



## EPI NEWS

the monthly newsletter of

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1987  
Volume 11, Number 9

### VANARUM TO TELL OF COSTA RICAN ADVENTURE

The program for september is Tico Time by Kathie vanArum and it is appropriately subtitled "Exploring the Rain Forests of Costa Rica".

SDES Member vanArum recently visited Costa Rica and enjoyed her trip there. She did see some of our plants in the wild (and some things not so pleasant!).

Meeting time is 7:30 pm on September 9th, room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

### ELECTION UPDATE

SDES elections are just around the corner. This year members will vote for officers and executive board members.

At the September 9th General Meeting the report of the Nominating Committee will be submitted to membership and nominations will be taken from the floor. This will be the only opportunity to nominate other candidates.

Epi News will have details about the elections in the next issue. Also instructions on obtaining absent voter ballots. Help your Society grow for the future by becoming an informed voter.

### SDES SEMINAR TEACHES PROPAGATION AND MORE

The epiphyllum seminar on propagation was a huge success. In the botanically diversified garden of Sean Minogue, eager and interested students listened to three lecture/demonstrations of about an hour each, covering many aspects of propagation.

Dick Chadwick explained all about vegetative reproduction by cuttings. He shared many secrets on how to make a good cutting, how to identify a good branch for cutting, when cuttings should be made and which cuttings are best planted side-ways, or even up-side-down!

George French demonstrated how to graft Epis and Easter cactus. He provided several different Epi cuttings for grafting, showing which cuttings would make the best scions. He provided many pearls of wisdom seldom shared outside of the professional nursery trade. George grafted a total of 8 plants which were raffled off to happy recipients. Joe Tran had an example of a triple slit graft of Christmas Cactus on Helio-cereus triangularis.

The last speaker was Helen Barkdoll. She showed the easy continued on page two

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way to remove seeds from pods, how to plant the seeds, and how to keep the seedlings growing on to maturity.

Free seeds and several different grafting stocks were available to those interested in putting their new found knowledge to work.

(There was much interest in seeds likely to produce the smaller sized flowers and plants, no doubt generated by Wressy Cocke's fine August program.)

Light refreshments were served, thanks to Mary Alice Buaas for her delicious cake and to Ione Campbell for the other refreshments.

The session lasted more than three hours but all participants felt it was well worth while and that seminars should be held on other aspects of epi culture. Watch for the next series.

- Helen Barkdoll

Thanks to all the speakers and others, your combined efforts made for a wonderful and informative program.

Helen, George and Dick all did an outstanding job. In addition to the presentations each of the speakers had comments to make about other areas of epi culture and the question and answer periods explored many fascinating topics.

Thanks to those who shared their cuttings and root-stock.

- Sean Minogue

#### GENE SCHMEDDING REPORTS ON AUGUST MEETING

I am sorry for the few members that didn't get to our August SDES general meeting. Wressy Cocke gave an outstanding program.

He discussed his techniques for propagating his seedlings and how he got started raising epis. He also discussed his feelings of disappointment and pleasure when the young plants first bloom.

Of course he loves his "children", but like most hybridizers Mr. Cocke has dumped a great many plants because so many had identical blooms. (I have done the same thing with many of my young plants, and I have felt like a murderer. But there is only room for so many. It can be quite confusing when several similar blooms reach the market under different names.)

Mr. Cocke also stressed the need to cross pollinate with a purpose in mind. To get a particular trait, whether it is color, extra large sized bloom, or hanging basket type growth you should use parents that display that trait. In other words, choose your parent plants with care, perhaps you will be rewarded with the plants you want.

At any rate keep on trying.

Attendance at the general meetings is picking up, maybe you could bring goodies to the next one. We don't want to run short.

- Gene Schmedding

**SPHAGNUM ALERT REPEATED**

SDS President Milt Turner has asked me to repeat a health warning which appeared this spring in Epi News.

The culprit is sporotrichosis a disease associated with the handling of sphagnum moss.

This very rare disease is caused by a fungus that is present in soil and plants, especially decaying ones.

Openings in the flesh such as thorn or barb wounds invite infection. Symptoms include formation of nodules and sometimes lung inflammation and abdominal pains.

This disease is so seldom seen that your doctor may not be familiar with it.

Using gloves and treating sphagnum with respect should prevent any problems. Remember to store sphagnum moss indoors but not in the house.

-Sean Minogue

**REPORT FROM SAN PEDRO**

Thanks to Dick Kohlsreiber, president of the South Bay Epiphyllum Society in the Long Beach area for sending me copies of their Epi Gram newsletter. Dick advises that the group is now one year old and has over 75 devoted members.

The South Bay group has been active, they had their first show in May and their monthly programs are attracting more and more epi lovers. Dick has promised to keep us advised about their activities.

**CITY ANNOUNCES WATER CONTEST**

The City of San Diego is seeking entrants for its first annual Housing Water Conservation Awards Program. Contest winners will be recognized as part of Water Awareness Week (Oct. 19-24).

Owners of single family or multifamily homes throughout the City are eligible to enter the competition. Awards will be presented in two categories.

The first category is for landscape design. Homes which are landscaped using low-water-use principles will be judged on such features as irrigation system; plant selection and use of walkways or other decorative features.

The second category is for incorporation of water conserving features in the building itself. These features could include use of ultra low-flush toilets, faucet aerators and other efficiency measures.

Entry forms may be obtained by contacting the City Water Conservation Officer at 696-3763.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

The article promised for this issue on George French and his latest hybrids will appear next month. Apologies to George and those awaiting this valuable information.

Deadline for October issue is September 22nd.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society held its first official meeting almost 17 years ago. Since then the society has grown in many ways. However, the main purpose of the society is still devoted to the culture and study of Epiphyllums and similar plants in order that they may attain the popularity they justly deserve. The main goal of membership is to keep the society a first rate one. The society is a nonprofit organization, members are not paid for their labors, however they may be reimbursed for those expenses that are deemed applicable by the Society. Those that do things for the Society do so mostly out of the joy they attain seeing a job well done and for a good cause and that is reward enough. Not every member is as active as some of the other members - some can't, some won't.

The membership and the public benefit from the activities of the Society. When we started out we didn't have all the activities that we now often take for granted. We did not have very many members, we had no meetings in July, August, and December, we didn't have a library, we didn't have a newsletter, we didn't do anything at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, etc; but we did have our first Flower Show in that first year and although it was not very elaborate, we were proud of it just the same. And we have had a flower show every year since.

Along the way we added things, but not all of them have survived. In 1972 the Society

sponsored an exhibit at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar. It was fun to do and a lot of work, but it was decided that it might be some time before we did another. In 1978 we had our first Flower Show at Sea World, but in 1983 that annual project crashed and burned. Our second lath house at the San Diego Wild Animal Park went up in 1979 and was finished in 1980. Our first lathhouse fell down in about the time our BIG lath house was finished in 1983. This newsletter started in 1977 and there has never been an issue missed. The Society was treated to three issues with colored pictures on the cover (of our Mother's Day Flower Show) in the years 1978-1980 and one issue with a picture of the second lath house at SDWAP (picture by and donated by member Sam Markey). But in the meantime we have not done this.

In 1976 it was decided that we would have meetings all through the year, with the December meeting to be a special one. With all the work done for the society by the members throughout the year, why not let the members sit back and be rewarded by the Society? So since then we have had our annual special party then. None of the parties has pleased everyone who came (and nothing that we do ever will), but all of the parties have pleased many who came. Two of the were completely free to the members, but even these were not attended by all of the members. Since the members did not make and serve the food, we had professionals do that for us. We are not  
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subsidizing the restaurant industry in San Diego by doing this. They don't need us. If we have no need of their services, then someone else will. One dinner once a year is just a drop in the bucket to them. I think it would be a shame to deny members this entertaining event.

It is possible that the Society's epi handbook, when published, will not cost this Society a lot of money. A publisher could spend their own money to publish and market it and give us just royalties. (The Society will have to make that decision.) Rather than new projects by SDES at the SDWAP I would like to see more SDES members donating their time there. We can be proud of what we have built, but I think we should save some room for those societies that have no permanent exhibit there yet (they are conspicuous by their absence!). If we do donate funds for research, then the Cactus and Succulent Society should receive funds from us. They provide funds for succulent scholars to study those plants. Our money could be earmarked to study only the Epiphyllums and their close relatives. Those who receive these funds must have something to show for their work or they must refund the money.

If the society is to remain first rate it must be fed by the work and ideas of the members. New ideas are needed, but they are of no use to the Society if they are kept secret by those who have them, or if no one is willing to carry them out or if they

simply do not work. Also the Society must maintain those important institutions it now has. In comparing ourselves to the other Botanical societies, I think we can be proud but not smug, satisfied but not content, active but not reckless.

- Rick Latimer

Thanks to Rick for this insightful history of our society. In addition some good ideas have been presented for ways in which SDES can serve the public in the future. Left unanswered are other questions for the Society. None of us can tell what the future holds for our group, but we can plan now to face the future head on.

Your comments are welcomed and will be shared in these pages over the next few months. The Society needs to reevaluate some of its programs and institutions. Please help by contributing to this ongoing dialogue. Let me play "Devil's Advocate" and try these provocative statements to get things started. 1. Change by-laws to reduce number of executive board members and elect each to a specific job, rather than current "attend meetings and vote" status. 2. Examine possibilities of extending our current annual show into a two day event. 3. Change current "awards banquet" format to one which does not by its nature exclude a significant number of SDES members.

So share your thoughts with others. Letters should be brief and must be signed.

- Sean

YUM YUM YUM YUM YUM YUM YUM

Here is the list for those who signed up to bring "goodies" on September 9th.

Jean Brereton  
Mary Alice Buaas  
Jean Gray  
Dorie Everett  
Curt Hammel  
Linda Hammer  
Vernon Hook  
Joan Miller  
Gene Schmedding  
Bonnie Van Wagner

Thanks to everyone for bringing things and helping in the kitchen.  
-Penny Bunker

ALOE CONGRESS TO MEET  
IN ZIMBABWE

Lovers of the Aloe are invited to attend Aloe 88 International Succulent Plant Congress, to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe during July 1988.

The event is sponsored by The Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Zimbabwe and is open to 400 delegates from around the world.

In addition to presentations by various experts, tours and photo safaris will be held.

Information and registration forms can be had by writing to

Aloe 88  
P. O. Box 8514  
Causeway,  
Harare,  
Zimbabwe

See Sean Minogue at the September meeting for details.

CANDIDATES TO BE  
ANNOUNCED AT  
SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the September 9th General Meeting the report of the Nominating Committee will be submitted to membership, according to committee spokesperson Helen Barkdoll.

The list was revealed at the August Meeting of the SDES Executive Board. Candidates are:

President  
Milton D. Turner

First Vice President, program  
Kathie van Arum

Second Vice President,  
Mother's Day Flower Show  
Ernest Angus

Recording Secretary  
Margaret Pethley

Corresponding Secretary  
Debbie Capp

Treasurer  
Rick Latimer

Membership Secretary  
Marjorie Marshall

Executive Board Members:  
Jean Gray, Gene Schmedding,  
Vernon Hook, Andy Capp and  
Pat Barrett

Officers are elected to a one year term, Executive Board Members serve a two year term.

Members are reminded that additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the September General Meeting only. A final list of candidates will appear next month in this newsletter.

San Diego



Epiphyllum

Society

**INSTALLATION AND AWARDS BANQUET  
DECEMBER 9, 1987**

MENU

TOSSED GREEN SALAD  
FILET MIGNON (11 oz.)  
STUFFED BAKED POTATO  
VEGETABLE DU JOUR  
DESSERT  
ROLLS, BUTTER, COFFEE AND TEA



**TOM HAM'S LIGHTHOUSE**

**2150 Harbor Drive, San Diego**

**MEMBERS: \$10.**

**GUESTS: \$20**

**DEADLINE DECEMBER 1**

*Pat Barrett*  
**(619) 442-2404**

*Margaret Pethley*  
**(619) 461-8607**



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SDES EPI NEWS

EPI NEWS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
BY SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM  
SOCIETY, INC.

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San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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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.