

# Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

11 February 1981

VOLUME 5, NO. 2

## JANUARY MEETING

... Gene Schmedding

As usual we had a great meeting in January. Our program was a little different than usual.

Frank Granatowski gave a demonstration on saving rain water for plants. President Lund described a method of grafting and had three members come up in front and learn to graft while he told us how. (I was lucky enough to be one of the chosen.) By the way, my graft is still looking good. This is the first time that a graft has lasted more than a week for me. Maybe at long last I have learned to do something right. Then, Milt Turner showed us how to make a very simple seed starting box. It was a very interesting program.

Velma Featherstone and Ethel Hurst suprised us with a very welcome visit. For the members that do not get the E.S.A. newsletter (and do not know who she is) Velma is the one that works so hard to make it an interesting publication.

I am sure that almost everyone knows the delightful Ethel of Hurst's Nursery.

I wonder if we can fast-talk them into making more frequent visits.

Members..don't forget to get any any article in to Pat for the Epi News no later than the first Tuesday of the month.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Lisla K. Evans  
3525 Wilcox St.  
San Diego, CA 92106

223-6702

## FEBRUARY MEETING

...Frank Granatowski

Our guest speaker for the February meeting will be Payne Johnson, Editor/Publisher of the San Diego Home and Garden Magazine. He will show slides of flowers and plants he has taken as staff photographer for the magazine, and will discuss the purpose and goals of San Diego's newest magazine dedicated to showing San Diego "Beautiful".

(This would be a great time to bring your friends and potential new members...Editor)

## REFRESHMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

... Penny Bunker

New Years started with a goodly crowd and many goodies brought by our ladies and gentlemen. Yes, the men can volunteer for goodies too. We appreciate all your help and herein are those volunteers for February:

Betsy Bollman  
Willise Brubaker  
Gladys Harper  
Virginia Korontes  
Allene Markert  
Michiko Munda  
Ruth Nelson  
Rose Norgard  
Rita Ruble  
George Watson

I want to tell you the different and delightful punch in January was fresh lemon-limeade with juice brought in by Myrtle Bates. Wasn't it good? Thank you Myrtle.

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Camellia-petal  
Fell in silent dawn...  
Spilling  
A water-jewel

...Basho

NOW IS THE TIME

...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time -

- to feed mature plants with 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Either liquid or slow release granules can be utilized. If the liquid is used, another application may be necessary in about 30 days.
- to prune out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.
- to maintain preventative pest control, by keeping plants free of debris and extraneous materials. Spray with insecticides only if necessary. Avoid sprays with oil base, especially if buds have begun to form.
- to protect from unexpected frost and strong wintry winds.
- to bait for snails and slugs.
- to take advantage of beneficial rains. If plants are potted in proper porous soil even heavy rains will have no harmful effect.

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OPEN GARDENS

... George Watson

Sam Markey - Saturdays, March and April

9AM to 2 PM

189 Bethune Way, Otay  
(So. Chula Vista)

Frank Granatowski - Weekdays only

4294 Avon Dr.  
La Mesa  
(please call first,  
phone: 460-6595)

Other persons willing to show their gardens please contact Pat Stebbins, Editor of the Epi News, phone 279-8026.

The thought is that club members would like to view gardens and talk ephiphyllums not only during the blooming season, but before and after - as you know, there is much to see and learn, also, it is an opportunity to become acquainted with more members.

...

Following is a very timely and well researched recommendation for some devastating problems that we all encounter. This is one of two fine contributions by Sam Markey for this issue of the Epi News. Mr. Markey is also responsible for that wonderful array of high quality, individually packaged cuttings for our cutting table last meeting. Thank you, Mr. Markey!

...Editor

PESTS AND DISEASES

... Sam Markey

Society members may be interested in how to control scale, Aphids, and root infestation on their Epi-phyllum plants. Recently I asked Ed Jagielski of BEAHM GARDENS in Pasadena for his recommendations:

"Big Ed" said that any time he buys a new plant from another nursery he always submerges it in a solution of MALATHION until the pot is saturated; then he suspends the potted plant over the Malathion vat until it drains. He recommended I follow the directions on the bottle (Malathion 50%) for the proper solution.

Since killing my tomato plants last summer with too strong a solution I was a little afraid to try it. Also, last year I used a cyanide solution in the Spring after the buds set and the buds wilted and dropped off.

With these failures in mind I consulted San Diego County Agriculture Consultant Vince Losaño. Mr. Losaño said that one tablespoon of 50% Malathion per gallon of drench water would be safe for mature potted plants; however if

the plant is young and tender, he suggested I talk with his associate Mr. Besemer (714-565-5379) who knew more about potted plants than he. Consultation hours are from 1 PM to 5 PM.

Following my talk with Mr. Losaño, I telephoned the Chevron Ortho Insecticide office (714-420-8121) for their recommendations for a 50% Malathion drench or irrigation for my epiphyllum pots. Their suggestion was the same as Mr. Losaño's:

1 TABLESPOON OF MALATHION PER GALLON FOR ESTABLISHED PLANTS

1/2 TABLESPOON PER GALLON FOR YOUNGER PLANTS.

I ADD THE FOLLOWING FROM MY EXPERIENCE: DO IT BEFORE THE BUDS SET, OR ELSE WAIT UNTIL AFTER THEY BLOOM.

TELL US YOUR "MORE-THAN-ONE-TIMERS"

...Sam Markey

Have you wished for more epiphyllum flowers in the Fall, the Winter or early Spring?

Aside from the small-flowering species, so loved by all fanciers; we have seen many medium, large, and even extra large flowering ones that try to please us with one or two surprises when we least expect.

How can we learn which species will give such encores? There are two ways:

One way is to visit nurseries and private gardens during the off-seasons to see which epis have flowers.

The second way is to do what I want to do here: To share the names of likely, multi-season plants.

Of course, there are the Fall-blooming true-species, like BEAHMII,

DARRAHII AND HOOKERII; as well as the huge CHRYSOCARDIUM that only flowers once every two years. Then, STRICTUM when established in a shady protected place delights us over a more prolonged season, with her night blooms and pleasing fragrance. There are other true-species that I hope someone will tell us of.

We expect PROF. H. S. IRWIN, BEAUTIE WEGENER, or dear little HAROLD KNEBEL to please us several times a year; but would you believe two of my TASSEL plants had an XL flower, each, at Christmas? Not counting the small-flower species, my last flower in 1980 was an XL size FLIRTATION. While one member of our society said "FLIRTATION does not normally bloom more than once a year"; yet, Mr. Lund reported that his bloomed, in his different La Mesa environment, at the same time as mine.

My first flower in 1981 (Jan.3rd) was a huge PEGASUS. That plant--happy in it's location---always does it's thing several times a year. Meanwhile, another PEGASUS languishing in too much shade, refuses to bloom at all.

AMERICA is another large species that will try to please us several times a year, if she is happy. Medium size LITTLE GEM is not as spectacular as AMERICA, but can be counted on more consistantly. In our "Memory Lane" garden, she is now preparing for her third blooming since last year's regular one.

Four glorious orange epis we will want to pamper with loving care are GEN. DOUGLAS MacARTHUR, JERSEY BEAUTY, JUNGLE FURY, and MAD RUSSIAN. Each will reward us with one or two off-season delights.

There are many more, especially in the late Summer and early Fall that I have seen in our gardens and in others; but except for RIO ROSA, I cannot recall them now. Perhaps

you, and other epi fanciers, will remember; and will share with us your experience with epiphyllums that are off-season bloomers.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to our first large/extra large flowers of the late winter season just ahead. They will be PHEASANT and SATURDAY NIGHT. Today, January 10th, they already have one-inch to two-inch buds.

PS: - Had you peeped through the gate of Cactus Pete's fantastic jungle this week, you would have seen his (unregistered) KRISTY ANN! blooms often!

PPS: "Big Ed" over at Beahm Nurseries, adds the following to our list of more-than-one-timers: C-000 (unregistered), GLADYCE JONES, LILLIPUT, BLUSHING BELLE (very late bloomer), SATURDAY NIGHT.

SUPER PS: LADY EDNA, perfect pink that can be mistaken for PADRE.

#### GENERAL

..first the bad news. At the Board meeting in January, President Gene Lund regretfully accepted the resignation of John Clancy, 2nd Vice President, Membership. Due to pressing family obligations John felt he was unable to fulfill the requirements for Membership office.

..for the good news, Jerry Plaisted was nominated, accepted and unanimously approved by the Board to fill the position of 2nd Vice President, Membership.

Also, the remaining Director vacancy was filled by the nomination of Ed Lucero, who accepted and was unanimously approved by the Board.

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society now officially has a

post office box for our mailing address:

San Diego Epiphyllum Society  
P. O. Box 2852  
San Diego, CA 92112

#### CLASSIFIEDS

##### RAINBOW GARDENS

\*\*\*THE BEST IS HERE! That's right - our 1981 catalog is out and it's a knockout. Full color; over 75 magnificent photos of such beauties as: Acapulco Sunset, High Fashion, Monastery Garden, Zorina, Joseph Marshall, Mondora Bell, Royal Toast, much more---PLUS we've increased our selection of RHIPSALIS, HOYAS, APOROPHYLLUMS, with color photos to boot!

For \$1.00 you can get this collectors catalog (deductible on first order), 8 multiple discount coupons, winter bonus special, plus we'll throw in FREE our 1980 Bookshop Catalog with over 208 great indoor/outdoor plant books. This just has to be the best buy in town! RAINBOW GARDENS, Box 721-SD, La Habra, Ca. 90631. Credit cards accepted!

Added Note: We've got thousands of potted plants available for purchase--and books, of course. Come and see us! Call to assure we're open (213-697-1488). Let's make this a GREAT year for Epiphyllums and the Epiphyllum Society of San Diego!

...Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams  
Another Added Note: Our plant customers of 1979 & 1980 will receive our 1981 plant catalog in the mail FREE OF CHARGE.

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...from Lois Burks

"Alice Buchanan, formerly of California Epi Center, would like to announce that she is selling a large selection of specimen epiphyllums and small potted epiphyllums with good side growth at reasonable prices. Sale of the plants will be by appointment only. Please contact Carl Stoll (213) 338-1224 to set up an appointment and to get directions to the sale.

EPIPHYLLUM CORSAGES

...Gene Schmedding

It is surprising to me that so few people realize what a beautiful corsage the Epiphyllum can make. Using either several of the small varieties such as P. Snowflake, Ruby Snowflake, many of Cocks's miniatures and even your Apophyllum. Or one large exceptional Epi. With Epi season close at hand, perhaps some of the members would like to try their hand at showing off their blossoms in this different way.

The few materials that are needed are readily available at your nearest hobby shop, and are very inexpensive.

You will need three weights of wire: very fine, medium, and medium fine...also, you will need a roll of stemming tape. Get about 1 yd. of ribbon about 1/2 to 3/4-inch wide in a color to compliment your blooms for each corsage you are planning to make. When you cut your epi's stem to the final length for your finished corsage (before putting the ribbon on) take a piece of scotch tape and wind it about a 1/2 inch above the cut base and then down over the cut and back up. This will keep your bloom from oozing.

Now to begin...select the weight wire for your blossom. Fine for small, medium fine for med. size flower, and the heavier for a large bloom...cut about an 11 or 12 inch length. Push the wire very carefully through the flower just barely above the base being very careful not to tear the petal base. Let the wire protrude on the other side about 4 inches. Bend the other end of the wire down until it touches the stem, then bend down the short end and very carefully wind this wire around the stem and down to the

long end of the wire. Start winding the wire up near the base of the blossom making two or three turns being very careful not to wind too tight. Pinch off the stem that is below the three twists of the wire then put the scotch tape over the end. Now wind the short end of the wire around the long piece until the short piece is all used up. Then do the other blooms the same way if you are making a multiple blossom corsage.

Now start with the stemming tape. Unroll a piece about 2-1/2 feet long. Be sure that you do not get any liquid on the tape as it will not stick even after it is dried off. Take a flower in your left hand. Put one end of the tape at the top of the base, holding it with one finger against the base, now start wrapping so that it overlaps several times then hold the tape in your right hand while twirling the flower with the left, gradually wind tape down to the end of the wire. Do the same with each blossom. If you are using more than one flower, take a flower in your left hand and put the rest of the blooms in the position that you want them. Twist the stems together, then secure with a piece of wire. Then cover with a piece of tape to make a neat finish. (If you are using only one bloom use the same stem winding procedure. Wind the stems around a pencil and tuck them up into the blossoms to look like tendrils. Now, make two long and two short loops of ribbon on each side of your corsage and wire into place hiding the wire in the tendrils. Leave the ends of your ribbon cut straight across, do not have the ends too long.

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10404 Orozco Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92124

2nd Vice President, Membership:  
Jerry Plaisted, 583-9551

Guess who....

is the great epi grower that loves to go fishing? He not only catches the largest fish of the day, but also hooks and pulls in his own fishing pole!

THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

\*\*Part VIII: Theresa M. Monmonier

by Rick Latimer

The first woman nurseryman to grow Epiphyllums was probably Mrs. Theodosia Burr Shepherd of Ventura. In 1896, she issued a catalogue in which she listed many Epiphyllums. She was widely known and considered the best woman horticulturist of her time in the state of California. The city of Ventura was also graced by another woman horticulturist who is remembered by all of those who grow Epiphyllums: Theresa Monmonier.

Theresa was born in 1893 and was 81 at the time of her death in 1975. Mrs. Monmonier turned from nursing humans to nursing flowers about 1930. Her son had a high school project to grow cacti. After the class was over, his interest ended; so she continued to care for them. Her interest and appreciation changed from passive to active form. She collected more cacti, always looking for new and original varieties. From collectors of rare cacti in southern California and elsewhere along the Pacific Coast, Mrs. Monmonier built up her nursery. She then began to import young plants and cuttings from Europe, especially France, Belgium, and Germany.

Epiphyllums became a specialty. The spare-time filler of growing rare Epiphyllums grew to the point where Mrs. Monmonier had more plants and flowers than she knew what to do with. She gave some away to friends, but still had too many. The quality and originality of many of her hybrids attracted the attention of a few collectors and dealers, and she ultimately found herself the owner and operator of Ventura Epiphyllum Gardens. In 1939, she won a bronze medal in the cut flower, cactus division, of the New York World's Fair flower show. The cacti were shipped in bud by Air Express.

On May 5, 1940, the first meeting of the Epiphyllum Society of America was held in her home and she was elected the first Vice President of that society. She was also one of the three original members of the Standard Names Committee along with H. M. Wegener and Charles P. Sherfy. She was one of the thirteen ESA Charter Members.

There is hardly a collection that does not have some of her hybrids or their descendants. Mrs. Monmonier was very particular about the nature of the plant growth. If the bloom was beautiful, but





153 E. McFarlane Drive  
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

25, 1981),<sup>1</sup> but

the plant growth weak or prone to spotting, she did not hesitate to destroy the hybrid. Bad hybrids were thrown in the trash for a while. But once she caught a neighbor retrieving plants out of her trash cans. After that she threw them into the sea from a row boat.

We cannot list all of her hybrids here (SDES members are invited to compile a list of all TMM hybrids and to submit that list to the Editor for the March issue of EpiNews no later than February just for fun, let's list just the T's:

TANZY	THUMBLINE	TWILIGHT REVERIE
TEMPEST	TIFFANY	TRUE DELIGHT
TEMPLE FIRE	TIGER RAY	<u>TROPICAL NIGHT</u>
TESORO	TILL THEN*	TREASURE ISLAND
TESSALAR	TIPPERARY	TRANQUIL
THE KING'S PRIZE	<u>TIP TOP</u>	TOY
THEODOSIA B. SHEPHERD	TITAN	TOURMALINE
THERESA MONMONIER (now TOPAZ)	TIGREE	TOUCH OF GENIUS*
<u>THORINE</u>	TOM THUMB	TOPAZ

\*These hybrids were named by the Cox's

MRS. W. D. MONMONIER is a Knebel hybrid (#304). THERESA DE LA MUERRE IS A Leo M. Daly hybrid. WILLIAM D. MONMONIER (TMM) opens flat and is saffron yellow. MON CHERIE (TMM) is a sport of AMBER QUEEN, the red and yellow streaks give this flower an unusual variegated effect. There is a common criticism that this name is ungrammatical French, but the name is a contraction of Monmonier's Cherie. She developed some Empress hybrids (BAMBI, DRAGONET, MONMONIER'S PINKIE, and PETITE ROSE) and also some Disocactus (Chiapas) nelsoni hybrids such as MARIONETTE (something not done again until Mr. Cocke revived interest, evidently). She also developed two "Chrysanthemum type" hybrids - CHRYSANTHUS (oriental red) and DOUBLOON (dianthus purple) - anybody have them?

#### REFERENCES:

Velma Featherstone, Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin, (30:1), September 1974, p. 2 and (31:1), November 1975, p. 1.

Scott E. Haselton, Epiphyllum Handbook

Scott E. Haselton, Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal, (12:6), June 1940, p. 90.

Martha F. Maxwell, "Some Epis I Enjoyed This Year And Why", ESA's Bulletin, (11:2), October 1955, p. 10.

Theresa M Monmonier, Descriptive Catalog.

Rainbow Gardens, Directory of Epiphyllums and other Related Epiphytes.

Picture credit goes to Garland O'Barr

<sup>1</sup> SDES members are also invited to compile a list of Theodosia B. Shepherd's hybrids!