

San Diego

# Epi News

## Epiphyllum Society

Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs. Geny Krouse,  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
Jackie Rice, San Diego

10 March 1982, VOL. 6, NO. 3

### FEBRUARY MEETING

It was a dark and stormy night.. and over a hundred hardy souls showed up for the monthly meeting - what a group!

The slide presentation by member Bob Breining was a welcome light-hearted look at our Christmas party and the slides he took in Europe (though not enough of them) were very interesting, reinforcing our feeling of good fortune that we live where we do. Thank you, Bob.

### MARCH REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

Our Epi folk are fabulous - even on a very stormy and cold night, our February meeting had 114-strong happy people attend. We enjoyed the beautiful sweetheart cakes plus all the other goodies. Weren't the heart-shaped cookies pretty as a Valentine? Yummy too. March is the month of windy days and perhaps more rainy wet periods, but we look forward to seeing all the Epi folk. The following have pledged to bring in goodies to enjoy:

Lynn Brokaw  
Ruth Carlen  
Juana Curtis  
Marian Foster  
Bev Garber  
Curt Hammel  
Marcia Hultgren  
Gene Schmedding  
Bernardine Southard

Thanks for all your help.

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### MARCH MEETING

OK folks, bring all your questions about insects and pesticides to the March meeting. Our guest speaker is one of our favorites, Mr. Bill Fabean, Ortho Products representative. Mr. Fabean always presents an interesting program on a subject that is always "bugging" us.

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### SDES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1, 2 Wild Animal Park - members will display their blooms and sell the epi cuttings of the park for two days.

May 9 Annual Mother's Day Epi Show of the SDES "Holidays Around the World". Chairman Dorothy Breining (427-9306) and Kathy Van Arum Co-Chairman (477-5258)

May 16 SDES Bus Tour to Epi nurseries and the L.A. County Arboretum for the ESA Epi Show. George Plaisted Chairman (583-9551).

May 29, 30, 31\* Sea World Epi Show - members will sell their cuttings/plants in the green house at Sea World. Chairman Frank Granatowski (460-6595), Co-Chairman Milt Turner (224-0955) \*see page 2

COMPLETE DETAILS ON ALL THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE IN THE APRIL NEWS-LETTER - Remember - ONLY TWO MONTHS until our Show - are you READY?

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NOW IS THE TIME MARCH-APRIL  
...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

- to maintain good grooming by removal of dead, spindly, and unsightly branches from your plants.
- to remove dead leaves and debris from containers, thereby eliminating a haven for harmful pests and allowing free flow of oxygen to soil and root system.
- to remove scale residue clinging to outside of containers.
- to repot past years cuttings that have outgrown their present containers.
- to give mature plants a final feeding of Nitrogen-free liquid fertilizer, such as Bloom-Builder, or Hi-Bloom, to promote healthy buds and blooms.
- to utilize control methods to inhibit aphids and ants who are attracted by the nectar from attacking new buds and blooms. Insecticides such as Orthene and Malathion can be used. READ AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON LABEL CAREFULLY!!
- to remember not to attempt to relocate plants once buds have begun to form.
- to coddle the new seedlings you have developed in past year.
- to bait for snails which become more active with the wet weather. A few granules of SLUGETTA has proven to be very effective when placed at the base of the plants, and it leaves little or no unsightly residue.
- to gather and store rain water for future use. Store in opaque containers to avoid buildup of algae. A few drops of insecticide in the rain barrel will inhibit wrigglers (larvae) that grow up to be pesky mosquitoes.

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Standing still at dusk  
Listen...in far  
Distances  
The sound of froglings!

Buson

EPIPHYLLUM SHOW AT SEA WORLD  
...Frank Granatowski

The 5th Annual Epiphyllum Show at Sea World Park will be held on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, May 29, 30, and 31st 1982. Our format will be essentially the same as in preceding years with one exception, i.e., we will have the entire green house made available to us. Sea World has eliminated their plant sales, with the result that we will be able to set up about six more tables.

To date the following individuals have expressed a desire to participate in the show:

- Frank Granatowski, Chairman
- Milt Turner, Co-Chairman
- Dick Chadwick
- George French
- Gene Lund
- Ed Broz
- Gus Schlapfer
- John Piland
- Rick Latimer
- Paul Minardi

If you are interested in joining us for one, two or all three days, please contact Frank at 460-6595, prior to May 1st, 1982. Space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Specific written detailed instructions will be distributed to participants well in advance of the show date.

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OPEN GARDENS

Want to have Open Garden at your house this year? A wonderful opportunity for new members and old to see each other's gardens. This could be any time of the year, not only when your epi's are blooming but that's a terrific time! If you would like to show your garden contact George Watson, Open Garden Chairman (435-6349) and he will help you set a date. (\*see page 4)

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COMING NEXT MONTH:

Member Profile on ESA and SDES member Wressy Cocke, along with a complete (to date) list of Cocke hybrids.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE EPI'S GONE?

*What's New at the Zoo?*

Did you know the S.D. Zoo has an excellent botanical collection encompassing nearly 5,000 species of plants?

The Zoological Society is beginning a lecture series covering horticultural topics, including a 3-1/2 hr. "behind-the-scenes" horticultural tour for groups of 15 or more people. Call 231-1515, ext. 344 for reservations - rate is \$7.25 for members and \$11.75 for non-members (includes admission).

Zoo horticulturist Ernest Chew has organized a series of Sat. morning meetings ("Botany for Breakfast") a one-hour talk preceded by a continental breakfast and followed by a plant tour. The first three are "The Palms of S.D. Zoo", Sat. March 27, 8 am, by Ernest Chew, S.D. Zoo horticulturist; "The Flowering Trees of S.D. Zoo", Sat. April 17, 8 am by Dan Simpson, SD Zoo arborist; "The Epiphytes of the SD Zoo", Sat. May 22, 8 am by Michael Bostwick, SD Zoo orchid specialist. The fee for each class is \$5.50 (in addition to \$4.75 zoo admission, non-members) including continental breakfast. Advance registration is required thru SD Zoo Education Dept. at 231-1515, ext. 226.

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Anyone having an epi named "Juniper", it has been re-named and is now "Champion".

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*Spring is here!*

I know it's spring...

- when I have to fill the hummingbird feeder every other day.
- when I get an irresistible urge to wash windows (ugh!).
- when I have to check the new epi buds at least twice a day.
- when I can't get out of the nursery with less than \$10.00 worth of stuff I NEED, no matter what I went in for.

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...Gene Lund

Being a great admirer and collector of Epiphyllum and a die-hard member of the ESA and The San Diego Epi Society, it gives me great concern for what has happened and is happening to our collections.

Have you ever perused the Hybrid Listings and realize how many of our fine plants are going into extinction? It surely seems that we, who are really interested, should be aware of what is happening and we should all try to help save them!

We here in San Diego have been authorized by our Officers and Board of Directors to organize a "Search and Research Committee." The "Research Committee" headed by Gregg Balvin, will first try to search out and compile, correct and complete Hybridizer's lists; then assign volunteers, one or two to each Hybridizer, old and new, to see what we can do to locate all the hybrids still in existence.

We will ask all members to voluntarily submit a listing of their plants in order that we might locate plants which may be almost lost. We also hope to furnish this information to anyone interested and it could be possible to publish these lists through the newsletters of our organizations.

We have two fine Publication Editors in Volma Featherstone (Los Angeles), and Pat Stebbins (San Diego) who I know will be enthusiastic about such a project.

We encourage all you real die-hard Epiphyllum members to respond and help us keep our beautiful plants from disappearing.

This project, we hope, will be worked in cooperation with both the Epiphyllum Society of America; and our committee here in San Diego, with committee members from both areas.

Let's hear some response from all those interested. We'll answer your communications. Thanks!

GENE LUND, 5666 Aztec Dr.

La Mesa, CA 92041

GREGG BALVIN, Committee Chairman

5111 Hawley Blvd.

San Diego, CA 92116

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the March meeting, a Nominating Committee of 5 will be elected by the membership to nominate candidates for all elective offices. Nominees to be presented at the April meeting and election to be at the general meeting on May 12. We need to fill (4) Director's vacancies, and the Executive Board of President, 1st Vice President (Programs), 2nd Vice President (Membership), Recording Secretary (taking and reading of Minutes), and Treasurer. If anyone out there would be interested in holding any of these offices, let one of the Nominating Committee know - think about it, it's really not difficult and a lot of fun, you'll wonder what took you so long. If you'd like a more complete description of these offices, give me a call (Pat Stebbins, 279-8026), or ask at the meeting.

\*OPEN GARDENS

John & Jerrie Clancy  
 All day Saturdays and Sunday  
 Afternoons, please call  
 first, 277-8206  
 4910 Mt. Ashman Dr. (Clr'mnt)  
 San Diego, CA 92111

CLASSIFIEDS

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN SAN DIEGO:  
 Just a reminder that we're open for business. Our lath houses and sales area are open to you by appointment. We suggest you plan a visit, and call ahead for a time that is mutually convenient (although we're usually here). Take advantage of our in-house specials and see our thousands of plants for sale, from 3" pots to gallon size.. all at REASONABLE PRICES. Books are also available for preview upon request. Remember, our blooms come only once a year---COME AND SEE OURS! RAINBOW GARDENS, 1574 Dorothea Road, La Habra Heights, California 90631 (213 697-1488), 9 am to 4 pm

*Wanted -*

Sam Markey would like a gardener part-time for the week of April 10 thru 16, to care for epis. Please write Sam Markey, P. O. Box 3606, Chula Vista, CA 92011.

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Miniature Cymbidiums - John Clancy is interested in buying, or trading epis for miniature cymbidiums. If you are interested please phone John, 277-8206.

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I need a volunteer on a permanent basis to come to my house (in Tierrasanta) every month on the Thursday following the newsletter deadline date to help me fold and stuff the newsletter. I'll provide lunch! Please see me at the meeting or call 279-8026. Pat Stebbins.

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Don Irwin has duplicate epis of all sizes and ages available for SALE or TRADE. Call him at 469-2469.

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President: John Clancy (phone (714) 277-8206)
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.
EPI NEWS Editor: Pat Stebbins 279-8026, 10404 Orozco Rd., San Diego, CA 92124 DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 4/5/82
MEMBERSHIP: Jerry Plaisted (714) 583-9551, 6356 Delbarton St., San Diego, CA 92120
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR ONE YEAR: \$6.00 SINGLE or MEMBER/SPOUSE U.S.A., \$12.00 INTERNATIONAL (NOTE: Number in parentheses on mailing label indicates dues month. Please check and keep current.

EPIPHYLLUM HYBRIDS AND THEIR  
HYBRIDIZERS...by F. Braun

## PART 2

So far as America was concerned, the hybrids were not well known at all and only a few dealers listed plants, notably A. Blanc & Co. of Philadelphia in 1891; in 1896 by Mrs. Theodosia Burr Shepherd of Ventura, California and by Mr. E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara, California, subsequently a founder-member of the American Epiphyllum Society.

Between 1892 and the late 20's Franz de Laet of Contich, Village lez Anvers, Belgium, raised a number of hybrids and listed over 100 varieties in his catalogues. Joseph de Laet and Mm. William de Laet are two well known examples.

When he died, the business was continued by his daughter and son-in-law but was gradually dispersed until finally the remaining collection was acquired by various Dutch and Belgian growers and collectors. In recent years, a Mr. Legrelle of La Louviere, who used to be de Laets' foreman gardener has been located and found to have in his possession a collection of de Laet's original hybrids. Unfortunately the names have been mislaid over the years and as de Laet listed his plants under color groupings without individual descriptions a somewhat forbidding task lies to anyone attempting to name the varieties discovered.

In 1905 an event occurred which gradually resulted in the Americans realizing the potentialities of the plants growing on their own doorstep. Mr. H. M. Wegener of Los Angeles went in this year to Germany for his honeymoon. While there, he visited Saxony and spotted some hybrids in a peasant woman's cottage. He acquired cuttings and brought them back to America, but had little success with them until he moved to California, where the plants thrived rapidly. The plants were subsequently named by Wegener and are such well known varieties as Goliath, Hermosissimus, Flor de Sol, Paul de Longpre also known as Yellow Stripe and others. Dr. Rose of Britton and Rose

fame, a personal friend of Wegener's sent him 20 plants collected from the wilds to experiment with.

Some time after this, Wegener was visited by the late Dr. Arthur Houghton of San Fernando, California (author of the Cactus Book published by Macmillan in 1930) and on seeing the wonderful plants he became enthusiastic and subsequently formed a good collection. During the visit he conversed with Wegener in German and on seeing a vivid red-flowered plant asked if it was named. On learning that it was not, and as French names were fashionable at the time, he named the plant Vive Rouge.

Wegener imported varieties from Knebel and de Laet and in 10 years raised many new varieties. In later life he traveled extensively to Mexico and Europe and died in Germany in 1958.

Mrs. Clarion Steele of Los Angeles was also a prominent hybridizer in the 1930's and at first started with seeds imported from Europe. She raised many well known varieties some of which are Shasta, Welcome (very highly scented), Polar Bear, Ensemble, Carnation, Sunburst, Topsy Turvy and Flamingo. In 1934 her catalogue listed more varieties than any other dealer and she continued to increase her collection over the years until her stock was purchased by the Beahm Gardens, who continue to list many of her originations.

During this period other Americans became aware of the developments in the hybrids namely R. W. Kado, a Japanese nurseryman of Wilshire Rockcraft and Cactus Gardens who secured plants from Wegener and Dr. Houghton. Some of his hybrids are Yellow Violet, California Beauty, Miss Santa Monica and Countess Estelle Doheny.

Another Japanese grower prominent with these plants was Mr. C. Ito of Phyllocactus Farm, Leucadia. Both Kado and Ito were forced out of business when WWII commenced, when they were placed in Japanese camps out of California for the duration. They never returned to California when the War ended.

D. W. Coolidge of Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens, Pasadena, was another important hybridizer, although this formed only a small part of his business which was a very high-class establishment specializing in raising Orchids, Camellias and other choice shrubs. On his death, the business was carried on by his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Mulvihill. On her death in 1955 the site was acquired by a church and the entire stock sold on the site to persons fortunate to be present and with knowledge of the sale. Coolidge introduced his hybrids through commercial growers of these plants and some of the hybrids are Dennis Kucera, Flamenco, Cabochon, Flaming Comet and one of the best modern hybrids Pegasus.

In 1936 Mrs. Theresa M. Monmenier of the Ventura Epiphyllum gardens started hybridizing. Some of her originations are Bambi and Purple Heart. She had a very fine collection of plants but due to prolonged illness, her plants were neglected and she should the residue of her collection to Mr. and Mrs. John B. Cox of Encinitas (Cox's sold to Henrietta's in Fresno in 1978).

Another prominent hybridizer was the late Dr. R. W. Poindexter of Compton, California. He became an enthusiast after seeing the collections of Wegener and Houghton. Prior to his death on March 16, 1943, he sold his nursery and moved to Carlsbad, California, taking with him his choicest plants and seedlings. His hybrids, with certain exceptions, are mainly giant-size flowers such as Marina Special, one of the best whites; Peachy, a deep pink; Dolores and Indoxal, dark red varieties raised from seeds supplied by Knebel; Nellie, another Knebel seedling; Thundercloud and one of the best purples Blackamore.

Mr. Leslie C. Parker of Lessar Nursery, Encinitas, California, specializes in Poindexter's varieties, for those interested in impressing their neighbors.

Other enthusiasts were the late Mrs. Georgina Russell of Bell, who will be remembered due to her naming an unnamed plant in her garden, Pride

of Bell, who will be remembered due to her naming an unnamed plant in her garden Pride of Bell. The late C. P. Sherfy of Long Beach, California; the late Richard Diener, who carried out numerous experiments on the hybrids and who is mentioned in the Epiphyllum Handbook; Capt. W. W. Weston, also deceased, the former secretary of the American Epiphyllum Society and commemorated by Knebel in the hybrid named after him; Mrs. Bethel Darling who died in 1954, a Mr. Callender who raised Rosetta and Callenders Pfau (not to be confused with Belgian Pfau), the late Mrs. L. K. Williams (Peggy Williams) of San Diego. She was a wonderful enthusiast and had many beautiful plants. On her death, no one was allowed to tend to the plants while her estate was probated with the result that many of her plants died. Her records however have been preserved and it is hoped that these may be published in the not too distant future.

Chauncey Stoddard, who has also died, raised the variety Chauncey and and many crosses of Apocactus which have been introduced to the trade by Beahm Gardens. He managed to grow his plants in rock hard adobe soil but I understand he knew how to water this type of soil and presumably did so with success. Other growers were Mr. Edlefson of Edlefsons Nursery and R. W. Kelly.

...to be continued.