

JUNE 2005 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June 2005 meeting - it was much too limited a showing for the diversity of plants in bloom this month!! 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!

In addition to the plants discussed below the following plants, described (or listed) in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*, were shown: *Buddleja x weyerana*, *Chasmanthe floribunda* var. *duckittii*, *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winifred Gilman'

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: *Carruthersia* sp. (shown as *Mandevilla laxa* – evergreen), *Senecio viravira* (?)

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

Ballota pseudodictamnus (Lamiaceae). Ballota. Mediterranean. Evergray subshrub growing from 1 to 2 feet tall and spreading equally wide. Outstanding when used in drifts with *Baccharis* or other low growing green foliage plants, or when used to cool down bright flower colors. The tiny white flowers are densely hairy and Cathy notes that they look as though they were cut out of felt cloth. She notes that her plants require no summer water and that they may be grown in full sun or partial shade. For best garden performance, plants should be cut back hard in winter before new growth emerges. To my eye, ballota looks like a much smaller and grayer version of horehound - but ballota doesn't become a pest. (Cathy Ratner)

Buddleja davidii 'Pink Delight' (Buddlejaceae). Pink Delight Butterfly Bush. China, Japan. Evergreen to semi-evergreen large vigorous shrub that may reach 10 feet or more in height. Plants have a fountain-like rampant growth habit. Foliage is gray-green and each leaf is narrowly elliptical in shape. Inflorescences may reach 18 inches long on vigorous stems. Individual flowers are rosy pink. Butterfly bushes require hard annual winter pruning in our region, or else they become monsters in the garden - devouring anything within their reach. Plants are easy to grow, but perform best with fairly regular watering. (Lili Singer)

Euphorbia 'Blue Haze' (Euphorbiaceae). Blue Haze Spurge. Mediterranean.
Evergreen perennial with a mounding growth habit, 18 to 24 inches tall and 2 to 3 feet wide. Stems are reddish and carry numerous small, narrow, blue-gray leaves. Inflorescences are that uniquely euphorbian chartreuse may fully envelope the plant. This plant is patented (Plant Patent #14,868) and was developed by Robin White. It is recommended as a border plant or for containers. Full sun or light shade. Cathy noted that she was losing her plant so she took cuttings. Two rooted and have yielded very different plants - one that immediately produced a terminal inflorescence (vegetative buds were just beginning to break), and the other with numerous vegetative shoots.
(Cathy Ratner)

Oncidium 'Gower Ramsey' (Orchidaceae). Gower Ramsey Dancing Doll Orchid.
New World Tropics. The dancing doll orchids produce large inflorescences that carry numerous flowers. Each flower has an expanded bright yellow lower lip while the rest of the flower is dotted and marked rusty orange-red. Narrow, leathery, strap-like green leaves appear from the top of pseudobulbs that are about an inch across. This showy orchid is growing outdoors in Silverlake in partial shade where it blooms twice a year. (L. Wiedeman)

Oxalis spiralis ssp. *vulcanicola* (Oxalidaceae). No common name. Costa Rica.
Evergreen perennial with bright red stems, clover-like leaves, and many bright yellow blossoms. In Cathy's garden it grows to 5 inches tall and likes dappled light. She notes that it does not seed or spread fast and that it blooms every day of the year. To quote Cathy, "No, this is not your most hated weed! It's one of the 6 perfect plants." Which, of course leads one to ask, "What are the other 5?" We'll have to ask Cathy and will report back later... (Cathy Ratner)

– Edited by Bart O'Brien