

San Diego

Epi News

Epiphyllum Society

~~Post Office Box 2852 • San Diego, California 92112~~

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September 14, 1983

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

PRESIDENT: Elinor Latimer (619) 697-4100

CORRESPONDING Debbie Capp (619) 469-4784

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SEND ALL NEWS ITEMS TO EPI NEWS EDITOR:

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Fri. Sept. 23

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MEMBERSHIP: Marian Foster (619) 266-0355

6590 Springfield St., San Diego, CA 92114

Check or money order payable to San Diego Epiphyllum Society, MEMBERSHIP
DUES FOR ONE YEAR \$6.00 SINGLE or FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (MEMBER/SPOUSE only)
U.S.A., \$12.00 INTERNATIONAL (Note: number in parentheses on mailing
label indicates dues month. Please check and keep current.)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Rog & Chiyo Patrick, Oceanside
David & Lynne Castro, Chula Vista
Ted & Helen Hayden, Spring Valley
William & Bonnie Kehret, Carlsbad



GENERAL MEETING, September 14

Our program for September will be presented by member George French. George will show slides of his latest seedlings and also his other registered hybrids of past years. A great program for a warm September evening, see you there!



SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENTS, Sept. 14

...Penny Bunker

We continue with the nicest goodies at our treat tables...even folk who bring their own birthday cakes to share with us. What a delightful cake from Betty Jones -

mighty delicious. Happy Birthday again Betty, and thank you for sharing. We were 155 strong so we need lots of things.

Those signed up for September:

Gladys Barnes	Muriel Ingham
Mary Etta Branch	Paul E. Phelps
Mary Alice Buaas	Oralee Steele
Catherine Burger	Kathie Van Arum
Jeannie Burger	
Joyce & Conelin Carstensen	



LAST MONTH'S GENERAL MEETING -

...Pat Stebbins

In August, our program was presented by Helen Barkdoll, and all I want to say is - WOW! If you didn't make this meeting, I hope Helen will present it again next year so you can plan ahead.

Helen's presentation of her method of hybridizing, and her husband Bob's excellent slides, made the meeting one of our best. I have

seen seedlings and seedlings, but the camera catches so much more than can be easily observed by the naked eye, and I think the organization and patience demonstrated by Helen and Bob should be commended.



"BUDDY" HUGH HURST

Member Buddy Hurst passed away the last of August. Buddy and Ethel Hurst owned and operated the Hurst Nursery in El Monte.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Ethel, and his family.



ADA PERRY

It is with a great deal of sadness that we note the death on August 15th of a truly wonderful person, Miss Ada Perry. Miss Perry was a contributor for 23 years to the garden section of the San Diego Union and was a faithful and effective promoter of many of the garden clubs.

She had visited many of our member's gardens and wrote about them in her own inimitable way. When she visited me several years ago, I was amazed at her vast knowledge of different plants and trees that she talked about while she and her sister, Athlone, sat with me at my kitchen table over coffee and cookies in the late afternoon. She had visited my lath house and the various areas that I had Epiphyllums growing around the house. She was very interested in my file of pictures of Epis, and the many colors that Epis came in. She should have been an artist as she had a keen eye for the various color values. I guess that she was an artist in her own way. She could write on any subject pertaining to growing things. I guess that painting a picture with words is just about as good as painting with oils.

You had only to sit with her and listen about all the trees and flowers that she had seen in her life, to

be astounded at her memory for the botanical names of plants, trees and flowers. How so much knowledge could be stored in one person's memory bank is beyond me.

Like all truly dedicated people, she worked far beyond her physical capacity. Her love of people and growing things kept her going. For the last few months she was so ill that she only took interviews over the phone. I am glad that I was privileged to have met her and had her as a guest in my home. I know that the many other members of our Society who were visited by Ada feel the same personal loss that I do.

Our sympathy goes to her two sisters, Athlone and Nelda, and to everyone that knew her. She will be missed.

...Gene Schmedding



DONATION TO LIBRARY

Any garden books or periodicals taking up space in your garage or shelves? They could be put to good use in our library. Any donations would be gratefully accepted by the Society.



BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER FAIRE

The SDES will have a display at this affair on Sunday September 18, from 10 AM to 5 PM, Casa del Prado Room 104 and Patio A. Admission is free.

Anyone in the society who would like to contribute an hour or two hosting our display, please see Helen Barkdoll (sitting in for... Botanical Chairman Elizabeth Glover.)



WILD ANIMAL PARK, OCT. 8, 9, 10

The SDES will have three tables at this annual "Beauty and the Beast" shindig at the Park. Members will sell park cuttings and potted plants and if you have ANY blooms, please bring them or give them to someone who is coming.

This is really a fun thing to be involved in - if you're a new

member, come on out and get to know some of us old-timers. Sign up for a couple of hours or all day if you like, and talk epis till you're blue in the face! Admission is free to members who sign up. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting so jump right in! For more information call Nate Ogdon (479-0425) or see him at the meeting.



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tickets will be on sale at the October meeting. Reservations will be closed out at 150 so get in your ticket orders promptly. Please pay at time of reservation. If you have any questions of any kind about this party, please call Chairman Dorothy Breining, and if you want to buy your tickets by mail, send check for \$11.00 per person to Dorothy at 605 Melrose Ave., Chula Vista, California 92010. (619) 427-9306



NOW IS THE TIME, September-October

...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

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

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

- to protect new growth from wind damage.

- to practice preventive maintenance of insect control. Use of insecticides is recommended only when absolutely necessary. Malathion and Orthene are available locally. BE SURE TO READ AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON LABEL!

- to bait for snails and slugs. A few granules of Slugetta placed at the base of the plant has proved to be very effective and leaves little or no unsightly residue.

- to protect the apples (seed pods) from Bluejays and other birds who are especially fond of the ripened fruit.

- to give plants a final feeding of a good balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.



CHARCOAL

Gene Lund will take orders for charcoal at the September meeting only.

The charcoal is in 50 lb. bags and is \$9.00 a bag (at time of order).

If you can't make the meeting send check to Gene Lund, 5666 Aztec Dr., La Mesa, CA 92041 as soon as possible so Gene can pick up the charcoal.



This poem was submitted by Shirley Rogers and was written by the grandfather of one of her students.

A Garden

A garden is his who cares for it
And only a tiny share
Of that intimate wonder and delight
Is offered the stranger there.

He works with God who plants the seed
Or waters and tends a rose,
And never another soul can know
The love that a gardener knows.

The hand and the mind and the soul
are held
And joined in a mystic way,
And he who kneels in the garden earth
May pray as a child may pray.

Long, -long ago, in tale and rhyme,
The ancients found it true
That he who bends to the earth shall
rise
With joy and strength anew.

A garden is God's goodness,
And the way of a soul's rebirth
Lies open in a garden
With the touch of the honest earth.

by Walter A. Peterson

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

...Helen Barkdoll

First of all, I would like to thank everybody that responded to my questions during the lecture at the last meeting. A wealth of information and many good suggestions were received. Each month the Education Committee hopes to supply you with new and pertinent information, but in order to do so we will need knowledgeable men and women to supply us with the results of their personal experiences with epis. Do you have some little bit of information that you would like to share? Learning about epis is like a jigsaw puzzle and your bit of information may just be the key piece that will give us the whole picture. Some topics that we need answered are:

- 1) Use of hormones in rooting cutting.
- 2) Rooting cuttings in water.
- 3) Amount of sunlight needed for flowering.
- 4) Preventing bud drop.
- 5) Use of fertilizers for bloom and growth.
- 6) Effect of heat and humidity.
- 7) Photoperiodism.

These are just a few of the topics that we would like to explore. I am sure you have discovered many other aspects of epi culture. If you have any that you would be willing to share, please write it down and get it to me so that it can be integrated with other information and disseminated through the Epi News.

If anyone is interested in participating in some of these projects, the Scientific Research Committee is open to all with inquisitive minds and a propensity for data collection. We are meeting at 10 AM Saturday September 17 at Gene Lund's,
5666 Aztec Dr., La Mesa.



Swallow in the dusk...
Spare my little
Buzzing friends
Among the flowers

Basho

ROOT SYSTEMS

...Dick Chadwick

Most of us have come to think of our Epiphyllums as true epiphytes and try to give all of them the same culture. We know that most of our epiphyllum are hybrids, meaning they are a cross of related species, "BUT" not all the related species were Epiphytes, many were terrestrial. An example of a few of the species used in the crosses are:

- Echinopsis - Easter Lily Cactus
- Heliocereus - sun Cereus
- Hylocereus
- Selenicereus - moon Cereus (20 species)
- Aporocactus - Rattails

With all the crosses of epiphytes and terrestrial species this gives us three types of root systems: Epiphitic - small, weak system; one or two anchor roots that will glue themselves to the side of the pot, feeder roots near the soil surface.

Terrestrial system - large main root with side roots and fibrous feeder roots.

The third and largest system is the combination of the preceding two and the problem of deciding to treat it as a epiphyte or terrestrial plant.

The epiphitic root system can be grown in a total soil-less woody mix. If too much soil would be added to the mix, the feeder roots would rot off or all the roots would rise to the surface of the pot.

The terrestrial root system should be grown in a high soil based mix. They will survive in a total woody mix for a year or two, but would become weaker with time. The terrestrial roots will soon fill the original pot and after a couple of years it should be shifted to a pot one or two inches larger. Epiphyllums bloom the best when the roots become crowded but after a couple of years the word "crowded" becomes "strangled". Also, with a soil base mixture you would not have to water or feed as often because the soil would hold the water and fertilizer much longer.

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The third root system would take a modification of the other two mixes but would benefit with some soil in the mix. The key to any of the mixes is good soil aeration (drainage), moisture retention without becoming soggy, and good nutrition.

In summary, all epiphyllums should not be treated alike, they should be separated into groups that require the same culture requirements so as not to flood out one plant or dry out another. If your plants are doing well, don't change anything, just keep treating them as you have been; but if they stop sending out new growth or the flowers keep getting smaller and smaller, it's probably time to repot.

Black Rot - Root Rot

In the past few weeks, many of our members have been experiencing many problems with their epiphyllums such as root rot, black rot and wilting of the stems. Most of the problems have been caused by the high temperature along with the high humidity, ideal conditions for growth of bacteria, fungus and molds. The surface of the soil stays damp for a longer period of time, due to the humidity, which is ideal for the development of "Black Rot" and water molds which attack the stem of the plant at soil level.

I have used a very effective product by "Cooke", called "Fungicide". This is a triple fungicide with a very broad spectrum of kill; Captan, Terraclor, and Zineb. Of the four known water molds, Captan will kill off three of them. Terraclor and Zineb will take care of the fourth. Terraclor has been used very effectively in controlling the water molds causing root rot.



- other garden events ...

These events are all held in the Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park

September 11, S. D. BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP SHOW. Sun. 11 AM - 3 PM. Free

Sept. 17, 18 S.D. DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET 2ND ANNUAL SHOW, Sat. & Sun. 10 AM - 4:30 PM. Free

Sept. 18 S.D. BOTANICAL GARDEN * FOUNDATION SEPTEMBER FAIRE, Displays from member organizations. Sun. 10 AM - 5 PM. Free * Room 104, Patio A

Sept. 24, 25 S.D. BONSAI SOCIETY FALL SHOW. Sat. 10 AM - 5:30 PM Sun. 10 AM - 5 PM. Free

Oct. 1, 2 BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET FALL MINI-SHOW. Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM. Free

at the Organ Pavilion Area, Balboa Park:

October 2, Sun.
JAPANESE 3RD ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN FESTIVAL
Sun. 10 AM - 4:30 PM. Free

CLASSIFIEDS

RAINBOW GARDENS BOOKSHOP has recently acquired from Europe, 5 brand new copies of the out-of-print "FINE FLOWERED CACTI" by F. R. McQuown. These rare books on Epiphyllums are being offered to San Diego members first for only \$22.50 (+ \$1.35 tax, + \$1.50 postage/handling) each. These books may not be available again, so if you've wanted one - now's your chance!

RAINBOW GARDENS BOOKSHOP, Box 721,
La Habra, CA 90633

New zip code

CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER will be open by "appointment"...just call to see if we're here, and if we are you're welcome to come by...for those of you who would like to select your plants in person rather than ordering by mail. As usual, we have a very large selection of rooted epiphyllums, rhipsalis, rattail cacti and holiday cacti. And, we have a good selection of rooted epiphyllums that are not in the 1983 catalog. If you'd like our current catalog, send \$1.00, which you may deduct from your first order. California Epi Center, P. O. Box 1431 (1444 E. Taylor St.) Vista, CA 92083
Phone (619) 758-4290

NAME TAGS

Jeannie Burger will take your order for a SDES nametag (blue plastic with a pin-back). They are \$2.65 including tax).
Call Jeannie, 280-6747