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GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

MAY 2007 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the May 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: *Bauhinia x blakeana*, *Dudleya brittonii*, *Echium plantagineum*, *Ferraria crispera*, *Ficus subulata*, *Kennedia nigricans*, *Ornithogalum dubium*, *Papaver somniferum*, *Pelargonium sidoides*, *Tillandsia brachycaulos*, *T. bulbosa*, *T. cyanea*, *T. ionantha* and *T. usneoides*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a *Clivia miniata* hybrid selected for peach-colored blossoms, a *Dierama* sp., an *Epiphyllum* sp., an *x Gasteraloe* intergeneric hybrid, an *Ornithogalum* sp. and a *Salvia* cv.

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 saundersii (Bromeliaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger & Gary Kamisher

This plant was first described in 1874 by renowned King’s Road of Chelsea nurseryman, William Bull. His firm name was Bull’s Establishment for New and Rare Plants. Later in his career he specialized in orchids, held well-known orchid exhibitions and had over three acres of greenhouses. This epiphytic orchid is from Bahia, Brazil and has been used for commercial hybrids.

Dudleya lanceolata (Crassulaceae) – Exhibited by Carol Norcross

This southern and central California native is common on the dry, rocky slopes in the various mountains from Santa Barbara and Kern counties all the way to northern Baja. The leaves are indeed lance shaped and can grow up to 8 inches long creating a dramatic or straggly plant depending on the availability of water and light. The spring and early summer blooming flowers appear on stalks which can grow up to 2 feet above the basal plant and are striking because of the pinkish to reddish color of the stems. Carol obtained hers from Tree of Life Nursery.

x Halimocistus wintonensis ‘Merrist Wood Cream’ (Cistaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

The original intergeneric cross was found as a self-sown seedling at Hillier’s Nursery and thought to be a cross of *Cistus salviifolius* x *Halimium lasianthum* ‘Formosum’. The cultivar of the intergeneric cross was found at Merrist Wood Horticultural College in England in 1970. It has received an Award of Garden Merit for its drought tolerance in England and its beautiful “creamy or primrose-yellow flowers with dark yellow anthers, separated by a zone of chocolaty maroon-red.” These flowers bloom all summer long. Drought tolerance in England means regular watering here. Dick obtained his plant from Native Sons Nursery.



Herbertia lahue ssp. *lahue* (Iridaceae) – Exhibited by Paul Martin
 This is a bulbous, summer-dormant, iridaceous plant. The center of diversity for the genus is South America, but one *H. lahue* subspecies is found in Louisiana and Texas and is believed to have naturalized in Florida. Peter Goldblatt in *The Flora of North America* avers that given the variation in the plants seen in North America the differentiation between subspecies is confused. Paul’s plant was obtained from Plant Delights Nursery and has delicate, 3-petaled, blue flowers that only last the daylight hours of one day. Plant Delights’ catalog gives Argentina and Chile as the native habitat of their offering.

Libertia grandiflora (Iridaceae) – Exhibited by Cathy Ratner
 From the damp forest at 1000-2000 ft. in New Zealand, this clumping, rhizomatous perennial has white flowers. The spring/early summer flowers are followed by seed pods with yellow seeds. The leaves can grow to 2 feet and their edges are sometimes trimmed with yellow. Cathy says it “isn’t as pretty as *Moraea*, but [it] doesn’t seed.”



Pelargonium ‘Ardens’ (Geraniaceae) – Exhibited by Cathy Ratner
 This is a tuberous-rooted, winter-growing hybrid probably between *P. lobatum* and *P. fulgidum*. It was developed in 1810. Both parents were brought to the Netherlands from the western coast of South Africa around the beginning of the eighteenth century. In our area it will go summer dormant if water is withdrawn. The flowers are scarlet with black splotches which contrast beautifully against the green foliage. The red-flowered *P. fulgidum* is pollinated by birds in South Africa. (Plant pictured at left.)

Pelargonium ‘Rober’s Lemon Rose’ (Geraniaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra
 This cultivar is distinguished by its “lemon rose”-scented and tomato-plant shaped leaves.

Philodendron ‘Congo’ (Araceae) – Exhibited by Eileen Fiumara
 This is a patented cultivar generally used in the interior landscaping industry. Its temperature requirements are very specific. It prefers day temperature between 76° to 86° F with soil temperature not below 65° F and night temperature between 65° and 72° F. Plant damage occurs over 104° and below 40° F. (Me too.)

Rosa 'Long Tall Sally' (Rosaceae) – Exhibited by Don Lorenzini
 This discontinued Weeks rose was developed by Tom Carruth in 2001. It is tall and upright for a shrub rose and is a cross between ‘All That Jazz’ and *R. soulieana*. It is a medium-sized, single rose with 5-8 petals, but they grow in large clusters that can almost resemble a hydrangea. The flower color is “buff white” fading to white in the heat. It only blooms in the spring.

Salvia guaranitica ‘Argentine Skies’ (Scrophulariaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschrieber
 This is a light or sky blue version of the species; still attractive to hummingbirds. The roots grow “tubers.” (Plant pictured at right.)



Tillandsia baileyi (Bromeliaceae) – Exhibited by Doug Woodfill
 This epiphytic plant grows on live oaks and other trees in the very southeastern counties along the Gulf Coast of Texas. It ranges all the way south to Guatemala but, unlike the other Tillandsias native to the United States, this one is not native to Florida.

Other plants exhibited by Doug Woodfill were:

- Tillandsia capitata* ‘Peach’ (Bromeliaceae)
- T. fasciculata*
- T. leonamiana*
- T. neglecta*
- T. pruinosa*

– Photographs by Paul Martin