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## GREEN SHEET

# Southern California Horticultural Society

OCTOBER 2007 PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 2007 meetings! 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 in October: *Anthurium podophyllum*, *Duranta erecta*, *Erythrina humeana*, *Ixora coccinea* and *Poliomintha bustamanta* .

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a *Haemanthus albiflos* cross, a *H. coccineus* cross, an unusual form of *Ipomopsis aggregata* from Cerro Potosí, Mexico, two unnamed *Lantana* hybrids (one magenta, one lemon yellow), a *Scutellaria* sp. and a *Trisetella* 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.

*Anoectochilus setaceus* (Orchidaceae) Jewel Orchid – Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Gardens  
This orchid grows in dense shade under duff in lowland forests of southeast Asian countries including Sri Lanka. The common name “jewel orchid” is because of the beautiful venation on the leaves. The Gardens grow it in a greenhouse.

*Araucaria angustifolia* (Araucariaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger  
This is a sub-tropical forest tree of Brazil, northern Argentina and Paraguay. It grows between 1500 and 7000 feet elevation where precipitation ranges from 50 to 100 inches per year and temperatures are mild with only 10 to 25 days of frost. It can be 150 feet tall and up to 300-500 years old. In old age the tree resembles an open umbrella because the lower branches drop. The seeds harvested out of cones are edible and the wood is used for several construction purposes. It is grown on plantations in many sub-tropical countries. Virgin forests of the tree can still be seen in Iguazú National Park in Brazil and the adjoining Iquazu National Park in Argentina. The national parks were declared a World Heritage Site in 1984.

*Brighamia rockii* (Campanulaceae) – Exhibited by Brenda Kanno  
This endangered species is endemic to Molokai, Lanai and Maui, Hawaii although it is now only extant in Molokai. The five populations with less than 100 total plants are on inaccessible and very steep sea cliffs. The plant’s succulent stem helps it survive drought, which can occur in that habitat. The stems have been used as trumpets by native Hawaiians and the white flowers are fragrant. The National Tropical Botanical Garden in Kalaheo, Hawaii is the primary custodian for this endangered plant.



*Cyclamen rohlfsianum* (Primulaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon  
Libya has chaparral-like habitat from sea-level to 1500 feet. This cyclamen is happy in its limestone cracks and as an understory plant beneath dense shrub vegetation. It’s a beautiful plant with interesting leaves having red or purple undersides. The fragrant flower, which resembles a *Dodecatheon*, is a wonderful pink and magenta with exerted stamens. This plant should be allowed to dry out during the summer months and should be protected from frost.

*Mahonia gracilipes* (Berberidaceae) – Exhibited by Bart O’Brien

In his Upland garden, Bart grows this western Chinese woodland native in the shade. It has striking dark green leaves tinged with purple in the fall. The contrasting undersides are chalky white. In Upland, it blooms several times during the summer with purplish-red flowers having white interiors.

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Taxodiaceae) Dawn Redwood – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

This deciduous conifer has a very large range in the fossil record, but is currently native only in the border region between Szechwan and Hupeh provinces of China. It was brought to the West during World War II through efforts of the Arnold Arboretum and seed was distributed widely to botanic gardens, arboreta and nurseries. Its dainty leaves resembling *Sequoia sempervirens* and buttressed, braided trunk make for a stunning specimen tree. It is a riverine tree requiring good moisture.



*Milla magnifica* (Alliaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

This corm is from Guerrero in southern Mexico in a limestone habitat. According to Dylan it is winter and spring dormant. He grows it in semi-shade and waits for the fragrant, night-blooming flowers. (Pictured at left.)

*Polypodium aureum* (Polypodiaceae) Rabbit’s Foot Fern – Exhibited by Philip Giroux

The furry, creeping rhizome of this new world fern gives the plant its common name. As a young plant the leaves are entire; as it gets older the leaves become increasingly complex. It is native in a very large area from Florida to Argentina.

*Polyxena ensifolia* (Hyacinthaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

This species was previously known as a *Lachenalia*. It’s from sandy or clay soils in the Cape Province of South Africa and is tiny with white, pink or mauve shades of flowers. Dylan has this summer dormant plant growing outdoors. (Pictured at right.)



*Rhododendron* 'Elizabeth Ann Seton' (Ericaceae) – Exhibited by Kathleen Brown

This 1980s *Vireya* rhododendron is a cross between two crosses developed by the former propagator and nursery volunteer at San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum. Pete Sullivan worked extensively hybridizing *Vireyas* and they were not only planted at Strybing but also in a churchyard garden in San Francisco. The flower is very light pink with a darker pink blush in the throat and at the flower edges. Kathleen obtained her plant from Nuccio’s Nursery. In San Francisco it blooms from February to June.

Other plants exhibited were:

*Asarina scandens* ‘Joan Lorraine’ (Scrophulariaceae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

*Cymbidium lancifolium* (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Dendrobium prenticei* (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Dresslerella pilosissima* (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Macroclinium manabinum* (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Pelargonium* ‘Pink Spice’ (Geraniaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

*Sansevieria* ‘Moonlight’ (Agavaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

*Scaphosepalum ovulare* (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

*Sequoia dendron gigantean* (Taxodiaceae) Giant Sequoia – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

*Sequoia sempervirens* Coast Redwood – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

*Sequoia sempervirens* ‘Albospica’ (Taxodiaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

*Stelis guttata* (Orchidaceae) – Exhibited by Huntington Botanical Gardens

– Photographs by Paul Martin