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## GREEN SHEET

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2008  
PLANT FORUM NOTES**

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the November and December 2008 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 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 November and December: *Aechmea recurvata* var. *benrathii* (pictured at left), *Barleria obtusa*, *Bouvardia ternifolia*, *Chrysanthemum pacificum* (the only plant in the December forum; pictured below left), *Homalocladium platycladum* (pictured below center), *Hydrangea quercifolia* (pictured below right), *Montanoa grandiflora*, *M. leucantha* ssp. *arborescens*, *Plectranthus comosus*, *Podranea brycei*, *Polygala apopetala*, *Salvia canariensis*, *Thymus vulgaris* and *Trichostema purpusii*.



The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: some garden chrysanthemums and two *Nerine* sp. or hybrids.

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.

*Begonia* ‘Bellfire’ (Begoniaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This plant is an introduction from Anthony Tesselaar International, an Australian company that specializes in introducing and marketing plants. The selection came from a breeding program using *Begonia boliviensis*, which grows in montane forests of Argentina and Bolivia between 3600 and 6000 feet in elevation. The plants were originally selected for marketing in New Zealand (from [begoniabonfire.com/en/press/bellfire/](http://begoniabonfire.com/en/press/bellfire/)). Dick grows his in a container in part shade with regular water.



*Begonia dregei* (*B. partita*) (Begoniaceae)

– Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

Tracy McLelland went hunting to find *B. partita* in the wild (*Begonian* 64: 88-90, 1997). *B. partita* had been described and made famous from a plant in the Amsterdam Botanic Garden, but wasn't associated with a plant in the wild. Dr. McLelland went hunting and found what he thought was *B. partita* although its leaves were much larger than the one grown in cultivation. It was found in deep shade under a shrub in the Ntsubane forest; not in a typical cliff environment, but in flat grassland near a river. When this plant was grown in more sun, it closely resembled what is known in the begonia trade as *B. partita*. After finding wild specimens of all the closely related species, it was decided that the only real distinction among these plants was leaf variations and they were all lumped into *B. dregei*, thus making it the only

African species of *Begonia* with a caudex. (Mark C. Tebbitt, *Begonias*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2005). Debra has hers in a pot and it blooms from spring to fall. She waters it when it's growing. It goes dormant in the winter.

*Epilobium* (*Zauschneria*) ‘Sierra Gold’ (Onagraceae) – Exhibited by Bart O’Brien

A variegated sport of *E.* ‘Sierra Salmon’ according to Bart.

*Foeniculum vulgare* (Umbelliferae) Fennel or Wild Anise – Exhibited by Kathy Cooper

This Mediterranean herb has a long history of human use. The seed, leaves, stems and swollen bases are used or have been used for food, drink, medicine, mythology and magic. In other Mediterranean climate areas such as Argentina, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the west coast of the United States, it is considered an invasive species capable of developing uniform stands on disturbed sites below elevations of 2000 feet.

x *Ruttyruspolia* ‘Phyllis van Heerden’ (Acanthaceae) – Exhibited by Brenda Kanno

This is a naturally occurring intergeneric hybrid between *Ruspolia hypocrateriformis* var. *australis* and *Ruttya ovata*. It was collected on a rocky slope at Wyllie’s Poort, Transvaal, South Africa, by Phyllis van Heerden. The cuttings were raised at Eckardt’s Nursery in Pretoria, South Africa, and were identified by A.D.J. Meese and J.M.J. de Wet as a natural hybrid. They proved this by recreating the hybrid from plants at the Botanical Research Institute also in Pretoria. The hybrid is sterile, but is easily propagated by cuttings. Brenda’s plant is over 7 feet tall. She gives it moderate water, especially when hot. (A.D.J. Meese and J.M.J. de Wet, “x *Ruttyruspolia*, a natural intergeneric hybrid in Acanthaceae”, in *Bothalia*, v. 7, pt. 3, 1961, p. 439-441 and A. Amelia Obermeyer, “x *Ruttyruspolia* ‘Phyllis van Heerden’, Transvaal, Acanthaceae”, in *The Flowering Plants of Africa*, v. 41, pt. 3, 1971, pl. 1622.)

– Photographs by Paul Martin