



[socalhort.org](http://socalhort.org)

## GREEN SHEET

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## MAY 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the May 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 Opportunity Drawing if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the Plant 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) or previously written up for a *Green Sheet* were shown in May: *Cornus stolonifera*, *Cyrtanthus brachyscyphus*, *Echeveria nodulosa*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Eryngium amethystinum*, *Homalanthus populifolius*, *Hymenolepis parviflora*, *Iris foetidissima*, *Kalanchoe tubiflora*, *Leucospermum cordifolium*, *Lycoris radiata*, *Ornithogalum dubium*, *Romneya coulteri*, *Rosa* 'Iceberg', and *Sisyrinchium striatum*. Other items displayed but not described: *Pelargonium* 'Fringed Gabriel' and *Rosa wichuriana* 'Petite Pink Scotch'.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a mixed bouquet of *Calochortus* spp. (pictured at right), an *Echeveria* hybrid, two unnamed Pacific Coast Iris hybrids, an *Iris sibirica* cultivar ('Caesar's Brother?'), a plant with white flowers and a tree branch.

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.

*Aesculus indica* (Hippocastanaceae) Indian Horse Chestnut – Anonymous exhibitor

This tree is native to the northwest Himalaya. According to W.J. Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* (8<sup>th</sup> ed., London: John Murray, 1970) the tree can reach 100 feet in its native habitat. He also states it needs generous moisture. Michael Dirr avers in *Dirr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates* (Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 2002) that in the United States it is only used ornamentally on the west coast. (It is apparently not used in the south.) Its flowers are spectacular. Many parts of the plant are used medicinally and as fodder in its native habitat.

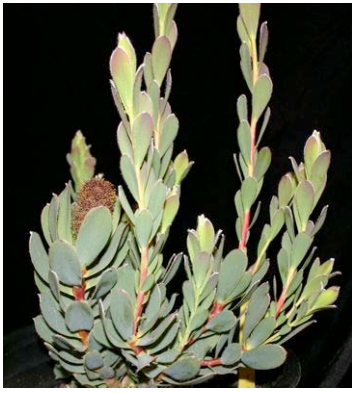


*Ficus carica* (Moraceae) Common Fig, Edible Fig – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

What is the volunteer that came up in Debra's yard? It can be identified as a fig, because of the milky latex in the stems and unripe fruit which can cause phyto dermatitis. Is it a female or male? The difference is clear. The female fruits are edible. The male fruits house wasps, and are used as fodder in Mediterranean countries. If you want the nutty flavor of Fig Newtons, you would best propagate your plants from cuttings of female plants, and make sure wasps pollinate the female flowers.

*Lonicera japonica* 'Mint Crisp' (Caprifoliaceae) – Exhibited by Jill Vig

The species is a scandent, usually evergreen shrub with intensely fragrant, paired flowers, blooming in spring and summer. This selection has variegated foliage with white flowers that fade to yellow.



*Leucadendron discolor* (Proteaceae) – Exhibited by Gary Kamisher  
 This species is from the southwestern Cape region of South Africa. It is a shrub that can reach 7 feet in height. Male plants are preferred for their more striking flowers, which combine red bracts with whorls of yellow leaves that have red margins. The flowers are heavily used in the floral trade. Gary is keeping his plant on the dry side with good drainage. (Pictured at left.)

*Pelargonium* ‘Charmay Marjorie’ (Geraniaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra  
 This geranium was hybridized by Ken Attfield according to the website of The Geranium and Pelargonium Society of Sydney Inc. It is considered to be of the angel wing type with large, greatly dissected leaves. The flowers are lavender with dark purple splotches.

*Protea nana* (Proteaceae) Mountain Rose – Exhibited by Gary Kamisher  
 This plant is native to the mountains of the Cape of South Africa. According to John Rourke and Delpert Wiens in their pollination article in the 1977 *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*, they believe the nodding flower heads are not upright like other proteas because the plants are pollinated by the Cape striped field mouse rather than birds. According to Sima Eliovoson’s *Proteas for Pleasure* (Cape Town: Howard Timmons, 1967), the plants can be covered with flowers when it is only 1½ to 2 feet tall. Ultimately it will reach 3 to 3½ feet tall. Wiens and Rourke aver that the rhizomatous, fire-adapted plants are better adapted to small mammal pollination because they bloom so close to the ground. (They bloom quickly after a fire.) Pollination also occurs while the animal eats the flowers. The plant produces so many flowers that some are left to produce seeds.

*Rosa* ‘Dr. Huey’ (*R.* ‘Shafter’) (Rosaceae) – Exhibited by Eileen Fiumara  
 According to *Modern Roses 10* (Shreveport, LA: American Rose Society, 1993) this large red flowered climber was registered in 1914. It is only slightly fragrant. It was given a Gold Medal by the American Rose Society in 1924. It is heavily used as understock for grafting under the name ‘Shafter’. According to Ralph Moore in the *International Plant Propagators Society Proceedings* (1978) it was mistakenly re-named for the San Joaquin Valley town in the 1930s where it was discovered as “vigorous” in the field and then used for rootstock, without confirming its identity.

*Rosa* Lavaglut® (Rosaceae) – Exhibited by Kathleen Brown  
 The registered trade name for *R.* ‘Lavaglow’ is the above. *Modern Roses 10* shows it as a floribunda with dark red flowers. It is only slightly fragrant and is a vigorous grower.

*Salvia viridis* (*S. horminum*) (Labiatae) – Anonymous exhibitor  
 Missouri Botanical Garden’s *Tropicos* and Betsy Clebsch’s *Book of Salvias* (Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1997) assert that the specific epithet is *viridis*. It is an erect annual or biennial to about 18 inches high. The name of the cultivar, ‘Blue’, was the name given by Annie’s Annuals, from whom the plant was purchased, and is not verifiable. It is also unclear if this cultivar is any different from those called ‘Oxford Blue’ and ‘Blue Monday’. The flowers have dark blue bracts. (Pictured at right.)



*Tecoma x alata* ‘Orange Jubilee’ (Bignoniaceae) – Exhibited by Joan Seidel  
 The 2007 edition of the *Sunset Western Garden Book* (Menlo Park, CA: Sunset Publishing) dances around this name and buries ‘Orange Jubilee’ under the *T. x alata* entry. There is no easy answer as to whether it is a hybrid, selection or which species it really belongs to. Joan has it in full sun in the Hollywood Hills. She gives it low to medium water. For her it has grown quickly and blooms from spring to fall.