

The Bulletin

EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA



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PHOTOGRAPH: Galen Pittman

CHANTILLY LACE

Hybridizer: Harold Watts Registrant: Galen Pittman Reg. #14586

'Norma Cantafio' × 'Bold Venture'

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ROSTER CHANGES or other membership issues send them to the Membership Secretary.

MEETINGS: Begin at 7:30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month, (except January, December and US national holidays.) Admission and parking are free. Refreshments are served. Members and guests attending their first meeting receive a free, potted epi. Regular meetings are held in the Lecture Hall B, Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA, USA. Take the Foothill Freeway (I-210) to the Baldwin Ave. exit, south. Follow the signs to the Arboretum. The December meeting is the Holiday Banquet. Paid dinner reservations are required.

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From Top: *Doris W. Pittman* hybridizer Harold Watts,
Tecate hybridizer Harold Watts,
Epi Society hybridizer Wressey Cocke.

Spring Culture Calendar

A revised reprint from Vol. 64 No. 3, Spring 2009

by Keith Ballard

Spring is when buds start forming, and the excitement builds as blooming season nears! Feed your plants and watch for weeds, scale, aphids, snails and slugs.

Be vigilant! Weeds sprout and grow unbelievably fast. Get sprouts out by the roots before they get established. To get the oxalis roots you probably will have to go under the mix surface. The task is much easier just after a rain or thorough watering. Some growers use long "nosed" tweezers or pliers to pull below the soil line. If weeds are well established, repot with fresh mix after the blooming season. If you don't mind forfeiting flowers this year, repot now. Epies bloom best with crowded roots. A repotted plant is likely to develop roots, not buds and flowers.

A pot with mature oxalis should be isolated before it develops seeds. This clover-like weed produces nearly invisible seeds which are expelled explosively into nearby pots when the days warm up.

Check for the spread of pests such as scale, aphids, mealy bugs, spider mites, snails and slugs. Most can be controlled with environmentally safe remedies such as a mild soap & water solution or wipe with ordinary rubbing alcohol. In its immature stage, scale can be eradicated with Malathion, at 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Once scale matures into hard shelled discs, you have some choices, one environmentally safe, one adding a tablespoon of Ivory dishwashing soap to the Malathion and the other is highly toxic. The safe approach uses Orange Oil (Available online, and you can safely get some in your mouth). This should be sprayed on the branches at 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. In addition this solution should kill the other bugs as well. Orange oil spray kills the scale but the now empty shells do not fall off. If you want them off you'll have to wipe them off. The toxic approach uses medicine like Cygon applied as soil saturation solution to be taken up systemically by the roots, and also topically. Used at the recommended strength, Cygon on a cotton ball wipes established scale clean off. This is risky business, however, because Cygon is highly toxic. You need to wear protective clothing, glasses, hat, nose mask, glasses, and rubber gloves, AND work in a well ventilated spot so fumes will dissipate readily.

A 1:3 solution of household ammonia and water destroys slugs and snails (which you have to actually hit, use a toy squirt gun), and decomposes to form ammonia nitrate, a plant fertilizer. (However, it does provide nitrogen, see below). And, of course, there is a whole variety of poison baits, both powder and pellets, that you can use. Growers have been known to "paint" flower bearing branches with slug and snail powder poison for protection just before a flower show.

As a general rule, feed mature plants with 0-10-10 as early as February or as soon as the weather warms up in your area. Small flowering varieties bloom earlier than those with larger blossoms. They need to be fed as soon as possible. If you don't have time to fertilize in phases, or simply prefer to do the whole job at once, try using 0-10-10 in the fall to harden-off new growth. There will usually be sufficient nutrients remaining in spring for good bud formation in small flowering plants without a separate feeding.

A little planning can make a big difference in results. Old hands know from experience, or their records, which are early or late season bloomers and fertilize each accordingly. If you're just starting, you might buy a calendar with space for notes for each day. Note on it the date when a plant begins forming buds, and when it blooms. After a few years, you'll have a record of how each performs for you. Ideally, you want to fertilize with 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 about two weeks before bud formation begins, (eight to ten weeks before blooming). Bud formation may vary from year to year depending on weather. If a mature plant has formed buds do not use a growth promoting fertilizer (i.e. one providing nitrogen). There are growers that do not feed at all once buds develop, and restart feeding after flowering is over.

Because a cutting will not support a large flower until it has reached an appreciable size, you're better off feeding with growth inducing fertilizer such as 2-10-10 or small amounts of a slow release formula to stimulate new stems, instead of flowers. Avoid high nitrogen and "fast acting" nitrogen compounds. If you let the plant grow before forcing it to bloom, the flowers are more likely to be the proper size and form, and the plant's health will not be set back by the energy expended in blooming. Do not feed a rooted cutting for three months after it is potted.

Do not change a plant's orientation to the light once buds start to set. This may cause it to disbud. Once the buds are well set, it's possible to move a plant to a spot where it can be seen to best advantage, but undeveloped buds may not mature.

While inspecting plants for weeds, and pests, remove broken, diseased or frost damaged branches. A branch with no or very few live areoles is a candidate for removal. To help prevent spread of virus, it is a good idea to sterilize any cutter between cuts. A butane cigarette lighter is an inexpensive and convenient way to heat-sterilize blades between plants. However, it is overkill, but a propane plumber's torch is a safer method. Safer yet is to not cut at all but to snap off branches to be removed for cuttings or pruning.

If a cutting is not diseased or leathery, and you don't want to start a new plant, label it with the flower's name and bring it to the ESA raffle table. Be sure you use a waterproof marking pen. It's a bother, but necessary, to label each cutting as it is cut. For one thing, stems may be wet and repel ink. But, it's too easy to confuse cuttings from more than one plant if precautions are not taken. A simple solution is to use paper lunch bags. When you start working on a plant, write its name on the bag. Any decent cuttings can be placed in the bag and easily identified

by labeling later. However, remember that “Sharpie” ink is not permanent and will eventually disappear with time.

For best results, apply rooting compounds before a wound calluses over, which means soon after it’s cut. If you use the paper bag method above, it is very convenient to dip cuttings in hormone compound at the same time you label them. Put them back in the labeled bag to keep like kinds together.

The rule for watering is the same as always, do not let the epi mix completely dry out and prevent it from staying saturated for a long period. The key here is the amount of rain. If the epies are wet with rain or rain is imminent, and rain is better than household water, there is no need to water. If the epi mix is dry one inch down and rain is not forecast, it’s time to water. If there has been excessive rain it might be time to cover the epies and let them dry out a bit.

Some final notes, this is not the time to repot Spring blooming varieties. If you must repot, you will forfeit blooms this season. Also, remember, epies bloom best with crowded roots. If a plant is top heavy but does not have enough crowded roots to bloom, place the smaller pot inside a larger one and pack the space between with pea gravel to hold it upright.

Jim Nones has suggested a new Bulletin feature series called “Reflections” to tell the stories of noteworthy members, hybridizers, etc. This is the first article in this series.

REFLECTIONS: Keith & Pat Ballard’s ESA Story

by Keith Ballard

In the mid 1970s, we had three children at home and were always looking for different outings for them that were free. One day, we decided to go to the LA Arboretum (which was free at that time), on a Sunday in May. While we were there, we noticed a sign for an Epiphyllums Show in the Bamboo Room and decided to see it. We already knew what an epiphyllum was as we had been given a few by an elderly aunt who was going into a care facility. We were impressed by what we saw at the show. From then on we found out when the shows were, and attended regularly. Soon we started collecting our own epies, going to Ethel Hurst’s nursery after seeing the show and buying a few cuttings. Money was tight then, so we didn’t buy very many at a time along with mix, pots etc. The epi collection that started then with two epies has grown to over 500.

After those first epies bloomed, we began competing in the Annual Show, and in 1982 Keith won his first ribbon. We decided then if we were going to take from the society, we should also give, so

we joined the ESA. Velma Featherstone dominated in the flower arrangement category at the time, but Pat noticed that Velma’s arrangements used the same accessories year after year. Pat, who has a CSULB degree in Art, said “I bet some new things will beat her”, and she promptly won two first places in arrangements in 1983. After that Pat dominated in arrangements for a number of years, and we collectively won a lot of the glass trophies from the shows during that time. Pat has a small sideline business making handmade ceramic and glass art items, and has made the Annual Show trophy plates for the ESA since 1996.

It is not generally known, but the Register of Hybrids and Species (Formerly called the ESA Directory of Species and Hybrids) was an endangered species in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The 4th Edition of the Directory had been printed, and some members had a copy, but there was no known electronic copy from which to print more. What did exist was the corresponding database which was maintained by Raymond Eden, the Directory Editor at the time. The problem was that a big file in a database program is not really suitable to be printed and only reads well on a computer.

Keith is a trained electronic engineer, and knew the risks of the potential loss of a single copy of anything on a single computer. People who knew Raymond knew he could be difficult at times to deal with, but Keith managed to talk Raymond into giving him a backup copy of the database. Sure enough, within months of making the backup copy, Raymond’s computer irretrievably crashed and all of the data was lost, and within a few more months Raymond died on Oct. 12, 2002.

The next challenge was to get the database data into a printable form. First, the database was updated by hand with the data in the various intervening Directory Addenda. Then, thanks to a chance encounter with former member, Deborah Flores, who had been writing special-purpose computer software to convert databases into printed documents for a living, we were able to get the database converted. The program she wrote for the Directory worked the first time, but there was a lot of manual cleanup to do. Keith, and Jerry Dobbins did the cleanup work and the results were checked for accuracy by a number of ESA members. After these corrections, the resulting file was printed and became the 5th Edition of the Directory.

ESA Offices Held by the Ballards:

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Acting Treasurer: June 1996 - Sept. 1997
Treasurer: Sept. 1997 - Dec. 2011

Keith Director: Sept. 1997 – Sept. 1999
Vice President/Acting President: Sept 99 – Dec. 2001
President: Dec 2001 - Sept 2007
Program Chairman: Sept. 1997 - Sept. 2007
Co-Chair Annual Show: May 2008
By-laws Chairman: 2000 - 2001
Bulletin Editor: Dec. 2001 - Present
Directory Editor: Dec 2001 - 2013
Director: Sept 2013 - Present

Galen Pittman

June 23, 1957 – February 22, 2015

by Keith Ballard

Galen Pittman, artist, innovator, epiphyllum lover and long-time Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA) volunteer and supporter, passed on February 22, 2015, after a long illness.

Galen was an artist at heart, which frequently showed up in his general activities. For example, his annual decorated Christmas tree was glorious to behold. It was different every year and usually took two months or longer to create. In his ESA roles, his artistry was also evident. One example was last year's Annual ESA flower show. The show theme was "South of the Border", and Galen, as show chairman, had the walls of Ayres Hall hung with draperies of Mexican colors and antique travel posters. He also arranged the tables upon which the cut flowers were displayed in a manner that emphasized the Court Of Honor (where all the first place winners were displayed). Galen also participated in the design of new display racks for epi cuttings for use at our various off-site fundraisers, whose use tripled the income from some of those sales. Many in San Diego will remember his flower displays at the San Diego Show which were always beautifully designed.

A very special talent of Galen's was his fantastic and unique memory for epiphyllum data. Shown an unknown epi flower, he could usually come up with the name, and often the supporting data, such as the hybridizer, parentage and sister seedlings. Given the name of a flower, he could often describe it in detail.

Galen's ESA activities were varied, numerous and spanned decades. He served two terms as President, three terms as Vice President, one term as Recording Secretary and was a long-time Board Member. He also served as Annual Show Chair eight times and EPICON Chairman twice, once even catering the event himself. He was a member of the Research and Registration Committees, and while serving as curator of The Pentico Collection, he was responsible for quadrupling the number of varieties there to nearly 4000. He was also responsible for taking thousands of cuttings annually that were used for sales and donated to other epiphyllum societies. He was given the Alice Buchanan Award for his outstanding services as a volunteer in 2000, and was awarded the Founders Award in 2009 for his lifetime achievement in the cultivation, promotion and understanding of epiphyllum species and hybrids.

A data search of the ESA Bulletins reveals that Galen Pittman's name appears 103 times over a period of 24 years, demonstrating how active a member he truly was.

He wrote several memorable articles for The Bulletin, including the Culture Calendars, and gave numerous presentations, including a recent one on Power Growing. He was an excellent speaker and could speak extemporaneously, at length, on many aspects of epiphyllums, such as: culture, history, hybrids and hybridizing.



Galen Pittman's first epiphyllum. Galen's father introduced him to epiphyllums at an early age.

Galen was a very active registrant of new epies. He registered a total of 174 hybrids, mainly Harold Watt's originations. Galen was growing some of his own hybrids, but had not yet registered any of them. Fortunately, his mother, Doris, and sister, Kathy, want to help preserve his legacy, and have donated his collection of plants and seedlings to the ESA, which includes several marked for registration, including a few more Watts hybrids.

Galen was in essence, the spirit of the ESA and he will be greatly missed.



Galen with his parents Lloyd and Doris at an ESA Christmas dinner

Watts Hybrids Discovered by Galen Pittman and Dan Lundy

The following article is from Vol. 51 Issue 1, Sept/Oct 1995 of The Bulletin, and was written by Raymond Eden. The introduction which references a cover photo has been omitted. The last 2 paragraphs, which contained a list of the 24 hybrids that had been registered at the time, has been replaced with a complete list of the 156 Watts hybrids, all but one registered by Galen Pittman. This article illustrates just one example of Galen Pittman's decades of service to the ESA. The ESA is also honoring him by selecting Harold Watts as the featured hybridizer for the 2015 Annual Show.

Harold F. Watts was a bit of an enigma. He was a member of the ESA for many years, but rarely attended meetings. "Hardly anyone knew him," reports ESA Vice President Dan Lundy. "The first I heard of him was when his widow, Evelyn Watts, donated his seedlings to the ESA in the Spring of 1993." Mr. Watts had passed away in the Fall of 1992.

Dan Lundy and Galen Pittman went to the Watts' home in the San Fernando Valley to collect the seedlings. "We found some fairly mature plants on a lanai," Galen reports. "We loaded them into a truck, and were about to leave, when Mrs. Watts showed us a ladder staked to the steep embankment and told us her husband had more plants up the hillside." The two men climbed the ladder, marveling that Mr. Watts, who was in his seventies when he died, had scaled the embankment daily. Some distance up the hillside, Lundy and Pittman found a level area. "There was no shade house. Only tree branches sheltering about seven flats of seedlings in four inch pots," Galen said. "We noticed a foot path which led us further up the hill to a second terrace with more flats, and another path leading to yet another terrace and even more flats." By the time they finished, Lundy and Pittman had hauled away two truckloads of seedlings. Instead of the handful they'd expected, there were nearly 1,000 Epiphyllum seedlings.

Harold F. Watts, whom almost no one had heard of, had been hybridizing in obscurity. "The seedlings had not received the care they needed in the months following Mr. Watts' death," Lundy states. "With summer coming, we had no time to lose." It was decided Pittman would assume responsibility for all the Watts seedlings. "I was the logical choice," Galen states. "because I have access to a place with enough room to accommodate the whole lot."

After the plants were moved and their immediate needs met, Galen began studying Mr. Watts' log book in earnest. "Mr. Watts kept detailed records of his crosses and the resulting flowers," Galen says. "He made 304 crosses beginning in 1979. His last cross is dated 1983." Over the years, Mr. Watts eliminated numerous seedlings which had not met his expectations. "Of course," Pittman adds, "what his expectations were remains a mystery." Even so, it

was clear from the descriptions of the flowers he'd destroyed that Watts had rejected anything too similar to either of its parents. "Discovering this about him, and knowing the conscientious self discipline required to systematically cull out seedlings which don't measure up, inspired respect for this man's work, and gave me hope that the surviving seedlings might produce some spectacular new flowers" Pittman says. And so Galen Pittman has repotted, nurtured and fed the seedlings; dutifully photographing each new flower and logging the data required on the ESA Registration Form. Asked how he feels about being listed as the plants' originator in The ESA Register as his only compensation for all his efforts, Galen replies, "But its not my only compensation. Witnessing the emergence of one of these magnificent flowers into the world, and having the privilege of naming it, that is my reward."

Does Mr. Pittman have a favorite? "I am partial to the one I named for my mother, DORIS W. PITTMAN," Galen offers, but adds, "but then FRIDA KAHLO is breathtaking, and WINGED VICTORY is gorgeous, and..."

Mr. Pittman registered the first twelve Watts Seedlings in 1993, just months after receiving them. "Ordinarily, a flower should be observed for two or three seasons before it is registered," Pittman asserts. "However, Mr. Watts kept notes for each flower over a period of years. These proved so thorough and accurate, the flowers I observed matched his descriptions perfectly." "I registered a dozen Watts seedlings in 1994, and will register twelve more this year, including, for the first time, some medium sized flowers," Pittman says. "I'll be showing slides of the 1995 introductions at the ESA's Annual Slide Show on September 5th. Anyone wanting to see them should attend the meeting."

The complete listing of all of the Watts hybrids is on the following page.



Frida Kahlo

A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE HAROLD WATTS HYBRIDS

Afro-Desia	Evelyn Watts	Marlene Dietrich	Satsuma
Alchemy	Faryal	Martinique	Savage
Amarna	Frida Kahlo	Mauna Loa	Savoir-Faire
Anaconda	Für Elise	Merida	Scarlet Macaw
Angel's Flight	Funny Face	Monet	Sea Star
Antilles	Gandhi	Montecito	Seance
Argentina	Ganesha	Moon River	Sedona
Atlantis	Harold F. Watts	Moonwind	Seduction
Babalu	Heavenly	National Velvet	Selena
Baja	Hocus-Pocus	Navarre	Shangri La
Bangkok	Honeysuckle Rose	Nisei	Shirley Aline
Besame Mucho	Hot Lava	Nuages	Siboney
Blond Venus	Hot Stuff	Nuance	Sierra Madre
Bound for Glory	Hyperion	Oaxaca	Simba
Cachet	Hypnotique	Onnagata	Soiree
Calexico	Indochine	Orient Express	Sonic Bloom
Cancun	Infrared	Over the Top	Sound of Music
Caribbean Princess	It's Magic	Palatine	Southern Comfort
Casino Royale	Ivoire	Pearly Shells	Sunset Boulevard
Cassis	Jadaan	Peggy Oberg	Super Chief
Chantilly Lace	Jitterbug	Perfidia	Superstition
Charleston	Jungle Orchid	Petra	Tahitian Hula
Copal	Kahuna	Piaf	Tantara
Crystal Blush	Kassel	Picante	Taxco
Cuervo Gold	Keith Ballard	Poison	Tecate
Deidre	Kilauea	Polynesia	Tequila Sunrise
Delta Queen	Krypton	Pretty in Pink	Thai Silk
Dharma	Lakme	Princess de Monaco	Thais
Diego Rivera	Lalique	Rametta	Tinseltown
Dita	Laredo	Rare Essence	Tres Chic
Diva	Lazy River	Rio Samba	Twenty-Four Carrots
Doris W. Pittman	Light My Fire	Royal Hawaiian	Vendanta
Early Frost	Lloyd J Pittman	Rubies are Red	Victorian Rose
Electron	Lorraine	Saint-Tropez	West Indies
Elegy	Lotus Land	Salsa Fresca	Wild Thing
Enchanted April	Margarita	San Francisco	Winged Victory
Envy	Mariachi	San Miguel	Wishing
Epiphany	Marie Antoinette	Santiago	Zona Rosa
Eternity	Marilyn Monroe	Satinique	Zorro

AN ALMOST COMPLETE PICTORAL OF THE HAROLD WATTS HYBRIDS



Afro-Desia



Alchemy



Amarna



Anaconda



Angel's Flight



Antilles



Argentina



Atlantis



Babalu



Baja



Bangkok



Besame Mucho



Blond Venus



Bound for Glory



Cachet



Calexico



Cancun



Caribbean Princess



Casino Royale



Cassis



Chantilly Lace



Charleston



Copal



Crystal Blush



Cuervo Gold



Deirdre



Delta Queen



Dharma



Diego Rivera



Diva



Doris W. Pittman



Early Frost



Electron



Elegy



Enchanted April



Envy



Epiphany



Eternity



Evelyn Watts



Faryal



Frida Kahlo



Für Elise



Funny Face



Gandhi



Ganesha



Harold F. Watts



Heavenly



Hocus-Pocus



Hot Lava



Hot Stuff



Hyperion



Hypnotique



Indochine



Infrared



It's Magic



Ivoire



Jadaan



Jitterbug



Jungle Orchid



Kahuna



Kassel



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Krypton



Lakme



Lalique



Laredo



Lazy River



Light My Fire



Lloyd J Pittman



Lorraine



Lotus Land



Margarita



Mariachi



Marie Antoinette



Marilyn Monroe



Marlene Dietrich



Martinique



Mauna Loa



Merida



Monet



Montecito



Moon River



Moonwind



National Velvet



Navarre



Nisei



Nuages



Nuance



Oaxaca



Onnagata



Orient Express



Over the Top



Palatine



Pearly Shells



Peggy Oberg



Perfidia



Petra



Piaf



Picante



Poison



Polynesia



Pretty in Pink



Princess de Monaco



Rametta



Rare Essence



Rio Samba



Royal Hawaiian



Rubies are Red



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San Miguel



Santiago



Satinique



Satsuma



Savage



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Scarlet Macaw



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Sunset Boulevard



Super Chief



Superstition



Tahitian Hula



Tantara



Taxco



Tecate



Tequila Sunrise



Thai Silk



Thais



Tinseltown



Tres Chic



Twenty-Four Carrots



Victorian Rose



West Indies



Wild Thing



Winged Victory



Wishing



Zona Rosa



Zorro

REFLECTIONS: WRESSEY COCKE

by Jim Nones

This biographical sketch is from an interview with Joe Cocke about his father, hybridizer Wressey Cocke (WC) conducted by Jim Nones.

Joe Cocke remembers his father, Wressey, as a loving, caring, and reserved man. A man of a few words, having conversations with a lot of "Yup" answers. A father who loved to take his wife, Marge, and their two young sons, Roger (Joe's older brother) and Joe, to the desert to go camping, horseback riding, and fishing. There would be hunting trips in Montana, Utah, and Idaho, for moose, elk, and deer, and venison meals for months to come. A man's man who built his own lath house, and who as a child, along with his nine brothers and sisters worked on a rural farm in Illinois. Joe recalls his father's tales of back-breaking work to keep the farm going. He was a man who never really got sick until his later years of life. At the age of 18, Wressey, along with a cousin, went to California in a Model T Ford and never looked back.

Wressey Clem Cocke was born on January 13, 1908 of English parentage, to William and Dora Cocke, in Meridian, Illinois. He was able to trace his family ancestry back to the 1600s to Cornwall, England. Professionally, Mr. Cocke was a mechanical engineer, but never had a college education, except for a mail order diploma in drafting. He worked for Hughes Aircraft Company, and later, Hughes Tool Company. One of the famous projects he worked on was Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose", a wooden plane that was built during the early 1940s to transport troops and cargo. It wasn't unusual for Mr. Hughes to phone his employee and friend, Wressey, in the middle of the night to meet with him to work on this pet project.



The day of the Spruce Goose flight. Wressey Cocke far left, Howard Hughes center with hat.



Wressey with sons Joe & Roger

Wressey started his collection and passion for epies in the early 1940s, while settled in the Palos Verdes peninsula area, in California, by acquiring his collection from neighbors, as well as Beahm and Cactus Pete nurseries. He also bought epiphyllum seeds for mostly small epies from Park Seed Company. Mr. Cocke started his hand at hybridizing in 1954. He would eventually be considered one of the two best epiphyllum hybridizers in the latter part of the 20th Century, along with George French.

He considered his 3rd cross, 'Mon Cherie' × 'Lilac Time', his most successful. Both of those epies are variegated. Over 56 flowers were registered from this cross, such as: 'Lemon Custard', 'Mondora Bell', 'Circus Circus', and 'Bisco'. However, not a single one was variegated. Everyone will probably agree that his finest cross was of 'Ruby Snowflake' × 'Tassel'. Flowers from this cross are commonly referred to as "The Fifties." This refers to the fact that it was his 50th cross and not the number of epies from it that were named and registered. They are a collection of mostly large, multi-petal flowers that include: 'Miss America', 'American Sweetheart', 'Slightly Sassy', and 'Pink Plumes'. His favorite flower came from this cross, 'Curtain Call'. Mr. Cocke kept detailed, immaculate records on his hybrids in several notebooks, as well as took thousands of slides.

Strangely enough, Mr. Cocke named only a small percentage of his hybrids, just over 10%. After analyzing the merits of his first time blooms, those that were worthy of a second look were given away to friends, and nursery owners such as Tina Hawks, Ethel Hurst, and Rainbow Gardens, to raise and name. The main reason he did this was because of the limited space in his lath house.

As the hybridizer, Wressey was credited with over 200 crosses and 730 registered hybrids. Among them, 270 are classified as smalls.

Joe Cocke relates a tale of asking his father at the age of 85 to accompany him on a field river trip to the jungles of Peru, collecting plant life, for Joe's job at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles. With all the excitement, danger, and awe of the expedition, very little conversations were exchanged between father and son for over a week. After getting home, Joe, laughingly recalls his father saying to him, "We did it." Thereafter, Mr. Cocke

continued to lead a very active life, tending to his epies and still hybridizing. Subsequently, after a very short illness, Wressey Clem Cocke passed away just short of his 89th birthday. To this day, his hybrids are still revered and included in many epiphyllum collections.

A special thanks to Joe Cocke and his family for sharing his memories of his father, and their generous donation of Wressey's collections of slides, family photos, and books to the ESA Library. Joe lives in Redondo Beach, in the same house where he was raised with the lath house still intact with his father's collection of epiphyllums.



Wressey in his epi house

Highlights of Recent Meetings

These two meetings consisted of a two-part presentation of Wressey Cocke originations. The February meeting covered Wressey's larger hybrids, while the March meeting concentrated on his small flowers.

Thanks to a donation of slides from Dr. Richard Kohlschreiber, which contained a large selection of Wressey Cocke's original slides, Robert Kuettle was able to scan images of many varieties that have not been seen for some time and may even be extinct. The results were a presentation by Robert that quickly grew into two large presentations.

I remember a conversation I had with Wressey about his smaller epies. He had noticed in the latter years of his hybridizing, that people were commenting about running out of space with the large epies. So he concentrated on the smaller epies just to help out with the space problem.



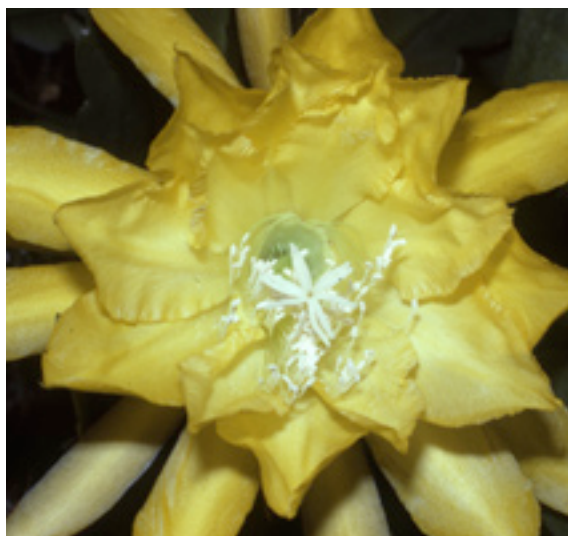
'Copacabana' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Dixieland' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Fire Fantasy' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Marge Cocke' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Texas Flame' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Raspberry Ice' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Jasa' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Mary K' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke **Shirley Aline**



'Binnorie' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Red Elf' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Tiny Trumpet' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Coral Lace' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Carrot Red' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke



'Gold Coin' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke **Shirley Aline**



'Veri-Gay' Hybridizer Wressey Cocke

The History of THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

A very Slightly Revised Reprint from The Bulletin Vol. 59 No. 3.

The Show Rules for the 56th Annual Flower Show are attached to this Bulletin. However, did you know that ESA members have been having epiphyllum flower shows for longer than 56 years? Using The Bulletin as source material, a brief history is as follows:

Flower shows started as part of regular meetings. A quote from The Bulletin: Vol. 1, No. 5 (April 1946, in the first year of publication) is:

"Our own flower exhibit will be held at the next regular meeting, May 16th (1946) in the lecture room of the Los Angeles City Library. This will be under the auspices of the Research Committee. It will feature epiphyllum hybrids correctly named. Bring your cut flowers NOT in water for the enjoyment of others. Have them in place by 7 P. M. if they are to be judged.

Prizes will be awarded for the following entries by members (non-commercial):

Best flower arrangement using three or more of the hybrid epiphyllums

Best epiphyllum corsage

Largest flower - species or hybrid, regardless of color

Prizes will be copies of the 'Epiphyllum Handbook' by Scott E. Haselton."

Was this the first show? I would guess probably not, but without other data we will never know for sure. The ESA was founded in May 1940, but stopped functioning during WWII, from 1941-1945. Was there some sort of show in the spring of 1941 before the War started on December 7, 1941?

Subsequent Bulletins continue to describe shows as part of May evening meetings for many years and at a number of different locations. Vol. 2, No.8 (Spring 1947) has the first report of show results, with some familiar winners from that long ago show. These include 'Mon Cherie', the first prize winner for the "Finest Flower", and 'Amber Queen' the second prize winner for largest flower. Shows continued at the Los Angeles City Library from 1946 through 1949. In 1950, the Show was held in the cafeteria of Belmont High School. For this show, a first place prize was \$1.00, a second was \$0.50 and a third was "only a ribbon". From 1951 through 1953, the shows were held in the cafeteria of John Adams Junior High (now called John Adams Middle School). From 1954 through 1959, the meetings and shows moved to Verdugo Playgrounds.

In 1960, there was a big change when the Flower Show was separated from the meetings, and held in the daytime on a Sunday. In fact, this show is noted in its show rules as the "First Daytime Flower Show." It is this show which is considered our first "annual" show. This show and the 1961 show were held at McCambridge Park.

Finally, with the May 20, 1962 show, the location became the Arboretum. This first show was a sensation! Note the following description from The Bulletin: Vol. 17, No. 6 (1962):

"The Third Annual Daytime Flower Show was held at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, California, this year. The tremendous response of the public to publicity concerning our Show was never anticipated. 7000 visitors attended, waiting in line for over 45 minutes to gain admittance. The double line extended far out into the parking lot for almost two blocks. The parking lot was jammed with automobiles three deep in space allowed for one car. On-the-street parking extended solidly for over a mile, and cars kept circling the area waiting for a vacant parking space to appear.

The Show for which these people waited so patiently was well worth it. It was the most beautiful show ever presented by the E.S.A. and had the greatest variety of entries. It also broke previous attendance records for any other Flower Show held at the Arboretum by any other organization."

From 1962 through 1980, the Show was held in the Bamboo Room. Except for one year when there was a scheduling conflict with the Arboretum a few years ago, the Flower Shows have been held in Ayres Hall since 1981.

With the increasing complexity of the shows, the show rules have correspondingly increased in complexity. Organization by divisions, classes and sections have changed. Definitions and rules have been added, removed and altered to meet the needs. The earliest rules we have are those given above in the third paragraph for the 1946 show. Included below are the show rules from the "First Daytime Show of 1960," which are typical rules for the 1950s to around the mid-1970s..

E.S.A. FIRST DAYTIME FLOWER SHOW - Sunday, May 15, 1960
McCambridge Park, 1515 E. Glen Oaks Blvd., Room 4, Burbank, Calif.
Chairman - R.E. (Ed) Wright Phone: Granite 7-3152
2528 S. Bentley Ave., Los Angeles 64, Calif. Show hours 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, COMPETITIVE CLASSES LIMITED TO MEMBERS:

CLASS I – Single Named varieties with predominating colors – (unnamed seedlings do not qualify)

- Section 1. White
- Section 2. Light Pink
- Section 3. Dark Pink
- Section 4. Pink with other colors
- Section 5. Orange
- Section 6. Orange with other colors
- Section 7. Red
- Section 8. Red and Purple
- Section 9. Purple
- Section 10. Yellow
- Section 11. Colors hard to classify
- Section 12. Red with other colors

Class II – Displays of more than one flower

- Section 1. 5 to 10 varieties
- Section 2. 10 to 20
- Section 3. 20 to 40
- Section 4. More than 40 varieties

Class III – Corsages – accessories permitted

Section 1. Using small epiphyllums

Section 2. Using large epiphyllums

Section 3. Epiphyllums with other flowers

Class IV – Flower Arrangements – accessories permitted

Section 1. Using small epiphyllums

Section 2. Using one flower

Section 3. Using more than one flower

Section 4. Using wood with epiphyllums

Class V – New hybrids – non-commercial

Section 1. Flowers grown by exhibitor

Section 2. New hybrid flowers not named

Section 3. New hybrid flowers named 3 years or less

Class VI – Unusual displays

Class VII – Collections of small epiphyllums flowers under 4 inches

Class VIII – Related epiphytes

Section 1. Plants

Section 2. Individual flowers

Class IX – Best epiphyllum plant in bud or bloom or both

Flowers will be accepted for showing no later than 9:30 a.m. All exhibits must remain in position for everyone to view until 5 p.m. Point system used for awards: Blue Ribbon - 5 points; Red Ribbon - 3 points; White Ribbon - 1 point. Sweepstakes Award will be given the person having the largest number of points. Special Awards will be given for the Largest flower; the smallest flower; the flower coming the greatest distance; the most unusual entry in the show.

Thoughts on Galen Pittman

by Geneva Coats

As I sit down, it is difficult to transfer my emotions, thoughts and feelings about Galen Pittman into text. He was a dynamo! Instead of bemoaning any adverse situation, Galen would evaluate, decide on a course of action and proceed with confidence. His recent tenure as ESA President was marked with unprecedented growth and progress. Every action of his was taken with the well-being of the ESA uppermost in his mind. He knew what he wanted to do, and he did it, no matter whose feathers might be ruffled! You had to admire his optimism and determination.

Galen warmly welcomed new hobbyists into the fold and no doubt is largely responsible for the excellent turnouts we have had at our recent meetings. He was a fascinating speaker and a great storyteller!

In addition to his leadership abilities, of course we all recognized Galen's great wealth of knowledge regarding epiphyllums, gleaned from a lifetime involvement in the hobby. His memory was filled with detailed information regarding thousands of epiphyllum hybrid cultivars. Bring most any variety up, and he could likely tell you not only the hybridizer and parentage, but also how that particular cultivar came to be named and registered, who grew it, and where it can be found today. His vast knowledge base made him THE preeminent judge for our flower shows.

On a more personal level, I will miss my friend Galen very much. We shared many common views regarding life and politics. Galen exemplified the ideals of compassionate conservatism. He taught me about the importance of family and honor and fulfilling commitments. I enjoyed chatting with him on diverse subjects, and found him a good sounding board when faced with one of life's questions or problems. We also shared a love of many other genera of plants such as iris and African violets.

Galen stood as a shining beacon of what can be accomplished for the common good when you act selflessly. In addition to piloting the ESA, Galen was also a staunch supporter of our affiliated local clubs in San Diego, South Bay, and San Francisco. Cuttings made and donated by Galen could be found every year up and down the coast in the sales for all the epi societies...his handwriting of the name of the cutting inscribed by Sharpie marker was very distinctive and elegant!

Galen took pride in all he did, and every job he embraced was done well, including details such as marking cuttings with correct punctuation and clear, concise lettering, and carefully decorating the halls for our annual shows.

Never one to give up hope and filled with a zest for life, Galen was making spring plans to repot and fertilize his collection, and had ordered some iris just the week prior to his death. When it became evident that the end was near, Galen continued true to form in keeping the ESA's well-being paramount in his heart. His family reports that he did not wish to have his memorial services interfere with the spring blooming season activities of the ESA, so the services are being planned four months out, for late in June, near his birthday.

We have lost something very precious and irreplaceable with Galen's passing, but hopefully his spirit will remain nearby to all those who loved him, and will continue to guide the Society well into the future.

Calendar of Events

MAY 2015

ESA GENERAL MEETING Tue., May. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Program: Annual ESA Show Preparation

Refreshments: Members with last name starting with Bd thru Cl the May meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up.

Location: Arboretum of LA County, Ayres Hall.

ANNUAL SDES SHOW & SALE Sun., May 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Need info.

ANNUAL ESA SHOW & SALE Sat. & Sun., May 17 - 18. Sat: Sale Only 9 a.m to 4 p.m., Sun: Sale & Show 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Location: Arboretum of LA County, Ayres Hall

ESA BOARD MEETING Tue., May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Arboretum of LA County "The Oak Room".

JUNE 2015

ESA GENERAL MEETING Tue., Jun. 2 , 7:30 p.m.

Program: TBD

Refreshments: Members with last name starting with Co thru Ha the June meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up.

Location: Arboretum of LA County, Ayres Hall.

FERN SHOW & SALE Sat & Sun., June 12 - 13, 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Arboretum of LA County, Ayres Hall.

ESA BOARD MEETING Tue., Jun. 30, 7:30 p.m. Location: Oak Room.

JULY 2015

ESA GENERAL MEETING Tue., Jul. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Program: TBD

Refreshments: Members with last name starting with He thru Ke the July meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up.

Location: Arboretum of LA County, Ayres Hall.

ESA BOARD MEETING Tue., Jul. 28, 7:30 p.m. Location: Oak Room.

Revised Refreshments Schedule

To find when it is your turn to bring refreshments for an ESA meeting, look for your last name initial in the column to the left. The meeting date to the right is when you have the privilege of providing food, serving and cleaning up. Please, note that name listing is often completely revised for each Bulletin.

LAST INITIAL..... MEETING DATE
A-Bc Tue., Apr. 7, 2015
Bd-Cr Tue., May 5, 2015
D-Ha Tue., Jun. 2, 2015
He-Ku Tue., Jul. 7, 2015
I-Mu Tue., Aug. 4 2015

N-Pi Tue., Sep. 1, 2015
R-Sb Tue., Oct. 6, 2015
Sc-W Tue., Nov. 3, 2015
No General Meetings in Dec 2015, Jan 2016

South of the Border Flowers

by Keith Ballard

For many years, when describing epiphyllums, we often included in the description this line: "they are a Central and South American rainforest cactus". So naturally, when my wife and I recently took a cruise that included day trips ashore to various sites in Central and South America, I hoped to see some epi plants in rainforest-like settings. In fact, when we were in Guatemala in 1997, we did see two different epi plants the size of Volkswagens in the crotches of two different trees.

So did I see any epies in their natural environment this time? Well, not exactly. This time, our cruise started in Miami, traveled generally south and ended in Lima, Peru. While we were in Guatemala, at a Maya Indian site called KOHUNLICH, our local guide was showing us two "toxic" plants that kill the host tree. The first tree had a strangler fig growing on it, and the second tree is shown in Picture SB2. Clearly recognizable is what looks like an epi, and I instantly jumped its defense, noting that epies only use the host tree for support, and don't kill them or take anything from them. The guide stated that this one did kill trees, and I chose to drop the subject. However, the real story is shown in Picture SB3, which is a magnified section of picture SB2. It shows there are two major plants on this tree, the epi and something else, and if it really kills trees, the "something else" is true villainous killer.

After leaving Guatemala, none of our selections of shore excursions allowed any time to look for epies in a rainforest area. However, there were some notable flower areas we did see and some large areas of rainforest that we did not visit. I had a picture of an epi flower on my camera and I showed it to all the guides in this area. At first, I generally got a blank stare from the guides, but eventually two of them told me that they had some epies at home. Evidently, epies are not common south of the Central American country of Belize.

What we did see in the way of flowers included:

1. An agave azul hacienda (i.e. farm), which was actually a tequila factory, where we sampled different aged tequila. The 30 year old tequila sample was very good, and quite expensive. An agave planting area is shown in Picture SB1.
2. A coffee and sugar cane hacienda, where we saw two elderly gentlemen processing sugar cane by traditional means. Coffee grows best on hilly ground. Some of their landscaping is shown in Pictures SB4 and SB5.
3. A very large banana hacienda, which we toured in a farm wagon pulled by a tractor over a very bumpy farm road. This particular farm also produced exotic flowers which are shipped all over the world. Some flower samples are shown in picture Pictures SB6 and SB7, and some immature banana clusters at the banana farm in Picture SB8.

4. An orchid show and sales room with some sample orchids shown in Pictures SB9, SB10 and SB11.

Our main goal on this trip was to go through the Panama Canal on the 100th anniversary of its opening. We went through the Canal on the cruise ship, and later, part way through on a small ferry boat. The ferry trip gave a much better feel of the size of the locks, which are 110 feet wide and 1,000 feet long. We tied up alongside of the lock walls and could actually touch them. The passage of single ship through the six locks of the Canal requires the release of 52 million gallons of fresh water from the man-made lake that forms the middle of the Canal. The lake is surrounded by a huge rainforest, and gets 400 inches of rain per year. A low rainfall year does impact the functioning of the Canal.



SB1 Mature agave on cart, young agave in field.



SB4 Coffee Plant.



SB2 Tree with "Killer" Cactus.



SB3 Tree with epi & something else (close-up).



SB5 At the sugar/coffee hacienda.



SB6 *Heliconia stricta* Huber at the banana farm.



SB7 More exotic flowers at the banana farm.



SB8 Banana clusters at the banana farm.



SB9 Cattleya orchid at the orchid showroom.



SB11 Cymbidium orchid at the orchid showroom.



SB10 Cattleya orchid at the orchid showroom.

NEW MEMBERS in 2015

The ESA extends a warm welcome to all the new members who joined the Society in 2015!

Louise Bahar
Manhattan Beach, CA

Terri Boykin
Durham, NC

Natalie Bellefeuille
Ottawa Canada

Joe Bacik
Phoenix, AZ

Susan Schouten
Canby, OR

Pamela Belrose
Hudson Falls, NY

Candis Fowler
Pasadena, CA

Tiexang Lu
West Sacramento, CA

Michael Newman
Kurtistown, HI

Svante Lundqvist
Hising Backa Sweden