The Bulletin

EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

SPRING 2018 • VOL 73 · NO. 3

PHOTOGRAPH: Robert Kuettle

'OPHELIA'

'Elegans Lei' x 'Masada'

Hybridizer Dorothy & Jerry Friedman Reg. #13305

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EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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MEETINGS: Begin at 7:30 p.m., on the first Tuesday of each month (except January, December and US national holidays). Admission and parking are free. Food and refreshments are served. Members and guests attending their first meeting receive a free potted epi. Regular meetings are held in 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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The Bulletin
EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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'Marga' *hybridizer George French,*
'Norwood' *hybridizer George French,*
'Vivace' *hybridizer George French*

Culture Calendar for Spring

By Keith Ballard

Conventional wisdom has it that epies need a winter's nap to bloom well, which is why some growers caution against applying high nitrogen fertilizer in late summer. It can stimulate growth and deprive the plant of its rest period. Even if warm weather lasts all winter, it's better to let the plants feed on last year's nutrients rather than feed with nitrogen too early.

Watering. While your plants are semi-dormant their roots continue to grow. If they aren't getting baptized with rain, you need to water them enough to keep the roots from dehydrating completely. If your epies winter indoors, a special effort is necessary to provide a cool environment to allow for the rest period. As the spring temperatures warm, your normal watering schedule can resume. As always, watering is the balance between too wet and too dry. If there's a danger of a sudden frost in your area, be cautious about resuming normal watering.

Fertilization. As days lengthen and the danger of frost passes in your area, apply 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 fertilizer. You can choose between liquid or granular time release fertilizers. The liquid version acts quickly though it can be washed out by rain. The granular releases slowly and provides the nutrients over a long period. If you use granular fertilizer, some growers suggest one feeding in February or March. Others growers like to feed the plants six to eight weeks before the estimated peak blooming season. Depending on your climate this could mean feeding early bloomers such as the small flowering types as early as mid-January. Yet another group of growers start in midwinter, and fertilize with the low nitrogen versions every 6 weeks till the flowers are mostly gone. Some growers use both kinds, using granular in February and liquid later in the season to encourage flowers. A little experimenting should indicate what is best for your particular area. If you use liquid fertilizer, apply it at half strength every time you water. It's better to sacrifice a few flowers and be safe than to endanger the whole plant.

Pests. Keep an eye out for snails and slugs. They climb walls during the rain, and have been known to make their way into hanging baskets to do their dirty work high above eye level. There are a number of good baits available — I like "That's It" but it is a bit expensive. Evelyn Shiraki hunts snails and slugs with a squirt bottle of an ammonia solution at 1 part ammonia to 3 parts water. It kills the pests and you don't have to touch them, plus it doesn't hurt the plants. Any drops of the solution degrade into a fertilizer. If you don't like using chemical baits try the "green approach": first water thoroughly, then after dark (using a flashlight) pick the pests off the plants and use a well placed foot on them. Don't miss any others already crawling on the ground.

If aphids are a problem remember that ants carry them around and use them as a food source. You will have to do something about both the ants and the aphids. There are lots of good garden ant killers available. For the aphids use a product that contains pyrethrin, which is harmless to plants and people, but deadly to insects. It is made from African chrysanthemums. I have sprayed it directly on epi buds without harm to the buds, but does kill the aphids and the ants. For a scale problem, see the article in this Bulletin on scale.

Grooming. Late winter to early spring, is a good time to prune dead, damaged and diseased stems. If you find healthy stems that should be removed to shape and balance the plant, don't remove them now — wait until just before the April or May ESA meetings. We need your cuttings for the Spring Garden Show in April and for our Show and Sale in May. Be sure to label the cutting with its name in single quotes, size and abbreviated color description.

Weeds. Dealing with any weeds while they are small may preclude having to do something heroic later such as repotting the plant just to get rid of the weeds.

Highlights of Recent Meetings

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEB. 6th MEETING: President Robert Kuettle could not attend, so Jim Nones opened the meeting. Ken Hanke announced that the schedules of the fundraisers at Green Scene at the Fullerton Arboretum on April 21st and 22nd and the Spring Garden Show at the South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa on April 26-29th are less than a week apart, and Ken will need extra volunteers to help to deal with setting up and breaking down our sales tents, or it will be a real burden on our regular volunteers to handle the two sales without any additional help.

The program this evening, which was presented by Keith Ballard, was a slideshow presentation of 115 photographs of epies in the collection of ESA member and Director, Jerry Moreau.

All photos courtesy of Jerry Moreau

'Alan Obayashi'

'Astronaut' (Cactus Pete)

'Albert Pike'

'Black Satin

'Andromeda'

'Blendina'

'Borgia'

'Day Break'

'Chanteuse'

'Dreamsicle'

'Chatter Box'

'Elena Knaras'

'Fantasy Dragon'

'Gladyce Jones'

'Father's Day'

'Glow Bug'

'Fumiko Kida'

'Heaven Sent'

'Hino'

'Kiwi National Anthem'

'Jeanne Konishi'

'Leslie Obayashi'

'Juliana Obayashi'

'Lily Dache'

'Mark Sumpter'

'Norman Obayashi'

'Martinique'

'Ribbons and Ruffles'

'Misty Rose'

'Willow Wand'

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAR. 6th MEETING: The program this evening was a very nice slideshow presentation from Mark Piette's website: Epi Galleria. Mark Piette's Epi Galleria specializes in the sale of epiphyllum and hybrid epiphyllum cuttings through the internet. Mark started collecting and growing epiphyllums when he was 10 years old and has continued off and on over the years ever since. Epi Galleria is his current epi endeavor. The presentation of 166 photographs included a number of Mark's originations, such as 'Chimene', 'Corrina Piette', 'Fiesta Del Fuego', 'Jolie Blond' and 'Kurfuerstendamm'.

There is a Reflections (Personal Epi History) article written by Mark entitled: My Memories of Epiphyllum Culture in the 1940s in The Bulletin: Vol. 71, No.1 (Fall 2015).

All photos courtesy of Mark Piette


Epi Galleria
Carolyn Marie (S)


Elegant Fire (M)
Epi Galleria


Epi Galleria
Chimene (L)


Epi Galleria
Falling In Love (L)


Epi Galleria
Corrina Piette (L)


Epi Galleria
Fiesta Del Fuego (XL)


Epi Galleria
Four Star (XL)


Epi Galleria
Gold Medal (L)


Epi Galleria
Francesca (L)


Epi Galleria
Iceland Star (L)


Epi Galleria
Frisbee (XL)


Epi Galleria
Jeri's Jubilee (XL)


epigalleria.com
Jolie Blonde (XL)


Epi Galleria
Lark Ellen (L)


Epi Galleria
Jovial (L)


Epi Galleria
Light-N-Bright (S)


Epi Galleria
Kurfuerstendamm (L)


epigalleria.com
Marcolene (L)


epigalleria.com
Mederise Couture Piette (L)


epigalleria.com
Mount San Antonio (M)


epigalleria.com
Million Dollar (L)


epigalleria.com
Mr. P (L)


epigalleria.com
Miss Jenny (L)


Rampage (M)


RAOUL PIETTE (L)
Epi Galleria


Tipitina (S)


epigalleria.com
Spring Love (S)


epigalleria.com
Tyrian Glory (L)


Tiffany (XL)
epigalleria.com


WINTER GRACE (S)
Epi Galleria

Mealybugs

These plant-sucking pests are a familiar problem in greenhouses, in gardens, and on indoor plants. Here's how to control mealybugs naturally with beneficial insects, insecticidal soaps, and other natural techniques.

Found in warmer growing climates, mealybugs are soft-bodied wingless insects that often appear as white cottony masses on the leaves, stems and fruit of plants. They feed by inserting long sucking mouthparts, called stylets, into plants and drawing sap out of the tissue. Damage is not often significant at low pest levels. However, at higher numbers they can cause leaf yellowing and curling as the plant weakens. Feeding is usually accompanied by honeydew, which makes the plant sticky and encourages the growth of sooty molds. Mealybugs are a common greenhouse pest that affect ornamentals (including epiphyllums), houseplants, avocados and fruits.

Adults (1/10" to 1/4" long) are soft, oval, distinctly-segmented insects that are usually covered with a white or gray mealy wax. Small nymphs, called crawlers, are light yellow and free of wax. They are active early on, but move little once a suitable feeding site is found.

Approximately 275 species of mealybugs are known to occur throughout the United States.

Life Cycle

Adult females deposit 300-600 eggs within an excreted, compact, waxy cottony-appearing mass mostly found on the underside of leaves. These egg cases can easily be confused with downy mildew. Egg laying continues for about two weeks, with the female dying shortly after all eggs are laid. Hatching occurs within one to three weeks, and the small active yellow nymphs begin migrating over the plant in search of feeding sites on which to settle. As they feed, they secrete honeydew, and a waxy coating begins to form over their bodies. Female nymphs pass through three stages (instars) with each generation taking as little as one month, depending on temperature. Male nymphs pass through five instars. The males do not feed after the first two instars and exist solely to fertilize the females. In the greenhouse, continuous and overlapping generations occur throughout the year. There is little winter survival outside of greenhouses in the North.

Mealybug Control

- **Prune** out light infestations or dab insects with a Q-tip dipped in **rubbing alcohol**.
- Do not over-water or over-fertilize. Mealybugs are attracted to plants with high nitrogen levels and soft growth.
- Commercially-available **beneficial insects**, such as ladybugs, lacewing and the Mealybug Destroyer (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*) are important natural predators of this pest. Be sure to also control ants when releasing beneficial insects.
- If it can be done without over-watering epies, **hose off plants** with a strong stream of water to reduce pest numbers.
- **Safer® Insecticidal Soap** will work quickly on heavy infestations. A short-lived natural pesticide, it works by damaging the outer layer of soft-bodied insect pests, causing dehydration and death within hours. Apply 2.5 ounces per gallon of water when insects are present, and repeat every 7-10 days as needed.
- **Neem oil** disrupts the growth and development of pest insects and has repellent and anti-feedant properties. Best of all, it's non-toxic to honey bees and many other beneficial insects. Mix 1 ounce per gallon of water and spray every 7-14 days, as needed. Washing foliage regularly with a leaf shine like Neem oil will help discourage future infestations.
- Fast-acting **botanical insecticides** should be used as a last resort. Derived from plants which have insecticidal properties, these natural pesticides have fewer harmful side effects than synthetic chemicals and break down more quickly in the environment.

Tip: When repotting, white blobs among the roots that move are mealybugs and those that don't move are probably mold.

Perlite or Vermiculite

A reprint from The Bulletin Vol. 45 No. 4 (Spring 1990)

What is the difference between perlite and vermiculite? They are both popped rocks that started out as solid ores. After mining and processing by being heated, they are transformed into lightweight particles less than one-tenth the weight of sand. The process of treating the ore is the same for both. The ore is mined, crushed, sorted by size and heated up to 1800°F. At this high temperature, the moisture chemically bound in the rock turns to steam and the tiny particles increase to many times their original size. The end result is a pile of lightweight particles honeycombed with many air spaces.

The combination of airspace and rock makes both products great soil additives. They both prevent soil from drying out too quickly and from compacting. Strange as it seems, they both manage to retain moisture while they improve drainage. When you use either, you have no worry that you are exposing your plants' roots to insects or diseases as the high temperature heating process completely sterilizes them. Although both are processed the same way, they look different from each other, each with its own use and not really interchangeable.

Perlite ranges in size from tiny white balls down to a fine dust. It is expanded pieces of volcanic glass, composed of silica, aluminum, potassium sodium and calcium but doesn't offer nutrients because these components all are in a stable, chemically inert form. It has a neutral pH of 7.0, neither acid nor basic and won't affect the chemistry of the soil. It does contain traces of fluoride so when added to soil, it can cause brown leaf tips in a few very sensitive plants such as dracaenas and spider plants. Most of the fluoride can be removed by pouring particles in a colander and rinsing with a strong stream of water for several minutes. Perlite lasts indefinitely as long as you don't tamp it down too hard.

Vermiculite is brownish and rather slippery. The raw ore is a clay-like material of masses of extremely thin sheets mounded on top of each other. Pieces are like little squiggles giving it its name from the Latin word for worm.

After the heating process, an expanded piece looks like a miniature accordion. It is lighter than perlite. Its openness enables water to penetrate its interior. A sodden particle weighs sixteen times more than when dry. After approximately 6 months in a growing medium, vermiculite begins to compress under the pressure of repeated waterings.

Vermiculite is chemically active with traces of the same elements as perlite and releases small doses of plant nutrients into the growing medium. It also prevents nutrients from being leached out of the soil by chemically binding to minerals. Most of the horticultural vermiculite is mined in Georgia and has a basically neutral pH.

Uses For Either Perlite makes a great rooting medium for easily-rotted stems of plants such as succulents (including *epiphyllums*), geraniums and tropical foliage plants.

Vermiculite stays moist longer and is a better rooting medium for African Violets and other plants that need constant high moisture levels.

An equal mixture of vermiculite and peat moss makes an ideal seed germinating medium. Vermiculite's small size makes it a good mediumfor young roots to hold onto. Perlite is too loose to use for seeds. When the seedlings have a good start, they can be potted in a soilless mix of equal parts peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. Peat moss provides organics, perlite provides quick drainage of excess water and vermiculite prevents nutrients from escaping from the excess water.

When there is a soil around roots such as with large tropical plants, use perlite to improve

drainage. One suggestion is to use one part perlite with two parts packaged potting soil. Don't use vermiculite which eventually compresses and holds more moisture than these plants need.

The differences between these two products are subtle but significant. Some of our members like to start their calloused cuttings in a mixture of equal parts of perlite and vermiculite with just light misting of water. They seem to grow good roots in a comparatively short time and can then be potted into regular epi mix.

The Legend of Huynh Hoa

By Dan Lundy

A reprint from The Bulletin Vol. 46, Issue 4 (March-April 1991)

From China comes this tale of a princess and a flower. The flower is none other than the well known *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*. The tale is told throughout Southeast Asia and the traditions inspired by it are observed by many of the Asian cultures. It was told to me by a Vietnamese co-worker and verified by several other Vietnamese and Chinese people.

The story begins with a ruler of a Chinese city-state in the early 1800's. This ruler was well-liked by his subjects, but he had a weakness for having many wives. At this time this practice was no longer lawful, but he was allowed this extravagance without public condemnation. With so many wives, he soon had many children, but only the children of the first wife were considered the ruler's legitimate heirs.

The peaceable life of this city-state was eventually shattered by an attack from neighboring provinces and the area was overrun. The attackers killed the king and most of his wives and children. Only the fourth wife and a daughter, a princess named Huynh Hoa, escaped this slaughter and were hidden.

While the princess was growing up, her mother repeatedly told her about her father, and the bucolic life all his subjects had enjoyed. She constantly urged the child to avenge her father's death.

As the princess matured, she began to gather her father's loyal subjects and started a resistance against the invaders. The resistance was slowly successful and the people began to drive back the raiders. The princess' popularity grew and she became the champion of her citizens. However, she was so consumed with her calling that she vowed to remain unmarried.

As life in the old city-state returned to normal, the princess happened to be traveling through a jungle. The royal entourage had stopped for the night and the princess wandered off for a distance alone. She came upon a plant quite unlike any she had ever seen before; from the leaves of the plant hung huge flower buds which were starting to unfurl. The princess sat down and watched the buds slowly open to reveal one of the most beautiful flowers she had ever seen. The next morning she excitedly commanded her attendants to dig up the plant and bring it with them to the palace.

The princess nurtured the plant for years, but it did not bloom again. Her friends began to chide and tease her for lavishing so much care on this particularly unusual and seemingly ungrateful specimen. She would not hear their ridicule, but continued to tell them of its beautiful flowers. Then one year the plant began to grow its buds again. The courtiers were intrigued to see the buds growing from the edge of the leaf, but remained skeptical that the flowers would be as beautiful as the princess claimed. As the buds swelled, the anticipation throughout the palace increased. Finally one evening one of the buds began to open. Everyone sat and watched with amazement as the huge flower slowly opened and spread its dazzling white petals. An intoxicating perfume enveloped the gathered observers and then three drops of nectar fell from the tip of the bottom petal.

The palace broke into a celebration and everyone declared the flower was more beautiful than any they had ever seen before. Word of the princess' flower spread throughout the land and the people declared it should be called *Bong Huynh Hoa*, in honor of their beloved leader, and it is known by that name throughout Asia to this day.

Bong Huynh Hoa plants are highly coveted and over the years a tradition has grown. When the plant blooms it is a time for celebration, but to insure good luck for the next year, the observer must watch the flower open and see the three drops of nectar fall.

Author's note: Although it is known that epiphyllums and some hybrids have been introduced to China within the past century, it is not known if they were cultivated as early as the time established for this tale of folklore. If a plant of *E. oxypetalum* was actually found growing wild in the jungle, how did it get there? Was this merely an embellishment of the story, had the plant been hidden there for safe keeping, or is there an outside possibility that seeds had been carried so far? It will have to fall to botanists specializing in the flora of Southeast Asia to solve this mystery.

Editor's note: Trade between Mexico and China began in the 1500's. Perhaps a traveler to China brought an *E. oxypetalum* plant along as a Mexican souvenir.

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A Retrospect of Hybridizers Fort & O'Barr (FOB)

By Keith Ballard

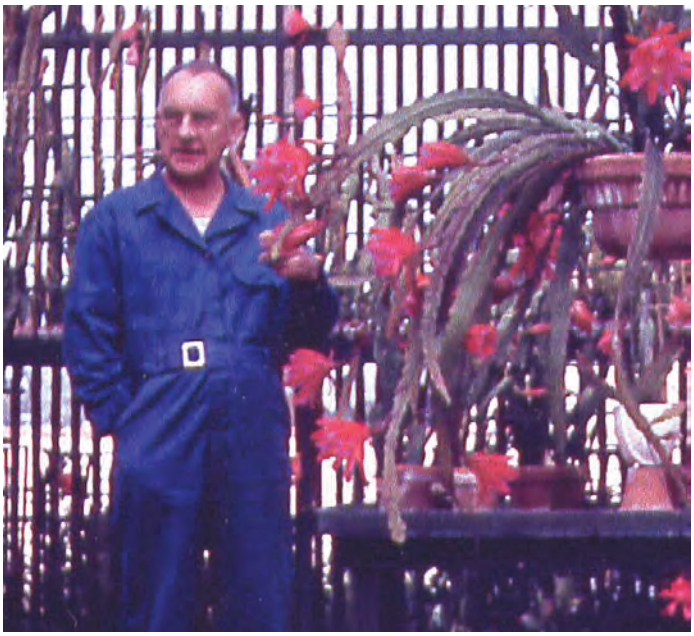
This is the story of hybridizers Paul Fort & Garland O'Barr and their magnificent garden from the pages of past ESA Bulletins. Pictures of them and their lath house garden, called "Country Garden Nursery", are included in this Bulletin. These pictures were graciously donated to the ESA by Rainbow Gardens Nursery. To aid the reader's understanding of this story, the Bulletin reprints are in normal type and my comments and inputs, such as this, are in bold type.

Fort and O'Barr (FOB) hold the record for the largest total number of epi hybrid registrations at 1055. They started registering in 1942 with 1, then in earnest in 1948 thru 1955. Finally, a scattered 21 were registered by others up to 1970. Epiphyllums typically take about 3 years to go from seed to bloom, and then require a few more years to insure that the blooms are stable in color and form. From the ESA Registry, in 1942 there was 1 FOB origination registration, then a 6 year gap until the registrations restarted in increasing numbers.

And the story of the start-up of Country Garden Nursery itself from Bulletin Vol. VII, No. 2, Oct 27, 1951 is:

"Their story starts in Inglewood **(CA)** where they were raising fuchsias. Among the many fuchsias was one insignificant epiphyllum plant which had not blossomed as yet and so was ignored. After several years of growing in size and vigor, it

finally blossomed. It interested Mr. Fort and Mr. O'Barr, thus the epiphyllum began to dominate. The original plant was Ackermannii.



Paul Fort

Since we all know the way an epiphyllum project grows, it was soon time for Mr. Fort and Mr. O'Barr to look for a larger garden. After looking at many places they decided on one at Manhattan Beach, CA. On this spot was built their home and a large lath house, large enough to accommodate their epiphyllum plants and their ever increasing collection. **(By comparing dates of Bulletin articles, the house and large lath house were built between 1948 and 1950).** Then their plants were innumerable with many varieties and colors. Some they had tied to trellises, others in hanging baskets, but all shown to their best advantage in the blooming season.

They feed their plants every other week all during the year. They feel that this way is best because it helps them to grow and bloom properly. Some slides showed the beauty of individual blossoms, others distant views of trellised plants. They have a tentative division of their lath house, Mr. O'Barr having charge of one side and Mr. Fort of the other."

Fertilizing as often as "every other week" probably explains how Fort and O'Barr got all their epies to bloom as such as shown in the pictures of inside the lath house. But as a caution, feeding that much has been thought to cause epies to become a "fertilizer junkies", where they cannot get along without it. Then, If one stops the applications, the epi shrinks and never is the same.

As the early 50's rolled along, "The Boys", as they were called in the Bulletin reports, were very active in ESA functions, gave a lot of programs and slides shows and were given a number of special awards for the quality of their flowers.

Things seemed to be going very well.

Bulletin XI, No. 4, Jan. 31, 1956 reported a fundamental change was made in the epiphyllums kept in the lath house of the Country Garden Nursery, which removed all of the original mature epies of others and was filled only with young FOB originations. This change was reported as follows:

"Our president, C.L. Wright, gave a few words of welcome. And then Introduced our well known members Paul Fort and Garland O'Barr of the Country Garden whose talks are always anticipated with eagerness. Here, with no words spoken by them, but step by step, was given a view of the past, present and future program of the Country Garden. First, we were shown how the large lath house (size approximately 60 x 90 ft and 12 ft or more high) looked when it was filled with 10 and 12 foot high epies in full bloom. Next, the lath house after they made their momentous decision to have nothing but their own epiphyllum originations in it. Pictures of portions of the lath house showed hundreds of small plants and many thousands of seedlings not yet old enough to bloom.

Garland O'Barr

They showed pictures of many of their outstanding new hybrids which they have named, some of which are completely different in color and shape from the parent flowers. Mr. Fort and Mr.

Lath House looking from Lanai

O'Barr have been very painstaking in the records they have of the development of their plants. The differences which result between parent and seedling are amazing to behold.

Lath House

This garden will be the only place of its kind in the world. In a few years the plants will be as large as the old ones we used to enjoy, each with many hundreds of flowers open at one time.

As soon as the seedling flowers it is given a name and a number and a full descriptive record is kept in their files. These are then registered with the Epiphyllum Society. Many hundreds now have been named but as Paul says. 'Names which would appeal to all and are not in use are hard to find – but we are doing our best.' Regardless of names, the flowers shown were exquisite in themselves. We are sorry that all of our members could not have seen these seedlings but possibly at a later date we may have some pictures of them to include in our Kodachrome Library."

Obviously, enthusiasm for epi collecting epies was running very high then.

This following Bulletin talks more about the change to having only FOB epi originations in the lath house, plus describes the additional flowers being grown outside the lath house.

From Bulletin XII, No. 2, Oct., 1956:

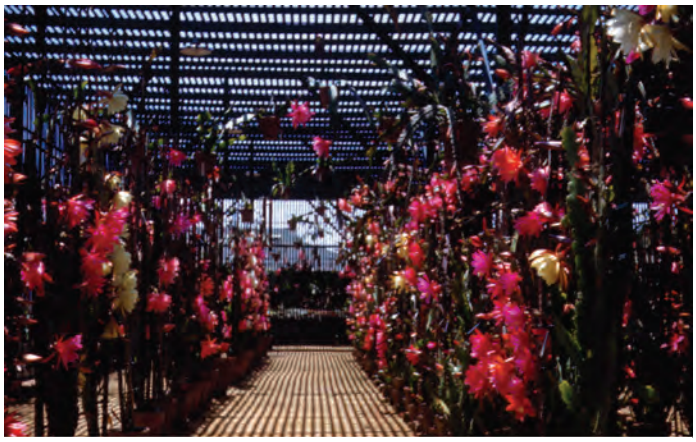
"The program given by Mr. Paul Fort and Mr. Garland O'Barr at our September **(1956)** meeting was an event that we all looked forward to. It is only though the skill of these two 'professional amateurs' that we are entitled to enjoy such wonderful pictures of epiphyllum flowers.

First we were shown many slides of their old as well as their new garden. Next, the 'Boys' showed pictures of' their epiphyllum originations which required many years of patience to bring into flower. Many of these seedlings flowered after 4 years, while some took as long as 9 years. By this time, after careful selection, they have named and registered with the E.S.A. well into the hundreds, with thousands more yet to flower for them, which they must carefully study.

Many years ago before they decided to achieve a collection of their own originations, their garden in Manhattan Beach was the show place of the epiphyllum world. At that time many plants in their garden were over 20 feet tall with as many as 200 blooms open at a time on one plant. After some years of debate, they decided to dispose of all their plants but the ones they had grown from seed of their own gathering. So the entire lath house was cleared of all its many hundreds of the finest varieties then known. Their lath house covers many thousand square feet and is much higher than the usual one.

Being true artists, Both Paul Fort and Garland O'Barr are never satisfied with just a plain picture of just a flower, so they have spent many hours making 'sets' to be used as backgrounds. All kinds of 'props' are also used – for example, along with a beautiful new flower they have named 'Jungle Princess', a carved head of a Javan figure was shown with the flower. All such effects make for an Interesting composition expressing so much more than just a flower.

It would be impossible to remember the names of all the flowers shown – some of which were liked better than others. They showed a certain group of raw seedlings with white throats and with various shades of rosy/lavender back petals to which they have given names with a religious meaning. These flowers are so new and delicate that they leave one speechless.



Lath House Aisle 1 Looking South

One, of their flowers of very great size in intense orange red and is named for our member in New Orleans, Mr. Russell A. Redlor. He is a great friend of Paul and Garland and they have visited Russell at his home. Russell, you remember, is our staff artist and draws most at the designs in our E.S.A. Bulletins.

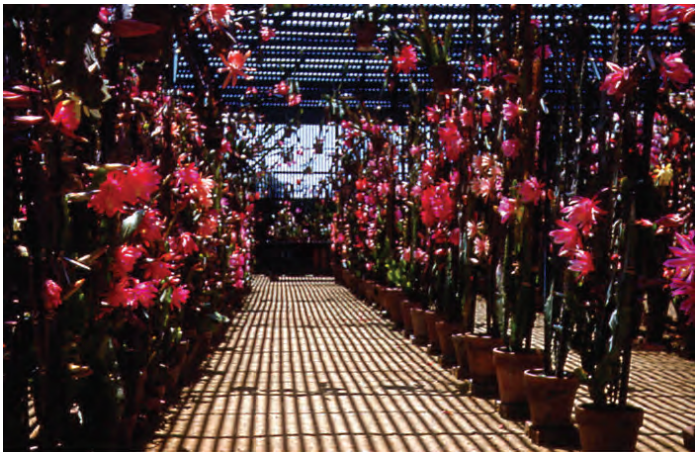
Another flower group was of smaller epiphyllums. These were from seed started by Garland about 10 years ago from Empress hybrids. In this new series they range in color from palest pink to rosy, dark lacquered reds. Some are 6 inch flowers but many at them are smaller. They will make excellent baskets as all seem to have that predominate habit.

One of the unique features of their programs was the way they introduced their pictures. For instance, the first slide showed the

approach to their garden. Their house is on an incline but their garden, is on level ground. Many others showed views of the outside of the lath house – one showed the side where they had a 60 foot strip of the most colorful, mammoth hybrid amaryllis ever seen and there were many slides showing their camellias, fuchsias, and baskets of begonias – all flowering in their proper season.

It should' be remembered that Mr. Fort and Mr. O'Barr are business men – this growing of epiphyllums is a hobby – and what a hobby it is. If all our members could grow plants like these how happy they would be! Mr. Fort and Mr. O'Barr very generously brought 15 cuttings of some of those fine beauties to be used as door prizes. and the excitement was pretty keen as the drawing took place."

Next is a very curious ad from page 33 of Bulletin Vol. XII, No. 5 April 1957, which is entitled: "CALIFORNIA



Lath House Aisle 2 Looking South

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS" and is subtitled: "GARDENS OPEN TO VISITORS SPRING OF 1957". The ad itself reads:

"COUNTRY GARDEN 2205 Poinsettia Ave. Manhattan Beach, Calif. – we are not really commercial due to zoning – a few cuttings are sold yearly to collectors, as permitted. Visit us during blooming season and hear of our plans for moving to Laguna. We have many splendid hybrid introductions, as many ESA members know, which we feel should become established in private collections. We will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays."

Note that in the last part of the previous reprint, just above, also said that the Country Garden was not commercial but 'a hobby'. And what about the talk about 'moving to Laguna?'

Country Garden's location is only a few miles from where I worked for 29 years. So we drove to the address with the goals of 1) seeing if it really was in a residential zone and 2) is anything left of the Garden. Entering the area, we noticed the roads were very narrow. There is a house at the address, but is now surrounded by multi-story apartment buildings on both sides of the street. There is no doubt this is a residential zone. There is almost no street parking now, and the lot that the house is on, looks very narrow. I know for a fact, that 2 cars can street park in front of my 50 foot wide house lot without intruding into either of the bounding driveways. I am not sure that the current street parking place in front of the house at 2205 Poinsettia Avenue was long enough for 1 car, without intruding into either bounding driveway.

Also in the FOB pictures included in this Bulletin is a picture of the lath house under construction. In this picture notice that one of the lath house's sides runs parallel to Poinsettia Avenue, and seems to be set back from the street. On this space is now a multi-story apartment, there is nothing left of the FOB lath house. Also notice from this picture how open the surrounding area is. The house itself we saw was 1 story, and pretty much in the style of our house, which was built in 1949. But without further data of some kind we cannot tell if that's the original Fort and O'Barr house or not.

Finally, here is the final reprint, and close they did. From Bulletin Vol. XIII, No. 28, Oct, 1958:

"Our September meeting was a splendid success given over as it was entirely given by Paul Fort and Garland O'Barr, of the Country Garden, who held the large crowd almost spell-bound while they showed pictures at their new hybrids and told of their future plans."

A report of this meeting by Martha P. Maxwell follows. "It was with mixed feelings of pleasure and sadness that we looked at the last showing of the colored slides taken this past spring 'by Paul. and Garland. I have been told that this is the last time they will ever show their slides at an Epiphyllum Society meeting – we hope this is not true.

This time we had a chance to view over 100 of their new hybrids, all named by the 'Boys' this year. Some of these varieties are now owned by a few of our commercial growers and will be available later on. A great number were sold to people living away from the local area end will probably not become generally distributed.

Later in the program they showed several pictures of their new 'Princess' series, these being named – 'Princess Betty', 'Princess

Another view of the Lath House

Emma', 'Princess Louise', 'Princess Marie' and 'Princess Olga' are all from a seed cross of 'Bohemienne' and 'Empress'. Some of these flowers were very small having the well flared habit of 'Bohemienne', others were more of the 'Empress' type. All were very beautiful and of pale pink and salmon shades, – some with a golden overcast.

They saved the most important part of their program for the last, their new true yellow beauties. So far six have bloomed in this new group. All are from the seed cross of 'Madonna' and 'Thorinne'. All those that have flowered are truly yellow and they are also all large flowers – most of them over 9" in diameter – Fort & O'Barr's 'Reward' being the best.

There are still several large plants of this same cross to flower next year for the first time. We are all eager to see what comes forth. No disposition has been made of any of this cross as yet.

The meeting was well attended, being the largest crowd we have had for some time. Everyone was surprised to learn of the closing of their beautiful garden – but I know only drastic need of rest has caused Paul and Garland to give up their years of work with these plants. How fitting that after they had decided to make this their last year, these wonderful new yellow-colored epiphyllum should appear!!!

We are all sorry to realize that there will be no more trips down to the beach to see their new seedlings, but we wish them every good thing in their new home and great success with their new hobby, photography.

After the meeting Paul kindly answered all questions and gave details of their methods of culture.

He and Garland brought many plants which have not yet flowered and also cuttings from their named varieties for door prizes."

And that is the end of the story of Country Gardens Epiphyllum Nursery. The thing that is missing in the Bulletin story is a clear statement by Fort or O'Barr of why Country Gardens closed. Was it the location in a residential zone a problem; was it Fort and O'Barr were overwhelmed by the work involved in such a large garden, as Martha Maxwell thought, or was it something else entirely?

When my wife and I joined the ESA some 20 or so years later, there were still stories, or perhaps false stories, about why Fort and O'Barr quit. The story we both remember best is "that Manhattan Beach Housing Authority objected to Fort and O'Barr selling epies cuttings in a residential district and if they didn't stop the Authority would cut off Fort and O'Barr's water."

Growing Epicacti in Hawaii

By Herb Barringer Kaneohe, Hawaii

A reprint from The Bulletin, Vol. 46, No. 1 (Fall 1990)

After a long lapse of membership from the ESA, I have recently renewed, and decided to respond to the President's appeal for reports from growing areas outside Southern California. Given the original habitats of epiphytic cacti, it might seem that Hawaii would be an ideal home for epis, but that is not completely the case. There are problems in paradise.

I started growing epis in 1975, when I learned that they were available by mail. My first experiences were marginal, because, having read that they are epiphytes, I treated the cacti like Cattleya orchids. Initially, I tried to grow them in tree fern fiber (Hapuu) in clay pots. Only the very hardiest survived, and then, just barely. Of course cacti like Epiphyllum and Nopalxochia species grow in trees and on rock faces in the forest, but their roots are quite different from epiphytic ferns and orchids, and need to be enclosed in moist humus at all times. As many of us have learned, most Epiphyllum species love to grow their roots through holes in pots into the soil below. This is even more true of other ancestors of epi hybrids, such as Heliocereus and Selenicereus. If any readers have visited Hawaii, no doubt they have seen the masses of Hylocereus undatus hanging from trees. This enormous growth is possible because the plants, while climbing upwards for light and air, send out roots which dangle and eventually reach the soil below. Some aerial roots become more than an inch in diameter. The point of all this is that I believe it is a mistake to describe epiphyllum hybrids as true epiphytes; they might better be classified as "neo" or "part" epiphytes.

To the best of my knowledge, attempts to establish epis in the rain forests here have failed, including a major effort by Foster Gardens. I have tried several times in remote places, and have always met with failure. Judy Anderson, whom some of you may recall, reports that her attempts to establish epis in Pandanus on Molokai, also failed. The only species of epiphytic cactus which seems to have caught on (other than the ubiquitous Hylocereus undatus) is a flat-leafed Rhipsalis (probably ramulosa). In any case, I finally took the very good advice in McQuown's Fine Flowered Cacti, that more epis are lost from drying out than from overwatering! Ever since, I have had pretty decent success by keeping the plants wet.

Plant "experts" in Hawaii have discouraged many people from growing epis, stating that either the plants are too prone to rot, or that they will not bloom here. From my experience, they are very likely to rot if their potting mix is too dense or too fine. But more important, they will most certainly rot if they are grown in locations with little or no air movement. I live in Kaneohe, on

Oahu, a seaside community with very heavy rainfall. During much of the year, it rains almost every night. The humidity is high, never falling below 60% or so. The temperature ranges from a low of 50 to a high of 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Consequently, fungi grow with a vengeance: commercial orchid growers here spray weekly with two different kinds of fungicides. I have found that this helps with epis also, but since I also keep parrots, I cannot use sprays, so I have discontinued the fungicides. But good air movement is an absolute must in this climate: plants grown close to the leeward side of my house invariably die. In Hawaii, some epi hybrids are difficult. I have given up on the "Empress" hybrids, although, paradoxically, Nopalxochia phyllanthoides loves it here. Some of my favorites, such as "China Bowl," and "Tassel," are very sensitive to rot, so I grow them on the windward side of my house, and for good measure, graft them onto Hylocereus stock. I use plastic pots almost exclusively, crock them with polyurethane foam chips (which discourage root mealies and ants), and use a very porous commercial potting mix with 50% coarse perlite and black volcanic cinders mixed in. Actually, epis grow perfectly well in bone charcoal alone, but it is too expensive for a large collection. Coarse mixes allow the constant rain to drain quickly. This requires frequent fertilization: I use 14-14-14 Osmocote for growth, and an organic (5-24-5) fertilizer for blooms. I used much lighter fertilizers years ago, but finally found that heavier feeding is necessary for good growth. Another Kaneohe grower, Judy Anderson, grew beautiful plants with chicken manure. This is possible, even desirable here, because of the heavy rainfall. This all has its downside, too: plants need daily watering during dry months: It is likely that drier climates in Hawaii would require more conventional treatments.

Most epis also bloom here, although plants do not produce large numbers of blooms at a single time. Winter temperatures are simply not low enough to produce prolonged rest and bud development. This spring, for example, a very old plant of 'Agatha" has produced two or three blooms at a time for three months, averaging about one bloom a day. It will bloom again in the fall, at about the same rate. 'Pegasus' always blooms twice a year, sometimes three or four times. The blooming season begins in March, and continues through October (some species bloom through November). So although we are not blessed with the cascades of flowers California growers experience in April and May, we are compensated with a very long blooming season. I keep a number of plants of Knebel's 'Harald Knebel' going, because it blooms regularly every six to eight weeks all year! The warm temperatures do not make for long flower life: large flowers usually last a single day. Some miniatures make it through three days.

My correspondence over the years with Everson and Williams (Rainbow Gardens) and with Lois and Bob Burks (formerly of Cal Epi Center) has convinced me that most plants which do well for California growers also do well here, although I understand there is also some variation in different areas of California. I don't think it will serve much purpose to name all the plants which have failed for me here, because I have found that some cuttings just need to be tried several times to take well. However, I have kept records, and about 1/3 of cuttings I have tried have not made it, or have refused to bloom. About ten years ago, I started ordering all the plants I could find with Hawaiian names. Perversely nearly all failed! Only 'Maui' and 'Waikiki Rainbow' have done well. I do hope no one sends me another cut of "Haleakala"— it rots as soon as I remove it from the shipping container. Most of the recent hybrids from the Vista and Escondido areas grow like weeds, and bloom well. Older hybrids from the Los Angeles area are more variable.

Some of the varieties which do very well for me are 'Liliput', 'Born Free', 'Johnson's Beauty', Knebel's Heliocereus cinnabarinus hybrid miniatures, 'Dolly Madison', 'Bridegroom', 'Snowbank', 'Eastern Bouquet', 'Clarabella', 'Duchess of Windsor' (grafted), and "Agatha'. Many oranges, including my all-time favorite, 'Garland O'Barr', do very well, as do most of the yellows, especially 'Jennifer Ann', 'Gold Medal', and 'Vista Sun'. 'Ben Hawks' does very well, as does 'Nefertiti', 'Tiki Torch','Stern von Erlau', and many other reds. Of the purples, we are fortunate that 'Gladyce Jones', 'Pegasus', 'First Prom', 'Jolly Rogers', and 'Show Boat' all grow and bloom well. Alas, a few plants grow and grow, taking up valuable space, and show no signs of blooming. Of those, 'Black Light', 'Defender', and 'Moon Goddess' are about to be relegated to the compost heap. Fifteen years is long enough to wait. On the other hand I couldn't kill 'Grace Ann' or 'Athena' if I tried. Which I won't. They are indestructible, and they do like to bloom. I have about 125 proven varieties in my garden.

Epiphyllum species all love it here, including E. grandilobum, which is truly a spectacular plant! Selenicereus rots for me before I can get it into pots, and Heliocereus mostly just sits. However, all species of Hylocereus grow almost too well, and make excellent grafting stocks. Aporocactus grows well, but is stingy with blooms. The same is true of most Aporophyllums, so I have quit growing them. All the Rhipsalis species I have tried grow beautifully.

Change is the Only Constant – A New Registrar

By Linda Sinkovic

The ESA began registering epi cactus hybrids in the early 1940's, with the first listing of registered hybrids appearing in the ESA Journal in January 1950. The position of Registration Chairperson, or Registrar, has been held by many people. However the honor of the longest-serving Registrar goes to Dr. Dick Kohlschreiber, who has held the position for over 25 years.

Dr. Kohlschreiber officially became the Registrar in 1993, though he was doing the job unofficially for a few years prior. He is also responsible for the corrections which lead to the accuracy and clarity of the fourth edition of the ESA Directory (now called the Registry, currently in its sixth edition). As each new edition of the Registry is built upon the contents of the previous edition, we all benefit from the improvements made to the fourth edition.

That said, everyone needs a change and no one wants to do the same job forever. Dr. Kohlschreiber has decided to step down. Derek Obayashi will step up as the new Registrar.

Mr. Obayashi is a passionate grower and hybridizer of epi cactus hybrids. He has been growing them for over 40 years. He hopes to make improvements to the registration process over the next year, including possibly creating an electronic registration form.

Growing Epies in Purgatory

by Michael La crest (Knoxville, Tennessee)

A reprint from The Bulletin: Vol. 52, No. 1 (Autumn 1996)

Greetings from Tennessee and what might be called "Purgatory" for epiphyllums. Unless a grower is blessed with a greenhouse, epies grown in the southeastern U.S. will definitely go through a trial by fire before they flower and advance to their full glory.

Knoxville is located near the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, some 40 miles from Gatlinburg (soon to be replaced in popularity by Dollywood) and the most visited National Park in the U.S. The Great Smoky Mountains are home to over 650 native plant species! Truly it is a National Biosphere! Our elevation is from 815 to 950 feet. Temperatures in this temperate climate can range from -24°F to 110°F at their record extremes. Anywhere from a low of 5°F to a high of 95°F are more typical yearly extremes. We have an average of 48 inches of yearly precipitation, which is good, but some of it can fall as hail, sleet, freezing rain, or ice. That's bad! Summer humidity is very high, usually above 50%. Winters are damp too. Even with a greenhouse, one needs to be prepared for at least one power outage in winter per year. To top it off, we have every pest imaginable, from scale, mealies, "sow bugs" and slugs, to mice and squirrels. So you see, as far as epies go, this is truly Purgatory, at best, for the objects of our interest; but when they survive, what a show they put on!

I first got interested in succulents about five years ago when visiting a brother in Torrance, California. Dale had a few epies in his rather large collection of cacti. We visited the ESA flower show at the Los Angeles Arboretum, and I was immediately hooked. I now have 25+ epi hybrids, and at least one species. The following have bloomed for me: 'Charming Beauty', 'Mystic Mood', 'Carnival', 'First Prom', 'Red Sails', 'Challenger', 'April Shower', 'Climax', an unknown plant – probably 'Ackermanii hybridus', and Epiphyllum oxypetalum.

Looking back, I was a bit naive to believe I could grow epies as beautiful as the ones I saw in Los Angeles without a greenhouse. I learned a lot about growing cuttings by trial and error. I suppose for this beginner, the hardest lesson to learn when potting fresh cuttings, is to let them callus before planting them. I guess I didn't believe the expert literature regarding this practice. I am also a "hydroholic" and can't resist the watering can. Watering an unrooted cutting just invited rot. I had to learn about sun–scorch the hard way too; the sunburned stems never came back.

About two years ago, inoculated with enthusiasm for these beautiful plants, I visited two local commercial nurseries where I trade, and gave them dozens of named, callused cuttings, and showed them catalog pictures of what they might expect. The nurserymen potted them in large, plastic hanging pots, and just this spring they are reaping their rewards. They have achieved with greenhouse culture what I could not. Their plants are beautiful (I must have chosen wisely!). I noticed they have "Not For Sale" written on the pots. Maybe they plan to take their own cuttings for future sale, or maybe they are just enjoying the beauty of a rare plant in Purgatory. Certainly many locals are being introduced to epies for the first time, and I'm getting some great pictures.

For a potting medium, I use what is available locally. I use a commercial, Canadian peat-based mixture that also contains charcoal, vermiculite and perlite. To this I add to the pot about 50% perlite, approximately 10% unwashed river sand that I get from a local dredge operation on the Tennessee River, and a tablespoon of slow release fertilizer (14-14-14). I think this fertilizer may contain too much nitrogen as I have an overabundance of stem growth; so I will try something else this year. Oddly enough, the excessive stem growth might result in some degree of stem die-back, as some stems turn brown and rot. I suppose the roots may be unable to supply the needs of the bigger plant, so it prunes itself. For plants with long, drooping stems, I use small, plastic hanging baskets. Plants that will stand upright are put in 6" clay pots. All epies are placed outside on a home-made plant stand under the light shade of a dogwood tree in the summer. We have a mushroom "farm" nearby that uses a mixture of peat, horse manure and compressed straw, which they get from Kentucky horse farms for a growing medium. The spent compost can be purchased for $20 a pickup truckload. I wonder if a touch of this to my potting mix might bring a little heaven to my epies?

Growing Epiphyllums in the Black Hills of South Dakota

By Barbara Jenke

A reprint from The Bulletin Vol. 43, No. 3 (Winter 1993)

Is it possible to grow Epiphyllums in a frigid winter area? That's what I asked myself when I first moved from my home state of California here to Hot Springs, South Dakota six years ago. After four years of growing Epis to flower from cuttings, I can say, "Yes, Epis can grow and bloom in this area, but you'd better be willing to give up some living space for nine months out of the year or live in a house with a basement!"

After my second winter here, and having succeeded at growing some annual and perennial flowers from seed under lights in the basement's bedroom (it has a southeast facing picture window), I decided to give growing Epis a try. I bought a couple of cuttings by mail order and started them that spring. Then, an ESA member pen-pal who also lived in South Dakota asked me if I wanted a few cuttings. Later that summer, a package arrived in the mail with over 90 named cuttings! I tried a method suggested in an article I read in The Bulletin. I made a "V" cut at the base of each stem and dusted them with a rooting hormone. After a week or so, I rooted them in a constantly moist 50-50 mixture of perlite and vermiculite. Surprisingly for me, almost every cutting rooted! I discovered that Epis do very well growing under lights; that first year they amazed me by sending out lots of healthy new branches. I admit it was difficult to pinch out the growth at the top of the stems to force branching. I basically had to close my eyes and do it. The ones that I pinched grew better than the ones I let grow from the tops. I really didn't have the room for all those growing Epis, other jungle cacti, and flower seedlings. In the past four years, I have managed to pare the number of potted plants down to 64. It took a lot of will power, but the weak looking plants were cut up and sent to the compost pile, and diseased looking plants were put in the trash. I still have a few plants which look healthy, but which haven't sent out much growth. The pesky, curious raccoon babies have destroyed some Epis sitting at the end of the bench row when the plants were outside. (Later, I tried filling empty pots with pebbles to scare the raccoons away when they tipped the pots over. It worked.) The neighbors' dog ate two of the plants this summer — I caught her with them! I gave away some plants with flowers I could live without. I had to give away `Adoration' because my husband and I both had allergic reactions to its flower's wonderful yet strong fragrance.

My plants get to spend only two to three months outside. Although we have many sunny and warm days here, the problem is the many cold nights and dry climate. When the Arctic air front comes our way, there is no humidity from a lake, ocean, or large river to prevent a frost. Also I live at an altitude of 3800 ft.— Hot Springs is located in the southern Black Hills. By the end of August, I have to start listening to weather forecasts to learn when the first freezing temperature might happen. I also watch my thermometer which records the coldest temperature. When the nights drop into the mid 30's, the plants with damp soil show the most stress. There is also a wind-chill factor as well, when the thermometer reads 50°F, the blowing north wind may give a wind chill of 32°F or lower. This year, on September 7 the weatherman warned that the temps might fall below 32°F. All the plants were moved into the basement bedroom which has been dubbed the "plant room". The temps did dip down to 31°F that night according to my thermometer. It went back up to the mid 80's the next day. Traditionally, after the first dip below 32°F, the nights go back into the 40's or 50's until the first snow fall around Columbus Day. Once the plants are inside, that's it for the season. They seem much happier without having the stress of adjusting to a 30° to 50° temperature change every evening and morning.

Over the years I have bought more plant stands and light fixtures and devised new set-ups in the plant room. Some plants are put in light stands and staked plants are on benches under fluorescent shop lights which have been hung from the ceiling. To attach the light fixtures to the ceiling, I had my husband screw heavy duty hooks into the ceiling joists, drill holes through the acoustical tile dropped ceiling, attach the fixtures' chains to the hooks, thread the chains through the tiles' holes, and attach the chains to the fixtures' "S" hooks. The chains have enough length so that I can adjust the height of the lights. Some of my hanging baskets are hung in the same manner to the ceiling. All my Epis are grown under 48-inch long fluorescent light fixtures which have two 40-watt lamps in them. One lamp is a cool white and the other is a warm white in order to get the proper light spectrum. These lights are quite a bit less expensive than grow lamps and are just as effective. (This method was recommended by the Floralight Company.) The lights are on timers which are regularly adjusted to correspond to the sunrise and sunset times. I usually keep the curtains in the room open to get the benefit of the low winter sun which shines into the room. (Hot Springs winters are wonderfully sunny with little snowfall. No fog! It's too dry.) The benches are made of concrete blocks and water-repellent treated 2 x 8 bookshelf quality pine boards. To protect the carpet from any spilled water or mist from the spray bottle and possible dirt spills, I have placed a white disposable painter's drop cloth on the carpet under the benches and concrete blocks. The drop cloth absorbs the excess water and can be walked on without slipping. The room has baseboard heating, so I set the thermostat at 50°F when the outside temperatures regularly drop into the teens and lower. The plant room opens into the finished basement great room which has a wood burning buck stove. When we have a fire, it helps

keep the plant room warm as well. One interesting effect my Epis get while inside, is that some can store up an electric charge. If I'm not careful, I can get zapped from behind if I brush against them.

The plants get checked for watering needs every 7 to 10 days from January until I see new growth or buds on the plants, usually in April. Then I check the plants about every 3-5 days. (As a bloom gets ready to open, I'm in the room several times a day checking it, but the flowers I've had so far usually open at 10:00 at night.) I'd rather underwater than overwater and risk having the plants rot; it can get warm and humid in the room because of all the plants in such a close space. We have hard water which is chlorinated. The pH of the city water before it's softened is about 7.4, and contains lots of calcium sulfate, magnesium, and other minerals. The indoor water goes through a water softener. (Softening takes out the calcium and replaces it with a sodium salt.) I've read that softened water is not good for house plants, but I use it on all my house plants, seedlings, Epis and other jungle cacti, and they still grow well on it and bloom. I use tepid water. Cold water from the tap at my house is really cold. Outside, the plants get watered directly from the garden hose, or directly from the clouds when it rains in June, July and part of August (normal rainy season).

Because the summer growing season is so short here, I start sowing most of my summer flower seeds, for June or July blooms in late January and early February in the basement under lights. In April, as the seedlings take over the Epis' light stands, those Epis get bumped upstairs onto stands in front of the southeast facing living and dining room picture windows. (The drapes get closed at night between the plants and the frigid windows.) These rooms get a distinct "jungle" atmosphere. (My friends can't help but comment on the strange looking plants.) I've had just as many Epis bud and bloom upstairs in front of the windows as have done so in the plant room.

In May when the daytime temperatures are in the 60's to 80's, I can't move the Epis and other jungle cacti outside because some nights can still drop into the 30's or lower. The average date of the last frost is around Memorial Day. This year it frosted on May 31st! The first weeks of June I am usually busy getting my flower seedlings in containers to put on the deck surrounding the living, dining, and family room. There is not enough room on the lower deck, under the living and dining room deck, for both the cacti and the seedlings, so the cacti don't get taken outside until the last weeks of June. The lower deck is the Epis' outside home. To help protect the plants from getting too strong of sun and the sometimes high winds (gusting from 30 to 60 MPH), or hail storms, I have stapled a 40% shade cloth to the support beams to enclose the longest side of the lower deck. When the hot Chinook winds (that's what California's Santa Ana winds are called when they change direction and blow this way) blow and/or the temps go into the 90's and 100's, I spray the cloth with water; the evaporation helps to keep the area cool and more humid for the plants. When the Chinooks blow in the winter, we have nice, balmy daytime temps in the high 60's and 70's. We live in the "Banana Belt" of the midwest.

Alice Buchanan Award History

The Award is given to those who have performed outstanding service to the Epiphyllum Society of America through contributing to the Society's welfare or advancing its ideals and objectives. The Board did not mandate that the Alice Buchanan Award be given annually, but at the sole discretion of the ESA President.

Any ESA member may nominate someone for the Award at any time during the year. Nominations must be in writing and sent to the ESA President. The President can then select a recipient from the nominees; nominate someone of her or his own choosing; or not give the Award at all that year. (In the event that there is no President orActing President, the Board shall have sole authority for the selection)

There is a tradition of surprising the recipient with the honor at the annual Holiday dinner, which is why nominations are not revealed in advance. In fact, at present, the President is not required to inform even the Board of Directors who has been nominated, nor who has been selected, presumably because the recipient may be a Board Member.

The award history is as follows:

Alice Buchanan Award Recipients:

1982 – Ethel and Buddy Hurst
1983 – I.J. and Ethel Hughes
1984 –Velm Featherstone
1985 – Ken Bone
1986 – (not awarded)
1987 – Betty and Bob Berg
1988 – Charles and Eulah Hardy
1989 – R.0 Lassiter
1990 – Noel and Russell Bumdah
1991 – Tina Forgrave
1992 – (not awarded)
1993 – (not awarded)
1994 – Dr. R.W. Kohlschreiber
1995 – (not accepted)
1996 – William Andre
1997 – Edmund Beardsley
1998 – Donald E. Clinton
1999 – Jean Gray & Michele Davis
2000 – Galen Pittman
2001 – Raymond R. Eden Jr.
2002 – Peggy Oberg

2003 – Ed Imlay
2004 – Pat Ballard
2005 – L.A. County Arboretum and Botanic Garden
2006 – June Hughes
2007 – Keith Ballard
2008 – Loretta Garcia
2009 – Gail Grassi
2010 – Jim Nones
2011 – Ken Hanke
2012 – Fred Stegner
2013 – Mary Beardsley
2014 – Robert Kuettle
2015 – Marrie Caldiero
2016 – Geneva Coats
2017– Kathy Stiebel & Marie Schmidt

We Get Letters (and Emails)

By Geneva Coats

This is an occasional epi culture discussion column to post questions we have received. I receive many letters via the ESA website requesting cultural advice. I am by no means an expert, so I'd like to hear from our members what advice they would give in response to these questions. Send your questions (and your answers) to genevacoats@aol.com and I will forward them to the appropriate party. Thanks everyone! – Geneva

Question: If I join the ESA, will I be able to purchase epi plants from someone (or the group) that is having a plant sale? Living in Arkansas, I do not have the opportunity to purchase blooming plants. – Patricia

Response: Hi Patricia, we have a list of ESA members who sell by mail order on the ESA website at www.epiphyllums.org on the "Links" page. We hope you will decide to join the Society regardless!

Question: I have several plants from "Epies by Pat." A few years ago they all got scale. I have tried Dawn, safer soap, alcohol, and tea tree oil but it keeps coming back. Do I need to destroy the plants? – Kathy

Response: Restart from cuttings or try systemic insecticide. Join the ESA for ongoing cultural advice.

Question: Hello, I am new to epiphyllum growing. I inherited 4 plants about 3 years ago, which were not particularly healthy. I have been working with them and they appear to be getting healthier all the time. This year we have had a few nights that have been much colder than normal and my epiphyllums now have bloom starts or leaf starts in amazing proportion, I counted 38 bloom starts on one long leaf. I am wondering if this is normal for a healthy plant or if it is due to the weather? Thank you for your time. – Cheryl

No response yet....please send answers to Genevacoats@aol.com that I can forward to Cheryl. THANKS!

Question: I want to join the epiphyllum society. – Dewey

Response: Great! We have a Paypal link on our website at www.epiphyllums.org, under "Membership" then "Join the ESA" which you can use to join, or send a check for your dues to the address on that same webpage.

Question: I was given an epiphyllum that I was told was called "Pitt" but I can't locate a picture or information on it! Can you help me? – Leo

Response: There is a hybridizer named "Pittman" and some hybrids with that name included, for example, 'Doris W. Pittman', but there is no registered variety named 'Pitt'.

Question: I'd like to start growing epiphyllums but want to begin with a few cultivars that are easy for beginners and particularly given to large blooms. Can you please give me the names of three to five that would fit that description? I am grateful for any information that you can give me. – Maria

Response: This is a great question which is appropriate to bring to a meeting to get the opinions of other members. We'd love to meet you in person! If you are unable to attend meetings, we print a very informative quarterly Bulletin which contains helpful tips and advice.

*Question:*Please help. An insect of some sort is chewing holes in my plants. These holes are round, sometimes in the middle of a stalk and sometimes on the edges. Please help me identify the culprit. Thanks! – Suzanne

Response: Possibly snails, moths or grasshoppers? We recommend using hanging pots for epiphyllums instead of pots on the ground or on benches to keep snails away. Snails LOVE to eat epiphyllums!

Question: I met a society member who is a volunteer at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The greenhouse there is amazing! I love my epiphyllum, but it is getting speckled, then brown and drying up branch by branch. The new branches look great though. I need some help – I don't want to lose it. Thank you. – Karen

Response: If your new branches look okay, you're probably fine. Old branches naturally die back, so epies require occasional "grooming" because of this. Just cut off the old dead growth to make way for the new branches.

Calendar *of* Events

June 2018

ESA BOARD MEETING — Tue, Jun 26, 7:30 pm

July 2018

ESA GENERAL MEETING — Tue, Jul 3, 7:30 pm
Program: Rhipsalis
Location: Arboretum of LA County, Bamboo Room.

ESA BOARD MEETING — Tue, Jul 31, 7:30 pm

August 2018

ESA GENERAL MEETING — Tue, Aug 7, 7:30 pm
Program: Helmut Paetzold Hybrids
Location: Arboretum of LA County, Bamboo Room.

ESA BOARD MEETING — Tue, Aug 28, 7:30 pm

September 2018

ESA GENERAL MEETING — Tue, Sep 4, 7:00 pm
Program: Annual Silent Auction & Member's Pot Luck Social
Refreshments: Everyone bring a dish.
Location: Arboretum of LA County, Ayres Hall

ESA BOARD MEETING — Tue, Sep 25, 7:30 pm

Octtober 2018

ESA GENERAL MEETING — Tue, Oct 2, 7:30 pm
Program: Edgar Valdivia – Dragon Fruit
Location: Arboretum of LA County, Bamboo Room.

ESA BOARD MEETING — Tue, Oct 30, 7:30 pm

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
Mo-N	Tue, July 3, 2018
O-Ra	Tue, Aug 7, 2018
Potluck	Tue, Sep 4, 2018
V-Ba	Tue, Oct 2, 2018