

Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

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PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.
C/O 455 E. NAPLES ST., CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 92011

MEETING: SECOND WEDNESDAY, 7:30 PM, ROOM 101, CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society is open to all persons interested in the growing, display, and collecting of epiphyllum and its related species.

MEMBERSHIP: MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR ONE YEAR \$6.00 SINGLE, COUPLE, OR FAMILY, U.S.A., \$12.00 INTERNATIONAL. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC., TO: JEANNIE BURGER, 4577 ALTADENA AVE., SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92115 (phone (619) 287-9193)
(NOTE: DUES MONTH IS NUMBER IN PARENTHESES ON MAILING LABEL - PLEASE CHECK AND KEEP CURRENT.)

SEND ALL NEWS ITEMS TO EPI NEWS EDITOR:
Pat Stebbins, 10404 Orozco Rd., San Diego, CA 92124 (phone (619) 279-8026)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: WEDS. SEPT. 25th

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Gloria Alexanderson, San Diego
(in June)



Those signed up for September:

Gloria Alexanderson
Gus Schlapfer
Oralee Steels
Nita Stroberger
Norma Gunter

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING, Sept. 11

...Rick Latimer

This month's program will be one that we have never done before. We will concentrate on the different ways our members have housed their Epi collections. No two collections are alike and no two lathhouses are alike. We will explore a number of gardens just to see how each member has adapted and built a house for Epis. The idea for this program is that of the speakers, Margaret and Harry Blake, long time and active members of this society. Margaret is one of the few members to have had her picture published (in color) in the Epi News (see April 1980 - this picture was taken by and the printing costs were donated by Sam Markey).



SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

August was a fascinating evening with Jim Gibbons and his lovely film. Thanks to all the hostesses and hosts that provided the table goodies.

Perhaps there will be a few more volunteers who will bring their favorite cookie or cake.



MARGARET E. COOPER

We are sad to report the death of member Betty Cooper on August 25th.

Betty was a member of the Epi Society since its first year. She was very active in several other floral societies, and in recent years was past president of the Fuchsia and Geranium societies.

Betty officiated our Installation of Officers in June for several years and always made it an inspiring and enthusiasm-generating event.

It's hard to count the contributions of a person such as Betty Cooper. Her knowledge, kindness and good humor touched many of us and set a fine example. The San Diego floral community suffers a great loss with her passing.

Our deepest sympathy to Betty's family and many friends.

GEORGE POOLE

Member George Poole of Riverside, California passed away in August. Our sympathy to his wife Barbara, and friends.

AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

...Gene Schmedding

Our August program was a bit different than the usual type of programs that we have.

Member Jim Gibbons, Horticulturist for the Wild Animal Park, gave a program of slides he had taken in 1979 of the 40-acre estate of Mme. Gana Walska, in Santa Barbara. She has since passed away, and the gardens and house are wanted for a museum by Santa Barbara.

There were as many small gardens on the estate as there are kinds of flowers and tropical plants, trees, and rock gardens with waterfalls. Mme. Walska must have spent many happy hours wandering through her lovely gardens.

Our Christmas Award Banquet has been set for the Mission Room in the Bahia Hotel. It will be our regular meeting night in December. The dinner will cost \$10 per person, and for non-members will be \$20. And, as usual there will be outstanding entertainment.

Don't forget to have a small potted plant for each member of your party to exchange, and decorate the pot so that it looks festive.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY/AWARDS BANQUET

...Margaret Pethley

This year our Awards Banquet will be held on Wednesday, December 11th in the Mission Room of the Bahia Hotel. This is the room at the top with the crystal chandeliers and gorgeous view. It is our plan to have an outstanding entertainer for you that evening. There will be an open bar and the social hour will begin at 6 PM, with dinner being served at 7 PM. Now is a good time to begin

those 4" rooted cuttings that have become a traditional exchange with our society. And, as the plans take shape, we hope to have one of the most elegant occasions that highlight our Epi year. Do plan on attending!

Members cost: \$10.00.

Guests: \$20.00

Tickets will go on sale at our October meeting; last day of sale will be December 1st. Last day for cancellation will be December 5. Any questions, call Margaret Pethley. 461-8607, or Elinor Latimer 697-4100.

MISCELLANEOUS

...Pat Stebbins

Well, the end of another season is upon us...can't believe how the year has flown. I have had more off-bloomers this year than any other I can remember. I had several surprise blooms from Spanish Gold this month, which bloomed heavily in April/May. Also recently Bohemienne, some blooms just coming up on Lulu, Munecca has been blooming steadily since May, and of course, Pumilum. Harold Knebel is getting ready for a display in another month or so - what a thrill to keep discovering blooms so long after the season.

The SDES has had some interesting programs this summer. Those of you who have not been able to attend lately have missed some good meetings. You can make it up to yourself by NOT missing the September meeting. Members Margaret and Harry Blake have worked many months on a program ABOUT THE MEMBERS and their epis. I promise you, you'll enjoy this one. See you there!

Start thinking Christmas Party! Our Awards Banquet this year will be a humdinger - don't forget to start your 4" potted cutting for the plant exchange, if you havn't already done it.

The 1986 Mother's Day Show is in the works. The chairman is Kathie Van Arum (phone 477-5258), and the theme is "MELODIES IN EPIS" - so start your creative juices bubbling!



Following is an article written by member Lois Burks of California Epi Center, and appeared in the Spring 1985 edition of Garden Gateways. It is published here with the author's permission.

UNFORGETTABLE EASTER CACTI



Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri giant

The sheer impact of seeing a specimen size Easter cactus in full bloom is absolutely unforgettable. Solid masses of small brightly colored iridescent blooms borne on hanging succulent stems produce a dazzling cascade of color.

It is difficult to relate to the fact that Easter cacti are truly cacti. In fact, they are different in almost every aspect of their appearance from the globular spiny desert cacti with which we are all familiar. And their cultural requirements are different as well, because these are tropical cacti, originating in the jungles of Brazil where they grow as epiphytes along with orchids and bromeliads, rooted in the forks of tree limbs, sustaining themselves on the decayed leaves and other natural debris that collects there.

Easter cacti resemble the ever popular Christmas cacti in appearance, but on closer inspection you will see that the small succulent joints that make up the branches are more gently rounded than those of Christmas cacti. The joints can be flat or 3 to 5 angled and produce bristly brown hairs at the ends and angles.

Easter cacti bloom in April and May, and sometimes again in the fall when the length of the days most closely matches those of their spring blooming season. The flowers are daisy-like in appearance, opening each morning after sunrise, and closing in the evening. Flowering continues for several weeks, with individual blossoms lasting a few days each.

The two true species Easter cacti are *Rhipsalidopsis rosea*, which has delicate rose-pink blossoms that are 1-1½ inches in diameter, and *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*, which has brilliant scarlet flowers that are 2-3 inches in diameter. These two species hybridize with each other freely, and many hybrids have been produced, ranging in color from pale orange to deep shocking pink.

Since Easter cacti are compact and rather slow growing, they are marvelous subjects for hanging baskets or windowsill culture. Because the plants are tropical by nature, they prefer filtered light rather than full sun. The potting mix should be rich in organic matter, porous and fast draining.

Easter cacti should receive a good supply of water and fertilizer during the spring and summer growing season, and just enough water to prevent them from drying out completely during winter. When watering your plants, do it thoroughly so the water runs freely from the drain holes. Fertilize plants during the growing season with mild balanced fertilizer. You can use liquid or granular fertilizer according to your preference, but it is best not to use a product containing more than 10 percent nitrogen.

The plants prefer a rather cool humid atmosphere, 50 to 75 degrees F, but will tolerate higher and lower temperatures. They can stand temperatures down to 32 degrees for short periods of time, but may be severely damaged if exposed to freezing temperatures for any length of time. They may drop some of their outer-most joints in overhead dry air, but this is not cause for alarm, as new growth will replace the joints that have fallen.

Propagation is from short stem

cuttings, which should be dipped in rooting hormone, allowed to cure in a shady place for a day or so, then planted in barely moist mix just deeply enough to remain upright. Rooting takes a month or so in warm weather.

Easter cacti are relatively pest free. The most common problems are scale (small tannish insects), and mealybug (small cream colored insects that leave a cottony residue), both of which may be controlled with an application of one of the nontoxic insecticidal soaps that have recently become available.

An Easter cactus would be a brilliant, color-splashed acquisition at this time of year.

Unforgettable!



You know you're getting old when...
your back goes out more than you do.



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.



EPI NEWS ITEMS

...Pat Stebbins

Do you have a garden related article, report, helpful hint, anything...that would be suitable for printing in the Epi News? Please give it some thought and if you have any questions, call me at 279-8026.



Far across low mist
Intermittently
The lake
Lifts a snow-white sail
Gakoku

CLASSIFIED

Advertising for garden-related items limited to members only, no charge. Size of ad limited to space available at discretion of editor.

NAMETAGS

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

CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER is open by "appointment"...if we're here, you're welcome to come by. We have a large selection of 1-yr. old epi baskets... two young plants to the pot...at very reasonable prices...most under \$10. Plus thousands of rooted epis, rattail cacti, hoyas, rhipsalis, Xmas and Easter Cactus in 3-inch pots. If your interest is haworthias, we have one of the finest selections anywhere, If you can't visit, our FULL COLOR "Flowering Jungle Cactus" catalog is available for \$1.00 (deductible). It features 114 photos of the plants listed above. Society members will also receive our "Unrooted Cutting" list of 90 additional epis. California Epi Center, Box 1431-SDES, 1444 E. Taylor St., Vista, CA 92083. (619) 758-4290.

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