



EPI NEWS

the monthly newsletter of

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER 9, 1988

VOL.12, NO. 11

NOVEMBER MEETING TO FEATURE FRENCH'S HYBRIDS & EPI POLITICS

The speaker at the November SDES general meeting will be our own George French. He will be showing us slides of over 30 of his newly registered Epiphyllum Hybrids plus many other of his beautiful hybrids. Hope to see you all there. - Kathie vanArum (George also reports that he will show a few slides of delightful fall foliage taken during his recent trip to New England.)

The November meeting is an important one also because of the business that will be conducted. Elections of Officers and Directors will be held. Discussion of several proposed amendments to SDES By-laws will also be held. Also on hand, the usual plants and cuttings sales, supplies and Rose's popular refreshments. Come early, there's plenty to see and do. The meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING FALLS SHORT OF QUORUM

The SDES Executive Board failed for the second time in five months to meet it's quorum requirement. At the October 26th meeting only 7 of the necessary 9 (out of a possible 15) members were present. They were Turner, vanArum, Plock, Hook, Gray, Burger and Minogue.

BANQUET TICKETS ON SALE THROUGH END OF MONTH, BUT GOING FAST

You may purchase tickets to the Awards and Installation Banquet at the November 9th General Meeting, but that's your last chance to buy tickets in person before the December 1st deadline.

Tickets are \$10.00 members (as of 9/88) and \$20 non-members. You may make arrangements to purchase your tickets by mail by calling event chair John Noble at (619) 294-4355.

Remember that this year our banquet will be held a week early, on the first Wednesday of the month, December 7th.

12 YEAR OLD SEEKS LOVING CARE, FROM NEW PARENT

Epi News and SDES face a crisis in the very near future. My last issue as your editor will be the very next one and as yet we have no replacement.

If you think you can do the job and are serious about taking on a major non-paying position that requires plenty of active involvement in every aspect of SDES, contact President Turner or myself.

The time to act is now. The need is great.

-Sean

EPI CONFERENCE ONE FINDS
SUCCESS IN SAN PASQUAL

Epi Lovers from around the west met at the SD Wild Animal park on Saturday October 8th, for the first ever Epi Conference.

Starting the day members from the SDES, ESA and South Bay Epi groups enjoyed demonstrations on basic culture given by Dick Chadwick and Gus Schlapfer. After noon, discussions were held on such topics as the hybrids that never seem to perform to expectations and how to improve the system for hybrid registration (for both the growers and the organizations). The propriety of the term EPIPHYLLUM, as it applies to the hybrids that we grow, was also discussed at great length.

Many new friends were made and growing tips shared. While many of the discussions lead to no final conclusions, one opinion was common to all, meetings such as this conference must continue on a regular basis.

The Beauty and the Beast event at WAP was wonderful as usual. Our display was neat and informative (we had an epi potting mix display and many Epi and Rhipsalis species to compliment the Beauty and the Beast theme this year, "Preserving the Species".

Many people deserve credit for helping to make this event very special.

- Pat Barrett
- Linda Hammer
- Jean Gray
- Michele Davis
- Margaret Pethley
- Marjorie Marshall

- Dick Chadwick
- Gus Schlapfer
- Vernon Hook
- Sherrie Miller
- John Noble

Thanks also to the staff of the Wild Animal Park, especially Jim Gibbons
Bonnie Mustoe

The Presidents also played invaluable roles,
Milt Turner, SDES
Richard M. Pentico, Jr., ESA
Dick Kohlschriber, SBES

Thanks to all who helped in any way (especially for cutting donations).

There were several flowers in bloom (they were all "Harold Knebel") and though just a bit warm, the weather was perfect.

The SDES Sandwich Social was a hit. The food was great (if I do say so myself) and plentiful.

It was a delight to talk to so many people bubbling with such infectious enthusiasm.

ESA or South Bay will host the next Epi Conference, based on the success of this first attempt you surely won't want to miss it. Epi News will have all the details.

Thanks again to all involved, it was really fun to help organize this event. I know I had a great time and learned a lot, I think many others did too.

- Sean

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DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE
IS NOVEMBER 25TH

THE SCHMEDDING REPORT

Congratulations to our program chairman for a most lovely program at our Oct. meeting.

Mr. Charles B. Ledgerwood of Carlsbad was our guest. His time lapse motion pictures of many different flowers was a joy both to see and hear. Yes, that's right, he had a soundtrack of music befitting the various types of blossoms he was showing. He coordinated the tunes from opera and ballet. There were pieces from Swan Lake and a great scene in which the Ave Maria was played by his son on the trombone. Beautiful!!! Flight of the Bumble Bee was done to a close up of bees working on flowers, and on and on. We were all amazed at the beauty of the dancing and weaving motions of the flowers as they were opening. Only with time lapse pictures can we see all the movement. It only goes to prove that flowers are living beings almost like us. I guess that is why we become so attached to our Epis and treat them almost as part of our family.

Due to the old flu bug and the baseball play-offs many of our members missed this wonderful program.

Tickets are on sale for the Awards dinner. I got mine! Don't forget that sales end December 1st. The November meeting is your last chance to purchase your tickets in person. We are looking forward to a great dinner and program. John Noble, dinner chairman, told me about the program he has arranged for us. Believe me you won't be disappointed.

- Gene Schmedding

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE EPI LOVER

This year there are more ways than ever before to say "Happy Holidays" to your favorite Epi lover.

For starters try a gift membership in SDES. For just \$3.00 you can send our monthly newsletter to your favorite Epi lover.

How about a gift certificate from one of those fabulous Epi Nurseries, or one of those lavishly illustrated Epi books (see ads elsewhere in this issue).

Sunset Magazine has just published its latest WESTERN GARDEN BOOK. This first update in 10 years is a great garden reference. New sections feature irrigation systems and drought tolerant plants. Sunset Magazine itself is also a great gift, each issue has articles about plants and new gardening techniques as well as cooking and other items. Each is under \$20.00.

Another great magazine for gardeners is Harrowsmith. While this bi-monthly has more rural roots (the magazine began in Canada and has had a USA edition for about two years) it features garden articles that are informative and beautifully illustrated with high quality color photography. Be warned that Harrowsmith takes a political stand sometimes especially on environmental issues.

If Christmas is the time for giving, what better gift than something for the garden.

-Sean

**PLANT'S CRIES FOR WATER
MAY BE HEARD BY INSECTS**

Insight magazine's September issue had an interesting item that Mary Alice Buaas shared with me. Here are the basics.

It seems that when undergoing water stress plants make "acoustic emissions". These sounds are high pitched and inaudible to the human ear. Using ceramic transducers, researchers are able to monitor these noises which occur when the xylem, (the plant part that transports water from the roots to the leaves) breaks down after a week or two without water.

Scientists have long acknowledged the connection between water stress and susceptibility to insect infestation. According to Robert Haack, U.S. Forest Service entomologist "It is quite possible that these acoustical cues are one more thing, in addition to chemical and aromatic changes, that tells insects that a plant is good for laying eggs or burrowing into."

YOUR LETTERS ARE INVITED

In order to facilitate the debate concerning proposed changes to the by-laws, Epi News invites you to make your opinions known in these pages. If you have seen the proposals and have an opinion, write it down, sign the letter and send it to the editorial address listed on the back page. Letters are always welcome on any topic of Epi interest, but must be signed.

**CANDIDATES READY TO SERVE
SDES ELECTIONS ARE NOV. 9**

Candidates for SDES offices have been nominated and await your approval. They are...

President
Sean Minogue

First Vice President (Programs)
Gus Schlapfer

Second Vice President (Mother's Day Show Chairman)
Pat Barrett

Recording Secretary
Margaret Pethley

Corresponding Secretary
Gene Schmedding *

Membership Secretary
Marjorie Marshall *

Treasurer
Marge Schlapfer **

Directors
Michele Davis
Dr. Hafiz
Linda Hammer
Joe Tran *

Officers serve one year terms
directors serve for two years.

*Indicates incumbent

** Marge Schlapfer is a write-in candidate for Treasurer. President Turner has indicated that all votes for "M.S." will be counted as write-in votes for Marge Schlapfer.

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING...
members will be asked to approve spending at the current budget levels through Feb. 1989, at which time the new budget will be ready for approval.

EPIPHYLLUM BASICS PART 8

It sometimes is hard to figure out where to start. One man's cart is another man's horse, but it is always important that they be in the proper sequence. Our first chapters dealt with planting cuttings, but for some the first step is making the cuttings.

Vegatative propogation of plants is a sure fire way to duplicate a particular plant, we know that the epi cutting we make today is an abbreviated version of the parent plant. The genes are identical, the plant that grows will be exactly the same as the one we took the cutting from, a clone of the original plant.

Sexual propogation of epis does not give us any certain results. The plants produced by seed will not be like either parent, although they will share some charectoristics (which we may or may not be able to see). That's the way it is with hybridized plants.

Epi growers who produce their plants sexually are usually hybridizers, looking for something different anyway. For the grower who wants a particular plant, cuttings are the only way to start.

A good quality Epi cutting should be nice and plump, not less than four inches long yet short enough so that the pot will not tip due to the weight of the cutting when planted, or even several months down the road.

Ideally, the cutting should be from growth no more than a few years old, free from pests and

diseases and have undamaged margins.

When pruning plants don't save every cutting just because they can be coaxed into life. Often these cuttings will grow only very slowly, weakened as they are, they are more susceptible to pests and diseases.

Shears or clippers should be clean and sharp to insure the best possible cut. Many Epi growers use two cuts to make each cutting, shaping the bottom of the cutting to look like a point or arrow. This makes it easy to recognise the end which should be planted even many weeks or months after it has been cut.

The first thing you'll want to do to your cutting is to clearly mark the name with an indelible ink. If you are making more than one cutting from a plant you may wait until they have all been cut and then mark them all at one time. If you are going to make cuttings from multiple plants you should mark them before moving from one plant to the next. Systems devised to allow you to make all your cuttings at once and then mark them may seem fool-proof but are not recommended. It is understandably very disappointing to grow a new cutting for three years, hoping for "Clown", only to discover that you have been growing a "Padre". This is the one time that you must pay attention to the names of your plants.

Your newly made cuttings need to be kept dry at room temperature for a minimum of 7 days. Minimum is the key, they will happily wait for you for months.

EPIPHYLLUM BASICS PART 9

What's wrong with this scenario?

Our cuttings are planted, they are growing well and although they have yet to bloom we are content.

Neighbors and friends have started to notice the plants and seem interested. That beautiful cutting of "Clown" now has several branches and it really wouldn't hurt to give one little cutting away.

We reach for the cutters and a little voice cries out "Stop! Don't do it!"

Why?

Simply because without having seen our plants bloom we can not be sure what plant we have. Even the most reputable sources make the occasional error. Even the nurseries, even the long time hobbyist.

There is really only one way to confirm the name, check the description as listed in the ESA Directory of Hybrids. If the description does not match the appearance of the flowers that you got the second or third year your plant has bloomed then you have a problem.

It takes about two or three years for the plant to bloom true. The earlier flowers although beautiful may not have the true colors that the more mature plants will provide. Only the ESA Directory has the original descriptions with each listing, these were made from flowers of plants that were three years old. Supplemental

sources are fine but the ESA Directory is the final word.

If the flower you have does not match the description then the name you have is wrong.

Confirming the names of our plants is an important and often overlooked aspect of Epi culture. It is an absolute must if you distribute your cuttings.

EPIPHYLLUM BASICS PART 10

EPI TIPS

Always clean your clippers with isopropyl alcohol when you have finished cutting one plant before moving on to the next. This simple procedure will help prevent the spread of fungi and other diseases.

Use gloves when handling epis. Their tiny little spines are too small to see, difficult to remove and very painful.

* * * * *

DID YOU KNOW?

Experts disagree about the extent of deforestation occurring in the world's rain forests, home of our Epiphyllum species. The Nature Conservancy estimates that 74,000 acres are lost each day for a total of 40,000 square miles annually, an area the size of the state of Virginia. The American Assn. for the Advancement of Science estimates an annual loss of 80,000 square miles, an area the size of the state of Nebraska. Most is lost to make room for beef, coffee, sugar and banana production, which is exported to the United States.

EPIPHYLLUM - The Splendor of Leaf Cacti

BY MARGA LEUE WITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLGER AND MATTHIAS LEUE

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- INDEX



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—MONTEREY HERALD

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—CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

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—DER GARTEN

"THIS WORK SETS NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC STANDARDS."

—KAKTEEN UND ANDERE SUKKULENTEN

COPIES OF THIS BOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$34 (PLUS \$3 SHIPPING AND HANDLING—CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ADD APPLICABLE SALES TAX).

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in SDES is \$3.00
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All membership inquiries
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