

Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

June 13, 1984

VOLUME 8, NO. 6

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

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.)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

James & Patricia Monahan,
Aptos, California (May)



GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 13

There is no scheduled speaker for our June meeting because the Epi Society itself is to be celebrated this evening.

We will install the new officers elected for the 1984-85 term, honor our past presidents and have a piece of SDES birthday cake!

Bring what flowers you have for our June mini-show, and cuttings for the cutting table. As has become our tradition, the cutting raffle is free this evening.

Come and enjoy this special evening with your fellow epi-nuts!



JUNE REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker
These are the folks signed up for the June refreshments:

Valerie Bailey
Mary Etta Branch
Mary Jillian
Sylvia Duckworth
Katherine Stroup

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is a good time to remind you that due to the size of our meetings it takes at least 10 people to bring refreshments each month. When we don't get 10 people, one of us has to get on the phone and drum up cookies - please check the list on the host table as you leave the meeting and fill up those spaces folks!



MAY GENERAL MEETING

...Gene Schmedding
May is always a busy month for the SDES, being election month and flower show month.

Our new president is Gene Lund, and our new 1st Vice President is

Greg Balvin. There were four new directors elected for the board; Dick Chadwick, Frank Granatowski, Rick Latimer, and Gus Schlapfer.

We had a Mini-Show with almost as many blooms as at our Mother's Day Show, which, by the way, was a huge success, thanks to our capable chairman, Kathie Van Arum. She worked many long hours to make it the triumph that it was. I am still getting phone calls from people telling me that it was one of the most spectacular shows that they had ever seen, and wanting to know where the plants could be purchased. Of course I pulled some names and addresses out of my "Magic" box. I am so glad to see that the interest is steadily growing. I remember that when our Society first started, that a great many people were surprised to find that the "night bloomers" weren't the only epis around.

This was the first year for our new perpetual trophies. They will change hands each year with the winner's name engraved on them. I must say that the winners certainly deserved them.

The Dr. Troxel award went to Ray Conser for the best rendition of the show theme. The Buddy Hurst award went to George French for the best new seedling of the year, his "Masada". The William Nelson award went to Randy Light for the best grown epiphytic plant, a huge, beautiful Empress.

June is our birthday month as well as installation of the new officers. I hope that everyone will attend our Birthday Party, we are going to have a huge, delicious birthday cake. I know, as I am ordering it. So if it isn't what I promise, you can blame me.



Green shadow-dances...
See our young
Banana-Tree
Patterning the screen

Shiki

SDES 1984, '85 OFFICERS

Election Results:

President: Gene Lund
1st Vice President (Programs):
Greg Balvin
2nd Vice President (Membership):
Jeannie Burger
Recording Secretary:
Margaret Pethley
Treasurer: Richard Plock (appointed)
Corresponding Secretary:
Debbie Capp
Directors: (2-yr. term)
Dick Chadwick
Frank Granatowski
Rick Latimer
Gus Schlapfer
(last year of 2-yr. term)
Helen Barkdoll
George Jennings
Gene Schmedding
Ron Miller
One director to be appointed.
to complete Greg Balvin's
term.



MOTHER'S DAY SHOW

...Kathie Van Arum

My very deep thanks to all who made our Mother's Day Show such a beautiful success. In the first six minutes, we had over 430 people through the doors. All together we clocked 4,215 through the doors.

Ray Conser won the Troxell Award for the best presentation of the show theme. Randy Light won the Nelson Award for the best Epiphytic plant with his Grand Empress. And George French won the Hurst Award for his seedling "Masada". Congratulations to all of you.

My special thanks to Mary Alice Buaas for the very beautiful way she created the society's table. It has never been so beautifully done, and thanks to all of you who brought your flowers to complete her exhibit.

Thank you to Ernest Angus and all those who worked in the cutting room. It is too bad that we ran out of cuttings before one o'clock. Many people went home disappointed because there were no more cuttings.

Finally, my special thanks to Rick Latimer, Mike Shepley and Edwina Viloria for staying and helping until everything in Room 101 was taken care of.

The "Exhibitors Best" ribbons were awarded as follows:

Ron & Joan Miller, AL BUSTON
Ed Broz Family, STERN VON ERLAU
George French, OREHAN ANNIE
Greg Balvin, RUBY SNOWFLAKE
Phyllis Flechsig, CLOWN
Rainbow Gardens, INDIAN WARRIOR
Sam Markey, TINY JEWEL
Gene Schmedding, RUTH KILBORN
Elinor & Richard Latimer, Sr.,
KON TIKI

Richard Latimer, Jr., ROSE OF YORK
Michael Shepley, THERESA DELA MURRE
Vernon Hook Family, TIPTOP
Valerie Bailey & Roger Mohling,
SPICE ISLAND

Jean Seile, CADET
Michiko Munda, MALCHO'S BEAUTY
Seedling

Daniel Broz, WARHEAD
Florence Arnold, SCHEHERAZADE
Margaret Pethley, PADRE
John Piland, BLISS

Ray Conser, PUNCH BOWL
Don & Lucile Irwin, KEVIN
Kathie Van Arum, MINUET
Marian Foster, TROPICAL DAWN
Wressy Cocke, Cocke Seedling

Louise Newman, GERMANIA
Bob Leffler, PEACOCKII
Margaret & Harry Blake, FLAMINGO
Jack & Cecile Bradley, ROSETTA
California Epi Center, TROCADERO Sport
Fern LaBorde, JOSEPH'S COAT
Sanford Roberts, FRANCES C
Ed Gauss, SUNDANCE



EDUCATION

...Helen Barkdoll

"The teacher is taught by his students" is an old adage. Several people came to my rescue to help enlighten me about the two misspelled epis in the March list of off-season bloomers. Keep up the good work and we'll all become knowledgeable in the many aspects of epi culture.

(Moeve is really Möve - a Curt Knebel

hybrid #338. Möve means seagull in German. It is a rich blooming, red flower, a seedling cross of what he describes as the old Phyllocactus Ackermanii; a strong pleasing fragrance. Michael T. is the correct spelling of a Troxel cross named after his son.)

The Education committee met for the last time in the '83-84 term in April, at the shadehouse of Marian Foster. Marian went all out and presented a wonderful feast of flowers and light refreshments.

The group inspected eight new books on general gardening which will be available at the library. These books cover a wide range of horticultural information as well as many colorful pictures. They will be on display and available to check out at the library table.

Marian Foster added a two-volume set of books. Thanks, Marian. We need all the good books we can get. If there are any members that have books that they want to donate to the library, please see me or Rick Latimer.

A complete list of all the off-season bloomers will appear in graph form later in the year.



EPIPHYLLUM CULTURE, JULY & AUGUST

...Pat Stebbins

My blooms are almost gone and I must say it was a pretty spectacular two-week period about a month ago - compared to last year's long season, this one was a 4th of July explosion!

This overcast weather is going to leave us soon (I promise) and then we'll have our hot, dry summer weather - and you can start misting your plants in the evening again (or morning or both), fun to do and the plants LOVE it!

This is the best time to repot those overgrown plants, and those 4" pots you got last year at show time - and get those new cuttings potted so they can get that extra boost of establishing their roots during a growing cycle.

Remember to fertilize regularly with a balanced fertilizer and pick off all the spent blooms and just generally clean up the debris and dieback (I also note that I have a lovely crop of oxalis again - didn't I just get rid of that stuff?)



GIBBERELIC ACID

...Dick Chadwick

In 1981, member Mr. Sanford Roberts wrote an article which was published in our Epi News regarding the use of Gibberellic Acid in propagating "Day Lily". He had such excellent results in multiplying the pupa of the day lily and accelerating the early blooming of the plants, I decided I would try to apply his methods on epiphyllums.

First I had to find a source of Gibberellic acid. Most nurseries I checked had never heard of it. I finally found it at Andersons Nursery on Pacific Highway. I then checked with the Dept. of Agriculture to see if they had any publications on the use and effect of Gibberellic acid. I received one publication from them but it was very limited and didn't apply to soaking seeds or spraying of seedlings. Also, on page 80 of Scott Haselton's "Epiphyllum Handbook" was an article on the use of "Colchicine" another plant growth stimulator. The results are very undeterminable, a fertile plant may become infertile, and an infertile plant may become fertile. The color, size and shape of the flower may be altered. The changes are not permanent and after discontinuing the usage of colchicine, the plant will revert to its former condition.

On all my experiments I used a formula of 1/2 teaspoon Gibberellic acid to 6 oz. distilled water and 6-8 drops of clear ammonia.

Experiment #1 I divided one batch of seeds in half. One half of the seed was planted immediately, the other half was soaked in the Gibberellic acid solution for approx.

6 hours, then planted, the remaining solution was poured over the potting mix. I started getting germination in seven days in the treated and untreated pots. Total germination was about the same, growth rate about the same.

Experiment #2 I had another batch of seed already planted in two pots for five days. I saturated one of the pots with the same formula used in Exp. #1. Both pots of seeds germinated at the same time.

Experiment #3 I had two pots of seedlings approx. 1" high (both pots of seedlings originated from the same apple). I sprayed one of the pots with the Gibberellic solution every other day to stimulate growth. After a month, the seedlings in the treated pot were approx. an inch longer than the untreated seedlings but the growth was very spindly and weak. I discontinued the use of the solution and within a month the untreated seedling had grown to the same size as the treated seedlings and the treated seedlings had filled out to the normal size.

The results of my experiments were very disappointing. I had just as good results on germination with untreated seed as with treated seed and I didn't like the elongated growth of the treated seedlings.

I tried other experiments with the Gibberellic acid, on vegetable seeds, using the same formula but soaking the seeds 4 hours.

#1 Tomatoes: "Parks Whopper", germination 11 days, approx. 100%, 40% dieback of seedlings, normal crop production
 "Better Boy", germination 11 days, approx. 100%, 40% dieback, normal crop.
 "Roma", germination 9 days, approx. 100%, 40% dieback, spindly growth with tomatoes about 1/2 the normal size. Fruit and vine very prone to disease.

#2 Bell Peppers: Germination in 10 days. Fruit smaller and less than normal. Very sensitive to sunburn.

- #3 Cucumbers: Germination 9 days. On all three varieties used, stunted vines and deformed cucumbers.
- #4 Spinach: Approx. 100% germination in 10 days but severe stunting. Plants only grew from 3-4" tall.
- #5 Onions: I used onion sets and soaked the bulblets for two hours in the solution. First germination in 7 days and total germination by 9th day. Results: Nice onion tops but no bulbs.



SOME GARDENING EVENTS COMING UP IN
CASA DEL PRADO:

June 10 SOUTHWESTERN HEMEROCALLIS
SHOW, Sunday 12 PM-5 PM

June 16, 17 S.D. FUCHSIA & SHADE
PLANT SOCIETY SHOW, Sat. 12 PM-5 PM.,
Sun. 10 AM-5 PM

July 8 S.D. DAHLIA SPECIMEN SHOW
Sun. 1 PM-4:30 PM



CLASSIFIEDS

SALE

PLANT REDUCTION SALE AT THE HONEY DO
RANCH, JUNE 9 THRU JUNE 15

Our collection has grown from small pots to large pots - all in the same area - something has to give or go. We will hold a plant sale from Sat. June 9 through Fri. June 15, hours of 10 AM to 4 PM. Give us a call and we will tell you how to get out to the ranch.

Nate & Dorothy Ogdon
5739 San Miguel Road
Bonita
Phone: 479-0425

EPIPHYLLUM HANDBOOK - S. Haselton, the author-approved photocopy reprint of the 1951 original is now available from Rainbow Gardens. This softbound, 231-page book has 176 black/white photographs and is indispensable for epiphyllum enthusiasts! Card stock self-cover, plastic ring binder. Only \$12.95 + \$1.50 for postage/handling/insurance (Californians add 6% tax). Our 1984 plant & bookshop catalog contains 37 pages of our latest offerings in the world of epiphytic cacti. Cost: \$1.00. Added reminder to you all: We invite one and all during the blooming season - bring your camera! We're open WITHOUT appointment every Saturday in April and May (except May 19th) - just give us a call (213) 697-1488. RAINBOW GARDENS, Box 721, La Habra, CA 90633 (address: 1574 E. Dorothea Rd., La Habra Hts., CA).

CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER will be open Saturdays 10 AM to 5 PM, during MAY and JUNE (no appointment necessary). Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the beautiful display of flowers. Cameras welcome. We're open the rest of the year (except during April) by "appointment"...just call and if we're here, you're welcome to come by. If you haven't visited the nursery before, please call for directions or send a long stamped envelope for our map. We have thousands of rooted epiphyllum cuttings, rhipsalis, Christmas and Easter Cactus, Rattail Cactus, hoyas, rare epiphytic cactus and haworthias for sale at the nursery as well as an expanded selection of basket size plants at very reasonable prices. We are located at 1444 E. Taylor St., Vista, CA 92083. (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, 287-9193