

Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

March 12, 1980-Volume 4, Number 3

Welcome New Members!

Margaret & Harry Blake
1425 Merritt Dr.
El Cajon 92020 444-1937

Dale & Michiko Munda
1544 Oliver Ave. 272-9727
San Diego 92109

---Dolores Moss

March is Green Month:

Saint Patrick's Day***the wearing of the Green! Everyone wear something green to our next meeting on March 12th! Those who will bring goodies are:

Gilbert Boldman
Ed Gauss
Jean Hapeman
Edith Meador
George Watson
Barbara Summers

We could have about three more volunteers. Those who have never brought goodies should sign up for future months at the next meeting.

---Gwen Johnston

Proposed By-Laws and Incorporation

Our member, Eugene Pierson, has written a set of proposed By-Laws for the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. Copies will be made available to all Members at this meeting, but they will not be approved by the members this month. Any suggested corrections should be made by our April meeting. The Executive Board has applied to Incorporate. Gene Pierson has written these By-Laws in accordance to the January 1980 Laws of Incorporation (both State and Federal) except as otherwise provided by Statute or its Articles of Incorporation, San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

---Elinor Latimer

So, exhibitors this year may give their displays a celestial theme or simply show as many flowers as there are in the heavens. Exhibitors should pick out which tables (or half tables) they want to exhibit on this year at the next meeting, so the society may get them their exhibitor's nameplates, if they do not already have one.

---Fern La Borde, President

March 12th Program---Show Panel

Our program for the month of March will consist of a Blue Ribbon panel of knowledgeable epiphyllum growers. The main subject concerning this panel will be our Mother's Day show- e. g. exhibiting, awards, etc.; but members (and nonmembers) should ask questions on other subjects as well. The identity of the panelists will be a surprise.

---John Clancy

Galaxy of Epies

"Galaxy of Epies" is the theme of our tenth annual flower show this year. We all anticipate this show will exceed all previous shows in the number and beauty of epiphyllum flowers. The word 'galaxy' is defined as:

- 1) Any of the great communities of stars that occupy the universe.
- 2) An assemblage of brilliant or noted persons or things.

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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

The EPIPHYLLUM SHOW at SEA WORLD will be held on Saturday and Sunday May 24th and 25th 1980. We will maintain essentially the same format as in the two preceeding years. Chuck Cline has advised me that due to limited space only ten tables will be available for our displays on both days, therefore we will be limited to ten (10) participants plus their spouses on each day.

To date the following individuals have expressed a desire to take an active part in the show:

SATURDAY MAY 25	SUNDAY MAY 26
FRANK GRANATOWSKI Chairman	Same
GENE LUND Co-Chairman	Same
FERN & DAVE LA BORDE	Same
GEORGE & MADELINE FRENCH	Same
HOWARD & BETTY JONES	Same
JOHN & JERRY CLANCY	VI CARRIKER
GEORGE & ADDIE SZOBAR	RICK LATIMER
JOHN PILAND	
SAM MARKEY	

At present there is one opening for Saturday and three for Sunday Sunday. They will be allotted on a first come first served basis Sea World requires that all plans and participants names be submitted prior to May 1st, 1980. Specific written detailed instructions will be distributed to participants prior to that time. Please contact Frank at 460-6595 if you are interested.

---FRANK GRANATOWSKI

Chuck and Jerry of Rainbow Gardens, want to re-locate in either Chula Vista, or National City and turn their nursery into a Walk-in. If any one knows of a piece of property, preferably with a house already on it, with a large lot to build a lath house and office, or a nursery that is on the market, please contact them by phone or letter, or call me, and I will get the information to them.

Rainbow Gardens phone number is; 1-213-697-1488. or the address to write is. 1574 Dorthea Rosd, La Habra, Ca. 90631

---Gene Schmedding. 421 6510 or 421 0693

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THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

PART III: H. M. WEGENER

The first part of this article will be in Mr. Wegener's own words. (Taken from an article in the Midwinter 1945-46 issue of the Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin (I, 3), p. 12-16.)

During a honeymoon trip through Europe in 1905, I was attracted to some lovely flowers in possession of a peasant woman in Saxony, Germany. She had some wonderful Christmas Cacti (even a white one), a Goliath, Hermosus, Hermosissimus, a lively red (now Vive Rouge), a henna colored one (now Flor del Sol), a yellow-striped one (now Paul de Longpre), and many others with names now hard to find. She belonged to the old-fashioned tradition of flower lovers who cared more for beautiful flowers than their Latin or hybrid names. That the ten or twelve plants I obtained from her survived the trip from one country to another in a sack with old spinning wheels, old family relics, and bric-a-brac is a wonder. They arrived more dead than alive in Denver, where they were nursed with love and affection until 1909. That was the year that we moved to sunny California.

Later I received about twenty Epiphyllums from Dr. J. N. Rose. After this, I decided to specialize in Epiphyllums. I wrote to Haage, and Schmidt, Fr. W. Haage, de Laet, and Curt Knebel (the creator of the finest plants and flowers in our hobby). Plants arrived rapidly. I worked with my pets every spare minute, being glad that my wife shared the joy when they bloomed. I made many mistakes: many changes as to location, pots, earth, watering, fertilizers, sprays, etc. I lost by frost in one night 160 hanging baskets and several thousand plants in the ground (most of these ground plants were other cacti and succulents). The correspondence with Mr. Knebel became interesting. He donated some of his new creations to me and merely wanted me to report how they would do in the California climate.

One day in May, living at 212 East 24th Street, a very stately gentleman called upon me with his chauffeur and introduced himself as Dr. Houghton. He stopped at my back porch and when he beheld my array of thousands of beautiful flowers, I had the satisfaction of hearing that well known scientist and doctor say: "I never beheld, nor expected to behold such a beautiful sight in the EAST SIDE of Los Angeles!" Right then and there a typical example of naming plants occurred. It developed that we both spoke German and French. He pointed at one flower and remarked in German, "Is that not a beautiful bright red? What is the name?" "That is one from an old lady in Germany." "Well, let's name it. People want something French--how would Vive Rouge do?" "Suits me." I gave Dr. Houghton plants and cuttings that I had difficulty raising outdoors. He promised to take good care of them in his hot houses and that I could have cuttings from his plants any time.

Later, a newly acquired friend, Dr. R. W. Poindexter, saw at once the opportunity offered by these remarkable plants for business. He was a promoter of the Epiphyllum Society of America. His greatest desire was to do away with the unscrupulous naming of plants. (For example, naming practically the same flowers two different names.)

I must mention a Mr. Miyahara, who did his best to introduce our pets to Japan. He bought thousands of plants and cuttings. He once presented me with a gold inlaid Samurai Sword 350 years old, merely for naming one of my creations Admiral Togo (not Tojo).

The reason why stems turn yellow in my, humble opinion, is caused by too much acid in the leaf mold or too much fertilizer. Make your own compost by using lawn clippings, raked up leaves, and vegetable matter; turn often, keep it wet, and add a little cow fertilizer once in a while. I have found natural fertilizer the best. Degrees of fertilizer go about like this: bat, sea fowl, chicken or pigeon, sheep, and steer. If you have a friend who has a kennel, get a few wheel-barrows full of dirt from it. Mix it with washed river sand and you will get the effect of the daily advertised one-a-day multiple vitamin pills for your plants. This is not recommended for pot plants, except sparingly. I harbored the first three Black and Tan police dogs imported into this country. Rose's original Epiphyllums grew twelve feet long with their mix added.

Do not expect to be able to procure a yellow-flowered Epiphyllum as there is no such plant at present. There was one named Hamburgiensis on a post card of which I gave to Dr. Poindexter, but it is extinct like so many of the old kinds. That flower had a regular butter color (you may remember what butter looks like).

H. M. Wegener put up his entire collection for sale in 1941 for \$250.00. This collection of over 1000 plants was supposed to have been the oldest in the state (country?). His address at the time was 1190 Leighton Ave., Los Angeles. Mr. Wegener then spent several years in Mexico and then in Europe. Hans Max Wegener died June 23, 1958 in Germany (ESA Bulletin, (XIV,1), 8/58, p. 1).



ARTHUR D. HOUGHTON

Vive
Rouge

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