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GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

FEBRUARY 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the February 2008 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 in February: *Acacia baileyana*, *Amorphophallus rivieri* ‘Konjac’, *Cantua* ‘Hot Pants’, *Ceanothus arboreus*, *Daphne odora* ‘Leucanthe’, *Eremophila nivea*, *Pandorea pandorana*, *Salvia chiapensis* and *Senna artemisioides*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a *Lachenalia aloides* hybrid and a heart-shaped succulent wreath.

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.

Capsella bursa-pastoris (Brassicaceae) Shepherds Purse, Valentine Plant – Exhibited by Laura Bauer
This weed is native in Europe and is well-established in much of the United States. Laura brought it on Valentine’s Day because of its heart-shaped seed capsules that contain many brown seeds. It’s an annual that can often be found on roadsides and in vacant lots, cultivated fields and gardens. The rosette somewhat resembles a dandelion with lobed, rather than toothed, leaves. The small, white flowers tower over the rosette.



Ceanothus ‘Blue Cloud’ (Rhamnaceae) – Exhibited by Elizabeth Schwartz

According to David Fross’ and Dieter Wilken’s **Ceanothus** (Portland, Or., Timber Press, 2006) this 1940s cultivar is probably a cross between *C. impressus* and *C. spinosus*. They say it grows to 12 feet tall and does well in the heat of Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. They also say the flowers are sky-blue fading to gray-blue. Elizabeth gives hers occasional summer water and grows it in full sun. (Pictured at left.)

Ceanothus tomentosus var. *olivaceus* 'Cielo' (Rhamnaceae) – Exhibited by Elizabeth Schwartz
Again, according to Fross and Willken, Rancho Santa Ana introduced this cultivar in 1998 because of the interest and comments it generated. They say its color is “radiant.” The variety is native in the foothills near Redlands to Riverside, and in San Diego County and Baja California. This habitat assures drought and heat tolerance. Elizabeth has hers growing in full sun and well-drained soil.



Dudleya verityi (Crassulaceae) Verity's Dudleya – Exhibited by Cathy Ratner

This rare dudleya grows in the western Santa Monica Mountains of Ventura County on north-facing volcanic outcrops. It was named in 1983 by Kei M. Nakai, of the Herbarium at the Mildred Mathias Botanical Garden for long-time SCHS member David Verity. It has a very limited distribution and grows among *Coreopsis gigantea* at its northern limit and *Eriogonum crocatum* at its southern limit. Cathy says it grows in full sun or light shade and states, “I water the heck out of my potted dudleyas in the summer.

They love it, and have never rotted off. I grow some down on the hill which get no water in summer, but I don't think they really dislike it because I have a big *D. brittonii* up in the watered area near the house which is watered two or three times a week. I would be interested in the experience of others. It may be that in areas where the temperatures are higher, things are different.” (Pictured above.)

Guichenotia macrantha (Sterculiaceae) – Exhibited by Ursula Kannofsky

This is the most popular of 6 species of *Guichenotia* which are endemic and restricted to the southern part of the state of Western Australia, Australia. It is popular because of its large (1¼ inch), hanging, pink to purplish flowers. In its native habitat it grows on sandy and gravelly soils. The open growth habit shows off the flowers well. It can be propagated from seed or cuttings. This shrub will grow to 6 feet by 9 feet. It can do well in dry shade. (Pictured at right.)



Lobelia lobelioides (Campanulaceae) – Exhibited by Bart O'Brien

This great hummingbird plant has a small red, yellow and orange flower with a relatively large red and yellow, sickle-shaped nectar spur. It was placed in the genus *Heterotoma* until 2005 when it was moved to *Lobelia* based on DNA samples that explored the evolution of nectar spurs in *Lobelia*. Looking at the DNA evidence, its closest relatives are insect-pollinated, but this one developed as a hummingbird-pollinated plant fairly recently. Its native distribution is large including central Mexico to Costa Rica. The native habitat is streamsides or seep areas in the pine-oak forests of mountainous regions. It can

reach 5 feet in height. (Pictured at left.)

– Photographs by Paul Martin