

Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

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

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

FRI. DEC. 30



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.)



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD.



...referencing the recent article on epiphyllums written by Allen Lacy for the Wall Street Journal (we reprinted it in the ~~October~~ 1983 issue of the Epi News), the following excerpt should have been noted immediately following the article:

"Copyright Allen Lacy, 1983.
Excerpted from Allen Lacy, HOME GROUND: A GARDENER'S MISCELLANY, to be published in April, 1984 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc."

...Pat Stebbins



DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING, Dec. 14

Our general meeting in December will be our 8th Annual Awards Banquet at Tom Ham's Lighthouse, 2150 Harbor Drive (on San Diego Bay, across from the International Airport, at the WEST tip of Harbor Island.)

Don't forget your dinner tickets. Social hour is at 6 PM, and dinner is at 7 PM.

Remember to bring your gift exchange potted cuttings wrapped so that the plant can't be identified.

SEE YOU THERE!



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING, Jan. 11

A very special meeting and an absolutely socko beginning to 1984 - our guest speakers will be a joint-program of California Epi Center AND Rainbow Gardens! Don't put anything on your calendar except "Epi Meeting" for this date!

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

...Gene Schmedding

Our program for November took a little different turn from our usual slide and commentary program. There was a panel of five members; Gus Schlapfer, George French, Helen Barkdoll, Randy Light, and Dick Chadwick. The panel fielded questions on growing and potting from the membership, some I am sure many of us that have been long-time members never thought to ask. I, for one, learned quite a bit.

George Plaisted announced that Butler's Mill, Inc., a wholesale outlet is going to let members have a cash buying card, so we can shop there for garden supplies at wholesale prices.*

Harry and Margaret Blake would like to put together a slide program about the physical aspects of the epi - the different things that affect their growth, color, etc. They would like for members to make appointments with them to come and see your plants; how they are grown, what fertilizer you use, and various things that affect the quality of the plant. If you are interested in participating in the program, give them a call (444-1937).

Our membership chairman announced that we now have 303 paid-up members. We just keep chugging along adding to our membership, "ain't that sum'pin?"



* If you would like a cash buying card for the Butler's Mill offer, please contact me and I will send you one along with a copy of the buying procedure and restrictions. These cards are non-transferrable, cash only, no special orders, etc. Either call me at 279-8026 or drop me a line at 10404 Orozco Rd., San Diego, CA 92124.....Pat Stebbins



SDES AND ESA EXECUTIVE BOARD POTLUCK,
NOVEMBER 20

On Sunday, Nov. 20, the SDES board hosted a potluck luncheon for the boards of the San Diego and the National Epi Societies, in the Eckes Building of Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas.

In spite of the heavy rains that day, there were 32 people there (some of us are members of both societies). Good food, good company, and good conversation....

Thanks Gene Schmedding, for putting it together. Encore, next year?



NOW IS THE TIME, January-February

...Frank Granatowski

Now is the time:

- to feed mature plants with nitrogen-free or low nitrogen fertilizer such as Bloom Builder (0-10-10) to promote blooming in the spring. Either liquid or time-release granules can be used. If liquid fertilizer is used, a subsequent application is advisable in about a month.

- to prune out non-productive and unsightly growth, thereby allowing more energy to be utilized by newer and healthier branches.

- to maintain preventive pest control by keeping plant containers free of debris and extraneous materials. Spray with insecticides only when absolutely necessary. Orthene, Malathion and Cygon are available locally. READ AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!

- to protect from unexpected frost and strong wintry winds.

- to bait for slugs and snails. 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 take advantage of the beneficial rains. If plants are potted in proper porous soil even prolonged heavy rains will have no harmful effect on them. Collect rain water for future use. Store in covered opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larva (wigglers) and buildup of algae.



Going snow-viewing
One by one the
Walkers vanish...
Whitely falling veils

Katsuri

SEARCH AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

...Greg Balvin

That hearty band of workers known as "we" normally meet the 3rd MONDAY of every month in Room 104, Casa del Prado at 7:30 PM. All adventuresome souls are welcome. Our next meeting, however, will not be until January 16th, due to the Christmas holidays. As the year draws to a close, this might be a good time to reflect for a moment. We are beginning to hit our stride and really recovering a lot of the old-time hybrids, and it goes without saying (really!) that as soon as possible, these varieties will be put back into circulation. To this point the work the committee has been doing has been rather invisible, but eventually you will see what we are working for.

Beginning this month, and continuing as a regular feature (hopefully), we would like to publish a list of 20 hybrids that the group feels are unavailable at this time. If any person knows the location of any of them, please let us know. We are interested in their location for data purposes only, and all responses will be kept totally confidential. We really do need your help, so please...

Now for the list:

AALA	AESOP
ABIGALE	AFRICAN QUEEN
ACCENT	AFTER GLOW
ACHILLES	AGATE
ACIDO	AGITATION
AD ASTRA	AGNES MACFARLANE
ADAGIO	AIDA
ADONITA	AIR de BALLET
ADORA	
ADORNO	
ADORO	
ADRIAN	

..to be continued next month. Hope you can help us, heaven knows we can use all the help we can get.

Let us take this opportunity to wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

EDUCATION

...Helen Barkdoll

A group of interested people met at the home of Louise Newman in Santee. Louise has a large T-shaped redwood lath house for her epis. She has it covered with 82% shade cloth during the hot summer months. In the winter the temperature drops below freezing and she has to cover it with a sheet of plastic, top and sides, to keep her plants from frost damage. Her epis are hung from the studs and are also set on tiers at eye level.

George French gave some very good suggestions about potting, and we all shared some new ideas about how to grow epis. Paul Phelps gave us a report on "The Secret Lives of Plants". Did you know that talking to your plant really helps? Plants are living, sensitive organisms. They respond to Tender Loving Care and show it by rewarding us with beautiful flowers. Several members said their plants grew better when they were subjected to certain musical vibrations. Maybe that is the reason George French's epis grow so well, as he is continually getting the rumble of jets flying overhead. Maybe his epis are tuned into the jet's vibrations. Soft music is easier on the ear though.

The Education Group will not meet during December, but will resume meeting in January when we will visit the gardens of another of our members.

All you good people out there must be singing to your epis this month as we have a rather long list of off-season bloomers. Those blooming since last meeting are: Ackermanii, Bridal Showers, Cadet, Chimu, Clara Ann, Cinnabar, Empress, Friendship, Fringe of Gold, Fragrant Moondrops, Flamingo, George French, George's Favorite, Fern La Borde, Harold Knebel, Jennifer Ann, Jungle Fury, Grand Dutchess, Grand Empress, King Midas, Prof. Irwin, Pegasus, Tassel, three of George French's unnamed seedlings, Argus, Honeysuckle, Padre, Happy Face, Vista Star, Dibuk, Agatha, Wild Honey, Naranga, Valient Spirit, Mary Kay, and Baccaret.

Please remember to keep a list of your blooms during the next two months and turn it in to the list on the library table next year in January.



Classifieds

CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER would like to wish all of the members of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society a very Merry Christmas. If you are a new member and have not received a complimentary copy of our 1984 catalog, please send us your name and address and we'll mail our catalog to you free of charge. For those of you who would like to visit the nursery, please call first...if we're here, you're welcome to come by. As usual, we have a very large selection of rooted epiphyllums, rhipsalis, rattail cacti and holiday cacti. 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.



Happy Holidays



"the Epi Lover"



THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

Part XVIII: The Cox's

by Rick Latimer

The following is the reprint of an article written in 1970 (a very important year for the SDES!) by Richard Russell of La Jolla:

Six months ago, I visited the famous Cox Epiphyllum Nursery in Encinitas. I purchased about 20 plants - all rooted cuttings. Then, two weeks ago (in February) I visited their nursery again. Although my second visit came during a month when Epiphyllums are not in bloom, it was still a most instructive and enjoyable visit.

Mr. Cox is an ex-Marine, an out-spoken, intelligent man who, with his wife, runs one of the largest Epiphyllum nurseries in the U. S. A. and probably the world. Actually, Mr. Cox told me that there are very few Epiphyllum nurseries left in the U. S. A., therefore I was the more interested in Cox's operation.

The nursery is situated about 20 miles north of San Diego and about a mile from the coast. Here the climate is absolutely ideal for raising all varieties of cacti, and of course Epiphyllums. Actually, this nursery is almost exactly situated where my home is, in terms of geography, for I too live about a mile from the ocean. Here both of us get some winter fog, average day temperatures of about 60 to 70 degrees F, and night temperatures about 10 degrees lower. We seldom if ever get a freeze, although perhaps once in five years the night temperatures will drop below 35°F for a few hours.

Mrs. Cox, who perhaps is even more of an Epiphyllum expert than her husband, told me that they have over 1000 varieties in their three large "sheds". As one walks into the first screened shed, one is staggered by the sheer number of plants. I have no idea, but I would guess that the larger shed contains 5000 potted plants, arranged in row after row. The ceiling is a veritable cascade of hanging pots, each pot containing a mature, magnificent plant. On the shelves below, are thousands of smaller containers containing rooted cuttings and smaller plants which are for sale.

One of the extraordinary things which the Cox's have developed is their color photograph albums. Mr. Cox is quite a photographer, and utilizing his hobby, he has photographed a great number of his plants in bloom. The student or buyer may run through the albums and see exactly what each flower looks like and

compare each for size (since they were all photographed at exactly the same distance). I was enthralled by the Cox's beautiful albums, and I suggested that they publish them in color. So far, he has not been tempted, but if any reader has any ideas along these lines, I certainly think the Cox collection of Epiphyllum flowers in color is the finest assortment of pictures of these flowers that I have ever seen.

Here in southern California, where one can grow any kind of cactus with ease, it seems to me that sooner or later one turns to Epiphyllums. The reasons are many, but the major reason is that the flowers are absolutely unmatched in beauty. I have heard that the California hybrids are difficult to flower in Europe. I do not know about this (perhaps some comments would be of interest), but here the hybrids bloom easily and profusely, throwing out their unbelievable flowers in a bewildering assortment of sizes, shapes, and colors.

Epiphyllums are, to my mind, the easiest of the cacti to grow. They will take some shade, full sun (although this is not too good), and some varieties such as Rhodamine, will grow and flower in full shade. They require a gritty, open soil, but they do not rot easily. They will take some drying out, and although they like some feeding, they will grow passably well without additional food. They take to hanging pots, pots on the ground, pots under trees, under eaves, window sills, and outdoor or greenhouse conditions. I find the ideal condition for these plants is a hanging pot under a tree. The full ventilation afforded by this method seems to produce stronger, healthier growth than any other method I know of.

One strange thing about Epiphyllums that I should mention is that they hate being repotted or having their roots tampered with. It is easy to root a cutting as it is to restart a plant once it has been removed from its original pot. For this reason, I tend to place even small cuttings in a large pot, and do this ^{knowing} full well that most fanciers claim that Epiphyllums like to be potbound. They may prefer small pots, but I just do not like to repot them, thus I place them in a large pot to begin with. So far it works, and within a year or so they have grown to fit the pot.

In closing, I want to bring attention to one of the Cox's Epiphyllums which they call Tele. This, they tell me, is the Hawaiian word for 'huge'. Mrs. Cox informed me that Tele consistently produces the largest Epiphyllum flowers that she has ever seen, some of them being 14 inches across!

REFERENCE:

Richard Russell, "Notes from San Diego", The Cactus and Succulent of Great Britain (32:2) May 1970, p. 33.