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GREEN SHEET

# Southern California Horticultural Society

MARCH 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the March 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 March: *Aeonium undulatum*, *Buddleja salviifolia*, *Chaenomeles* ‘Texas Scarlet’, *Echium plantagineum*, *Homalocladium platycladum*, *Limonium perezii*, *Lobostemon fruticosus*, *Narcissus* ‘Hawera’, *Nigella damascena*, *Ochna serrulata*, *Scadoxus puniceus*, *Senna artemisioides* and *Tulipa clusiana*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: an *Aster* sp., an *Echium* sp., a *Gomphrena* sp., an *Iris lutescens* hybrid, a *Melaleuca* sp., a *Ranunculus* sp. and a *Sparaxis* 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.



*Bulbinella cauda-felis* (Liliaceae) –

Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

This is a common plant of the Mediterranean climate area of South Africa. It grows on sandstone, granite or clay. The flowers are white in a dense raceme. The buds are pink. Shelly grew these from seeds from South Africa. (Pictured at left.)

*Bulbinella latifolia* (Liliaceae) –

Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

This species is native to seep areas of granite or sandstone soils in Namaqualand and the Cape Peninsula of South Africa. It blooms in early spring

with dense, yellow to orange racemes. Shelly says they are easy to grow and summer dormant. He also grew these from seeds from South Africa. (Pictured at upper left.)

*Euryops speciosissimus* (Asteraceae) – Exhibited by Gary Kamisher

According to PlantzAfrica.com this species of *Euryops* is a vigorous shrub that grows to 7 feet high. The flowers are on individual stems ranging from 3 inches to 2 ½ feet. The daisies are large (to 4 inches), with cup-shaped bracts, and bloom in spring. Its native habitat is fynbos (like chaparral) on rocky slopes. It is fast growing. Good water in the winter will provide good flowering in spring.

*Fritillaria graeca* (Liliaceae) – Exhibited by Sheldon Lisker

This plant is native to southern Greece and has interesting green blooms with brownish-purple markings. For Shelly it is summer dormant, but he gives it winter water, especially when the rains are late. It grows to 8 inches tall. (Pictured at right.)



*Iris lutescens* (*I. chamaeiris*) (Iridaceae) – Exhibited by Paul Martin

The native habitat of this dwarf iris is in north-eastern Spain, southern France and northern Italy in grassy and rocky areas, as well as in pine forests. The height varies considerably depending in part on environmental conditions. It can grow to about 1 foot, however Paul's grows about 6 inches tall and has yellow flowers. His is growing in full to part sun in Pasadena and receives some additional water year-round when dry. In its native habitat, the flowers can be a variable purple as well as yellow or even bicolored. More than one color can be seen in the same area.



*Kalanchoe* 'Orangery' (Crassulaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

According to International Succulent Institute (ISI) information, this is a probable hybrid between two *Kalanchoe* species from Madagascar. ISI introduced the cultivar in 2006. It has been at the Huntington Botanical Gardens with little care since 1983. Originally it was obtained from John Bleck of the Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society. It blooms

in winter and spring with bright orange flowers. (Pictured at upper left.)

*Leucospermum* 'Firewheel' (Proteaceae) – Exhibited by Gary Kamisher. Gary suggests planting this shrub in full sun, keeping it on the dry side and giving it good drainage. The flowers are used in the cut flower industry and are a striking orange-red. Flowers are long-lasting on the shrub as well as cut. It blooms in spring and summer. (Pictured at right.)



*Prunus persica* 'Icicle' (Rosaceae) – Exhibited by Gary Kamisher

This flowering peach has double white flowers. The tree will grow to 20 feet. Gary's example is from the Huntington Botanical Gardens parking lot. (Plant is pictured at left.)

*Tulipa bakeri* 'Lilac Wonder' (Liliaceae) – Exhibited by Laura Bauer & Robin Corwin

The flowers of this 4-6 inch dwarf tulip have purple outer petals. The inside is mauve-pink with a yellow center and



bright yellow anthers. The native habitat is Crete. Robin has them naturalized in her garden in Studio City. Laura gives them low to moderate water and doesn't water in the winter in Pasadena. The color does wash out in the sun. Part shade will show them off at their best. (Pictured at right.)