

Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

November 14 - December 12,

1979

Volume 3***Number 11 & 12

CHRISTMAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Our fourth annual San Diego Epiphyllum Society Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday December 12, 1979 at 6:30 p. m. in room 101 (Majorca) of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park.
- 2) There is no cost to members. (A San Diego Epiphyllum Society membership is defined as a husband and/or wife. Are your dues due?). The cost for guests will be \$5.00 (nonmembers). Reservations must be in for both members and guests by December 1. (Call 469-2469 or mail to 9227 Carthay Circle, Spring Valley, Ca. 92077.)
- 3) The menu will be a surprise. Our caterer will be Sir Leo's.
- 4) Gift exchange-Everyone who brings in a rooted cutting of an Epiphyllum or related epiphytic cactus in a clean four inch pot wrapped in christmas paper (the pot not the plant) will receive in exchange from another celebrant another such plant. Couples should bring two plants, etc. Plants should be rooted and have new growth and preferably uncommon. There will be additional door prize plants and entertainment!

---Don Irwin & Committee

EVERSON/WILLIAMS NOVEMBER SPEAKERS

Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams of Rainbow Epiphyllum Gardens (in La Habra, Ca.) will be our November 14th speakers. They will show two short films and also many slides of new seedlings. They will generously bring down fifty cuttings for our cutting table.

---John Clancy

EPI PHOTOS FOR ROOM 104

We will display at the November meeting six photographs of Epiphyllum flowers (Encinitas, Madeline, Pegasus, Rosetta, Tassel, and Wedding Bells) that are to be permanently hung in room 104 (library and gift shop) along with other flower portraits now exhibited there. The photographs were among those submitted by San Diego Epiphyllum Society members then enlarged and framed (frames by George French).

---Fred Shamblen

Send all news items and articles to: R. G. Latimer Jr., 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, Ca. 92041

Send all membership renewals or new memberships to: Dolores Moss, 8551 Neva Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92123

Revived Memberships:

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Albright
7968 Jackson Way
Buena Park, Ca. 90620

Robert & Ruth Creager
4635 Blackfoot Ave. 276-3538
San Diego, Ca. 92117

Floyd L. Gable 448-8041
8820 Indian Wells Court
Santee, Ca. 92071

---Dolores Moss

Corrections:

- Adam & Kathy Adams 690-2342
- Robert & Kathryn Cooley
- Richard & Zena Deuel
- Robert Dusch 475-2162
- Rex L. & Suzuko Ellis
- Gloria & John Holm
- Vernon E. & Hisae Hook
- Jack & Betty, Cheryl & Patty Jackson
8612 Hebrides Dr.
- Earl & Mildred Leason 582-9572
- Robert & Adrienne Leffler
- Eugene & Virginia Pierson 972 Mel-
rose
- Lorraine Winkels 440-2095

---Dorothy Ogdon

Thanks for all of the "goodies"
brought in at our last meeting. We
wonder what surprises we have to look
forward to for the month of November:

- Blendina Boyle
- Jeane Helle
- Peggy Monson
- Jean Seile
- Dorothy Vigilante
- Kathie van Arum

---Gwendolyn Johnston

Wilhelm Barthlott's Cacti (page 27, drawn by F. Rueckert), page 40

Vitabark & Watch-Us-Grow

Our latest shipment of 700 sacks of
Vitabark potting mix has arrived.
All of those who have reserved sacks
should pick them up. For those who
may want some from this shipment---
there are, as this writing, only 70
bags left, so hurry. Call me at
469-1677. One bag is \$3.00 to mem-
bers. Also the reserved 26 gallons
of Watch-Us-Grow are ready to be
picked up also.

---Gene Lund

1980 Calendars

Our 1980 Calendars (with all of
the San Diego Epiphyllum Society ac-
tivities marked on them) will be a-
vailable at our Christmas Party.
Be sure to get your copy then.
Please note that there was a mis-
print in the ESA Bulletin. The
Christmas Party date is listed as
December 11th, but is of course the
12th.

--- Gene Schmedding

P. S. I have two phone numbers now--
421-0693 and 421-6510.

SDES Anniversary

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society's
Charter states that this society
was organized in November 1970.
That means that with this issue of
Epi News we are now entering our
tenth year and the issue one year
from now will be published right on
the tenth anniversary. As it turns
out, the Nov.-Dec. 1980 issue will
also celebrate a 25th anniversary of
sorts. On the next page is reprint-
ed an article from the Epiphyllum
Society of America's Bulletin (Vol-
ume XI-page 24*. On the following
page there are some more reprints.
The Harry Johnson article is taken
from the Cactus and Succulent Soci-
ety's Journal (Volume 34, #2, March-
April 1962. The drawing comes from

* #4 1/31/56

AN E. S. A. CHAPTER A POSSIBILITY FOR SAN DIEGO AND VICINITY

Through the efforts of Dr. J. W. Troxell, a member of the E. S. A. EXECUTIVE STAFF, a meeting of members and guests of the Epiphyllum Society of America convened at the Community Church Social Hall, 4773 Marlborough Drive, San Diego 16, California on Friday evening, December 2, 1955 at 7:30 p. m. ready to enjoy a delightful program.

Dr. Troxell conducted the meeting explaining that the purpose of the meeting was first - to get acquainted and second - to ascertain if there was sufficient interest, among those with a love for epiphyllums, to form a San Diego branch of the Epiphyllum Society of America. Then Dr. Troxell gave a short talk on epiphyllums, their history, culture, soil, and propagation and the climate advantages San Diego offers for raising them - benefits not enjoyed in many other parts of the country.

Our president, Mr. C. L. Wright, was the next speaker - giving an outline of the activities of the Epiphyllum Society of America and described the meetings held in the Los Angeles area and the many advantages of forming a chapter in San Diego - San Diego being too far away to permit many to attend the regular Los Angeles meetings held the third Wednesday of odd months.

Then the meeting was turned over to our Board member and Past President, Herbert S. Irwin, who concurred in what had already been said by the other speakers and then proceeded with a dazzling display of some 200 kodachrome slides which he had taken during his visits to many epiphyllum gardens. Mr. Irwin was at his very best and carried as a running commentary on the pictures that was extremely informative.

Before the meeting concluded there was the usual awarding of door prizes consisting of a lovely epiphyllum plant and numerous epiphyllum cuttings supplied by Dr. Troxell, Mr. C. P. Broadhurst, and Mr. C. L. Wright. This is a feature which we all enjoy.

The meeting was attended by about 60 very interested listeners who gave every sign of enjoying the program tremendously. Several new members were added to the roster of the Epiphyllum Society of America and about 30 guests asked for application blanks.

Dr. Troxell is to be commended very highly for his efforts in arranging the meeting and thanks are tendered to Dr. & Mrs. Troxell, Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Wright, Prof. & Mrs. H. S. Irwin, Mrs. L. K. (Peggy) Williams (who attended with her daughter-in-law, Meda), Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Humphrey, Mr. & Mrs. P. C. Broadhurst, and others for contributing so much to the success of the evening. From present indications it would appear that we may soon have a very active chapter in San Diego.

For further information write or phone the following:

Dr. J. W. Troxell, 4950 Canterbury Drive, San Diego 16, California
Phone - San Diego - Atwater 2-9131

Mrs. Peggy Williams, 1314 Puterbaugh Street, San Diego 3, California
Phone - San Diego - Cypress 5-4040



**QUESTIONS
and ANSWERS**

Conducted by
HARRY JOHNSON
Paramount, Calif.

Question: My Thanksgiving or Xmas Cactus did not bloom for me this year. Last year it had 61 blooms. It is a large plant. Did it bloom too much last year and is taking a rest now? Do I have to transplant into new soil? I brought them into the house after being outside all summer. I gave them the same treatment as always. They lost some leaves after they were brought in.

MRS. M. D. KIZER,
Indiana.

Answer: I am not quite sure whether the plant was the true Thanksgiving Cactus with scarlet flowers or the old-fashioned Xmas Cactus with pink-red flowers. Their culture is somewhat different. The Thanksgiving Cactus will take more warmth in the winter and flowers in November and December. It seldom ever misses flowering. The old-fashioned Xmas Cactus, *Schlumbergera bridgesii*, often fails to flower if kept too warm. Dr. Reid Moran in his article "Notes on *Schlumbergera*, *Rhipsalidopsis* and Allied Genera," in *Gentes Herbarum* of 1953, states that Roberts and Struckmeyer (1959) made experiments on the relation of flowering to temperature and day length in Xmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*). At temperatures of 70° to 75° flowering did not occur regardless of day length. At temperatures of 63° to 65° flowering was induced by short day length in a typical photoperiod reaction. At temperatures of 55° there was some tendency toward flowering regardless of day length. Thus through controlled light and especially controlled temperature the Xmas Cactus could be induced to flower at any time of the year.

My own experience agrees broadly with these findings. In the Los Angeles area winter temperatures are often high, up to 80° to 90° during the day. With me, and many of my friends, the *Schlumbergera bridgesii* often fails to flower. However, I have seen plants loaded with flowers when mine were flowerless but they were closer to the sea. Within a mile or so of our coast they flower prodigiously. Apparently they flower best where extremes of temperature are moderated by the moist, cool air from the ocean.

The true *Zygocacti* and hybrids between *Zygocactus* and *Schlumbergera bridgesii* will flower freely at higher temperatures. Other wild forms

of *Schlumbergera* flower well at higher temperatures. It seems to be only the old-fashioned Xmas Cactus that is so particular as to temperature.

I have imported from Brazil many Xmas Cacti but never have had one that at all resembled our old friend *Schlumbergera bridgesii*. Apparently the species is very variable or hybridizes frequently. However, I have not received actual wild hybrids between *Zygocactus* and *Schlumbergera*. All references here to *Schlumbergera* are not to the old interpretation of the genus where *S. gartneri* was included. This species now is referred to *Rhipsalidopsis* where it unquestionably belongs, the perianth being regular, the tube, if any, being very short, the stamens in a single series and the fruit being dry and very strongly ribbed eventually opening by a circumscissile cap.

For those interested in the taxonomic revision of the various genera related to Xmas Cacti I would suggest they read the above mentioned treatise by Dr. Moran who, by the way, is a member of your Board of Directors.

As to the "leaves" dropping after being brought indoors, this often happens to plants when growing conditions are radically changed. It also is a method of self-pruning which most trees and shrubs exhibit. As to repotting I would defer this until I put the plant out of doors in late spring. As to soil I would remember that these plants are epiphytic and do best in very open soil. They need lots of water and in sticky soils the roots suffocate. After my visit to the Montreal Botanic Gardens and friends at Amos, Quebec, I tried their abundant use of sphagnum moss in composts. For Xmas Cactus and related subjects the results have been more than excellent.



Pollination of *Epiphyllum phyllanthus* by a hawk-moth, and of *Schlumbergera truncata* by a humming-bird.