



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## GREEN SHEET

## FEBRUARY 2005 PLANT FORUM NOTES

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

*Acacia farnesiana*

*Bulbinella floribunda*

(shown as *B. setosa*)

*Euphorbia milii* 'Helena'

*Iris reticulata*

*Lachenalia mutabilis*

*Farfugium japonicum* 'Gigantea'

(shown as *Ligularia japonica*

'Gigantea')

*Rosa banksiae* 'Alba Plena'

*Salvia confertiflora*

*Salvia dorisiana*

*Tillandsia recurvata*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the February 2005 meeting. Everyone is 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!

*Cercis chinensis* 'Avondale'. Avondale Chinese Redbud. The species is from China and Japan. The species is a large multi-trunked shrub reaching 10 to 12 feet tall and spreading equally wide. *Sunset* notes that the leaves of this species is glossier and brighter green than *C. canadensis* and that this species has a thin transparent line around the margin of each leaf. As with the other species of redbud, this one blooms before the leaves appear. The pea-like flowers are dark rosy pink to purplish and are produced in 3 to 5 inch clusters. The cultivar 'Avondale' was selected for particularly richly colored flowers. (Jim Jaeger – plant from The Huntington)



*Cercis chinensis*  
'Avondale'



*Chrysanthemum hosmariense*

*Chrysanthemum hosmariense* [aka: *Pyrethropsis hosmariensis*] (Asteraceae). No common name. Morocco. A beautiful drought tolerant evergreen perennial. Plants have showy 2 inch wide white daisy flowers with yellow centers that are produced over a long season – though mostly during the winter months. Flower stems are leafless and are less than one foot tall. The basal mat of foliage is about 3 feet across and the leaves are silvery and somewhat dissected. Ralph and Barbara note that it performs well with little water or care in their Northridge garden. (Ralph and Barbara Crane)

*Hymenoxys acaulis* (Asteraceae).

Angelita Daisy. San Jacinto and desert mountains of Southern California and to Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona. Evergreen perennial. Plants form small mats or mounds of linear to lanceolate leaves. Bright yellow daisy flowers appear on leafless stems that usually vary between 6 and 24 inches in length. Plants are drought tolerant and prefer full sun. (Tim Evans)



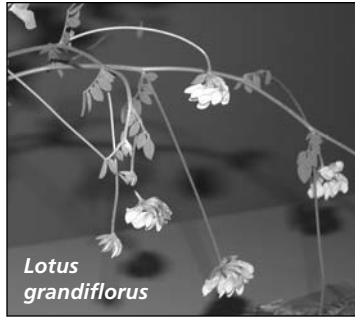
*Hymenoxys acaulis*

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

*Salvia discolor*

*Salvia involucrata* × *Salvia karwinskii*.



*Lotus grandiflorus* (Fabaceae). No common name. California and northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Herbaceous perennial. Generally found in dry open areas in chaparral and yellow pine forests – often in disturbed areas. Plants may be hairy or hairless. Joan notes that her plant is growing in full sun and reaches 2 feet tall and 1 foot wide. The showy flower heads are yellow and white. Most of our native *Lotus* species

are favored foods of deer, ground squirrels, and rabbits – so plant them where these creatures are not a problem. (Joan Seidel)

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

*Aloe* – thought to be a John Bleck Hybrid

*Camellia* with red and white flowers

*Clematis* with “perfect” double flowers

a small tree-like *Clerodendrum* – perhaps *C. glabra*

a *Lachenalia aloides* var. *aurea* selection with bright yellow flowers with dark red-brown tips (one of those Trader Joe’s plants!)

*Oxalis* species

a delightful tiny *Saintpaulia* hybrid

*Ribes thacherianum* (Grossulariaceae). Santa Cruz Island Gooseberry. Santa Cruz Island, California. Evergreen to nearly summer deciduous shrub that typically varies from 5 to 8 feet tall with a nearly equal spread. Plants usually have an arching growth habit, though nearly upright watersprouts may be produced. Stems typically have three woody spines at each node and a variety of small prickles along the stem. The pendent flowers are produced in small clusters and have recurved dark red sepals and small white petals. As with all of our native *Ribes*, these flowers are attractive to hummingbirds. The lobed leaves are glossy dark green. Plants perform best in partial shade. Trish notes that her plant does not go summer dormant and that it flowers in January and February. This species is endangered in the wild as there are very few individuals. Use this plant to create wildlife habitat or in barrier plantings with other *Ribes* species, *Mahonia* (*Berberis*), *Rhamnus ilicifolia* and our native roses. (Trish Meyer)



*Salvia rubiginosa* [aka: *Salvia* sp. Jalisco from Gary Hammer] (Lamiaceae). Mexican Winter Sage. Southern Mexico. A large evergreen shrub from 3 to 6 feet tall with an often wider spread. In growth and overall behavior it reminds me of *Salvia mellisodora* – but with much showier terminal flower clusters. The flowers appear from December to March and are dark blue-violet with prominent white nectar guides. Chris Meyer’s plant did not appear to have the showy chocolate brown bracts in the inflorescence that were present in Carol Norcross’s plant – but after checking specimens in the Rancho herbarium I find that characteristic is indeed variable. Chris notes that his plant has pink to purple calyces. The foliage is unassuming. Plants sprawl toward the sun. Both specimens shown were particularly showy. (Chris Meyer; Carol Norcross)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien

Photos by Joe Brosius & Chris Meyer



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