



EPI NEWS

the monthly newsletter of

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER 1987

vol. 11, no. 11

BARKDOLL TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER EPI MEETING

Every year many new epis are registered, forms are filled out, numbers are assigned and photographs are taken. The newly named plant is then ready for the commercial phase of its life; rapid propagation, publicity and dissemination. But what happened before all the promotional hoopla? How are new flowers developed? And why?

This month's program by Helen Barkdoll, will explore the many diversified forms of epiphyllum hybrids and how they were obtained. Learn about the theory as well as the technique. You may even learn a few of the secrets of hybridization and epi propagation.

Meeting time is 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 11th. The meeting will be held in room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Come early to visit with your friends.

Remember that SDES elections will be held (see related articles on pages 2 & 6), your vote is important.

Cuttings and banquet tickets will be on sale before and after the meeting.

See you there!

BANQUET TICKETS AVAILABLE BRISK SALES REPORTED

Tickets to the annual Christmas Awards and Installation Banquet have been selling well during their first month of availability, according to Pat Barrett Chair of the event.

Tickets will be sold at the November SDES General Meeting or are available by special arrangement with Pat until December 1st, the official deadline to purchase tickets.

The banquet will be held December 10th at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island.

In addition to awards and food, Pat has arranged for entertainment and has more surprises in store.

For more information see Pat at the General Meeting or phone her (619) 442-2404.

INSIDE EPI NEWS THIS MONTH

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DORMANT ?

OPINION FROM GENE SCHMEDDING

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**AMENDED REPORT OF THE
SDES NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

There have been several changes in the candidates for the various SDES offices. The final listing of candidates is as follows.

President Milton D. Turner

1st Vice President (programs)
Kathie vanArum

2nd Vice President (Mother's
Day Show) Rick Latimer

Treasurer Blendina Boyle*

Recording Secretary
Margaret Pethley

Corresponding Secretary
Helen Barkdoll*

Membership Secretary
Marjorie Marshall

DIRECTORS
Ernest Angus*, Pat Barrett,
Jean Gray, Vernon Hook,
Gene Schmedding

Officers elected will serve a one year term, elected directors will serve a two year term.

Elections will be held at the November 11th General Meeting. Voting is open to all SDES members in good standing.

The SDES Nominating Committee would like to express its appreciation to Blendina Boyle for kindly and graciously stepping in to fill the ballot opening for Treasurer, and to all the candidates for their willingness to serve.

*Denotes change since previous publication of candidates.

**BEAUTY AND BEAST SHOW
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The annual San Diego Wild Animal Park's Beauty and the Beast Show was held over the Columbus Day Weekend and for the second year in a row rain was a big factor.

After a beautiful Saturday our Sunday SDES volunteers found themselves drenched in the name of epis.

Thanks to all who made the event a success by working at the show and also at the cutting party held in September.

George French
Nate and Dorothy Ogdon
John Piland
Kathie vanArum
Pat Barrett
Charles Coons
Bob Stroberger
Margaret Pethley
Leonore Arbayo
and Gus Schlapfer

Special thanks to Dick Chadwick, co-chair of the event, for his many efforts and also to John Noble for his creative help with the display.

Cutting sales for both days represent a \$300.00 contribution to the WAP.

George French was scheduled to give his grafting demonstration Saturday noon but interest was so high that he demonstrated the technique non-stop most of the day. It was very rewarding to see his program so well received.

Thanks to all.

-Sean

**AT THE OCTOBER MEETING WITH
OUR ROVING REPORTER**

It was with a good deal of sadness that we said good-bye to our friends, Bob and Lois Burks of California Epi Center in Vista. They are moving on to bigger and better things. They promised that they would be back once a year on vacation and pay us a visit.

As long as they felt that they had to leave, they couldn't have found better hands in which to leave their nursery, than those of Chuck and Jerry of Rainbow Gardens. Those of us who have been to their nursery, know what beautiful plants they have. It will be a pleasure to be able to visit them more often, as Vista is a whole lot closer than La Habra.

Our speaker for the evening was Nate Ogdon. He showed slides of his trip with wife Dorothy through Vancouver's Butchart Gardens and several other botanical parks they had visited on vacation.

For those of us that have never been fortunate enough to go to Butchart's it was a treat to see so many beautiful flowers and fountains that were lit up with colored lights. We saw one area that had been a lime quarry, now it is one of the most beautiful spots in the garden.

Then we followed Nate and Dorothy on a fruitless search deep into Mexico to see a private collection of Christmas Cactus they had heard about. They were rewarded with beautiful photographs but no Christmas

Cactus.

We also saw Mintor Gardens. Here there are 15 different theme areas. On the lawns were large "flower pictures" of peacocks, hot-air balloons and the garden's name. Elsewhere in the garden we saw a hanging garden, sculptures of Snow White and the seven dwarves and eight foot tall topiary "Southern Belles".

After three more gardens we ended our journey with a stop at the Ogdon's own "Honey Do Ranch". The plants were wonderful and show the care and dedication that is the Ogdons' nature.

Thank you for a wonderful show, Nate.

- Gene Schmedding

YUM YUM YUM

Thanks to everyone that has been so good to bring refreshments through the year, making our coffee break a pleasant time. It is always interesting to see what combinations turn up.

The November list is...

Leonore Arbayo
Dick Chadwick
Donna Couchman
Jeanette Dutton
Margaret Fickas
Jean Miller
Nita Stroberger
Toini Wainwright

- Penny Bunker

Early deadline for December issue, materials must be received by November 16th

TO THE MEMBERS

As one of the original starters of our dear society I cannot keep my mouth shut any longer.

It distresses me to read all the verbal jousting that is suddenly going on in our newsletter.

Granted, everyone has a right to one's own opinion, but, I feel that opinions can be voiced without animosity. All this personality conflict going into the newsletter can't help but harm our Society's image. Don't forget that most of our many out of state members have never met any of us and will be getting a false impression of our Society.

On the whole we are a very friendly group who enjoy our meetings and each others friendship.

Of course, in any large group of people, there is a little dissention. Wouldn't it be a dull world if everyone agreed with everyone else?

I can see both sides of this "Bone of Contention". We are a financially secure Society, and should be doing more with our money than we are. Certainly there are many worthwhile organizations that could use some help, and as a "non-profit" organization we are obligated to use our money in the best possible way.

On the other hand, I feel that our annual Awards dinner should not be criticized. It is the only time that many of the "Recycled Teen-agers" such

as my husband and myself, have the opportunity to go top an elegant restaurant, be waited on, served a lovely meal, and be entertained. We also enjoy seeing many of our members honored for past and present work dedicated to the society. Also, it is the one special time that many of our out of town friends can be with us.

I could debate the issues brought up in the last two issues of the News letter, but redundancy serves no purpose, except to bore the reader.

So, please, let's end all this bickering and get our News letter back to what it is supposed to be. A Society News letter, not a vehicle for arguments. Disagreements should be settled at board meetings in a civilized manner.

- Gene Schmedding

What's your opinion?

What ideas have you for improving SDES and its programs and policies?

Your signed letters are welcomed.

SDES EPI NEWS
c/o Sean Minogue
808 Ethel Place
National City, CA 92050

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DID YOU KNOW ?

Your ESA dues can be paid along with your SDES dues. Our Membership Secretary will gladly forward your ESA dues for your convenience.

DO YOUR EPIS REALLY GO DORMANT

We are often warned to be extra careful with our plants when they reach their annual dormant period.

This period, which Scott E. Haselton defines as December and January, can be one of mystery, a mystery you can solve, if you read the clues.

The theory goes - as our plants slow down their growth they require less water than usual. We know that unneeded water can harm the entire plant starting at the roots.

But is it safe to assume that all of your epis will benefit from an annual "dry spell"?

Decidedly it is not.

Climate and the habits of our specific cultivars must be considered before we make a radical change in our gardening routine.

Epis are grown in some extreme climates. Today we can find epis in all fifty states, most of the provinces of Canada, Northern Europe and even Scandinavia. For most epi growers Haselton is correct, in cold winter areas almost all of the cultivars will stop or slow their growth.

In areas like the coastal strip of Southern California temperatures are not so extreme. Not only do many of our plants continue to grow at full speed, some are in their blooming season. Each year at Thanksgiving the petite hybrid "Fern La Borde" is in the height of its glory, would you slight its post-blossom needs?

The obvious answer is to eschew any type of blanket policy and to examine each plant individually and let the plant tell you what it needs.

If there are signs of current growth you should not reduce the amount of water/nutrients your plant receives. If your plants are in bloom or just bloomed out then you should care for them as you would any epi under stress (that extra TLC that you do so well).

Rain must be considered if your plants are not protected. In San Diego it is usually safe to leave your epis out in the weather, seldom do we get more rain than our epis can handle, and we often have advance warning about extreme cold weather. It may be necessary to supplement the rain with manual irrigation, but be certain that your plants really do need more water. Use your fingers to feel the soil, is it dry, just slightly damp or soggy? If your examination reveals a soggy plant don't water it by hand, if rain is expected move plants already identified as soggy to a protected location.

Plants that are identified as dormant should be moved or tagged so that they will not be watered by accident. In extreme climates the best course of action might be to locate the plants in a closet or basement, out of the way until spring. I find that the few plants that obviously go dormant fit nicely side by side on a greenhouse shelf, safe from accidental watering.

- Sean Minogue

IN ORDER TO SERVE YOU BETTER

It's November and election time again, but this year something special has been added. Not only will you be able to vote for next year's officers, you will also be able to vote for your favorite epis.

At the November meeting you will receive pencil and a questionnaire to complete during the evening. Most of the questions will be easy, just check a box (or several), but there will be a few questions that may take some thought, such as: name your three favorite epis, name some epis that bloom "off-season" for you, and what (if anything) would you like to see changed in this society?

Now is your chance to help your society by checking the boxes. The results will be tabulated and you can compare your selections with the final results.

Which epis will be the most popular?

Only you can decide!

- Helen Barkdoll

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

1987

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CHRISTMAS ON PRADO TOPS LIST OF HOLIDAY BOTANICAL EVENTS

San Diego Floral Association's annual Christmas on the Prado will be held Friday December 4th through Sunday the 6th, of course at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. This year the theme is The Twelve Days of Christmas. Beautiful flower arrangements will be on display, items including books floral items and CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine will be on sale.

Christmas on the Prado makes a perfect holiday outing for the entire family.

Hours for the free event are Friday 5:00p.m. to 9:00p.m., Saturday Noon to 9:00p.m., Sunday Noon to 4p.m.

Hot chocolate and gingerbread men will be available to take the chill out of the December air.

Quail Gardens will have their annual Christmas Bazaar Sunday December 6th, from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Plants, jams, jellies, books, gift items and more will be on sale. Free admission.

That same weekend South Coast Botanical Gardens on the beautiful Palos Verdes Peninsula will feature their Christmas Sale "Holidays in the Garden". Plants wreaths, and holiday gift items will be available. Live musical entertainment will be offered. The event is free with Garden admission, hours are 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

**EPI BOOK IN GERMAN/ENGLISH
AVAILABLE SOON**

A new book with over 120 color photographs of epiphyllum will be released in January 1988 according to information provided by Bob Burks, formerly of California Epi Center.

EPIPHYLLUM is a 128 page book of photos, cultural hints and history of the plants written by West German Marga Leue.

Unlike some popular recent epi books, EPIPHYLLUM will feature text in English as well as the original (in this case German).

Information about the book may be had by writing

EPIPHYLLUM
Holger Leue
109 Calvin Place
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Book orders should include check or money order for \$41.04 (\$35.00 book, \$2.04 Ca. sales tax, \$5.00 shipping/handling). Or contact your botanical bookseller.

EPI NEWS AD PAGE

**GREETINGS FROM
RAINBOW GARDENS**

We should officially be all moved into California Epi Center's place in about another 2 weeks, so if you would like to visit, give us a call. In the meantime, we have our 1988 SUPPLEMENT available now. It's a 6-page supplement, 33 color photographs, another 100 plus offerings of new and exciting things. If you'd like one at no charge, please send a SELF ADDRESSED, STAMPED LEGAL SIZED ENVELOPE to the following address and we'll be glad to send you one:

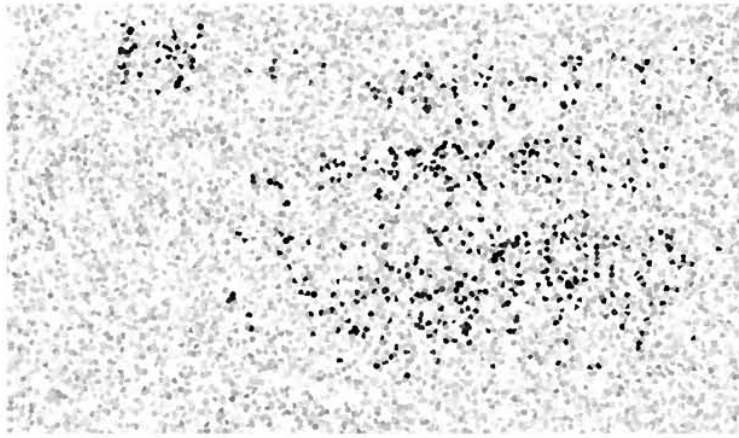
Rainbow Gardens
P. O. Box 1431
Dept. ESA-SD
Vista, CA 92083

Our new telephone number is (619) 758-4290.

Thanks.

Chuck and Jerry
Rainbow Gardens
Nursery and Bookshop

EPI NEWS AD PAGE



SDES EPI NEWS
P.O. BOX 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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.