



www.solcahort.org

GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

FEBRUARY 2007 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the February 2007 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!

In addition to the plants discussed below the following plants, described (or listed) in the Society’s **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens** (2000), were shown: *Billbergia nutans*, *Euryops virgineus*, *Iris reticulata*, *Lachenalia aloides*, and *Narcissus* ‘Paper White’.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: several *Abutilon* cultivars, a *Felicia* sp., a *Kalanchoe* sp., an *Osmanthus heterophyllus* cultivar, and a *Neoregelia* sp.

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources at the Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden and various internet sites. For specific sources of information on the plants, please contact me at the Arboretum Library at 626-821-3213.



Billbergia ‘Muriel Waterman’ (*Billbergia horrida* var. *tigrina* × *B. euphemia* var. *purpurea*) (Bromeliaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger Mulford B. Foster hybridized this bromeliad in 1946 and it first flowered in 1950. Mr. Foster was the first editor of *The Bromeliad Society Bulletin*. He named the hybrid after an American ex-patriot who moved to New Zealand and started gardening there with cactus and succulents. She was, however, swept away by bromeliads and abandoned her other plants and spread the joy of bromeliads and the Bromeliad Society to New Zealand. She was an early trustee of the Society and received all her plants through mail order as there was no bromeliad trade in New Zealand at the time. She was generous with her plants and even purchased extra copies of the *Bulletin* for proselytizing. This plant is tall for a billbergia and has become well-known for burgundy or reddish-purple leaves with light cream spots and silver bands. The nodding inflorescence has dark pink bracts and blue flowers. It will grow in shade, but needs full sun for the best leaf color.

Brunnera macrophylla ‘Dawson’s White’ (Boraginaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra
There are only three species of *Brunnera*. They are native from the Eastern Mediterranean to Western Siberia. *B. macrophylla* is native from the Caucus Mountains to that western Siberia. It was split from *Anchusa* for both habit differences and “naked” flower racemes. ‘Dawson’s White’ is a desired variegated version with white edges and a green center. It is more vigorous and able to stand more sun than other variegated ones. The flowers are blue as the species. John recommends “Oregon” growing conditions and shade.

Camellia ‘Sweet Emily Kate’ (Theaceae) – Exhibited by Christan Kiillkkaa

This ten-year old containerized plant is a hybrid developed in Australia. The parents are *C. japonica* and *C. lutchuensis*. It’s very slow growing, sprawling or pendulous to 3 to 5 feet wide. The flowers are peony-shaped pink with paler pink toward the center. It is very fragrant because of the *C. lutchuensis* parentage.



Lachenalia ‘Romaud’ (Hyacinthaceae) – Exhibited by Kathy Musial

According the Dutch cut flower and pot plant company Vosbol International this member of their African Beauty® Series is “much improved” from the South Africa native that grows in the Cape Province and Namaqualand. This hybrid has scented, pale yellow to greenish flowers on mottled stems. Kathy purchased hers as a new introduction from Brent & Becky’s Bulbs. In her garden in Pasadena it is winter-blooming and summer dormant.

Ludisia discolor (Orchidaceae) Jewel Orchid – Exhibited by Eileen Fiumara

This terrestrial orchid is typically grown for its foliage rather than its flowers. The foliage is spectacular-looking and velvety, with a dark greenish/blackish leaf, red underneath and a center silver stripe. The winter-blooming flowers are white with yellow on upright stalks. It is native to a wide swath of Asia including southern China all the way through Indonesia. Unlike most orchids, it’s easy to propagate, just root the stem in water, moist soil or sphagnum moss. They are also less fussy about a soil media; potting soil or orchid bark is just fine. They sprawl and will develop large clumps if given room. Their requirement for high humidity and low light turns them into houseplants in Southern California.



Oncidium Twinkle (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Laura Bauer

This Trader Joe’s offering is a 1958 Moir hybrid between *Oncidium cheirophorum* and *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*. W. Goodale Moir was a prolific grower and hybridizer from Honolulu. The small, profuse flowers come in red, white or yellow. They are fragrant and smell of vanilla and spice. They will repeat bloom several times a year. The plants are small and tolerate house plant temperatures with moderate to bright light.



Salvia karwinskii (Lamiaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This winter-blooming salvia is native to mountainous, moist pine and oak forests of southern Mexico south to Nicaragua. In its native habitat it can grow beyond 12 feet tall and is commonly used as a garden plant there. It has large gray, fuzzy, leaves and pink to red flowers with red calyxes; flowers and bracts can also be white. It can be frost tender, but has survived into the low 20s. If cut back to the ground in April or May it will be a more upright and compact than the 12 feet tall. It propagates easily from cuttings taken at the end of its flowering period.

Sansevieria cylindrica var. *patula* (Agavaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This variety has narrow, round stems (1 inch thick) that grow in a fan shape. The leaves arch downward. Dick has it growing in shade and gives it moderate water.

- Photographs by Paul Martin