

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 8  
AUGUST 12, 1987

EPI NEWS  
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
of SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

#### WRESSY COCKE IS AUGUST SPEAKER

For the first time in five years, noted epi hybridizer Wressy Cocke will again be our SDES speaker. Mr. Cocke will address the August 12th SDES general meeting. ( Meeting time is 7:30, in Casa del Prado room 101, Balboa Park.)

Mr. Cocke has made over 150 crosses of which about half are the small flowered, many flowered, "mini" epi plants that often bloom off season such as Delicate Jewels and Fern La Borde. Another well known group of his hybrids are of the '50 cross' such as Curtain Call. Other popular Cocke hybrids include Frances C. and Lemon Custard.

You won't want to miss this one!

- Rick Latimer

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#### BOYLE MAKES HISTORY

SDES Historian Blendina Boyle needs your help to make the SDES Historians' Book more complete.

Photos, news clippings, letters, cards and any other relics of SDES history are greatly needed. See Blendina if you have something you are able to share.

#### HELP FILL OUR LOCKER WITH SDES TREASURES

San Diego Epiphyllum Society rents a storage locker to keep society records, flower show props and other treasured items.

Sadly there is still much space left to be filled and many items have yet to surface.

For many years members have kindly kept items in storage at their homes for the society. Now a central location exists for their storage.

Is there, perhaps, a cache of documents or a piece of SDES property in your garage or closet, long forgotten?

Please check if there is even the slightest possibility.

Contact President Turner or Vice President Breining for more details.

#### INSIDE:

TIME FOR DRIP ?

SANFORD ROBERTS LOOKS AHEAD

GRAFTING WORKSHOP INFO.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

And more

LOCKED IN SECRECY ?  
by Sanford Roberts

This spring marked seven years for this epi fancier as a member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. Upon joining I plunged in with reluctance thrown to the winds and acquired far more cultivars than space and adequate cultural practices permitted. For the next few years those stalwart plants survived, but in no way did they flourish.

In 1980 I made two crosses. I did not locate in any of the directories, that these cultivars had been crossed before. These crosses produced many, many seeds and are nearing fruition as to their validity as useful plants for hybridizing. These two crosses are FLIRTATION x DOLORES and MARSEILLAISE x DOLORES.

These crosses numbered 80-1-FD and 80-2-MD are vigorously growing on in one gallon containers and number in excess of 200. They are now flourishing in a newly-constructed 1500 sq. ft. shade house. The main shade consists of 78% shade cloth ten and one half feet above the ground. Directly below, at seven and one half feet is a drop in "roof" shade cloth of 50% density. (EDITORS NOTE: This totals out to 89% sun blockage, see related article this issue.) Bright sun, high temperatures during the day, chilling night winds and winter temperatures in one's growing area directly effect how a fancier copes to provide an optimum growing environment within the limitations of budget and physical strength.

All factors seemed to come together during the summer of 1986. With renewed vigor for more epis during this year's bloom season, after much thought being given to each cross beforehand, these crosses are at this writing, big, fat apples nearing maturity. With proper care and growing on of seeds to mature, blooming plants. Some of these may prove interesting.

THEY ARE:

80-1-3FD x FIESOLE  
80-2-2MD x MAJELLA  
80-2-2MD x Heliocereus  
heterodoxus  
80-2-2MD x BER-TEE  
80-2-5MD x SISQUOC  
80-2-5MD x SLIGHTLY SASSY  
80-2-15MD x SPACE ROCKET  
80-2-17MD x MAJELLA  
80-2-32MD x SPACE ROCKET  
80-2-36MD x Heliocereus  
heterodoxus  
80-2-42MD x BLACK SATIN

Named cultivar crosses include...

AROBIA x SLIGHTLY SASSY  
ELI OBIDIAH x TASSEL  
HIGH FASHIOON x TASSEL  
JENNIFER ANN x ELI OBIDIAH  
JENNIFER ANN x SLIGHTLY SASSY  
LEMON PUNCH x AROBIA  
LEMON PUNCH x FLIRTATION  
LEMON PUNCH x ORANGE BOWL  
LEMON PUNCH x TASSEL  
MADELINE x SLIGHTLY SASSY  
MAJELLA x MD  
MARSEILLAISE x TASSEL  
ORANGE BOWL x MADELINE  
PERSIAN TIGER x CINDY SHEREEN  
RADIANT FIRE x STAR OF TUNISIA  
RUBY SNOWFLAKE x H. HETRODOXUS  
SLIGHTLY SASSY x MD  
STAR OF TUNISIA x RADIANT  
LIGHT  
Three crosses involve the  
splendid Aporo. cultivar  
OAKLEIGH CONQUEST...

Cont. on page 3

SECRECY ? cont. from pg. 2

x ORANGE BOWL  
x TASSEL  
x SPUN GOLD

What do these crosses hold in their locked secrecy? Let's hope for good germination and take it from there.

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Rick Latimer produced an excellent article entitled "Nopalxochia and Heliocereus", published in the March/April 1984 ESA Bulletin.

I am most grateful to Bob and Lois Burks for bringing the lovely Heliocereus heterodoxus to my attention during a visit to their Epi Center. It is flat and wide branched in growth. This writer heartily recommends it as an interesting addition to ones collection.

-Sanford Roberts

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#### OFF THE MARK

In the July issue of Epi News it was incorrectly reported that Nate and Dorothy Ogdon served as Co-Chairs of the SDES participation at the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundations' annual plant sale. This task was ably preformed by Kathie vanArum.

Kathie also serves as the official SDES representative to the foundation.

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SEPT. DEADLINE IS AUG. 20TH

#### SYMPOSIUM / INTERCONGRESS IS DESIGNED FOR LEARNING

For two days this September lovers of cacti and other succulent plants can rub elbows with the experts and gain massive amounts of knowledge about their favorite plants. All this in a setting known throughout the world for the beauty of its gardens.

The event is the joint IOS Intercongress and Huntington Symposium, scheduled for September 18th and 19th at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.

The two day program of presentations and lectures includes such topics as tissue culture for cactus and succulent plant conservation in Mexico. The speakers all have impressive credentials and represent the leading edge of succulent plant research and knowledge.

Of particular interest to SDES members is the Saturday morning program on Epiphytic Cacti which will be led by Myron Kimmach and will include three speakers. They are... Wilhelm Barthlott on Rhipsalis and allied genera of epiphytic cacti, Ulf Eliasson on Selenicereus and Arthur Gibson on the Evolution and phylogeny of epiphytic cacti.

Cost for both days is \$50.00 (an optional banquet at the Huntington is \$20.00).

The Huntington Symposium is an annual event but never before have joint events been held with IOS. Information will be available at the August General Meeting.

**BOTANICAL EVENTS**

AUGUST 15th & 16th  
SD Fern Society 9th Show  
and Sale  
Casa del Prado  
Sat. 1-5 Sun. 10-5  
FREE

AUGUST 22nd & 23rd  
SD Gesneriad Society  
11th Show  
Casa del Prado  
Sat. noon-5 Sun. 10-5  
FREE

AUGUST 22nd & 23rd  
Second Intercity Cactus  
and Succulent Show  
Los Angeles State and County  
Arboretum, Arcadia, CA  
9-4:30 both days  
Free with arboretum admission

AUGUST 29th & 30th  
SD Turtle and Tortoise Soc'y  
13th Annual Show  
Casa del Prado  
10-5 both days  
FREE  
( Aquatic plants are usually  
available at this show, also  
many other types of moisture  
loving plants are for sale.)

SEPTEMBER 5th & 6th  
SD Professional  
Horticulturists 4th Annual  
Show, Casa del Prado  
Sat. 1-4:30 Sun. 10-4:30  
FREE

SEPTEMBER 19th & 20th  
SD Bromeliad Society's  
13th Annual Show  
Casa del Prado  
Sat. 1-4:30 Sun. 11-4:30  
FREE

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**NEXT MONTH IN EPI NEWS  
A VISIT WITH GEORGE FRENCH  
TO PREVIEW HIS  
1987 HYBRIDS**

**YUM YUM YUM**

Here's the sign-up list for  
August Goodies.

Blendina Boyle  
Mary Alice Buaas  
Alice Glazebrook  
Betty Klumpp  
Louise Newman  
Nita Stroberger  
Bobbie Ussery

Thanks for your help.  
-Penny Bunker

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**GENE SCHMEDDING**  
our roving reporter  
at the July General Meeting

Our speaker at the July  
meeting, D. C. H. Plowes, was  
a most interesting man who  
lives in Khartoum, in Africa's  
Sudan. His years of first-hand  
study of the flora of the  
continent have led him to a  
special appreciation for the  
areas' succulent plants and  
wild flowers.

Mr. Plowes showed slides of  
the flora found in the  
southern coastal areas of  
Africa. We were amazed at the  
vegetation in the desert  
regions. Soon after a  
rainfall, the ground is  
covered with a thick carpeting  
of a lovely variety of wild  
flowers. The growing plants  
were so thick that it looked  
like a giant Persian carpet  
had been spread across acres  
of land. Absolutely beautiful.

We saw many mimicry type  
plants, including the "living  
stones" that imitate the shale  
and other rocks found in their  
environment. This is nature's

Cont. on page 5

#### HOW MUCH SHADE IS IT ?

Epis love shade and so every epi lover is forced to provide as best he can. Some of us are lucky enough to have a tree or shaded area around the house that gives the right amount of sun protection for our plants. Many of us find these places bursting at the seams and soon must add on.

The types of shade materials used most often by epi growers, are lath and fabric.

The traditional lath house is made of wooden slats. These are good because the wood is attractive and somewhat long lasting. Fabrics are also very effective and have some definite advantages, particularly where a temporary structure is preferred.

The most commonly used material is polypropylene. This light weight, low cost material is easily stapled to a wooden frame and can be taken down, stored, and reused many times. Polypropylene is also very resistant to sun caused decomposition. (The Walter Anderson Nursery in San Diego has a shaded area that has used one piece of "poly" shade cloth continuously for 17 years with little visible decomposition.)

Shade cloths are rated by the percentage of sun that they block. For epis I would recommend 63% to 75% cloth (or more depending on the intensity of the sun in your area). A 75% cloth blocks 3/4s of the suns rays and admits 25% of the sun.

You may find it necessary to

add more sun protection at particular times of the year. Let's say that 50% protection is necessary during winter but in summer you need 75%. Start with a 50% cloth, framed and placed the way you want it. When the suns' intensity increases you simply add another layer of 50% cloth and get 75% sun blockage. The first layer stops 50% of the total sun shining down. The second layer stops 50% of the sun not already blocked, or 25% of the total.

(The 2nd layer of cloth should be placed at least 2 feet below the 1st.)

Cont. on page 6

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SCHMEDDING cont. from pg. 4

way of preserving these rare plants, animals can't see them to use them for a meal.

[This was a great program and many members indicated that they want more of this high quality. Kudos to Rick Latimer for arranging the program.

-Ed.]

Mr. Andy Capp and his wife Thelma have supplies available at the General Meetings these change due to stock on hand but usually include marking pens, plant tags and sometimes even fertilizer. Stop by and be ready to save money.

More sign-ups are needed for the refreshment table. Don't be just a "Cookie Munchster".

We had 91 members and 10 guests at the July meeting.

-Gene Schmedding

HOW MUCH SHADE ? from page 5

Figuring the shade provided by wooden slats is easy if you start out right. Since the size of the space between slats determines the amount of sun admitted, you can easily space them to provide just the desired amount.

Let's say your slats are each two inches wide and that you want 50% protection in one section and 75% in another. To block half of the sun place each of the slats two inches apart. This is easily done by fastening one slat, laying another flush to it and then placing a third next to that. Attach the third slat as you did the first. Remove the second slat and you will have a gap between the first and third that is exactly the width of the slats. Continue this process and you will create 50% shade.

To get our 75% protection we can now repeat the process and place our slats in a cross pattern spaced the same two inches apart. We are cutting out half of the sun that we did not block before, 25% of the available sun. This combined with the 50% protection from the first slats gives us 75% sun blockage.

In some applications it might be useful to combine materials. The concept is the same however. A 50% lath and 50% cloth combination will afford 75% protection. The advantages are many as the lath can help support the cloth and keep it from sagging (and wearing out). A permanent installation would probably

have the cloth on top of the lath, while a temporary or occasional shading would be more easily installed and removed if placed under the wood strips.

When using wooden slats or lath remember to have the lengths of wood run north and south. As the sun travels across the sky the shadow will move too. This will provide shade to all the plants underneath at various times of the day. Slats that run east-west will cast a constant shadow on some places and allow full sun to fall on others, this can cause burn spots and other horrors.

-Sean Minogue

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#### ARE YOU READY FOR DRIP IRRIGATION ?

Drip irrigation is one way to save water, reduce labor and make sure that your plants are never thirsty for the water the need to thrive.

Sounds perfect, eh? Well in many ways it is.

Drip irrigation systems allow a small but constant supply of water to be delivered to exactly the right location to reach the root system. Drip systems can include sprayers, soakers and emitters for delivery of water.

The possibilities are endless and the assortment of products available may overwhelm the novice but a few simple pointers and you too should be able to install your own system.

cont. on page 7

DRIP cont. from page 6

Like most garden projects you need to start with a close look of the physical layout. A piece of graph paper will make it easier to map out your growing area. You'll need to identify barriers, plant locations, water sources and the route your system will use.

This will give you a basic outline of your specific needs. Next you need to learn something about the many products available.

A trip to a hardware or irrigation specialty store may be the best way to get to know the different sprayers, etc. that you can use. Different types deliver water at different rates and in different patterns. Some have special requirements for water pressure and the like so make sure you do your homework and plan carefully.

Some manufacturers have planning guides to help you through the process. Garden America Corp., manufacturers of Drip Mist brand watering systems offers a free drip planning booklet that gives an overview of drip irrigation and shows all of the products and attachments that make up their system.

The guide is available at hardware stores (Home Depot usually has a good supply), or you can write directly to

GardenAmerica Corp.  
P.O. Box A  
Carson City, NV 89702-1170  
(Request the Drip Mist  
Planner, include a S.A.S.E.)

Once you know what does what, you can start to draw the system on paper.

Using the map you already made as a guide, now show where each sprayer will be placed and the pattern it will cover. If you are using emitters in each pot you will need you show them and calculate the available water pressure versus the water pressure your design will need. Make sure that you have made the map complete and that every piece you will require has been planned for.

When you purchase your components be sure to buy a few extra of the pieces you will use most. There is no worse feeling than stopping work to run back to the store for a little fitting or a few feet of hose. These extra trips can also eat up any savings you realized by that special trip you made to the discount store.

Once you have the system installed you will need to monitor it carefully. Make sure the system is putting the exact amount of water you desire, exactly where you want it. Perhaps you will need to move the emitters slightly or adjust the length of each watering. A timer may be helpful but don't hesitate to make the move to drip just to avoid using a timer. They are helpful but not necessary. Many gardeners prefer the flexibility manual control offers, some like to leave their gardens on Autopilot.

In any case drip can help you enjoy your garden more.

- Sean Minogue

**EDITORIAL:**

When a child enters its mid-teens it is proper for its parents to ask the obvious question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

Parents understand the need to know well in advance just what a child's goals are so that they can make plans and help guide the child to useful maturity. They understand that you can not measure success without goals.

San Diego Epiphyllum Society is now in its teens. Like some adolescents today SDES seems to have no goals, ambitions or direction.

The society seems content to drift from year to year, show to show with little benefit derived from the effort.

Our Mother's Day Show is a fine event, we can be proud of the efforts of all involved, although we have little to show for the money we raise.

We do have some on going programs, like the Hand-book committee (which seems to be stirring at last after a long slumber). We show epis out in the community more and more, as we should. We have the library, the various committees and the meetings.

We have a corps of members who have done fine work at the SD Wild Animal Parks' epi house (as individual volunteers, the society officially is not involved), indeed the society itself sometimes organizes work parties and makes other expenditures for our SDWAP programs. We have the We have

the newsletter of which I will only say it's always on time and is well under budget for 1987.

But without a doubt all of these things are the result of the work and commitment of a few individuals. The society does little more than react to events that have come around on the calendar again.

Our by-laws suggest the areas which should concern our society. These are general guides such as promoting the plants we get our name from and offering information about them. We need more specific goals.

Goals should come first. If we want to publish a nice hand-book then we had better start saving our pennies because as we know this will be expensive. If we want to commit to new programs at SDWAP or the Zoo, we should by all means. But we should quit talking and make a commitment to relieve the burdens now being borne by individual members.

At present the largest single expense that SDES has is the annual Christmas Party. (I got static last time I used that term, but I believe members can speak plainly to each other.)

If we want to subsidize the restaurant industry in San Diego then we should rewrite the by-laws.

- Sean Minogue

This is my opinion, I will print signed letters with differing views as space permits.

### ELECTION PROCESS BEGINS

At the July meeting of the SDES Executive Board Vice President Rick Latimer and board member Helen Barkdoll were named to fill the two positions on the Nominating Committee reserved for a board member and elected officer by our by-laws. Three positions will be filled by representatives of the general membership. These will be announced at the August General Meeting.

Filling even these three committee positions is a difficult task. Ahead for the committee is the job of locating candidates for each of the elected offices and five board members.

This annual process is more than a mere formality. The SDES members elected must consider many difficult questions that confront the society in addition to doing the specific jobs to which they were elected or appointed. Finding the right person for a job isn't easy.

Needed are Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Mom's Day Show VP, Program VP, Membership Secretary, five Executive Board Positions and President. In many cases current office holders can not seek reelection, the same is true of some board positions.

If you have an interest in serving in one of these positions and have been an SDES member for one year contact the nominating committee.

-Sean

### SDWAP WORK PARTY IS SCHEDULED, PROBABLY

Dick Chadwick has tentatively scheduled a work party for the Epi house at the SD Wild Animal Park for Saturday August 22nd. He will confirm or deny this at the August 12th General Meeting.

If all goes as scheduled the starting time will be 9am.

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### ED. COMMITTEE OFFERS WORKSHOP ON THREE TOPICS

The SDES education committee has announced a workshop for Saturday, August 15th.

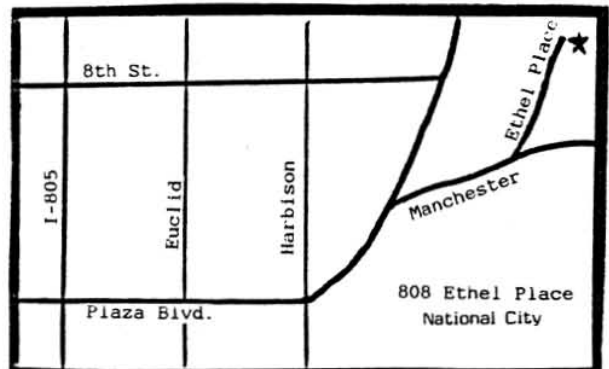
Members and their guests are invited to the home of Sean Minogue for a three part workshop that should appeal to a variety of members.

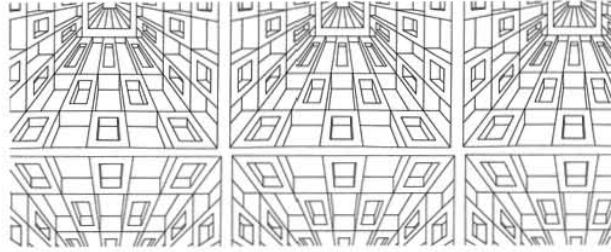
For the advanced collector, George French will teach his technique for grafting epis to opuntia root stock.

Helen Barkdoll will discuss seed propagation of epiphyllum.

cont. on back cover

August. 15th, 10:00 a.m.  
for information call 475-4478  
From I-805 take Plaza Blvd.  
east to Manchester St., up  
hill to Ethel Place.





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SDES EPI NEWS

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Membership information:  
Checks payable to SDES should  
be sent to the p.o. box.

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday  
of each month, 7:30p.m. in  
room 101, Casa del Prado in  
Balboa Park. Guests welcome.

WORKSHOP cont. from page 9

Dick Chadwick will demonstrate  
propagation from cuttings.

The morning should be very  
informative.

This is the first SDES  
workshop in nearly two years,  
and it is designed to serve a  
cross-section of membership.

You can reserve a space by  
signing up at the August 12th  
meeting or by calling Sean at  
the number listed on page 9.  
Space is limited.

Come early, coffee will be  
served. Seating will be on the  
lawn so bring a chair or  
blanket.

Don't miss out.