

Epi News

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

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM
Room 101, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park, San Diego

10 June 1981

VOLUME 5, NO. 6

245

...that's the magic number of people who attended our May 13 meeting - another feather to stick in our caps!

The membership of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society has grown like Topsy this year. The explosive growth in membership can be partly attributed to the tireless, good-humored efforts of our officers and those who have worked so hard this year on our shows, tours, and other countless tasks; AND, when you have a club whose every member is an active ambassador, how can you go wrong?

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.

ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY SHOW, May 10
...Gene Schmedding

MEMBERSHIP

...Jerry Plaisted

Our club has grown by leaps and bounds, we have 283 members to date. Please check when your membership expires. A lot of you have let this slide - if you don't renew this month your name will have to come off the mailing list. To renew, just send your \$3.00 (payable to) San Diego Epiphyllum Society, send to Jerry Plaisted, S.D.E.S. 6356 Delbarton St., San Diego, California 92120.

Our new membership cards are here so if you renewed or joined in the last 6 weeks and have not received your card please see me at the next meeting.

Whoever said that "anticipation is greater than realization" never attended one of our flower shows. It seems that every year our Mother's Day show gets better and better, and this year tops them all. Our flower show chairman, Dorothy Breining, was beset by a swarm of last minute "bugaboos". It seemed that no sooner than she swatted one out of the way, another pesky problem was buzzing around her head. But this stalwart lady took everything in stride, and by the time the doors opened everything was running smoothly and hundreds of people trooped in to view the most spectacular display of blooms that has ever been presented to San Diego.

As I was working over in the "cutting room", I didn't have time to take in as much of the displays as I would have liked, but what I did see was really terrific. It

would be a disservice to the many members that worked so hard to put on a beautiful display, for me to mention names and what their theme was, as I am sure that I would miss someone or would put the wrong theme to the wrong person. Our President's display seemed to dominate the room; a huge winter scene complete with snow-covered trees with blooms all around (of course everyone knows that epis will not grow in the snow except in San Diego.

There were waterfalls, a miniature lath house with hanging plants, Christmas trees, pumpkins nestled in straw, a miniature garden of epi seedlings with a scarecrow and a gnome asleep guarding it, a beautiful June wedding theme, "tree"s with epis attached to the branches, topiaries of blooms, a 4th of July table complete with a red, white and blue map of the U.S.

There were autumn leaves scattered on a table with blooms to accent, tables with only lovely blooms in containers without decoration, an educational corner with a "how to" demonstration by Frank Granatowski, and Milt Turner's special seedling box.

There were trellises with epis climbing skyward. Both Epico and California Epi Center brought many gorgeous blooms to decorate their displays. There was a table with a display of the many types of containers that could be used to hold epis.

I am glad we do not have competition as it would be an almost impossible task to say whose table was the best.

While working at my picture files in the cutting room, many people told me that they had never seen a more beautiful flower as ours. What is really surprising to me is the number of back-east people that I talked to. Many of them were just out here on vacation and decided to take in the sights, and many were visiting relatives who said "you must see the Epi Show". All of them were very enthusiastic and most of them had never seen an epi before, and it was love at first sight (isn't that true of all of us?).

We signed up 24 new members at the show. We were all very pleased to see so many of the Los Angeles Society at our show. We see them so seldom, it is always a great pleasure when they can visit us. We hope they feel as welcome at our shows and meetings as we feel when we visit them.

I wish I had had a counter to see how many hundreds of people came through the doors of both the show and cutting room. Thanks to the many generous members we had a great many cuttings for sale, also some of the mature plants that the society had bought from the lady in L.A. All in all it was a rewarding time not only on a personal basis for a lovely show, but financially as well. Many thanks DOROTHY BREINING, for a difficult job well done.

THANK YOU

...Mother's Day Show Chairman,
Dorothy Breining

The flower show this year was a success and the credit must be given to all those people who contributed time and effort to make it so.

Thank you to the people who so generously gave cuttings, not only the first time but on the second appeal. Without cuttings our main money-maker would not have been. And a special thanks to Epico and California Epi Center who contributed cuttings to help us.

Thank you to the people who worked so hard setting up the show on Saturday night and also tearing it down on Sunday. Your help was very much appreciated.

Thank you to all the chairmen who performed their tasks so beautifully and made everything go so smoothly. I won't try to name you all for I might forget someone but your work was great.

A special thank you to the co-chairman and her husband, Dorothy and Nate Ogdon, who listened to my problems and gave me a sympathetic shoulder. Also, on show day they did whatever needed to be done before, during and after the show.

If I have missed anyone forgive me, but as you know, many hands make 'right work and I am truly grateful.

MAY MEETING

...Gene Schmedding

Our May meeting was a combination mini-show and election night. There were almost as many blooms on display around the perimeter of the room as there were at the show the Sunday before.

There was a large turnout of members and guests; 203 members and 42 guests. You can't beat that with an "epi-stick". If our attendance gets much larger we will have to have our meeting in the parking lot!

A new slate of officers and directors was elected and will be installed next month. They are:

President, John Clancy
 1st Vice Pres., Milt Turner
 2nd Vice Pres., Jerry Plaisted
 (Membership)
 Recording Secretary, Peg Minardi
 Corresponding Secretary,
 Gene Schmedding
 Treasurer, Jack Bradley

Directors: Dick Chadwick
 Dr. Hafiz
 Ed Lucero
 Elinor Latimer
 George Watson

I know that with a slate like this our society will continue to grow. I don't know of a single one that will be hard to get along with, and that is what it takes for a successful meeting - a friendly group.

Lady butterfly
 Perfumes her wings
 By floating
 Over the orchid

Basho

BUS TOUR, May 17

...Pat Stebbins

We had two fill buses this year and it is always a long day but a happy one. The nurseries visited were California Epi Center, Hurst Nursery, Rainbow Gardens, and Epico. These nurseries are outstanding; good quality cuttings, an eagerness to accomodate any request, and pleasant, helpful people who are truly friends of the society.

The Epiphyllum Society of America had a brand new, many windowed, air-conditioned exhibit hall, in the Arboretum, for their show this year. The building is so new it's not even landscaped yet. The E.S.A. members must be delighted.

Some of the highlights of their show was the exhibit of species plants and, of course, the Wressy Cocke exhibit.

In the center of the exhibit hall was a table with a hanging, blooming epi which was one of the most beautiful plants I have ever seen. The hybrid was Rainbow Trails, a lovely bloom, but the plant itself was outstanding in that it had grown so symetrically perfect, balanced leaves in length, good even color, and not one blemish on any leaf. The plant belongs to E.S.A. member I. J. Hughes, is 10 years old, and Mr. Hughes says he didn't do anything special to it, it just "happened". Anyhow, it's something to shoot for - maybe someday I'll produce one like that...sure...

The "Winter" theme exhibit, displayed by our society and attended by Gene Lund, Greg Balvin, and Dr. Hafiz, was well received and was honored by a special award from E.S.A.

An enjoyable day. We always appreciate the opportunity to see what our friends up north are doing every year. Our thanks for the hard work of tour chairman, George Plaisted.

SEA WORLD, May 23, 24, 25

Our Sea World show was well attended by visitors and greatly enjoyed by the members who were able to display. There were tables set up for us inside "The Greenhouse", a perfect background for epi blooms. Though I only attended for a few hours on Sunday, some members were there all 3 days.

Cuttings were sold to people from Pretoria, Africa, New Zealand, Australia, India, Germany, Mexico, Poland, New York, Texas, Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Arizona - not counting the many Californians.

Many thanks to show chairman Frank Granatowski, and to Chuck Kline of Sea World.

JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting will indeed be a special one. Howard Jones will be our speaker and will show some of his beautiful slides. We will also have the installation of our newly elected officers by Betty Cooper, AND, our annual FREE epi cutting raffle. (We will need more cuttings than usual for this meeting, so once again we ask for your generosity in bringing all the good quality cuttings you can spare.)

JUNE REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

What a challenge we have to keep up with the crowd - 245 last meeting. Thanks to all that bring the goodies, and to some that bring something "just because they want to". We need everything at the last three meetings - 199, 207, 245 - WHAT A GREAT CLUB!

A Great Big Thanks to Susie Ellis and Sako Hook who chaired the refreshments for the show. They

had some good help from Mrs. Hafiz who rallied 'round when things got busy - much thanks to a good friend. The show goodies are for the workers to help them with their day, not a formal lunch by any means. Sit-down lunches are not for the kitchen, and banned by the park management. We have our dinners in 101.

Those who volunteered for June:

Greg Balvin	Betty Klumpp
Gloria Campbell	Lucile Saltzer
Margaret Fickas	Toni Wainwright
Sako Hook	Gayle Widner
Betty Jackson	Muriel Woods

(Recipe for the Dip for Sako Hook's beautiful relish tray will be on the refreshment table at June meeting.)

OPEN GARDENS

...George Watson

I'm sure I express the appreciation of the membership for those of you who have opened your gardens to all of us.

There is always something new to learn and this was a great opportunity.

All listings are cancelled for June, July and August but there will be new listings in the fall.

NOW IS THE TIME (July, August)

...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

- to fertilize plants that have completed their blooming cycle with Fish Emulsion, slow release nitrogen fertilizer, or your favorite plant food - DO NOT OVERFEED
- to remove spent blooms and unwanted apples that may have formed in order to conserve the plant's vitality.
- to transplant to larger pots those plants that have outgrown their present containers, i.e., transplant 4" pots into 8" or 1 gal.

- pots, and 1 gal. pots into 10" or 2 gal. pots. If you have the necessary garden space it is advisable to use hanging pots rather than to trellis your hybrids.
- to plant new cuttings of your favorite hybrids during the warm weather.
 - to remember to water your hybrids during the hot summer months, and remember that an occasional spraying or misting of the plants is very beneficial. DO NOT allow the soil to completely dry out.
 - to maintain plants in their proper environment, such as a lath house, under shade cloth, or suspended from branches of trees. AVOID direct exposure to the sun.
 - to learn and benefit from our mistakes of the past year, and to look forward to a more productive blooming season in the next.

GENERAL

Old Epis - In the March issue of the Epi News there was an item requesting members submit a list of their epis to Gene Lund in an effort to preserve those hybrids that are becoming rare. Gene has received some lists, but the request is still active. If you haven't submitted yours yet (and I haven't) please keep it in mind. I will be reminding again from time to time.

Photos - Our society photographer, Paul Runde, had an accident and has suffered two broken hips - a "thinking of you" card might be appreciated by Paul: 14670 Twain Ave., San Diego, CA 92120. Consequently, there were no official photos taken at the Mother's Day Show this year.. So, if you have some pictures or slides you would like to contribute to our library, it would be greatly appreciated. If you would have to get additional prints or slides to do so, the society will pay for developing if necessary. We need all we can get.

Japanese Friendship Garden Festival
There will be a festival in Gold Gulch Canyon, Balboa Park (behind House of Hospitality), on the Garden Site, Sunday June 14, 10 am to 5 pm, with many groups participating in dancing and demonstrations of Karate, Ikebana, Origami, Kites, Bonsai, plant sales, food and other activities. This will be to benefit the first phase garden construction. Everyone is welcome - bring your friends.

Defunct Magazine. In talking to Erna Beuer of Epico at the May 10 show, she mentioned the magazine "House Plants and Porch Gardens". It seems she had just renewed a 3-yr. subscription (last year June) when they went out of business, the next month.. She has made a formal complaint to the F.T.C. and asks that anyone else who had a subscription which wasn't honored to write to the F.T.C.. If they get enough complaints and decide to take action against HP&PG's, there's a chance you might get some of your subscription money back. Write to:

Federal Trade Commission
1100 Wilshire Blvd. Rm. 13209
Los Angeles, CA 90024

NEW MEMBERS

Helen I Bowen, San Diego
Buzz & Lynn Brokaw, San Diego
Ruth Carlen, El Cajon
Angela Carrubba, San Diego
Florence Deere, La Mesa
John & Dolores Fassel, Lakeside
E. E. & Marian Foster, San Diego
Thomas & Barbara Gruber
Molliemarie Hartzell,
Escondido
Ron & Betty Hill, San Diego
Mrs. Carl Hultgren, San Diego
Rex & Maud Hamilton, San Diego
R. C. & Nancy Iasater,
Riverside
Randy Light, San Diego
Brian T. Lippe, San Diego

Elinor MacLeod, San Diego
John & Betty Quinlivan,
San Diego
Leonard & Millicent Sawyer,
San Diego
Donald & Caroline Schmidtke,
San Diego
Marshall & Jayne Sherman,
San Diego
R. L. & Loretta Simpson, San Diego
Bernadine Southard, Lemon Grove
Barbara Stander, San Diego
Donald Thompson, El Cajon
Ron & Joan Miller, Escondido
Yoneko Laird, San Diego
William D. & Helene Leonard,
Norwalk, CA.
Laura & Robert Duncan, San Diego
Cheri L. Dowell, San Diego
Michael & Denise A. Shepley,
San Diego
Peter Sinclair, Auckland, New Zealand

FOR SALE;
Gene Lund has 1,000 plastic
1 gal. containers, 6¢ ea.
5666 Aztec Dr. 469-1677
After 9 AM on Saturday

Deadline for Epi News next month,
June 30:

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

Jerry Plaisted, Membership
583-9551
6356 Delbarton St.
San Diego, CA. 92120

THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

Part IX: Fort & O'Barr

by Rick Latimer

The developers of the greatest collection of fine Epiphyllum flowers ever (unless some of our "modern day" hybridizers eventually surpass them), were Fort & O'Barr. We will reprint the list of their hybrids in the next few issues of EpiNews. This list was put together for us by George French and was originally published in the Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin (volume XV). Their story printed here was taken from two articles. The first one was written by Ladislaus Cutak in 1946:

One of the many enjoyable surprises on my recent trip to California, was a visit to a unique garden in Inglewood. It was developed by two young bachelors--a partnership as unique as the garden itself. From the street there is nothing unusual about the modest home located at 226 East Fairview Boulevard. It is true that the neatly trimmed lawn and judicious planting of shrubs, vines and flowering plants suggested the abode of plant lovers, but then this is characteristic of many California homes. Entering the back yard, by way of a side gate, one is immediately ushered into a veritable jungle of Epiphyllums, towering from espaliered pots or hanging from suspended baskets. The whole yard is practically converted into a lathhouse with several levels descending to the end of the property. Every available corner, nook or bench is crowded with healthy, vigorous growth of Epiphyllums. This method permits the owners to cultivate a maximum amount of plants in an otherwise cramped space without decreasing light and air requirements which the plants demand. Something in the vicinity of 250 varieties are grown and there are approximately 750 blooming-sized hybrids producing hundreds of flowers each year.

Asked about the secret of their success with Epiphyllums, both believe in giving their plants the partial shade they require and a logical soil mixture of leafmold, manure, decomposed granite and sandy loam in equal parts, plus regular watering and periodic conditioning, such as tying up to prevent breakage and continuous vigilance against snails. Otherwise, both assert that there is no secret to growing them, since if they were difficult to grow, then my hosts would probably not succeed.

The incentive to grow Epiphyllums sprang from a rather sentimental motive. You see, Paul L. Fort fell in love with a sweet Italian girl from Colorado, but apparently he was too slow in proposing marriage, so she married his best pal, a budding physicist. The girl loved flowers and at one time she brought Paul an Acker-mannii, which was duly planted. For ten years it was abused due to moving about, then in the spring of 1937 it blossomed profusely. The gorgeous blossoms captivated Paul and he decided to invest in this plant group. He found out that there were many other exquisite colors to be had. He bought a few here and a few there and thus started the famous collection. Junie, the Italian lass, died in 1926. Since she meant more to him than he first realized, he never married. Mr. Fort likes to imagine that Junie's cutting was the basis of his interest in Epiphyllums.

Paul's father also died in 1926, so he was left alone with his mother. Having room in the house, they took in boarders. When one of the boys left for Germany, an ad was placed in the local newspaper and was answered by William G. O'Barr, who has remained ever since. That was in 1929. This young lad had fled the ranch of his dad in Arizona when he thought that he could no longer endure another season of growing cotton. Bill and Paul got along well from the start. When an opportunity presented itself, Fort got O'Barr a job at the factory where he became a document clerk. For eleven years the two men worked for the same company until O'Barr branched out into greener fields. He has done very well and is with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce as Secretary of the Rail and Highway Division, at present.

Their garden in Inglewood was called "Country Garden". When they moved to Manhattan Beach, this name came with them. There they built a lathhouse that was 64 feet by 96 feet and it had 8 aisles 6 feet wide. We take for granted today the presence of yellow Epiphyllums. However, previous to 1957 there were no pure yellow Epiphyllums! Our next source chronicles the first yellow Epi:

Rumors have been flying, the grapevine has been hot, a really YELLOW flower has been produced by Fort & O'Barr this year! A few years ago, Mr. O'Barr (the one who makes like the bees), started planting a cross that he hoped would produce yellow flowers. This cross, now finally blooming, was a cross of Madonna and Thorinne (Madonna being white and Thorinne (a Cooperii hybrid) having a slight golden overcast on the bright rosy purple tepals). The first of these new yellows to bloom was a loosely formed 9 inch flower. The sepals were burnt sienna, twisted and thin, showing to full advantage the completely yellow outer petals. The central petals are broad and feathered with a dark chrome yellow edge and a noticeable central stripe. The fully erect stamens gave the finish to a perfectly lovely flower now named Golden Fleece. A few days later another plant bloomed and was so beautiful that it nearly takes your breath away. The sepals are dark Indian yellow recurved to the tube. The flower is wide open and very full in the center, with back petals chrome yellow and inner petals lighter chrome yellow with feathered dark Indian yellow edges and a broad central stripe. The petals are 2 inches wide. The form of this 9 inch flower is more like Madonna but is truly deserving the name Reward. (Dr. Herbert Irwin paid them \$400. for the first cutting.) A third yellow also bloomed, being this time 8 to 9 inches and colored solid Indian yellow. The petals were more pointed and more numerous than the other two hybrids. This flower was named Discovery.

Paul Fort is no longer with us, but we hope to see Garland O'Barr at one of our meetings some day!

REFERENCES:

Ladislaus Cutak, "Spine Chats", Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal, (18:8), August 1946, p. 127.

Martha Maxwell, "About a Yellow Epiphyllum", Epiphyllum Society of America's Bulletin, (12:6), June 1957, p. 39.