

# Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

VOLUME 8, NO. 2  
February 8, 1984

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

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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.)



## FEBRUARY MEETING, February 8

Our guest speaker this month will be member Greg Balvin, the chairman of the Search and Research Committee. Greg will show slides of some of the old hybrids and fill us in on the good works of his committee! See you there!



## FEBRUARY REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

The year 1984 has started with a bang, over 160 folks at the January meeting. Our program was most outstanding and those absent missed slides of some of the most beautiful flowers every displayed -- if I could ever grow them. The goodies were great as always, with several extra people bringing a contribution. Thanks everyone.

Those signed for February:

Madeline Dacey  
Bob Leffler

Mary Killien  
Margaret Fickas

Dot Runde  
Oralee Steele  
Elsie Tremblay

Marian Foster  
Muriel Ingham  
Con & Joyce  
Carstensen

(Note: One of the ladies on this list called to say she would be out of town on meeting night, and I forgot who it was! Not to worry, there will be enough, and I am going to tie a pencil around me neck after this...  
Pat )



## GENERAL MEETING, January

...Gene Schmedding

Our regular meeting for January was a real "goodie". Bob and Lois Burks from California Epi Center, and Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams from Rainbow Gardens were our speakers for the evening.

Lois showed some very lovely slides, and Chuck also had some very outstanding slides. After the slide presentation, a question and answer session was held and the membership

had many questions for both nurseries pertaining to the raising and nurturing of their exceptional plants. Both nurseries have outstanding plants, always in tip-top condition. I am sure we all learned a lot from them.

Bob and Lois brought some great cuttings for the plant table, and Chuck and Jerry brought a whole tray of 4-inch pots of Easter Cactus, including the very new "Gold Charm". A large thank you from us to both of the very generous nurseries. As usual, when Epi Center or Rainbow Gardens (this time, both) are our guests, we have a room full. There is nothing like a good program to bring the members out of the woodwork.

Forgot to say that if anyone wants to know how to pronounce a specie name or any plant's name that is hard for us ordinary folks to get out of our mouths, just ask Lois Burks. Talk about your "silver tongue" ladies, she sure is one. If I tried to pronounce some of those names, my tongue would be sprained for a month.



#### SEARCH AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

...Greg Balvin, Chairman

Meeting: 3rd Monday, every month  
Room 106, Casa del Prado, 7:30 PM  
All are welcome.



#### EDUCATION

...Helen Barkdoll

Fertilizers are an individual matter, much the same as potting soil mixes. Each person has their own idea as to what constitutes the best to fill the needs of their particular plants. And that is to be expected, as the region we live in can contain several climatic zones within only a few miles of each other. The coastal zone gets more fog, has a mild temperature with a limited range and gets an ocean breeze. As a result, less density of shade cloth is required. Fertilizer requirements are different too. Santee and El Cajon, on the other hand, have temperatures that range from below

freezing to over a hundred degrees. Epis have to be protected in the winter by covering the shade house with plastic, or bringing the plants into a covered patio area closer to the warmth of the house. Intense summer sun necessitates a denser shade cloth. Hot, dry winds off the desert tend to dry out the plant and its soil and more frequent watering is needed.

In between the two extremes, we have gradations of environment. So, what works well with one person, need not be the best for your location. But lucky for us, Epiphyllums are SURVIVERS! They are able to adapt to much mistreatment and neglect. But we do not want our Epis to just meagerly survive, we want them to grow at their natural, luxuriant best. The consensus of opinion was to fertilize our Epis with a timed-release fertilizer all year round, as here in this area, Epis put on much growth with the winter rains. Inland, care must be taken that the new fresh growth is not frost-bitten. January and February are good months to add a timed-release 0-10-10 to the soil in preparation for the main blooming season in May and June.

One member's suggestion to make the plant bloom, was to rinse out an empty milk carton and water the reluctant bloomer with the milky water. She said she tried it and it works!

Kathie Van Arum showed us her patio of Epis. She has one plant that is over 40 years old and still going strong. As a gracious and charming hostess, she served some very delicious homemade creampuffs. Several people were unable to attend as the Cactus and Succulent Society meets later the same day. As a consequence, we will be changing the meeting date to the first Saturday of the month. Next meeting will be March 3rd, 10 AM, at the gardens of Gene Lund, 5666 Aztec Dr., La Mesa (off Lake Murray Blvd.).

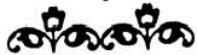
Epis that need earlier 0-10-10 applications include those that bloom off season, that is off the usual May-June flowering time. Those epis

that bloomed last month are:  
 Ballarat, Blazon, Bolero, Fringe of  
 Gold, George's Favorite, Honeysuckle,  
 Jennifer Ann, Naranja, Nora Mae,  
 Muneca, Padre, Lucinda, Overture,  
 Pete's Snowflake, Prof. H. Irwin,  
 Sassy Pink, Red Empress, Ursula La  
 Guin, Wagner's Pet, and Valient  
 Spirit.

Please remember to keep a list of  
 those that bloom for you since last  
 meeting and write it down. This data  
 will be fed into a computer and we  
 will have a compiling of interesting  
 information. So far, Jennifer Ann  
 has been the most consistent bloomer,  
 reappearing in the list month after  
 month. Good work in your breeding,  
 George French, you produced a winner!

Hope to see all those that are  
 interested in epi-culture March 3rd.

Dick Chadwick will again have  
 seeds for sale, before, after, and  
 during the break of the next general  
 meeting. We had a good response from  
 members getting first choice before  
 they go on sale to the general public  
 at the Mother's Day Show.



It is with regret we report the  
 death in January of member Elizabeth  
 Coutts.

Our sincere condolences to her  
 family and friends.



#### FIR BARK IN POTTING MIX

...Dick Chadwick

There are two main "Fir Barks"  
 sold at nurseries: #1 "White Fir  
 Bark" or Orchid Bark, and #2 "Fir  
 Bark", patio bark or pathway bark,  
 which is namely "Douglas Fir Bark".

"White Fir Bark" or orchid bark  
 is safe to use on epiphyllums but  
 "Douglas Fir Bark" may stunt or kill  
 your plant. Many years ago I learned  
 that Douglas Fir bark would kill a  
 Cattleya Orchid, an epiphyte, but I  
 didn't apply this same thing to my  
 epiphyllums until I started having  
 problems with some of my plants. I  
 first noticed the effect on some  
 plants that I had purchased. They

had been growing beautifully but  
 suddenly stopped growing, some of  
 them started to wilt. Upon repotting  
 the plants I found that the pots had  
 been filled half-way with Douglas  
 Fir bark, the roots grew as far as  
 the bark and stopped. After repot-  
 ting in a normal mix all the plants  
 resumed normal growth, except one  
 which after five years has produced  
 only one flower. However, cuttings  
 taken from this plant grew normally  
 and produced flowers after three  
 years.

In the meantime, I had repotted  
 several hundred plants, filling half  
 the pot with Douglas Fir bark,  
 thinking I was saving money. I had  
 the extra work, expense, and lost time  
 in trying to locate these plants and  
 repot them. In all these cases I  
 found only five or six plants that  
 the roots grew through the bark and  
 these were all heavy rooted terres-  
 trial type plants. Recently I found  
 a plant I missed repotting, a "Prof.  
 Ebert". It had been in the pot for  
 five years, produced four or five  
 flowers a year and much new growth.  
 Upon repotting, I found this was one  
 of the pots that was half full of bark  
 and even after five years the roots  
 stopped growing when they touched the  
 bark.

Probably a couple of pieces of  
 Douglas Fir bark over the drainage  
 holes of the pot wouldn't hurt the  
 plant as the roots would still have a  
 lot of room to grow.



...a note from Ethel Hurst

"To all in the Society I would  
 just like to thank all of you for the  
 two beautiful plants you've sent up -  
 one in September and the other one  
 in December. They are doing super.  
 So am I.

Sincerely,  
 Ethel Hurst"



If there were fragrance  
 These heavy snow-  
 Flakes settling...  
 Lilies on the rocks

BYLAWS CHANGES

...Donald Irwin, Chairman  
Bylaws Committee

The proposed bylaws for the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. were approved by the general membership at the regular meeting on January 11 1984 WITH EXCEPTION of the following:

1. ARTICLE IV - "E" Eliminated entirely.
2. ARTICLE IV - "H" Strike out the last sentence.
3. Subject to ratification (which is expected) at the regular general meeting in February, the following wording shall be substituted for ARTICLE V - "B":  
"The nine directors shall serve for two years, or until the election of their successors. The terms of office shall be staggered with four members elected every even year and five members elected in odd years. Any member having served two consecutive terms as a director shall be ineligible for reelection to that position until after an interval of one year."
4. Substitution for ARTICLE V "C" is as follows:  
"One years membership shall be required before a member shall be eligible to be a director or elected officer."
5. ARTICLE V - "I" Correct to add the word "consecutive" between the words "two" and "terms" on the third line.

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Since the bylaws will not be reprinted, it is important that each member make the above changes on his or her copy. Corrected copies for new members will be available via the Librarian at regular meetings.



*February Garden Calendar:*

AT THE CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK  
Feb. 18, 19 San Diego Orchid "Mini"  
Show, Sat. noon-5 pm, Sun. 10 am to  
5 pm

The San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. will be holding Horticultural Classes each Saturday from 10:30 AM until noon in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Taught by experts in their fields, the classes will be on a variety of garden topics. The classes are free, and everyone is invited to attend.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF INTEREST:

The Planning Consultant for Balboa Park has made the recommendation that all occupants of the Casa del Prado be relocated when space is available in the Naval Hospital area. He also recommended that Village Place (the street between Casa del Prado and Natural History Museum be closed).

At the next regular meeting you may sign a petition to protest these plans (Elizabeth Glover).

The San Diego Botanical Library in Room 104 of the Casa del Prado, is open on Sundays from noon to 4 PM for your use. It is not a circulating library, but has many hard to find books not found in most libraries. If you know of anyone who has any horticultural books they no longer use, ask them to donate them to the library. Book donations are tax deductible.

CLASSIFIEDS

California Epi Center wants to remind you that your \$3 Early Bird Coupon is good through the end of February and may be used with any purchase totaling \$15 or more. You may purchase your plants by mail, by phone (credit card), or at the nursery. If you'd 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, California  
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.

4. Call Jeannie, 280-6747.

## 1984 San Diego Epiphyllum Society Interest Finder

The Board of this Society is distributing this first interest finder to determine the current needs and wishes of the general membership. Please give a few minutes of your time and seriously consider your answers. (Names when used will be kept in strict confidence.) Please return this sheet to the President by or at the next meeting. The responses will be tabulated and then will be reported at a future meeting. (Also, the members of the Board of this Society are available to any member at any (reasonable) time to receive any type of suggestion or complaint and then bring the matter before the Board.)

1. What type of programs would you like this Society to present? Also, what have been your favorite programs in the past?
2. What type of activities and services would you like the Society sponsor?
3. Can you think of some activity, office, or service for the SDES in which you would willing to participate?
4. Can you list some ideas for improving this Society?
5. How many years have you been growing Epiphyllums?
6. How long have you been a member of this Society?
7. How did you find about this Society?
8. What type of Christmas Party would you like this year?
9. Additional comments (use the back of this page if necessary):

NAME:

TELEPHONE NUMBER: