Southern California Horticultural Society

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GREEN SHEET

OCTOBER 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:

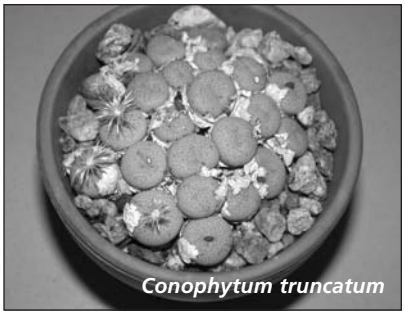
Acca sellowiana
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata
Anaphalis margaritacea var. *yedoensis*
Antigonon leptopus
Brighamia insignis
Crassula sarmentosa
'Mildred's Mystery'
Elaeagnus pungens
Kigelia africana
Nertera granadensis
Phygelius capensis
Plectranthus ecklonii
Salvia elegans
Salvia mexicana
Salvia mexicana 'Limelight'
Salvia splendens 'Van Houttei'
Sansevieria trifasciata
Stipa ramosissima
Trichostema purpusii
Vitis californica 'Roger's Red'
Zauschneria (*Epilobium*) 'Catalina'

Hemizonia minthornii

Thank you to all that brought plants to the October 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.

Asclepias pinifolia

Asclepias pinifolia (Asclepiadaceae). Mexico. Pine-leaved Milkweed. This perennial plant's common name is especially descriptive. Pine-needle like leaves are scattered along the length of the 1 to 3 feet tall stems. Loose umbels of small but showy white flowers appear at the top of the stems from summer through fall. Like many milkweeds, individual plants are often short-lived. Grow this perennial in full sun and well-drained soil. The plant grows in the state of Tamaulipas, where Don collected the seeds at 4,000 feet elevation. (Donald Hodel)


Conophytum truncatum

Conophytum truncatum (Aizoaceae). South Africa. Conophytum. A whimsical tiny ice plant relative, Lili's plant is quite old but perfectly happy growing in a small pot. This species is considered one of the easiest to grow. Plants flower during the fall months; each blossom opens at night and is powerfully fragrant. According to Steven Hammer, the authority on these plants, the flowers may be "pink, salmon, dark maroon or purplish." Plants are succulent, and resemble their close relatives, the living stones (*Lithops* spp.). This species was the first *Conophytum* described – way back in 1791. (The plant was shown as *C. multipunctatum*, a synonym of *C. truncatum*.) (Lili Singer)

Hemizonia minthornii (Asteraceae). California. Santa Susana Tarweed. Our state has many species of tarweeds, but this one is especially garden worthy. This is the only perennial species of *Hemizonia* on the mainland (all other mainland species are annuals, the other perennials are found on islands), and it just so happens that it occurs in our own backyard: the Santa Susana Mountains of Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Unfortunately, this plant is now rare in the wild. This plant will reach from 1 to 3 feet tall and will grow equally wide. Nearly all parts of the plant are sticky (as one would expect from the common name) and give the plant its

distinctive, pleasing aroma. Dozens of nickel- to quarter-sized, yellow, daisy flowers decorate the plant from June until either cold weather or extreme drought stops them. Cut back the old stems as the bright green new stems emerge in late fall or winter. (Trish Meyer)

Malacothamnus abbottii (Malvaceae). California. Abbott's Bush Mallow. This rare mallow was thought to be extinct for nearly 100 years, but was recently discovered at Sargent Creek in Monterey County, the type locality for the species. Unlike most of our bush mallows, this species was originally described from plants growing in a riparian habitat, with silver-leaved willows (*Salix exigua*). Subsequent searches have revealed other populations in dry grasslands and chaparral habitats. Plants are ornamental, but there is a catch: they spread (sometimes vigorously) by underground runners. This feature does make them candidates for erosion control plantings. Plants will grow from 4 to 8 feet tall, and usually have attractive roundish white leaves. Long sprays of inch-wide pink to lavender hollyhock-like flowers appear from mid summer to fall. Established plantings may be cut back hard in late fall or early winter to rejuvenate the colony. Young shoots are often a favorite food of rabbits. (Trish Meyer)

Salvia taraxacifolia (Lamiaceae). Morocco. Dandelion-leaved Sage. This mat-forming perennial is easily grown in our region in full sun and well-drained soil. The deeply and variously cut rosettes of gray-green leaves are attractive at all times. Flower spikes up to 2 feet tall may appear from summer until early winter. Small whitish flowers (often marked with pink or purple) appear in whorls. (Chris Meyer)

Anemanthele lessoniana (Poaceae). New Zealand. New Zealand Wind Grass. A moderate sized bunch – or tussock – grass with arching, fine textured blades, this species may reach about 3 feet tall. Plants flower in early summer. Foliage takes on a yellowish or golden hue in fall, though some plants turn orange. Grow this bunch grass in full sun or light shade. (The plant was shown as *Stipa arundinacea*, a synonym of *A. lessoniana*.) (Cathy Ratner)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained:

Achyranthus sp.,
Amaranthus sp.,
Chrysanthemum cultivar,
Neoregelia sp,
and an unknown plant in the Burseraceae.

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

Aloe calcairophila,
Begonia 'Ruth Pease'
Cryptostephanus vansonii,
Cyclamen rohlfsianum
Passiflora triloba
Salvia 'Anthony Parker'
Salvia 'El Cielo Blue'
Solidago californica