

# Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY  
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Richard W. & Grace R. Ford  
6318 Malcolm Dr. 583-0172  
San Diego, Ca. 92115

Norma J. James 445-3415  
2840 Scenic View Rd.  
Alpine, Ca. 92001

Sandy James 445-5142  
1008 Knish Lane  
Alpine, Ca. 92001

Rita Ruble 460-8902  
8242 Mt. Vernon St.  
Lemon Grove, Ca. 92045

Evan Stover 287-6652  
5611 Adelaide Ave.  
San Diego, Ca. 92115

## CORRECTION:

Dr. J. W. & Miriam Troxell  
Grossmont Gardens  
5480 Marengo Ave. Apt. 270  
La Mesa, Ca. 92041

---Kathy Adams

## PROGRAM FOR SEPT.-Bob Breining

At our September meeting, one of our most valued members will have his debut as a speaker at the SDES. Bob Breining's program will be a surprise.

At our July meeting, our Photography Chairman Paul Runde headed a program of members' slides. Those showing were:

the La Bordes  
the Latimers  
the Lunds  
the Nelsons  
the Rundes

If any names have been omitted, please forgive,...thanks to those who gave of their blood, sweat, and slides!

---Gene Schmedding

## SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENTS:

Dorothy Breining  
Lola Calder  
Gloria Campbell  
Suzie Ellis  
Henry Feedback  
Beverly Garber  
Mildred Gorrell  
Sako Hook  
Cheryl Jackson  
Millie Maggard  
Rose Miyaji  
Edith Nelson  
Paul Runde  
Dave Wilstermann

---Penny Bunker

## SDWAP WORK CREW

Thank you for all the work done at the latest San Diego Wild Animal Park SDES work session on August 2. The lath house workers were:

R. Chadwick  
Mr. & Mrs. Feedback  
Mr. & Mrs. French  
Mr. & Mrs. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. La Borde  
Mr. & Mrs. Ogdon  
J. Piland  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilstermann  
Tawny Wilstermann

---Jim Gibbons

## SICK LIST

Please sent get well cards or give a call to:

Ray Arnold <sup>has been</sup> in Grossmont Hospital,  
Emma Linden-has not been well,  
Grace Standley-has a broken wrist  
and had surgery on  
her foot,  
and the Troxells.

---Fern La Borde

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"In matters of principle, stand like a rock,  
in matters of taste, swim with the current."

---Thomas Jefferson

## 1981 SHOW THEME

Now is the time to start thinking about the Mother's Day Show. First, we should pick our theme, so that we may begin working on our exhibits and look for design elements. Members should vote from the following list and send their ballots to me:

Four Seasons  
Mother Nature's Dreams  
Tales of the Vienna Woods  
Woodland Fantasies  
Nature's Wonderland  
Midsummer Night's Dream  
your suggestion

---Dorothy Breining  
605 Melrose 427-9306  
Chula Vista, Ca. 92010

## EPIPHYLLUMS FOR SALE

200 Epiphyllum plants will be on sale Sept. 12 - Friday afternoon and Sept. 13 - all day. Plants will be \$1.00 to \$5.00.

---John & Jerrie Clancy  
4910 Mt. Ashmun Dr. 277-8206  
San Diego, Ca. 92109

## DISAPPEARING EPIPHYLLUM FRUITS!

Last year SDES President Fern La Borde announced that rats were eating her Epiphyllum fruits. This year we have seen at least one rat in our yard. Now our fruits have been getting portions eaten off! Although I find that Epiphyllum fruits are not as tasty as either Hylocereus or Disocactus fruits, and are in fact rather insipid, the rats evidently consider them to be a delicacy. Epiphyllum growers BEWARE!

---Rick Latimer

## FERTILIZER QUANTITIES FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF MIXES

MATERIAL	FOR ONE BUSHEL	FOR ONE CUBIC YARD
Ammonium nitrate	3 tablespoons	2 pounds
Garden fertilizer (5-10-5 or 6-12-6 or 10-10-10)	6 tablespoons	5 pounds
Superphosphate (0-20-0)	2 tablespoons	2 pounds
Ground limestone	10 tablespoons	10 pounds
Bone Meal	2 tablespoons	5 pounds
Potassium nitrate (13-0-44)	2½ tablespoons	1 pound
or		
Calcium nitrate (15-5-0)	2½ tablespoons	1½ pounds
Trace elements	½ teaspoons	2 ounces

---Blendina Boyle

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

Send all new or renewed memberships to: Kathy Adams, 3340 Del Sol Blvd. -  
Sp. 9, San Diego, Ca. 92154

## THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

Part V: Albert A. Blanc



*Epiphyllum Cooperii*

Information on the early epiphyllum growers is sketchy, inaccessible, or simply non-existent. One inevitably asks the question: Who was the first epiphyllum grower in the United States of America? How do we find out? Unfortunately, we may never know. Nonetheless, it seems likely that the first U. S. nurseryman known to have grown Epiphyllums was Albert A. Blanc of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A. Blanc was born in Belgium in 1850. He arrived in this country sometime in the early 1870s after reaching his twenty-first birthday. He died on December 21, 1928 in his seventy-seventh year. Sometime in the very early 1880s, Blanc started to accumulate a cactus collection. He began with twelve species, placing them outdoors on a window shelf during the summer. From this modest beginning, Blanc's hobby soon expanded to fill six 100 ft. X 28 ft. greenhouses and he suddenly found himself in the cactus nursery business.

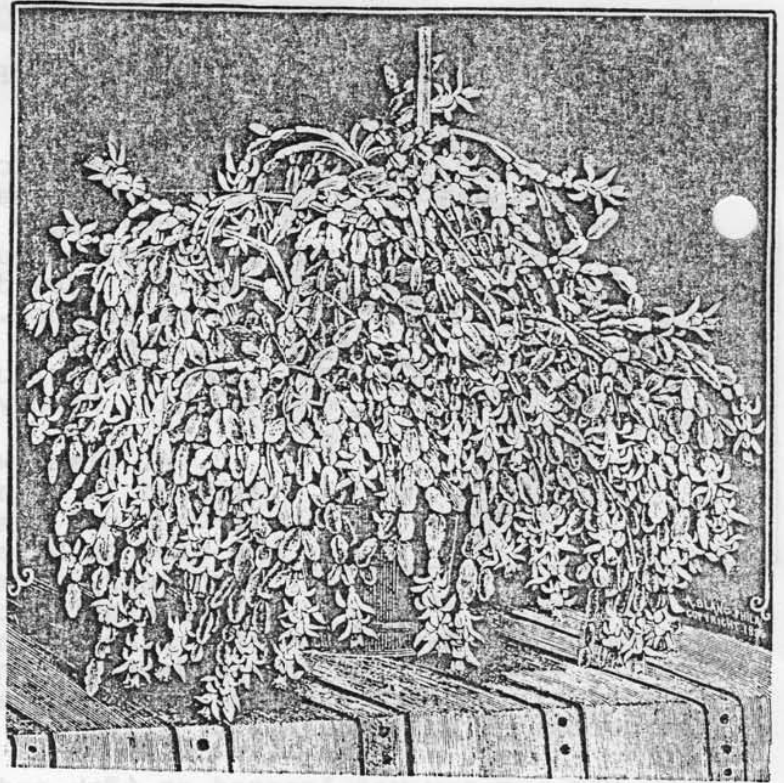
His nursery was located at 48th and Walnut Streets in Philadelphia, but his mail order business was conducted at 314 North 11th St. (Is anybody going to Philadelphia? If so please see what is presently located on these sites.) His stock in 1890 consisted of more than a half million plants in 700 species. "We are the originators of the Cactus Craze," admitted Mr. Blanc, "and have made the plants popular by sending out fine, well-grown stock at the lowest possible price. All the plants we send out, excepting the smallest size *Cereus* and Epiphyllums, have been grown in our greenhouses for two and three years, thereby insuring good establishment."

Blanc's Hints on Cacti was the first cactus catalogue published in the U. S. and probably appeared in the early summer of 1886. Included in this catalogue (and later issues) were many of Blanc's own woodcuts. (Blanc was also a wood engraver by trade.) Three of his many woodcuts are reproduced on these two pages. (In the June 1978 issue of *EpiNews* is another of his woodcuts-Selenicereus grandiflorus.) "It is a curious fact that until now," wrote Blanc, "it was impossible to buy from any one dealer in the U. S. more than 50 to 100 varieties (any Epiphyllums?) of cacti, while over 1000 varieties are actually known at the present time." Blanc offered 16 genera of cacti with 404 species and varieties in his first catalogue. Among those offered were ten Epiphyllum and eight Rhipsalis species.

Hybridization met with Blanc's approval. He commented, "Nearly all cacti are readily crossed, especially *Cerei*, Epiphyllums, and Schlumbergeras. By judicious crossing, some handsome forms have been raised." (Did Blanc ever offer any on the market?) Blanc listed fifteen varieties of Schlumbergera (Zygocactus) truncatus in the 1891 edition of Hints on Cacti. When, in later years, the public's interest in cacti waned, Blanc sold all of his cacti and took up growing Cannas!

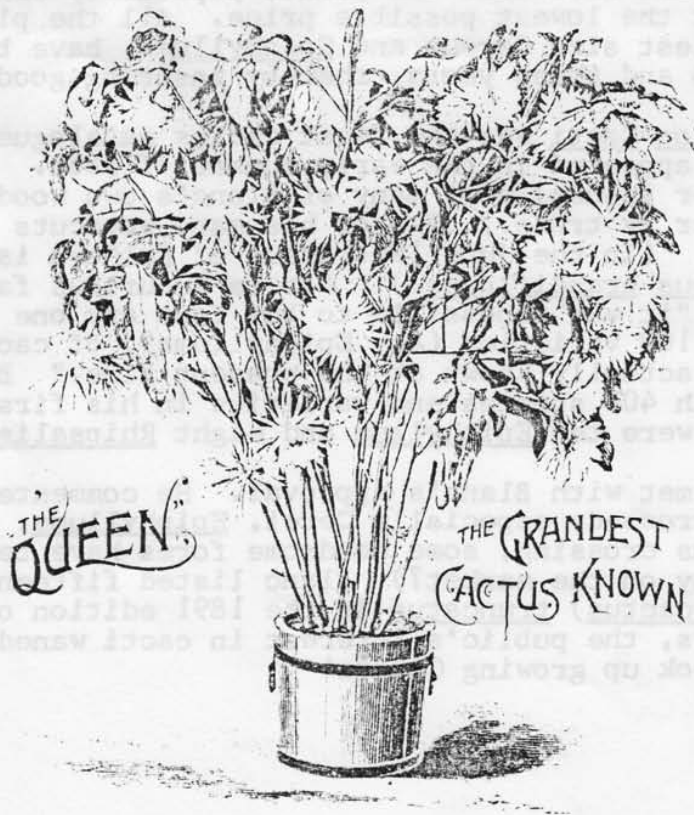
REFERENCES:

- Larry W. Mitich, "The World of A. Blanc", Cactus and Succulent Journal,  
Part I, (45:4), pp. 145, 158-170.  
Part II, (45:5), pp. 203-213.  
Part III, (45:6), pp. 259-269.



The ever popular Christmas Cactus

PHYLLOCACTUS LATIFRONS.  
THE QUEEN CACTUS.



(86)

Blanc considered *Phyllocactus latifrons* (*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*), the "Queen Cactus,"  
the best bloomer known.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 1980

The meeting was chaired by Vice President Nate Ogdon, who welcomed long time members Dorothy Hartford and Edith Meador, both of whom have just recovered from long illnesses. It was good to see the both of them again! Nate also announced that Dr. & Mrs. Troxell are at their new address. Most of the cuttings on the Opportunity Table were donated by the Troxells this month. The Troxells have also given enough cuttings for 108 one gallon containers to the San Diego Wild Animal Park, which a few of our members have potted. \*\*\* Kathy Adams announced that we had 154 members and 22 guests in attendance. They enjoyed George French's program, especially his own hybrids of which he has registered about 16. \*\*\* Bill Nelson announced that he would like to sell some of his collection. \*\*\* We had a great meeting. Those of you who missed it - we hope to see you in Sept.

---Kathy van Arum

### EDITORIAL

Earlier this year, the SDES decided to incorporate to obtain certain legal and tax advantages. A set of by-laws (with corporate clauses) was quickly drawn up. The Executive Board reviewed them. Some questions were raised, but the Executive Board was assured that the new by-laws would work. These by-laws were then recommended to the general membership. The general membership approved them April 9, 1980.

Not long afterwards, it became apparent through practice, that these new by-laws did not provide the leadership structure that this society needed. The major disadvantage was that there were now two boards that could be in conflict with one another. These by-laws state that the Executive "Board (the officers) shall be responsible for the conduct of the day to day affairs of the society." However, the Board of Trustees is "the governing body of this corporation." Ambiguities arose. In practice, the Executive Board had to approve their every day business matters and then in a later meeting, the Board of Trustees had to approve (or disapprove) all of these motions again.

In July 1980, the Board of Trustees created a By-Laws Committee consisting of Roland Johnston, Chairman, Ruth Nelson, George French, Dorothy Breining, and R. G. Latimer Sr. to provide a more workable set of by-laws to the society. This work is still in progress (Rome was not built in a day!) and should be completed by Sept. 10.

The society is now working with Mr. Streeper, a corporate lawyer, who has also helped the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. His assistance was requested by the Boards for our second attempt to become incorporated.

The California Tax Board of Equalization did not approve of the original corporate classification applied for (nonprofit public benefit). One school of thought feels that since one paragraph is invalid, the whole by-laws are also invalid and wish to revert to the 1977 SDES by-laws. Since these 1977 by-laws have a different structure of elected officials, such an action would be difficult and unsatisfying at this time. For example, there is the matter of the Board of Trustees. According to Robert's Rules, the term "Director" is equivalent to the term "Trustee". However, there are 9 members of this group in the 1980 by-laws but only 8 in the 1977 by-laws. Who will be sacrificed? As far as the officers go, most may be transferred to similar positions. The Secretary becomes Recording Secretary and the Vice President for Membership becomes Membership

Secretary. However certain offices that are not presently filled by members who were elected to those offices, such as Librarian and Historian, have to be resurrected. The worse problem concerns the 1980 Executive Vice President and the Vice president for Education. How do we put two people into one office?

The ultimate authority in any society (in this country anyway) is the general membership. Since they approved the 1980 by-laws, these by-laws are in effect until they say otherwise. Changing by-laws and re-electing (or realigning) officers take time. Although the SDES Board(s) may recommend such action to the general membership, proper channels must be used. One of the members of the Trustee By-Laws Committee spoke with Mr. Streeper. He suggests the membership do three things at the next general meeting:

- 1) Approve the new articles of Incorporation (Mutual Benefit),
- 2) Decide which by-laws they want until the new ones are approved,
- 3) And decide if they want to hold a new election of officers when the Incorporation becomes effective.

Since a new by-laws must be read by the membership a month before ratification and since a new slate of officers must be presented to the members a month before they are voted on and since a realigning our officers mid-stream will cause confusion (and will be discourteous to those presently elected who have done much work in their positions); I, the Editor recommend that we stay with the 1980 by-laws (however flawed) and the June 1980 elected officials until we know where we are going. Ideally we will run our society from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 like the other horticultural societies. I hope we will begin our second decade on the right track.

---Rick Latimer

The following poems were written by the late Murray Skinner, once active in the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. They are reprinted from the Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin (16:4), 2/61, p. 21.

Such a store of dainty pollen grains  
Surely a fairy must  
Have opened up this jewel case  
With some magic fairy dust!

Well, it could be a flower, but when it opened  
To show its wealth of jewels-  
Stamens, perhaps, but why should I  
Be bound by human rules?

These poems may apply to many of the night blooming cereoid type cacti, but for us in the SDES, they apply to our epi blooms.

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next SDES Board meeting will be held Sept. 24 in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 7:30 p. m.

#### PUBLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for items, articles, or rebuttals for the October 8, 1980 issue of EpiNews will be Sept. 11, 1980. Items may be hand written, but typed copies are preferred.