



EPI NEWS

June 8, 1988

the monthly newsletter of

Vol. 12, No. 6

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

SPRING EVENTS GARNER PRAISE

Shows, tours, sales. For San Diego Epiphyllum Society this spring has been a smashing success. Inside this issue of Epi News you'll find articles about these events and some yet to come in 1988.

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SODOMKA TO TALK FERNS IN JUNE

The speaker at the June 8th General Meeting of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society will be Ray Sodomka of La Mesa who will tell us all about ferns. He will discuss potting, re-potting, feeding, watering, etc. Ray is a very humorous speaker. Don't miss him.

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The program for July will feature our own Joe Tran. After seeing his photography on George French's table at our Mother's Day Show I'm sure we are in for a treat.

- Kathie vanArum

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INSIDE:

HOYAS, JEWEL LIKE FLOWERS TO GROW WITH YOUR EPIS

NEWS OF MANY PLANT SALES

REVIEW OF MOM'S DAY WINNERS

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Three positions are available for those wishing to serve SDES in a BIG way.

At the May 25th SDES Executive Board Meeting the ongoing problem of finding a permanent replacement for our kitchen on General Meeting nights was discussed. Unable to fill the position, the Board is turning to membership for a volunteer or another inventive solution to the problem. If you can serve, or have an inspiration, please contact President Turner.

For some time now Kathie vanArum and Leo Kihm have been at work at the San Diego Zoo planting and caring for its growing collection of epis. Leo has suffered a back injury and is unable to continue, Kathie can not do the job alone. If you are interested in working at the Zoo one day each week contact Kathie at the June 8th meeting.

A volunteer is needed to represent SDES at the monthly meetings of Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation. This person would coordinate SDES efforts to assist Quail in its ongoing programs and attend the meetings on a regular basis. Interested persons should contact President Turner.

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MOTHER'S DAY WRAP UP
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1988 MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

WILLIAM AND RUTH NELSON TROPHY
Best Plant of Show:
Michele Davis for LILIPUT

BUDDY HURST TROPHY
Best Recently Registered Hybrid:
Wressy Cocke for MARGE COCKE

DR. JACOB & MARIAM TROXELL TROPHY
Best Display to the Show's Theme:
Jean Gray, Michele Davis, Linda Hammer (& the rest of the family too)

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA TROPHY
Best Educational Display:
Bob and Helen Barkdoll

EVA CLOVER TROPHY
Best Flower on the Society's Display:
Betsy Bollman for REWARD

WALTER AND PENNY BUNKER TROPHY
Best Flower Arrangement:
Mary-Alice Buas

EXHIBITOR'S BEST FLOWERS

- Kathie vanArum - LETTY MAE
- Milt Turner - VIOLETTA
- the Trans - JENNIFER ANN
- the Tripps - FIESTA
- Jean Selle - PISTACHIO
- Gene Schmedding - PEARL HARBOR
- C. & J. Rice - BOLD VENTURE
- Sanford Roberts - LEMON PUNCH
- Rainbow Gdns. - CURTAIN CALL
- Richard Plock - REWARD
- Margaret Pethley - (arrang.)
- N. & D. Ogdon - PINK JEROMA
- Michiko Munda - PUNCH BOWL

- Sam Markey - HEAP GOOD
- R. Latimer - CHRISTI'S UNICORN
- Elinor Latimer - NOCTURNE
- Virginia Kocontes - CLARA ANN
- B. & B. Klumpp - SHOW BOAT
- L.Kihm -(Rhipsalidopsis)FRANCE
- D. & L. IRWIN - CHINA BOWL
- J. & L. Holcombe - KING MIDAS
- G. & K. Harper - GLADYS HARPER
- Curt Hammel - REWARD
- Jean Gray - CANADIAN MAIDEN
- Linda Hammer - FAN FARON
- Jack Graham - JENNIFER ANN
- Ed Gauss - FIESOLE
- G. & M. French -FRENCH CHIFFON
- P. Flechsig - THREE ORANGES
- Barbara DeCarli - F.W. BUELL
- Michele Davis - FABLE
- Charles Coons -CREME DE MENTHE
- Wressy Cocke - RED FEATHER
- the Capps - THREE ORANGES
- M. & M.A. Buas - VIVE ROUGE
- the Breretons - GREAT WALTZ
- Ed & Faye Broz - PURPLE PAGENT
- Daniel Broz - RAJAH
- the Brubakers - STORMY WEATHER
- Blendina Boyie -DR. WERDERMANN
- H. & M. Blake - FLOURETTE
- Pat Barrett - (arrang.)
- Helen Barkdoll - SOFT LIGHTS
- Betsy Bollman - REWARD

THANKS

My thanks to all who made the 1988 San Diego Epiphyllum Show another success. I must thank all who contributed to our latest show in any way. Special thanks go to my co-chairmen Kathie vanArum and Helen Barkdoll, and the committee chairmen: Charles Coons for Plant Sales, Vernon Hook for the Luncheon, Helen Barkdoll for the Special Plants, Kathie vanArum for the Flower Arrangements and Hospitality, Mary-Alice Buas for the Society's Table, Dick Chadwick for Security; all the exhibitors such as the Blakes (continued on page 3)

THANKS cont, from pg.2

and the Brozes (who put in four tables each), those who brought food, those who brought cuttings, Valerie Bailey for Publicity, the Park Staff, those who helped clean up and roll up the covers such as Suzy Ellis or Milt Turner who brought and returned the SDES's props, John Pasek and Dorothy Dunn who helped me put up the net, Marjorie Marshall and Margaret Pethley for signing up new members, the Judges (besides myself): George French, Ed Broz, Dr. Hafiz and Shirley Berry (CSSA Certified Judge and retired Art Teacher), the Glovers for hosting our friends from up North at their garden, Betty Newton for her excellent article in the San Diego Union, those who gave out information such as Gene Schmedding and Sanford Roberts, our friends from up North, and all the rest (I hope I have not forgotten anyone!!)

Also it is nice that the SDES Show provides us with the opportunity to see old friends such as: Randy Light, the Jacobs, Fern Peacock, the three Strobergers, Shirley and Omar Rogers, Rose Miyaji, the Pauls (formerly of Marin County), the Kellings (from Washington), the Grosses (from Auckland, New Zealand), and our thousands of visitors.

- Rick Latimer Show Chairman

(Editors note; Many hundreds of thanks to Rick for the fine job he did in organizing and directing the event. Congratulations for a job well done, as usual. - Sean)

SPECIAL CUTTING SALES

Many thanks to all those kind and generous people who helped make the "Special Cuttings Table" a success.

George French contributed many hundreds of dollars worth of cuttings of his recent hybrids and selected fancy epis. Accompanied by his photographs, they sold quickly. Elinor Latimer and Rick Latimer supplied us with new Latimer hybrids. Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens and Ethel Hurst of Hurst's Nursery did their parts in supplying us with cuttings and photos.

Ernest Angus's idea of having select cuttings put in separate boxes (so people would not have to paw through a table of cuttings to find the one they wanted) is a new service to the general public. We are sorry that Ernest was unable to see his idea implemented owing to his mother's recent eye surgery.

Many thanks to those people that manned the cash box. Any volunteers that would like to do the "Select Cuttings" next year please see me as lots of help makes it easy.

- Helen Barkdoll
(619) 469-9165

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MOTHER'S DAY TALLY

During the Mother's Day Show these monies were raised:

SHOW SALES	\$5788.25
DONATIONS	\$ 90.88
MEMBERSHIP	
(Includes ESA)	\$ 162.00

THE SCHMEDDING REPORT

It is really too bad that so many of our members were not able to attend our May meeting due to the "flu" bug that has hit San Diego. Our speaker was Betty Gross of the Auckland Epi and Hoya Society, in New Zealand.

We certainly learned a lot about New Zealand and the problems of growing epis there. These include trouble with branch spotting, due to the high humidity of the country. Imagine 50 inches of rain a year!! And Humidity of 90%. The country was formed by volcanos, so the soil is rich in volcanic ash, an excellent soil amendment.

November is their normal blooming time, which sounds strange to us--until you consider that their seasons are the exact opposite of ours. When we have a plant that flowers in November we are thrilled to death we have an "off-season" bloom.

Their Society was started by just a small handful of people meeting in Betty's house, but soon grew so rapidly that they now number 150 members and have moved to a larger meeting place.

Betty's husband David is a very good photographer. Our members really enjoyed his photos of their lath house, epis and those fantastic hoyas. The pictures were lovely and wonderfully detailed.

Betty told me afterwards that she was a little nervous addressing us, but you would

never have guessed from her skilled delivery. Betty is an unusually good and informative speaker.

We really did have fun at the Mother's Day Show. So many people came to see us. Of course our friends from ESA (And South Bay) are always a welcome addition to our guest list. Many are old friends that we get to see only a few times each year. I have often thought it would be nice if some one would invent a freeway shrinker so our Societies could be closer together.

- Gene Schmedding

HOW PRETTY ARE THEY ?

We all know epis are beautiful flowers, but just how pretty are they?

SDES members Betsy Bollman may just have found the right answer. Recently she shared with me a comment that seems perfect.

After seeing her epis a friend remarked, "They're so pretty, it just makes you want to smile to look at them."

After seeing the beaming faces at the Wild Animal Park Show and on Mother's Day I have to agree.

-Sean

PLEASE NOTE:
JULY NEWS DEADLINE IS
JUNE 29th

COONS THANKS
WORKERS and DONORS

Thanks are due to the many people who worked at the cutting sale on Mother's Day.

- Cliff and Jan Rice
- Jeannette Dutton
- Donna Couchman
- George and Jerry Plaisted
- John and Lee Holcombe
- Linda Hammer
- Doreen Hammer
- David Graham
- Dick Chadwick
- Bob and Helen Barkdoll
- Andy, Thelma and Debbie Capp
- Daniel Broz
- Gene Schmedding
- Sam Markey
- Jeannie Brereton

Thanks also to those who donated their cuttings.

- Bob and Helen Barkdoll
- Margaret and Harry Blake
- Dick Chadwick
- Michele Davis
- Jean Gray
- Elizabeth Glover
- Wilbur Glover
- George French
- Rick Latimer
- Elinor Latimer
- Sam Markey
- Louise Newman
- Nate and Dorothy Ogdon
- Richard Plock
- Gene Schmedding
- Hurst Nursery
- Rainbow Gardens
- San Diego Wild Animal Park

-Charles Coons

* * * * *

JUNE GOODIES

Joe Tran and Jerry Plaisted will bring refreshments to our June meeting, won't you too?

EPI CARAVAN 2
AN ALL-ROUND SUCCESS

The Second annual Epi Caravan and Garden tour was held on May 21st and to paraphrase that old cowboy song "seldom was heard a discouraging word and the skies were not cloudy all day".

At the first stop visitors enjoyed the epis, day lilies, sweet-rolls, fresh squeezed (and picked) orange juice and the hospitality of Sanford and Pat Roberts at their Flynn Springs home.

The second stop was at the home of Jim and Michele Davis in Lakeside where the Davis/Gray/Hammer clan treated all to more epis and a delightful melon salad.

In La Mesa a huge banner welcomed visitors to the home of Margaret Pethley. Margaret went all out in the kitchen, earning raves. George French imported some of his flowers to make Margarets' display even more beautiful.

In the depths of Bonita, Nate and Dorothy Ogdon opened their "Honey Dew Ranch" to visitors. Here the group was treated to epis, cakes and the Ogdons' patented brand of hospitality.

It seems to me that there was another stop but I can't remember where it was.

Pat Barrett chaired the event and I heard from far and wide that she did a fabulous job. Pat helped park cars, find lost travelers, serve food, and set the mood for a fun day.

-Sean Minogue

HOYAS:
JEWEL-LIKE FLOWERS
TO GROW WITH YOUR EPIS

A delightful contrast to our large flowered epis are the tiny waxy flowers of the various species to be found in the genus HOYA. Commonly called "Wax Plant" or "Rope Plant", these members of the family ASCLEPIADACEAE are native to Asia and Pacific Rim countries as far south as Australia.

Hoyas were named in 1802 by English botanist Robert Brown for Thomas Hoy, gardener to the Duke of Northumberland.

A few Hoyas such as Hoya Bella grow to be shrubs, but most are vines that adapt well to container culture and make excellent hanging plants.

The flowers of the Hoya are flat and star shaped, they commonly range in size from 3 inches to a few millimeters each and appear in a pendant cluster, often containing several dozen flowers, from a single spur or peduncle. Colors vary between pinks, reds, yellows, purples. Blooms are seen usually during spring and summer, some occur as late as October.

The Hoya Society International has been able in recent years to solve some of the problems of plant identification that have plagued Hoya collectors and retailers for decades. The work continues but at present the Society recognizes about 150 species as "validly published" and an equal number as needing more study.

Many Hoyas are scented. While

most are night scented some do maintain their perfume during the day. The blossoms often exude a heavy nectar and this may stain carpets if the plants are kept inside the home.

As is the case with our epis, Hoyas need high humidity and good drainage. A Hoya potting mix should be loose with a good amount of organic matter.

If humidity requirements are met, Hoyas can thrive in extreme temperatures. Foliage is best kept in semi-shade as it tends to yellow in direct sunlight. Light is necessary for flowering however, so again we see similarity to our epis.

Although you will often find them for sale in supermarkets and garden centers, Hoyas are an item best purchased from a reputable specialty retailer. As mentioned earlier, many problems remain in Hoya identification. Your best ally is a knowledgeable source.

- Sean Minogue

I would like to thank George French for sharing with me the many articles I used in preparing this article as well as sharing his enthusiasm for Hoyas.

Thanks also to Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams from Rainbow Gardens who also contributed (they may not know it) to this article and are both widely recognized as authorities on Hoyas. Jerry has a sure-fire method for starting Hoya cuttings that many growers swear by.

CUTTING CULTURE FOR SUMMER:

Plants without roots may need special help to survive the hot dry weather ahead.

During their first few weeks in a pot, epi cuttings have no roots. As their roots slowly develop the plants are able to intake the various nutrients they will need to grow.

In the same way that a seed provides the nutrients necessary for the seedling to develop, the succulent cut epi branches should have enough reserve to take and thrive.

You can take steps to improve the odds and give your cuttings an extra boost.

1. USE A ROOTING COMPOUND.

Use of a rooting compound BEFORE planting can help your cuttings fight off fungus infection and most contain a hormone to promote root growth.

2. DON'T WATER THE SOIL.

Your plants won't develop roots for about 6 weeks. If you water the soil before the roots exist to anchor the cutting and uptake the water and nutrients, you risk knocking the cutting over (damaging emerging roots) before you make it sit in water it can not use. (Don't get me wrong, your soil should be moist. You should be able to maintain proper soil moisture by following #3 below.)

3. MIST YOUR CUTTINGS.

Epis can and do take in moisture and some nutrients through pores in their branches. You can help your

branches maintain a robust and plump appearance by supplying humidity in the form of artificial mist (a spray bottle works great). Some of the mist will help to keep the soil moist. Occasional foliar feeding can keep your plant well fed while it works to develop its roots. This is also recommended for mature plants.

4. BRIGHT FILTERED LIGHT IS BEST. This is one of the times a that greenhouse is handy in epi culture. Humidity is controlled, temperatures are higher and more stable and the light is perfect. But as long as you give the cuttings filtered bright light they will be fine. Direct light will burn the cuttings, too much shade will stunt growth.

It is best to find a nice bright corner just for cuttings. They do have special needs. Grouping them together can save you lots of trouble.

-Sean

I HATE THESE LONG GOOD-BYES

The December 1988 issue of Epi News will be my last as your editor. The job has been most enjoyable and challenging but three years at it is enough. I mention this now to confirm what you may hear through the hyper-efficient SDES Grapevine besides you need to have the time to find the right person to begin in January. If you are interested in the job, contact President Turner or any Society officer.

Thank you for your support.

- Sean

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Jerry Williams
Chuck Everson

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Epi News

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Dear Members;

Once again your overwhelming generosity and dedicated efforts have combined to make our Spring show season more outstanding than ever before.

SDES has become the busiest, most visible Epiphyllum society in the world in recent years directly as a result of you and the many others in our group.

Thank you for a great Spring 1988, and thank you for your continued support.

Milton D. Turner



SPECIAL
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
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Marjorie Marshall, Mem. Sec.

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To 12/88

Jeannie Burger, Charles Coons,
Sean Minogue, Joe Tran

To 12/89

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

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in SDES is \$3.00
per person or organization per
year, domestic.

International rates \$12.00

All membership inquiries
should be sent in care of the
Membership Secretary at the
SDES P.O.Box number.