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GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

APRIL 2007 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the April 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: *Canarina canariensis*, *Eucalyptus citriodora*, *Gnidia carinata*, *Iris* ‘Nada’, *Lechenaultia biloba*, *Lupinus latifolius* var. *parishii*, *Petromarula pinnata*, *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, *Phlomis lanata*, *Rosa* ‘Queen Elizabeth’, and *Sinningia canescens*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: an *Epiphyllum* sp., a *Eucrosia* sp., a *Leucospermum* sp., and a spring bouquet.

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.

Anagallis monellii (Primulaceae) Blue Pimpernel – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

The profuse, 3/4 inch, brilliant, blue flowers have turned this plant into a desirable pot, hanging basket and bedding plant. It is native to the western and southern Mediterranean including Spain, Portugal, Morocco and Libya. Habitats range from sandy dunes to grassy meadows. As cultivars are developed, the tradition of propagating by seed has given way to vegetative propagation.

Bulbine alveolata (Asphodelaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

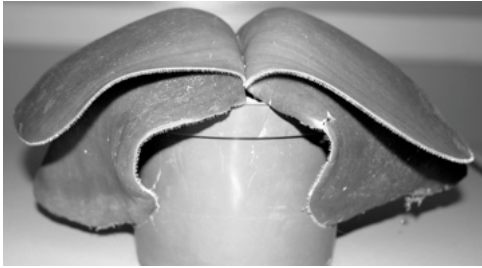
This tiny haworthia-looking bulbine is native to crevices of shale slopes in the Northern Cape of South Africa at the eastern edge of the Knersvlakte. It is very quick to flower from seed; within three months. The plant, unlike other dwarf bulbines, also gets mature foliage within that time. It will also grow in shade and not elongate into a grass-like tuft. The plant is floriferous at a young age with 2 to 7 stalks of ephemeral flowers opening 1 or 2 a day and withering by dusk. Be sure to look for the “French-poodle form beards” on the filaments of the stamens.

Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. *brevifolia* (*Dudleya brevifolia*) (Crassulaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

This plant was proposed as a federally endangered species in 1993, but declined in 1996, because it was listed as a State of California endangered plant. Additionally, the City of San Diego was to approve conservation measures in its Land Development Code, as well as a Multiple Species Conservation Plan developed by San Diego County. The Code was approved in 1999. The plant is endemic to six sites on sandstone mesas that all contain iron-bearing rock concretions. In the spring, the succulent sprouts new leaves, which look just like the reddish concretions. The leaves wither through the dry season. Its small, white flowers bloom in late spring. The only other plant competing for this unusual habitat is a selaginella.

Euphorbia 'Blue Haze' (Euphorbiaceae) – Exhibited by Cathy Ratner

This euphorbia is a cross between *E. nicaeensis* and *E. seguieriana* subsp. *niciciana*. The foliage is powder blue with red-tinted stems. The flowers, which bloom from July to September, are yellow-green. When it is in bloom, Cathy says it is about 18 inches high by 2 feet wide. It is patented, so a license is needed to propagate it from cuttings or tissue culture.



Haemanthus deformis (Amaryllidaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

This nearly evergreen bulb is astonishing for its leaves, which emerge from the bulb, and can grow to 18” and are quite broad up to 6 or 7 inches. They are thick and can be either hairy or glaucous on either the top or bottom. They grow along the ground. The flower emerges from fall to early summer. It is white with yellow stamens and resembles the Paintbrush Lily (*Scadoxus* sp.). It is native to the midlands and coastal regions of KwaZulu Natal and south to the Transkei region of the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. It requires good drainage,

regular water in the summer, less in the winter. It is tolerant of shade. (Pictured at left.)

Indigofera australis (Fabaceae) Austral Indigo – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This is a common southern Australian native. It is a shrub of open forests. In its native habitat it can reach 6 feet high, but Debra's is much shorter at 2 ½ feet. The plant can withstand long periods without water, but looks much better when watered regularly. The striking features are the pea shaped flowers in purplish and pinkish shades, and the blue-green foliage with dark purple stems. Some forms will grow prostrate and tumble down a bank. Debra purchased hers at the University of California, Berkeley, Botanical Garden.

Odontostomum hartwegii (Tecophilaeaceae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This monotypic genus is the sole representative of its family in North America. The corm is native to California in the northern and central Sierra Nevada foothills as well as the inner north coast ranges at sea level to 1800 foot elevation. The white to yellowish flowers have reflexed petals and flower from mid-April to mid-June. It grows in clay and sometimes serpentine soils and can even border vernal pools.



Ranunculus cortusifolius (Ranunculaceae) Morganalla – Exhibited by Pat Condon

This ranunculus is native to the Canary Islands. It grows in dense laurel forests at 600-4500 foot elevation. It thrives in moist rocky outcrops. Pat grows her plant in shade and semi-shade. It is 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. The early spring to early summer flowers are a rich yellow, and large at 2 inches across. (Pictured at left.)

Rosa 'Burgundy Iceberg' (Rosaceae) – Exhibited by Michell

This is a sport of *R. 'Iceberg'* that has deep, velvet burgundy flowers including stamens and anthers. It was discovered in Australia. The flower is slightly fragrant and repeat blooming. It is a disease resistant shrub, 3 feet to 5 feet, and has dark green leaves.

Other plants exhibited were:

Anthurium ottonis (Araceae) – Exhibited by David Hensley

Calandrinia spectabilis 'Bill Teague' (Portulacaceae) – Exhibited by Bart O'Brien

Dendrobium kingianum 'Delicata' (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Dave Verity

Dorstenia buchananii ssp. *longepedunculata* (Moraceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

Lachenalia comptonii (Hyacinthaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

Lachenalia isopetala (Hyacinthaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

Leucocoryne vittata (Alliaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon (Pictured at right.)

Pelargonium 'Verdale' (Geraniaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

Pelargonium violiflorum (Geraniaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

Porroglossum muscosum (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon



– Photographs by Paul Martin