



Southern California Horticultural Society Newsletter

www.SoCalHort.org

July 2009



Bill Grant pruning *Rosa* 'William Shakespeare 2000' an incredibly fragrant, distant relative of a tea rose.

roses : old roses for warm gardens by Lynne Chapman; et al, Dural, N.S.W. : Rosenberg, 2008) has caused a revival of interest in these roses. The six women in Australia who spent ten years growing all the Teas available, recording their work, and photographing the roses have opened a new chapter in their history.

The talk will focus on what makes a tea rose different from all the other kinds, a short history of their development from Chinese origins to the present day, their use in warm area gardens such as Southern California, and their cultivation and care. The slide presentation will offer many photographs of

the important roses still available.

William A. Grant was born in Bisbee, Arizona, attended schools in Los Angeles and taught at colleges and universities in California for forty years. He is retired from that life now and lives in Aptos, California. There he grows his collection of roses and Australian plants. He has written for *Pacific Horticulture*, rose magazines and others, as well as editing books on roses and the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum quarterly. He has also spoken internationally on roses. Mr. Grant is a founding and current board member of the California Garden History Society and has served as President and board member of the University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum Associates where he has also lectured on plants and gardens for 25 years.

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Bill Grant

Tea Roses for Warm Gardens

Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Friendship Auditorium

3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles

(We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Program free to members with the membership card. Non-members not brought as guests of members pay \$5. Ample on-site free parking is available.)

Tea roses are the very best kind of roses for Southern California because they are fragrant, healthy, beautiful and do best in the weather here. The recent Australian publication of the first book on tea roses in English (*Tea*

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Website: www.SoCalHort.org

New Member Cards and Guest Passes By Debra Bushweit Galliani

Thanks to all of you renewing your 2009-10 SCHS membership. You will receive your member cards as quickly as our treasurer, bookkeeper and I can process them. At each meeting, we'll have the up-to-date list of all of you who have renewed your membership in case you didn't receive your card before the meeting.

You can easily renew your membership at our meetings. By having your form completed and check or cash ready, you can reduce your waiting time. I'll do my best to give you your new member card by the end of the meeting.

When you receive your card, you'll see two stamps on the reverse side, each representing a guest pass that is good for one free admittance to one of our regular meetings. If you renew at the Planter level (\$80) or above, you will have four stamps equaling four guest passes on your card.

Each time you use your guest pass, your card will be marked off. The guest passes are effective until your membership expires on June 30, 2010.

If you have any questions, please email me at bushweit@yahoo.com or call 310-378-5639.

Gather Up Your Silent Auction Donations

The Silent Auction, one of the highlights of our Society's Annual Award Banquet on September 10, is approaching. As organizer Steve Gerischer is fond of saying, "one man's junk is another man's treasure."

To make this event as successful as those in the past, we're counting on your donations of useful items such as garden books, unusual plants, garden art, pottery, furniture and other stuff you no longer need.

Besides scouring your library, garage and potting shed, think about soliciting a donation from your favorite nurseryperson or garden outlet. Or, just give Steve the contact information and we'll do it for you.

Horticultural services are very popular. Can you donate an hour's design consultation? Lead a tour of the garden where you work? Give a horticultural lecture to a private group?

And, please don't limit yourself to strictly garden-related items. Think dinner for four at your favorite restaurant, a weekend at your beach house, Dodgers tickets and more.

Bring your donations to our July and August meetings or contact Steve at 323-257-3629 or sglarkspur@aol.com to make other arrangements. Thank you for your generosity to our Society and your willingness to share your bounty and talent with fellow members!



Photographs by Paul Martin

Staphylea bolanderi (Sierra bladdernut) in July, Camp Wishon Rd., Tulare, Co.

July 2009

Compiled by Bettina Gatti

Free Events

On July 9 at 2:30 pm Jeff Karsner will present a lecture on the Children's Garden at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens**. The second Thursday lectures are free to all attendees and take place in Friends' Hall and there will be plants for sale in the nursery following the talk. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, 91108, 626-405-2128; www.huntington.org

The **South Coast Botanic Gardens** has a couple of events of interest this month. On Sunday July 12 from 1:00 to 4:00pm there is a Cactus Lecture. Sponsored by the South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, this lecture will feature Joe Clements and his presentation "Water Conservation by Using Succulents in Landscape". Also, the **LA Fern Show** will take place on July 18 & 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Los Angeles International Fern Society and visitors are invited to come and see the different varieties of ferns grown by the society members.

Admission to the above two events is free with paid general admission to the gardens. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, 90274, (310) 544-1948

www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

Classes

For those interested in conserving water and complying with the new water restrictions there are two classes which might be of interest. The **Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden** is offering a **Sprinkler Workshop for Homeowners** on Saturday, July 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Landscape contractor and designer Laramee Haynes will lead the course. The goal of this intensive workshop is to provide the information necessary to design, install, operate and maintain a system which will help your garden thrive and use less water. (301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, 91007, 626-821-4623;

www.arboretum.org) Finally, are you are tired of the expense of maintaining your existing lawn? If yes, then you need to sign up for the "Kill Your Lawn" lecture being offered at **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** on Sunday, July 19 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Garden Designer Steve Gerischer will teach a multitude of ways to kill your lawn and ready your new space for planting with natives. (1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711, 909-625-8767 x224; www.rsabg.org)

Send your events to Bettina Gatti at bettina0203@hotmail.com.



Polypodium aureum (hare's foot fern) exhibited by Phillip Giroux at a SCHS meeting



Start thinking about August's CREATE-A-PLANT CONTEST

In addition to the regular Plant Forum you can get crafty and create a 3-dimensional plant with the traits of your choice and bring it to our August meeting. Each member will receive a red sticker at that meeting to use to vote for their favorite plant creation. The Grand Prize winner will be awarded a real plant and 10 Opportunity Drawing tickets. The Runner-up will receive five Opportunity Drawing tickets.

Creatively name your plant and fill out our standard Plant Forum card to include information about culture, growth and such. A limit of three entries per person, but there are no limits on material, size or weight. Contestants should arrive with their entries by 7:30 pm to allow members a chance to see all the "plants" before casting their vote.

Last year's **Grand Prize Winner** (pictured at left) edged out the Runner-Up by only one vote. **Laura Bauer's** *Helianthus moparius* (muscle sunflower) was the favorite. The **Runner-Up** (also at left, back right) was **Steve Gerischer's** *Sanctus mirabilis* 'Guadalupe' (shrine plant), a colorful entry with tiny holiday lights that eventually will grow into a full-size grotto.



Dylan Hannon Rare Bulbs

Article and photographs by the nurseryman

It is the rare ardent collector of plants who can successfully make the transition to a profitable nursery. Even fewer have accomplished this feat by modifying an initially substantive collection that is valuable on the gardening, scientific and conservation levels. Steven Hammer (mesembs et al.), Michael Kartuz (gesneriads, begonias, etc.) and Michael Salmon (Narcissus and other Mediterranean geophytes) are a few such entrepreneurs, and I have always been in awe of what they have been able to accomplish by very modest means. Not by way of money making, but in



Albuca aurea

distributing truly rare, interesting plants that often retain, and are sold with, a bit of history as to the initial collector and wild original locality. These nurseries are often the sources of the greatest numbers of new plants, representing diverse assemblages of species that most nurseries cannot match simply

because their revenue stream is aligned to suit different goals.

Personally I had always sworn off developing a proper nursery business, simply because of the heartache and sad fizzling out I had witnessed over the years of many such hopeful ventures. But two main

factors persuaded me I had to do something. First was an oversupply of various species, second the universal need for increased income. The first condition arose over many years by propagating for insurance reasons, so as not to lose valuable species by attrition or other problems. The second is self-explanatory.



Eucrosia mirabilis

My first bulb collection of any significance was doing well in the mid 1980s until I had to disband it on moving to St. Louis, Missouri. Since the early 1990s I have been steadily building up a collection, in particular amaryllids, hyacinths (all members of Hyacinthaceae, such as *Massonia*, *Lachenalia*, *Ornithogalum*, etc.), *Oxalis* and geophytic plants in other miscellaneous families. Succulents of interest include *Othonna*, *Tylecodon*, *Monadenium*, *Aloe* and others. Primary geographic emphasis is on South Africa, South America and Mexico.

My goal is to provide exciting and difficult to find species with basic locality data, for instance the nearest town name and elevation, as well as helpful information on cultivation. I believe the former is of intrinsic interest once people are introduced to the idea, much as viewers are intrigued by the details of provenance when watching Antiques Road Show. Often a plant with a collector name and number, such as *Lavranos 33441*, is like a lock supplied with its own key as the pertinent details of that particular gathering are available



Cyclamen rohl

somewhere as a matter of record. Such information also provides context beyond the name of the plant and also can be helpful in deciding how best to grow it. Were that there was a Rare Plants Road Show!

As a business, my goal is to build a productive and lively sideline operation that will serve to provide enjoyment for a growing customer base and keep my own interests more focused and dynamic. There is no shortage of plants both very rare and non-existent in cultivation.

Two mail order lists are issued each year, one for winter geophytes and the other for summer geophytes, available as e documents from **othonna (at) gmail.com**

Or: **Dylan Hannon Rare Bulbs**

P.O. Box 1161

Monrovia CA 91017

A Website is in progress. In the meantime I also sell on eBay under **dylansbulbs**, mostly rare plants in very limited quantities.



Haemanthus deformis



Bessera elegans, purple form (flower above)

The material I grow is from several sources, one very likely collected in the beautiful state of Colima on Mexico's Pacific coast. Here I have seen it in small colonies amongst grasses on the immediate road verge with no shoulder (on a blind curve no less)-- thus it is dangerous to stop and enjoy them at this locality. Material from this Colima population was collected by Thad Howard and myself in 1984 and had passed through other hands before I was able to obtain it again years later.

This species is encountered frequently over a wide area of western Mexico and occurs from near sea level to at least 7000 feet or more. Most commonly seen in shades of coral red (hence the common name, coral drops), purple forms may occur in pure stands or mixed together with red-flowered plants.

In containers the lax foliage is long and grassy and mostly spreading, indicating its general preference for growing with supporting vegetation such as grasses and various forbs. The monsoon climate of its native range precludes it as a garden plant for California-- it begins growth in early summer (June) and goes dormant about October, although some forms may extend this season a month or two longer. In winter and spring the corms require a dry rest and so must be grown in pots in our climate.

Part day sun and a well-drained, sandy soil mix that is allowed to dry a little between waterings is suitable. They seem to grow best when grown on the pot-bound side, say 3 or 5 corms in a 5" or 6" pot.

The red form is occasionally seen in a few commercial bulb catalogues, or on eBay, while the purple form remains quite rare. *Bessera* is a member of the so-called Milla alliance, a Mexican group of corms that is a sister group to the Brodiaea alliance of the California region.

May 2009 Plant Forum Notes

Compiled by Sula Vanderplank
and Jorge Ochoa

Thank you to all who brought plants to the May 2009 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, previously described or listed in the Society’s *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens* (2000) were shown in May:

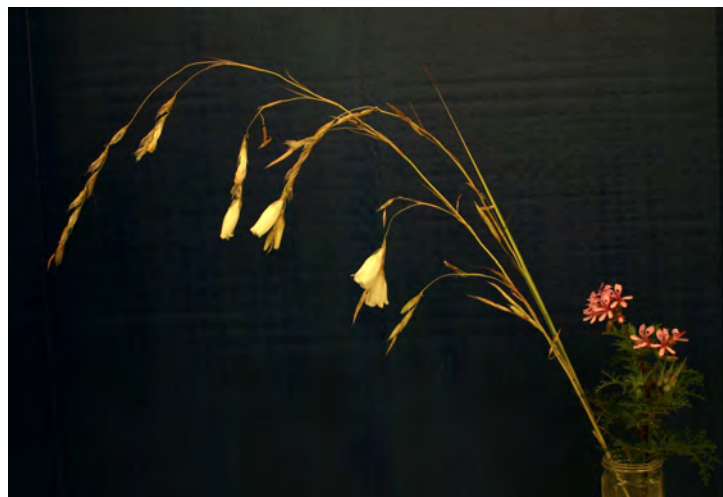
[species (common name) Family]

Adenium obesum (desert rose) Apocynaceae
Artemisia ludoviciana (western mugwort) Asteraceae
Farfugium japonicum [syn. *Ligularia argenteum*] (giant dichondra) Asteraceae
Fuchsia boliviana ‘Alba’ (white fuchsia) Onagraceae
Malvastrum lateritium (trailing mallow) Malvaceae
Monardella macrantha ‘Marian Sampson’ (coyote mint) Lamiaceae
Oenothera caespitosa (white evening primrose) Onagraceae
Pelargonium tetragonum, Geraniaceae
Rehmannia elata (Chinese foxglove) Plantaginaceae (photo lower near right)
Salvia apiana (white sage) Lamiaceae
Trichostema lanatum ‘Fremont Peak’ (woolly blue curls) Lamiaceae
Watsonia coccinea (watsonia) Iridaceae

The exact identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained:

A collection of *Aechmea* (urn-plants) Bromeliaceae
An *Alstroemeria* (princess lily or Peruvian lily) Alstroemeriaceae
A *Dierama* (fairy wand) Iridaceae (photo above, with pelargonium cultivar)
An *Echeveria* species from Tlaxcala, Mexico (hen and chicks) Crassulaceae
An *Epiphyllum* cultivar (orchid cactus) Cactaceae
Two *Lewisia*s, one yellow and one orange, from the Siskiyou Mountains of California, Portulacaceae
A collection of *Pelargoniums*, including ‘True Rose’, from several exhibitors, Geraniaceae
Rosa ‘Taboo’ Rosaceae
Rosa ‘Topsy Turvey’ Rosaceae
Rosa ‘Fourth of July’ Rosaceae

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Library and a suite of various internet sites.



Anagallis monelli. (Pimpernel) Primulaceae. Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber.

Flowers are around $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and different varieties vary in flower color - both orange and blue varieties were displayed. Blooms during summer. This biennial or perennial plant grows to around 1.5 ft in height and width, and is native to the Mediterranean region. Dick says it needs regular water and full sun here in California. Available from South Coast Botanic Garden.



Eriogonum ursinum (Bear Valley buckwheat) Polygona-
ceae. Exhibited by Bart O'Brien. (Photo lower left.)
A California native from the yellow pine forests of the
Sierra Nevada and also occurring in other parts of the
western states at high elevation, this plant is naturally
compact and mat-forming. White flowers, sometimes with
buff to orange centers, appear from spring to early summer.
The leaves are pale green to yellowish and woolly. In
Upland this plant is grown in sun to part shade with good
drainage.

Epiphyllum 'Audrey' and *Epiphyllum* 'Crepe Feathers'.
(orchid cacti) Cactaceae. (*E.* 'Crepe Feathers' photo below)
Exhibited by Lynn Hoopingarner.
This genus of tropical epiphytic cacti is native to tropical
America. Grown locally in full to partial sun with medium to
low water needs these plants do well trailing on trees or
mounted on boards and hanging baskets. They are
propagated easily from cuttings but allow the cuttings to dry
prior to planting. Rich free-draining soil with plenty of
organic matter is important for these showy perennials. The
spectacular blooms open at night but are short-lived, despite
their size.

Sphaeralcea fulva 'La Luna'. (Baja globemallow)
Malvaceae. Exhibited by Ann & Eric Brooks.
Endemic to Baja California, this shimmering white
globemallow puts on a great display in a low-water garden,
forming a shrub more than three feet high and wide. The
pink stigma and black anthers contrast against the white to
light-pink petals. When happy, this plant may flower
copiously for the majority of the year. Great for perennial
borders. Ann and Eric note that it does well as a cut flower.
Available from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.



Photographs by Paul Martin



**SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

Membership Form

Please complete this form and mail with your check
made payable to SCHS to:
SCHS, PO Box 94476, Pasadena CA 91109-4476

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please designate your membership level:

____ \$ 40 **Individual** - Receives the SCHS Newsletter,
Pacific Horticulture magazine, free admission to regu-
lar meetings and 2 guest passes.

____ \$ 25 **Student** - Individual benefits (requires copy
of current student ID)

____ \$ 50 **Household** - Individual benefits for two or
more persons residing at the same address

____ \$ 80 **Planter** - Household benefits plus 25
Opportunity Drawing tickets and 2 additional guest
passes

____ \$125 **Cultivator** - Planter benefits plus the choice
of a SCHS publication

____ \$250 **Benefactor** - Cultivator benefits plus two
tickets to the SCHS Annual Awards Banquet

Individuals, students and households, please pay 3/4 of
the membership price if joining after Sept. 30; pay 1/2
of the price if joining after Dec. 31; pay 1/4 of the price
if joining after Mar. 31. All other levels pay full price
and receive full benefits.

Visit our website to learn more about membership benefits:
socalhort.org

Southern California Horticultural Society
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NEWSLETTER
July 2009



Upcoming Southern California Horticultural Society Programs

July 9 — Bill Grant: Tea Roses for Warm Gardens

August 13 — Jerrold Turney Ph.D.: Citrus Diseases in California: Past, Present and Future

September 10 — Annual Banquet at Huntington Botanical Gardens

Horticulturist of the Year, Laurel Woodley

October 8 — Carol Bornstein

November 12 — Ginny Hunt of Seedhunt: Some Annuals to Consider

December 10 — Annual Plant Exchange & Holiday Cheer