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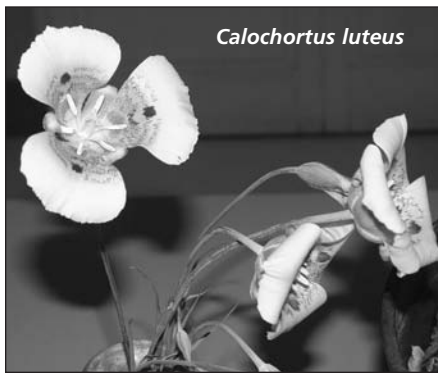
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

APRIL 2003 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:

Bauhinia variegata
Equisetum scirpoides
Euphorbia characias
Euphorbia lambii
Gladiolus communis ssp. *byzantinus*
Hippeastrum cybister
Leucocoryne ixioioides – hybrids
Papaver somniferum
Pelargonium 'Clorinda'
Puya venusta
Salvia 'Indigo Spires'
Tabebuia chrysotricha
Viburnum opulus



Calochortus luteus



Calochortus venustus

Thank you to all those who brought plants to the April meeting! 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.

Calochortus albus (Calochortaceae). California: South Coast Ranges, Sierra Nevada foothills, western Transverse Ranges. White Fairy Lantern.

Calochortus amabilis (Calochortaceae). California: North Coast Ranges. Diogenes' Lantern.

Calochortus amoenus (Calochortaceae). California: Southern Sierra Nevada foothills. Pink Globe Lily.

Calochortus luteus (Calochortaceae). California: Coast Ranges, Sacramento Valley, Sierra Nevada foothills. Gold Nuggets.

Calochortus venustus (Calochortaceae). California: South Coast Ranges, western Transverse Ranges, San Gabriel Mountains. Sierra Nevada foothills. Mariposa Lily.

Deciduous bulbous perennials, often considered difficult to grow. Plants require summer drought and protection from snails, slugs, insects, rodents, etc., so most successful plants are grown in containers. Typically, these plants come into bloom as the exotic annual grasses are turning brown (May to June). Two of the three types of *Calochortus* were displayed: "mariposa" and "lantern" (the other is "kitten ear"). Mariposas have upright, goblet-shaped blossoms that often have colorful markings; *C. luteus* has golden yellow flowers with reddish brown markings; the *C. venustus* shown had white flowers with reddish brown markings (though this remarkable species can have red, copper, pink, or yellow flowers with variously colored markings). Lanterns have nodding, rounded blossoms that are uniformly colored; *C. albus* has white flowers that may be flushed pinkish-red; *C. amabilis* has golden yellow flowers; *C. amoenus* has deep pink blossoms.

Calochortus are notoriously unreliable – mature bulbs can rest underground for a number of years without sending up any leaves or flowers, they may send up a so-called "resting leaf" to build up strength for future flowering, or they may send up the single leaf and bloom. No one is certain what triggers massive numbers to bloom in the wild, though in some cases this coincides with fire. The broad single leaf that many species produce leads to another of their common names: beavertail. In cultivation, these plants need plenty of water while they are actively growing; once the leaves start to yellow and dry, watering should be decreased. Blooming plants need very little, if any, irrigation. Young plants should not be allowed to set seed, as this will adversely affect the development of the bulb. *Calochortus* are susceptible to virus infection, so be sure to keep aphids and other sucking insects away. This beautiful display was grown by F. Smith of Glendale.



Dudleya lanceolata (Crassulaceae). California's South Coast Ranges and Mojave Desert mountain ranges to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Live Forever. Evergreen succulent. These plants are quite variable in the wild. Flowers are held in branching inflorescences and may be red to yellow. Rosettes may be gray to green, and rarely branch. Leaves usually have pointed tips. The specimen shown was from the Santa Monica Mountains. (Dave Verity)



Euphorbia polychroma (*epithymoides*) (Euphorbiaceae). Mediterranean. Perennial. Fast growing, adaptable, and easy. Seeds around. Individual plants are often short lived and will reach 20 inches tall and wide. Inflorescences are about 3 inches long and wide. Flowers (showy bracts) appear in early spring and are yellow-green at the top of the inflorescence and a bit darker lower down. It is suggested to use this plant with purple-flowered perennials such as irises, heliotrope, or *Limonium perezii*. (Steve Gerischer)

Melanoselinum decipiens (Apiaceae). Madeira. Black Parsley. Biennial or monocarpic perennial to 7 feet tall. Plants are noted as "palm-like" as the dissected leaves are held in a rosette at the top of a more-or-less woody stem. Late winter to spring blooming flowers are held in large umbels with depressed centers. Individual flowers are white or purplish. Fruits are dark brown to blackish. (Ellen Hoffs)

Paeonia lactiflora 'Festiva Maxima' (Paeoniaceae). Festiva Maxima peony. Deciduous herbaceous perennial. Festiva Maxima is a very old clone, dating back to 1851! It was hybridized in France by Mieliez and is noted for its globular double white flowers that are marked with crimson in the center. Flowers are noted as fragrant, early and tall. Though now 152 years old, this clone is still widely grown and appreciated. Our recent SCHS speaker noted that peonies grown in containers are easier to bloom in our warm climate as their pots get colder than the plants would if they were grown in the ground. (Kathleen Irvine)

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

- Arisaema* sp.
- Hippeastrum* red hybrid
- Photinia* sp.
- Rhododendron* sp.

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

- Euphorbia* 'Dolche Vita'
- Mimulus* (*Diplacus*) 'Valentine'
- Passiflora murucuja*
- and *Salvia discolor*

Stenotaphrum secundatum (Poaceae). Subtropical and tropical Americas. St. Augustine Grass. Stoloniferous evergreen coarse-textured grass, typically used as turf, or for binding sand. May be used as an interesting hanging basket subject. Full sun to partial shade, regular watering. Can be invasive. (Jim Jaeger)

Ziziphus spina-christi (Rhamnaceae). Mediterranean to Arabia. Crown of Thorns. Shrub with stipular spines: one straight and one recurved. Plants contain alkaloids. This plant is thought by some to be Christ's crown of thorns. Full sun. Drought tolerant. Useful as a barrier plant. (Jim Jaeger)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien
Photos by Joe Brosius



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