pinch them frequently when they are young, and prune them lightly each year after they finish flowering or when they get too lanky. (Bart O'Brien/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden)

Mimulus 'Sam' (Scrophulariaceae). Garden Hybrid. Sam Monkeyflower. Subshrub. This is one of the recent Persoff hybrids. 'Sam' has large pale yellow ruffled flowers. Though some early reports indicated that the Persoff hybrids had better garden tolerance than the Verity hybrids, this has not been the case at Rancho Santa Ana – plants of both sorts are equally garden worthy and appear to be equally problematic: short life span, brittle stems, and susceptibility to a variety of diseases when grown in standard nursery conditions. With careful tending this is a spectacular addition to the garden. (Bart O'Brien/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden)

Nicandra physaloides (Solanaceae). Peru. Shoo Fly Plant. Annual. Plants are often grown for their reported ability to repel flies. Plants are poisonous and contain alkaloids. The plant has become a pest in Europe, parts of the U.S., and in tropical portions of the Americas. White to blue to violet funnel to bell-shaped flowers are 1-1/2 inch across and are freely produced in summer and fall months, but are only open for a few hours during the middle of the day. Plants may reach 4 feet tall. Fruits resemble *Physalis*, but are larger. Mabberley notes that "some seeds lack one chromosome and these can remain dormant for 30 years" – so no wonder it can become a pest! (Marie Pisano)

Passiflora perfoliata (Passifloraceae). Jamaica. Leafy Passion Flower. Evergreen vine to 20 feet or more, with light green leaves and glands on both sides. Unlike most passion flowers, the blossoms are produced in racemes. Star-like flowers are an odd red-purple-pink and have a green corona with orange-red tips. Hummingbirds pollinate this plant. In the wild, the vine is found in xeric scrublands. Jorge recommends growing the plant in sun to partial shade. (Jorge Ochoa)

Sphaeralcea ambigua var. *rosacea* (Malvaceae). Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County, California. Santa Rosa Mountains Mallow or Pink Mallow. Subshrub. Luminous pink flowers are freely produced along 1 to 2 foot long, arching stems. Foliage is very similar to the apricot mallow (*S. ambigua*): deeply creased gray-green leaves that are coated with whitish stellate (star-shaped) hairs. Plants may be expected to reach 3 to 4 feet tall when in bloom. As with most mallows, rabbits, ground squirrels, etc. love to eat the plants. Plants are easily grown in full sun to light shade, good drainage is preferred but not essential. Drought tolerant when established, though will bloom for many months if watered occasionally. (Bart O'Brien/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY