



# Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

August, 2009

Volume 34, Number 8

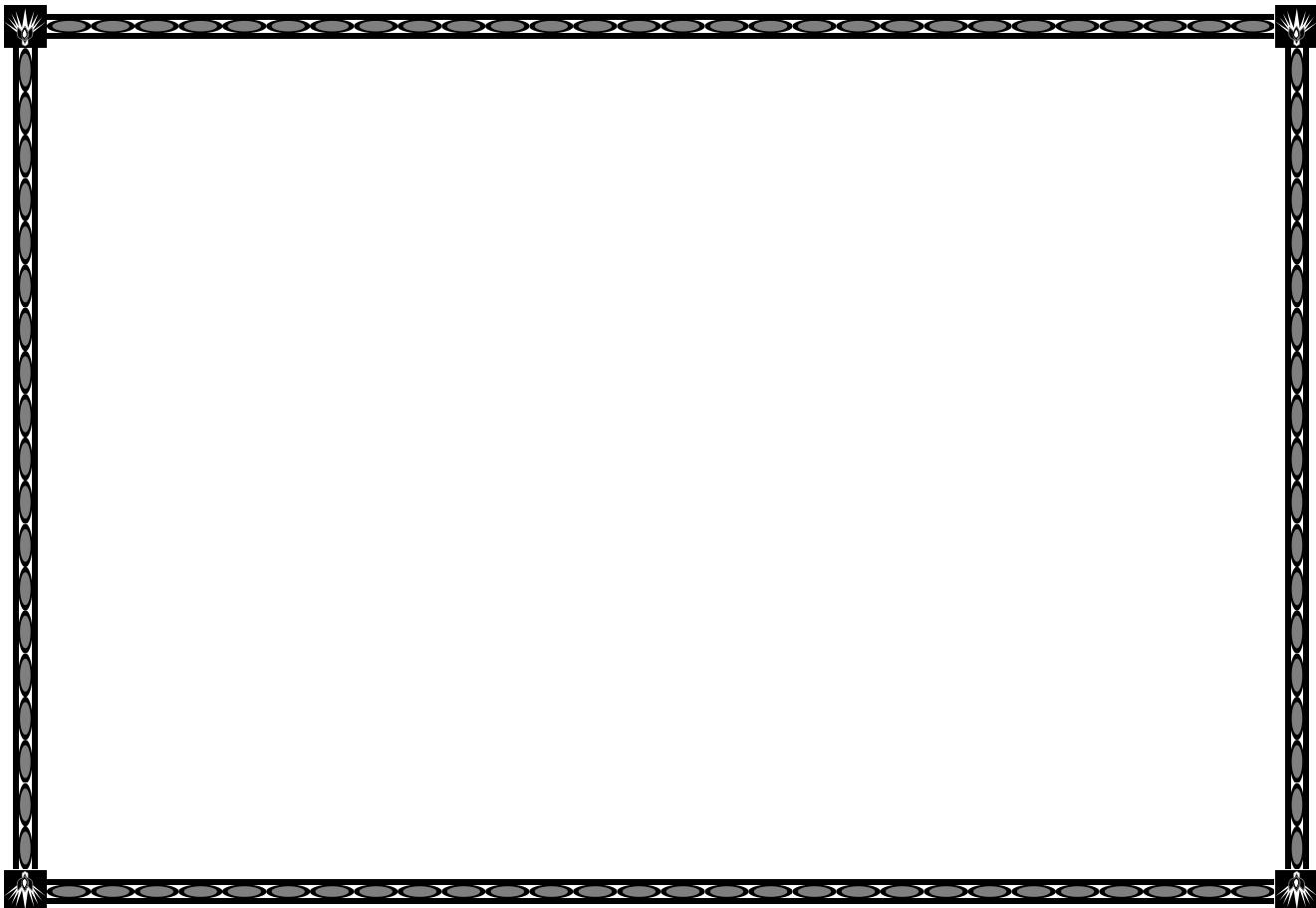
## 'Jean Marie Seile'

Size: Large

Cross: 'Stern von Erlau' x 'Professor Ebert'

Hybridizer: Richard Latimer

Photograph by Jerry Moreau





## President's Corner:

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We don't have many epies blooming now but we can take time and smell our roses and other plants. It was Epiphyllum Day at the San Diego Fair on July 3rd. We did have a few blooms. I think I had five and Phil Peck brought one bloom and a representative plant, plus we had posters. Ron Crain and Phil both gave two very informative talks. Phil had also given a talk on June 19th. We had SDES members Velma Crain, Mischa Dobrotin, Gail Eisele, Katelyn Hissong, and myself working at the table and answering questions.

Good news and bad news. First the good news, Jeff Hilbers has graciously accepted the duties of Recording Secretary for the rest of the year. Which

leads us to the bad news (for SDES) Jill Rowney (Peck) is moving to Northern California to be closer to her mother and other family members (good news for Jill, Mom and grandkids). Jill has kindly agreed to continue doing the newsletter. It is up to the rest of us to send her info, pictures etc. Her e-mail is on back of newsletter, so please help by sending her news items.

Our appreciation dinner will be on August 22nd. There has been a change of time and location. George French and his daughter Kathy have invited us to have it at their home. Michal agreed to this and we hope we will see Michal's home next year. It will start at 2:00 p.m. and feature BBQ. More information on page 6.

*Sandra*

## August General Meeting

**Pre-meeting Workshop:** — Last month's session dealt with pest control; this month's topic is yet to be determined, but with Ron Crain hosting, it will surely be an informative session. Pre-meeting classes are held in Room 104 of the Casa del Prado at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. If you have a topic or questions you would like to have discussed, contact Ron at 619-421-4785.

**Program:** Discover the world of Bromeliads. They're the plants that can fill in the shady spaces underneath your hanging epis.

**Refreshment:** If you enjoyed the delicious popsicles last month, you'll surely enjoy tonight's ice cream sundaes! Many thanks to Marj Myers!

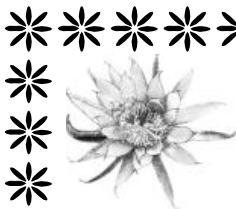


## About 'Jean Marie Seile' featured on the cover

I first remember meeting Jean back in 1983 when she knocked on my grandparents' door and surprised us with a flower of Strictum. I was hooked! Through her generosity and kindness, I was given lots of cuttings and was introduced to many members of the epi society. She has been a true friend of the family for many years, even helping my grandparents during the WWII. Although she doesn't come to the regular

meetings, she does still attend the Mother's Day Show and I see her every time I am in San Diego. The plant of Jean Marie Seile was a seedling of the Latimers, and they were not going to name the plant but gave it to Jean after she fell in love with the flower during a visit to their house. With the help of George French, she registered the flower under her namesake.

—Derek Obayashi



## Calendar of Epi Events:

August 22—SDES Party: 'Volunteer Thank You ' Barbecue  
September 5—Southwestern College "Green Scene"





## Wild Animal Park

—Jerry Moreau

This month at the Wild Animal Park there was a great amount of work done. The terra cotta pots that we ordered from Tecate arrived. A big THANK YOU to Judy Johnson for doing all the work of going down to Tecate, ordering the pots, and with Jeff Hilbers, picking up the finished pots and hauling them to the park. Now more plants can be added to the lower (public) house. The pots are hung and next month the plants will be placed in them for display. This is the second time in all these many years that Judy has done this for the epi exhibit. Judy goes above and beyond anytime she is asked to help. Thank you.

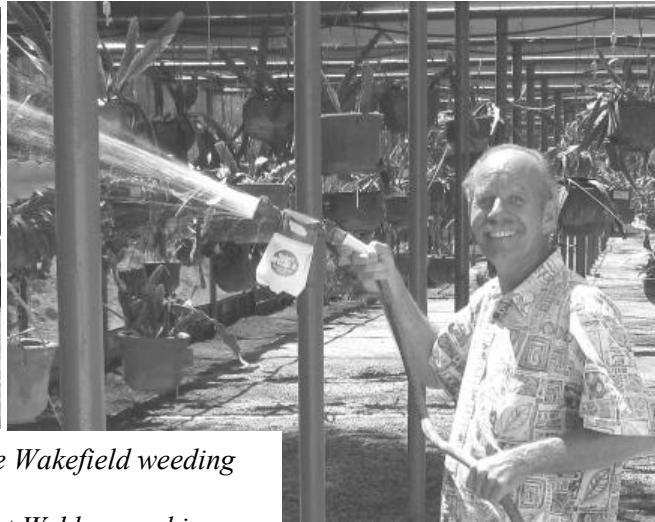
Allen Pellymounter donated some beautiful agave and aloe for the bank by the upper (Howard L. Jones) epi house. This was the last planting for the bank and will fill in nicely. These plants came from Kirsten Pellymounter's house (you may have the epi named for her, a beautiful

yellow). She is Allen's mother and was a long time SDES member. This was Allen's first time at the WAP, I look forward to having him come join us more in the future.

I want a special welcome for a new member and new volunteer at the WAP, Marie Dempewolf. It was a pleasure having her pitch in and helping out. I'm looking forward to working again with Marie in the future.

Pat Neal, a long time SDES member, came and joined us at the park. She is a hard worker and a wealth of information. I hope to see her more often.

Helping out this month was Rufus Berlin-game, Sandra Chapin, Ron Crain, Marie Dempewolf, Jeff Hilbers, Don Huckle, Bill Greene, Judy Johnson, Jerry Moreau, Pat Neal, Allen Pellymounter, Jill Rowney, Janice Wakefield, and Robert Webb.

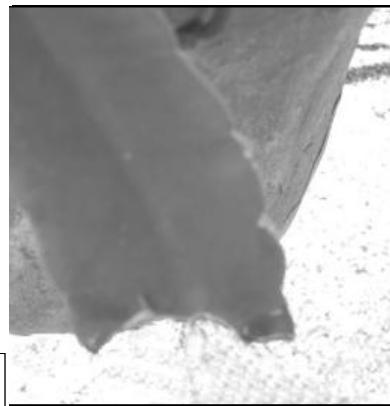
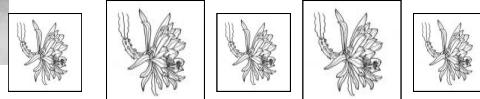


Top Left : Janice Wakefield weeding in lower house;

Top right: Robert Webb quenching the thirst of those plants missed by the sprinkler system,

Left: Pat Neal planting agave on the bank between the houses;

Right: Tell-tale signs of dining deer. The damaged foliage has scarred off. With installation of the new doors, dinners for the deer are officially over-forever!



## Epi This n' That

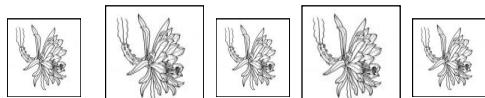
—By Jerry Moreau

### How does your epi collection grow?

Now that the blooming season is over I find myself going out in my yard and being a little sad not seeing any epis in bloom. This spring was spectacular for me with all the epi blooms. In helping me to fend off my epi depression I have been collecting epis that are free flowering, meaning that they bloom off-season. Walking through my yard I noticed I had buds on 'Karen Childs', 'Orange Bouquet', 'Naranja', and 'Harald Knebel'. I just had a few blooms finish on 'Million Dollar'. Sandra Chapin tells me that she has buds on 'Stern Von Erlau', 'Naranja', 'Pacesetter', 'Confetti', 'Giant Empress', 'Snowflake', 'Something Special', 'Ganesha', 'Orange Icing', and 'Joy Edstrom'. I have found from talking to epi experts the small flowering epis tend to bloom more frequently. There are a few George French hybridized which George tells me that are winter bloomers. He pointed to 'Crimson Arrow', 'Striped Beauty', and 'Autumn Gold' as examples of some of them. Galen

Pittman reports that many from Wressey Cocke's '50' cross will also bloom off-season. He suggests from that group 'African Queen' and 'Imperial Majesty' are especially good ones. He also suggests 'Prof. Herbert S. Irwin', 'Star Wars', 'Shirley Aline' and 'Winston'. Also the epiphytic species bloom in the summer and sometimes more than once a year. The *ESA Directory of Species & Hybrids* is a good source to find out which ones do bloom more often. One that I picked up because the directory says that it blooms off-season is 'Robert E. Lee' (also listed as 'General Robert E. Lee') but so far it has not bloomed off-season for me. I will keep it to see if it does this year. The *EpiNews* reports each off-season month what is in bloom. This time last year there were many epis reported to bloom, too many to list here. If you want to extend your blooming season keep an eye out in the *EpiNews* each month for what is in bloom. Check to see if more than one grower has it in bloom.

Till next month—Happy Growing.



## Cuttings needed for "Green Scene"

Next month will be the 2nd Annual Green Scene at the South Bay Botanic Garden located at Southwestern College in Chula Vista. The SDES will be attending this event again this year. We need donations of cuttings and volunteers to sell and promote the Society. Please bring any cuttings you can contribute to this month's meeting. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting if you can attend the event and help out. The college is located at 900 Otay Lakes Road, the Botanic Garden is in the back of the college campus near the tennis courts. We hope to see you there, Saturday Sept. 5th 9:00 to 3:00 pm.



## Now is the Time

- ✓ **Groom plants.** Remove dried up or scarred foliage. Keep debris out of branches and containers.
- ✓ **Protect plants from extreme sun and wind.**
- ✓ **Monitor humidity.** Mist when necessary.
- ✓ **Do not let soil dry out.**
- ✓ **Protect developing fruit.** Some birds love to eat them..
- ✓ **Bait for snails and slugs.**

"South Bay Botanic Garden is San Diego County's newest botanical garden and the first in South County. It is a little oasis tucked into a remote corner of Southwestern College" ([www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080824/news\\_lhs24botanic.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080824/news_lhs24botanic.html) August, 2008

## From our Librarian:

# Outside of A Dog

*Outside of a dog, a man's best friend is a book. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.* -- Groucho Marx

By Linda Sinkovic, Librarian

First, a quick book review.

### Cactus and Succulent Journal, #56 1984 (US)

This book collects all six numbers of volume #56 of the Cactus and Succulent Journal, the journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. This journal contains a range of articles over different types of cactus and succulent plants. Some of the interesting articles include

“Nopalxochia horichii, a new cactus from Costa Rica” by Myron Kimnach (page 4), “Adromischus – my foot” by John Pilbeam (page 51), “Acids, Bases and pH for Plant Lovers – Fact and Fiction” by B. Jack McCormick (page 274). Bear in mind this is a small sampling of the articles in this compilation; anyone with an interest in succulents and cactus should be able to find something interesting to read.

As this book is simply a bound set of volume #56, it does not have an ISBN number. Some of the back issues of the CSJ are available on the Cactus and Succulent Society of America website (<http://www.cssainc.org/>) though volume #56



does not appear on the list at this time.

This book is a recommended read. Even if you are only interested in epiphytic cactus, there are some articles on that subject, whereas if you have a wider interest in cactus and succulents (as I do) there are plenty of articles to keep you busy. Available in the library now, for your reading pleasure.

Last month I listed a few sites where you could look up photos of epiphyllums online. For this month, here are a few sites about other epiphytic plants that you may grow in addition to your epis:

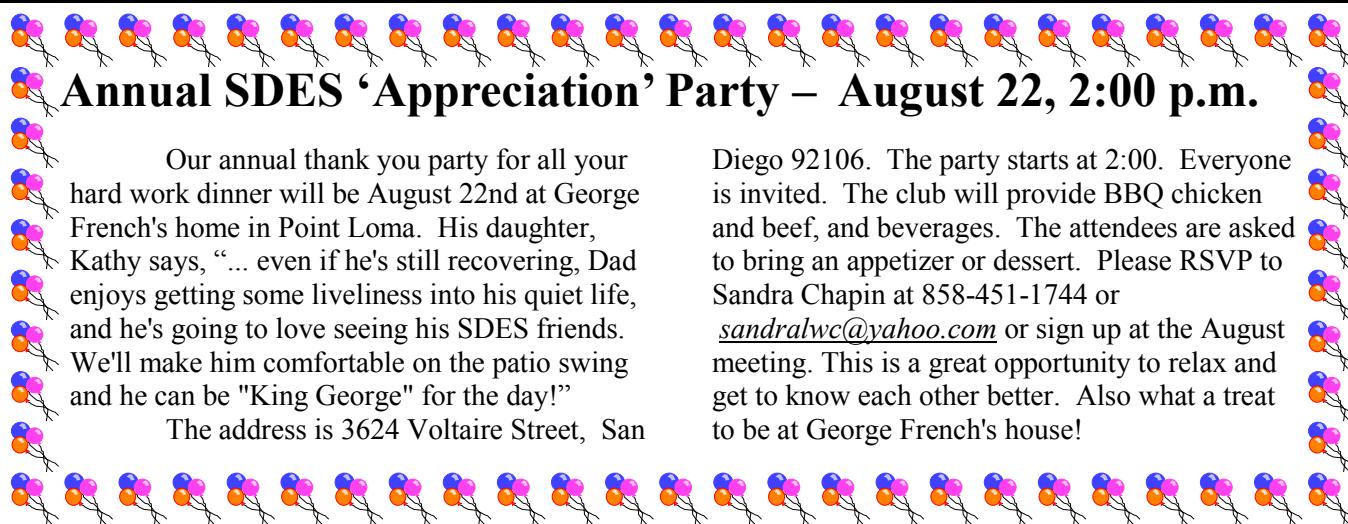
**Rhipsalis, Lepismium, Hatiora, Schlumbergera:** (<http://www.rhipsalis.com/>) -- this is a great resource to help you identify rhipsalis in your collection.

### **Schlumbergera:**

(<http://www.schlumbergera.org/>) -- this website has some information about schlumbergera (Christmas cactus). This site is affiliated with EPRIC (<http://www.epric.org/>) which has photos and information about European epiphyllum and Schlumbergera hybrids.

### **Epiphytic Cacti:** ([http://pagesperso-orange.fr/cactusepiphytes/z\\_index.htm](http://pagesperso-orange.fr/cactusepiphytes/z_index.htm))

Michel Comberneux's website, discussing many different types of epiphytic plants. Lots of photos and good information here.





## Mail Bag & Items of Interest



### Extend the life of your blooms!

.....I have found that holding a lit match to the stem of the flower, right after cutting it and before putting it in water, will extend the bloom life for up to 5 days. I usually sear the stem for about 10 seconds. I have done this with a number of blooms since May and never had one last less than 4 days. Next season I will do some experimenting with different ingredients in water to see if they make any difference, too.

—From Linda Eastman, N.Y.

### 'Carmen Paetz'- no "ordinary red"

I thought this German intro was "just another RED" noting its first and second year performance. And, it was just that - one uniform shade of red and 5.5" blossom. But, this year the tree in which it hangs was thinned - a lot - and the fronds (of the epi) are very red from too much sun. The net result was continuous bloom from mid-April and still has more to go. It frequently has six blooms open at a time! [gbange@att.net](mailto:gbange@att.net)

—From George Bange, San Diego

### George French-full recovery is

**expected** I received a call from George French and his daughter Kathy. They said that George has been diagnosed with colon cancer. It is small and found early. He will be having surgery July 23rd and will be in the hospital for a week. His doctors believe that because it is small and caught early they will be able to remove it and are expecting George to have a full recovery. Over all George is doing well. He asked me to let everyone know that he is doing well and plans on a full and speedy recovery. Says Kathy, "Dad is very upbeat and has his eyes on the goal of living to 100!"

I know George enjoys receiving cards and I think would appreciate some during this time.

—Jerry Moreau



### Epi Day at the Fair, July 3

Ron Crain speaks to a captive audience.



### Photo Contest in November

Don't forget to check through all of the beautiful photos you amassed after this year's bountiful offering. November's meeting will host the annual photo contest .

**Note from the Editor—** For those of you who may be interested, I have taken this opportunity to take a year's leave of absence from my teaching and move to Mariposa, CA to be with my mom who will turn 92 this month. She has limited strength and mobility in her limbs and I am looking forward to helping her with general daily routines and whiling away the time with good music, conversation and bouts of Scrabble (she usually beats us all!).

I will continue to edit the *Epi News* but will depend on you all to keep my apprised of society news and events. My new e-mail is [jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com) and, since my cell phone doesn't get a very good signal in the Sierra Foothills, my mom's land line will have to do. (209-966-3364)



## Welcome to our New Members!

Kathy Marr  
San Diego, 92177



Sue Pearce  
Fallbrook, CA\*  
\*(would like to carpool  
to meetings)



## Want List

Janice Wakefield

619-464-1086

'Clarence Wright'

Dijonnaise'

'Augusta Von Szombathy'



## What Bloomed in July?

**Barb Alvarez:** *E. pumilum*, *E. oxypetalum*, 'Litega', 'Tiny Jewel'

**Sandra Chapin:** 'Confetti', 'Giant Empress', 'Joy Edstrom', 'Naranja', 'Orange Icing', 'Pacesetter', 'Snowflake', 'Something Special', 'Stern Von Erlau' species

**Linda Eastman:** 'College Queen', 'Orange Bowl', 'Warm Remembrance'

**Dick France:** 'Alpine White', 'Crimson Arrow', species

**George French:** 'Harald Knebel'

**Darrel Jenkins:** 'Desert Sunrise', 'Easter Bunny', *E. strictum*, *E. oxypetalum*, 'Harald Knebel', *L. cruciforme*, *{Rhipsalis Cruciforme}*, 'Mother In Love', 'Oakley Conquest', *Weberocereus tonduzii*

**M&G Mikas:** 'English Rose', *E. strictum*, 'Rensselaevwyck'

**Jerry Moreau:** 'Karen Childs', 'Million Dollar', 'Naranja', 'Professor Ebert'

**Pat Neal:** 'Alpine White', 'Orange Icing'

**WAP:** 'Beautie Wegener'



## Holiday Dinner

and

## Installation of Officers

Wednesday, December 16th

6:30 p.m.

## Butcher Shop Restaurant

Save The Date

The cost will be the same as last year—\$25.00 SDES Members (dues paid through Jan 2010). Once again we are inviting & hosting our Honorary Life Members as our guests. For Non-Members, the cost is \$45.00.

Food Choices are Fillet of Fish, Vegetarian and, of course, their 8-oz. Filet Mignon. Beverages (coffee, tea and wine) and Dessert are included.

Payment (don't forget to specify your meal choice) may be made at the meeting (cash, Visa or check) or you may mail your check to:

Mildred Mikas  
3502 Avenida Amorosa  
Escondido CA 92029



## Official SDES Epi Shirts— Wear at Sales and Show Events

Order your SDES shirt and displaying an embroidered. White comes with either a peach or purple epi, a black shirt comes with a peach epi bloom. The cost is \$26.00 for either lady's or man's shirt.

Join the group, show your Epi Spirit and wear your shirt at all our SDES events. Call us to order: 760-690-1124 or e-mail your order to [mvmikas@cox.net](mailto:mvmikas@cox.net) then send us a check or pay at a meeting. Gerry & Mildred Mikas



*Epi News* is published monthly.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please let Jill Peck know of your intention to submit any articles by the General Meeting so that appropriate space can be allocated.



### Membership:

**Single Membership \$15.00 per year**

**Dual Membership \$20.00 per year**

**(Dual is for two people, same address,  
one newsletter)**

**International Membership \$25.00 per year**

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.  
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San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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*Epi News* is published monthly by  
San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

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Membership queries: sdes\_roster@hotmail.com

**General membership meetings** are held  
on the second Wednesday of each month

at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101,

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:**

**Wednesday, August 12 2009**

**SDES Board Meetings** are usually held on the  
fourth Wednesday of each month

at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104,

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

This month it will be:

**Wednesday, August 26, 2009**