



EPI NEWS

the monthly newsletter of

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

VOL. 11, NO. 6

JUNE 10, 1987

IT'S SMOOTH SAILING ON THE 'SOUTH PACIFIC'

The annual Mother's Day flower show of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society was held May 10th at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Judging by both attending crowds and monies raised the event was another major success.

SDES Mother's Day Show Chairman, Dorothy Breining and co-chair Ernest Angus saw to it that everthing ran smoothly and all problems were minimized.

Cutting sales chairman Dick Chadwick and his crew are credited with raising another nest-egg for the society.

Vernon Hook and his kitchen partner Bob Stroberger kept all the workers and exhibitors well fed and orderly.

As for the exhibits, simply put, they were better than ever. Prizes were awarded and the winners are:

Wm. Nelson Trophy awarded to George French for the best epiphytic plant displayed,

DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE

IS JUNE 22ND

Epiphyllum hybrid 'cherokee chief'.

The Buddy Hurst Trophy for best newly registered seedling was awarded posthumously to hybridizer Richard Latimer, Sr. for Epiphyllum hybrid 'Elinor Victoria Latimer' (exhibitor not credited).

The Troxell Trophy for the display that best represents the show's theme went to Don and Willise Brubaker.

The Eva Clover Trophy was awarded for the first time. This award recognizes the contributions to our show from members displaying a limited number of flowers on the special "society" table, this years winners are Cliff and Jan Rice for their blossom of Epiphyllum x 'american sweetheart'.

(Continued on page 2.)

SPECIAL INSIDE

ECKHARD MEIER REPORTS
FROM WEST GERMANY

SPECIAL BIOGRAPHY of
CURT KNEBEL
PIONEER EPI HYBRIDIZER

PROGRAM FOR JUNE ANNOUNCED

AND LOTS, LOTS MORE

MOM'S DAY SUCCESS
continued from page 1

A new class of entries, arrangements, was encouraged this year. Margaret Blake was awarded a rosette for her presentation entitled "Trade Winds".

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America awarded a trophy for the best educational exhibit, this year's winner was Leo Kihm for his display of Easter Cacti.

In addition each exhibit recieved a ribbon for the best individual flower in the display. (See related item on page 8.)

"RELATED SPECIES"
LATIMER'S TOPIC
AT JUNE MEETING

SDS Vice President for programs, Rick Latimer, will himself present the prog am at the June 10th General Meeting.

Rick will discuss those species closely related to the Epiphyllum.

Rick is an internationally respected cactus and succulent hobbist, his infrequent programs are a treat for both the novice and long time grower. This program should answer many questions about those other jungle cacti in your garden.

Meeting time is 7:30 in room 101 of the Casa del Prado.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In addition to our seasonal influx, several issues have passed without acknowledging our new members. This months list is long and I hope complete. Sean

Joe Q. Tran, San Diego
John F. Noble, National City
Jean Costanzo, Encinitas
Elise Klug, San Diego
Tai Tan Le, El Cajon
Carol Morgan, Bonita
Barbara Andrews, Oceanside
David M. Cockrum, San Diego
June Rubach, La Mesa
Alan D. Mahaffey, San Diego
Jeannie Brereton, Chula Vista
Mac McLean, Los Angeles
R. John McGee, San Diego
Mary L. Birchell, La Mesa
Wanda Murray, Nevada
Juli Wilkerson, San Diego
John and Mary Cooper, Vista

YUM YUM !!!!!!!



Sign ups for the refreshment table at the June General Meeting are still low. There was a time when it was unheard of for less than ten names to appear on the list each month.

This month is better than some have been recently, but we still have a long way to go.

Thanks in advance to:
Thelma Capp John Noble
Jack Graham George Plaisted
- Penny Bunker

**A LETTER FROM
WEST GERMANY
TELLS OF FRIENDSHIPS**

A letter came the other day from SDES Honorary Life Member Eckhard Meier in Simmern, West Germany. I thought you would like to read it. Sean

* * * * *

April 30, 1987

Dear Sean;

You'll probably be surprised to get a letter from me, but I have an interesting piece of news for you, which, I think could well be worth publishing in Epi News.

On April 24th, Rick Latimer, our SDES Program Vice President, lead a slide show on Baja California at the monthly meeting of "Kakteenfreunde Hanau", one of the biggest branches of the German Cactus Society "D.K.G.". His mother and former president of the SDES, Mrs. Elinor Latimer, was present too. The talk was held in english with me acting as interpreter. Rick was awarded with repeated and long applause during and at the end of his talk due to the excellent pictures shown and his authoritative comments. After the show the Latimers had to answer many questions for the interested audience and it was not before 11:15 p.m. that we could drive back to Simmern, some 80 miles west of Hanau.

I hope you are okay. You are doing a wonderful job with Epi

News. I really enjoy reading it. It's a little more than a year ago now that I was in your country and happy enough meeting you and so may wonderful people around San Diego. The days are unforgettable for me. I think there'll be a chance to meet again in one or two years and so I just say "hello" to you today hoping that you can go on for a long time publishing the bulletin for the sake of all members.

Please send my regards to the society.

Yours sincerely
Eckhard

CARAVAN GALA LAUDED

All reports indicate that the Epi Caravan held May 23rd was a smashing success and the word is that event chair Kathie vanArum deserves a big measure of credit. Thanks go to the other hosts that day, they are...Milt and Eileen Turner, George and Madeline French, Kathie van Arum, Elizabeth Glover, George Jennings and Elinor Latimer and her son Rick. Here's Kathie's report.

"The first Epi Caravan was a great success and all those who attended agree that it should be an annual event. The gardens were so beautiful and an inspiration to all who saw them. The food was so enjoyable. My thanks to all who did so much to make this such a great success."

Thanks to Rick Latimer for passing along these fine articles about pioneer epi hybridizer Curt Knebel. Thanks to author A.J.S. McMillan for kindly permitting us to publish them.

CURT KNEBEL
A GREAT HYBRIDIZER
by A.J.S. McMillan

Curt Knebel was born at Erlau in Saxony in 1871 and lived there for most of his life. His father was a railway employee who was fond of growing plants. The young Curt worked first at the nursery of Gustav Albert in Hainichen, and then worked in some of the best known nurseries of that time, including Haage and Schmidt at Erfurt. His training as a pupil ended when he became a collaborator of Bouche at the great Royal Garden in Dresden. In 1894 he returned to Erlau to found his own nursery, and became interested in epicacti quite by chance. A friend gave him some of these plants and this awakened an interest that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Before the second world war Curt Knebel was visited by Werner Englebrecht who made many notes about his work. Knebel gave him the manuscript that contained most of what he wanted to tell posterity about his work and experience. To this Englebrecht added extracts from his conversations and letters. This version was published by Abbey Gardens Press, in Pasadena, California in 1949 and a German version

was later published in Potsdam. The original edition went out of print but it has been reprinted by Rainbow Gardens in La Habra, California.

Many of Knebel's hybrids are still in cultivation, for example several extra large flowered cultivars from the Phyllocactus section like 'Stern von Erlau' with extra large orange blooms, 'Ce Ka' a large purple and orange and 'R.W. Poindexter' golden orange-yellow petals with narrow carmine edge, slightly ruffled. There are of course, many more and Knebel's book can be strongly recommended, not only for the interesting story of his life and work but for the useful and practical information about hybridizing and cultivation given in it.

KNEBELS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO TAXONOMY NOTED
by A.J.S. Mc Millan

Curt Knebel was one of the great hybridizers of what we now call epiphyllum hybrids or "EPIS". Perhaps we should use Gordon Rowley's non-committal name of 'Epicactus' (Rowley 1972) because there has been confusion over the name Epiphyllum (as with so many generic names in the Cactaceae) since it was first used by Haworth in 1812 for Epiphyllum phyllanthus, the plant described by Linnaeus as Cactus phyllanthus in 1753. Unfortunately, Haworth also described Zygocactus truncata (now Schlumbergera truncata) as Epiphyllum truncatum in

1819, and this name was perpetuated by various authors (e.g. Pfeiffer, Lemaire, Morren and Schumann), although Schumann also proposed the name Zygocactus altensteinii in 1890 and this generic name was formally published by Britton and Rose (1919).

Knebel recognised this difficulty and proposed that the generic name Phyllocactus, published by Link in 1831, should be used for the epiphyllum species since the name epiphyllum was so widely used for the zygocacti. He divided his genus Phyllocactus into three sections: Chiapasia, Ackermannia and Euphylllocactus. The first was the monotypic Chiapasia nelsonii from Mexico, described by Vaupel in 1913 as Phyllocactus nelsonii and for which Britton and Rose erected the genus Chiapasia in 1919 (loc. cit.). This taxon has now been referred to as Disocactus.

Knebel's second section, Ackermannia, included a number of species-Phyllocactus bradei for which Britton and Rose chose the generic name Eccremocactus, also a dinural, dark-red species called Phyllocactus ackermanii which disappeared for many years. It was perpetuated in one of the best known and hardiest of the epicacti hybrids 'Ackermanii' from a cross with Heliocereus speciosus. The third species in this section was another dinural bloomer, Phyllocactus phyllanthoides. This referred to their newly erected genus, Nopalxochia, by Britton and Rose. This taxon is one of the oldest known species as it was introduced

to Europe in 1651 by Hernandez, and its garden form is known throughout the world as 'Deutsche Kaiserin'.

The third section, Euphylllocactus, was erected by Schumann to contain about 15 species which we now call Epiphyllum. They are characterised by long, thin tubes and nocturnal blooms. To this group Knebel also added Disocactus eichlamis and D. biformis. These details are all set out in his book, published in Germany as "Phyllokakteen" and the English version published in the United States as "Phyllocactus" (Knebel 1949). These plants, grouped in Knebel's somewhat unorthodox taxonomy, were the basis for his hybridizing work with the important addition of the Heliocereus species, H. speciosus and H. cinnabarinus.

REFERENCES.

Britton and Rose (1919), The Cactaceae, Washington D.C., 4 volumes,

Knebel, C. (1949), Phyllocactus, Pasadena Calif.,

Rowley, G. (1972), "The Genealogy of the Large-Flowered Cactus", Epiphytes vol. IV, Nos. 13 & 14

Marge Schlapfer reports that two pink table cloths were left at the Wild Animal Park after the May 2nd Pot Luck.

If these belong to you contact Marge.

BOTANICAL NAMES by Sean Minogue

Common plant names can cause trouble when they are used carelessly. For example "Night-Blooming Cereus" is a name you hear all the time. According to Haselton this plant is Epiphyllum oxypetalum. The Ortho book on Cacti and Succulents says it's Hylocereus undatus. The controversy starts there, but does not end.

For this reason we depend on botanical nomenclature or botanical names. New members may be overwhelmed by the use of botanical names in McMillan's articles. Most of us choose to use abbreviations of the actual botanical names of our plants, but only when we have established that we know what group of plants we are discussing.

Botanical names are usually Latin; the theory is that a dead language remains constant.

Botanists use a binomial (two name) system to identify plants. The first name identifies the genus, the second name identifies the specific plant within that genus.

Most often epi growers use the registered name of a particular hybrid without any other sort of identification. When someone refers to "Padre", the beautiful pink flowering plant that begins so many epi collections, they are really talking about Epiphyllum x "padre" (x denotes a hybrid). By contrast the true Epiphyllum species

(the non-hybridised plants as discovered in habitat and collected by many epi lovers) are identified with the proper botanical name, such as Epiphyllum crenatum or E. strictum. Once we have established the genus we may speak only of 'strictum', etc. In writing we use the initial of the genus when we are certain it will not confuse the reader.

Epiphyllum are members of the Cactaceae family of plants. That means that they are true cacti. They belong to the sub-tribe Epiphyllanae, which includes many other genera of tree dwelling rain forest cacti.

Botanical names are not set in stone as we learned in the preceding articles. Botanists make discoveries, reject previous concepts and argue over taxons (names). While scientifically sound this constant revision can confuse the hobbieist. (Don't worry. There won't be a test on this material.)

Terms like "Orchid Cactus", "Christmas Cactus" or even the mysterious euphemism "Related Species" are indeed helpful in conversation. They give us the basic idea. When we hear them, shadowy images begin to form in our minds. But we require the exact information imparted by the botanical name to make that image both crisp and true.

To be sure, knowing the correct name is important, but remember, the plants don't care what you call them. With proper care, they will grow the same.

GENE SCHMEDDING
our roving reporter

Well our Mother's Day show was a big success as usual. I have no idea how many hundreds of people walked through the showroom and came out on the patio where there were thousands of cuttings and plants for sale. I know that all of us out there were busy all day.

Total cash collected is hard to determine, since many people joined the society that day and some donations were made, but cutting sales were:

Regular cuttings	\$ 3812.56
Specials & books	\$ 1359.30
Total	\$ 5171.86

The day was cold and gloomy, but that didn't seem to stop the visitors from coming to the park to see our show.

The E.S.A. bus tour brought many of our old friends to see the show. It was so nice to see so many people we seldom get to visit with.

Our May meeting featured a mini-show. There were four tables of beautiful blooms. One full table of George French's seedlings! (Calisto, Tecuya, Lady Ruffles, Jedi, Orphan Annie, Quest for Fire, Desert Rose, Red Volcano, Masada, Dear Heart, Billy Boy)

Over two dozen members brought blooms that night. They were the lucky ones, many of us didn't have bloom one left. Such an early blooming

season this year. I for one would not have had more than six flowers on my show table if it hadn't been for a couple of good friends who took pity on me and shared their flowers.

One hundred members and 22 guests attended our May meeting.

We need sign-ups for the refreshment table. Please don't just come and eat, contribute!

- Gene

**THANKS FOR A
GREAT W A P SHOW**

The annual Epiphyllum and Fuchsia show at the San Diego Wild Animal Park turned out as well as it did because of the help of the following people.

Dick Chadwick, Sunday chair

Marge Schlapfer, Pot Luck chair

Teri Basta, SDWAP Hort. Dept.

Thanks for a job well done is also due to the many exhibitors, workers and kitchen helpers. They were:

Milt Turner
Bob Stroberger
Nate and Dorothy Ogdon
George and Madeline French
Gus Schlapfer
John Piland
Don Irwin
Leo Kihm
Pat Barrett
Kathie vanArum
Elizabeth Glover

(continued on next page)

SDWAP THANKS (cont.)

The Alexanderson Family
The Broz Family
The Latimer Family
Bob and Dorothy Breining
Jean Gray
Jim and Michele Davis
Jeanette Dutton
Donna Couchman
Charles Coons
Wilbur Glover

This list is comprised from four separate lists, if your name also should appear please let me know.

Special thanks to John Noble for all his help and support in organizing the event and pitching in.

-Sean Minogue
Chair, SDES/SDWAP Show

SPECIAL NOTICE

At the Mother's Day Show, after the judging of the "Best Specimen" category, the only existing copy of the list of winners was duly delivered to me.

I carefully placed the list where I could find it, when ready to put together the newsletter. Unfortunately, I am, after hours of searching, unable to locate the list.

As you can imagine it is not possible to recreate this list and as I mentioned, only one copy exists, or if you prefer, existed.

To the judges, exhibitors and others, my sincere apologies.

-Sean

NOW IS THE TIME

With warmer, drier days here, the time is right to begin a misting program for your epis. A short shower in the morning may help your plants thrive between regular waterings.

Now that blooming season is on its way out, you will want to resume feeding a "balanced" or "complete" fertilizer. (A fertilizer with nitrogen as well as phosphorus and potassium.)

If you do not intend to use the seeds do not let the epifruit develop. No use letting the plant waste that much energy. A careful inspection of most epis would reveal that the blooming season takes a big toll. Let your plants recover and plump up to face the hot days of August and September.

Spring is the perfect time to plant cuttings and repot older plants. Remember to wait at least 7 days before watering freshly repotted plants.

Last year's seeds can be planted now, shade them from bright light and keep them warm.

Make some special cuttings and put them up in four inch pots for next Mother's Day or to be used as door prizes at the general meetings. Rooted cuttings are in short supply for these events and are always welcome.

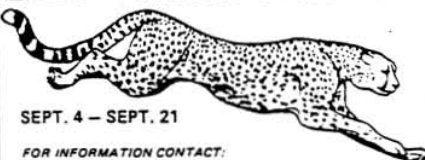
- Sean

Celebrate Springtime In
Africa This Fall

- Journey to the tip of the African continent.
- Explore rare and exotic blooms.
- Search for wildlife in the African night.
- Join hands with gardeners and conservationists.

CELEBRATE ALL LIVING THINGS WITH
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Tineke Wilders



SEPT. 4 - SEPT. 21

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
CARDIN TRAVEL & TOURS, African Division
1158 STATE STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 270-5285 (800) 624-2232, EXT. 255

SPECIAL PREVIEW EVENING
Wednesday, June 24th, 7 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 102

Special guests
Fine wine and cheese
Breath taking film

This heartwarming tour is
created especially for you.

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RAINBOW GARDENS wishes all of you
a HAPPY FLOWERING SEASON.
With thousands of potted plants,
mix, fertilizer, Epi books for
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CALIFORNIA EPI CENTER will be
open Saturdays ONLY during June.
If you'd like to come at another
time, please call for an
appointment. If we're here,
you're welcome to come by. All
of the plants and cutting
offered in our catalog are
available at the nursery AND we
have a large selection of epi
baskets, many in bud, at
reasonable prices (\$6.00 and up).
Our all new FULL COLOR 1987
"Flowering Jungle Cactus"
catalog is \$2.00 (refundable).
We've also increased the catalog
size substantially to 48 pages,
174 photos and 542 plants... and
it includes epiphyllums,
Christmas/Easter/
Rattail Cacti, rhipsalis, night
blooming jungle cacti, hoyas,
haworthias and more.
Wholesale is available to
dealers. Please send wholesale
inquiries on nursery letter-head
and include nursery number and
resale number. California Epi
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St., Vista, CA 92083.
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**AIR AND WATER
AND THE
ENERGY CYCLE**

In the last few months we have covered the basic nutrients and 'trace elements' that all plants require to grow and prosper. We learned that plants get these nutrients through their roots, which actually suck water containing these elements from the soil.

We learned that most of these elements are found in adequate supply in our potting media or are easily added by a systematic program of fertilization.

Plants also require three elements that we seldom think about as components because they are found so many places in their combined forms. Namely Oxygen (O), Carbon (C) and Hydrogen (H).

We recall that water is a mixture of one part Hydrogen and two parts Oxygen. We are familiar with carbon dioxide, one part carbon and two parts oxygen. So it is obvious that these necessary elements are plentiful in the environment, but it is important that we understand how these elements work to keep plants alive.

Among its most important functions, water acts as the conduit for the other nutrients to enter the plant and be used in the various life processes. We are familiar with growth, that's a process that we can see for ourselves. But other plant functions are not so obvious, although we have heard about them before. We all know the term photosynthesis, plants make food from sunshine, right? Well

almost, carbon dioxide and water are converted into simple sugars (carbohydrates) in the presence of chlorophyll and light.

But of course what goes up must come down. In order to be supplied with the raw materials to make the sugars the plant must get rid of the by-products, vent the gasses and keep sucking up those nutrient rich waters. The actual plant processes are called respiration (food is broken down into simple substances with the release of energy), translocation (the movement of food and water in plants), transpiration (the loss of water vapor from a plant) and nutrient uptake (the sucking up of water mentioned earlier).

In each of these steps water and air (or their components) play a major role.

We can think of this as an 'Energy Cycle'.

Step 1. photosynthesis and respiration

Step 2. formation of carbohydrates- energy stored

Step 3. incorporation of essential minerals

Step 4. formation of compounds and products-use of stored energy

Step 5. mechanical work-nutrient uptake and growth

Although not all processes take place 24 hours a day some do. While the cycle may be interrupted a delicate balance must be maintained.

-Sean Minogue

University of California
Cooperative Extension materials
were used to prepare this
article.

**BOTANICAL EVENTS
FOR JUNE**

JUNE 14th
Southwest Hemerocallis Society
14th Annual Show
Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

JUNE 21st & 22nd
San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant
Show
Saturday noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JULY 5th
San Diego Dahlia Society
Specimen Show
Sunday 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

all events held at Casa del
Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

JUNE 18th to JULY 5th
Flower and Garden Show at the
Del Mar Fair

Entrants vie for over \$50,000.00
in prize money, plus ribbons and
trophies. Come see the best that
San Diego gardens have to offer.
This years theme is "Flowers and
Gardens Through the Ages".

Free with fair admission.

**COONS
NEEDS CUTTINGS**

Charlie reports that his supply
of cuttings is low after Mother's
Day and the other sales to which
the society has contributed
cuttings.

Now that the blooms are on their
way out perhaps the time is right
to make those special cuttings.

See Charlie for more info.

**REPORTS ARE GOOD
FOR OTHER SDES ACTIVITIES**

May is a busy month for SDES
members. In addition to the
events that were mentioned
earlier, the SDES bus tour to
the ESA show and more shows
happened last month.

The Ogdons and the Frenches
spent the day before Mother's
Day at the Mira Mesa Mall's
flower show. They met and
converted more epi-holics.

Michele Davis reports that the
bus tour to the ESA show was but
great as usual but the bus tour
was not so well attended this
year. Michele said that many
retail nurseries cited the
conflict with the ESA show and
were reluctant to host our bus
load.

ANDY CAPP reports that he has
more of the marking pens and
will be selling them along with
other supplies at the June
meeting. Liquinox GROW should be
in stock by then also.

Marge Schlapfer send thanks to
those that helped her prepare
for the SDWAP Pot Luck.

Pat Barrett

Elizabeth Glover

Dorothy Ogdon

Madeline French

Send news items to:
SEAN MINOGUE,
808 Ethel Place
National City, Ca. 92050



SDES EPI NEWS
P.O. BOX 126127
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. is open to persons with an interest in epiphyllum and their related species.

Membership is \$3.00* per year for individuals and organizations.

Membership privileges include reduced cost for some society events and a subscription to EPI NEWS, the monthly newsletter of SDES, in addition to other benefits.

General meetings are held each month on the 2nd Wednesday in Room 101, Casa del Prado at 7:30 p.m.

Checks made payable to San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc., may be sent to

SDES MEMBERSHIP
P.O.Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127

* Contact the society for international rates.