

San Diego

Epiphyllum  
Society

# Epi News

Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

May 12, 1982  
VOLUME 6, No. 5

Barbara Curry,  
San Diego  
Robert McGrath, Nashua,  
New Hampshire  
Jean Capuano, San Diego  
Mark Stander, San Diego  
Jan Goddard, Vista  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ekno, San Diego  
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DR. JACOB W. TROXELL

Dr. Troxell, the founder of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, passed away April 27th.

Dr. Troxell and his wife Miriam, who passed away early last year, were a guiding force and ardent supporters of this club that we all enjoy so much. We are all much richer in our own lives for being touched by theirs.

APRIL MEETING

...Pat Stebbins

The April meeting was a busy one with over 200 attending again. The big draw was, of course, Wressy Cocks - who showed slides of the blooms of his new, as yet unnamed, hybrids. It is really a wonder to me that after having probably seen slides of thousands of epi blooms I can still be thrilled by yet another that strikes the right chord. And Mr. Cocks's new crop of blooms has a few stunners, so be prepared.

NOMINATIONS

The April meeting was also nominating night for the upcoming slate of officers. Those members named by the Nominating Committee were announced and nominations were accepted from the floor. I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for their efforts in the past months on a difficult task. Thank you Bill Nelson, Blanche Hafiz, Carrie Stafford and Kathy Van Arum.

The candidates you will vote for at the May meeting are:

President

Bob Breining

Frank Granatowski

1st V.P. (Programs)

Elinor Latimer

Milt Turner (incumbent)

2nd V.P. (Membership)

Joyce Bjorkman

Recording Secretary

Lynn Brokaw

Treasurer

Randy Light

Corresponding Secretary

Gene Schmedding (incumbent)

Directors (Vote for four (4))

Ernest Angus

Ed Broz

Amelia Foster

Marian Foster

Elizabeth Glover

Paul Minardi

Gus Schlapfer

Jack Stafford

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MAY MEETING

In addition to our election there will be a mini-show of blooms, so bring your blooms and share your joys!

Please attend the May meeting and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

5/12/82

MAY REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

The goodies you enjoy so much come from you individuals donating each month plus the birthday cakes the society provides. Thus you are asked to sign up each month. If each of you took a turn, it would only mean once or twice a year. Some dedicated ones sign up more often to fill the needs when others have not served. 'Tain't that much, guys. Just some cookies or a sheet cake to serve a goodly number. Way over 200 last month visited our meeting. We are a busy, jumping group, and seem to have so much fun. Show time for many clubs is scheduled, and our extravaganza is one - thus many new people will be coming and we grow, Grow, GROW...GREAT!

The ones signed up for our enjoyment break are:

Greg Balvin	Gene Lund
Betsy Bollman	Manuel Madryga
Margaret Fickes	Michiko Munda
Sako Hook	Dorothy Ogdon
Sandy James	Gayle Widner

See you all in May!

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*Out and about*

On April 20, the San Diego Floral Association hosted the Epi Society at their April meeting. Our representative to the Floral Association, Gwen Johnston, presented our President John Clancy, Milt Turner, and Rick Latimer. Milt gave a short talk on epi culture and Rick presented a very interesting slide program (some of which we will all see at our regular Epi meeting soon). There were some questions and answers and a raffle of epi cuttings and 4" pots.

It was a most enjoyable evening and the Floral Association members are very warm and gracious hosts.

On April 28, one of our youngest members, Daniel Broz, gave a display of his epi blooms at the Fletcher Hills Elementary School Open House and Art Show. Both his third grade co-students and teachers were delighted and impressed with Daniel's

display. Daniel has his own lath house (which he built himself) that houses his own collection of 51 plants, and some seedlings from his first experiment with hybridizing.

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EPI SHOW, Mother's Day, Sun. May 9

Here we go - remember, hours are 10:30 am to 5 pm for the Show in Room 101 - the Cutting Sale will be in Room 102, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Cutting Room will be open to members only at 9:30 am, so if you're looking for something specific this would be the best time to find it.

Exhibitors and hosts and hostesses only will be admitted to show room before the doors open to the public. Exhibitors please set up your exhibit as soon as possible. Room 101 will be open at 5 pm Saturday evening, and at 7 am on Sunday morning. Exhibits have to be completed by 10:30 am Sunday. Anyone having 6 or less blooms should bring them in before 9am so the epi-trees can be finished.

If you have any questions at all please call Show Chairman Dorothy Breining at 427-9306 or Co-Chairman Kathy Van Arum at 477-5258.

Editors Note: Exhibitors please, please for me, put your own name on each and every bloom identification card unless you have a whole table. I had a terrible time last year trying to figure out what belonged to who, especially on the tables shared by exhibitors. I would like to include everyone in my June report of our great day and I don't want to leave anyone out.

CUTTINGS: If you can't get your cuttings to those people listed in last month's newsletter, please call Dorothy and make arrangements with her - or bring them to the park on Saturday after 5 pm or as early Sunday morning as you can. \*

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!

...Pat Stebbins

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One fallen flower  
Returning to the  
Branch?...Oh No!  
A white butterfly

Moritake

2 \* We need all the cuttings you can possibly contribute!

SDES BUS TOUR, Sunday May 16

To the Annual Show of the E.S.A. at the L. A. County Arboretum, and to Calif. Epi Center Nursery, Rainbow Gardens Nursery, Hurst Nursery, and EPICO Nursery. George Plaisted Chairman, call 583-9551. Hurry - there were only 11 seats left a week ago.

THE BUSES LEAVE BALBOA PARK RIGHT AT 7:00 AM. FROM BEHIND THE ORGAN PAVILLION - DON'T BE LATE OR YOU'LL BE LEFT BEHIND. THERE WILL BE NO LUNCH STOP ON THIS TOUR, BRING A SACK LUNCH ENOUGH TO LAST THE DAY.

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May 29, 30, 31 SEA WORLD SHOW - Members will sell their cuttings in the greenhouse at Sea World. Reserve your table now, before it's too late. Chairman Frank Granatowski (460-6595) or Co-Chairman Milt Turner (224-0955) will give you specific details.

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### *Round town -*

Some gardening events you might be interested in this month:

May 15 & 16 SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SHOW  
Casa del Prado, Sat. 12-5 pm, Sun.  
10 am to 5 pm.

May 22 & 23 SAN DIEGO BROMILIAD SHOW  
Casa del Prado, Sat. 12-4:30 pm,  
Sun. 11 am to 4:30 pm

May 29 & 30 HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET  
SHOW, Casa del Prado, Sat. 1-5 pm,  
Sun. 11 am to 5 pm

May 29 & 30 SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GAR-  
DEN FDN ANNUAL SALE, Casa del Prado,  
Sat. & Sun. 10 am to 5 pm

June 5 & 6 SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCU-  
LENT SOCIETY SHOW, Casa del Prado,  
Sat. 1 pm to 5 pm, Sun. 10 am to 5 pm

We received a letter from Sea World informing us of a class they are offering this summer which might be of interest to our club. Chuck Kline will be leading a special class titled "Plants of Sea World" which is a four hour walking tour through Sea World emphasizing the identity,

origin and horticultural requirements (and solutions to problems encountered) of many of the 1300+ species of plants maintained there. The classes are on Saturday June 26, July 17, Aug. 7, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Cost \$10.00/class.

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### *Open Gardens -*

Gladys & Kent Harper - Harper's 17th Annual Garden Party, Thursday May 13, 1982 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)

Bob & Dorothy Breining  
605 Melrose Ave. (off J St. in Chula Vista)

May 22nd, Sat. 1 pm to 5 pm

Elinor & Richard Latimer, Sr.  
3990 Lake Murray Blvd.  
La Mesa

May 22nd, Sat. 1 pm to 5 pm

John & Jerrie Clancy  
All day Saturdays, and Sunday  
afternoons, please call first  
277-8206

4910 Mt. Ashman Dr. (Clairemont)

Samuel & Adela Markey  
189 Bethune Way, Chula Vista  
Any day from 9 am to 3 pm, will have more blooms after 1 May. If not home, just enter - look around and please sign guest book in garage.

If you wish to add your name to this list, please contact Open Gardens Chairman, George Watson, 435-6349.

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NOW IS THE TIME - MAY, JUNE

...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 aroles are callused 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 repot 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.

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#### NOTES ON HYBRIDIZING

...Dick Chadwick

The "Pollen" (male) is the dominating factor in size, color and cosmetic features (female genes are recessive).

Shape: The funnel or trumpet shape is dominant. Try to avoid pollen from this shape as the majority of the offspring will be funnel shaped.

Color: White is dominant - Exception to this is in using pollen from *Heliocereus Elegantissimus* then dominant color is red. It is best to use extreme colors in your crosses otherwise the offspring may be the same size and color of the parents.

Scent: Scent seems to be a recessive gene in hybrid *Epiphyllums*. To increase the chances of the new seedlings being scented, use both male and female scented flowers in the crosses.

Reducing Size of Flower: Using the pollen from a flower (male) half the size of the flower receiving the pollen (female), will result in 12 percent of the offspring being half the size of the male parent.

Enlarging Size of Flower: Use flowers of the same size, 10-15 percent of the seedlings will have much larger flowers than the parents. Remember the larger both parents are, the larger the new seedlings will be.

If you are going to all the trouble and time to raise new varieties of *Epiphyllums*, it is best to plan ahead. First - what do you want? Do you want a new flower that opens flat or, you have a good flat but you want to make a cup and saucer out of it. Use a male flower with these features. If you want the same color but only want to increase the size or decrease the size, use both parents with the same coloring but use a large male for a larger flower, a small male for a smaller flower.

Remember you can control the size, color, shape of flower, shape of petals, number of petals, number of flowers, by controlling your pollination.

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THE WILD ANIMAL PARK "GREEN THUMB" EPI SHOW ON MAY 1, 2 WAS THE BEST EVER! COMPLETE DETAILS IN JUNE NEWSLETTER.

# EPIPHYTES CLEARED!

Epiphyte connoisseurs (epiphiles and epiholics included) will be overjoyed when they read the following excerpts from a recent article in Science:

Rainforest vegetation that grows on heavily leached soils of low nutrient content requires efficient mechanisms of nutrient transfer and retention. (1). Nutrient transfer from vegetation to the forest floor occurs by decomposition and subsequent uptake of timberfall and litterfall and via canopy leaching by precipitation. (2). I (the author) have discovered an additional transfer pathway in the tree canopies of both temperate and tropical rainforests. Host trees put forth adventitious roots that run beneath thick mats of accumulated organic material and the epiphyte community they support. These roots give host trees access to canopy nutrient resources which are normally unavailable to the host tree and surrounding vegetation until they enter the soil-litter component...

Discovery of this phenomenon forces a reconsideration of the nature of the relation between epiphyte and host tree, a subject of debate for many years. Although by definition epiphytes do not take nutrients directly (piratically) from host trees as parasites do, they have been implicated (!) in host tree decline\*. Epiphytes have been termed "nutritional pirates", as they are able to intercept and tie up in their own biomass those nutrients borne in dust, precipitation, and canopy leachates; which would otherwise be available to the host trees. However, in rainforest ecosystems where nutrients are readily leached from soil and canopy and lost to all ecosystem members, tying up nutrients in epiphyte biomass does not "rob" or deny host trees of atmospheric nutrients. Rather, it immobilizes them within the system, and at the worst, delays their availability to the host trees. Those trees with extensive networks of canopy roots gain access to the arboreal nutrient source generated and retained by epiphytes. In fact, epiphytes may substantially contribute to the host tree nutrient status by trapping and retaining atmospheric nutrients.

\*D. Benzing & J. Seeman, Selbyana (1978).

So, not only have the epiphytes been declared not guilty of the crime of nutrient piracy, but they have been found to be heroic when viewed with the proper perspective!

## REFERENCE:

Nalini M. Nadkarni, "Canopy Roots: Convergent Evolution in Rainforest Nutrient Cycles", Science, (214:4524) 11/27/1981, p. 1023-4.

## CLASSIFIEDS

CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER is pleased to announce that this year during the May and June blooming season the nursery will be open to visitors on Saturdays between 10 am and 5 pm. The nursery is open the rest of the year by appointment only. California Epi Center is located at 1444 E. Taylor St., Vista, CA 92083. Please call 758-4290 for directions if you have not previously visited the nursery, as our section of Taylor Street does not appear on most maps. Full color catalog \$1.00, deductible first order.

Plants for Adoption from Alice Buchanan's former growing grounds. You will find many cute and cuddly oversized cuttings and larger sized plants at very reasonable prices. Give a lonely Epi a new home - Call Carl Stoll (213) 338-1224 (Baldwin Park - L.A. area) for an appointment and directions.

I have written a "little blue book", called "The Epiphyllum Road". It is fresh off the press and ready for distribution. It contains a short history of epiphyllums and the ESA, and everything you need to know about "how to" grow and care for your plants, all in one handy little package. The price is \$3.50, plus 54¢ first class mail (total of \$4.04 in USA, Calif. residents add 21¢ sales tax, \$4.25). Overseas add \$1.32 for airmail (total \$4.82). Send orders to VELMA FEATHERSTONE, 23500 The Old Road, #59, Newhall, CA 91321

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

EMERALD GARDENS NURSERY specializes in small and miniature-blooming epiphyllum hybrids, and offers a small select list of medium to extra-large-blooming hybrids. We've just published our first retail mail-order catalog, which we would love to send to you. Just send us your name, address, and a 20¢ U.S. postage stamp. A wholesale listing will be available soon. Please send all requests to EMERALD GARDENS NURSERY, Yankee Farm Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. We are open by appointment only, and you may call us at (805) 966-7413. Hope to hear from you soon! ...Sincerely, Dean Walters

FOR SALE

Epiphyllum Collection  
Reducing stock, call Madeline Dacey,  
464-8540, 4065 Citradora Dr., Spring Valley

Published by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society  
President: John Clancy (714) 277-8206

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

EPI NEWS Editor: Pat Stebbins DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 5/29/82  
SEND ALL ITEMS TO: 10404 Orozco Rd., San Diego, California 92124

MEMBERSHIP: Jerry Plaisted, (714) 583-9551  
6356 Delbarton St., San Diego, California 92120  
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR ONE YEAR ARE \$6.00 SINGLE or MEMBER/SPOUSE U.S.A.,  
\$12.00 INTERNATIONAL (NOTE: Number in paren. on mailing label indicates  
dues month. Please check and keep current.