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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2010 PLANT FORUM NOTES

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Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 2010 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 [Family names in accordance with the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II (<http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/apweb/>)] are included for your reference.]:

Anaphalis margaritacea var. *yedoensis* (pearly everlasting) Asteraceae

Anthurium ottonis Araceae

Anthurium veitchii (king anthurium) Araceae – [Pictured below right.]

Asarum caudatum (wild ginger) Aristolochiaceae – [Pictured below left.]

Begonia dregei [syn. *B. partita*] Begoniaceae

Bouvardia ternifolia (scarlet bouvardia) Rubiaceae

Cuphea llavea 'Flamenco Samba' (bat-face cuphea) Lythraceae

Dichondra argentea (silver nickel vine) Convolvulaceae – [Pictured page 4 left.]

Justicia aurea (yellow jacobinia) Acanthaceae

Odontonema tubaeforme [syn. *O. strictum*] (firespike) Acanthaceae

Salvia azurea ssp. *pitcheri* var. *grandiflora* (prairie sage) Lamiaceae

Scrophularia californica (bee plant) Scrophulariaceae

Sprekelia formosissima (Aztec lily) Amaryllidaceae – [Pictured page 4 right.]

Zauschneria 'Sierra Gold' (Sierra Gold California fuchsia) Onagraceae



See *Dichondra argentea* (pictured left) and *Sprekelia formosissima* (pictured right) listed on page 3.



Plants that could not be fully identified:

Begonia collection Begoniaceae
Chrysanthemum Asteraceae
Delphinium Ranunculaceae
Euphorbia Euphorbiaceae
Guzmania 'Apache' Bromeliaceae
Iris Iridaceae
Rosa Rosaceae

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources in our library and a suite of various internet sites.

Acacia stenophylla (shoestring acacia) Fabaceae – Exhibited by Don Lorenzini

This small fast-growing tree from Australia belongs to the Mimosoideae section of the pea family and has many clusters of creamy-yellow flowers that give rise to pod-like fruits in spring. The branches droop in a manner not unlike the weeping willow, making this tree particularly showy. This species is very tough and hardy, and reported to be extremely drought tolerant. It is available from the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

Crassula muscosa (princess pine) Crassulaceae – Exhibited by Sandy Masuo

This creeping succulent from South Africa has a strange growth form that almost mimics a low fleshy pine tree (hence the common name); although its scientific species epithet "muscosa" refers to it looking like a large moss. It is adapted to summer rainfall in the wild but drought tolerant in cultivation. Grown for its overall appearance more than its small yellow-green flowers, this plant likes well-drained soil but can appear washed out over time if grown in full sun, so best grown with a little shade or even indoors. Sandy grows hers in Burbank.

Kalanchoe 'Mirabella' Crassulaceae – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This *Kalanchoe* selection was chosen for its profuse flowering. Clusters of showy pink to red flowers hang from the flowering stems that tower above the dark green foliage. This selection is reported to look particularly nice in hanging displays. Like many *Kalanchoe* species this plant will do well indoors or outdoors, but it prefers warm temperatures and plenty of light, with minimal watering necessary. Deadheading can maintain healthy growth and form.

Kalimeris yomena 'Geisha' [syn. *Boltonia*??] Asteraceae – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This herbaceous perennial in the sunflower family reaches heights around 36 inches and makes a great filler or border plant. Flowers are violet to lavender, appearing in late summer through fall and attracting bees, birds and butterflies to your garden. The attractive foliage is variegated (yellow, white and green). Grow in full sun to partial shade but be careful not to over water as this species is prone to rotting. The displayed plant was grown at South Coast Botanic Garden.

Vriesea splendens (flaming sword) Bromeliaceae – Exhibited by Patricia McGrath

One of the most popular houseplants from the bromeliad family. Will prefer bright light in your home and will give color in the fall when the striking red flower spikes appear. The flowers are long-lasting and can add color to your home for two months or more. This species can be over-wintered outside in a protected environment but it will not tolerate frost and prefers a little humidity.

In addition, Bart O'Brien exhibited several new cultivars and hybrids that he describes below:

Danae racemosa (Alexandrian laurel or poet's laurel) (Ruscaceae/Asparagaceae) is a beautiful evergreen "shrub" for shade. The leaves are very reminiscent of *Ruscus hypoglossum*, except that those of *Danae* are thinner and dark green and shiny – but they are still rather leathery. Plants are very slow growing and have a pleasing arching growth habit. The plant shown in a one-gallon container was already 8 years old (and measured just short of 18 inches tall and about 1 foot wide). In many ways, this plant is like a good combination of *Ruscus hypoglossum* (evergreen running ground cover with pale foliage) and our native *Smilacina stellata* (deciduous running ground cover with light green foliage) but with significant differences: *Danae* grows taller and stays in a clump such that the entire plant creates a full specimen from 2 to 3 feet tall and wide. New stems emerge from the base, but unlike those of *R. hypoglossum* and *S. stellata* the stems of *Danae* branch. *Danae*'s flowers are small and yellow-green, but are followed by showy red berries. Some say that this plant's foliage is excellent (very long lasting) when used in cut arrangements. This species hails from Turkey and Iran.

Eriogonum × *blissianum* (Bliss buckwheat - but doesn't buckwheat bliss sound a lot more appealing?) (Polygonaceae) is the hybrid between Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*) and St. Catherine's lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*). The plant was originally described in 1938 by Dr. Herbert L. Mason from cultivated material collected at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Its name "blissianum" is in honor of Anna Dorinda Blaksley Bliss the philanthropist who bought the first property of what would later become SBBG. The plant is intermediate in appearance to its parents: the leaves are typically greyish in color and are fairly narrow (wider than *E. arborescens*), and the flower clusters resemble those of *E. giganteum*, but they are about 1/2 the size. Mature plants can reach up to 4 feet or so in height when in flower. Plants grow into a dense mound, prefer full sun and are easy to grow in most gardens. Since this is a hybrid, seedlings grown from it vary considerably. The individual shown was grown from a cutting. Cutting-grown plants of this unusual hybrid are available from RSABG both in Claremont and at the VA in limited numbers.



Trichostema hybrid (*T. lanatum* × *T. purpusii*) (Lamiaceae). Plants of this hybrid appeared about two years ago at Suncrest Nursery in Watsonville and is the first known occurrence of this hybrid combination. From the look of the plant, it is rather hard to believe that there is any *T. purpusii* in this plant, but there is: the plant is EASY to grow (must be that hybrid vigor), is quite adaptable to a variety of water regimes, it flowers nearly continuously and it is not prone to root rots. The inflorescences of this plant greatly resemble *T. lanatum*, except that the stems, calices, and pedicels are essentially bare – the dense flocking of colored hairs is absent. The two-lipped mint-like flowers are the expected deep blue and look just like those of *T. lanatum*. The narrow, lanceolate foliage is dark green and has a matte finish (they are not shiny like *T. lanatum*). Plants are fast growing (no one knows how long-lived they will be). In my home garden, these plants are highly visited by different types of butterflies, bees and bumblebees. Plants can be cut back lightly when you remove spent inflorescences. Plants are, like many in the mint family, brittle. Pinch them when they are young for a fuller habit. Suncrest Nursery has selected one seedling and is now propagating it as *Trichostema* 'Midnight Magic' – watch for offerings of this plant in the near future. – [Pictured at left.]

Zauschneria californica (*Epilobium*) 'Marin Pink' (Marin Pink California fuchsia) (Onagraceae) was found a few years ago growing in the wild in Marin County. The plant has a stiffly-arching to spreading growth habit to about 18 inches tall and 2 feet (or more) across. Plants tend to be especially brittle, so use care when positioning it in your garden (and when planting it). This is only the second pink-flowered *Zauschneria* to be found in the wild (the other is 'Solidarity Pink'). Compared to 'Solidarity Pink', 'Marin Pink' has smaller flowers and better foliage. Like most California fuchsias, cut this plant back to 1 to 2 inch stubs in December for best performance and garden appearance. This plant is new to Southern California. – [Pictured at right.]

