



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

October 2021
Volume 46 Number 10



‘Hopelessly Devoted’

Hybridizer: Don Patterson
Parentage: ‘Empress of Mercury’ Ex Nat.
Size: Extra Large
Photo by Jerry Moreau

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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Have You Moved?

If you have moved or recently changed your physical OR email address, please update your address so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption.

Send it to:
San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership
PO Box 126127 San Diego, CA 92112-6127

OR email Membership@sdepis.org
OR for a faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson Membership Secretary—her address can be found in the membership roster

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. During this pandemic for everyone’s health and safety all meetings are held online. The Zoom room will open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start afterwards. Check your emails for instructions and links.

Board Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. also held online. All members are welcome to attend the board meeting. If you are interested in attending request the zoom link from the Membership Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, or the President.

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Calendar of Events

October	13	General Meeting
	22-24	Del Mar Fall Home & Garden Show
	23	Safari Park Work Party
	27	Board Meeting
November	6	Safari Park Work Party
	10	General Meeting
	20	Safari Park Work Party
	24	Board Meeting
December	8	Holiday Banquet
	22	Board Meeting

For the up to date calendar check out:
<http://sdepis.org/news-information/calendar/>



‘Diana Inglese’
Photo by Jerry Moreau

President's Corner



Greetings and welcome to October!

We are happy to be back to meeting in person in Balboa Park. We had a first full in person meeting on September 8 and while we are still

working on some of the issues related to trying to produce a hybrid meeting for our Zoom participating members, it felt good to be back in Room 101. I'd like to thank the 23 members who attended the meeting. Everyone was wearing a mask as required, we had our workshop, a raffle table, some modest refreshments, and a program about snakes in the garden given by Tom Derr of Tom's Snakes and Rattlesnake Rescue. Who knew snakes could be so interesting!

We will continue to work on our technological issues for streaming the meeting and will keep trying to make it more successful as we embrace aspects of technology we've never tried before. Wish us luck!

WE NEED YOU!

We continue to have an opening on our board for a recording secretary. Anyone interested in helping us with taking notes for our meetings, please contact SDES president Gretchen Ward at 505-933-4468, or anyone else on the board.

We hope to see you at the October meeting!

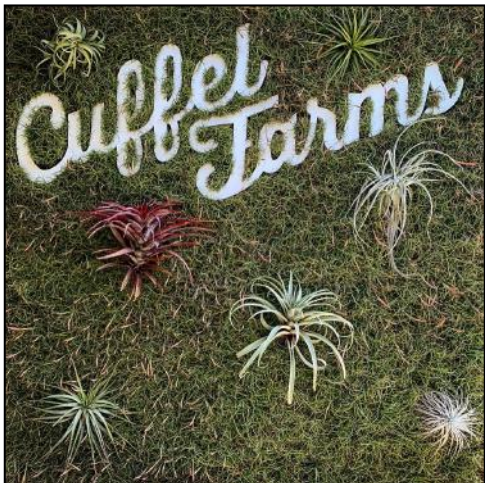
Gretchen

Meeting Program

Last Month Program: We all enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Tom Derr of the San Diego Herpetological Society & Tom's Snakes & Rattlesnake Rescue

Pre-Meeting Workshop: This month Ron will share his epi wisdom on a yet-to-be-determined topic. In Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00.

October's Program: Andy Cuffel of Cuffel Farms will lead us into the world of a fellow epiphyte; *Tillandsias*. Found



growing in the Americas, this is a diverse genus from the bromeliad family that has a lot of biological and geographic variation.

Come join us Wednesday October 13th. Either in-person on online on zoom. In Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Pre-meeting workshop room 104 7:00 p.m.

The Zoom room will open at 7:00 p.m. for a bit of socializing and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.



Holiday Banquet Update

Because COVID is still around, many of our members have said that they are uncomfortable with a large indoor Holiday Party. We thought perhaps a Saturday afternoon party could work, so we looked into an outdoor venue. But there was concern about temperature and no padded chairs. If it rained, moving the party indoors would be a problem for many members.

Due to all these factors, we are canceling our delayed 50th Anniversary Holiday Party for this December. We will reschedule the event for March 2022.

If you have already paid for tickets, your money will be refunded.

Mildred



'Copal'
Photo by Jerry Moreau



SDES By-Laws and Standing Rules Update

Please review the By-Laws and Standing rules. There will be a vote at the December meeting to accept or reject them. The changes are in "red letters". If you have questions please contact the Gretchen Ward, SDES President.

This link below will bring you to the SDES website where they can be found. The password will be needed.

[Information for our Members – SDES \(sdepis.org\)](http://sdepis.org)

Keep In Touch

Members are the most important part of our society! Together we create more beauty for all to enjoy.

As in any group, we are more potent together. We have members all over the world! Although the epies are what bring us together at first, lifelong friendships are made in the society. Knowledge, plants, and passions are shared between members. And everyone has fun!

Corresponding Secretary Sal Castellitto Corresponding@sdepis.org

Membership Secretary Beth Jackson at

858-692-0314 or Membership@sdepis.org

Newsletter Editors Jerry Moreau at 619-208-7654 &

Linda Sinkovic at EpiNews@sdepis.org



Election Time Nears

“Many hands make for light work” John Heywood

We are fortunate to have so many people volunteering time and effort to make our society work well and be a success. However for our society to remain successful we need you to volunteer. We need your help, so please consider volunteering for a position, especially if you have not yet served — the more people involved the less any one person will have to do. However if members don’t take an active role the society won’t be able to do as much or function as well as it can. The nominating committee is now being formed. How can you help the society?

the Society starts from what we put into the Society.

There are a few positions that need to be filled at this time. Consider serving as the Recording Secretary, Publicity Coordinator, or Society Historian. If you have some skills you can offer the society please let us know. We can use help with technology and the website. Reach out to any board members who are happy to talk with you about helping out.

Thank you to everyone who takes an active role in the society either as an officer, director, or coordinator position. Your work and dedication to the society is greatly appreciated.

In November the final slate of officers will be presented to the membership and a formal vote will be held at the regular monthly meeting. Installation of new officers will occur in December at the annual installation of offices & holiday banquet.

**Get Involved.
Have Your Say.
Make A Difference.**

SDES is an all volunteer organization — without you we would not exist! All we get from

The current slate of offices for 2022 SDES officers are:

President	Gretchen Ward
1st Vice President	David Cheever
2nd Vice President	Patricia Neal
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson
Corresponding Secretary	Sal Castellitto

Director (2022-23)	Gilbert Hatfield
Director (2022-23)	Mildred Mikas
Director (2022-23)	Tim Paule

Not up for re-election:

Director (2021-22)	Lauren Burnette
Director (2021-22)	Paula Reynolds



*‘Crowning Glory’ ‘Danilova’
Photos by Jerry Moreau*



My hybrids with *Disocactus anguliger* (Lemaire) Don ex Loudon

Article and photos by Rudolf Heßing Herick
(unless noted)



Rudolf "in epi heaven" a Dutch nursery

In 1999 I attended the annual conference of the DKG¹ in Würzburg. Dick Kohlschreiber from California was one of the guest speakers and he introduced new cultivars from the field of epicacti. Among other things, he showed a hybrid with strongly indented branches. This fern-like variety had orange flowers. It was love at first sight. When asked, Dick Kohlschreiber informed me later that it was a *Disocactus anguliger* hybrid from the Japanese breeder Mitsuhashi.² At that time I did not succeed in making contact with Japan, so I had no choice but to create such a beautiful hybrid myself.

The first thing I did was order a *Disocactus anguliger* from a renowned cactus nursery, because I didn't have this species in my collection. I was lucky, in the first year my little plant produced three flowers, of which I pollinated two. As a pollen donor I chose *Disocactus phyllanthoides* and the epicactus hybrid 'Peaches N Cream', which bloomed at the same time. My *Disocactus anguliger* produced two fruits which I sown the following year. I was delighted to see my seedlings grow into beautiful plants with serrated branches. But when the first flowers of this breeding line showed up, I was very disappointed -- I had only raised single species *Disocactus anguliger*. Many clones of this species are self-fertile and can produce fruit without cross-pollination.



'Jalisco Disco'

In the following years I persistently pollinated my *D. anguliger* again and again. In 2006 the first seedlings of the cross *D. anguliger* x 'George's Favorite' bloomed. I could already tell from the buds that they were real hybrids. From this cross I have registered six varieties with the Epiphyllum Society of America. These are the varieties 'Jalisco Disco', 'Jalisco Joy', 'Jalisco Starlight', 'Jalisco Flirt', 'Jalisco Grace' and 'Jalisco Passion'. These hybrids are named after a state in Mexico³ which is home to *Disocactus anguliger*.



D. anguliger
clone col.by M. Kimmach

This species is widespread in southern Mexico. The plants grow in the mountainous regions of the Pacific coastline. Over the years I have collected over 20 different clones of the species and have found that individuals can be very different. Both the flowers and the growth differ in the different clones. There are clones whose flowers show brownish outer petals, other flowers are more yellowish in color. There are clones with strongly indented or toothed branches and those that

Continued next page

My Hybrids Continued...

have almost no notches. But why does this *Disocactus* have such strange branches? I asked the botanist Dr. Ralph Mangeldorf.

Why do some epiphytic cacti have serrated or lobed branches and stems?

Dr. Ralph Mangeldorf -- a botanist at the University of Frankfurt — has seen many epiphytic cacti on location in their native countries. He has put forth an interesting theory. Plants have the process of photosynthesis. By the enlargement of leaf surfaces plants can take advantage of this process. As an example the banana tree has large leaves. However, in a storm or heavy rain they may tear or break off. In nature banana trees are often found under large trees to protect them. Some plants have developed a genetic advantage with deeply serrated branches for example palms and ferns. In addition epiphytic cacti such as *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, *Weberocereus imitans*, *Epiphyllum chrysocardium*, and *Disocactus anguliger* have serrated or lobed stems. These cacti grow in trees often quite high up in their native habitats where high wind is possible. The lobed stems offer less resistance to the wind and break off less often. This is a type of self protection. Thus the stems consist of smaller modules. This is called modularization.

But now back to my breeding results with this species. I was pleased with the colored flowers of my hybrids, but the growth of these plants was rather sobering. The shoots were more or less only slightly wavy or curved. For the next step I crossed these hybrids with each other. But these seedlings were not particularly toothed either. It occurred to me that when I used heavily jagged *D. anguliger* clones for breeding, I also got more jagged hybrids. In retrospect, that seems logical to me, but back then I just tried a lot of different things. Many of the white-flowered hybrids were more serrated than the seedlings with colored flowers. There must be some connection. I have also tried to grow plants with lobed shoots with other species. Among



'Jalisco Cowi'



'Jalisco Queen'

other things, I have experimented with *Selenicereus anthonyanus*.

This species is considered to be rather difficult to flower in Germany. And my hybrids with this species only produced flowers very rarely. That's why I stopped using the *Selenicereus* for my project.

Over the years I have created eight different breeding lines with *Disocactus anguliger*. The hybrids 'Jalisco Queen' and 'Jalisco Beauty' come from the cross with 'Peaches N Cream'.

'Jalisco Camilla', 'Jalisco Charme', 'Jalisco Cheer', 'Jalisco Cowi', 'Jalisco Heny' and 'Jalisco Chris' come from the

cross with the hybrid 'Ypsilon Zehn'. These hybrids are characterized by their two-tone

flowers. The outer petals are more or less orange and the inner petals are either magenta or white. The hybrids 'Jalisco Curly' and 'Pajama Drama' come from the cross of *D. anguliger* x 'Kaline'. A third seedling (RUD 128-9) from this cross is supposed to be called 'Jalisco Circe'.

Here are a few more details about the naming of 'Pajama Drama': When this seedling first bloomed, I couldn't decide whether I liked the bloom or not. So this plant ended up in the bin under the planting table. When I emptied this bin, I made another decision and planted the seedling again. The following



'Jalisco Heny'

My Hybrids Continued...



D. anguliger clone Mitsuhashi

year this hybrid bloomed again, and again the hybrid ended up in the organic waste bin. This was ready to be picked up on the street. What can I say, in the night I woke up thinking “you can't throw this thing away!” In my pajamas and slippers, I crept to the organic waste bin and brought my cultivation back to the greenhouse. I talked to my plant (which I do quite often) and came to the conclusion that naming it was the only sure way to avoid being thrown out again. And so I named it immediately, with the most



'Pajama Drama'

appropriate name.

The 'Jalisco Ancoo' hybrid comes from the cross *D. anguliger* x 'Cooperi'. In the last century it was believed that 'Cooperi' was a cross of *Disocactus crenatus* and *Selenicereus grandiflorus*. However, this epicactus is not a man-made hybrid. Rather, it is a natural form and the correct name is *Disocactus crenatus* ssp. *kimnachii* clone Cooperi.

All crosses with *D. anguliger* also have the typically long flower tube. But why is it like that?

The first more strongly toothed

hybrids come from a backcross with *Disocactus anguliger*. Two varieties were registered from the cross *D. anguliger* x 'Jalisco Disco': 'Kodi I' and 'Kodi II'. These hybrids are named after Dick Kohlschreiber, who came up with the idea behind this project. There is also a 'Kodi III'; this variety comes from the cross (*D. anguliger* x 'Ackermannii Hybridus') x *D. anguliger*. There is also a cross with *Disocactus phyllanthoides*. After 18 years, hybrid RUD 87-7 flowered for the first time. It's supposed to be called 'Jalisco Empress'.

As I found out, backcrossing with *D.*



anguliger is the

only way to get more toothed hybrids. The fern-like growth unfortunately does not seem to be dominant in *Disocactus anguliger*. On the other hand, the white flower color is a dominant feature, often 50% of the seedlings of a sowing are white, and species-specific *Disocactus anguliger* are also more often there. I was still not really satisfied with the hybrids of the first backcross. So I crossed these seedlings again with *Disocactus anguliger*. Since I used different clones of *D. anguliger* for breeding, the hybrids are

'Jalisco Ancoo'

Why do some epiphytic cacti have long floral tubes?

Related to this question are studies by Dr. Wasserthal from Erlangen, Germany. He has done research on orchids which have extremely long nectar spurs and their pollinators. These results also apply to the long tubed epiphytic cacti. The night blooming epiphytic cacti are pollinated by specific moths. There are predatory spiders that live on these plants waiting for prey. The moths have evolved long suction nozzles. In a whirling flight the moths can reach nectar without having to sit on the flower. The danger from the spiders is thus averted. The epiphytic plants have developed long floral tubes to be sure they are pollinated.

This is called co-evolution.

Continued next page

My Hybrids Continued...



'Jalisco Charm'

also serrated or cupped in different ways. These plants are difficult to distinguish from the wild form in terms of growth. That is why I will raise around 300 seedlings from over 20 crosses and bring them to bloom. That requires space, which is why I expanded my existing greenhouse. The first hybrids of these crosses have already bloomed. It was found that the growth of these hybrids was greatly improved, but the color of the flowers remained almost the same. That is also a logical conclusion, since no other colored flowers were used for crossing. The flowers of the seedlings of the 2nd backcross vary in color a little.

I will still have to select many seedlings. I will probably have to do backcrosses with *D. anguliger* in all breeding lines in order to get the desired results. It also seemed to me to make sense to connect the hybrids of the different lines with each other by crossing them. I hope that this will result in a greater variety of flower shape and color. The first hybrids of these cross-connections have already blossomed, and I was satisfied. But here, too, I found that the



'Jalisco Flirt'



'Jalisco Curly'

toothed growth is lost very quickly. It took more than 20 years to get heavily toothed or indented hybrids, and that's been a very long time. But I'm still not done with my work on *D. anguliger*. I've already been able to do a third backcross. I assume that it will take me another 20 years to get the perfect *Disocactus anguliger* hybrid.



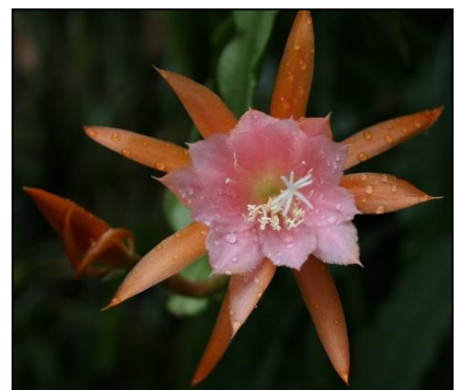
'Jalisco Starlight'

Notes:

1. *Deutsche Kakteen Gesellschaft*, the German Cactus Society
2. 'Kaguyahime', registered 2010
3. The state of Jalisco, on the west coast of Mexico. The capital city is Guadalajara; other well known locations include Puerto Vallarta.

Literature:

Wasserthal, L. T. (2015). Angraecum-Orchideen und langrüsslige Schwärmer, Bestäubung und Evolution. *Die Orchidee* 66(3), 175-181.



'Kaguyahime' hybrid by Mitsuhashi
Photo by Jerry Moreau

My Hybrids Continued...



'Jalisco Cheer'



'Jalisco Joy'



'Jalisco Passion'



'Jalisco Grace'



RUD 128-9 ('Jalisco Circe')



RUD 87-7 ('Jalisco Empress')

More pictures from Rudolf on last page

Soil Mixes

Reprinted from *The Epi-Gram* VOL. XXX, No. 8 September, 2015

By Dick Kohlschreiber

It seems like everyone who grows epiphytic cacti has a mix that they use for their plants. I have always said that if their mix works for them, there is no reason to change. But it may be that if they made some changes to their mix, their plants might grow better.

A good mix for epiphytic cacti should provide good drainage, and should have a pH that is slightly on the acid side. Soil mixes can be fairly simple or contain a lot of different ingredients. The mix that I used for years and that seemed to work fine for me was:

- 2 parts of a good potting mix
- 2 parts Leaf Mold
- 2 parts #2 perlite
- 1 part small bark

To a 5 gallon bucket of this mix, I would add a cup of a balanced fertilizer.

Several years ago, Leaf Mold was suddenly not available and when it did come back, it was about twice as expensive as it had been. So I changed my mix to:

- 1 part of a good Potting mix (I currently have been using Miracle Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix)
- 1 part Azalea/Camellia Potting Soil (Home Depot calls it a Shade Plant Mix)
- 1 – 1 ½ parts #2 perlite

For a 5 gallon bucket, I still add a cup of a balanced fertilizer.

The Azalea mix provides the acidity that the leaf mold provided and since I also use this mix for my terrestrial cacti, I eliminated the bark. I have read several articles suggesting that cacti do better in a mix with a higher percentage of perlite so I have increased the perlite. If you ever get plants from the Huntington, you will find that they use a mix that is mostly pumice with very little peat mixture in it. It may work fine for the Huntington, but I immediately repot their plants in my mix when I get them home.

This is the mix that Rainbow Gardens uses:

- 1 part oak leaf mold - now they use a commercial potting mix like azalea mix.
- 1 part forest humus
- 1 part redwood bark
- 1 part pumice
- 1 part #2 perlite 14-14-14 osmacote



I think Don Burnett is probably one of our best growers. Here is the mix that Don uses:

- 3 parts of a good soil mix (camellia/azalea mixes are more acidic)
- 1 part #2 or #3 perlite (I prefer the #2 - #3 works its way to the top of the pot.
- I still add about 2 tablespoons of bone meal to an 8" pot (the epies like it).
- I will add 4 tablespoons of small orchid bark (1/8 – 1/4") to each 8" pot.
- I add a tablespoon of fertilizer (12-8-8) to the mix of an 8" pot (or use a 10-10-10).
- I add another part of small pumice to my mix if I am potting aporocactus or rhipsalis.
- I still use and have a bag of oak leaf mold for those extra special species epiphytes.

More Words of Wisdom from Don:

- ✓ Epi Soil mix basics – epies need good water drainage to do well around their root systems
- ✓ The Cactus Mix you buy has too much sand in it – add more #2 perlite if you use it.
- ✓ If you add too much larger bark it will eventually decompose and hold too much moisture.
- ✓ You can use small pathway or decorative bark, but look the bags over for the smaller bark.
- ✓ Some epi folks use charcoal and coir (a coconut product) in their own special mixes.

Soil Mixes Continued...

- ✓ I do use coir, pumice and charcoal in a lot of the extra special species epiphytes.
- ✓ Once you get a mix that works for you and your growing conditions, stay with it so you can get an understanding of when and how much water some plants can withstand.
- ✓ Remember a basic rule – use a good mix that will let water to run out of the bottom of a pot within 15-20 seconds. I kill more epies by overwatering than any other cause.

One more thing -- It's a good idea to wet your mixture before you use it. If you open a bag of commercial soil mix, you'll notice it is very wet. If you let that bag set around for a while, it dries out. Most of the commercial mixes have a peat base. When peat moss dries out, it will actually repel water. To a 5 gallon bucket of mix, I like to add about 1 quart of water.

Other potting mix recipes from various members

Beth Jackson—San Diego

Two parts potting soil, not cactus soil
 One part perlite
 One part find orchid bark
 I also add crushed oyster shells and acid fertilizer

Gretchen Ward—San Diego

For my epi mix, I use azalea mix, perlite, coir chips or fiber. Then add a scoop of worm castings to each pot as I pot up my rooted cuttings.

Mildred Mikas—Escondido, CA

5 gallon of perlite
 5 gallon of acid based potting soil
 3 gallons orchid bark
 1 quart charcoal
 1 pint bone meal
 1 cup plant success
 1 cup osmocote (spring & summer)

Michal McKee—Escondido, CA

1/3 azalea mix
 1/3 fine bark
 1/3 #2-3 perlite

with a dollop of worm castings and a generous slug of hydroton pebbles

From some of our northern California members

SFES uses a soil mix of 1/3 potting mix, 1/3 orchid bark, 1/3 perlite, and small additions of charcoal and a 10-10-10 fertilizer (granules).

Celine Dion uses a commercial cactus mix + about 20% perlite to lighten it up.

From Florida

Pat Shea —Right now she is using miracle grow potting soil, lots of perlite and adding some small lava rock pebbles to help with drainage. It's working pretty good but still having a hard time for the pots to dry out before the next round of rain. Bringing her favorites under cover on lanai to help with drying out. She is challenged by the increase in rain due to climate change and not sure what else to add to the mix to lighten it up. She is open to any suggestions to help.

Linda Sinkovic—Santa Cruz, CA

I have a few mixes depending upon the situation and what I am trying to grow.

** Note: 1 scoop == approx 1 cup. I use an old dog food scoop.

1. basic epi mix ('organic mix') which I use for the hybrid epis and the schlum hybrids:
 - 3 scoops perlite
 - 2 scoops acid soil (azalea / rhododendron mix)
 - 1 scoop cactus / succulent soil (citrus /palm mix)
 - 1 scoop reconstituted coir
 - 1 handful decomposed granite or granite chips
- I used to put egg shells in but I don't think they were particularly helpful plus I think they might have been attracting rats.

These other two mixes are from an EPIG article by Ruud Tropper (*EPIG* 80, p 30-40). I refer to them both as 'inorganic mix' though I suppose ultimately they are organic, since there's coir involved. I adapted them but the original formulas should be credited to Ruud Tropper. The 'More Fastidious

Growing Epies in Sydney, Australia

Article and photos by Kerrie Stewart

Hi, my name is Kerrie Stewart and I live in Sydney, Australia. Previously, I lived for a few years in San Diego off Soledad Mountain Road in north Pacific Beach. I had plans to make it my permanent home but sadly the GFC [Global Financial Crisis] happened and as a result I lost my business (Paper Rose in Encinitas) and my visa. Previous to Covid I used to go back to visit every year. Interestingly I never came across Epiphyllums while living there.

It was when I returned to Sydney I found an 'Anton Gunther' & one wrongly tagged (so therefore a NOID) in a garden centre. They lived but never flowered in my shady garden at Sydney's northern beaches for a few years. Then I moved down the road to my very sunny garden where they bloomed beautifully! I went looking but couldn't find any more anywhere until I came across a *Selenicereus anthonyanus* for sale on Facebook Marketplace. Unfortunately the seller had sold out but referred me to an Epiphyllum group on Facebook.



There are no Epiphyllum nurseries at all really in Australia and they aren't sold in garden centres. There are a few Epiphyllum Facebook groups but sadly what I found was there is a practice of hoarding cuttings & plants by over zealous collectors or only selling or sharing with a favoured few. This is very frustrating when you're keen to become a collector! I embarked upon an intense internet search then came across a few sellers including Jennifer Dick of Mooska Farm (who is responsible for importing most of the Kiwis we have in Australia) and Shelli Green (from Rainbow Daylilies who also has imported), just to name a

few. Jennifer and Shelli do a bit of hybridising too. I wanted to set up a Facebook group purely for buying selling & swapping of these gorgeous plants so everyone who wants cuttings & plants can easily access them without the drama & the politics. "Epiphyllum Buy Sell Swap Australia" was born about two and a half years ago. Along with Jennifer and Shelli as members we now have quite a few other sellers & home gardeners who sell. There are plenty of members buying!

There are challenges. Because Australia is an island continent there are strict biosecurity laws to protect our unique (and vulnerable) flora and fauna. For example we don't have rabies here (or many of the other pests or diseases other countries have) so protecting our country is a core objective of our group. Sadly plenty of people try to get or export Epiphyllums illegally. I've capped the membership to 1000 to make it manageable to weed them out, to protect our members collections and to keep those members who have a genuine interest in Epiphyllum. So many people join groups just to be in groups I've found and never visit or participate.

Another challenge is that importing Epiphyllum or any plant material into Australia is expensive and a bit time consuming and complex. There are a few



of us in the group who would do the work and fund importation of new Epiphyllum on this end but sadly have been unable to find anyone overseas prepared to do the same. In Australia we also have biosecurity laws between states. No plant material at all can be imported into the Northern Territory;

permits must be obtained to send plant material into Western Australia and Tasmania. I encourage our

Continued next page

Australia Continued...

WA and Tasmanian members to buy, sell, and swap amongst themselves. We now have a few members in those states legally importing Epiphyllums from other states to ultimately build collections to sell plants and cuttings within their state.

I'm also very big on accuracy in our group. Without that the Epiphyllum world is a mess and people get ripped off and don't get what they paid for. In our group we don't I.D. Epiphyllums. If it doesn't have a tag, it's a NOID. We love NOIDs too of course -- I just don't want people wrongly I.D.ing NOIDS as registered hybrids or people paying for something that's not what it claims to be.

As far as climate challenges go I expect they are more or less the same as in the United States. We are a big country: geographically the size of the U.S., with arid, Mediterranean, warm temperate, cold temperate, subtropical & tropical climates. Certainly our winters aren't nearly as cold as your east coast but we do get snow & frosts in parts of Australia! Here in Sydney we are a warm temperate climate however some of the western suburbs do get frosts. I am blessed to live on the coast between the beach & the bay so the climate is mild & I can grow just about anything. I haven't had too many issues growing the beloved Epies. They are hardy little green beings. As I tell our members the golden rule with Epies is don't overwater! We did have a very wet summer this year here on the east coast of Australia so a few minor fungal issues but nothing a bit of pruning & systemic fungicide can't fix. Of course the biggest problem worldwide with Epiphyllum is trying to stop accumulating more!

Happy growing San Diego with best wishes from "Epiphyllum Buy Sell Swap Australia".

Potting Mix Continued...

Mix' is for things that need excellent drainage, like *S. opuntioides* for example. 'Less Fastidious' is good for species and hybrid epicacti. At the end are some links for shopping for some of the more unusual ingredients.

Less Fastidious Mix:

10 scoops reconstituted Coir
 1 scoop pumice fines
 3 scoops coarse pumice
 6 scoops medium vermiculite
 5 teaspoons 10-10-10 fertilizer (Dr Earth All Purpose)
 1 1/2 teaspoons basalt powder

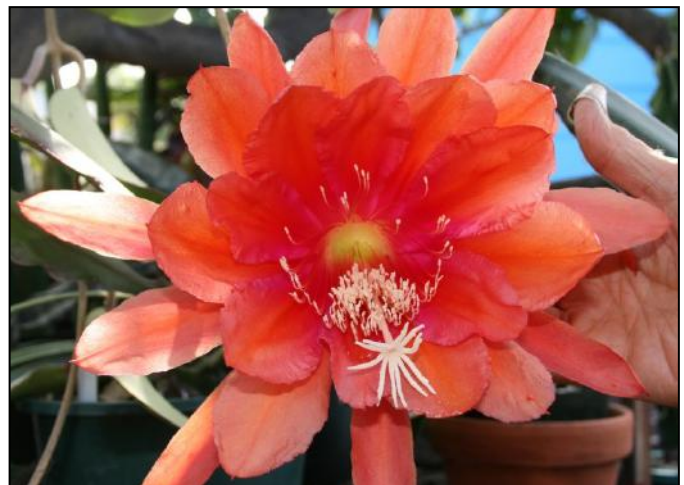
More Fastidious Mix:

10 scoops reconstituted Coir
 1 scoop pumice fines
 23 scoops coarse pumice
 6 scoops medium vermiculite
 5 teaspoons 10-10-10 fertilizer (Dr Earth All Purpose)
 1 1/2 teaspoons basalt powder

Basalt powder from: www.planetnatural.com

Pumice fines from:

www.generalpumiceproducts.com



'Pumpkin Magic'
 Photo by Jerry Moreau

Member Profile — Sandra Chapin



Sandra Chapin has been a member since 1995. She has been growing and collecting epies for many years. Sandra and her late husband Roger discovered epies one fateful day while in Balboa Park celebrating Sandra's birthday. They stumbled upon the Mother's Day Show and Sale and it was all over -- after seeing the beauty of the flowers they starting growing and collecting epies.



'Sandra's Roger'

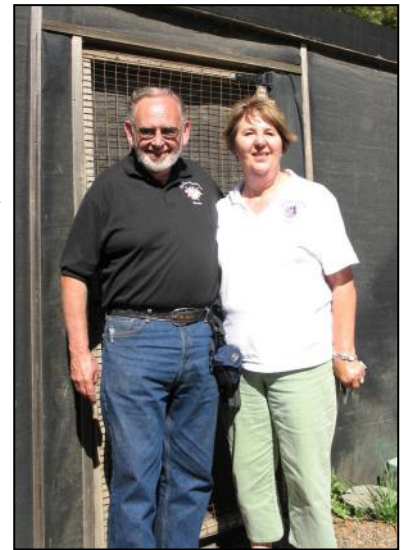
Sandra is very active in the society. She is an active volunteer at the epi collection and display at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. In addition, she has served as the society's President (2009 --2010), Recording Secretary, and Director over the years. She served as the 2nd Vice President -- her favorite position - - for many terms. She has written many articles about epies, both for the *Epi News* and for other publications.

Her favorite flowers are 'Daisy Dean', 'Marmalade and Honey', and 'Sandra's Roger'. (This last flower was named for her husband Roger Chapin.) She has judged at all of the California epiphyllum societies' flower shows. She was awarded SDES's highest honor, Honorary Life Member.



'Marmalade n' Honey'

Sandra is very creative. For one of the Epi Cons presented by the SDES, she painted epi flowers onto bags for the attendees. She loves to cook and bake and she is an excellent knitter. She has made many life-time friends through SDES and considers SDES a part of her family.



Roger & Sandra Chapin in front of the old workout at the Safari Park
Photo by Eddie Huey

Note: Roger served the SDES in many capacities: President (2001 --2002), Director, Pre-meeting Workshop Coordinator, and Safari Park Collection Coordinator.



Sandra loves to go on epi adventures. Here she is at Rainbow Gardens Nursery between Velma & Ron Crain and with them are Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens Nursery



'Daisy Dean'
Photo by Roger Chapin



Sandra clowning around always having a good time
Photos by Jerry Moreau unless noted

Get Your Facts First

“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as much as you please...” Mark Twain

Article and photos by Linda Sinkovic

When you are trying to start cuttings, how patient are you? What if the cutting just sits there for a year and shows no new growth? What if it was a small plant that was likewise doing nothing? Even if the stubborn plant was something you wanted to grow, would you toss it out in order to make room for something else?

Until about five years ago, this would have been me. If a cutting did nothing after six months it would go into the trash. After a year if a plant had showed no new growth it would share the same fate. No flowers? Forget it. I had no time and no patience for recalcitrant plants.

I’m not sure why my attitude changed. Maybe it was the carnage after we moved back to Santa Cruz -- I lost a lot of plants in the move and many of the survivors got damaged -- or maybe it was learning to grow in a different environment. These last five years I have been growing more epiphytic cacti species; many of them are difficult to get started, so maybe the new attitude is due to that. Whatever the reason, I’ve acquired a lot more patience with my plants.

And this is good because now I can better appreciate the plants I grow. Here’s an example: a cutting which has done nothing since July 2019 suddenly put out a tiny segment this September.

I’m not sure what changed in the environment to make this happen. Whatever it was, I’m really happy to see this; every other cutting of this plant which I’ve tried to start has died a miserable death. This particular cutting gives me the hope that maybe (eventually) a whole new plant will grow.

Hope is something we can always use. So if you have some stubborn plants (or cuttings), maybe just set them aside and let them run on their own schedule. They might surprise you.

Have a good month. Enjoy any offseason blooms. Enjoy species flowers. Enjoy your garden. Stay healthy.



Now is the Time

- ✓ **Protect your plants from direct sun.** As the angle of the sun changes, ensure plants do not get too much southern exposure.
- ✓ **If you live in a colder climate, stop feeding plants now.** New growth is susceptible to frost damage. Epies tend to go dormant in colder weather.
- ✓ **Check ripening fruit.** If in doubt, wait to pick. Remember to use clean tools when cutting fruit open to remove seeds.
- ✓ **Watch for snails and slugs.** As summer comes to end, they become more active in cooler, moister weather.
- ✓ **Trim out dead growth.** Some dieback is natural. If the dieback starts from the roots instead of the tips of the stems, check the roots.
- ✓ **New growth is normal during fall season.** Fertilize plants that are actively growing.
- ✓ **Start planning how much and what kind of winter protection your plants will need.**

Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau

Although it's now fall we continue to be busy at the park. The Epiphyllum Trail is again open to the public. We continue to keep everything looking great! This is a labor of love from all of us who commit our time to help out with the collection. Everyone is appreciated. I'm grateful for all they do and for all the fun and camaraderie we enjoy at each and every work party!

Helping out were Barb Alvarez, Sandra Chapin, Ron & Velma Crain, David Cheever, Cindy Decker, Dean Delibertis, Marie Dempewolf, Forrest Echbrecht, Jeff Hendershot, Beth Jackson, Betsy & Jerry Markle, Ellen McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Paula Reynolds, Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, Gretchen Ward, and Paul van der Ploeg.



Some Aporophyllum type hybrids

'Arrat'



'Edna Bellamy'



'Starfire'

'Sussex Pink'

Photos by Jerry Moreau



Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park
can be found on our website. Click on <https://sdepis.org/welcome-to-sdes/epiphyllums/volunteering/>

Off-Season Blooms

This list is a bit of informal research of off-season epi blooms. Here you can track which epics have been blooming consistently off-season over the years. If you would like to add to the research and list which epics have been blooming in your yard, email the editors with your list of off-season blooms and species.

Blooming Off-Season

Barb Alarez (Lemon Grove): 'Bright Day', 'Don Irwin'
Sandra Chapin (Rancho Bernardo): 'Educator'
Celine Dion (Concord): 'Endless Journey'
Beth Jackson (San Diego): 'Felcino Filou'
Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): 'Agatha', 'Friend Rudi', 'Sonic Bloom'
Jerry Moreau (San Diego): 'Jalisco Flirt'
Pat Shea (Port Charlotte, FL): 'Felcino Flair', 'Jalisco Starlight'
Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): 'Jalisco Joy', 'Kitty Kat', 'Roman Majesty'
Paula Reynolds (San Diego): 'George's Favorite'
Theo Sieg (San Rafael): 'Carnival', 'Confetti', 'Herbert S Irwin'
Gretchen Ward (San Diego): 'Jalisco Queen'

Blooming Species

Barb Alarez (Lemon Grove): *Epiphyllum pumilum*
Celine Dion (Concord): *E. phyllanthus*
Patricia Frank (San Diego): *Lepismium cruciforme*
Beth Jackson (San Diego): *Disocactus macranthus*
Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): *D. anguliger*
Pat Shea (Port Charlotte, FL): *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*, *E. oxypetalum* cv 'Mark Twain'
Theo Sieg (San Rafael): *E. pumilum*
Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): *L. cruciforme*, *L. houlettianum f houlettiana*, *L. houlettianum f regnellii*, *Rhipsalis elliptica*, *Weberocereus bradei*
Gretchen Ward (San Diego): *E. oxypetalum*, *E. oxypetalum* cv 'Mark Twain', *E. pumilum*

Want/Wish List

If you have epics on your wish list that you are looking for it is possible someone in the Society has it and is willing to share a cutting or two with you.

As a service and benefit to members this list is being included in the newsletter. Send your wish list along with contact information to the editors to get it added here.

Sal Castellitto: aclarasd@aol.com
 'Bold Venture', 'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold', 'Merry Christmas', 'Spanish Gold'

Doug Gates: douggates@gmail.com
Epiphyllum laui, *E. phyllanthus*, *E. baueri*

Casey Gerdes: casey@yogawithcasey.com
 'Crystal Flash', 'Gladyce Jones', 'Glow Bug', 'Kiwi Contraction', 'Monastery Gardens', 'Ron Crain'

Thu-Huong Ho: thuhuong13@gmail.com
 'Chardonnay Twist', 'Kiwi Calypso Queen', 'Kiwi Contradiction', 'Kiwi Razzle Dazzle', 'Kiwi Remembrance', 'Kiwi Sweetheart', 'Meadow Lark', 'Ron Crain', 'Spiced Takuan'

Marcie Horton: marciehorton412@gmail.com
 'Alakazam', 'Alchemy', 'Connie Mayer', 'Frühlingsgold', 'Jalisco Joy', 'Kiwi Honey Bea', 'Tangerine', 'Vanilla Sunset'

Bridget Kleindienst: Bkleindienst13@gmail.com
 'Baby Cake', 'Crystal Claret', 'Heather'

Andrea McArthur: acmcarthur@roadrunner.com
 'Queen Tatiana'

Michal McKee: folklorist@gmail.com
 'Elegans Lei', 'Mojave Gold'

Tom Moore: phyllocactus1952@yahoo.com
 'Amaranthinus', 'Coopermanni', 'Daniela Paetz', 'Desert Thorns', 'Devauxii', 'Hansei', 'Helenae', 'Ignescens', 'Jacques Courant', 'Jenkinsonii', 'Jennifer', 'Johnson's Beauty', 'Splendidus'

Virginia Payne vpayne22@gmail.com
 'Clarity's Laniakea', 'Over the Top', 'Ruby Pinwheel', 'Vanilla Sunset', 'Venetian Affair'

Paula Reynolds: paularey@aol.com 'Sunset Cliffs', 'Voltaire'

Janice Wakefield: jwakefield.home@gmail.com
 'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa', 'White Cloud'

Epi News Submissions

- News of interest to SDES membership, brief articles about our members, or our community are welcome.
- Send any articles, photos, and questions.
- Send submissions as a Word or Google document. Items can also be sent as text pasted into an email body. No PDFs
- Please limit formatting. Avoid excessive bolding or tabs. Avoid words in all CAPS. Please proofread and spellcheck, esp. names.
- Send photos as JPEGs attached in an email to submit to the Editor.
- All photos need caption and photographer's name. Photos need photographer's permission.
- Use of photos is at Editor's discretion.
- Send videos as MP4 or as a YouTube link. Videos must have videographer's permission.
- Materials and submissions need contributor's name.
- All submissions are at the editor's discretion.
- Submissions are due by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's *Epi News*.
- If you are not sure? Send it anyway. Email the editors at: EpiNews@sdepis.org

Mission Statement

SDES is a community of epi growers who encourage the study of epies and the interchange of ideas on growing, displaying, and collecting epies and its related species.

SDES Officers

President	Gretchen Ward
1st Vice President	David Cheever
2nd Vice President	Patricia Neal
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Sec.	Open
Corresponding Sec.	Sal Castellitto
Membership Sec.	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past Pres.	Cindy Decker
Director 2020-21	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2020-21	Mildred Mikas
Director 2020-21	Tim Paule
Director 2019-20	Paula Reynolds
Director 2019-20	Lauren Burnette

Resources

As a benefit to members here is a list of resources for members. If you know of any resources you would like to have included, contact the editors.

Epi Nurseries:

Epi Galleria — Mark Piette
<http://www.epigalleria.com/>

Epi Haven <https://epihaven.com/>

Epiphyllum World — Don Cravalho
<http://stores.ebay.com/epiphyllum-world>

Garden Jewels Nursery — Katie Lutz
<http://gardenjewelsnursery.com/>

Heny's Epiphyllums — Heny Brandenburg
<https://www.facebook.com/henysepiphyllums/>

Kakteen Haage — Ulrich Haage
<http://www.kakteen-haage.de/>
Passionate gardener since 1685

Pacific Epiphyllum — Chris Welcher
<http://www.pacificepiphyllum.com/>

Plant Societies:

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>

SDES is an affiliate member. SDES members are welcome at meetings and webinars. See website for more information.

Epiphyllum Society of America

1st Tuesday of every month except in December or January @ 7:30 p.m.

<http://epiphyllums.org/>

San Diego Bromeliad Society

2nd Saturday of the month @ 10:00 a.m.

<http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org/>

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

1st Thursday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.

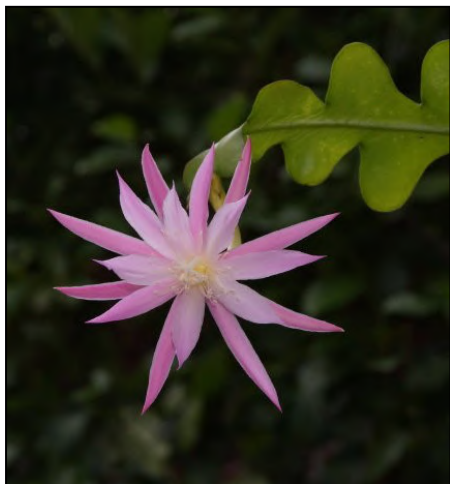
<http://www.sfepi.org/>

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403>

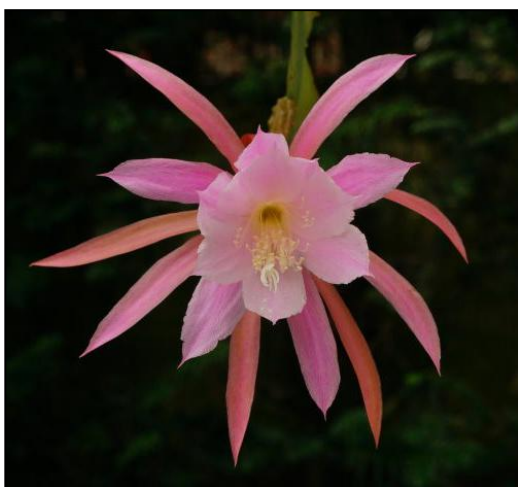
One Last Thing



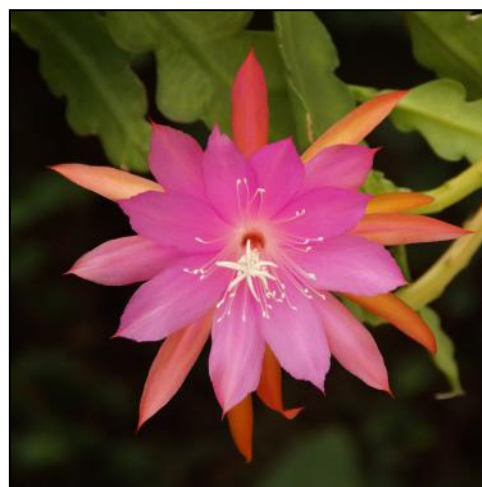
'Kodi I'



'Kodi II'



'Kodi III'



'Jalisco Chris'



D. anguliger clone Noller Cuarentenno



D. anguliger clone LW87-93

*Hybrids and photos by
Rudolf Heßing Herick*