



Epi News



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JULY MEETING FEATURES EXPERT ADVICE ON GARDENING

The speaker at the July 12th General Meeting of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society will be Vince Lazaneo, University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor.

Vince writes a weekly gardening column in the San Diego Union in addition to his duties as Urban Horticulturist with the County Farm Advisor's office.

Vince will have a short presentation on potting soils for epiphyllum and other container plants. This will be followed by an extensive question and answer period on any home gardening topic. Bring your questions and or problems. Vince has a unique and through knowledge of plants and gardening and a talent for making complex ideas easy to understand.

The Pre-meeting workshop will be on the topic of Epiphyllum Annual Care and will feature a demonstration of pruning and repotting techniques by SDES President Sean Minogue.

The Pre-meeting workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. in room 104 of the Casa del Prado. The General Meeting will begin as usual at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Come early, meet your friends and learn about the many ways to improve your garden.

GIBBONS TAKES EARLY LEAVE FROM WILD ANIMAL PARK

Jim Gibbons, Horticulturist of the San Diego Wild Animal Park and an Honorary Life Member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society will be leaving his post earlier than originally announced.

Gibbons had previously planned his departure for January 1, 1990 but will actually leave on July 21, 1989, nearly one half year earlier.

Jim joined the park when it was still in the planning stages and has lead the Horticulture Department through its infancy and the 20 year trail that led to its recent designation as a Botanical Garden. With the late Howard Jones, Jim conceived and help to establish the epi exhibit. His untiring efforts resulted in the beautiful gardens, walkways and botanical exhibits at the park.

From the park in San Pasqual Jim goes to the desert playland of Las Vegas, Nevada where he will supervise the landscape planning and installation at a major new resort hotel.

Jim's legacy at the park and his contribution to the growing popularity of epiphyllums are substantial. Best wishes to Jim and his family as he begins this new chapter in his life in the desert.

QUAILS AND SQUARE FEET
MAKE JUNE A BUSY MONTH

June was a busy time for SDES with two meetings for members.

At the General Meeting on June 14th Members enjoyed the Square Foot Gardening presentation given by North County gardener A. John Jacobelli. Complete with a scale model of his garden Jake shared his ideas for hassle-free gardening on both a small and large scale.

On June 17th SDES members and their guests enjoyed a special meeting at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas. George French presented a program of his beautiful epiphyllum hybrids. The slides were wonderful and the flowers simply the best that there are. During his presentation you could hear the traditional frantic scribbling that always accompanies presentations of George's newer hybrids. His list of introductions always becomes a "want list".

After the presentation and refreshments (and the clean-up, thanks to all!) members of the Quail Gardens Docent Society led us on a guided tour of park. Although there were few epis, there seemed to be plenty of other items of interest. Along the paths and walkways we saw ferns, palms, bromeliads, daylilies, angels trumpets and ficus. The guides knowledgeable comments made the walk a very special tour indeed.

Among the thirty members and guests who attended, it was a pleasure to meet for the first time an SDES member from Houston Texas, Ernst (Rudi) Dorsch.

PAST PRESIDENTS
TO UNDERGO SURGERY

Two SDES Past Presidents face surgery in the summer months.

As we go to press George French has just entered the hospital and Frank Granatowski is scheduled to enter the hospital soon.

Best wishes to both for a speedy recovery.

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GUESS WHAT? I'M BACK!

Thirteen months ago I announced my retirement as Newsletter Editor and the search began for a replacement. In January John Noble took up the job as Acting Editor, agreeing to serve for only a limited time. Since no permanent replacement has come forward and the job has increasingly fallen back to me, I have taken the following action.

At the June 28th Meeting of the Executive Board I appointed myself to serve again as your Newsletter Editor. This appointment was unanimously approved.

I strongly believe that the Newsletter Editor is the single most important job available in our Society. The continued success of our group is based in no small measure on its timely, accurate reporting of events and news. Your help, articles and comments are needed to keep the newsletter strong. Please don't hesitate to share. If you would like to take on the job yourself please let me know.

- Sean Minogue

EPI BOOK TREASURES

While there is to date no real substitute for the "Hazelton Handbook" there are many fine books about Epi and their kin.

The SDES Library and the Bookshop at Rainbow Gardens contain many excellent volumes. Whether you prefer big color photos and a minimum of text or fewer pictures and more detailed information Librarian Helen Barkdoll can help you find what you need.

Here are two examples.

One of the most highly anticipated and critically praised Epi books in decades was published just two years ago. EPIPHYLLUM: the Splendor of Leaf Cacti by Marga Leue with photographs by Holger Leue and Matthias Leue contains some of the very best Epi photos ever published. Lovingly reproduced in beautiful color every page is a treat for the eyes. The commentary (in German and English) may be basic for some but does provide an excellent overview of the history and cultural requirements of the Epi Hybrids. The cover photograph of the highly touted "Clown" is a small indication of the bonanza of excellent photos waiting inside. The Leue book doubtless inspires many to add selections to their "want list". This book is still very much available, either directly from the Leues or the Bookshop at Rainbow Gardens.

Another excellent epi book is FINE-FLOWERED CACTI by F.R. McQuown. Published in England (1965) and later (1971) in the United States this book

features black and white photographs and line drawings and a detailed, easily readable text. The text includes an excellent chapter on hybridization and propagation that answers many of the questions that Hazelton seemed afraid even to ask. Because the book is based on British climatic conditions some cultural advice may require a grain or two of salt to be palatable in Southern California. Also many of the hybrids mentioned in the text are not commonly available in this area. (Where, for example, does one find London Loveliness, London Surprise, London Beauty, London Girl, London Glory, London Majestic, London Magic, London Delight, London Sunshine, London Gaiety and London Pearl? If you guessed London, England you get the idea.) To his credit however, Mr. McQuown offers excellent insights about such things as watering, going into detail to explain the succulent nature of the stems versus the thirsty nature of the root system. While I suspect that this book is long out of print the "Used Book" department at Rainbow Gardens might be of help in locating this volume. We do have a copy available for loan in the SDES library.

A problem for me with Hazelton's handbook is the inferior quality of the black and white photographs. I have discovered however that the copies sold by Rainbow Gardens contain much clearer reproductions than those sold directly by our Society. The few extra dollars are indeed well spent.

- Sean Minogue

SPRING SALE RECEIPTS
SET NEW RECORD

The totals are in for the
Spring Epi Sales.

SD Home/Garden Sale	\$ 230.00
May 13th Mini-Show Sale	\$ 1286.00
Mother's Day Sale	\$ 4953.00
Sale of Left-Overs 6/14	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 6669.00

This figure, while short of our \$7000.00 goal, represents a significant gain over last years receipts. Not bad at all when you consider the pitiful crowd in the Park on Mother's Day. Fortunately however, attendance at the show was off only slightly.

All reports indicate that you want the Mini-Show and Sale to continue next year. This is an excellent opportunity to meet those people unable to attend on Mother's Day.

As ever your comments are welcome and necessary.

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JULY REFRESHMENTS

Our cookie list for July is...

Michele Davis
Jean Gray
Bonnie van Wagner
Mary-Alice Buaas
John Noble
and one name that I could not read, even with a lot of help

NOW IS THE TIME TO ...

Summer is here and with it comes the dry conditions that are foreign to our epis. You might want to supplement the humidity by misting your epis briefly each day. Now that the sun is in its Northern most path you should be certain that your plants are protected from too much direct sunshine.

Now that the blooming season is past (for the most part) the time is right to prune your plants and to repot or pot-up your root bound epis. The July 12th pre-meeting workshop should give you some hints on how best to do this.

Flowers that have not fallen off of their own accord are best removed before they set fruit...unless you wish to use the resulting seed. You can save your plants the unnecessary drain of energy by snipping flower tubes about 1/4 above the base (to avoid damaging the areole).

This is still the best time of year to plant cuttings. The season provides ample opportunity for the formation of roots before the onset of any dormant period. Keep cuttings warm but protected from direct sunlight.

If grafting epis appeals to you remember that there's no better time than right now. Use established but vital newer growth and be sure that the cambium layers are matched for optimum growth.

Keep plants well watered and fed and you will be rewarded with abundant growth and good bloom next spring.

WAP PLANNING MEETING

The long anticipated Planning Meeting for those interested in the future of the Epi House at the Wild Animal Park will be held Saturday July 22nd.

Despite the loss of Jim G bbons as Horticulturist, the uture of the Epi House is assured. What is uncertain is how long the same few people can take care of the growing collection and what steps can be taken to improve the exhibit.

If you are interested in attending the meeting please call Sean Minogue at 475-4478.

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READY TO SERVE ? WHY NOT ?

It's hard to believe that the time has come again but... in August it will be time to form a nominating to committee to select a slate of candidates for the various offices.

If you are interested in serving on the committee or indeed, serving your Society as an officer or director contact a member of the Executive Board now.

Remember that nominations will be announced at the September meeting and elections will be held in November for the 1990 Officers and Directors.

The jobs are fun and challenging. Why not give it a try?

EPI TRADING POST

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FOR SALE:

EPIPHYLLUMS

Mature 3' to 4' branches

2 ea Pink

1 ea Burnt Orange

1 ea Lavender/White

1 ea Red

1 ea Mixed

All in Redwood Hanging Baskets

\$12.00 Each

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in SDES is \$3.00 per person or organization per year. International rates are \$12.00 (U.S.) per year.

All membership inquiries should be sent in care of the Membership Secretary at the SDES Post Office Box.

ADVERTISING POLICY

EPI NEWS will accept camera ready or other ads at no cost for garden items and epiphyllums from SDES members.

MEETING TIME/PLACE

Meetings of SDES are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, in room 101. Meeting time is at 7:30 P.M. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Meetings of the SDES Executive Board are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the First Floor Seniors Lounge at the Casa del Prado. ALL ARE WELCOME.