

San Diego

Epi News

Epiphyllum Society

Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

11 November 1981
VOLUME 5, NO. 11

Elsie H. Johnson, El Cajon
Rhoda May Cullen, New Zealand
Emma Hart, La Mirada
Norman & Sylvia Duckworth,
El Cajon
Gene Buss, Orem, Utah
George & Beverly Ware, Vista

MEMBERSHIP DUES

I'm sure this won't come as a surprise to anyone, but due to the ever-rising costs of today, we regret that we will have to increase our membership dues.

The new dues will be \$6.00 per year (single or member/spouse) U.S., and \$12.00 per year international. This will be effective January 1, 1982. Those of you who have paid-up dues of 2 years or more will not be affected until your current dues are up.

(Editor's note: When you consider the terrific programs we have at our meetings, the luscious refreshments, the (ahem) classy newsletter every month, it's still the best entertainment bargain in town folks - at 50¢ a month!)

OCTOBER MEETING

...Gene Schmedding

Our overflowing meeting room was silent testimony to our interesting meetings, of which this month was not the least.

Mr. Jack Percival of the San Diego Bromeliad Society was our guest speaker. He showed us many slides of Mayan ruins and hieroglyphics. There were also pictures of temples in various stages of reconstruction, and we were taken to Chiapas where there are many miniature horses.

We saw niches in some of the ruins with Mayan heads carved in the stone, showing how the Mayan people mutilated their faces in the interest of "beauty"; we also learned they were not allowed to cut their hair.

We went down rapids in a rubber raft in San Jose Canyon, and struggled through dense jungle growth to get to the entrance of temple ruins. It was called the Temple of Inscriptions. There was much evidence of looting in many of the temples. Such a shame. Isn't it too bad that so little respect is shown for the historical things.

Our president, John Clancy, announced that the Santa Barbara Botanical Society was kind enough to present us with a slide collection (approx. 700) of Mr. Leo M. Daley's hybrids, for which we are very grateful. We can expect a whole show of some of these slides in the early months of 1982.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting will be epis, epis, epis! Lois and Bob Burks of California Epi Center will be our guest speakers, so be prepared to be dazzled, you're in for a super evening!

AND, to sweeten the cutting table, there will be approximately 800 cuttings contributed by the San Diego Wild Animal Park (these cuttings are from the Harvest Festival held at the park in October). Many thanks to the WAP for their donation.

Also,

Thanks ...to all those members who sold cuttings on two consecutive weekends at the Wild Animal Park last month. The Society received a nice letter of appreciation from the Park.

NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

Hope you all like the new arrangement of two tables for food. It does seem to speed up the refreshment time. How many noticed we had a new tablecloth that matches the others? We also have two matching sets of sugars and creamers. We want everything to look first-rate. Thanks to one and all that bring refreshments - friendships seem to grow over a cup of coffee or punch.

Volunteers for November are:

Lorna Barrows	Ruth Nelson
Virginia Kocentes	Louise Newman
Helene Leonard	Addie Szobar
Millie Maggard	Kathie Van Arum
Paula Minardi	

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY, DECEMBER MEETING

WHERE: Bahia Hotel, 998 W. Mission Bay Dr., Mission Beach

WHEN: December 9, 6:30 PM

December 1st is the cut-off date for the purchase of tickets so please be sure you get your tickets in time. Tickets are \$5.00 per member, \$15.00 for guests. The dinner is Prime Rib.

For ticket information, call party chairman, Elinor Latimer (463-1655); also call Elinor if you have a transportation problem.

REMINDER: Don't forget your gaily decorated 4" potted, rooted cutting, AND - hang onto your tickets, you must have a ticket to get your dinner.

SLIDE LIBRARY

Anyone having slides borrowed from the slide library, please return them so they can be accounted for, organized and tagged. Please contact Slide Librarian, Paul Minardi (276-1216).

ADA PERRY DAY

...Pat Stebbins

Miss Ada Perry, Garden Columnist for the Tribune Home Section for many years, was honored at an Open House on Sunday, November 1st, at the home of Mrs. Eugene Cooper; Betty Cooper is President of the San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society, and also a member of the Epi Society.

There were many familiar faces and Miss Perry was quite delighted to see so many of her long-time friends.

I shared a few brief words with her (there was a long line waiting) and discovered one of her secrets of success, she remembered the last two editors of the Epi News! Considering the many flower clubs she deals with, and the many, many people she talks to in the process of writing her column, I consider that phenomenal.

Miss Perry has promoted the Epiphyllum Society many times in her garden column, and we are all the richer by far for her fund of knowledge and good garden sense.

Thank you, Ada!

Now in late autumn
Look, on my old
rubbish-heap...
Blue morning-glory

Taigi

NOW IS THE TIME (November-December)
...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

- to withhold fertilizers, especially those containing Nitrogen. (The first number in the formula, i.e.: 4-10-8) thus allowing the plants to become semi-dormant.
- to protect plants from exposure to the elements; frost, hail, and strong wintry winds can do irreparable damage. Overexposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as exposure to the summer sun.
- to transplant to larger containers those plants that are not expected to produce blooms next spring.
- to check the apples (seed pods). Ripened apples may be picked and the seeds planted, however, don't be in a hurry to do this. Germination of the seeds will be vastly improved when the apple has fully matured.
- to take advantage of beneficial winter rains, even prolonged winter rains will have no harmful effect on epiphyllums that are planted in good porous soil and they will tend to leach the soil of accumulated salts. Collecting rain water for future use is also advisable
- to maintain good grooming of your plants. Prune out dead, unproductive and unsightly branches, keep containers free of debris, and last but not least, bait for slugs and snails. A few granules of Slugetta has proved to be very effective and leaves very little unsightly residual.

MEMBER PROFILE SERIES
...Gene Schmedding

BILL NELSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to meet our first President of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, chartered on the 23rd of November 1970.



Bill and Ruth Nelson

Bill told me that this is how he got started playing with epis. "In 1945 a friend, Mr. Barris, gave me a strange plant. I took it home (at that time I lived in El Cajon Valley) and put it on my front porch. The next spring it bloomed. I thought that it was the most beautiful flower that I had ever seen. I decided, right then and there that I just had to have some more of those funny plants, but it was some time before I had any luck in getting more. In 1960, when Ruthie and I were married, she also had a strange plant that she had gotten from a neighbor that lived next door to her who was going to throw it out. You guessed it, it was an epi. She didn't know what it was, but thought it was such a beautiful thing when it bloomed. Just blankets of red flowers. It was another VIVE ROUGE (as I later found out that my "strange" plant was an epiphyllum called VIVE ROUGE). Ruthie often says that I married her for her epi. Not true!

"In 1963 I joined the Cactus Society where I met Mrs. Lewis, who told me about Dr. Troxell. By that time we had acquired several and were well on our way to becoming

serious collectors. We went over to Dr. Troxell's place and were amazed at the number of plants that he had. He gave us several cuttings and tips on how to grow them. From then on, we became very good friends."

Ever since Bill and Dr. Troxell as a joint effort formed the Epi Society, his interest has never lagged. He and Ruth very seldom miss a meeting. I think to consent to be president of such a new and untried venture as the San Diego Epi Society, took a lot of intestinal fortitude. But, just see what we have become. If Bill had not had the nerve to take on the job, I wonder who of the charter members would have dared do it. Not me, for sure, and I doubt that at that time very many of us were confident enough to attempt to carry the load. Now, of course, we have many brave souls in the society. Thank you Bill and Ruthie, you are an inspiration.

AN UNTESTED THEORY FOR EPI SEED GERMINATION AND ENHANCED EARLY GROWTH OF SEEDLINGS

...Sanford Roberts

Many advancements are taking place in the world of plants these days in regard to ploidy, chromosome doubling, and the ever-present desire of hybridizers to achieve earlier bloom of seedlings in order to see first-hand what that "dream cross" produced. Or, what it did not produce.

As a long-standing member of other plant societies, i.e., daylily, iris and sempervivum, it is an adventure to read or hear about the results of others as reported at the yearly scientific meetings and later published in journals of these societies for permanent record.

At the National Convention of Daylily Fanciers in Boston in 1980, a Mr. Ed Brown of Jacksonville, Florida startled, then dazzled, the 500 growers and hybridizers in attendance with his method for rapid seed germination and increased early growth of seedlings by using gibberellic

acid, ammonia and distilled water as a pre-soak solution for soaking of seeds overnight prior to planting. The "dazzle" was revealed in Brown's slides of much enhanced seed germination of nine days rather than the 45 days to six months' germination period normally expected. Further, his slide show continued with slide after slide that brought gasps from the viewing audience as he showed beautiful flowers achieved in only ten months from date of seed planting. Heretofore, the earliest hybridizers had enjoyed even a modicum of bloom from seedlings had been two years. In most cases, three years had been the earliest that in-depth bloom of a cross could be seen and evaluated. Mr. Brown concluded his dynamic, non-self-serving presentation with perhaps a more interesting experiment than the use of the gibberellic acid seed-soak method. His experimental use of DMSO (Dimethyl Sulfoxide) which may prove even better for enhanced germination and early stage seedling growth. (DMSO, the subject of a segment of the top-rated TV program "60 Minutes", is called a wonder drug". It costs \$14.99 for 8 ozs. 99.9% pure and \$16.99 for 16 ozs. 99.5% pure, at PetCo, and is used to treat pain and strains in horses, particularly race horses. The FDA has refused approval, as yet, for DMSO treatment as a pain-killing drug for arthritis sufferers. That was the subject of the TV program and generated more mail than any program ever aired. It is used, however, and is often called a "miracle drug" in treatment of strains and sprains in horses. Allowing them to be raced the next day.

This writer acquired the materials for this pre-soak seed solution and put it into practice in summer of 1981.

Materials required are gibberellic acid (Walter Andersen's Nursery, \$2.95 for 4 fl. ozs. bottle, there were 16 in stock in July 1981; one gallon of Arrowhead distilled water, Vons, 65¢; and one-half gallon pure ammonia, Goodwin's pure ammonia, Vons, 89¢). DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT use household ammonia that is sudsy.

You'll blow the whole process with sudsy ammonia.

This gibberellic acid solution is made by mixing one gram of gibberellic acid (I used any "Julia Child" measuring spoon from the kitchen, available at FedMart, Woolworths, or other foreign seaports. Since I am not into grams, liters, and meters, I used one-fourth teaspoon leveled, to 6 ounces of distilled water. A few drops of ammonia are necessary to bring it into solution. I used 6 drops. The seed were soaked overnight and planted the next morning. I poured the solution remaining over the seeds after planting. I would think it best to mix new solution each time.

The results, as can be seen by anyone, from seeds planted in late July and early August using this method, are lined out in 50-ft. rows in my garden (late Sept. to early Oct.). (I never refer to it as a garden, but as my "workshop".)

The "untested" in the title is due to the fact that I only made one cross in epis this year. This was REWARD by CLARENCE WRIGHT. I set every bloom on the plant, though all did not take. CLARENCE WRIGHT is from REWARD by DISCOVERY. I bred CLARENCE WRIGHT to its mother (no remarks, please). I do not want to use these valuable apples in applying this seed-soak method to epis for 1981. I, with my bride of 33 years, have been successful pure-bred dog breeders since 1957. I have hybridized thousands of plants since 1962 - daylilies, gladioli, tall-bearded irises and some amaryllis. I chart pedigrees on every cross in plants and notebooks abound in record-keeping. If I am to know where I'm going, I have to know where I've been. I cannot tolerate a garden, or bee cross. It is nothing more than illegitimate hybridizing.

As stated, this method is untried in epis, to my knowledge. In 1982 I plan abundant crosses to test this method to learn if it can produce results in epis that it has produced for me, and others, in daylilies. I also plan to use it with

tall-bearded and aril-bred iris seeds in the future. It may be most beneficial with aril-bred iris seed. Their germination span plagues most hybridizers as it spans one to 10 years before most seeds germinate.

If I learn of further, or better, developments with the use of DMSO, I will report on it.

Another late-breaking discovery in plants is the use of sheep fat and some drugs to test plants to enhance growth for additional plants. (Sheep fat here would be in the form of lanolin.) I have ordered technical reports from Louisiana State Univ. on this new aspect. Dr. Michael Kasha, Institute of Molecular Biophysics, Florida State Univ., has produced a kit for treatment of a single plant. The results, a year later, were 50 new plants of the same cultivar. This has blown the minds of some hybridizers who introduce a daylily for \$300.00 per plant. The kit may be as expensive as \$1.50, plus postage.

Some members of our Epi Society suggested I write this report for our Epi News. Though untested by me, for the reason stated, it might be pleasing to try and it also might be equally applicable to epis. If used with one of those fabulous seed germinating boxes of Milt Turner's, the results might be devilishly pleasing. I will, after setting more apples, in 1982.

This seems to work best with freshly harvested daylily seeds. In the case of epis, may I gently suggest you allow the apples to fully mature, or reach the black-red, cracking open stage. Harvest the seeds in the afternoon, sieve seed mass from pulp, put immediately into seed-soak solution and plant the following morning. This prevents the seed coating and the seed from entering into a dormant stage by drying out. I would strain seeds from the solution, discarding it, in order to allow easy contact and distribution of seeds on a paper towel and for planting.

When I learn more on the lanolin treatment of plants to induce more rapid growth rate of additional

plants, I will report on it, if applicable to epis. Imagine fifty ACAPULCO SUNSET'S and fifty ELI OBIDIAH'S in just one year!

EPIPHYLLUM BRANCHES

At our September meeting, Gene Lund presented a very educational and interesting display of the various sizes and shapes of epiphyllum "apples" (seed pods).

Following this, in October Gene put together a table of the different shaped epi leaves.

In conjunction with this demonstration, Helen Barkdoll has submitted her article on "Epiphyllum Branches" (page 7).



F.Y.I.

Nov. 21-22. The San Diego Orchid Society is having a mini-show - at the Majorca Room, Casa del Prado. FREE
Sat. 12-5 Sun 10-5

Published by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society

President: John Clancy, phone (714) 277-8206

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

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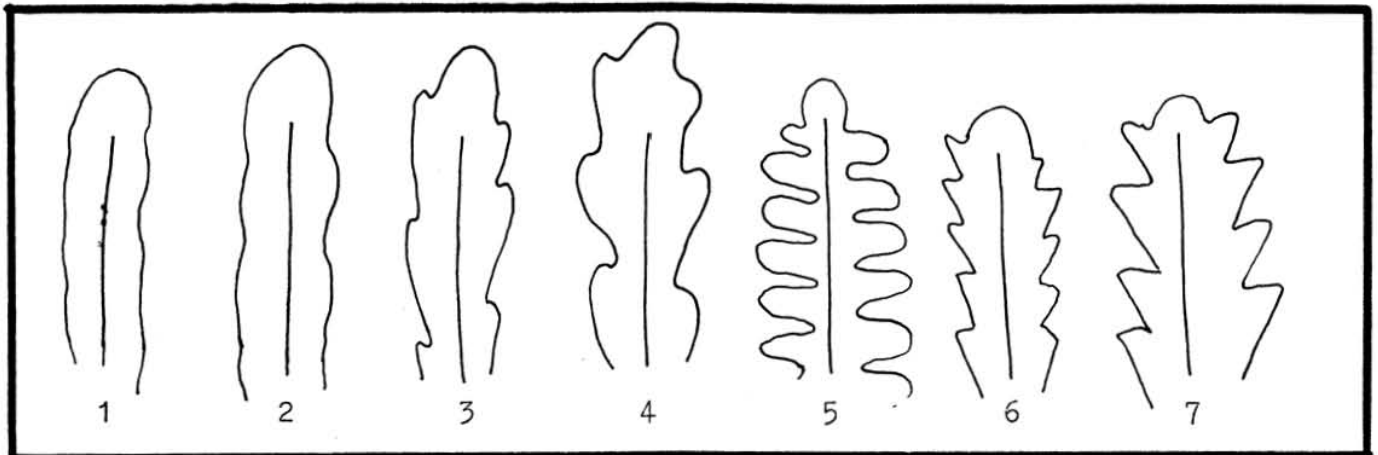
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EPIPHYLLUM BRANCHES.

by
Helen Barkdoll.

Most of us are aware of the variety of sizes, different shapes and the beautiful dazzling colors of the Epiphyllum flower. These magnificent blooms have been known to initiate an unsatiated appetite (Epiholic) for more knowledge about the species and how they grow. Supporting the fabulous flower is a leaf-like structure, which is not a true leaf, but is technically called a branch. These branches have a fascination of their own, having various shapes and forms. After one has studied and come to know enough Epiphyllum branches, recognition of parentage can be detected by the growth patterns, and certain hybrids can immediately be identified by their branches. One such identifying feature is the margin of the branch which can vary from very slight undulations as in Fern La Bordeto the deep coarse rounded lobes that are almost indented to the prominent mid-rib of E.darrahi

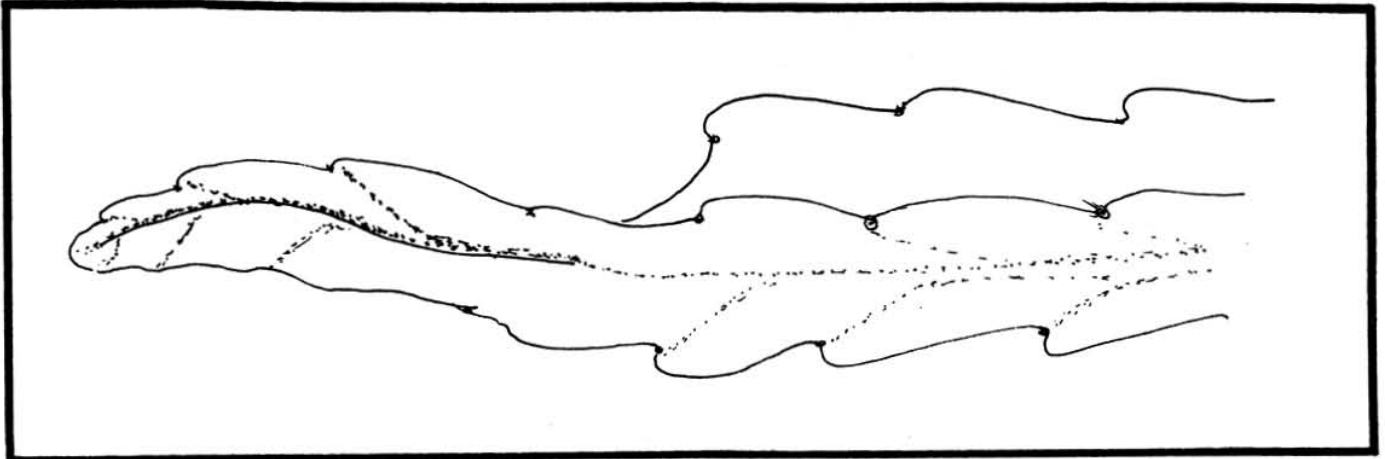
Between these two extremes are graduating degrees of branch creinations. Classification for registration of a new hybrid in the Epiphyllum Society of America is dependent upon many features of the plant, one of which is the outline of the branches. The margins are divided into seven groups.



1 Entire 2 Undulate 3 Crenate 4 Obtuse 5 Lobate 6. Serrate 7 Dentate crenate

The trick is to find a typical branch and use that for classification; the problem being -all branches are not alike, even on the same plant. Some branches may be triangular and then flatten out, or occasionally the reverse. An example of this transformation is Reward.

To add to the complexity, not all branches are flat. Some are round, triangular, or multi-angled. A young seedling will start out looking like a small cactus, with usually five or six sides and many bristles, but will mature into usually a three sided branch shortly followed by flattening into a spoon shape, then elongating.



Some varieties such as Fiesta, Bertee and Sparkle have branches that are wavy, twisted or fluted, some actually growing in a loose spiral around the mid-rib. Many newly developing branches may have red pigment at the tips and along the upper margins. Other varieties may have yellowish apical growing tips. Color of the mature branches can vary from a deep chrome green with a gloss, through various shades of redish and brownish greens to lighter yellowish shades. Some branches may even have a bluish-white "bloom" on them, similar to the "bloom" on a plum. This is especially noticeable on young branches of *N. Ackermanii*.

The arrangement of the veins in a branch is called venation. Since *Epiphyllum* veins extend out from the mid-rib like the divisions of a pin-feather, the venation is said to be pinnate. The venation is especially prominent when an apple or another branch is forming, as it is often accented by a deeper color, and is easily seen running from the mid-rib to the areoles where the flowers are formed.

The branches on an *Epiphyllum Chrysocardium* are especially graceful, resembling a huge finely cut fern in appearance, with the added attraction of stunning pure white flowers and brilliant yellow stamens. Truly a feast for the eyes!

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR FIND IS YOUR REWARD - Nursery
Closeout on Pots - we purchased the
inventory - Sale to Members Only!

2" sq. 2 for 5¢

4" sq. 10¢ each

6" round 15¢ each

Available at November Meeting.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Staffords

Peter Urschler would like to hear
from anyone who has some extra cut-
tings. He cannot get cuttings
locally and he wants to expand his
collection. He would like to send
Austrian stamps or Austrian made
articles in payment for cuttings.

Peter Urschler
A 3003 Lichregasse
Austria, Europe

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1982 FLOWERING JUNGLE CACTUS
CATALOGUE!!!

Our brand new 1982 FULL COLOR cata-
logue will be available at the end of
November. Simply send us \$1.00 today
(deductible first order) for the
catalogue, and we will include our
\$3.00 Early Bird Coupon which may be
redeemed with any \$13.00 purchase of
merchandise from the new catalogue,
but which expires February 28, 1982.
1981 customers will automatically re-
ceive the 1982 catalogue free of
charge. Our new catalogue is as
large and colorful as ever with 108
color photos and a host of jungle
cacti and shade loving succulents.
Epiphyllums: Over 180 varieties of
day and night bloomers in a tremen-
dous range of flower colors and
sizes. Expanded selection of yellow
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