

San Diego

# Epi News

Epiphyllum  
Society

Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

September 8, 1982  
VOLUME 6, NO. 9

Gloria Crockett,  
Westbrook, Maine  
Mary C. Beck, San Diego

## AUGUST MEETING

...Gene Schmedding

First of all, I am sorry to announce that our President, Frank Granatowski has been quite ill and was in the hospital. He is home now, and doing very well and hopes to be back with us soon.

John Clancy and Gene Lund were honored with the presentation of Honory Life Directorships as past Presidents.

Our guest speaker of the evening was Mr. Jack Percival of the Bromiliad Society. He brought a variety of different Bromiliads with him, and gave a very informative talk about each one. I doubt if many of us were aware that they came in so many sizes, shapes and colors. It looked like a rainbow on the table. A touch of humor was added...he had the whole display covered with a sheet before the membership arrived, and it looked not unlike a body. Some of the members said they weren't sure but what they should pray for it's soul. Mr. Percival's talk was anything but funeralistic. It was bright and entertaining. He talked about how to mount the small Bromil-

iads, and showed some pieces of saguaro cactus by-products, where the birds and other creatures had made homes in the cactus and the cactus had produced a protective juice which had hardened until it made a nicely shaped container for displaying Bromiliads. He also showed a plant that had been damaged and wasn't growing so he tried an experiment...he got some out-dated birth control pills from a druggist friend, and fed the Bromiliad with a liquid made from the pills. And soon the plant started to "pup". It was just loaded with small plants coming up. (I guess that "Bromils" don't know the difference between "birth control" and "fertility" pills.)

...And don't forget to keep your dues up to date, we don't want to lose you.

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING, SEPT. 8

Our guest speaker for the September meeting will be one of our favorite local members and hybridizers, Howard Jones. Howard's slide programs are always a thrill (Howard is a retired professional photographer and his slides are works of art) and Howard will also talk to us about hybridizing.

You won't want to miss this one!

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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: Oct. 4

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

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR ONE YEAR ARE \$6.00 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP or FAMILY (MEMBER/SPOUSE) MEMBERSHIP U.S.A., \$12.00 INTERNATIONAL

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

## SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

The Fall months will be starting and we expect more members will be returning from their vacations. So be sure to bring enough goodies for all, so that everyone will get a taste. Thanks to all of you who so generously sign up each month to bring cookies or cake for the "break".

Those for September are:

Wilia Collins	Ann Munda
Bev Garber	Michiko Munda
Lee Holcombe	Nate Ogdon
Rose Miyaji	Pat Stebbins
Darlene Morris	George Watson

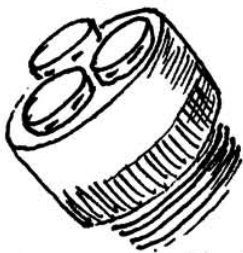
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— ah, September ...

September was always one of my favorite months when I was a pup back in Ohio, lots of exciting beginnings; beginning school, new fall clothes, beginning new projects for Christmas. And though the change in the weather here is more subtle, I still get the same feelings. Just that little difference in the light in the mornings, the smell in the air - and then to discover a new epi bloom!

So here we are flowing into autumn once again. Just finished some remodeling of our kitchen (thru the hottest days of the season of course), and have spent the past few days giving my plants some much needed attention.

My epi came through those hot days just beautifully this year. I gave them about a 20-minute misting every evening after the sun went down and they sure came out of their post-blooming-season-droop in a hurry. The misting attachment I use is the perfect answer to a low humidity condition. It is well worth the \$4-5.00 investment (and it's almost a must for your ferns and fushsias). There is something very soothing about standing there in a cooling fog,



"MISTER" HOSE  
ATTACHMENT

watching drops of water streaming

down those beautiful green leaves - with the heady scent of wet bark and brick.

My husband Jerry has built a lathed-patio extension (about 10 x 15 feet) and I am having a wonderful time moving my plants around this way and that, and giving my existing epis more room to breathe. It's not really that much more hanging room but has shaded a good amount of space against the fence that was in full sun. Every little bit helps!

I have had some late bloomers this past month: a MARIONETTE, a LILAC TIME, a PINK JEROMA, and a couple from that prolific HAROLD KNEBEL. ...Such a nice surprise when you're not expecting any! Don't forget, we probably still have some hot days ahead of us (in the east and midwest too), and a possible Santa Ana, so be prepared.

...Pat Stebbins

NOW IS THE TIME - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER  
...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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9/8/82

*...some Gardening Events -*

Sept. 18,19, S.D. DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET 1ST ANNUAL SHOW, Majorca Rm., Casa del Prado, Sat. 1-5 pm, Sun. 10am - 4 pm. FREE

Sept. 25,26, S.D. BONSAI FALL SHOW, Majorca Rm., Casa del Prado Sat. 10am-5:30pm, Sun. 10-5. FREE

Oct. 2,3, BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET FALL MINI SHOW, Majorca Rm., Sat. & Sun., 10am to 5 pm. FREE

*These <sup>2</sup> items need your attention again this month -*

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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... Out there among our local members is someone who can play the guitar, flute, recorder, accordian, 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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Quite a hundred gourds  
Sprouting from  
The fertile soul...  
Of a single vine

Chiyo-Ni

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

September meeting will be Sept. 10 at Gene Schmeddings's, a potluck. Call Gene for further information if you plan to attend: 421-6510

The October meeting will be in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, on the regular meeting night, October 4.

The good works of the Research Committee has already resulted in the procurement of cuttings from about 80 plants which are no longer in general circulation. These cuttings have been potted and are for sale to members, who will grow them for their own collection, but who will pledge to share cuttings with other members as soon as the plant is mature enough. These cuttings are available at the general meeting.

Some of the cuttings are SYBIL, VERONICA, FAREWELL TO VALLEY FORGE, AL SHUKH, GERTRUDE HAY, DUTCHESS OF PUTERBAUGH, CROWN OF GOLD, YUKON QUEEN, and many more.

There is a table at the general meeting manned by the Research Committee.

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A REVIEW...

SDES member Charles H. Everson, proprietor of Rainbow Gardens Nursery and Bookshop, is also an author, lecturer, garden writer, and photographer.

Chuck has an article in the August-September issue of "Flower and Garden", entitled "Epiphyllums, "Orchids" of the Cactus Family". It is a very concise and informative article, illustrated by four of Chuck's own photos (and one of the best photos of Bridesmaid I've ever seen).

I highly recommend this article as an important addition to your collection of epi-lore.

...Pat Stebbins

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9/8/82

SDES ANNUAL SHOW, MOTHER'S DAY 1983  
Show Chairman Gene Lund is calling for suggestions from the membership for a THEME for our 1983 annual show. The winner will win a prize of 5 cuttings of your choice from Gene's collection. Gene is also accepting volunteers for show staff: set-up, planning, kitchen, cutting room, info table, host/hostess, stereo operator, sound, etc.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A THEME? Some of our themes in the past are "Your Choice" theme, Seashore Fantasies, Epis in Bottles, Down Mexico Way, Polynesian Paradise, Oriental Fantasies, Galaxy of Epis, Four Seasons, and this year's theme Holidays Around the World.

Send your ideas to Gene Lund, 5666 Aztec Dr., La Mesa, CA 92041 or give to him at the general meeting.

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IMPORTANT!!

BY-LAWS

At the last two meetings copies of the SDES by-laws have been made available to the membership.

These by-laws will be voted on at the September meeting, so if you have any questions regarding any part of them, please contact any Board member.

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#### DECEMBER 5

DON'T FORGET TO MARK THIS DATE !

It is the SDES annual Christmas dinner, "The 7th Annual Awards Banquet". It will be at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island. Dinner chairman Elinor Latimer will begin taking reservations at the October meeting.

Plan to bring a 4" potted, rooted cutting for our cutting exchange. Details again next month.

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...Submitted by Sam Markey

MUTATIONS (SPORTS) IN EPIPHYLLUM HYBRIDS...by Theresa M. Monmonier (Quoted from the Descriptive catalog of Ventura Epiphyllum Gardens; published in the late 1940's.)

"It is impossible in this space to go deeply into the subject of

plant breeding, nevertheless the possibilities of developing new varieties through MUTATION are fascinating to experiment with. VARIATION is nature's way of producing new varieties and forms. First, there is the progressive change which is natural to all plant life; and a slow process; a second way is HYBRIDIZING through selective breeding, which also is a time-consuming process; third comes the variation by MUTATION where the grower makes use of a SPORT or ROGUE, which springs spontaneously, sometimes, from an old established variety. Watch for these, or any progeny unlike the parent in color, form or structure.

"Inexplicable changes often take place in the chromosomes - in other words, they go "haywire" and produce something very different from the parents. These changes may be brought about by chemicals, or by injury, or climatic conditions. Whether you have a species or just another variety depends on how great is this difference. This is where the Epiphyllum Society of America can be of great value by giving unbiased advice.

"A new form of Epiphyllum in which much work can be done is the chrysanthemum type of flower, in which the open center is done away with and the flowers are a mass of petals such as one finds in a double chrysanthemum. This is a complete change in the flower structure, the first having been developed, as far as we know, by Mr. Curt Knebel.

"Complete diversion in plant formation or flower might constitute a new species or a new genus. One example of such a change is the Heliocereus x Epiphyllum, which gave birth to the new varieties Heliocereus elegantissimus. H. speciosissimus (often called "speciosus") (showy) and best known by its popular name "sun cereus" derived from its brilliant coloring of red and vivid-cerise-violet center. This was used in many of the early crosses, which resulted in well-known varieties like Peacocki and Jenkinsoni. H. cinnabarinus (species) which bears small scarlet flowers was used by Mr.

Knebel and the resulting crosses were introduced by him as "Phyllocereus". Under this head come Prof. Ebert, Getrud Kuhne, Erlauer Kind, and many others, including our own Champion. These have the flowers of the Epiphyllum and a plant structure which may be flat or ribbed, with or without spines in the areoles.

"We have observed that to establish or "fix" an Epiphyllum variety from a mutation often takes as long as to raise a plant from a seed. Most cases take three years flowering to prove they are truly different, for epiphyllum flowers are quite changeable.

"The plant stem bearing the mutation should be cut reasonably close to its areole, then propagated, as the flower may change from one areole to another. Watch closely for any sign of return to the original flower.

"One example of Mutation is the beautiful and popular Moncherie, which has an amber background with a red border and many red stripes radiating from the sides of the petals to the base. This is one of the first of its kind, and was developed in our gardens, a mutation of Amber Queen. On display we have an extra large specimen of Amber Queen bearing the two kinds of flowers at once. However all prunings from this plant are destroyed; cuttings are made from well established plants.

"We are now flowering seedling plants where Moncherie was used as a parent. These seedlings have the characteristic stripings but different colors.

"Epiphyllums are easily influenced by all elements, so that anyone may find he, too, has a mutation that may be superior to the plant from which it came."

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## CLASSIFIEDS

FREE EPI PLANTS FOR EXPERIMENTS

These are plants that stem-spot in our garden, but may adapt perfectly to sunnier climates. If you'd like to try your gardening skill, drop by our house at 189 Bethune Way, Chula Vista; and haul them away. No charge, naturally!

This offer is limited to Saturday, September 11, from 8 am to 1 pm, and only for stem-spotted plants.

...Sam and Adela Markey  
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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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## THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

Part XV: The Beahms

by Rick Latimer

We will begin in 1946 with Ladislaus Cutak's words, to rediscover the Beahms:

I'd like to pay tribute to a very courageous lady who has to conduct her business from a wheelchair. I know that she wouldn't want me to divulge all the knowledge I know about her, for fear that some of our readers might think that she is looking for sympathy. On the contrary, this sweet lady is always cheerful, with never a word of complaint, and despite her physical handicaps is more capable at present than some of us "more fortunate ones". She and her husband have always had a commercial garden, specializing in roses and a general line of cacti and other succulents. In late years, her health failed and gradually through arthritis, she became so crippled that it necessitated the use of a wheelchair to get around. But this was not all that Fate had in store for her. Little by little, her eyes gave out and now she is totally blind. Did this dampen her interest in her hobby? Not in the least!

Her passion for Epiphyllum hybrids is intense, and since her knowledge of these plants was derived before her sight failed her, she does not consider her condition such a calamity. During the past year, she was awarded a life membership to the CSSA Journal for the most workable classification of Epiphyllum hybrids thus far devised. Her love for plants was undoubtedly inherited from her father, Mr. J. B. Wagner, the rhubarb and berry specialist who operated a nursery in Pasadena for many years. He was a great friend of Luther Burbank, Albert Etter, John Lewis Childs and David Fairchild. From 1908 and on, she handled much of his office work and thus could not help but develop a keen interest and appreciation for plants. Mr. Wagner often traveled throughout the United States and would send home odd plants and seeds for his family to try, always just hoping for something worthwhile to turn up. He did introduce a Giant Black Walnut Tree, which at the time was described as the strongest growing hardwood tree in existence. He also developed the Wagner Giant Winter Rhubarb. At one time, when Opuntias were highly advertised as stock feed, he was shipping Prickly Pear Cactus (spineless) by the carload to Texas and Arizona for that purpose. (Mrs. Beahm began collecting cacti as she accompanied her father on his desert trips. Later Epiphyllum hybrids came to her attention and she soon became one of the first growers of these beautiful cacti in this country.)

Perhaps by now you may have guessed this lady's identity. If not, it is my pleasure to introduce her to you. She is none other than Mrs. Gertrude W. Beahm of the well known Beahm Gardens in Pasadena, and one of the original members of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, having joined when that club was first organized in 1929. (What other society did she help found?) Now, because of her physical handicaps, her business is gradually being taken over by her husband, Mr. Sherman E. Beahm, who specializes in tree roses on the wholesale scale, and in gerberas. (Mr. Beahm quickly acquired a vast knowledge of these plants so that he could keep Mrs. Beahm posted on the many new developments. Ernie Beahm is as enthusiastic as his wife and has become a leader in propagating Epiphyllum hybrids. There is no one more generous with his time, his knowledge, and his plants.) Mr. Beahm is also a great Kodachrome fan and during the past year has taken close to 1000 shots of Epiphyllum hybrids for his ardent spouse. My hat goes off to Mrs. Beahm, who is fair and square in her dealings with all of her customers and therefore loved by all of our members. As if she does not already have enough on her hands, she was appointed Editor for the Epiphyllum Society of America, recently reorganized and now gaining prominence. (Together the Beahms edit the ESA Bulletin and are doing a wonderful job in introducing new and better hybrids. We need more specialists like the Beahms to work with the many other groups of succulent plants.)

I unfortunately have no picture of Gertrude Beahm, although I suspect that the woman with the hat in Rainbow Garden's Directory of Epiphyllums and other Related Epiphytes, page 20A, is

she. I have a poor picture of Sherman Beahm to the right, but it is better than nothing. The Epi hybrid "Sherman E. Beahm" is Curt Knebel's #227. It is a violet striped flower, shading to a lighter edge. The flower opens extra wide and is large. (This hybrid was originally called Reichkanzler Adolph Hitler.) Gertrude Beahm has two hybrids named after her! One is "Gertrude W. Beahm" listed as Knebel #23 (actually Knebel #23 is "Stern von Erlau"). It has richly colored purple stamens that complement the wide ruffled rhodamine purple inner petals. The growth is three angled, with spines and is fast growing. This hybrid is actually Knebel's Heliocereus speciosus cross no. 23. The other one named in her honor is "Mrs. Gertrude W. Beahm" and is listed as Knebel's #25s. The flower is one toned roseine purple, opening to a wide funnel. The growth is hardy, triangular, and thorny. We might call the first "Frank Granatowski's" and the other "Dr. Troxell's". The Epiphyllum species E. beahmii is probably the same plant as E. gertrudianus.



E. Sherman Beahm boasts an acre of Orchid Cacti under lath.

TO BE CONTINUED...