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GREEN SHEET

# Southern California Horticultural Society

MARCH 2007 PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the March 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: *Acacia longifolia*, *Aechmea recurvata*, *Buddleja asiatica*, *Caladium humboldtii*, *Cantua buxifolia* ‘Hot Pants’, *Chamelaucium uncinatum*, *Citrus hystrix*, *Helleborus foetidus*, *Hermannia verticillata*, *Hippeastrum cybister*, *Ixia rapunculoides*, *Streptocarpus saxorum*, *Tulbaghia simmleri*, and *Veltheimia bracteata*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a *Justicia* sp., a *Parakohleria* sp., and a possible *Pinguicula* hybrid.

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.

*Buddleja salvifolia* (Buddlejaceae) Sagewood – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani & Jane Coogan Beer  
This southern Africa native is widespread from South Africa to Mozambique and Zimbabwe. It grows at forest margins, rocky hillsides and along stream banks. In horticulture this buddleja is known for being especially floriferous and having beautiful silvery, sage-like leaves. The flowers are also fragrant and can be white, pink, purple, and cream. The shrub can range 5 feet tall and wide or hedged in cultivation and to 12 feet around in native habitats. The leaves are considered browse by native African animals and it is also used medicinally.

*Bulbinella nutans* (Asphodelaceae) – Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker  
This Cape Province native looks a little like a red-hot poker with its similar inflorescence and multiple flower stems. It has grass-like leaves. The flower color ranges from white to yellow to orange. It is summer dormant, blooming in early spring.

*Camellia* ‘Shooting Star’ (Theaceae) – Exhibited by Kathleen Brown  
This Nuccio’s Nursery selection is a *C. rusticana* seedling with a medium, semi-double, white, pointed-petal flower. It blooms on the mid to late schedule of camellia bloom. The plant is “very bushy”, medium-sized with upright growth. According to their catalog “rusticanas” are from high elevations in Japan; covered in snow in the winter and blooming during the spring melt.

*Citrus mitis* (Rutaceae) Calamondin or Agri-dulce – Exhibited by Jane Coogan Beers  
This plant is considered purely an ornamental to the horticulture world in the United States, but it is revered throughout the citrus areas of the world as a plant with many uses with favorable fruit, juice and leaves. The juice is acidic like a lime or lemon and can be used in similar ways. It is the hardiest true citrus, with flowers and fruits all year round in southern California. A full size tree can reach 10 feet high although it can be pruned to bonsai, dooryard plant, pot plant, etc. It is easy to propagate from seeds and cuttings, even leaf cuttings.



*Fritillaria striata* (Liliaceae) Striped adobe lily – Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker  
 This fragrant fritillaria has white to pink flowers with red stripes on the petals. In Alice Eastwood’s original description of the plant she lists 3 herbarium specimens collected in the foothills adjacent to Lindsay, growing in a grain field near Strathmore and at the Greenhorn Mountain area of Kern County. It is currently known from 17 populations in the same general area in grasslands and blue oak woodlands. It is considered seriously endangered by the California Native Plant Society because of its requirement for clay soils and agricultural uses of its habitat. It flowers from February to May. (Pictured at left.)

*Lachenalia* ‘Rupert’ (Hyacinthaceae) – Exhibited by Kathy Musial

This is another in the African Beauty® series from Vosbol International. Kathy figured out that her unidentified OSH purchase was, in fact, ‘Rupert’ which she had also purchased from Brent and Becky’s Bulbs. It has a blue to purplish flower. Commercially they are being propagated through tissue culture and leaf cuttings.

*Philotheca myoporoides* ‘Profusion’ (*Eriostemon myoporoides* ‘Profusion’) (Rutaceae) Long leaf wax flower  
 This evergreen Australian native is very common in Australian horticulture. It is considered desirable for its apple-like fragrance when the leaves are bruised or brushed and the profuse small, white, waxy flowers. The shrub is about 5 feet in height and width; prefers well-drained soil and is most drought-tolerant in the shade.

*Pinguicula laeana* (Lentibulariaceae) – Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Gardens

This is a carnivorous plant that grows in the mountains near Oaxaca (city), Mexico. It can be found in humid forests at about 7500 foot elevation. It grows on rocks which are also covered in moss. The basal rosette can be bright green or red. Flowers are red. The carnivorous mechanism is a viscous fluid on the leaves that traps its prey.

*Strongylodon macrobotrys* (Leguminosae) Jade Vine or Emerald Creeper – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

This twinning vine native to the Philippines is coveted for the unusual color of its flowers. They are as turquoise-blue as *Puya alpestris*. The flower clusters are dense. The flowers are sickle-shaped and long-lasting. It’s happy in full sun, but needs greenhouse conditions.



*Zigadenus fremontii* (Liliaceae) Star Lily – Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

Deer won’t eat this bulb because the entire plant is poisonous. It is native in a band along the coast all the way from Oregon to Baja going as far east as the Sacramento Valley. True to its common name, the overloaded panicle of flowers look like stars with styles bursting forth like fireworks. The up to 2-foot long leaves are glossy green. It dies back in the summer and does best in shade. (Pictured at left.)

Other plants exhibited but no room for text were:

*Arisaema balansae* exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Bulbinella cauda-felis* exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

*Cercis chinensis* ‘Avondale’ exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Cryptanthus warasii* exhibited by Dylan Hannon

*Ecbolium viride* exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Graptopetalum superbum* exhibited by Cathy Ratner (Pictured at right.)

*Iris pumila* exhibited by Paul Martin

*Scaphosepalum antenniferum* exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Sinningia micans* exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Syringa vulgaris* exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

The CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species) listed plant *Tillandsia sprengeliana* exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

