

San Diego

Epi News

Epiphyllum Society

Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112

November 10, 1982
VOLUME 6, NO. 11

GEORGE NORVICH

Charter member George Norvich passed away in October after a long illness. We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Eleanor, and to his family.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

...Gene Schmedding

Our October program was a rare treat. The speaker was Ron Miller, our society photographer. Not only did he show some lovely single shots of epis, including Frank Granatowski's new seedling (a very nice yellow named "Jackpot"). He also showed some shots of the work going on at the Wild Animal Park. We were also treated to pictures of the tables at the '82 Mother's Day show.

Our program for November will be presented by Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens. It will on Hoyas and on Rhipsalis, a lovely companion to the epi. Chuck and Jerry come down far too seldom. I know that the program will be of great interest to a good many people.

Just a reminder, we will have our regular meeting in December this year. Usually we have our dinner on the meeting night, but this year we will

meet as usual in our meeting room on Dec. 8. Instead of cuttings on the cutting table, we also will have something different - Dick and Elinor Latimer are contributing hundreds of their seedlings. They will be given through raffle tickets the same as our cuttings. Elinor has assured us that there will be enough seedlings to go around to every one who has a ticket.

NOVEMBER MEETING, NOV. 10

Our program will be presented by Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens Nursery. His show will be a talk on Hoyas, and the major portion will be a whole reel of slides on Hoyas and Rhipsalis.

This will be another outstanding program. Don't miss it!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR HOWARD JONES!!!

The November meeting will also be a celebration honoring the 80th birthday of member Howard Jones. We want to surprise Howard so don't let it slip - please bring a birthday card if you can and there will be a poster to sign too. Howard is one of our staunchest backbone-type members, so let's show him how we feel about him!

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

President: Frank Granatowski (714) 460-6595

Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Gene Schmedding (714) 421-6510, 455 E. Naples, Chula Vista, CA 92011

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: Nov. 29, Mon.

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.)

AFTER Nov. 6
Area code
714
Becomes
Area code
619

11/10/82

NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

The busy holiday season is upon us, but we are having a "party time" each month with the goodies provided by our wonderful members. Thank you one and all.

Those signed up for Nov. 10 meeting are:

- Valerie Bailey Roger Mohling
- Amelia Foster Mary Louise Newman
- Muriel Ingham Dorothy Runde
- Howard Jones Denise Shepley
- Edith Meador Gayle Widner
- Joan Miller

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING, NOV. 17

The November Executive Board Meeting of the SDES will not be at the park this month (Thanksgiving, you know). Board meeting will be at the Latimer's, same time (7:30 PM), 5990 Lake Murray Blvd, La Mesa. (phone 463-1655). NOVEMBER 17th!!

CHANGE IN AREA CODE NUMBER

After Nov. 6, the previous San Diego County 714 area code is changed to 619.

Remember: from 714 to 619

— something nice

I have to share this letter with you, it made me feel good and I know it will you also...

"Dear Pat Stebbins,

I'm writing this letter to express our thanks to all of the people we have met during the past two years connected with our favorite plant, the Epi.

Starting with the Epi News which helps us grow with our plants; the fine caring, sharing people at the nurseries, who go out of their way to help.

People like Dean Walters, Wressy Cocks, Mr. S. Markey, who took time out for us.

It has been a great experience on this Epi road.

Thank you our Epi Friends,

Ken and Nancy Andrews
Huntington Beach, California"

CHRISTMAS DINNER, DEC. 5, SUNDAY

Our 7th annual Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet is at Tom Ham's Lighthouse, 2150 Harbor Dr. (on San Diego Bay across from the airport, phone 291-9110).★

Social hour will start at 6:00 PM with a no-host bar until dinner (buffet) at 7:00 PM.

Following dinner we will have our program of entertainment, which will be the La Mesa chapter of the "Sweet Adelines", and our awards.

Please don't forget that rooted cutting in a 4" pot you've been nurturing for our gift exchange, with some cheery paper and a bow to brighten it...

RESERVATIONS WILL BE CLOSED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, NOV. 10. For reservations contact Elinor Latimer, 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, CA 92041. Phone (619) 463-1655.

...and I repeat - If you are going to have a transportation problem, please call Ed Broz (465-1721).

Tickets are \$6.00 each per member and member/spouse. All other family members or guests will be \$12.00 each. When you get your ticket hang onto it because you will need it in order to get your dinner at the restaurant.

PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAG (in case you forget who you are!)

FLORAL ASSO. FALL FESTIVAL AND OCTOBERFEST, OCT. 19

...Kathy Van Arum

The SDES was represented at the Floral Asso. "Octoberfest" by Milt Turner, Gene Schmedding, Elinor Latimer and myself.

Milt gave a very informative 5-minute talk and we sold a few cuttings. Milt had a plant in bloom for display, Elinor brought a Harold Knebel bloom and Mr. Markey let us use several of his beautiful pictures.

The meeting was attended by about 60 people and we all enjoyed an excellent pot-luck dinner.

★ West Ty. of Harbor Island

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK, OCT. 9, 10 ("OCTOBERFEST")

Many thanks to those members who came out to the Wild Animal Park and contributed their time and expertise to sell park cuttings at their annual fall plant sale. We had a great turnout and lots of fun (not many blooms though).

Howard and Betty Jones were there both days.

On Saturday we had Nate and Dorothy Ogdon, Jack and Cecile Bradley, Ron and Joan Miller, Bob and Dorothy Breining, the Broz family, John Piland and Gene Lund.

On Sunday there was Dick Chadwick, Ken Marr and Diane Smith, Henry and Alita Feedback, Dave, Sharon and Tawny Wilsterman, Pat and Jerry Stebbins, the Bennet family, Dottie Dutcher and Larry Zoellner.

...a good job!

CHARCOAL

If you want charcoal, order between now and the December meeting, so Gene can place the order as soon as possible.

50 lb. bag for \$9.00

Make check payable to Gene Lund, 5666 Aztec Dr., La Mesa, CA 92041 - or catch him at the general meeting.

EPIPHYLLUM HOUSE AT WILD ANIMAL PARK, OCT. 16

...Nate Ogdon

HOWARD'S DREAM IS COMING TRUE, THE NEW HOUSE IS GOING UP!

On Saturday, Oct. 16, the day got started early (yawn), and when this reporter got to the WAP the other crazy riser's had already arrived. Now for the hard part - The Brainwork. We tried that for about an hour and finally gave up and started putting the pipes in the holes that the CCC boys had drilled for us. Gotta admit though, that some of those holes were more than a little out of line.

Our cement mixer crew, Ed and Leroy fired up the old mixer and Putti-Putti, away we went! Some of us moved pipe up to the holes, others

started getting them aligned, hopefully straight, up and down, both left and right.

Now the project is going like wild fire - well almost. Soon we had two of them in, then another, and another - and just when we got the hang of it - time out for lunch. And only 5 to go to finish one row of the brutes - oh well, not bad when we had put 26 to standing tall.

Oh, that lunch - first I had a little dessert donated by Dave W. & Co., then down to the little wife and out lunch - took a little doing tho - but that's another story.

Back to work and finished up the first row and on to the other outside row. Had to move a few pipe. Try that sometime when you don't have any thing else to do - I don't know what the uncut pipes weighed, but they were oil rig drill pipes, 32 ft. long. Finally, as the "bodies" suns were setting, we threw in the towel, vowing to give it a go at another time.

That doesn't sound too complicated, does it? Really a simple day in the life of an epi grower. Ask Dr. Hafiz if that isn't true. Nothing to it, huh, Doc? Just overgrown toothpicks.

Ask Jim Edwards - he got mixed up with the mixer and lost one round. Thanks Jim.

Our Chief Engineer, Gene Lund, kept us hopping. He would have made one heck of a Bos'n's Mate. Howard kept him in line though.

Our pipe-packing crew: Vernon, Doc, Bill, Dick, Dave, Jr., Henry, did an outstanding job. There were some others in on this detail. In fact, we all seemed to get involved in different jobs - back and forth. Suffice it to say we got it done.

While us boys were playing in the cement, our gals were down on the Shady Tree Lane selling epis. Thanks gals, sorry they weren't buying. Those who were there:

Howard and Betty Jones
The Wilsterman's, Dave, Sharon,
Dave, Jr., and Tawny (waterboy)
The Feedback family, Henry and Alita
The Broz family, Ed, Faye and boys
Gene Lund

11/10/82

Bill Foster
Dick Chadwick
Dr. Hafiz
Tim Edwards
George and Madeline French
Leroy and Barbara Schraeder
Vernon and Hisae Hook
Ed and Mary Post
Wilbur and Elizabeth Glover
Ron and Joan Miller

Lest I forget, I want to thank the regular crew plus Pat Stebbins who helped make cuttings for the October-fest Show. By the way, George French potted up 100 cuttings of plants from his collection that the park didn't have - thanks George. And thanks to Kathy Van Arum, Bill Foster (and Sam Markey's Ruth Wallace bloom), and many more, like Dorothy and me.

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO

2ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL

At Charles C. Dail Memorial Japanese Gate & Organ Pavilion Area, Balboa Park

SUNDAY, NOV. 14, 1982 10 AM - 4:30 PM

50 groups participating in Dancing (Japanese, Okinawan, Phillipine and Chinese), Karate, Aikido, Kendo, Ikebana, Tea Ceremony, Sumie, Origami, Koto, Kites, Bonsai, Plant Sales, Food...

To Benefit: First Phase garden construction

—Some other garden events...

Nov. 20, 21 SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL MINI-SHOW Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Sat. 12 noon-4:30 PM, Sun. 10 AM-4 PM Free
Dec. 2 (preview)

Dec. 3, 4, 5 (Public Shows) SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSO. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW "Christmas is coming", Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

Preview: for members and guests Thurs. 7:30 PM

Public Shows: Fri. & Sat. 11 AM - 9 PM, Sun. 11 AM - 4 PM Free

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 plant to become semi-dormant.

- to protect plants from exposure to the elements. Frost, hail, and strong wintry winds can cause irreparable damage. Overexposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as exposure to the hot summer sun.

- to transplant into larger containers those plants that are not expected to bloom next spring.

- to check the apple (seed pod). Ripened apples may be picked and the seeds planted, however do not rush this procedure. Germination of the seeds will be vastly improved when the apple has become fully matured.

- to take advantage of the winter rains, even prolonged rains will have no harmful effect on epiphyllum hybrids that are planted in good porous soil and they will tend to leach the soil of accumulated salts. Collection of rain water for future use is strongly advised. Store in covered opaque containers to prevent mosquito larvae (wigglers) and buildup of algae.

- to maintain good grooming of your plants. Prune out dead, unsightly, and non-productive branches to conserve the plant's energy. Keep containers free of debris, and last, but not least, bait for slugs and snails. A few granules of SLUGETTA placed in the base of the container has proven to be a very effective control and leaves little or no unsightly residue.

Dry cheerful cricket
Chirping, keeps
The autumn gay...
Contemptuous of frost

Basho

CLASSIFIEDS

FNR
APP.

258-3549

BILL AND RUTH NELSON are selling off the majority of their epiphyllum collection. The plants are nearly all in gallon pots and are priced from \$3.00 to \$5.00. These are mostly mature plants, not cuttings, are in top shape and a whale of a bargain at these prices.

You beginners who want blooms for the coming season - this is it!

CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER is pleased to announce that we have large (4" pot) blooming size Christmas Cactus in colorful pots in a good variety of flower colors for \$3.50 each. Perfect Christmas gifts or hostess gifts for those holiday parties. And our FALL EPIPHYLLUM SALE is also in progress through Nov. 25th...25% discount on 33 different varieties of epiphyllum cuttings that are well established with good side growth... the perfect size for "doubling up" into 8" containers...includes varieties such as Blackamore, Excello, Machioness, Radiant Fire, Sparkle, Vista Star and Waikiki Rainbow. The 1983 catalog will be distributed soon to SDES members and we also have a good supply of the items that will be featured in the catalog such as Vista Gold and Vista Sun. We're open by appointment, so give us a call and we'll give you directions to the nursery if you haven't been here before. California Epi Center, P. O. Box 1431, Vista, CA 92083, (619) 758-4290. Please let the phone ring at least 10 times as we're often out in the nursery.

RAINBOW GARDENS proudly announces their brand new 1983 Plant Catalog! New color pictures, new George French hybrids, Christmas/Easter Cactus, English rattails, and new books on Cacti, Succulents. Our new multiple discount coupon and new winter bonus offer makes our 37-page plant/bookshop catalogs the most attractive offer ever, and still only \$1.00. Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Bookshop, P. O. Box 721-ESD, La Habra, CA 90631 (Our 1982 plant customers will be receiving their copy in the mail soon at no charge).

NEWS BULLETIN:

Brand new epiphyllum color photograph book. 256 color photographs. Japanese text, English subtitles, \$19.95. Inquire for more details. Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Bookshop.

FALL AND CHRISTMAS SALE

HURST NURSERY...Large 8" potted plants usually selling for \$25 or more will be on sale for 3 for \$35, included in this choice variety will be DR. JOHN T. COX, FRANCIS C, GEORGE FRENCH, MARGE COCKE, HAWAIIAN SUNRISE, SNOW-BANK, ORANGE CRUSH, TEXAS FLAME, and ACAPULCO SUNSET. Our 6" potted plants usually selling for \$12.50 will be priced at 3 for \$30. In this group are CORAL LACE, KRUGGERAND, KAMY, SASSY PINK, OLE, PINK CAMEO, and many more. Sales purchases are limited to one variety of a kind and reasonable prices on our other potted cuttings. Sale days are Nov. 3 thru 28. We are closed Mon. and Tues. Sorry, no mail orders and no dealers. Hurst Nursery, 12059 Lambert, El Monte, CA 91732. Phone: (213) 444-5296



Fig. 1. X *Aporophyllum* 'Lawrence', a beautiful hybrid developed by Johnson's Cactus Gardens and named for the late Lawrence Gonzalez (see pg. 98).

THE LOVELY "RAT-TAIL" CACTUS

CHARLES H. EVERSON

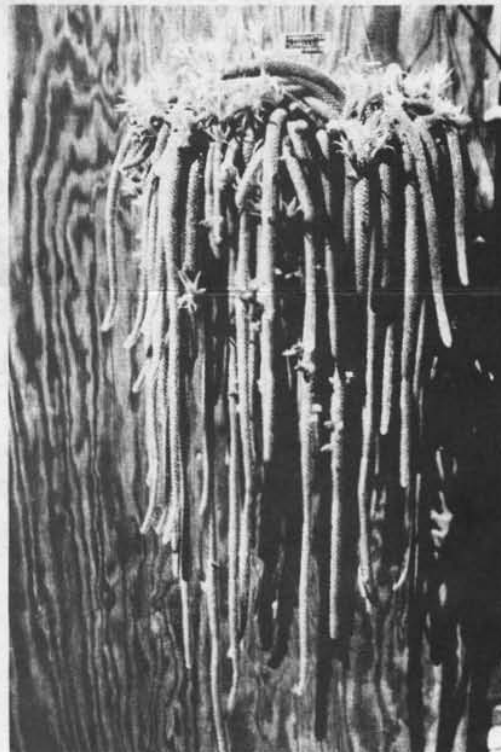
Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Bookshop, Box 721, La Habra, Ca. 90631

Growing high in the rugged jungle terrains of Mexico and South America is one of the most unusual of all epiphytic cacti--the aporocactus, or nicknamed the "rat-tail" cactus. Hanging from the stems and thick branches of trees, these beautiful plants are slender, vine-like cactus, creeping or clambering, sending out roots freely, thus being able to attach themselves easily to trunk depressions and ledges of rocks in the wild.

The oldest and most well known "rat-tail" is the beautiful lavender colored flowering *Aporocactus flagelliformis*--said to have been introduced from Peru in 1690, but presumably, originally from Mexico. In the older days, it was very common in Mexico to see this plant about the houses of the poorer citizens, often planted in the end of a cow's horn and hung on the side of the house. Even the dried flowers were used as a household remedy and sold in the drug stores under the name of "flor de Cuerno".

There are only five recognized day blooming species. Flowers are rather small, diurnal, red to reddish-orange, lavender, slightly irregular or zygomorphic with stamens longer than the petals. Flowers are produced in early spring and last for several days. These five species are: *Aporocactus conzattii*, *Aporocactus flagelliformis*, *Aporocactus flagriformis*, *Aporocactus martianus*, *Aporocactus leptophis*. These same species are known to have been crossed with such unusual plants as *Echinopsis*, *Heliocereus* and *Cryptocereus*. Closely related and highly coveted by *Epiphyllum* lovers is the unique

Fig. 2. The "Rat-tail Cactus", *Aporocactus flagelliformis*.



cross of *Aporocactus* with the hybrid *Epiphyllum*--better known as *X Aporophyllum*. They combine the good qualities of both, but are quite different from either one. Their main flowering season starts in early spring and on different occasions it is not unusual to see the same plant produce another batch in late summer and early fall. The same holds true with the species *Aporocactus*, although they seem to start blooming earlier in the season. A good example of the beautiful coloring that has originated from this great cross would be: *X Aporophyllum* 'Temple Glow'--a proven winner, offered through our nursery for several years now, with the inner petals shaded in pink, outer petals light orange, appearing as two flowers together. *X Aporophyllum* 'Fairy Dancer'--lavender-red flowers becoming lighter toward the center. *X Aporophyllum* 'Star Fire'--bright red blossoms with a violet overlay; petals recoiling backwards toward the tube. *X Aporoheliocereus* 'Hazel'--(cross: *Heliocereus* X *Aporocactus*) outstanding light orange-red. Two proven best sellers at our nursery in the past: *X Aporophyllum* 'Pastel Rose' and *X Aporophyllum* 'Pink Beauty', both a light pastel and pink. And finally, *X Aporophyllum* 'Moonlight'--A lovely, very large flower in a color of ivory.

As to the care of these wonderful oddities, the easy part is at hand! MIX: The "rat-tail" cactus group will maintain a good, healthy growing pattern in a consistent mix where the pH consistency is in the 5.5 to 6.5 range and must be coarse so that the air may circulate and that the water will drain through the soil mix. Commercial potting mixes are fine and may be used by adding sponge rock and a small amount of washed builders sand to the mix. Suggested home prepared mix is as follows:

- 4 parts leaf mold (or azalea-camellia mix)
- 1 part medium or fine redwood bark
- 1 part perlite (medium grade sponge rock)
- 1/3 part washed builders sand
- 1 part horticultural charcoal (optional)

For each cubic foot of mix, add 1/2-cup of bone meal. Should your water be high in alkaline you can add per cubic foot of mix, 1/2 cup of garden sulphur. Extreme humidity in your particular area may require the amount of leaf mold be decreased to 2 or 3 parts per mix.

CARE AND WATERING: These plants prefer temperatures between 45 and 70 degrees F, but will tolerate extreme heat if kept well shaded and the humidity level kept at around 50%. Rattail cactus will tolerate temperature of less than 32 degrees F for a few hours, but will freeze if exposed to temperatures below that temperature for any period of time. Protect your plants from frost and freezing. Watering requirements will depend on many variables such

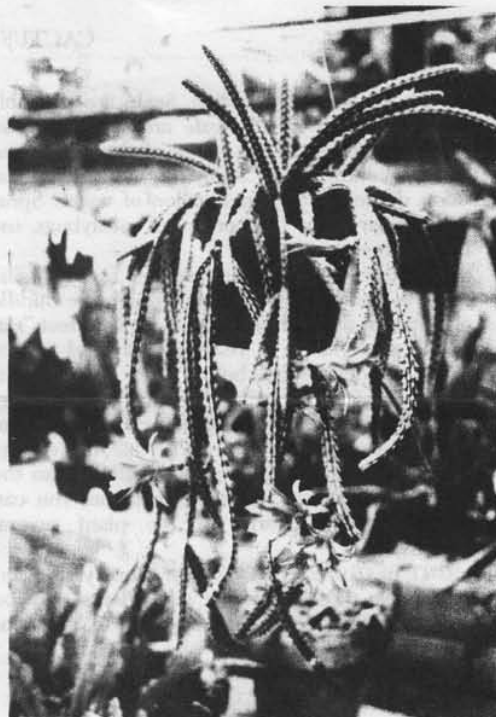


Fig. 3. *X Aporophyllum* 'Hazel', another beautiful hybrid, this one named for Mrs. Hazel Johnson.

as pot, weather, and even geographical locations in which you live. If you are in doubt as to how much to water and how often, we suggest the following: check the soil every few days to see whether it is time to water. Remember... clay pots will dry out much faster than plastic pots, and may require watering at least twice a week during the summer months. Plastic pots retain moisture for longer periods and should be checked before watering. We use plastic pots because they do not require constant attention, but over watering is a much more distinct possibility. So if you have a heavy hand with the water hose, stick to clay pots.

FERTILIZER: After the first year, you may be ready to start fertilizing your "rat-tail". Place your plant on a regular fertilizing schedule by feeding once a month from April through October with a well balanced fertilizer with a ratio of 5-2-2. A recommended product would be liquid fish emulsion, using 1 TBSP per gallon of water. To promote blooms, a low nitrogen fertilizer is recommended, preferably the ratio of 0-10-10 being the most ideal. Apply once a month in February to promote blooms, and again in November for hardening off the summer growth. Do not use any fertilizer in the winter.

PESTS: There are very few pests which seem to infest the "rat-tail" cactus, however those that

do can be very destructive. Scale are probably the worst pests of all. Scale are small disc-like insects which suck the juices of the plants and can be controlled by spraying with 50% Malathion diluted 1 tbsp. per gallon of water. Spray as necessary. For the control of mealybugs, use the same as for scale.

BLOSSOMS: The blooming season for "rat-tails" starts in April and continues through the middle of summer, depending on your locale. Most "rat-tails" require 2 to 3 years growth and a nice rootbound condition before they begin their regular blooming cycle. Rooted cuttings may attempt to produce a bloom the first year, but the bud should be removed so that the energy of the cutting can go to growth rather than the bloom. By allowing a cutting to bloom you can set back the maturity of the plant several months.

LIGHT REQUIREMENTS: Never allow your plant to receive direct noonday sun. Plants may be grown under lath, shade cloth, or a patio, or

greenhouse which receives morning or late afternoon sun, or under a shady tree. Artificial light may be used (500-1000 foot-candles from a distance of 10"). Amount of light should be reduced or increased with the actual hours of daylight during each season of the year. This requirement is essential for bud formations.

FINAL NOTE---as with any set of rules or suggested general care for plants, please don't consider those in this article as firm and binding. Some may keep their "rat-tail" cactus enclosed most of the year (greenhouse, solarium, sun porch), while others in more sub-tropical or desert like areas allow theirs to hang outside or in a lath house most or all of the year. Don't be afraid to experiment with your plant, your mix or your fertilizer. You may lose a cutting or two before you've set upon a good course to follow, but you will be rewarded in the end with good growth, a unique plant, and absolutely beautiful blossoms! Your ultimate reward for meeting that challenge head on! Good luck!!