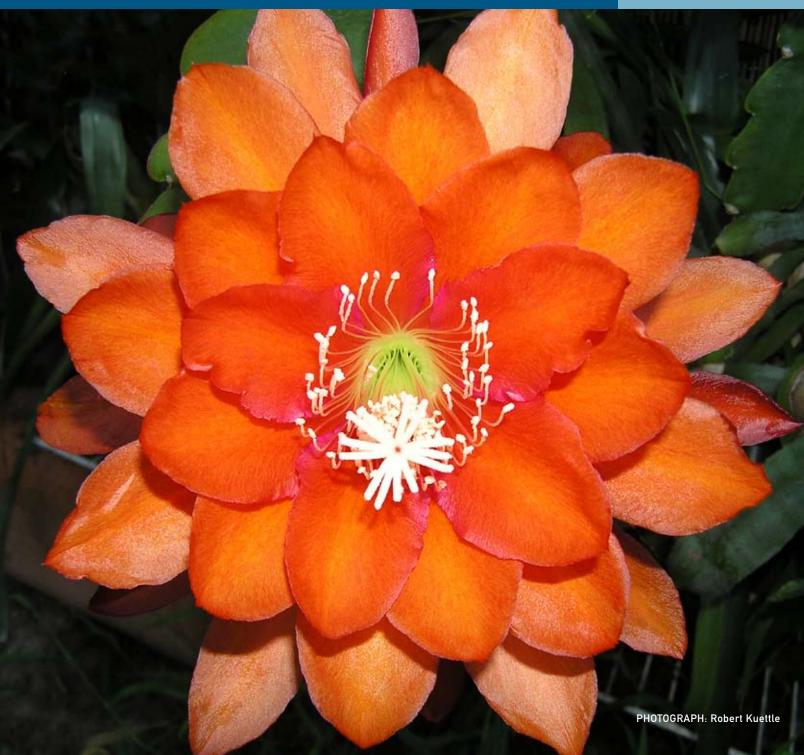
The Bulletin epiphyllum society of america





'FLECHSIG'S FLAME'

Hybridizer Phyllis Flechsig Reg. #10149
Unknown × 'Blackamore'



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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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rom lop:

'Buff Monarch' hybridizer Theresa Monmonier, 'King's Ransom' hybridizer Phyllis Flechsig, 'Temple Of Beauty' hybridizer Alice Buchanan.



Fall Culture Calendar

A reprint from The Bulletin: Vol. 57, No. 4 (Summer 2002)

by Galen Pittman

It is early autumn, but nevertheless, winter is not far behind. In order to head off problems before it is too late, we should not really ignore our epi collections. Now is the time for a number of maintenance items that we may have been be too busy to do earlier in the year and/or will enhance blooming next spring.

Repotting. Except for the mildest of climates, or in emergencies, it is probably best to forgo repotting till next spring and summer.

Avoid Sunburn. Unlike the ancient peoples, we are not keenly aware of the change in the sun's position, but the angle of the sun changes constantly during the year. On the other hand, the sun's intensity changes very little summer to winter. Measurements show a variation on the order of only 10% in intensity. The change in average temperature results from the change in the length of the day.

Therefore, one needs to make sure your epies get enough shade during all seasons. Epies can sunburn if exposed to full sun for a long period if the sun protection means (e.g. shade cloth) is not in the correct position for all sun angles in the various seasons. If more shade is necessary, even something temporary would be better than nothing.

There are epi growers who intentionally change the amount of sun exposure during the year, such as using 50% shade cloth during the winter and 75% in summer.

Watering. Normally with the help of the rains, one can expect to water less in autumn and especially winter. However, this year the Southern California conditions may not be normal. We have been in a drought condition for the last 4 years, with only a few inches of rain per year. But, the weather forecasters are beginning to talk about a "El Niño" year. "El Niño" is a nickname given to the weather condition of the warming of the southeastern Pacific Ocean, at around Christmastime, that precedes a shift in the rain patterns to excessive rain along the American West Coast. In the last El Niño year, Los Angeles had over 30 inches of rain, and I lost my complete epi collection due to excessive wetness. Thus, if we are really going to have El Niño rains, we need to start thinking of and implementing some rain protection for our epi collections.

But if El Niño doesn't materialize, or one's epi collection is outside the area of concern anyway, the normal procedure applies. If the epies are still growing and the rains haven't started, water is still needed, but favor the dry side. As it gets colder and the growth slows, so should the watering. Rain is beneficial for epies as it flushes the mineral deposit. With enough rain to keep the mix moist, one doesn't need to water at all, and it might be weeks between watering. As with any other season, one needs to make

sure that the epi pots drain well. Being too moist, even with rain water, is detrimental to the epi roots. Finally, remember, epies resist the cold better when not so wet.

Pests. Particularly if the weather stays warm, snails and slugs can still be a problem. Do not relax your vigilance and protective measures. If you suspect root mealies, epi roots will tolerate watering with a Marathon solution (at 1 tablespoon/gallon of water), or a bath of Marathon when repotting, to kill the pests.

Grooming. Autumn is the time to groom and trim. There are various guide lines, such as: take off all dead branches, or take off any branch that offends you, or take off any branch where most or all of the areoles are dead. The areoles are dead if they have been replaced by a little brown knob. Ask yourself, if this branch was a cutting would I buy it? Dick Kohlschreiber suggests removing the largest branch, to encourage a plant to grow new branches. Most blooms form on last year's new growth, so one encourages new growth by eliminating the old growth that is unlikely to bloom much. Take off any spindly (i.e., pencil-like) branches, that will not likely produce blooms and move to a place with more light. Finally, take off any mushy branches, which may be from too much water. This is a process of deciding what branches to retain for the following year and which branches to discard. Branches which appear to be dehydrating and turning yellow in comparison to the greener and more fully-hydrated ones, should be removed. However, as an general rule in all of your pruning, do not trim away more than 1/2 of the plant.

Breaking or snapping off unwanted growth eliminates the necessity for sterilization cutting tools between plants to curb the spread of viruses. Remember — burning your cutting tools with a torch is the only known effective method to kill plant viruses!

Labeling. Now is the time to check the plant labels and replace any that are becoming illegible.

Fertilizing. Autumn is the time for the last application of 0-10-10 fertilizer for the year. The timing varies by grower. I usually do it early, around the first of September.

Weeding. At any time of year, catching weeds when they are small will preclude heroic measures later when they have taken over the pot.

Mechanical Corrections. Now is the time to make any mechanical corrections that might be necessary. Are the wires of a hanging plant rusting excessively? Replace them. Do the hanging plants need wind protection? Add it. If your plants are trellised, fix any broken pieces. Are new branches escaping from the trellis? Corral them properly. Are the branches intertwined with other plants? Separate to avoid misidentifying their flowers next Spring, or to avoid the possibility of transferring a virus.

Enjoy the Late Bloomers. Keep an eye out for those precious autumn and winter bloomers and any species blooms if the temperatures have not dropped too low in your area.



WOMEN HYBRIDIZERS:

THERESA MONMONIER

by Keith Ballard

(Generally from the pages of The ESA Bulletins, and the epi data base.)

Mrs. Monmonier turned from nursing human beings to nursing flowers around 1931 when her son had a high school project of raising cactus. After his class and interest ended, she continued to care for the plant, a thorny variety.

Her interest and appreciation slowly changed from a passive to an active form. She started raising cacti, always looking for new and original varieties from collectors of rare cactus in Southern California and the Pacific coast. She began to import young plants and cuttings from Europe, principally France, Belgium and Germany.

The spare-time activity of raising rare epiphyllums grew to the point where Mrs. Monmonier had more plants and flowers than she could use. She gave them away to friends and still had many left. The quality and originality of many of her hybrids attracted the attention of a few collectors and dealers, and she ultimately found herself the owner and operator of Ventura Epiphyllum Gardens, the largest nursery of its kind in Ventura County.

Mr. Scott Haselton of Pasadena, former editor of the "Cactus and Succulent Journal of America," while gathering material for his Epiphyllum Handbook was distressed by the confusion of names of cultivated varieties and suggested a committee be formed to work on the problem of names, and perhaps start an organization of growers. Due to the tireless work of Mr. Haselton and Dr. Poindexter, a meeting of interested growers and commercial nurserymen was called to meet at the Ventura home of Mrs. Theresa Monmonier on May 5th, 1940, for the purpose of organizing a flower society and to decide on what to call the plants, Epiphyllum or Phyllocactus. Officers elected were: President John Baumgartner, Vice President Theresa Monmonier, and Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Poindexter. A unanimous vote was recorded to name the new group "Epiphyllum Society of America." A discussion on the use of the words Epiphyllum and Phyllocactus followed. The first vote was to call the species "Epiphyllum," to be followed by the word "hybrid" if a cross.

The ESA, like many other organizations, did not do much during the December 1941 to August 1945 period of WWII. But after that, Mrs. Monmonier was quite an active contributing member of the ESA. She made presentations, and wrote articles for the ESA Bulletin, which included: "How Do Plant Names Originate?", "Mutations (Sports) in Epiphyllum Hybrids" and "Chiapasia" which is reprinted in this Bulletin. This last article is about the species *Chiapasia nelsonii*, or

its synonym *Disocactus nelsonii* if you prefer, and its offspring. Mrs. Monmonier even did the cover artwork for The Bulletin Vol. II, No. 7 (1947). She also held ESA offices of Vice President and Director. After her mother passed in the summer of 1949, Theresa apparently had other things to do, as all further mentions of her name were as the hybridizer of an epi or as an ESA office holder. Her name is mentioned in the Bulletin a total of 72 times.

The current Registry includes 473 registrations of Mrs. Monmonier (TMM) originations. The vast majority were not dated. Those that she apparently dated herself range from 1939 to 1956. These are the registrations that have no Registrant listed. Galen Pittman later added a number of estimated "c. dates" (i.e. circa - or "approximate dates") for her flower listings to give the reader a feel for the dating.

I know that at least four of the total still exist, and both my 'Cynthia' and 'Dulce Rosa' both bloomed this year.



Theresa Monmonier in 1953

MARY BEARDSLEY RETIRES AS ESA RECORDING SECRETARY

Mary Beardsley became the ESA Recording Secretary in the summer of 1991. She served under four presidents: Keith Ballard, Loretta Garcia, Galen Pittman and Robert Kuettle. The ESA thanks Mary for those fourteen years of faithful service.

Mary's replacement is Jeff Bates.



'Bliss'



'Buff Monarch'



'Cynthia'



'Dr. John T. Cox'



'Gardenia'



'General Robert E. Lee'



'Hobie'



'Johnny's Choice'



'Jumbo'



'Lilac Time'



'Monmonier's Niagara'



'Mount Hood'



'Nayada'



'Nevosa'



'Raspberry'



'Roman Holiday'



'Royal Rose'



'Santa Barbara'



'Silverette'



'Sparkle'



'Springtide'



'Tempest'



'Valentine'



'Ventura Jubilee'



Highlights of Recent Meetings

by Keith Ballard

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY 7th MEETING: This meeting included a presentation by Gisele Schoniger, Organic Gardening Educator at **Kellogg Garden Products (KGP).** The presentation was very delightful and informative.

First Gisele gave us a brief background of the history of **KGP**. When World War II ended, the big weapons manufacturers needed a new product to stay in business. The closest thing to their capabilities was chemical fertilizers, which they began to produce in a big way. But over the years, **KGP** learned that continual use of chemical fertilizers eventually kills the good elements in the soil. So, **KGP** has stopped producing chemical fertilizers and has converted to organic garden products. Now, all **KGP** products meet all OMRI and OIM requirements.

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) is the leading non-profit, internationally recognized third-party accreditor of the USDA's National Organic Program. OMRI verifies all ingredient and label claim validity, manufacturing process compliance and public health and safety standards.

The Organic Input Material (OIM) listing is the California Department of Food and Agriculture's approval of meeting their stringent requirements for producing organic materials. Any soil or fertilizer product making an "organic" claim on the label is required to register their product. Look for the OMRI and OIM logo on all KGP soils and blended fertilizers.

These requirements require: 100% Organic Ingredients, Manufacturing Process Documented, Nutrients Tested, Elemental Sulfur Tested, Bacteria Tested, Fungi Tested, Humates Tested, No Synthetics, No Contamination, No Radiation and No GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms).

Gisele told us that soil is typically a mixture of sand, silt and clay. Sand feels gritty. It is porous with lots of air space. It drains quickly and has little ability to store moisture and nutrients. The goal with sand is to bind the mineral particles together with the use of compost, organic matter and the glues produced by the biology to improve its physical structure. Silt is slippery. It has microscopic mineral particles that fill all of the spaces where we need air. Clay is sticky. Microscopic mineral particles stack on top of each other and leave very little space for air and water creating poor drainage. Clay does however have a good Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), which is the ability to store nutrients and share them with the plant. Compost and organic matter incorporated into clay soils creates open space for air and water.

Organic matter (OM) feeds the soil biology and in turn both the OM and the biology help physically change and improve the physical, biological and chemical properties of the soil. Microorganisms feed on organic matter releasing nutrients in a plant-available form.

They also secrete enzymes and acids that help to dissolve minerals allowing the nutrients stored in the minerals to become available to the plant. They degrade, dissolve, absorb, store and share (mineralize, solubilize, immobilize and release) the nutrients and byproducts for the plants to use.

As OM is broken down, a byproduct of this process is an assortment of relatively stable compounds called *humus*. Humus darkens the soil and enriches the nutrient-holding capacity and the water-holding capacity. Humus binds small soil particles together forming larger more stable granules that in turn make the soil more porous, helping to create good soil structure.

KGP's current line is labeled G & B Organics (Gardner & Bloome) and is matched to the typical conditions for growing things in containers, raised beds or ground planting. The products contain a wide range of materials, including recycled wood; peat moss or coconut fiber; pumice or perlite; dehydrated manures, including dairy or chicken; worm castings; bat and seabird guano; plant-based nutrients such as alfalfa meal, kelp or fish bone meal; mineral-based nutrients such as oyster shell and dolomite; lime; yucca extract and beneficial microorganisms such as mycorrhizal fungi and many more.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST 4th MEETING: August's program featured pictures of the epi originations of four female hybridizers who started hybridizing before 1990. These included Alice Buchanan (AB), Phyllis Flechsig (FLECH), Theresa Monmonier(TMM) and Clarian Steele(STL). Jim Nones added that he hoped that this presentation would encourage more women to start hybridizing.

Photos of some of the originations of each of these hybridizers along with what data along with some articles are included in this Bulletin.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 1ST MEETING: This meeting included the advertised potluck dinner and Silent Auction. The membership really rose to the occasion for the potluck! The food was varied, great and there was a lot of it. Everyone seemed to enjoy their dinner. It's been at least 20 years since the ESA has had a potluck event.

Like the dinner, the Silent Auction offering of epies and other flora such as African Violets, were varied, great and there was a lot of selection. The epi cuttings varied from some of the older varieties, such as 'Acapulco Sunset' (1969) to some of the Kiwi varieties, including 'Kiwi Treasure Box', up to registrations from this year such as 'Lava Light' (2015).

(Most of the meeting photos on the following pages were taken by Don Burnett.)



Gisele Schoniger, Organic Educator from Kellogg



Silent Auction Bidders



Jennifer Jackson, Donovan Vasta, Marrie Caldiero



Jeff Bates and Jim Nones



Robert Kuettle, Jerry Moreau, Velma Crain, Sandra Chapin



Silent Auction Bidders



Silent Auction Items



Potluck Dessert Table



Silent Auction Bidders



Jim Nones, Ken Hanke, Donovan Vasta



Evelyn Shiraki, Loretta Garcia, Geneva Coats



CHIAPASIA

A revised reprint from The Bulletin: Vol. 64, No. 3 (Spring 2009)

by Theresa M. Monmonier

Reprint from The Bulletin: Vol. 3, No. 1 (1947). (Chiapasia nelsonii is a synonym for Disocactus nelsonii. This species was found in Chiapas, Mexico, and named for its native locality, to which is added the name of its discoverer, Nelson. At that time, it was found growing wild in the mountains at an altitude of 4,000 to 6,000 feet.

Chiapasia nelsoniii is an epiphytic spineless cactus, and in character resembles the genus Epiphyllum, even though it is classed as a genus by itself. The plant is formed of small flat stems slightly notched, sending up canes from its base which subsequently branch out. The plant is a good medium green, enhancing its unusual fern-like grace and delicacy.

Chiapasia nelsonii is day-flowering and an especially good bloomer. When grown under proper conditions, it has surprisingly good lasting qualities although fragile in appearance. The flowers are quite tubular at the base and present a flattened appearance toward the tips, resembling a tiny morning-glory or lily-like flower. Five beautifully shaped, slightly-pointed petals form the corolla with the pistil and stamens extending beyond the petals. The flower measures two inches in diameter, being smaller than the 'Deutsche Kaiserin'. The closest definition of its color is a clear exquisite lilac-pink of matchless beauty. The buds spiral gently as they open, in keeping with the characteristic gracefulness of the plant.

NOTE ON COLOR DEFINITION: *Chiapasia nelsonii* has been described in previous publications as a purple-pink and also as fuchsia. In addition to these color descriptions, it was referred to in a cactus book by W. Taylor Marshall and Thor Methven Bok, as being white, which was an error. Other color descriptions give the impression of a darker flower, while actually it is more on the pink side. The real color according to the British Horticultural Colour Chart is Persian Rose, page 149 - #62871 – 62872.

CHIAPASIA CROSSES

THESE ARE THE FIRST OF THE NELSONII CROSSES TO BE OFFICIALLY INTRODUCED BY THERESA M. MONMONIER, ESTABLISHING A NEW BRANCH.

CHIAPASIA MONMONIERI (1947): A gem of priceless beauty; carmine with heavy fuchsia veining throughout; strong fuchsia color on the edges, dainty flower formation. The plant is characteristic of the parent plant, *Chiapasia nelsonii*. In fact, you cannot tell the parent from the offspring except in the coloring and the increased number of petals in the flower.

CHIAPASIA RUBIET (1947): Also new and sensational is Chiapasia Rubiet; of a ruby red color; slightly overcast with

fuchsia and a very decided fuchsia throat, the color running down into the flower tube. Flower slightly larger and opens wider than the *Chiapasia nelsonii*. Plant is also similar to the parent. Petal count ranges from 5 to 9.

CHIAPASIA MARIONETTE (1947): A spectacular-lilac-pink flower with darker tones of the same color and a complementary lime-green throat. The firm texture and regal carriage add to the beauty of this flower. Tubular at the base, it opens bell-like. Plant growth displays less of the *Chiapasia nelsoniii* characteristics.

CHIAPASIA NAYADA (Water Nymph, 1947): A very fantastic flower, with a background of a very delicate lavender; and a deep lilac border with symmetrical stripes running towards the center of the petals. The flower is bell-shaped, opening wide, petals overlap well, are pointed and of a firm texture. 2-1/4 inches in diameter. Plant growth is somewhat heavier than *Chiapasia nelsonii*. See photo on Page 8

NOTE: The above hybrid names all appear in the current Registry, but without the prefix of the word: Chiapasia. All Chiapasia species have been moved to Disocactus. - KCB



Disocactus nelsonii (Chiapasia nelsonii)



REFLECTIONS:

An Afternoon With Hybridizer Phyllis Flechsig

This is an excerpt from an interview with Hybridizer Phyllis Flechsig by Jim Nones.

"It looked funny to me," Phyllis Flechsig laughingly exclaimed in a conversation at her home regarding why she named the epi 'Clown'. She further went to say that if she had a dollar for every time a 'Clown' cutting was sold by others, she would be a millionaire. More laughter. True enough! 'Clown' was on everyone's wish list. Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens has said that it is the bestselling epi in all their years in business. Most people know the story that Phyllis bought a packet of epi seeds from Park Seed Company back in 1969. and 'Clown' and 'Antique Gown' were the results. She called herself the introducer of the flowers.

Phyllis Grant was born in Bayside in Northern California to Phil and Marian Grant. She went to college in Southern California majoring in Zoology and Biology. She was greatly influenced by her mother in her love of gardening. Mrs. Grant taught her to use seeds to grow and raise plants and vegetables. Phyllis uses the same principles to this day.

She settled in Southern California, married Arthur Flechsig, and raised two daughters and two sons. She named 'Katrin' and 'Natasha Flechsig' after her daughters. 'Marian Grant' was named for her mother., and 'Arturo' is after her husband who preferred to be called by that name. Asking why that is, she said, "It's an old family joke."

Except for a neighbor's barking dog, her home is situated in a quiet, quaint neighborhood. The property is filled with trees, plants and shrubs that she and Art have landscaped themselves and measures over an acre. A greenhouse and garden tables that her husband built for her, are overflowing with her seedling collection. She proudly shows me the original plant of her celebrated hybrid, 'Clown'. One can't help but gush with joy upon seeing it. You might consider it the Holy Grail in Epi Land.

In the 1970s, she started a successful mail order business selling primarily cacti and succulents, and her epi hybrids. All plants are grown from seeds. Aloes and agaves are her favorites. She proudly mentioned that she never bought them wholesale for resale. After more than 10 years, when her husband retired, she stopped her mail order business so they could travel and take cruises. "You can't have a mail order business and take long vacations." Nevertheless, she continues selling locally in the San Diego area at cactus/succulent shows.

Indeed, that's where I first met her at The Huntington Botanical Garden's Cactus & Succulent Society of America Show 12 years ago. She had a display of four tables with her plants and her name in big letters on a banner. Upon seeing the name, I thought could this be the same iconic person who introduced 'Clown', an unassuming, reserved, grey-haired lady with a big smile? Who would have thought?

Few people would think she would have time to have other hobbies and interests. After all, she did raise a family and has her own business. She is an avid knitter, and has belonged to the local guild for over 30 years. She showed me her knit sweaters and afghan blankets beaming with pride and elation. Let's not forget her tireless work as a volunteer at Quail Gardens, now named The San Diego Botanical Gardens.

Phyllis registered 25 hybrids such as 'Vista Sun', 'King's Ransom', 'Madras Ribbon', 'Bandera' and her last one before a new millennium started, 'Star Quality' in 1997. Fast-forward to 2011-2012, and with the assistance of Jerry Moreau from the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, she registered: 'Phyllis' Fancy', 'Choral Fantasy', 'Olivia Joy', 'Natalie Karrin' and 'Brianna Kathleen'. The last three are named after her granddaughters. Will we see more of her hybrids in the future? Probably so. Her favorite hybrid is 'Three Oranges'.



Phyllis Flechsig in her garden

WOMEN HYBRIDIZERS:

Phyllis Flechsig

The epiphyllum hybrids most epi growers can recognize by sight are: 'Clown,' followed by 'Sakurahime', 'Deutsche Kaiserin' and perhaps 'Padre'. Phyllis Flechsig is the originator of 'Clown' and the only one of our four featured ladies who is still with us. Her first registration was 'King's Ransom' which was actually registered by the California Epi Center in 1980, if Galen Pittman's "circa-date" is correct. It was followed by two more in 1982 with the CEC as Registrant: 'Vista Gold' and 'Vista Sun' Her latest registrations were in 2012, giving her a total of 27 registrations.





'Bandera'



'Clown'



'Flechsig's Flame'



'Flechsig's Sunset'



'Hearth Fire'



'Katrin'



'King's Ransom'



'Madras Ribbon'



'Natalie Karrin'



'Natasha Flechsig'



'Olivia Joy'



'Phyllis' Fancy'



'Ribbons & Ruffles'



'Tayopa'



'Three Oranges'



'Vista Sun'



'Yellowbird'



REFLECTIONS:

Ken Loomis' ESA Story

by Ken Loomis

My first epiphyllum was 'Marseillaise', purchased at a regular nursery back in the 1980s. My family then had acquired cuttings of 'Cooperi', 'King Midas' and 'Daisy Dean', but I personally didn't get involved because I was more fully engaged in travel and underwater photography. Next, we heard about Rainbow Gardens which was then located in La Habra, and that is where we met Jerry Williams. Rainbow had a limited selection back then. My wife at the time went to Cactus Pete's and fell in love with the epi, 'Space Rocket.' We were directed to Hurst's Nursery in El Monte to obtain it. In the winter of 1990, Ethel Hurst lost at least half of her plants due to a freeze, but she still had her only plant of 'Space Rocket' which she sold to me. Twenty five years later, I still have that plant and have repotted it twice.

I began to build a cordial relationship with Ethel. I would take 4" X 6" photos of her epies and give her a copy to help sell her plants. She in turn would give me rooted cuttings. In that way, I built up my collection. I was hooked.

It was through Ethel that I met Galen Pittman, Dick Kohlschreiber, Evelyn Shiraki, Jean Gray, Michelle Davis, Pat and Jerry Dobbins, and others. Ethel enticed me to join ESA and subsequently SBES and SDES. I love growing, exhibiting, and competing epies in shows. I have enjoyed the camaraderie amongst the members of ESA, South Bay and San Diego. It is my therapy.

A lot of people wonder what the water containers are that I put my epies in and where I get them. Keith Ballard calls them my donut bowls. They are called Dandy Pots, and they are the reservoirs for African violets. I don't use the tops or the wicks that come with the pots. I bought some at San Gabriel Nursery and some at Lakewood Nursery. I believe they come out of Florida and can be purchased online.

SCALE INSECTS

A reprint from The Bulletin: Vol. 66, No. 3 (Spring 2011)

by Keith Ballard

Scale are tiny parasitic insects that adhere to plants and live off the plant's sap. They look like bumps and are often mistaken for a disease. There are some 7,000 species of scale insects, varying greatly in color, shape and size, usually ranging from 1/16 - 1/8 inch. On our epies, they are most common where the air circulation is poor (like where two branches overlap), or on an otherwise stressed plant, but can occur elsewhere. A heavy infestation will do a lot of damage.

Scale are usually divided into 2 groups: soft scale and armored scale. Soft scale are covered with a protective waxy substance and are somewhat easier to kill than armored scale, which secrete a hard shell over their bodies for cover. Mealy bugs are also part of the scale family.

Scale eggs are laid under the female's body. They are called crawlers when they first hatch, because the nymphs have legs at this point and crawl off to find their own spot to attach and feed. Control measures are most effective during the crawler stage, which is in the late spring.

Scale is preved on by beneficial insects, such as lady bugs. For more direct treatments, one has a number of options. You can deal with the scale by drenching the mix with systemic insecticide as often as needed, depending on the active life of the product used. A good systemic is Cygon, but follow the handling instructions. Cygon may stain and has an odor. Malathion, if one also adds a tablespoon per gallon of Ivory dishwashing soap to the mix to cut the scale's waxy cover, also works. Generally, insecticide-killed scale does not fall off, if one wants it gone it takes wiping. For small infestations, ordinary rubbing alcohol, or lighter fluid, on a cloth or soap-free sponge and a little rubbing will wipe both soft or hard scale right off. Both these fluids dry the skin, so wear gloves. I am a big fan of latex gloves. Dexterity is better than with bulky leather or fabric, and they are inexpensive enough to discard after a single use. Watch for a possible allergic reaction to latex. Actually the gloves also give protection against all but the most "aggressive" of epi thorns.

Finally, for some green solutions, pruning the limited infected parts or whole branch off is one solution. Another is a spray of one tablespoon of Orange Oil or Neem Oil per gallon of water will kill scale, but again, the dead scale does not fall off. An advantage of the orange oil is you can get it in your mouth without fear of harm.

WOMEN HYBRIDIZERS:

Clarian Steele

by Keith Ballard (Generally from the pages of The ESA Bulletins, and the epi data base.)

Mrs. Steele holds the record for the largest number of epi registrations by an ESA member before the ESA was founded in 1940. She is second only to H.M. Wegener's registration of 'Lynn Gilbert' with the registration date of 1935, as the earliest ESA hybridizer to register their originations. Mrs. Steele registered three hybrids with a date of 1936 and a total of 119 by 1939. Clearly these early dates were the epies' creation dates, which were used for all the registrations before the ESA was founded. Mrs. Steele's total number of registrations is 318, most of which have original dates.

Clarian Steele was a contemporary of Theresa Monmonier and called one of the "Champions of Epiphyllums" in those early days. Her flowers were often featured in local Los Angeles nurseries as being entered and winning at Cactus Shows. In Shirley Marneus' article: "Introducing Our Founders," she relates how Mrs. Steele became one of the original 25 members of the ESA at the last meeting before WWII.

Mrs. Steele's name is found in 46 Bulletins, but in most cases it is as part of a flower description.

Of her registrations I have only one, namely 'Flamingo.'



'Welcome'



'Bonnie Brae'



'Bridesmaid'



'Bruin'



'Emerald Isle'



'Fiesta'



'Flamingo'



'Gamut'



'Golden Gleam'



'Hawaii'



'Ivory'



'Katydid'



'Lady Edna'



'Minuet'



'Pandora'



'Phosphor'



'Rhodamine'



'Rosalie'



'Sunburst'



'Symphony'



'Tarantula'



'Tulip'



Staghorn Ferns

by Keith Ballard

Editor's Note: Tony Yanko gave me a piece of a staghorn fern and I put it in my epi garden. It turns out that staghorns are an epiphyte and are quite at home with epi growing conditions. The two kinds of leaves are quite apparent from the picture. The following material is directly off the internet and credited to Dr. T. Ombrello of the UCC Biology Department.

Common names:

Staghorn fern, Elk's horn fern, Antelope ear Scientific name: Platycerium species Explanation of scientific name: Platycerium - the Greek word for broad-horn

The 17 species of staghorn ferns represent one of the most unusual groups of ferns. The leaves of many of the members of the staghorn genus (Platycerium) are antler-like in appearance rather than like a typical fern's foliage. Once seen, it becomes apparent why the common names and the scientific name for this group are most appropriate.

Staghorns have just about a worldwide natural distribution. For example, Platycerium bifurcatum comes from Eastern Australia, New Guinea, and New Caledonia; Platycerium andinum is native to Peru and Bolivia; Platycerium alcicorne is found in Madagascar; and Platycerium grande originates from Australia, Singapore, and the Philippines. While mostly tropical, a few species can tolerate cold weather. Platycerium bifurcatum, the most common species imported into this country, can tolerate temperatures as low as 15F.

Besides their unusual shape, staghorns occupy an uncommon habitat. They do not grow rooted into the ground, they are instead epiphytes. They "grow upon others." Commonly found on trunks of trees or in the crotches of limbs, staghorns use these plants for support, but are not parasites and do not draw any nutrition from their hosts. For nutrition and moisture, the staghorns rely on leaves falling from above to decay into humus, and frequent rainfall. They are perfectly adapted to their habitat since they thrive on a loose, light, humus soil that is well drained and never remains water saturated for any significant length of time.

Like all other ferns, the staghorns produce no flowers, fruits, or seeds. They reproduce themselves primarily by spores, which are single-celled reproductive units that are produced on the undersides of leaves. These spores are released and carried by the wind. Some fall on a suitable location, perhaps hundreds of feet above the ground in a tree, and begin the next generation

of staghorns that will ultimately grow into mature plants. Staghorns also can reproduce by means of "pups." Mature plants produce small but intact plantlets (pups) that can detach from the parent plant, and fall to take root somewhere below, often on the same tree.

Unlike other ferns, most staghorns have two kinds of leaves or fronds. One of these is the sterile leaf, which is shield or dish shaped. It is called sterile because it does not produce spores. Each sterile leaf, as it grows, clasps the support on which it is found. Initially green, they turn brown and become parchment-like with age. Besides holding the plant in place, the spaces between the layers of sterile leaves accumulate water and dead decaying vegetation, supplying moisture and humus to the plant.

The other leaf type is the fertile leaf. It is erect or spreading and mostly antler-forked. It remains green at maturity, to carry on photosynthesis to provide nutrition for the plant. It is called fertile because it produces spores, found mostly at or towards the ends of the antlers. The white, dust-like material that is visible on the leaves is actually hair projecting from the leaf surface. These star-shaped (stellate) hairs are thought to inhibit moisture loss from the leaf surface.

Staghorns make hardy and long-lived houseplants, as long as one recognizes their natural requirements and duplicates them as best as possible. They thrive if attached to a plaque along with some humus. They should be watered frequently, letting them dry slightly between waterings. They enjoy very bright light but not full sun. While individual staghorns have been known to reach several hundred pounds in weight, the indoor gardener should not worry about this.



Does An Organic Mix Make Any Difference To An Epi?

by Keith Ballard

Gisele Schoniger of Kellogg gave an interesting presentation on the use of organic soil mixes at the ESA's July 2015 general meeting, but it begs the question: does an organic mix make any difference to an epi? So, I decided to find out.

First, I had a little trouble finding some **Kellogg** Garden Products. Gisele said that generally the **Kellogg** Products are found at the smaller nurseries, not the "big box" stores. A list of smaller nursery supply stores were rattled off by the audience and her, which included **OSH**. So I tried several smaller supply stores, and my not-so-local **OSH**, without success. Then I tried the biggest of the big box stores, **Home Depot**, and found the complete line. These were marked with the old Kellogg logo, not the new G&B logo, but they did have the OMRI seal. The packages are marked "Organic," so they must also meet California's organic requirements to be sold in California. So I bought the "Organic Mix for Acid-Loving Plants," and the "Organic General-Purpose Fertilizer."

I happened to have two cuttings of each of the following: 'Eva Paetz,' 'Spring on Mars,' 'Vanilla Sunset' and 'Zinger.' The cuttings were not all exactly the same size, and their quality ranged from good to so-so, but each pair was taken from the same original plant. My normal mix is two parts coir (coconut husk fiber), two parts Perlite, two parts LGM All-Purpose Planting Soil, one part orchid bark and one cup of my 7% N2 fertilizer mix to five gallons of planting mix. One set of the cuttings was planted on July 17, 2015 in my normal mix. The other set of cuttings was also planted on the same day, in a mix in which the Kellogg Shade Mix (subtitled "For Acid-Loving Plants"), was substituted for the LGM,

and **Kellogg** All-Purpose fertilizer was substituted for my original fertilizer. The **Kellogg** fertilizer package states that the N2 content is also 7%, but 6% is waterinsoluble. As it's the only choice, the impact and results are whatever they are going to be. Incidentally, none of the cuttings here received the shot of a high level of N2 as discussed elsewhere in this Bulletin.

All of the cuttings are sitting side by side to keep conditions the same, and have been misted daily. By August 15th, all cuttings were rooted. I see one improvement already with misting every day; all the cuttings look better. Further results will come with time. I didn't have any pairs of rooted plants in larger than the three-inch pots I use for rooting cuttings, but I also wanted to try the Kellogg mix in general. So, I repotted a selection of 20 total plants with the Kellogg mix for the following four reasons: (1) Plants that were due to be repotted anyway at my usual repotting interval of five years (2) Plants that "looked bad" (3) Plants that did not bloom this year, but had bloomed before, but showed no signs of growth (4) Plants that had outgrown their pots. I don't know yet how many overall distinctions between the Kellogg and regular mix can be made, but one thing I have already noticed is that of plants being routinely repotted but which were repotted with the Kellogg mix this time, a number showed new growth in about 30 days from the date they were repotted, much faster than for plants in my old mix. Again, as with the cuttings, further results will come with time.

A late "News Flash" for the cutting mix comparison study is that the 'Spring on Mars' cutting planted in the **Kellogg** mix showed new growth on Aug 25th. That's less than 6 weeks from planting.

The only cutting planted in regular mix that shows new growth is 'Vanilla Sunset.' The narrow growth on the right of the support stick for the regular mix 'Zinger' is the edge of previous growth. All of the **Kellogg** mix cuttings show new growth, however, it's all from the top of the cuttings. Growth from the top of a rooted cutting is often called a "rabbit ear," and is cut off as it is not considered strong. This is to force the cutting to grow from the roots, which is considered stronger. If this is a pattern of such growth it is not a good thing. Like Alice said in Alice in Wonderland, "curiouser and curiouser." We'll just have to see what happens with time.



'Vanilla Sunset' 'Zinger' 'Eva Paetz' 'Spring On Mars' Mix Comparison Study Cutting Pairs (Kellogg mix is always on the right)

WOMEN HYBRIDIZERS:

Alice Buchanan

by Keith Ballard

Mrs. Buchanan's name is known to most of our readers because of the introduction in the article about the winners of the Alice Buchanan Award generally found in the Winter Bulletin. This reads: "In December 1981, shortly before her death, Alice Buchanan donated 2,800 rooted epi cuttings to the Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA). Soon thereafter, the ESA Board of Directors established the Alice Buchanan Award to honor her memory...." Apparently the number of cuttings was a bit overwhelming, as later in the 1980s, a Bulletin ad reads: "Alice Buchanan cuttings are still available at the rock bottom price of 3 for a dollar."

Mrs. Buchanan's name appears 62 times in the Bulletin, but the vast majority of times are in reference to the Alice Buchanan Award.

From The Bulletin, Vol. 35, No. 5 (May-June 1980): "Among the most active retailers and hybridizers of epiphyllums are Bob and Lois Burks and Robert and Alice Buchanan, better known as the California Epi Center... The Burks and Buchanans first opened for business five years ago (1975) after many years of successfully raising epies as a hobby."



Alice Buchanan in her garden

The ESA Registry shows 100 registrations of Mrs. Buchanan's hybrids. She personally registered three between 1978 and 1981. Around 95 of the 100 were registered by Ethel Hurst (HST) after Mrs. Buchanan had passed. Lois Burks has one registration and the California Epi Center (CEC) has six. Therefore, the CEC must have been selling a lot of originations from other hybridizers, and were growing at lot of cuttings to eventually be sold. I know that 'Texas Star,' 'Winston' and 'Super Duper' (which had 15 blooms for me this year) still exist, as I have them.

One of the Bulletin references to Mrs. Buchanan in 1976 was about her garden as the last stop on a formal epi garden tour. In this period, garden tours were a "Big Deal," even bigger than the annual shows. The schedule for this particular tour involved two rented buses and had seven garden stops, one of which was at a former address of the Beardsleys. The trip had 2 rest stops, a lunch stop, covered 114 miles and was scheduled for 8 hours and 18 minutes. The report on the tour states that Mrs. Buchanan's garden was "delightful."



Alice Buchanan



Alice Buchanan (L) Lois Burks (R)



'Arctic Mist'



'Brazillian Beauty'



'Bride's Dream'



'Canadian Dusk'



'Canadian Expo'



'Canadian Gentleman'



'Charles Hardy'



'Chatter Box'



'Color Splash'



'Coral Sands'



'Court Jester'



'Elegant Lady'



'Falling In Love'



'French Lipstick'



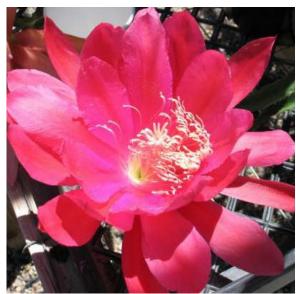
'Happy Holiday'



'Hard To Believe'



'Harvest Queen'



'Hawaii Calls'



'Hawaiian Monarch'



'Hawaiian Punch'



'Heaven Sent'



'Hidden Love'



'High Society'



'I Love It'



'Kassandra'



'Kissin' Cousin'



'Kona Coast'



'Lasting Beauty'



'Magic Carpet'



'Midnight Orchid'



'Paradise Found'



'Peach Melba'



'Pink Bubbles'



'Pink Snowflake'



'Pristine'



'Real Delight'



'Silly Girl'



'Spring Love'



'Sunset Serenade'



'Super Duper'



'Susan Wiley'



'Temple Of Beauty'



'Texas Star'



'Unbeatable'



'Trail Blazer'



'Vanilla Ice'



'True Gypsy'



'Whatta Dream'



REFLECTIONS:

My Memories of Epiphyllum Culture in The 1940's

Reprint from The Bulletin: Vol. 61, No. 1 (Autumn 2005)

by Mark Piette

I was 10 years old and in the 6th grade at Margaret Heath School in Baldwin Park, California at the end of WWII in 1945. Our class built a small lath house from material the teacher scrounged somewhere and a classmate, Jack Mergette (name spelling uncertain), took several of us to see his father's epiphyllum nursery in Baldwin Park. Mr. Mergette was knowledgeable in all types of plant culture, but was very partial to epiphyllums. I purchased some cuttings right away and many more later. In rural agricultural California, a boy made money working on chicken ranches and around orange groves and berry farms. If memory serves me, a cutting cost \$3.00 to \$5.00 for the most common hybrids. The popular varieties at the time were 'Gloria', 'Sun Goddess', 'Germania', 'Padre', 'Conway's Giant', 'Vive Rouge', 'Flamingo', 'Blaue Flamme' and of course, 'Deutsche Kaiserin'. The potting mix, as given to me by Mr. Mergette, consisted of equal amounts of sand, leafmold, topsoil and steer manure. It seemed to work well enough, as I remember. I raked the leafmold from under sumac bushes in the San Gabriel wash. My brother raked a rattlesnake from under one of those bushes very near what is now the junction of freeways 10 and 605. The cuttings were marked with "India Ink" and started in flats. When the plants attained enough growth they were repotted in tin cans. I was never able to start an epi from seed, but I did try.

I was successful in getting my dad to take me to Cactus Pete's, Beahm Gardens and Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens where I really had my eyes opened to the newer varieties. I have never forgotten Coolidge Gardens' "Jeweled Corridor."

I joined the ESA in 1947 and got my dad to take me to a meeting in the old L.A. Central Library in Los Angeles. It was interesting, and I particularly remember the discussion about nobody having yet succeeded in hybridizing a completely yellow epi. There was a slideshow with emphasis on flowers containing yellow. I was awed to see such "famous" people as Cactus Pete, but it didn't take long to discover that I was the strange one there and 12 year-old kids don't have a lot of fun in an otherwise adult setting.

One Saturday morning, my dad took me to the cabinet factory he managed in Alhambra. All lumber was purchased raw and milled on site. It looked like they had held off burning the scrap for a week. My dad set up the sticker (a large shaper that converts wood to lengths of a specified shape, usually molding) and we milled the whole pile

of scrap to laths. I used the laths to convert the frame of an old henhouse to a 40 by 20 foot greenhouse.

Around this time, I heard about the publication of *Epiphyllum Handbook* by Haselton and I asked the L.A. library in Baldwin Park to order the book. I knew I had to have the book when I read it, but the price tag was \$17.00. This was huge in those days, for me anyway. I borrowed a neighbor's Smith Corona typewriter and spent the better part of a week copying that book. Probably nobody believes this story, but it is true. I obtained a 2' printing copy from Amazon for \$36.00 about five years ago.

The Mergettes moved to Vista, CA and I lost track of them. A few years ago I heard that Mr. Mergette had started a nursery in Vista. Jack had become well known in Vista as "Cactus Jack" and has since passed on. I went on to Covina Union High School and continued to grow epies until I graduated in 1952. The economics of making a going business of growing epies were not especially auspicious in 1952 and feeling the driving need to get out of the nest at 17, I went to work for the U.S. Forest Service the day after graduation.

Many years went by and after stints in the US Army, and various electronics engineering and management positions I retired from Boeing and The McDonnell Douglas Companies as a Senior Engineer/Scientist. A few years before retiring, I began to dabble with epies again and when I did retire I began to spend more and more time on the epies. I have a number of hybrid seedlings, but none have flowered yet. I've got my fingers crossed in the hopes that at least one will bloom next spring.

I have worked on and with computers for so many years that I just sort of slipped into starting the Epi Galleria. I enjoy having it and the contacts and friends it makes for me. There is a major difference between the number of aficionados today and during the 1940s, but the real difference is the internet and the lightning swift communication. It's almost as if the 1940s were not just in another time, but in another place.

In Memoriam

We have been recently informed by Dr. Dick Kohlschreiber that Jerry Friedman has passed away. Jerry was a long time member ot both the ESA and the South Bay Epi society (SBES), although Jerry was most active at SBES. He was an avid epi collector, grower and hybridizer even though his growing area was limited to the balcony of his condo. He and his wife Dorothy retired to Los Osos, CA a number of years ago, but would often drive down to the SBES Annual Shows and the Christmas Party.

There are 12 registrations for Jerry and Dorothy (D&JF) hybrids, including 'Bonito Oso' and 'Miss Piggy'. There are also 6 registrations of George French's (FRE) flowers, including 'Curds 'N' Whey' and 9 registrations of Wressey Cocke's (WC) flowers, including 'Marmalade 'N' Honey'.



Jeff Bates Becomes Recording Secretary

Jeff Bates bought his first Epiphyllum hybrid, just named 'Epiphyllum' by a local nursery in Davis, CA, while he was attending UC Davis in 1989. Like many others, it turned out to be 'Padre.' At this time he had no idea about Epiphyllum hybrids, and he treated it badly, giving it too much sun and not enough water at times. Close to 20 years later he decided to re-pot it and move it to a better location, where it finally bloomed.

Around that same time, as was his habit, he visited a plant sale at the Los Angeles Arboretum, where he met Jim Nones and Fred Stegner and they encouraged him to go to a meeting. Jeff was impressed at how friendly and welcoming the ESA was, and so he joined, and has been a member since then.

London Epiphyllums (UK)

www.Londonepiphyllums.com

Grow your collection with us, supplying
-Epiphyllum rooted cuttings, cuttings and plants
We try really hard to help you become an enthusiast too!

Email: Mikes801@hotmail.com

Dr Rudi Dorsch!

Epiphyllum Society of America c/o Geneva Coats, Treasurer 13674 Geranium St. Chino, CA 91710-5080 909-438-8242 September, 2015 Dear

It's that time of year again! Time to ask for your continued support in 2016 as a member of the Society. Dues are \$20 for electronic membership and \$30 for a postal mail membership.

All members are entitled to access the "Members" section of the ESA website, while postal members will also receive a copy of the quarterly Bulletin by postal mail. If you are a life member and wish to receive the printed Bulletin, the fee is \$10 per year.

Please enclose \$______to update your membership dues through the end of 2016 or \$______to update as a postal mail member. The deadline for dues to be received for 2016 is November 2, 2015.

To access the website, please go to: www.epiphyllums.org and sign up for an account if you have not already done so. In the "Members Only" section you will find the latest editions of the Bulletin, along with other valuable news and information. Content is ever-expanding, so check back frequently!

Please complete the membership renewal form including your preferred email address and return along with your check using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. A holiday dinner reservation form is also included for your convenience. If you prefer to use a credit card for your payments, you can send a Paypal payment to ESA.Treasurer@yahoo.com or use the Square Market option. https://squareup.com/market/epiphyllum-society-of-america. For your convenience, we have links to Paypal and Square Market on www.epiphyllums.org

Don't delay, send your dues today! This is the only reminder notice you will receive by mail. The Society appreciates your continued support. We hope to see you at the annual December holiday meeting at the Monrovian on December 5.

Sincerely,

Geneva Coats Treasurer Epiphyllum Society of America



New Members For 2015

Gregory Balvin Nancy Lehew Derek Obayashi Springfield, OH Bradenton, FL Chicago, IL

Lorna CardonRenee MaguirePhi TechnologiesOrlando FLGrover Beach, CATauranga New Zealand

Stephen DorseyTina MayGeorgia PiotterAzusa, CAEl Dorado, CAPacifica, CA

Loretta HansonRobert MillerStephanie ReddingCalabasas, CACamarillo, CaliforniaAransas Pass, TX

Donald HelselTom MooreTheo SiegCrescent City, CaliforniaBakersfield CASan Rafael CAGinette KelleyConnie MountsSandra WilliamsStirling CanadaIndiantown, FloridaClermont, FL

Calendar of Events

DEC 2015 No Board or General Meeting Scheduled

JAN 2016 No General Meeting

ESA BOARD MEETING Tue., Jan 26

FEB 2016

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

Program: TBD

Refreshments: Members with last name starting with A thru Bc the February meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up. **Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Lecture Hall 2 aka. The Bamboo Room.

ESA BOARD MEETING Tue., Feb 23

MAR 2016

ESA GENERAL MEETING Tue., Mar 1, 7:30 p.m.

Program: TBD

Refreshments: Members with last name starting with Bd thru Cr the March meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up. **Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Lecture Hall 2 aka. The Bamboo Room.

ESA BOARD MEETING Tue., Mar 29

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.

l	LAST INITIAL	MEETING DATE	D-Ha	Tue, April 5, 2016
l	A-Bc	. Tue., Feb. 2, 2016	He-Ku	Tue. May 3, 2016
l	Bd-Cr	. Tue., Mar 1, 2016	L-Mu	Tue, June 7, 2016