

San Diego

# Epi News

## Epiphyllum Society

Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

August 11, 1982  
VOLUME 6, NO. 8

Margaret Allen, El Cajon  
Debbie Capp, La Mesa  
Mrs. Rosalie Cerveny, El Cajon  
Sue Heisserer, Benton, Missouri  
LaVern & Lois Hettinger,  
Kalamazoo, Michigan  
Ed & Mary Post, San Diego

### JULY MEETING, AND OTHER..

...Gene Schmedding

Our July meeting was a most interesting one. Our past president, local hybridizer, and all around "good guy" George French, showed slides of his many beautiful crosses. Some had not been registered yet, but will be in the near future. I'm not sure if it is pure luck or just plain "genius" on George's part, but he sure does have some outstanding flowers.

Elinor Latimer (Christmas dinner chairman) announced that our annual dinner will be at Tom Ham's Light-house on Harbor Island, on December 5th, a Sunday. This will be a departure from our usual Wednesday night. The time is 6:30 PM and the cost to members will be \$6.00 each, and non-members or guests will be \$12.00 each. (Editor's note: Elinor will start taking reservations at Oct. meeting but if you want to reserve now, or anytime before then, please contact her. Phone: 463-1655)

We have stopped having a special birthday cake at every meeting, but anyone who brings "goodies" will get their choice of a free cutting from the cutting table and be first in line for refreshments.

The meeting night was hot and humid, but we still had a very good turnout with 171 members and 14 guests, and you can't beat that with a "Epi" stick...

By the way, does anyone have the plant "LOTUS LANTERR"? Greg Balvin is anxious to get it and would appreciate being able to beg, borrow, steal, trade, or even buy a cutting if it is available.

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### AUGUST MEETING

Our August 11 meeting will be a slight change from our usual epi-oriented meetings; Mr. Jack Percival will be our guest speaker and will bring you a super program on "BROMILIADS". Mr. Percival will have a wide array of blooming bromiliads to show us and valuable information on culture and propagation.

Don't miss this one!

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### AUGUST REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

Would you believe we had 185 folks last month? It is wonderful how the Epi Society keeps growing and in these busy times, the people keep

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President: Frank Granatowski (714) 460-6595

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

EPI NEWS EDITOR: Pat Stebbins (714) 279-8026

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: *Aug. 30*

SEND ALL ITEMS TO: 10404 Orozco Pk., San Diego, Ca., 92124

MEMBERSHIP: Joyce Bjorkman (714) 286-7170, 3827 Billman St., San Diego, Ca., 92115

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(Note: number in parentheses on mailing label indicates dues month. Please check and keep current.)

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coming. Of course it could be because of the beautiful, exotic flowers - or is it our great "goodie" tables?

Those signed to bring the cakes or cookies for August 11 are:

Lorna Barrows	Sally Pachico
Sako Hook	Jerry Plaisted
Elsie Kairath	Toini Wainwright
Mildred Leason	
Edith Nelson	

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Well, I did it again...the rule is anytime you make a list, you automatically leave at least one person out and I left out Peg Minardi, our Slide Chairman, on last month's list of committee-peoples. So, if you're keeping track of that sort of thing, please add Peg to your list in the July issue of the Epi News. The good part is, in my apologies to Peg, I got her to write up an item on the slide library...so here is everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask about the SDES Slide Library.....Pat

SLIDES

...Peg Minardi

Slides are ready for loan to SDES members. There are waiting lists for some collections, such as the Leo M. Daly group (that is currently being studied by the Research Committee.) Others such as the Eugene Cooper album are waiting to be checked out for one month at a time. These slides have been catalogued and placed in plastic cubbyholes, 20 to a page. Some are alphabetized and should be returned to their correct pockets after viewing.

It was decided to place the slides in albums for their protection and ease of selection. Also, not all of us have carousel projectors. We do have a few Kodak carousel 80 slide holders, if you wish to borrow empty ones.

In order to expand our SDES collection, please look through your slides of past events, especially of the 1982 Flower Show, for donations. If you have a special favorite may we borrow it to be copied? Your name will go on the slide as the donor - thank you. Be sure to place your

name on all of your slides and give the name of the flower, event, and/or person photographed! It is so sad to see a truly gorgeous bloom with no name. Years later that picture could be valuable in identifying another bloom if only it had it's name written on the edge of the slide. One of the reasons that old slides are cherished by collectors is due to the information on the slides - date, name, event, etc.

When we take photos all possible information should go into a booklet so that every processed slide can be marked "property of" and the identifying information transferred to the slide immediately. The processors do their part by dating and numbering each slide; surely we can do ours by assuring they do not become orphans. Please PRINT SOMETHING ON EACH SLIDE!

Please do not let a single slide go bare-spaced into the world!

Happy viewing everyone...

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WILD ANIMAL PARK, JULY 15

...Nate Ogdon

For advanced planning for the NEW lath house, an inventory was needed. And for some needed plumbing in the current large house, a plumbing party was needed. Volunteers were asked to sign up and show up to effect these two things.

Howard Jones announced at the meeting that he would be at the rear gate at 8am - that's easy for him to say, he lives up there, but we peons who live down here have to get up at 5:30 to make that time. Anyhow, we stopped by and picked up Dick Chadwick and flew to Howard's, got him and made it the park, and darned if Laurence and Lorna Barrows, Elizabeth Glover, and John Piland weren't already there! And sometime between then and 9am it seemed that everytime I looked up someone else had arrived, like Ray Conser, Ken Marr and Diana Smith, Dave Wilsterman and Tawny (our water-girl), and Gene Lund.

Dorothy and Elizabeth got started invent-ing at one end of the big house and Laurence and Lorna at the other. Ray and I took the old house. It was a bird maternity ward again -

a hummer was on her second setting in a nest just 3 ft. off the ground on one of the epi leaves. She sure was a patient little thing.

While we were invent-ing the plumbers got going on the sprinkler system. One pushing, one pulling, and one cutting and glueing tees for the sprinklers. About this time Ron and Joan Miller arrived, she to inventory and he to plumbing, soon to be sent on a run to Escondido for more sprinkler heads. Mid-morning produced a coffee break, cookies from Dorothy and plums from Howard. Gene said the plums were dangerous but I thought he said delicious and ate quite a few. Oh yes, and punch from the park (thanks, Jim). Then back to work, and it didn't seem very long till Ray and I were advanced plumbers. Gene brought a handy-dandy little gadget for cutting plastic pipe - it sure beat trying to cut it with a hacksaw. Somehow or other, I got to use that tool, guess 'cause I was one of the youngest workers there (hmmmm!). About this time Ron Miller made his dash to the plumbing shop in Escondido and got enough heads to complete the job. And, in due time came the opening of the main valve. Drip, drip...not enough pressure. So Gene and his merry men attacked the main pipe, putting it on by-pass, and some of the rest of us got going on the fertilizer pickup valve, eliminating it completely and straight-piping it over to Gene and Company. Rube Goldberg would have been proud of us! Calling upon our water-girl, Tawny, we had her turn on the valve. "EUREKA, it worked!" And with a few minor adjustments, the large house has a new sprinkler system that works like a charm, watering those plants that were just inventoried. Ron and Joan came back later to turn it off.

Joan and Diana tallied the plants that were on the benches - you would be surprised with what they came up with. The plumbers got started on the original house (here, I think that Rube Goldberg DID do the original plumbing), in and out, under and over, but that didn't take long and soon the basic pipework was done and tested, but alas not enough sprinklers, so this time Ron will pick them

up and we will install them at a later date. And, I might add, the Mama hummer was on her nest when we left.

All in all, a good day, good people, good food (yes, we did take time out for lunch-plum dessert). Good work!

Thanks again gang. For the record, here are the names of those attending, not necessarily in any particular order:

Howard Jones	Gene Lund
Dave & Tawny	Ray Conser
Wilsterman	Ron & Joan Miller
Dick Chadwick	Ken Marr
Elizabeth Glover	Diana Smith
Laurence & Lorna	Nate & Dorothy
Barrows	Ogdon
John Piland	

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NOW IS THE TIME

...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

-to maintain good grooming of your plants, by removing dead, non-productive and unsightly branches, thus conserving energy for the remainder of the plant. Remember the healthier branches will produce stronger blooms next spring.

- to protect plants from exposure to direct sunlight, and to prevent soil from completely drying out. An occasional misting or spraying of foliage can be very beneficial.

#to protect new growth from wind damage.

- to bait for slugs and snails.

A few granules of SLUGETA at the base of the plant is a very effective deterrent and leaves little or no unsightly residue.

- to practice preventive maintenance regarding insect control.

Use insecticide such as MALATHION or ORTHENE only if absolutely necessary. BE SURE TO READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON LABEL!

- to protect the apples (seed pods) from pilferage by Blue Jays who are especially fond of the ripened fruit. In some cases rats have been known to feast on these delicacies.

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### Attention ...

... Out there among our local members is someone who can play the guitar, flute, recorder, accordion, or some other small instrument... PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU DO, AND I WILL TELL YOU WHY I WANT TO KNOW..... Pat Stebbins, phone (714) 279-8026  
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IF YOU ARE GOING TO ATTEND OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY IN DECEMBER, NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE YOUR FAVORITE OR SPECIAL CUTTING AND PUT IN A 4" POT FOR OUR CUSTOMARY CUTTING EXCHANGE - ONE PERSON, ONE CUTTING.

### What's new at the Zoo? II

The San Diego Zoo's "Botany for Breakfast" lecture series is being continued this fall with three unique plant groups highlighted in Saturday morning meetings at the Zoo.

The one-hour talk is preceded by a continental breakfast and followed by a self-guided plant tour.

The first class, by Ernest Chew, is Sept. 18, "Bananas, Heliconias and Gingers of the S.D. Zoo".

The second is by Zoo plant propagator Bill Knerr on Oct. 30, "Succulent Trees, Shrubs, & Vines of the S.D. Zoo".

The third is specialty grower and collector Jeff Kent on Nov. 20, "Bromeliads of the S.D. Zoo".

Classes start at 8 AM and 10 AM, the cost is \$6.00 per class (in addition to \$4.75 zoo admission) and includes a continental breakfast.

Advance registration is required and early sign-up advised as several classes in last spring's series were sold out well in advance.

Registration: Zoo Education Dept. (714) 231-1515, ext. 412

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON EACH CLASS, CALL ME OR SEE ME AT THE MEETING....Pat Stebbins, 279-8026  
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### Around town ~

August 21 & 22, SAN DIEGO FERN SHOW, Casa del Prado, Sat. 1-5 PM, Sun. 10 Am - 5 PM

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

...from Greg Balvin

The September meeting of the Research Committee will not be held the first Monday of Sept. (since it's Labor Day) in the usual Rm. 104 of Casa del Prado. INSTEAD, it will be held at Gene Schmedding's on Sept. 10, a Friday at 7 PM, and will be a potluck.

Those members of the committee and any other members who would be interested in attending a Research meeting, please call Gene for the potluck information.

Gene Schmedding  
455 E. Naples  
Chula Vista, CA 92011  
Phone: (714) 421-6510  
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### TRANSPORTATION

Do you need a ride to the general meeting? Can you provide a ride to the general meeting? Do you have a pickup or vehicle that could be made available to the club if needed?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, please call Ed Broz. We know there are people out there who have a transportation problem, and we know there are lots of willing helpers - the trick is to get them together!

Call Ed if you have a need, or if you would be willing to help with a ride.

Ed Broz: Phone (714) 465-1721  
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Such utter silence!  
Even the crickets'  
Singing...  
Muffled by hot rocks

Basho

MEMBER PROFILE SERIES  
...Pat Stebbins

DON IRWIN

Back a few years ago, a young man left the wilds of Kansas to seek his fortune and wound up in the Marine Corps at MCRD in San Diego.

In the years following, he and his wife Lucile, also from Kansas, made their home in San Diego where Don began an interesting career as a fingerprint expert (he is a graduate of the Institute of Applied Sciences of Chicago). He went to work for Convair after the Marine Corps, where he set up the security system still being used today. He subsequently went into insurance adjustments, then sales, where he retired about six years ago.

Don and Lucile live in a comfortable white frame house in Spring Valley. Their three children are all grown and they are blessed with four grandchildren.

Don began growing epiphyllums about 20 years ago, though he had some plants as early as 1946 (TULIP, SITKA, PEACOCKII, and MARINA SPECIAL). Anyone in the club having MARINA SPECIAL can probably attribute it to Don Irwin.



DON IRWIN

At present he has about 500 plants, grown in two areas of his garden. One, a 20 by 20 foot area under a giant pepper tree (with an immense heliocereus growing around and through the branches). The natural shade of the pepper tree branches serves as a roof and they all look happy.

His lath house turned me green with envy. It is 64 ft. long, L-shaped, 8 ft. wide and 10 ft. high. There is a chest high shelf on both sides with a shelf under that, and the plants on the top shelf are mostly in 3 gal. pots, trellised, some growing clear to the top of the lath. The lower shelf holds a couple hundred 4" pots with cuttings. It does get pretty hot in Spring Valley, so this is topped with 75% shade cloth. It also gets pretty cold on occasion, so whenever it reaches 42° by 10 PM, Don makes fire buckets of 5 gal. paint buckets...he puts a few small pieces of slow burning wood (such as oak) and a little charcoal and this makes a more than adequate "smudge pot".

The middle of the yard is dominated by a 12 ft. high Noctocereus serpentinus (you can see it over Don's left shoulder in the picture). It had over 250 blooms this spring, 69 blooms in one night.

The potting mix Don uses is Kellogs Azalea and Camilia Mix, with pumice, and bone meal (he tried perlite but doesn't like it.) In May of '81 he started 32 5" pots with a mixture of Uni-Grow Cactus Mix and a little charcoal, which seem to be doing very well. He feeds with fish emulsion twice a month and has tried other products from time to time but feels that fish does the job.

Watering is done as needed by using a moisture meter and watering with rain water he collects, and stores in one gallon plastic bottles. Don says his stored supply almost always lasts from one season to the next.

Don has two PEACOCKII, one hybridized by Theresa Monmonier. He says it has the heaviest root system of all the epis, more like the original cactus. He also has a Kingchinjunga "species, that grows a

5-side tubed white flower. (Don has never tried hybridizing, feeling that he didn't have the time to devote that it requires.)

Don has a sizeable vegetable garden and many other plants, including succulents, cacti and shade plants. His other much loved hobby (as anyone knows who has talked to Don) is FISHING!

Don and Lucile are very active in their church and are 10-year members of the SDES and are also members of the ESA. Don served as President of the SDES in 1974-1975.

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### CLASSIFIEDS

HELP! Is there anyone in the Society who can provide me with these Knebel hybrids?

HEUNEKA

FLORE PLINO (or MUSSOLINI)

SONNEUNBERGONG (or KNEBEL'S SUNSET)

Contact: Dr. Rudolf Troster  
Danziger Str. 27  
6990 BAD MERGENTHEIM  
West Germany

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EMERALD GARDENS NURSERY specializes in small and miniature blooming epiphyllum hybrids (many Wressy Cocke crosses); and we think that you will appreciate our limited but lovely selection of med. to X-lrg. bloomers. Send a 20¢ U.S. postage stamp for our '82 retail mailorder catalog and/or NEW WHOLESALE MAILORDER LIST. From Aug. to Dec. of 1982 we are offering a special money-saving sale: 15% OFF ALL CUTTINGS LISTED IN OUR RETAIL CATALOG. Check our specials on wholesale rooted cuttings. We are open by appointment only for direct buying--retail or wholesale. We have a fine selection of cuttings, small plants and specimens for sale. VISA and MASTERCARD accepted. Send all requests to EMERALD GARDENS NURSERY, Yankee Farm Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93109; or call us at (805) 966-7413. Hope to see you soon...  
Dean Walters.

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