

NEW PLANT FORUM—WESTERN REGION

BRUCE BRIGGS, MODERATOR

STEVE MCCULLOCH: *Magnolia acuminata* var. *cordata* 'Miss Honeybee' was introduced to the trade by Jim Merrill of Painesville, Ohio. It originated as a chance seedling of *Magnolia acuminata* var. *cordata*. The bloom size is approximately 10 cm in diameter and is a light to medium yellow color. The plant blooms and leafs out at the same time. Plant size is approximately 25-30 feet tall. This plant is rather difficult to propagate. Plants can be grafted with some success, whereas cuttings are virtually impossible to root. 'Miss Honeybee' is now successfully being micropropagated.

Vaccinium crassifolium 'Wells Delight' is an ornamental form of creeping blueberry (*Vaccinium crassifolium*) selected from native stands in North Carolina. This selection was named and introduced to the trade by the North Carolina State University Breeders Release Board and Agriculture Research Service to honor the late Dr. Bertram W. Wells, former head of the N.C. State Department of Botany and renowned plant ecologist. The plant is a low (12 to 16 cm) creeping broadleaf evergreen groundcover. The leaves are a lustrous dark green color. The blueberry-shaped flowers are white to pink in color. The fruit is a black to purplish-black berry from 3 to 9 mm in diameter. 'Wells Delight' should provide an effective groundcover tolerant to heat and drought and adapted to full sun or partial shade. It is hardy to at least Zone 7. It is propagated by stem cuttings and tissue culture.

HUDSON HARTMANN: *Olea europaea* 'Swan Hill'. This is a fruitless olive tree discovered by me in a planting of seedling olive trees near Swan Hill, Victoria, Australia in 1960. Vegetative growth is similar to the common cultivated fruiting olives. 'Swan Hill' blooms heavily but sets little, if any, fruit. Abnormalities in the development of the embryo sac are the main cause of unfruitfulness. The anthers contain very little pollen that clumps rather than dispersing, a bonus for persons allergic to olive pollen. Cuttings are very difficult to root, even under mist and with IBA treatments, in contrast to most other olive cultivars whose cuttings root easily. Propagation of 'Swan Hill' is generally done commercially by grafting onto easily-rooted cuttings of the cultivar 'Oblonga', which is resistant to verticillium wilt, although rooted cuttings of 'Swan Hill' itself are resistant to verticillium. At present (1989), 'Swan Hill' is used commercially as an ornamental, non-fruiting olive tree mainly in Arizona, and to a lesser extent, in California. 'Swan Hill' is subject to winter-killing at temperatures below about 15 °F.

RANDY BALDWIN: *Casuarina torulosa*, forest-oak. A small decorative tree to 25+ ft. tall with deeply furrowed corky bark and delicate weepy dark purple foliage. Tolerant of most soils, dry conditions and frost. A choice specimen tree for foliage color and texture with the beautiful bark as a bonus. Propagation by seed. Our thanks to the University of California, Berkeley, Botanic Gardens, whose magnificent 15 ft. specimen inspired us to grow this tree. (A nice grove of young trees is planted in the Santa Cruz, California Arboretum).

Elymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'. A selected form of the California native giant wild rye, *Elymus condensatus*, that has been recently introduced by the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens. This selection was made in 1968 by Ralph Philbrick from wild-collected material off of Prince Island, a small island to the west of Santa Rosa Island in the Channel Island chain. It is a medium sized evergreen (semperglauca) grass that, when grown on the dry side, only grows 2-4 ft. tall, about 1/3 the size of typical *E. condensatus*. Although this grass is rhizomatous, the vegetative shoots are short and mostly up-right; forming a dense clump. The short upright stems bear 12 to 18 in. long by 1/2 in. wide chalky grey-green leaves. Flowering commences in the fall with dense erect spikes shooting up over 18 in. above the foliage. Propagation is by divisions taken fall through spring. Our thanks to the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens for this plant.

Myoporum floribundum. A picturesque sprawling shrub from New South Wales and Victoria, Australia, reaching to 9 ft. tall with an equal spread. This shrub has drooping linear leaves along horizontal branches that are covered with small white flowers in spring. A very showy plant for specimen plantings. Give this plant well-drained soil in full sun to light shade with average garden watering and plenty of room for best results. Propagation is by cuttings taken in the fall. Our thanks to the University of California, Santa Cruz, Arboretum for this plant.

Oxera pulchella, royal climber. A tender evergreen climber from New Caledonia with dark green leathery leaves and showy ivory white slightly fragrant flowers that can appear for long periods any time of the year. This plant deserves to be in gardens where there is little or no frost and a sheltered, well-drained planting site can be offered. Propagation is by cuttings in the summer. Our thanks to University of California, Santa Barbara, Biological Studies Dept. for this plant.

Pachystegia insignis, Marlborough rock daisy. A dense, 3-4 ft., slow-growing shrub from Marlborough, New Zealand, where it inhabits harsh coastal rock crevices. The large thick leathery leaves

that are borne on the tips of the stout, densely tomentose branches, are clad in silver or rust hairs when young and become glabrous on the upper surface and tomentose on the lower with age. The summer 2-3 in. wide "daisy" flowers are a composite of white ray flowers and yellow disc flowers. Useful as a specimen shrub, container plant, or in a mixed border in full sun or light shade. Plants will take both garden conditions, or can be used in xerophytic plantings. Spent flower heads are useful in flower arrangements. Propagation by seed. Our thanks to many people for the stock plants for our crops, including UCSB Biological Studies Dept. (A 20 year old specimen plant at UCSB died this year); the late Austin Griffith (Native Son's Nursery), who gave us our first stock plant; Ed Carmen (Carmen's Nursery) for our second stock plant; Saratoga Horticultural Foundation for enough plants to finally get us started into production.

Scabiosa sp. (*S. crenata*?). A small tight shrub to 2 ft. with glossy dark green leaves having crenate margins and pale lavender pincushion flowers rising 6 in. or better above the foliage. This plant is possibly *Scabiosa crenata* but confirmation has not yet been made. The seed came to John Bleck at the University of California, Santa Barbara, from Coimbra Botanic Gardens in Portugal in 1982, identified as *Scabiosa cretica*. *S. cretica* is a coarser grey-leaved plant, however, and it is possible that the seed was mixed with *S. crenata*, another plant that was on the Coimbra Seed list that year. In any case, we like this plant. It takes dry hot conditions, forming dense, dark-green mounds with its pale pincushions appearing year-round. Hardy to at least 26 °F. Propagation is from softwood cuttings in spring. Our thanks to John Bleck for this plant.

Westringia linifolia. A tough fine-textured medium-sized shrub 6-8 ft. tall with equal spread, from New South Wales, Australia. The pale lavender flowers, which are borne in profusion throughout the year, seem to hang in the delicate foliage.

ALAN SHIMAMOTO: *Pittosporum tobira* 'Cream de Mint'. U.S. Plant Patent 6449. 'Cream de Mint' is a new and improved compact dwarf variegated, pittosporum that was discovered as a sport from the popular *Pittosporum* 'Wheeler's Dwarf.' 'Cream de Mint' is principally distinguishable by: a) being resistant to leaf spot and reversion; b) venation is distinct, pronounced, and uniform between edge of leaf blade and center of leaf blade; c) color of mature leaf blade is medium-green, edged in creamy white; d) ultimate height has been determined to be approximately 1/2 to 3/4 meters.