



Epi News



OCTOBER 1989 SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY, INC. V. 14, No. 10

OCTOBER'S PROGRAM IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Gus Schlapfer, Program Vice President of SDES has not announced the program for the October General Meeting. He does however promise that you won't be disappointed.

The pre-meeting workshop will feature the topic "Raising Epiphyllum from Seed". The speaker will be Dick Chadwick. Included in the discussion will be tips on how to tell when fruit is ripe, preparation of seeds for planting and good containers for planting the seed.

Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. October 11th, at Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. The pre-meeting workshop is held at 6:30 p.m. in room 104.

Come early and meet your friends.

OCTOBER GOODIES LIST, YUM YUM

These master chefs have volunteered to bring treats to the October 11th General Meeting.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Jean Seile | Barbara Dawson |
| Chloe Bajwa | Nita Stroberger |
| Nita Augevich | Louise Newman |
| Win Gallagher | Marj Marshall |
| Helen Rhea | Michael Schell |
| Nate & Dorothy Ogdon | |

AWARDS AND INSTALLATION BANQUET PLANS ARE ANNOUNCED

Please see the notice inside this issue for complete information about the upcoming SDES Awards and Installation Banquet.

Your hosts for the evening Gus and Marge Schlapfer and John Noble promise a delightful evening of fun and surprises in a familiar setting that you will hardly recognize.

Tickets go on sale at the October 11th General Meeting.

RICHARD M. PENTICO, JR.

As we prepared this issue of Epi News we were greatly saddened to learn of the very sudden death of former ESA President Richard M. Pentico, Jr.

Richard's tenure as President ended only last month. To the end he was a tireless and dedicated leader and lover of Epiphyllum. While he was softspoken, his dry humor and ironic wit was much enjoyed by those who knew him.

Richard's contributions, during his short life, to ESA and to SDES were many. His knowledge, love and dedication to Epis will long be remembered.

**DON'T FORGET,
WE HAVEN'T LET DOWN OUR GUARD**

Remember that those attending SDES General Meetings may be escorted to their cars by our uniformed security guard.

Please don't let your concerns for personal safety keep you from enjoying our meetings and your friends.

Groups leave regularly from the back of room 101 after adjournment of each meeting.

Our security service will also be on hand at the December Awards and Installation Banquet.

* * * * *

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The annual Beauty and The Beast Garden Celebration will be held October 7th and 8th at the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Displays and plant sales abound.

See last months Epi News for details.

Beauty and the Beast is free with regular Park admission. Only those volunteers who have made prior arrangements with Sean Minogue, Dick Chadwick or Pat Barrett will be admitted.

New Park rules require special passes for workers.

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DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER EPI NEWS is very early, please submit items by October 20th.

* * * * *

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
REPORTS: ELECTION NOVEMBER 8th**

The SDES 1989 Nominating Committee made its report to members at the September General Meeting. Candidates for office are:

Officers (one year terms)
President:
Sean Minogue

1st Vice President:
Jean Gray *

2nd Vice President:
Pat Barrett **

Recording Secretary:
Jeanette Dutton

Corresponding Secretary:
Gene Schmedding

Membership Secretary:
Margaret Pethley

Treasurer:
Marge Schlapfer

Executive Board Members
(two year terms)
Charles Coons
Kirsten Pelleymounter

Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work. They were...
Linda Hammer, Chair and members
Vernon Hook, Helen Rhea,
Jeanette Dutton and Donna Couchman.

See the back page of this issue for absent voter information and a mail in ballot.

* To be assisted by Marj Marshall

** To be assisted by Nate and Dorothy Ogdon

Sean Minogue, President

**1990 ROSTER TO BE AVAILABLE
AT THE OCTOBER MEETING**

As directed by the SDES Executive Board, Membership Secretary Marj Marshall and her assistant Margaret Pethley, have prepared the 1990 SDES Membership Roster. Copies will be distributed free of charge at the October 11th Meeting. The roster, showing membership as of the end of September, is used as a general directory of members and is also the final arbiter of qualification for receiving membership pricing at the Awards and Installation Banquet.

Each member may receive a copy of the roster, but copies will not be mailed.

* * * * *

PAST MEMBERS ARE AILING

Friends of former SDES Members Peg and Paul Minardi will be sad to learn that both have had serious health problems in recent months.

Peg is recovering from heart surgery and Paul from cancer surgery.

All our wishes to the Minardis for full and swift recoveries.

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET WAP WORKDAYS

Workdays are held at the Epi House at the Wild Animal Park the First and Third Saturdays of each month.

Contact Pat Barrett if you would like to participate.

There's always plenty to do.

COLLECTIONS ARRIVE AT WAP

The Epiphyllum collections of late SDES members have been donated to the SDES Epi House at the Wild Animal Park.

The collections belonging to Mary Kelly and Sam Markey are now in their new homes awaiting repotting and hanging.

Thanks to the generosity of their family members and SDES members the plants were transported and placed at the park on hold while they acclimate to their new conditions.

Special thanks to Dick Chadwick for making arrangements, toting plants and making many trips back and forth to the distant park.

The WAP collection looks better every day.

* * * * *

NOW IS THE TIME

If you live in colder areas you will want to cease feeding your plants in October. New growth is susceptible to frost damage and epis tend to go dormant during winter months anyway. Encourage this by withholding fertilizer now if freezes are expected in December and January.

Watch out for those frisky snails and slugs. Cool moist weather will draw them out of the summer hibernation and they wake up hungry. ("MMM-MMM them epi branches sure look tasty.")

Hybridizers (novice or pro) should get ready to plant this (continued next page)

years seeds. Fruit should be ripe and you'll want to be ready with the proper pots or other containers to get them started right. Remember to use clean tools when cutting fruit open to extract seeds. (Don't miss the pre-meeting workshop at 6:30 p.m. on October 11th for other tips on how to grow epis from seed.)

* * * * *

TWO FROM: DESERT PLANT LIFE

Reprinted from the
March 1945 Issue

EPIPHYLLUM CULTURE
as told by Theresa Monmonier

Climatic conditions and care are important considerations in the successful growing of epiphyllums was Theresa Monmonier's first caution in her talk before the Cactus Exchange at its March meeting. A common mistake made is treating them like cacti from arid regions when in fact their requirements are more like those of orchids or other plants requiring warmth and moisture. They are in reality tender plants and in colder climates should be in a lath house and in hot climates protected from direct sunlight.

Epiphyllums should not be overcrowded as they must have ventilation and be kept free from dust. For the latter a hosing will be sufficient. If this is impractical, take a wet cloth and wipe the leaves. Another warning. Do not over fertilize for in this case the plant is more susceptible to disease and will not flower so readily. Fertilizer should be of the proper constituents.

Leaves incorporated with sawdust, clay or sand only, will never take the place of decomposed leaf mold with one part well rotted manure, one part peat moss and one part decomposed granite.

Nor should the drainage be neglected. To take a tin can, punch holes and then set it on cement will mean disaster. If holes are punched on the side of the tin, results will improve. Put fertilizer in bottom of pot. Small plants will reach to it as needed. Do not give too much moisture and give these plants plenty of light. Begonia conditions are too dark.

Fungus is the epiphyllum's worst enemy. This buries itself in the tissue and produces spots. For these a copper sulphate preparation brushed over spots is beneficial. Too strong a solution will stop growth and the soil becomes toxic. Not to be used in connection with oil sprays.

Dry rot, black or brown is another foe. For this Black Leaf 40 is recommended. During summer months infections are spread by flies, not by heat as may be supposed. To control, all diseased parts must be cut out and destroyed as they are a menace to the entire collection. All remaining plants must be sprayed, even if they do look healthy. In handling diseased parts it must not be forgotten that the hands have become contaminated and they too must be thoroughly disinfected before proceeding to the handling of other plants. An instance was told of a man who took out a plant with black rot and put another plant

into the same pot and soil with inevitable results. If you have a schedule, she advised, that is successful, do not change it for another system that someone else has found suited to his conditions.

At the conclusion of her talk, Mrs. Monmonier explained the 150 or more slides, projected by her husband and photographed in color with the exception of a few supplemented by members.

In hybridizing, qualities sought for are hardiness, free flowering; for purpose, whether fort corsages, cut flowers or "basket flowers". To retain these characteristics other hardy specimens are crossed with the old time favorite "Deutsche Kaiserin" (*Phyllocactus phyllanthoides* Link).

It takes many years before a plant can be established and be worthy of a name. From a hundred seedlings only one or two may be acceptable. Richard Diener's collection which he had developed with the aid of Burbank's spineless cactus never lived to see his hybrids in flower. At his death, the were acquired by their present owner, Mrs. Monmonier.

The audience was in an inquisitive mood, especially regarding the German names on so many of the epiphyllums. Such names as Goering, Udet, Goebbles, Tojo, etc., were given not by American growers but originated in Germany where the plants were developed. These epiphyllums still find a ready sale but the tags are taken off and a number substituted. So a beautiful flower and its anathema have

been separated.

Over ninety people packed the meeting room, the largest meeting since Mrs. Alwin Berger of Stuttgart spoke at this same place. Sixteen additional members were enrolled; new interest in these beautiful flowering cacti was aroused and a resurrection of the sleeping epiphyllum society was demanded. Maybelle Place will be the April speaker. Everyone invited.

* * * * *

Reprinted from the
May 1946 issue

It will cost almost \$1,000,000 to restore Balboa Park buildings and grounds to their prewar condition after the Navy finds no further use for the as hospital facilities.

The Navy is expected to pay the restoration expense. Hospital executives recently indicated that they may be ready to turn the park back to the city within a few months, thereby making available once again one of this city's major recreational areas.

More than 100,00 wounded and ailing sailors and marines have been treated in Balboa Park since Pearl Harbor. When structures built in the 1915-16 and 1935-38 Expositions overflowed, the Navy erected numerous temporary buildings. Converted into hospital facilities were such structures as the tall, ornate California Tower, the Fine Arts Building, and the Museum of Natural History.

* * * * *

Thanks to Chuck Everson of Rainbow Gardens. Realizing I've pretty much run out of things to write he sent me these two items of interest.

Chuck promises that the group that published these articles has been out of existence for at least 25 years and probably wouldn't care if we reprint them anyway.

If anyone out there would like to sue Epi News for the unauthorized reproduction they should contact the law firm of Dewey, Cheatum and Howe.

* * * * *

More notes on the reprints...

The article about Ms. Monmonier's Epi Culture should be taken for what it is, an historical relic. Many of the techniques she suggests are fine even 44 years later. Some of them are not recommended and some are contrary to federal regulations regarding use of garden chemicals. Some, while not illegal, certainly cause me to cringe.

Also the note about oil sprays should be heeded. Oils will clog the pores (stomata) of most plants and since epiphyllum depend so heavily on this avenue of nourishment, the use of oils can be harmful in the extreme.

Her point about cross infection by contaminated hands is well taken and followed a step further should include use of contaminated clippers and shears. Always disinfect your

tools after you have used them on one plant, before you go on to the next plant. Even if all the plants look healthy. An ounce of prevention makes you healthy, wealthy and wise. Or something like that.

The comments about hybrids named for infamous Germans still ring true. Some of our more knowledgeable members can tell you about those hybrids that were renamed after the war. Our by-laws have a clause that states we will "encourage the use of the original names as first given by their originators." Perhaps, perhaps not.

If you are interested in more information about the history of Balboa Park during the War and Exposition years the SD Historical Society can help and there are some fine books on the subject. If you prefer a first hand account though you should really talk to SDES Honorary Life Member Penny Bunker.

Penny and her late husband Walter have given so much to the Park and the people of San Diego over the years. Penny has some great stories about the park and can tell you all about what was where and when and why.



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**SDES MAIL-IN BALLOT FOR MEMBERS
RESIDING OUTSIDE SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

Pursuant to Article X , Section D, all SDES members residing outside San Diego County will receive an absentee ballot with their October Newsletter. This ballot may be use only by Members residing outside San Diego County. Other members wishing to vote by mail-in ballot must contact SDES Recording Secretary (Margaret Pethley, 5753 Jeanette Ave., La Mesa, CA 92041) with that request in writing. Mail-in ballots must be returned by the date of the regular election (November 8, 1989). Return ballots to SDES, P.O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127.

OFFICERS Vote for One:

President

Sean Minogue _____

First Vice President

Jean Gray _____

Second Vice President

Pat Barrett _____

Recording Secretary

Jeanette Dutton _____

Corresponding Secretary

Gene Schmedding _____

Membership Secretary

Margaret Pethley _____

Treasurer

Marge Schlapfer _____

Executive Board Members 1990-1991 Vote for two:

Charles Coons _____

Kirsten Pelleymounter _____



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 2ND V.P. PAT BARRETT
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 REC. SEC. MARGARET PETHLEY
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DIRECTORS
 1989
 JEAN GRAY, VERNON HOOK

1990
 MICHELE DAVIS, LINDA HAMMER.
 JOE TRAN

SDES MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP COST IS \$3.00
 PER YEAR PER PERSON OR
 ORGANIZATION (DOMESTIC)
 \$12.00 PER YEAR PER PERSON
 (INTERNATIONAL)

SEND INQUIRIES OR CHECK PAYABLE
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION
 SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE
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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 SDAS EXECUTIVE
 BOARD ARE HELD THE FOURTH
 WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH IN Cdp
 ROOM 105 AT 7:30 P.M. ALL ARE
 WELCOME.