

SALVIA NEWS

SPRING 2008 NO.34



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THE NOBELIUS HERITAGE PARK SALVIA COLLECTION IS CARED FOR BY THE SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN FRIENDS GROUP

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If your name isn't here please please ring Lyndi

THE PURPOSE OF THE SALVIA STUDY GROUP IS TO GROW AND COLLECT SALVIAS FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH

We study the growth of salvias in our own gardens to correctly identify, name and propagate existing and new salvias. With our members and similar study groups we exchange information and gather seeds and cuttings. The gardens of the registered GPA collections in Hampton & Nobelius Heritage Park in Emerald are planted and maintained by us. Salvia plants are collected and propagated for private and registered collections and are also sold at various Garden Shows throughout Melbourne and Victoria.

**DETAILS OF VENUES AND DATES OF 'GARDEN SHOWS' AND 'GATHERINGS' ARE
PUBLISHED IN SALVIA NEWS**

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SalviaNews

Victorian Salvia Study Group
A Branch of the Herb Society of Victoria

SPRING 2008

NUMBER 34

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Spring is suddenly exuberant. Not caring about lack of rain, wild winds, hot days followed by cold days, cold nights and then another series of storms, winds and freezing, just in case we hadn't noticed the last lot, all in a setting of beautiful blooming salvias, trees and shrubs with a star cast of monstrous cockatoos, crows and other noisy loutish parrots and honey eaters. Not to forget the masses of kookaburras. As they reap and wreck the flowers the orchestra of birds has a thumping background of frogs. The foreground is green luscious weeds. Yet it is all beautiful and not in an "only its mother could love it way" either. Though the bus load of gardeners from Bright last week may have a different opinion and were only being kind.

*There are at least five forms of *Salvia africana lutea* flowering now. Some plants have been given a very hard time but survival rates are good. I intend to take and label cuttings and in due course we will choose and name them, after testing. **Trudi***

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 9th SUNDAY

Visit the garden of Karen Meeuwissen at 11am
325 Eacotts Rd, Hoddles Creek.
Mel: Page 14 – Q/R 9 (Regional Maps)
Bring camera, chair and lunch to share.

NOVEMBER 11th TUESDAY

Croydon Horticultural and Garden Club at 8pm
Croydon Senior Citizens Hall
Cnr Mt Dandenong Rd and Civic Pl. Croydon.
Mel: 50-K4
Trudi will be guest speaker and there will be salvias for sale.

NOVEMBER 22nd SATURDAY **Nobelius Working Bee** at 11am

Crichton Rd, Emerald. (below the packing shed)
Mel: 127-G4
Bring garden implements, lunch to share and chair
Come equipped for the weather: sun hats or macs

DECEMBER 7TH SUNDAY

Christmas Garden Party

Neil & Margaret Keir's at 11am
23 Bond St, Mt Waverley. Mel: 70-G2
Bring Xmas lunch to share, chair and plants to share,
not necessarily salvias.

2009

FEBRUARY 10th TUESDAY

Bacchus Marsh Garden Club at 8pm

Trudi will be guest speaker and salvia plants will
be for sale. (more details next newsletter)

FEBRUARY 21st and 22nd SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**Ferny Creek: Third Annual Collectors' Sale and
Garden Expo.**

100 Hilton Rd, Ferny Creek. Mel: 66-E12
Numerous rare plants for sale including our
Salvias.

WERRI BEACH NSW SOUTH COAST

I've just returned from a lovely week in Victoria. We always enjoy visiting down there, as they are well organised for tourists and there are so many interesting places, so close together. Unfortunately, this time I didn't get to visit many nurseries, as we were mainly there to ride a couple of their excellent rail trails. I did manage to pop into 'Heronswood' though. I was hoping to find a salvia or two but I had all the ones available, so had to settle for a few other interesting perennials instead.

I did like the way they are using *Salvia africana-lutea* in the very dry bed at the entrance. Mine is growing well on the nature strip and has caused a lot of comment from passers-by. I did get to see the salvia bed at the Benalla gardens but not many were flowering. I was thrilled to visit the Geelong Botanic Gardens however, and the salvias there were magnificent! I had never seen a larger *S.karwinskii* nor did I recognise a huge red flowering salvia which was as wide as it was tall. I wasn't expecting to see the winter ones still flowering. The whole garden is beautiful and I particularly liked the native beds which contain an amazing variety of W.A. species growing well.

My garden is a burst of colour at the moment. It's almost too much! We've had strong winds this winter and early spring and although we've had quite a lot of rain it doesn't take too many days like that to dry things out again. We were mindful of the water restrictions in Victoria. The countryside looked green but you could tell a lot of it was only surface green without much growth.

I'm hoping I haven't lost my *S.purpurea* from the footpath garden. I moved it because it kept being burnt by the salty winds. I placed it in a more protected spot but the main stem has died back. I hope it will still shoot up from the base. The only new salvias I've bought are two *S.nemerosas*, a couple more

S.patens and at the Plant Fair on the weekend, I bought the Menthol Sage, *S.runcinata*. It has such tiny leaves but a strong smell of menthol when the leaves are crushed.

I know I should pull out some of the *S.guaranitica* which comes up everywhere even in the gravel path but it looks good and as long as we can get through, I don't have the heart to yank it out. The new salvia 'Wendy's Wish' (I think that's what it's called) has settled in well and is now producing many flowers. I think it's beautiful.

When I was in the Geelong gardens, I noted down a few salvias I didn't know. They were *S.canariensis*'Candissima' East Mediterranean, *S.stenophylla*, Sth. African, *S.rugosa* also from Sth. Africa and *S.aurita galpinii*. I'm familiar with *S.canariensis* but not that one. They don't seem to be available in the catalogues I've seen.

I've again fallen for one of the variegated leaf salvias at the market. A woman there told me to put it in the driest spot in the garden as she had some success with them that way. We'll see! Can anyone tell me the secret to propagating *S.semi atrata*. I've tried many with no luck.

I would love to get hold of some new salvias but have exhausted all locally. Maybe next time in Victoria I might come across some. We seem to be often too late or too early traveling through some places or I get home and remember the places I should have stopped at and didn't. Next time I'll write down all the possible sources and make sure I do stop at some.

My garden is going to feature in 'South. Coast Style' magazine next month. They are featuring Gerringong and were looking for a seaside garden.

Maureen Cox

Notes From Gruyere,

Much has happened in the garden and there are a few new garden areas put into place, one for the *Salvia nemerosa* cultivars and the *S.x superba* all planted together for ease of comparison. Another area, for Salvia 'Waverley', *S. leucantha*, *S. 'Anthony Parker* and *S. 'Phyllis Fancy* including some of their cultivars. These are in the Lamiaceae garden where one can see various members of the Lamiaceae Family and their genera.

One or two areas have been put aside for the salvia shade lovers or those that will take more shade in my garden rather than out in the full sun. At this stage it is hard to gauge just where to plant some of the newer species due to my very hot, dry summers, so I have opted for part shade to be on the safe side, until I know more about them.

The October visit for the Salvia Study Group should find the garden with some salvias in bloom including other plants of interest also there is the 'Pomarium' to see and of course the new 'Call Ducks' .

We have had a lower drive put in but folk who have difficulty managing the hills can use the top drive nearest the house. The lunch gathering will be in the top shed/garage which has an opening facing east, plenty of table space and some seating but you may need to bring a chair just in case, every one to bring a plate to share; tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided. Don't forget to bring your salvia plant and flower that needs identifying and we shall try to help you. We look forward to sharing our gardens with you.

Salvia News From Hobart – Spring

‘Global Warming’ is having a joke at our expense with a winter colder than average and even colder than has been experienced in the last few years in the south east of Tasmania. At least the winter months of July and August have provided 80 mm of rain, over half as much as the entire first six months of the year with the bonus of producing, a rare sight in recent years, a persisting snow cover on Mt. Wellington. The prolonged cold weather has not encouraged pruning and so there is much to do in the coming month of those tender and vigorous autumn/ winter-flowering salvias such as *S. iodantha*, *S. mexicana* and forms and *S. madrensis*.

With full sun exposure the full blooming of *Salvia wagneriana* at 2.5 metres high, with pink flowers and yellowish foliage, makes it the most conspicuous plant at winter’s end in the salvia collection of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Its flowering commenced in early August, preceded in early July by *S. karwinskii* and *S. involucrata x karwinskii*, both in an afternoon sun position. Other colour is seen in the violets of *S. concolor* and *S. ‘Costa Rican Blue’*, and the long term flowering of *S. purpurea*, now in its fourth month. Reds are displayed in *S. hirtella* and *S. confertiflora*, the latter flowering at 2 metres in height. The ‘Tequila’ form of *S. gesneraefolia* is at last in a flush of red flowers developed from the stems that have extended, slowly and symmetrically, from the wind-sheared pruning that the plant received in the storm in early April. Of the ground cover species and cultivars, *S. ‘Waverly’* is still presenting its continuous display of ‘white’ corollas in contrast to other similar species.

The protection from frost given by the deck of the restaurant in one bed and an *Araucaria* in another has enabled plants of *Salvia dorisiana* to start flowering. The plant beneath the deck has sparse flower stems at two metres while the latter plant, in even deeper shade and more wind exposed, has a ‘horizontal’ form at less than half a metre in height but is covered in a profusion of inflorescences resulting from the consequent axil growth. *S. sprucei* is developing buds although it has proven to be particularly vulnerable to the vigour of the wind in its current position and would not surprise should its aspirations be frustrated.

Any observations as to other members’ experience with their salvias, particularly the persistence of their flowering and timing, would be appreciated.

John Daniels
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SEQLDWINTER SALVIAS
BRISBANE METROPOLITAN AREA REPORT
By Denise Horchner (Member Perennial Poppies Group)

We are just about coming to the end of one of the coldest winters on record for Brisbane and what a shock it has been. I have always boasted how I LOVE cold weather - but not any more!

In our garden it has been interesting to observe that the very cold conditions don't seem to have had any detrimental effects and *Salvia karwinskii* x *involucrata* 'Winter Red' has been absolutely magnificent with huge trusses of big burgundy flowers that the birds are crazy about. The whole bush is continually bobbing up and down. Nearby *S. iodantha* with its frilly pinky/cerise blooms is mixing in happily with tall, dull orange sprays of the Chinese hat-plant (holmskioldia), and bushy orange cosmos all next to another glorious holmskioldia in full greeny/yellow array. They say nature's colours don't ever clash - sorry - you should see this lot! I must sadly add that now I can see bright red bells of a sleep hibiscus adding its voice.....Oh dear, oh dear, *oh dear!*

On a happier note two nice harmonies are *S. involucrata* 'Pink Icicles' (a great favourite with many) splaying down over the lovely old soft pink geranium 'Millfield Gem' and thick, rich royal blue spikes of wonderful salvia 'Indigo Spires' behind a clump of heliotrope 'Marine Blue' which matches exactly in colour - all greatly enhanced by a sparkling white, slightly frilly shasta daisy.

Despite the cold *S. 'Costa Rican Blue'* is still showing large sprays of flowers just above our roof - what a marvellous salvia this variety is. *S. involucrata* 'Bethelli' has been wonderful this winter also - this one doesn't seem to be the usual type - the flowers are really big and thickly massed on long, arching canes that have stopped us walking on the path in front of it. In the same family *S. involucrata* 'Ripe Raspberry' (a seedling found in Brisbane) would have to be one of the very best salvias I have ever had. It is continually and profusely in bloom, (never seen it without flowers) and they are such a *beautiful* deep rosy-cerise pink, each flower short and wide-mouthed. An absolute treasure! Can take lots of pruning and comes back very quickly.

S. karwinskii is holding aloft its great spires of peachy pink blooms, the cold seems to have enhanced its flowering this year and *S. karwinskii* x 'Follett's Folly' has many trusses of coral-pink flowers that seem to have mutated to some extent - and is now showing its spikes much tighter than normal with each flower having a white tip. It makes it very attractive - maybe this is the effect of the cold weather for so long? Who knows - but once again, growing salvias is very exciting.

I have found the new 'Heatwave' range of salvias to be excellent and one of my favourites is Heatwave 'Blaze' which has short thick sprays of a rich maroon. However, Heatwave 'Scorcher' is also very attractive, with masses of pretty spires of soft pink which at the moment are the exact shade of the transient blooms of the rose 'Mutabilis' flowering above it. As its name suggests - tomorrow the rose flowers may be a deep red or even soft yellow. A lovely old China rose (before 1896).

This year I have grown *S. dorisiana* in shade and have had great success, it seems very happy in this position with lots of beautiful pink blooms set amongst deliciously scented foliage.

I have a confession to make, I was given a large container of 'Sudden Impact' fertiliser for roses and have used little sprinkles of it here and there in my garden. I am astonished at the effect it has had on some plants. I used some on my leucanthas and am amazed at the rich, vibrant colour and size of spikes on *S. leucantha* 'Midnight' and *S. leucantha* 'bi-colour'. This is their second flush in just a few weeks. Wishing you all much rain and many happy gardening hours - Denise Horchner

A note from Barb Wickes: I suspect the S. involucrata 'Bethelli' that Denise refers to is involucrata sp which we in SEQ have called Bethellii for many years until recent years when we acquired the true Bethellii which is a much smaller grower.

Discussion

Reply to Bill Whitehead: 'Salvia microphylla x jamensis species in Issue no 33, Winter 2008-09-16

Humble apologies to Bill for using terms that appear to be used unnecessarily. The points Bill raises merit some comment as well as generating some more issues, so here goes.

Firstly, the term '**Invagination**'. This was neatly explained by Meg as a 'turning in' to 'form a pocket', or an 'indentation', as defined by Bill's dictionary. No, not all salvias have such indentations in their corolla tubes, and in general, does this matter in any case? However, if someone is looking inside a corolla tube to find the all-important **papillae** to decide whether a particular salvia is one thing or another, then it is important not to mistake an **indentation** for a **papilla**.

Secondly, the reference to *Salvia* 'Raspberry Royale'. Bill correctly observed that both Meg Bentley (p 60 of "A Manual for Growing Salvias") and Christine Yeo (p 34 of "Salvias") list this plant as a form of *Salvia greggii*. Betsy Clebsch (p. 140 in "A New Book of Salvias") refers to it as a hybrid of *Salvia greggii*. So what is a hybrid? In very simple terms, a hybrid can occur when two species cross, either in the wild (natural hybrids) or in cultivation (cultigen hybrids). The naming of the resulting plants should be done according to a formula and a 'x' sign is used to indicate that a plant is of hybrid origin.

Now in the case of *S. greggii* and *S. microphylla*, where crosses occur easily, I like John Sutton's descriptions (in "A Gardener's Guide to Growing Salvias") where he describes a range of named, coloured forms of *S. greggii*, and the same for *S. microphylla*. He also lists a range of plants which are named crosses between *S. greggii* and *S. microphylla*, of which *S. x* 'Raspberry Royale' is one. (Note that Betsy Clebsch also called this one a hybrid of *S. greggii*).

There is, however, an additional complication in the case of *S. x* 'Raspberry Royale' to which I referred in Issue 32 of this newsletter. This came from a quotation from a letter from James Compton to Richard Dufresne, where he referred to one of the parents of *S. x* 'Raspberry Royale' as *S. microphylla* var *wislizenii*. If the parent plants are *S. greggii* and *S. microphylla*, then the progeny can be called *S. x jamensis*, where this term applies to the range of crosses between these two parents. The spanner in the works is that James Compton considers that *S. microphylla* var *wislizenii* should perhaps not remain within *S. microphylla*. If this were the case, then *S. x* 'Raspberry Royale' could not be referred to as a *S. x jamensis*.

Now, *S. microphylla* var *wislizenii* is an interesting plant. If you read Meg Bentley's description on p74 of her book, she refers to "the unique formation of calices along the stem tips before the flowers open". Also, the flowers appear to form on only one side of the stem. Furthermore, plants grown from seed appear to come true. Maybe this is another species?

I think the bottom line is 'How the hell are we supposed to know?' We have the same problem with myriads of crosses between *S. involucrata* and *S. karwinskii* and also between *S. nemerosa*, *S. superba* and *S. sylvestris*. All the Chinese/Japanese salvias appear to interbreed easily and so do the Californian ones and even the S. African ones apparently. So, maybe the safest way is to use just the cultivar name like *S.* 'Raspberry Royale' or *S.* 'Timboon Red'?

Even then, we have a problem unless plants have been vegetatively propagated. Quite often, very similar hybrids occur in different places. Someone sees such a plant and compares it with a picture in a book and gives it that name. Sue Templeton has had this problem with plants. She propagated a good plant that came from seed of *S. gesneriflora* (red corolla, black calyx) and down the track someone slapped the name 'Tequila' on to it because it looked like the one in Betsy Clebsch's book, without having the exact genetic parentage, but once plants are sold with this name, there is no way of changing things. The same applies to the plant *S. mexicana* 'Lolly' that is available in Australia. Unless it has been imported as a plant, it should not be given the name 'Lolly Jackson'. There are several more examples because most of our imports into Australia have been from seed, but as I seem to have wandered off the original topic, I had better stop before I make things worse!

Pat Anderson

LAURELLE'S "PADDOCK" **IN BORONIA (a suburb of Melbourne)**

My totally uncared for paddock has certainly had a few mishaps over the past two years but it definitely has not had any watering, feeding or maintenance at all. But if the accolades received, particularly around this period of the year, are any indication, it surely attests to the benefit of allowing a paddock to develop at its own pace without artificial watering, feeding or even pruning.

Currently *Salvia fallax* is delighting all with its amazing cerulean blue flowers peaking above an unpainted grey paling fence and the stunning little *Salvia* 'Crimson and Black'. This has a charm unequalled by any other microphylla, particularly as it resides as foreground against a wonderful grey *artemesia* and in the background is the amazingly bountiful *Salvia* 'Winter Red'.

Certainly some of the shrubby salvias are begging for a decent trim but will survive without and there have been no losses from lack of watering. The garden does have multi-layers of mulch and of course the clay retains any moisture offered from the sky. Root competition from especially large trees should be an issue yet the only *salvia* I've lost in two years has been *Salvia 'purpurea'*, and I suspect that was a result of over watering by the people over the fence line.

I think any plant set out in isolation has a hard time. Could I suggest that as long as plants have neighbours, as they all like communicating, friendly pets and a caring Mum, the jungle will look after itself. It also helps to actually feed the possums otherwise 'treasures' may suffer tip damage.

Laurelle Willis

A bit of Botany: Part I

Most gardeners don't really want to be bothered with technical terms. These don't improve the beauty or performance of a plant in the garden. However, when we want to distinguish one plant from another, there are some basic terms that we need to understand so that we can compare specific parts of the plants. These terms describe flower parts, flower symmetry, stems, leaves, the flower groupings, flower

colour, flowering time and whether or not they die down, lose leaves etc in the winter and various other things. The following is not a comprehensive “Botany of salvias”, but covers some terms that we use a lot to describe *Salvia* flower parts, and in subsequent newsletters, I or someone else, will add descriptions of some of the other terms.

Corolla: The corolla refers to the group of petals, which usually make up the colourful, eye-catching part of the flower. It can be roseate (looking like a wild rose or apple blossom), campanulate (bell shaped), tubular, ligulate (strap-like) and many other forms. Salvias have a special corolla form which is called labiate, or lipped. There are basically five petals which are fused into two lips, the upper lip made up of two fused petals, and the lower lip made up of three fused petals. Unfortunately, there are heaps of other plants that also have this form, so there are other features to consider to determine whether your flower is a salvia or not. These 2 lips are sometimes referred to as upper/ lower, superior/inferior or posterior/anterior (just for a bit of confusion)

The upper lip of the corolla can be:

- Straight or nearly straight, as in *Salvia regia*, *S. scabra*, *S. ‘Van Houttei’*
- Falcate or falciform: when the upper lip is sickle-shaped or arched or hooded, as in *Salvia patens*, *Salvia glutinosa* or *Salvia indica*, *S. forskahlei*

and is usually shorter than the lower lip, an exception being *S. nipponica*.

The lower lip has three lobes, of which the median (or central) lobe may or may not be indented (have a notch in the middle), cup shaped as in *S. indica*, curving downwards as in *S. cruikehanksii* or pointing downwards as in *S. lanceolata*. Lips are sometimes recurved (curved back on themselves) as in the lateral lobes of the lower lip of *Salvia roborowskii*.

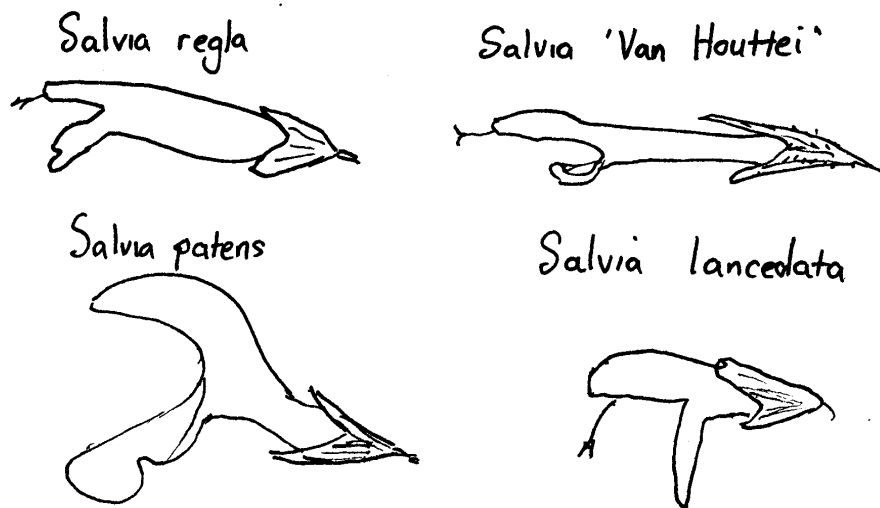


Fig. 1: Some general shapes of salvia corolla and calyx

Other features of note on the corolla are the presence or absence of hairs (as in *S. ‘Red Dragon’*) and bee lines, or markings which guide the pollinating insect into the tube. These markings are strong on *S. forskahlei*. In fact the shape of the corolla tube of specific salvias has evolved to accommodate a specific type of pollinating creature. The nectaries at the base of the long narrow corolla tube of *S. dombeyi*, for example can only be reached by hummingbirds. Others are shaped to accommodate

insects. Some insects that are too fat to squeeze into a corolla tube and will puncture the tube from the side in order to reach the nectar, which means that pollen isn't transferred from one flower to the next. But, more about that in the next part of this series.

Calyx (pl. = calices): This refers to the group of sepals that surround the base of the corolla tube. In salvias, the sepals are fused, just as the petals are, to form a 2-lipped structure. In salvias in particular, the number and shape of the “teeth” of the calyx, the number of veins and the hairiness of the surface of the calyx are all important indicators in identifying the different species.



Fig. 2: Some forms of the upper lip of a salvia calyx, opened out

Another point of interest about the calyx is the way it hangs on, enclosing the seeds, after the flower has finished and dropped off. In several South African species, it changes shape at this stage. That of *S. africana lutea*, for example, expands from about 2 cms across the opening during flowering to nearly 3cms during fruiting.

The colour contrast between the **calyx** and the **corolla** gives some species their special beauty. Consider the contrast between the lime green calyx and the blue corolla in *S. mexicana* ‘Limelight’ and the near black calyx and red corolla of *S. gesneriiflora* ‘Tequila’. Other beauties with contrasting colours are *S. discolor*, with the silvery calyx and the nearly black corolla and *S. semiatrata* with the dark rose pink calyx and the mauve/blue corolla. The species with colourful calices remain very attractive long after the flowers have fallen off, such as *S. canariensis* and *S. lanceolata*.

Bract: These are leaf-like structures, though smaller than leaves, that commonly occur at the bases of branches of an inflorescence (or cluster of flowers) or under individual flowers. The presence or absence, shape and colour of these is also significant in identifying salvia species. In some cases, the bracts are deciduous (or drop off), which is also significant.

In some species, such as *S. sclarea*, the bracts are very significant, being both larger than the flowers and more colourful

In Part II of this series, we will look more closely at the stamens – the bits that carry the pollen – as these are very significant in salvias. There are only 2 stamens in salvias, unlike nearly all of the related plants in the family Lamiales. The shape of the stamen in *Salvia* is also highly significant, both in the pollinating process and in evolutionary terms. Subsequent parts will cover leaf shapes and surface and the different forms of inflorescence.

References for some basic botany:

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Mager, S. “Botanical Field Guide” – a handy, fold out card containing 280 symbols and 400 keywords (bought mine at Adelaide Botanic Gardens)

Harris, J. G. & Harris, M. W., 2001, “Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Guide”.

Capon, B. 1990, “Botany for Gardeners: An Introduction and Guide”. – this one is great for anyone

e interested in subjects like plant function, adaptation, reproduction.

Chong, S. N. (revised by King, E. L.) 1996, Basic Morphology of Flowering Plants”, Training Publications of Western Australia.

Pat Anderson

SALVIAS IN SE QUEENSLAND – October 2008

After our open garden in June I took some time out from the garden as I had a lot of other things happening like organizing the Giant Kitchen Garden at the Queensland Home Garden Expo in July. By the time I got back to the garden it was rather overgrown and the weeds were having a party! After the second day of attacking it I hurt my shoulder and found I wasn't able to do anything in the garden for about 3 weeks. Since then it has been 'all systems go' to clean it up and mulch prior to us going overseas this week! Because of this I didn't get around to pruning the winter flowering salvias and to my surprise *S. iodantha*, and *S. purpurea* have sent up a mass of buds and are now flowering beautifully! Had I pruned when I usually do I would have never known this would occur!

Also *S. wagneriana*, *S. involucrata* 'Romantic Rose' and *S. involucrata* 'Timboon Red' are still flowering a little and I thought they would have finished by now.

Whilst doing my clean up I decided a few plants needed moving so as *S. semi atrata* was in a spot that was much too wet for it I moved it and it didn't 'blink an eye' – it didn't even droop for a minute.

We have been growing what we thought was *S. Mexicana Major* for some time and now have found since visiting the south that it is *S. Mexicana Minor*. It is so easy to get identification wrong! *S. 'Desley'* – a newbie to me – is doing well and has a lovely purple flower much nicer than *S. Black Knight*. I am awaiting the flowering of some of the other salvias I brought back in April.

I am most impressed with the Heatwave series as they are such strong plants. All but Heatwave 'glitter' and Heatwave 'Flare' have flowered – some are very similar to many of the seedlings that have appeared over the years but I think their advantage is their strength and compact growth over the seedlings. I have just had communication with Michael Cole from PGA, who released this series, clarifying the PBR situation. All the Heatwave series are either protected or in the case of the four new ones (Glitter, Glimmer, Blast & Sparkle) in the stages of PBR. The exceptions are *Salvia* 'Scorcher' and *Salvia* 'Flare' which no longer have any PBR or protection.

S. 'Meg's Mystique' is so similar to our *S. Follett's Folly'* that we have decided it best not to pass it onto others in our area as it would only lead to confusion. Both are superb plants in that they have a very long flowering period.

S. oxyphora definitely needs to be watched in my soil as it is running everywhere – it is not difficult to pull out though so not in the same category as *S. guaranitica*. I have it growing in semi-shade and it does not flower as well as my neighbour's who has hers growing in full sun – it looks stunning. Helen cut it back in June and now it is covered in flowers.

I am very happy with *S. elegans* 'Golden Delicious' – the beautiful golden foliage is a highlight in the hot garden. *S. microphylla* 'Peg' and *S. greggii* 'Snow White' and doing well – they are very dense plants and have been flowering for a couple of months now. *S. oppositiflora* some say is not a very exciting plant however I feel it is a great asset in the garden with its soft pale pink flowers – it sprawls a little and flowers for a long period. I m sure everyone will have the same comments to make about *S. 'Wendy's Wish'* – it hasn't stopped flowering since I planted it in April and it is a lovely compact plant. I am sure everyone is aware that this has a PBR.

We have a salvia study day at the end of November so will have a lot more news from other members to pass on for the next newsletter. The plants obtained by me in April from Victoria and from Sue Templeton will have given some results by then.

Barb Wickes
The Perennial Poppies Group Inc
SE Queensland

BAW BAW (WARRAGUL) GARDEN EXPO **AT LARDNER PARK**

October 11th and 12th a Saturday and Sunday saw the Salvia Study Group's first venture selling salvias at the Baw Baw Garden Expo. Lyndi Garnett and Jillian Barkell had visited the Garden Expo the year before and had decided it was an excellent site for the Salvia Group to sell plants. The weather on both days was perfect, but is it anything else these days? (How we wish for that elusive rain).

However by the time I arrived with Laurelle Willis and Jennifer and Geoff Ellis, whose car we travelled in, Meg and Gary Bentley had delivered a Ute full of salvias and Lyndi and Jillian had been busy setting up the stall.

The stall stood out and was easily seen in the huge hall with a large sign saying 'Salvia Study Group'. The plants were displayed on two sides so there was plenty of room for both buyers and lookers to browse. The numerous plants were well displayed and colour coordinated so the identification of plants was a lot easier. Anyone who showed the slightest interest was handed a leaflet about the Salvia Group along with a subscription form. We left in the afternoon after Neil and Margaret Keir arrived to assist Jillian and Lyndi. On Sunday the stall was manned again by the two stalwarts Jillian and Lyndi with help from Meredith Taylor.

Thanks must go to Jillian and Lyndi for the massive amount of work that they put in to make this stall the success it was.

Irene Robinson

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Des Lawrence from the Royal Geelong Botanical Gardens for his donation of Salvias to the Salvia Study Group.

This donation came at a good time for us, as at that time, we still had two garden shows to attend before the end of the year. It takes an enormous amount of work by members to propagate plants and have them ready for sale.

Thanks Des.

AN EMAIL FROM QUEENSLAND

Thank you for the latest excellent edition of Salvia News. Warm regards and very best wishes in all of your endeavours.

yours sincerely Ross

My contact details are below.

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Thank you Ross. I want to share this nice note with everyone. We send the fruit of our labours off via the little post office at 'The Patch' conveniently near Jillian's home and wonderful garden. Before that we have folded the News and attached addresses at her kitchen table. But first of all there is the excitement of receiving such good stuff to put in it and then there is the coping with the quirks and follies of the computer while our gardens are pleading for attention. But it is all worth while. I wish more of you would plunge in and lighten our load. You too can be an editor or a published writer or both. My training is nil, but what I've learnt is beyond price. I figure that everyone is interesting and has something to tell. Irene will type handwritten articles and transcribe from a phone conversation. I look forward to hearing from **you** too.

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