

# Epi News

P. O. Box 2852  
San Diego, CA 92112Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM  
Room 101, Casa del Prado  
Balboa Park, San Diego

13 May 1981

VOLUME 5, NO. 5

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

William D. Adams 9318 Cole Creek Houston, Texas 77040	937-7487	Pearle I. Carlton 1935 Skyline Dr. Lemon Grove, CA 92045	466-5994
Margaret E. Cooper (reinstated) 4444 Arista Dr. San Diego, CA 92103	295-7938	Bruce & Phyllis Jennings 12059 Lambert El Monte, CA 91732	(213) 579-6433
John Newhall Germain Rd., R.D. 3 Vincentown, New Jersey 08088		Paula Ann Minardi 10466 Stanfield Circle San Diego, CA 92126	578-3597
Ronald D. Palla 3018 39th Ave. South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406	722-8220	Dorothea M. Husted 4304 Bonillo Dr. San Diego, CA 92115	582-5133
Clarence Owens, Sr. 107 Sharpsteen Rd. Locké, New York 13092		Betty Holforty R.R. 3, Box 60 Huron, South Dakota 57350	(605) 352-5571
Nellie Brown 3652 Mt. Ashmun Ct. San Diego, CA 92112	569-0312		

APRIL MEETING

...Gene Schmedding

As usual we had a very good April meeting. There were 170 members and 23 guests. There were several of our Los Angeles friends attending, which pleases us very much.

Mr. Cocke brought many rooted cuttings for our drawing, and showed slides of his beautiful crosses. Of course during the coffee break everyone crowded around the table holding Wressy's plants drooling and hoping his or her name would be called first so to get the "pick of the litter". But being called first or last, a beautiful plant was assured. For the unfortunate members that just couldn't make it to the meeting, you have my sympathy. You really missed a good time.

Be sure to bring your checkbook to the May meeting as there will be some beautiful mature plants for sale that were purchased from a person in L.A. Frank Granatowski says they are in outstanding condition.

Mr. Lund has found that Vita Bark is no longer available. But, there are many good mixes on the market so all is not lost, altho' a different mix may cost us a little more.

Dorothy Breining picked up Ada Perry and took her over to Mr. Markey's to interview him last Thursday. So watch the garden section of the Sunday paper for her column, it should be very interesting. (Ed. note: it was in the May 3 Sunday garden section.)

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We will have something different for our show tables this year. Pat Stebbins hand-lettered some lovely "Please don't touch the flowers" signs. There will be one for each table. "Pat, you are a very talented gal. We all thank you."

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(..thanks for the pat, Gene  
..Pat )

WILD ANIMAL PARK SHOW, May 2, 3  
...Pat Stebbins

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society weekend at the Wild Animal Park was, once again, a beautiful success. Though there were not many blooming plants on display from the park, the tables displayed by the Society were a splendid assault on the senses of all who walked through the arbor in front of the nursery unit. You would have to be a pretty hard-boiled individual not to be impressed by at least one epi bloom.

We talked to people from all over the country: Florida, New Jersey, Washington state, many who purchased cuttings to take home. We talked to lots of young people (early 20's and younger); I don't like to generalize but it appears to me that young people are much more interested in making plants and flowers a part of their life than they were when I was at that age. It looks as though it's a trend that will become a lasting part of the general life-style. Feeding, watering, trimming, touching and talking about a plant is a natural sedative in a world that gets more complicated every day.

As another personal observation, I would like to say what helpful and pleasant people the park employees are. The San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park has the finest level of quality-employees of any place we have visited. As a San Diegan, I am proud to know our city is represented by these nice people, sometimes the only contact out-of-towners have with San Diegans. I know our visitors have always been impressed.

Howard Jones took a group of us on an hour-long "behind the scenes" tour of some of the park's greenhouses, including the two epi-growing lath-houses contributed and built by members of our society. Those epis growing in their 16" clay pots are just stunning, so large and healthy. (Howard's loving care and hard work is evident wherever you look and the society is multi-blessed that he didn't take up wood-carving or sailing instead of epis!) Howard is at the park every Thursday, if you would like to see the lath-houses or lend a hand, give him a call.

Following is a list of epi nuts who stood around smiling and answering questions and just generally having a good time. Forgive me if I missed anyone, I tried not...this list includes exhibitors and those who did cutting table sales too.

\*Dennis & Karen Brewer \*Cutting Table  
Dorothy & \*Bob Breining  
\*Gene Schmedding  
Dick Chadwick  
Don & Lucile Irwin  
Rick Latimer  
Addie & George Szobar  
Gus Schlapfer  
John Piland  
George & Madeline French  
Sam Markey  
Howard & \*Betty Jones  
Gene Lund  
Hank Feedback  
Nate & Dorothy Ogden  
Betsy Bowman  
Florence Arnold  
\*Dave & \*Sharon Wilsterman, & \*Tawny  
\*Jerry & \*George Plaisted  
\*Pat & \*Jerry Stebbins

Our friend Velma Featherstone, Editor of the E.S.A. Newsletter was a welcome visitor to the show on Saturday; and on Sunday we met a young man, Dean Walters, who has a fairly new epiphyllum nursery "Emerald Gardens Nursery" (love that name) in Santa Barbara. He is going to send Gene Lund his brochure soon so we'll know what he has available.

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ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY SHOW, MAY 10

Hope to see everybody there for this one. Just a few reminders:

Exhibitors may bring their exhibit set-ups after 5:00 PM Saturday night or after 7:00 AM Sunday morning. We have never had a security problem if you want to leave your things overnight. The cutting room will be open to members only at 10 AM Sunday morning, open to the public at 11 AM. \*Bring a side dish, salad or dessert for the pot-luck; meat and bread will be provided by the society.

Those members who are not exhibiting this year, or new members who have never been to our annual show - please let's see your smiling faces, and ENJOY!

MAY MEETING, MAY 13

...Frank Granatowski

The program for May will be "SHOW OFF TIME". We plan to have a mini-show on an informal basis. This will be a good chance for everyone to show plants and flowers without the props used for our annual show. It will also give you an opportunity to exchange ideas and possibly cuttings with your fellow members, friends, and guests. We plan to have tables set along the outside perimeter of our meeting room. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

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Note: As mentioned on page 1, a private collection of approximately 400 plants will be offered for sale to members at the May meeting. These plants are in excellent condition, most of them in one-gallon containers, trellised, and some 4" pots - so bring your want-list and your check-book.

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Don't touch my plumtree!  
Said my friend  
And saying so...  
Broke the branch for me

Taigi

MAY REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

Thanks to all that respond for the meeting goodies - with 200 and up attending we need a goodly number bringing sufficient quantities for the break. So far, all have volunteered nicely.

For the 13th:

Cecile Bradley  
Dorothy Breining  
Penny Bunker  
Ruth Daehler  
Susie Ellis  
Gisela Klement  
Elinor Latimer  
Jean Seile  
Addie Szobar  
Dorothy Young

L.A. BUS TOUR, MAY 17th

There will be two tour buses. They both leave at 7:00 AM sharp from the parking lot behind the Organ Pavillion at Balboa Park, where you may leave your car.

The schedules are:

Bus No. 1

California Epi Center  
Rainbow Gardens  
L.A. Arboreum  
Hurst Nursury  
Return to San Diego

There will be no lunch stop on this bus. Bring your own sack lunch to eat on the bus or at the Arboreum. Also, there will be a long enough stop to take the tram tour at the Arboreum, in addition to the ESA show.

Bus No. 2

California Epi Center  
Hurst Nursury  
Arboreum  
EpiCo.  
Return to San Diego

\* participants

There will be two lunch stops on this bus, those who wish to go to the Arboreum first and those who wish to eat first, bus will return for 2nd group...

If you havn't signed up and want to go, see George Plaisted as soon as possible. There are still about 8 seats available (\$8.00 per person).

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DON'T FORGET THE SEA WORLD SHOW,  
MAY 23, 24, AND 25.

NOW IS THE TIME

...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Properly cared for plants should produce an abundance of spectacular blooms.

to cross-pollinate as soon as blooms open. However, pollinate with definite goals in mind. Bees and insects may be helpful, but they are not selective.

to remove spent and wilted blooms by cutting about 1/2" from the base of the flower, using a sharp knife or pruning shears. This method is also advisable when cutting flowers for display.

to continue good grooming of mature plants, by pruning older branches that are no longer productive, i.e., branches on which many areoles are calloused and scarred from previous blooms. These cuttings can be used to start new plants.

to protect foliage from the hot summer sun. Keep plants in filtered sunlight.

to water regularly. Keep moist, but NOT wet. Do not allow soil to dry

to replot last years cuttings that have outgrown their containers.

to attend local shows. Meet with epiphyllum growers and add cuttings to your collection based on blooms seen in displays.

MINI EPI EXHIBIT IN APRIL  
AT MESA COLLEGE

...Rose Mijaji

Thanks to Dick Chadwick for 18 beautiful epiphyllum blooms which were on display in the Admissions Office of Mesa College where students, faculty and staff members enjoyed a preview of the exotic flowers to be shown at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado on Mother's Day. Large blooms included THUNDER CLOUD, PADRE, PURPLE DELIGHT, EASTER ISLAND, FIRE GOD and POTERA; and smaller and miniature flowers were AUGUSTA VON SZOMBATHY, NAOMI, SWEET KISSES, MILDRED VIRGINIA, ORANGE BOUQUET, FRULING, ELBERTA KIPP, ACKERMANII, APRIL SHOWERS, GRAND DUTCHESS, XMAS RED, and SNOW-FLAKE (C.P.).

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GENERAL

Two cuttings were recently purchased from the cutting table at the general meeting that were accidentally mis-marked and are not what they are named. Please return or dispose of: VENTURA JUBILEE and JOLLY ROGERS, both marked with name of Adela G. Markey.

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The Epiphyllum Society of America dues have been increased to \$6.00/yr. effective this month. The total for joint membership of E.S.A. and the San Diego Epiphyllum Society (\$3.00/yr.) will now be \$9.00/yr.

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...and then,

There is the story of four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, and NOBODY. There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was asked to do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. Consequently, it wound up that NOBODY told ANYBODY so EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY.

(Submitted by Ruth Nelson)

OPEN GARDENS

...George Watson

Gladys and Kent Harper - Harper's 16th Annual Garden Party, Thursday May 14, 1981 begins at noon with pot-luck lunch (bring your favorite casserole, dessert, or salad). Bring your neighbor, spouse, or a flower-loving friend. Garden open till dusk - come after work if you can't make the lunch! (for leftovers)

1110 Sapphire St. (Pacific Beach)

John and Jerrie Clancy  
Saturday and Sunday, April & May  
4910 Mt. Ashman Dr.  
San Diego (Clairemont area)  
Please call first, 277-8206

Howard and Betty Jones  
Any Sunday  
1524 So. Citrus  
Escondido  
Please call first, 746-2839

*Ogdon's*  
*5739 San Miguel Rd*  
*Bonita*  
*Sat. 23 May*  
*10 to 4*

George and Madeline French  
Saturday, May 30  
12 Noon to 3 PM  
3624 Voltaire  
San Diego (Pt. Loma)  
Phone 223-8258

Frank Granatowski  
Weekdays only  
4294 Avon Dr.  
La Mesa (Please call first,  
phone 460-6595)

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Deadline for Epi News next month,  
June 2nd:

Editor: Pat Stebbins, 279-8026  
10404 Orozco Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92124

2nd V.P., Membership:  
Jerry Plaisted, 583-9551

## THE TRUE "ACKERMANNII"

by Rick Latimer

Myron Kimmach (of the Huntington Gardens) has just written another of his outstanding articles (in the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal) on the species Epiphyllums or their close relatives. (His articles have been my richest gold mine for my articles in EpiNews over the last few years.) Myron's latest article concerns a plant that we all have in our collection (or do we?). One of the first plants that any Epi-grower obtains is the popular "Ackermannii" with its early blooms that look like red Daffodils.

Nopalxochia ackermannii was cultivated by the inhabitants of Mexico long before it was illustrated by Hernandez in his Nova Plantarum, Animalium, et Mineralium Mexicanorum Historia in 1651. Its Nahuatl name was nopalxochiquezalticquizi, meaning "cactus with scarlet flowers". Those who find the word Nopalxochia hard to pronounce should count their blessings!

George Ackermann was probably the first to bring this plant to Europe (in 1824). Adrian Haworth named it Epiphyllum ackermannii in 1829. As early as 1830 Nopalxochia phyllanthoides (Deutsche Kaiserin) had been crossed with Heliocereus speciosus (in England). Unfortunately, this new plant was easily confused with the true N. ackermannii, until this day. As Gordon Rowley has said, "The displacement of a delicate species by a robust hybrid is a common phenomenon in horticulture, no less than the mixing of labels!" Britton & Rose created the genus Nopalxochia (in 1923), but were confused about the matter of the species versus the hybrid. In 1944, Charles Gilly confirmed the status of N. ackermannii as a valid species with a wild habitat. In 1970, Gordon Rowley gave our impostor hybrid its own name: X Heliochia vandesii 'Ackermannii' (Heliochia = Heliocereus X Nopalxochia). However, I predict that as many of these plant's labels will be changed as the number of Epiphyllum strictum's were when I reported that the correct name for that equally popular plant was E. hookerii (i. e. NONE!).

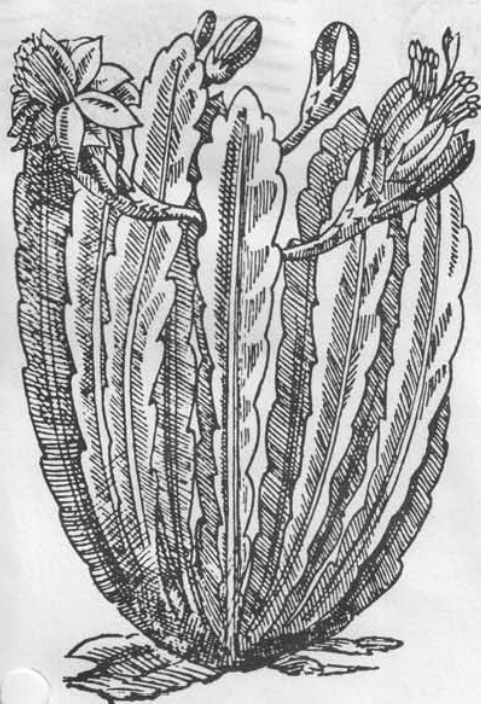
Therefore, the true species Ackermannii is almost unknown in cultivation (and probably nonexistent in San Diego County at this time). Its roots easily rot if overwatered. Nopalxochias are sensitive to alkalinity and excessive heat, both conditions unknown in their mountainous and rain-drenched habitat. Its range of natural habitat seems to be a narrow strip in the Sierra Madre (usually at altitudes between 7000 and 8500 feet) extending north to south about 160 miles but only east and west 10 to 30 miles from Veracruz to Oaxaca. Myron Kimmach and Reid Moran (of the San Diego Natural History Museum) went collecting plants in Mexico in the early 1960s. They found one N. ackermannii up in a tree that had its roots wound around the mossy tree trunk for nearly 10 feet! N. ackermannii 'Candida' was found in 1945 growing in a private garden in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. The former species Pseudonopalxochia konzattianum (has not been available for years) can now be considered as just another variety.

REFERENCES:

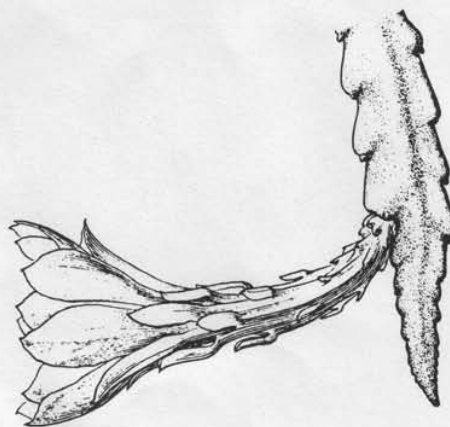
- Myron Kimmach, "Nopalxochia Ackermannii", CSSA Journal, (53:2), p. 81-7.  
 Myron Kimmach, "Through the Land of Cacti", CSSA Journal, (37:2), p. 89.  
 Gordon D. Rowley, "Resynthesis of 'Ackermannii'", CSSA Journal, (42:6), p. 250.



*Nopalxochia ackermannii* var. *ackermannii*,  
 Stems with Bud, Fruit, and Flower, cross-section, X 0.5  
 Drawing by May Blos, 1956-1958.



A woodcut of *nopalxochicuezaltic* (*Nopalxochia ackermannii*)  
 from Hernandez' "Nova Plantarum . . .," 1651.



*Nopalxochia ackermannii* var. *konzattianum*  
 Stem apex with flower, X 0.5.  
 Drawing by May Blos, 1968.