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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

MARCH 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:

Bletilla striata
Cantua buxifolia 'Hot Pants'
Ceanothus impressus var. *nipomensis*
Chionanthus retusus
Helleborus × *sternii*
Hermannia verticillata
Hypericum aegypticum
Leucocoryne ixioides
(shown as *L. purpurea*)
Lithodora diffusa 'Grace Ward'
Muhlenbergia dumosa
Nicandra physaloides
Phacelia tanacetifolia
Tabebuia impetiginosa
Triteleia ixioides
Tulipa clusiana
Wisteria sinensis



Daphne × *rollsdorfii* 'Wilhelm Schacht'

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained:
A white-flowered *Wisteria*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the March 2005 meeting. It was a diverse showing of spring blooms – many are early since we've had so much rain over such a long period of time. 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!

Cistus laurifolius 'Bennett's White' (Cistaceae). Bennett's White Rockrose. Evergreen shrub with upswept branches eventually reaching 4 to 6 feet tall. Dark green resinous leaves are attractive at all times. Pure white flowers are 3 to 4 inches across and are centered with a boss of golden stamens – an effect similar (though smaller) to Matilija poppy. Established plants are drought tolerant. Plants prefer full sun but will tolerate partial shade. (Joan Seidel)



Cistus laurifolius
'Bennett's White'

Cyanella orchidiformis (Tecophilaeaceae). Lady's Hand. South Africa: Namaqualand. This cormous plant produces a grey-green 18 inch rosette of prostrate leaves. In the wild, it grows in dry rocky soils. Sheldon notes that it is easy to grow in his garden in Temecula – where they are grown dry. The plant produces branched inflorescences that vary from 1 to 2 feet in height. Individual flowers are quite interesting (and hard to describe!) – they are a blend of mauve, green and pink. (Sheldon Lisker)

Daphne × *rollsdorfii* 'Wilhelm Schacht' (Thymelaeaceae). Wilhelm Schacht Daphne. Evergreen dwarf shrub from 18 to 24 inches tall and 12 to 18 inches wide. This plant is the result of cross pollination between *Daphne collina* (seed) and *Daphne petraea* (pollen) in Germany in 1979. This plant was named by Fritz Kummert after the renowned German rock gardener Wilhelm Schacht. This cultivar has a more-or-less upright branching habit and strikingly rich red-purple flowers that are remarkably fragrant. It is a new arrival to Southern California, so it will be interesting to hear how it performs here. Daphnes generally require excellent drainage and sun – but our general level of sunlight may be too intense for some of them. It is noted that this plant is similar in appearance to *D. collina* (for those who may be familiar with that species). (Kathleen Brown)

Grevillea levis (Proteaceae). No common name. Australia (Western Australia). Evergreen shrub. Grevillea experts Olde & Marriott note that this species is frequently – and incorrectly – grown as *G. paniculata* and this is apparently the case here in California. Matt noted that the plant is growing in too much shade and that it is getting a bit leggy – and Olde & Marriott make this observation noting that plants in too much shade will need pruning to encourage a dense, full appearance. Established plants are drought tolerant and should



not be fertilized. Though this plant is from Australia's mediterranean climate zone, it is noted that it grows well in areas that have summer rainfall too. The clusters of white flowers are fragrant at mid-day and have a sweet, spicy, or vanilla scent. The plant has stiff unusually divided leaves. Mature plants should reach about 6 feet or so tall with a somewhat wider spread. (Matt Dell)

Hibbertia aspera (Dilleniaceae). Rough Guinea Flower. Australia. Evergreen shrub, about 2 feet tall and spreading to 5 feet wide. The solitary bright yellow flowers are from 1/4 to 3/4 inch across and appear from late winter to spring. Dick notes that it prefers well-drained soil and that it needs some summer water. In nature, this species is quite variable – it may be prostrate to shrubby in growth habit, and some forms produce suckers. (Dick Kohlschreiber/South Coast Botanic Garden)

Prostanthera ovalifolia (Lamiaceae). Oval-leaved Mint Bush. Australia: New South Wales, southern Queensland. Evergreen shrub to 6 feet tall. Plants are aromatic. In the wild, this species is found growing in sandy soils in open or closed canopy forests. Prune plants by about 1/3 after flowering to promote a denser growth habit and more flowering in subsequent years.

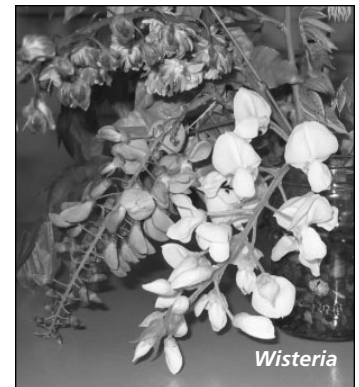
Prostanthera rotundifolia 'Ghost Cave' (Lamiaceae). Ghost Cave Mint Bush. Australia: this selection is from the northern Grampians Mountains of western New South Wales. Evergreen shrub to 6 feet tall and about 5 feet wide. This cultivar has thicker round leaves and has purple flowers that are particularly profuse.

These two species of mint bushes are probably the showiest in this genus of 120 taxa – all of which are endemic to Australia. Although these plants grow very well here in California, they are not as drought tolerant as some gardeners expect them to be. These plants require good drainage and will need some supplemental

watering (in my experience, established plants that begin wilting can be brought back with deep watering – in my garden in Upland, the plants seem to need watering about 2 or 3 times a month in the hot season). Plants may be grown in full sun or partial shade. (Dick Kohlschreiber/South Coast Botanic Garden)

Tulipa bakeri 'Lilac Wonder' (Liliaceae). Lilac Wonder Tulip. Crete. Deciduous bulb spreading by stolons. Some authors consider this species to be synonymous with *T. saxatilis* – one of the few differences between the two taxa is their habitat preferences: *T. bakeri* is from a single population that grows in a meadow in the Omalos Plain while *T. saxatilis* grows in rock crevices and in scree. The species, *T. bakeri*, was described in 1825. Glossy green leaves appear in the fall – indicating that this plant is well adapted to growing in our mediterranean climate. Sheldon notes that it is easy to grow and dependably returns. Plant it where it will not receive summer water and protect the plant from snails and slugs. This cultivar has pinkish flowers with yellow centers and is supposedly smaller than typical members of the species (most literature says that 'Lilac Wonder' will reach 6 to 8 inches high). (Sheldon Lisker)

Wisteria floribunda 'Violacea Plena' (Fabaceae). Double-flowered Wisteria. According to many authorities, this is the only wisteria with double flowers. Wendy brought in three different wisterias and noted that they are all blooming about a month ahead of schedule. Plants flower best in full sun, but will accept partial shade. Established plants are not particularly thirsty, but do benefit from some summer watering. 'Violacea Plena' is additionally noted for having warm yellow fall foliage. (Wendy Gault)



— Edited by Bart O'Brien

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

Rhipsalis burchellii
Spiraea cantoniensis 'Flore-Pleno'



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