



# Epi News



SEPTEMBER 1989 SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC. V. 14, NO. 9

## TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS VISIT THE GEORGE FRENCH GARDEN

Epis abound in a Casa del Prado presentation of slides by two well known photographers who have visited George French's garden in the past few months. The program will be featured at the September 13th General Meeting of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society.

During the Mother's Day weekend photographer and collaborator on the book EPIPHYLLUM: THE SPLENDOR OF LEAF CACTI, Holger Leue visited the French garden. In the peak of bloom, the garden of our premier hybridizer is shown in all its glory. You'll see your favorites and some unfamiliar flowers.

Several months later, to capture the photo that graced our August issue, local photographer Joe Janes took slides of the French garden and greenhouse. Janes, who was recognized in August with an Award of Excellence for his photographic work at the CITYFEST '89 celebration, took photographs that show the nuts and bolts of the French garden without the epi flowers. You'll see the ferns, seedlings and shade areas that make a visit to the Frenches' a joy any time of year.

Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. (in room 101) and of course the pre-meeting workshop begins at 6:30 p.m. (in 104).

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST MARKS FALL AT THE SD/WAP

The 13th Annual Beauty and the Beast Garden Celebration will dazzle the masses on Columbus Day weekend (October 7th & 8th) at the San Diego Wild Animal Park near Escondido. As ever the SDES exhibit and sale will be a true highlight.

Join us for all the excitement. The celebration is free with admission to the Wild Animal Park or you can volunteer to participate in the SDES activities and receive free admission to the park.

SDES Vice President Pat Barrett (with plenty of assistance from Dick Chadwick) is heading up the SDES participation and will be glad to hear from any eager volunteers. See Pat at the Sept. 13th Meeting to sign up or call her (442-2404). Sales people and tour guides are needed as well as exhibit staff.

\* \* \* \* \*

## COONS IS HOME AND ON THE MEND

Charlie Coons, long time wizard of the cutting table, is home after his recent cancer surgery.

All our best wishes for a complete recovery go to Charlie.

Hurry back, you are missed.

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP  
HAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT

The pre-meeting workshop at the September 13th General Meeting (6:30 p.m. in CdP room 104) will offer something special.

Instead of the usual educational presentation the September offering will be a special Question and Answer session with a special panel of experts.

Recent sessions have ended with many hands still raised high by those epi lovers with questions about care and culture. This month the entire half hour session will focus directly on your specific concerns.

Don't miss the chance to ask the question you have about epi care, pest control, hybridizing, shade shelters, potting soils or any other aspect of epi culture.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOOKLET ON CARE STILL AVAILABLE

EPI BASICS the new guide to growing epis published by SDES is still available at every general meeting and now by mail order too.

The booklet, written by SDES President Sean Minogue, covers most aspects of epi care and is designed for the Southern California gardener (but will be of help to growers in other areas).

Price for the booklet is \$2.50 at the meetings and \$3.50 (including postage) for mail orders. Send requests to the SDES P.O. Box listed in the back page of the newsletter.

AWARDS AND INSTALLATION BANQUET  
SOME PLANS REVEALED

Plans for the SDES Awards and Installation Banquet continue to be shrouded in mystery but some essentials are available.

The Banquet will be held on a day other than our standard meeting day. It will be held on SATURDAY, December 16th.

The banquet will not be held in a restaurant, as it has been in recent years, but will be a catered affair, held in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado. (Word is that you won't recognize the place.)

Tickets for the event will go on sale at the October General Meeting.

Co-Chairs Gus and Marge Schlapfer and John Noble have many surprises in store for all. Don't miss out on all the fun.

More details will be available at the September 13th General Meeting and will be published in the October Epi News.

\* \* \* \* \*

Deadline for the October Issue of Epi News is September 27th.

Send items to:

Sean Minogue  
808 Ethel Place  
National City, CA 92050

\*\*\*\*\*  
COPIES OF THE AUGUST EPI NEWS  
(with glorious color photo)  
available at the Sept. Meeting  
for \$ .75 each  
\*\*\*\*\*

COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS TASK:  
THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Our Society's Nominating Committee has begun its annual task. Staffed by an outstanding cross-section of SDES members, the committee is certain to do a fine job.

Unfortunately, due to sloppiness on my part, the committee was not formed or structured exactly as set forth in the SDES by-laws.

At the August General Meeting I should have asked you, the members of San Diego Epiphyllum Society, to elect the Nominating Committee. I forgot to do this and regrettably was not reminded until after the meeting was adjourned.

The Executive Board, with a desire to keep the election process on schedule, advised me at their August Meeting to proceed. Two board members volunteered to serve on the committee and the search began to fill the three seats reserved for the general membership. Due to an oversight on my part, these volunteers were appointed in error. According to our by-laws, the representatives from the board should have been one director and one officer. No officers serve on the existing committee. I was made aware of this error (by the ever vigilant Margaret Pethley) after the board had adjourned. I then decided to let the error stand and allow the committee to begin its work.

As it exists now, the committee is comprised of 5 very able and reliable SDES members, it is my hope that despite these errors

you will accept the committee and their report. I will ask for your approval at the September General Meeting.

The committee consists of...  
Linda Hammer, Chair  
Vernon Hook  
Donna Couchman  
Jeanette Dutton  
Helen Rhea

As you probably know, the September meeting will include both the presentation of the Report of the Nominating Committee and the only opportunity for nominations to be made from the floor. I feel that despite my errors and oversights our system offers plenty of safeguards and that the democratic process has not been compromised.

I hope that you will concur.

As our by-laws specify, the newsletter will publish a listing of candidates in October. Absent voter ballots will be sent to out-of-county members and available to others during October. These absentee ballots must be returned by the 8th of November, at which time general membership will vote for officers and directors and all votes counted. Newly elected officers and directors will take office at our December 16th Awards and Installation Banquet.

I am greatly embarrassed by these breaches of protocol and take full responsibility for them. I hope you will agree that your rights have not been usurped.

Sean Minogue  
President

EPI CARE CHANGES  
AS FALL ARRIVES

Care must be taken, as fall arrives, to protect your plants from the extremes of climate that occur with damaging frequency.

Hot dry Santa Ana winds blow in September and these can quickly dry the potting soil and dehydrate your epis' branches. Be sure to check the moisture level of your potting soil and if it is dry give a little extra water. A regular program of misting can benefit plants that hang in dry, breezy areas. Mist in the morning for best results. Avoid misting any plant during the hottest part of the day, especially when they are in direct sunlight.

Some die-back is natural on epis and September is the month that it is most likely to occur.

Remember that growing plants are always hungry. Time release foods keep the plant supplied but liquid fertilizers must be reapplied frequently. Apply liquid fertilizers at reduced strength with each three out of four waterings. You should continue to feed your epi plants well during September, continue the grow formula until after the New Year or even later.

Keep your plants free of debris and watch out for pesky critters. During dry weather snails and slugs are drawn to the moist oasis our epis provide. Bait often and remove dead snails (their shells provide a protected breeding ground for other insects).

Schlumbergera (Christmas cactus or Zygocactus) will start to bloom soon (September to March is typical). You may want to give them a shot of grow formula fertilizer. Many Christmas cactus growers find a brief stint in a dark closet will enhance holiday blooms. Keep the plants in the dark until the buds have formed then bring them out to the light. Christmas Cactus generally prefer more shade than epis do and as such make much better houseplants. They are also more easily frost damaged.

Many of the species plants are blooming or budding now. Remember to give them some grow formula and don't move any plant that has set buds.

If you are awaiting ripe fruit keep an eye out for signs of maturity. Protect fruit from birds and rodents. (See special section next month on Epi Hybridizing.)

REFRESHMENT LIST FOR SEPT.

These kind folks have signed up to bring treats to the Sept. Meeting. Feel free to join them.

Leona Ross  
Donna Couchman  
Jeanette Dutton  
Dorothy Miller  
Bonnie Van Wagner  
Jeannie Brereton

The program should be very popular and with summer at an end our attendance will be higher. Won't you please bring something in this month?

Don't just eat em! Bring in a treat to share!

FROM THE EPI GRAM  
A NEWSLETTER FROM THE SOUTH BAY  
EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

SPOTS, FRECKLES, DIE-BACK, ETC.  
by Dick Kohlschreiber

It's time once again for my annual dissertation on spots, freckles and die-back. Since I've been doing a lot of work on my epis, - fertilizing, making cuttings, etc. - I become more aware of the faults of each plant. No matter how good a grower you are, you're going to run into foliage that doesn't look too great. When you have a good healthy epi that has nice clean growth, the plant can be a thing of beauty. But if you have an epi where the foliage has black or red spots all over, and gaping holes in the branches, the plant can be downright ugly.

I want to assure you, especially the new members, that these ugly plants are not necessarily your fault. Some people seem to get guilt feelings when their epis look so ratty. It is just the nature of the beast. These bad qualities are probably a genetic tendency or weakness. The spotting and freckling were often the downfall of a lot of the old epis and the main reason you don't see a lot of the old varieties anymore. It is often worse if the plant is under some type of stress. If the plant has just bloomed; if it has been in too much sun; if it hasn't been watered properly; - some plants will spot.

I discovered this year that if a plant needs repotting the spotting can be worse. I've had some of the older varieties of

epis for years, and although they might have spotted a little, they weren't too bad. This year they looked terrible! When you can look down in the pot and all you see is roots all over the surface and not too much soil, it is time to repot. And that's the way these plants looked - badly in need of repotting. I'm convinced that this contributed to the extra spotting and die-back.

The longer I grow epis, the less patience I have with epis that do not grow well for me. I have found that some varieties will grow clean in the warm areas of Southern California (San Gabriel Valley, etc.) but will spot when grown along the coast. And the reverse is true.

I never give up on a spotting variety immediately. You have various kinds of microclimates around your house and yard. So if I had the offending plant in a sunny area, I'll move it to a shady area. If it was on the East side of the house, I'll move it to the West. To me the final blow against a plant is when the new growth spots badly. If I see that, I give up and get rid of the plant.

(Thanks to Dick Kohlschreiber and the South Bay Epiphyllum Society for permission to reprint this article.)

EDITORS NOTE:

Remember that laboratory tests done about three years ago by the University of California proved that most spotting is indeed physiological. While we can make it better or worse with care, take heart, some plants spot badly for no reason at all.

EPI NOTES

DO YOU STAKE YOUR CUTTINGS ?

Did you know that there are benefits to staking just planted cuttings?

A secure anchor can keep newly formed roots from being damaged as a cutting is moved by wind or relocated. Also staked cuttings don't require such deep planting.

Once roots have formed the stakes can be removed.

WHEN WILL THEY FLOWER ?

Don't expect new cuttings to flower the first year. Most cuttings planted in summer will probably get rooted by fall but the plant has more work to do.

There is some debate about the wisdom of allowing new cuttings to flower, and some will try. Many growers carefully nip buds on first year cuttings to allow the plants strength to be directed to growth and root development.

The other school of thought says that plants will only flower if they are ready (and many of the buds on first year plants will drop). These folks tend to allow the plants to decide for themselves when to flower.

In any event it is best to keep cuttings on a grow formula their first year rather than try to encourage flowers with a bloom formula.

THEY ARE AND THEY AREN'T !

Taxonomists, those frisky scientists whose job it is to

correctly name (classify) flora and fauna, have been hard at it again.

*WITTIA AMAZONICA* and *WITTIA PANAMENSIS* in fact all *WITTIAS* (are there others?) have been reclassified, they are now *DISOCACTUS AMAZONICUS*.

Leo Kihm will be busy remarking his name tags now that all Easter Cactus have be changed from *Rhipsalidopsis* to *Rhipsalis*.

*Epiphyllum anguliger*, *E. Darrahii* and *E. gertrudianus* may look different to some people and have for years been classified a distinct species. Forget it. You can call them all *Epiphyllum Anguilger* now according to the taxonomists.

GOEWERT WILL SERVE ESA

Congratulations are due to Clem Goewert newly elected President of the Epiphyllum Society of America. Clem will lead the group during 1990, their Golden Anniversary year (and beyond, ESA Presidents serve two year terms).

Richard Pentico, Jr. will step down as President at the groups September meeting and assume the job of Treasurer. Terry Goewert will serve the group as Vice President. Other officers include Ellen Zunino as Corresponding Secretary and the indefatigable Betty Berg as Membership Secretary.

Best of luck to all in their new jobs. ESA promises that 1990 will be a very special year. See Marjory Marshall, the SDES Membership Secretary, for ESA membership information. Don't miss out.

DON'T FORGET THEM GOOD SUPPLIES

George and Jerry Plaisted sell a fine selection of epi supplies at each and every SDES General Meeting.

Pens, potting soil, pots, hangers and even how-to information are available at prices you won't find elsewhere.

Also see Jerry for information about SDES name tags.



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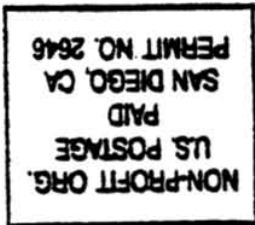
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GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD THE  
SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
AT 7:30 P.M. IN ROOM 101 OF THE  
CASA DEL PRADO IN BALBOA PARK.  
PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS ARE HELD  
REGULARLY BEFORE THE GENERAL  
MEETING AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM  
104. ALL ARE WELCOME.

MEETINGS OF THE SDES EXECUTIVE  
BOARD ARE HELD THE FOURTH  
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH IN CdP  
ROOM 105 AT 7:30 P.M. ALL ARE  
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