

EPI NEWS

The monthly publication of the

MARCH 1989

Vol. 14, No. 3



SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC.

EPI WORKSHOPS ABOUND IN MARCH

Two S.D.E.S. workshops will help members to get the most from their Epis this March.

The first is part of the new series of pre-meeting workshops. S.D.E.S. First Vice President Gus Schlapfer will share tips on "Epi Pests". Members will learn about mealybugs, aphids and scale insects and their relationship with seemingly harmless ants, snails and slugs also will be discussed. Through the use of materials provided by the University of California's Cooperative Extension and the County of San Diego's Farm Advisors office you can learn once and for all, how to deal with these hungry invaders. The "Epi Pests" workshop will take place at 6:30 p.m. in room 101 of the Casa del Prado, just before the March 8th General Meeting.

At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning March 11th, S.D.E.S. will host "Epi Basics for Spring" a special workshop that will be led by noted epi experts George French and Dick Chadwick. This workshop will instruct members and their guests about taking and planting epi cuttings, and the care of mature plants. The workshop will be held at the garden of S.D.E.S. President Sean Minogue (see page nine).

ANTIQUE EPIPHYLLUMS FEATURED AT MARCH GENERAL MEETING

The March 8th General Meeting of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society will feature an unusual slide presentation of Antique or Heritage Epiphyllum Hybrids. Society photographer Jean Gray and her daughters Linda Hammer and Michele Davis, have scoured the S.D.E.S. slide library and the private slide collections of several members to find the rare photographs in this unusual program of the great Epis of the past.

The program will also feature several photos of Epis hybridized by the late Howard Jones (see related article inside).

Epis have been in popular cultivation for over 100 years and while some of the hybrids have come and gone many are still collector favorites.

Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. at room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Come early for the workshop (begins at 6:30 p.m.), the cutting table, library, supply sales and to see the flowers.

All Epi meetings include free drawings for plants, after program refreshments and the chance to meet new Epi people. Bring a friend, they'll thank you for it.

THE PRESIDENT ASKS
AWARDS BANQUET:
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ?

You probably are familiar with the current format of the Annual Awards and Installation Banquet. Each year we hold our December Meeting in a restaurant. Members are encouraged to spruce up in their finest and an elegant evening of honors, fun, good food and good company is enjoyed almost without exception. Cost per person for the event usually is around \$18.00 to twenty dollars. In the past four years or so it has been the policy of this Society to charge its members \$10.00 and pick up the additional charges as a way of saying "Thank You" for the support and hard work our members provide. Non-members pay \$20.00.

Though frequently criticized, the event is popular and most criticism is aimed at style.

What I have heard is this.

-That we emphasize the elegance at the expense of the awards and honors that should be evenings top priority.

-That holding the event at the usual meeting place, lovingly referred to as CdP 101, would not only save unnecessary expense to all but would also encourage attendance by more members.

-That we originally left CdP 101 because we were too crowded. But at the last few Banquets attendance has held around 110. Easily accommodated in our meeting room with space for more.

-That even though this opinion is held by a seeming minority, we should try it and see.

Proponents of the current format have told me.

-That the formality of the event gives the entire evening a special ambience.

-That the importance of the honors is underscored by the the special feeling.

-That members are more likely to come from far and wide for such a special event.

-That the event provides an opportunity for an evening on the town, that many members welcome.

At the February SDES Executive Board meeting I asked those assembled to guide me as I prepare to appoint a Chairman for our 1989 Banquet. All of the above opinions were expressed, as well as many others. The Board concluded that you, the membership, should decide and agreed to the following plan, in hopes that all members would be able to voice their opinions. A mail-in ballot can be found in the last page of this issue. If you can not attend the March General Meeting and would like to be heard fill it out now and mail it at once to the SDES post office number found on the ballot. If you can attend please do. We will discuss the issue and hold a vote in which those mail-in ballots will be considered.

Please let us know what you want.

-Sean Minogue

MARCH IS THE MONTH TO VOLUNTEER

At the March meeting of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society you will have the chance to volunteer your services in many different ways.

Sign ups for volunteers will be taken for several different projects coming up this Spring.

We will need workers for SD Home/Garden Mags. April show. (Free passes issued to volunteers, see the show for free!)

WAP Epi Show workers needed or come up for our work party. (Free admission to park, work a few hours and spend the rest of the day enjoying the animals and plants!)

Epi Caravan host gardens needed. Volunteer your garden, SDES will pick up the tab for refreshments.

Mother's Day volunteers needed for Sat. and Sun. plus sign ups for tables, all will begin in March.

Be part of the fun. Help others learn about EPIS. Volunteer!

* * * * *

**FEED THOSE PLANTS NOW
FOR BETTER BLOOMS LATER**

Feed your epis a Hi-Bloom type fertilizer now for the best results this Spring. Use a fertilizer with low Nitrogen content for best bloom.

Prune back dead growth now that danger of frost has past.

Pinch back buds on sick plants, they need strength to recover.

Editors Column:

Thanks to everyone, the response of contributions to the newsletter is up as you can see.

In case you were wondering, Helen Barkdoll has found two assistant librarians. They will be able to insure that the library will be open at every meeting and will help Helen when the business gets too brisk. Thanks to Jeanette Dutton for volunteering. I'll be the assistant assistant.

Pat Barrett sure is gung-ho about the Mother's Day Show and Sale, you'll recall that this years theme is "Sunday in the Garden". I'll let Pat tell you about the many new features and surprises in store. Of course next month Epi News will feature the usual pre-show details that you will want to know.

Speaking of the show here's a bulletin board notice... We need to have Ernest Angus contact Pat Barrett directly but do not know how to reach him anymore. Ernest, if you're out there, call Pat, at (619) 442-2404.



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* * * * *
-HOWARD JONES-
* * * * *

Dear Members:

With great sadness I report that Howard Jones has passed away after a long illness. Many newer members did not know Howard. That's too bad. He was quite a person.

He gave many talks and showed slides of his lovely blooms.

His patio in Escondido was a place to behold. He had about two dozen huge epis in hanging baskets, and during the spring and summer, they were so loaded with blooms that the branches were hardly visible.

He loved to show us around his lath house and seedling house. I have no idea how many seedlings he had, but, they were all beautiful. Miss Escondido was his favorite.

Besides his family he had two major loves in his life. His photography and his beloved epis. Howard was a professional photographer, many of his beautiful photographs were published in Western Outdoors and Desert Magazine.

Howard's other great talent, he loved to bake and often he'd invite a member to share a wonderful apple pie. I was one of the fortunate ones.

Good bye, dear Howard. The Epi Society will miss you. The Wild Animal Park will also miss you as you were the main guiding hand the established the Epi House.

- Gene Schmedding

(This next piece was mostly written quite some time ago by our former editor Pat Stebbins, recently Gene and Kathleen Lund added to it and it was read by San Diego Wild Animal Park Horticulturist Jim Gibbons, at a special Memorial Service held in the Epi House. We print it here as final tribute to a member whose good works have touched us all.)

PROFILE: HOWARD JONES

It is hard to know where to begin telling about a man such as Howard Jones, whose many interests, other than epiphyllum, included geology, ornithology, fishing, rockhounding, prospecting, and on and on. He always said he didn't know why anybody couldn't be interested and active, but compared to most of us, Howard had an interesting and multi-faceted life.

Howard came from South Dakota in 1921 and finished his last year of high school in Venice, California. From there he worked for the railroad and attended the Wiggins Trade School where he was assistant to the head of the Photography Department for two years. He then taught night-school for five years.

Howard went on to Santa Monica College where he helped organize and taught in the Photography Department, where he retired as head of the Department twenty years later.

Howard spent nearly a half century behind the camera and did free-lance for General Motors, the Auto Club, the L.A. Times and various national magazines.

Howard's assignments took him all over the world. He spent eight month's with David Ben-Gurion on a United Nation's assignment, teaching photography. He started three schools, in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. He also trained seven photographers for the Israeli Air Force.

Howard's home on Citrus Avenue in Escondido was named Ranchita de las Flores. It comprised one-half acre with fruit trees, including oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, pecan, 3-in-1 plum and a lovely "Beverly Hills" apple tree from which many jars of applesauce were made.

Howard grew epiphyllums for more than fifty-three years. He was given cuttings from the first ones he ever saw, they were "Amber Queen" and "Rosetta". He had "Amber Queen" in a five gallon pot for some twenty-five years and had taken hundreds of cuttings from it to share.

Howard's lath house at the rear of his lot was 20 x 40 feet. He had about four hundred epis, most of the in large clay hanging pots. Within the lath house was a smaller greenhouse where the young seedling and newer cuttings grew.

The first hybrid that Howard registered was named in 1966, for his wife, Mildred Virginia. After that, he registered more that thirty other hybrids including "Miss Escondido" which can be found in most epi collections and is noted for it's reddish foliage,

Howard started his seedlings in plastic shoe boxes where they

grew untouched for months... until they started pushing off the top of the box. Then , he would take approximately eighty of the fastest and strongest growing and repot them individually, destroying the balance.

Howard was a charter member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, along with Dr. Troxell and many others who planned for about a year before it actually started. He also belonged to the Escondido Garden Club and regularly contributed to their newsletter.

Howard's favorite pastime in later years was to spend time at the Wild Animal Park, just a few miles from his home, where Jim Gibbons was able to give him the opportunity to develop his great ideas for expanding the then limited Epiphyllum section of the park.

It was Howard's inspiration combined with the efforts of many others that enabled the Epi House to become reality.

Born November 13, 1902 in Lead, South Dakota, Howard passed away February 3, 1989 in Poway. He is buried at the Oakdale Cemetery in Escondido, next to his wife, Mildred Virginia.

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" MAY IT ALWAYS BE OUR COMMITMENT TO KEEP THIS EPI HOUSE CLEAN, BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, THE WAY HOWARD WOULD WANT IT TO BE..."

Jim Gibbons
February 25, 1989

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EPIS IN CHINA
by Joe Quang Tran
part two

The city of ZuZhou's dimensions, location and general form have remained virtually unchanged for 2,500 years, providing a specimen of an ancient city rarely found in the modern world. Their main visible concession to the technological revolution is 600,000 people with 400,000 bicycles. They have many museums and well cared for flower gardens. We visited some nurseries but found nothing unusual. We gave them some packets of seeds.

Next we found WuXi, the famous "land of fishes and rice". Half of WuXi is under water with ponds for the production of fish and fresh water pearls (from mussels). They had many ornamental gardens with different architectural styles and each having its own unique layout. There was no nursery in WuXi.

NanJing, is a very beautiful city with many temples, Ming's Tomb and a 4 mile long bridge over the Yangtse River. we visited the Drum Tower and the nursery, the NanJing Tourism University where we met the Dean of Studies. Among its curriculum, the university teaches agriculture, cooking, music and dancing. We were invited to attend a night show put on by the students.

During the afternoon we had given the Dean some Epi seeds and pamphlets. When we returned to our hotel we found two nursery men waiting to see us. They had heard we were giving out, (free) exotic seed. I

explained how to sow the seed, to transplant, to grow the epis and the soil mixture. They grow epi species in the natural soil of China. I gave them some seeds and told them that if they want more they can write to me or the S.D.E.S.

No traces of epis were found in BeJing but we visited the Winter Palace (forbidden city), the Summer Palace, The Royal Garden and museums where the pathways were brightened with flowers and great expanses of different plants. They have a zoo with two lovely pandas. We visited Tianmen Square, where thousands of tourists gathered to take pictures and to visit Mao's mausoleum. Flowers abound everywhere. Finally we spotted a pot of E. Oxypetalum on the roof of a very low and old cottage. The plant looked very weak with thin stems.

The great poet Han Yu (Tang Dynasty 768 - 824 AD) described the region around Guilin, "the river forms a green silk belt, the mountains are like blue jade hairpins". We visited a nursery on the side of the LiJiang River where they grow thousands of flowering plants, the kind that produce flowers easily and abundantly all four seasons of the year. I gave them epi seed and explained how to grow them.

On the main street I stopped and took some photographs of E. as they grew in the flower boxes on the 2nd and 3rd floor balconies, some having buds but most of these plants were weak and the stems were very thin. Evidently some people knew about epis and were sharing cuttings.

(continued on next page)

We boarded a boat for the trip of about 5 hours on the Li River. The water is very clear, the atmosphere so clean and cool, and the river is lined with the range of "thousand Rocky Mountains", a blue rock with majestic formations. I brought home slides of the beautiful scenery of China, more than enough for a program, which is available.

We found many flowers in China, in people's parks, imperial gardens and around lakes and ponds. We found mostly 4 species of epiphyllum. The cuttings are growing and can be shared with friends next year.

Everywhere I went I showed pictures and gave epi seeds: the Chinese people are very interested in our hybrid epis.

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(Ed. Thanks to Joe for sharing the story of his trip. I was reminded of Johnny Appleseed who traveled America sowing fruit trees as he went. Joe has an extra bonus on Johnny, he can keep in touch to see how the plants fare in their new homes across China.)

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GOODIES LIST FOR MARCH

Thanks for all of the sign ups. The response is much improved. This months treats will be from...

Elizabeth Glover
Jeanette Dutton
Michele Davis
Leona Ross
Mary Alice Buaas
Margaret Fickas
Toini Wainwright

PLEASE HELP OUR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

One of the many duties of our Corresponding Secretary is to act on behalf of our Society in times of illness or tragedy.

You can help Gene Schmedding, our Corresponding Secretary, to do her job if you will contact her first, when you hear of the illness or death of any member of SDES or its extended family.

So that she may act promptly it is best to call her at (619) 421-6510. Her address is 455 East Naples Chula Vista, CA 92011

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EPI CARAVAN PLANS ARE BEGUN

Jean Gray, Michele Davis and Linda Hammer newly appointed co-chairs of the Epi Caravan are busy making plans for the May 27th event. Please contact any of them if you would like to have your garden included on the tour.

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OOPS! RE-MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Events have been added and dates corrected on the SDES events calendar.

Dates given for the Epiphyllum Show at the Wild Animal Park were incorrect. They should have been Saturday May 6th and Sunday May 7th.

On May 13th SDES will participate in the Mira Mesa Mall's annual flower show in addition to the Mini-Show and sale to be held in the Casa del Prado courtyard.

RECIPE FOR
THE GARDEN OF LIFE

(This piece was submitted by Mary Alice Buaas who also is active with the Embroiderers Guild of America, for stitchers or gardeners this is sure to "sew" or "sow" some pearls of wisdom.)

First: Plant five rows of Peas- Presence, Promptness, Preparation, Perseverance, Purity.

Second: Plant three rows of Squash- Squash Gossip, Squash Indifference, Squash Unjust Criticism.

Third: Plant five rows of Lettuce-Let us be faithful to duty, Let us be unselfish and loyal, Let us obey rules and regulations, Let us be true to our obligations, Let us love and like one another.

Fourth: No garden is complete without four rows of Turnips-Turn up for meetings, Turn up with a smile, Turn up with new ideas, Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

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SHOWS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 1989

San Diego Botanical Foundation has announced the schedule of Spring Shows for its affiliate members. These events are held at the Casa del Prado unless otherwise noted.

March 4 & 5 S.D. Daytime African Violet Soc'y 8th Annual Show,
Sat. 1p.m. to 5p.m.
Sun. 10a.m. to 4p.m.

March 17, 18 & 19 S.D. Orchid Soc'y. 43rd Spring Show
Scottish Rite Mem. Bldg.
Mission Valley,
(I-8 just west of Texas St.)
Admission \$3.00
Fri- PREVIEW 7p.m. to 10p.m.
Sat- 9a.m. to 9p.m.
Sun-9a.m. to 5p.m.

March 18 & 19 Ikebana International 21st Exhibit Show
Sat- 11a.m. to 4:30p.m.
Sun- 11a.m. to 4:30p.m.

MARCH 25TH AND 26TH
EXOTIC PLANT SOC'Y 11th SHOW
SAT: 11 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
SUN: 11 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

April 1 & 2 Balboa Park Af. Violet Soc'y. 14th Show
Sat: noon to 5p.m.
Sun: 10a.m. to 4p.m.

April 8 & 9 S.D. Rose Soc'y 62nd Annual Show
Balboa Park Club,
near Starlight Bowl
Admission \$ 1.50
Sat 2p.m. to 6p.m.
Sun 10a.m. to 5:30p.m.

April 9
Convair Garden Club
39th Annual Rose Show
Sunday 1p.m. to 4:30p.m.

PLUS LATER THIS SPRING

May 6 & 7 Balboa Park Bromeliad Study Group Annual Show

May 20 & 21 S.D. Geranium Show

June 3 & 4 S.D. Cactus & Succulent Annual Show (often called the World's Best!)

June 24 & 25 Fuchsia & Shade Plant Show

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MAKE YOUR FEELINGS KNOWN !
CAST YOUR VOTE

At the March meeting an advisory vote will be taken to find out what membership thinks about the format of its Awards and Installation Banquet. If you do not plan to attend, but feel strongly let your voice be heard. Fill out this ballot and return to S.D.E.S. Post Office Box 126127, San Diego, Ca. 92112-6127

At the March meeting of the S.D.E.S Executive Board the results of the meeting vote will be read and all mail-in ballots will be considered. The Board will then decide how to proceed. If you are unable to state your opinion in the space allowed please feel free to write a letter. All must be received by 10 a.m. March 22nd in order to be considered.

The event that the Board has considered would be held at the Casa del Prado, include a quality catered meal and low key musical entertainment in addition to the awards and installation ceremonies we have come to enjoy and expect. Members attending the banquet would be encouraged to dress up for the affair. The Board has made it clear that it is NOT CONSIDERING making this event A POT-LUCK at this time.

CHECK ONE

_____ YES, I THINK IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE

_____ NO, I'M CONTENT WITH THE CURRENT BANQUET FORMAT

COMMENTS _____

* * * * * CUT HERE * * * * * CUT HERE * * * * *

DIRECTIONS TO THE MARCH 11TH EPI WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP 10 A.M.
COFFEE 9 A.M.
LOCATION:
808 ETHEL PLACE
NATIONAL CITY
INFO: 475-4478
PROGRAM:
GEORGE FRENCH AND
DICK CHADWICK
"EPI BASICS"

