



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

September 2022
Volume 47 Number 9



'Autumn Shadows'

Hybridizer: George French 1994

Parentage: 'Madeline' x 'Sundance' - STEP.

Size: Large

Photo: JK Hendershot

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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P.O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127.

OR email Membership@sdepis.org

For faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson, Membership Secretary—her address can be found in the membership roster.

Inside This Issue

President's Corner	3
Meeting Program	3
Keeping In Touch	4
Get Your Facts First	5-6
Now Is The Time	6
What's In A Name? A Beautiful Flower	7-8
Monthly Member Highlight	9-11
A Look Back at the Orchid Cactus	12-13
Annual Photo Contest & Tortoise Society Event	14
2020 Photo Contest Winner Photos	15
Safari Park Report	16
ESA Show Photos by Don Crain	17
Wish List and Holiday Banquet Announced	18
Epicacti Resources	19
We Leave You With This	20

Calendar of Events

September	10	Safari Park Work Party ¹
	14	General Meeting
	24	Safari Park Work Party
	24	Master Gardener Plant Sale
	28	Board Meeting
October	1	Safari Park Work Party
	12	General Meeting
	15	Safari Park Work Party
	26	Board Meeting
November	5	Safari Park Work Party
	9	General Meeting
	19	Safari Park Work Party
	23	Board Meeting
December	14	SDES Holiday Banquet

¹ Additional Work Parties held every Tuesday.

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We are doing our best to have a presence both in person and online. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the pre-meeting workshop is at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom room will open at 7:00 p.m. Check your email for instructions and links. Board Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., and are online. All members are welcome to attend the board meeting. If you are interested in attending, please request the zoom link from the Membership Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, or the President.



'Kiwi Christmas Parade' Y&AB

Photo: SDES Archives

President's Corner — *From President David Cheever*



I hope everyone is staying cool and healthy, with another round of COVID spreading around the country again. We all must stay healthy, and what better way to do so than getting your hands in the soil and dirt, and repotting some of those epies that need a refresh on their soil or perhaps have outgrown their old pots. September is one of the hottest months of the year, here in San Diego County, and we need to keep our plants watered and fertilized—with an occasional misting to help keep both you and your plants cool.

At our August meeting, Jerry Moreau showed us some beautiful blooms that you may have missed this past year. Now everyone will need to update their wish list and try to make room for some more plants to add to their collection. September's meeting will be on carnivorous plants—nature's way of getting rid of bugs and pests in the garden. Our annual Photo Contest is coming up and you will need to have your photos ready to submit by October. Please look for details in this issue of Epi News.

Also, we are looking for some of our members to volunteer to be on the SDES Board of Directors for the next term beginning in 2023. We would like to see some new faces on the Board, and in some of our Coordinator positions. Please consider volunteering and sharing some of your ideas and experiences to make SDES stronger. Until Next Time,

David

Meeting Program

Pre-Meeting Workshop: This month Ron Crain will be discussing how mandatory watering restrictions due to drought—and other watering issues including management of soluble salts buildup in containerized plants. Held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

August Program: Our August monthly meeting was held in-person and via Zoom Wednesday, August 10th. Patricia Neal presented awards to the category winners of the Mother's Day Show, and was herself presented with The Roger Chapin Award for Volunteer of the Year 2021. For our monthly program, Jerry Moreau narrated a slide presentation that encapsulated all of this past season's blooms in both his personal collection, and at the San Diego Safari Park. It was an amazing program.

September Program: Our September monthly meeting will be held in person and via Zoom Wednesday, September 14th. Our program will be an interesting one. It will be on the fascinating topic of carnivorous plants—those that derive some or most of their nutrients from trapping and consuming animals, protozoans, insects and other arthropods. You surely won't want to miss this.

In Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Pre-meeting workshop Room 104, 7:00 p.m. Zoom will begin at 7:00 p.m. for socializing and the online meeting will join the in-person meeting at 7:30 p.m.



Left: Dean Delibertis does a great job conducting the August Workshop on properly making cuttings.

Right: Barb Alvarez (c.) receives the President's Choice Award from Patricia Neal (l.) and David Cheever (r.).



Photos: JK Hendershot

Keeping In Touch...

Our members are the most important part of our society! Together we create more beauty to enjoy.

As with any group, we are more effective and stronger when we are unified together—and our membership spans the globe! Although the epies are what bring us together at first, lifelong friendships are made in the society. Knowledge, plants, passions and stories of those who came before us 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 Editor: JK Hendershot at 619-301-3587 or EpiNews@sdepis.org



'Autumn Frost'
Photo: Joyce Carr

Welcome to Our New Members

Susie Amundson, Oceanside, CA
Polly Baik, San Diego, CA
Casey and Korin Crew, La Mesa, CA
Sarah Roberts, Lakeside, CA
Marikathryn Ross



'Autumn Pink' FRE
Photo: Roger Chapin

We Need Your Help

If you have epies—cuttings or plants—succulents, interesting garden items, or other plants you would like to donate to stock and increase the variety of items on our raffle table, we need your help. To make a donation or to obtain more information on how you can help, please contact director, and raffle table coordinator, Paula Reynolds via email at paularey@aol.com with your ideas, and questions.

Remember the Society—Support your passion, support the Society's collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Currently, we have the world's largest collection of epiphyllum hybrids and epiphytic species on public display. We also have a very unique new display, and to keep it intact SDES needs additional funding to maintain it. All monies raised goes toward the care of the collection and display. We are all volunteers who create and upkeep the display because we are passionate about it. All donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Consider putting SDES and the epi collection in your will or trust.

Get Your Facts First Article and photos by Linda Sinkovic

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



A. flagelliformis from Linda's garden.

So, maybe you've been looking online and you see “Whoa! *Aporocactus conzattii* for sale! I've never heard of that, it sounds cool! I'm gonna buy it!” Should you buy it, though? Is it a bona fide species? Or is this a case of confusion caused by confusing names? Sadly, most likely it's due to confusing names causing confusion.

We've known about *Aporocactus* (and people have been growing it) for hundreds of years. That gives us plenty of time to get confused by nomenclature. You could say the confusion started back in 1753 when Carl Linnaeus described “*Cactus flagelliformis*”, which Charles Lemaire moved (in 1860) into his newly created genus *Aporocactus*.¹ *Aporocactus martianus* was first described in 1832 by Joseph Gerhard Zuccarini as “*Cereus martianus*”, but then Britton and Rose moved it to *Aporocactus* in

1920. (Although we've only been talking about two species, Britton and Rose list five species of *Aporocactus*; more about that to come.) In 1991, the species in *Aporocactus* were subsumed into *Disocactus*;² however, phylogenetic analysis in 2016 showed those species should be moved out of *Disocactus* and back into their own genus (*Aporocactus*).³

So let's go back to Britton and Rose. They listed five species of *Aporocactus*: *A. flagelliformis*, *A. flagriformis*, *A. leptophis*; *A. conzattii* and *A. martianus*. The first three were very similar and differed by branch thickness and small variations in petal shape; the last two differed by variation in the “pointyness”⁴ of the flower petals. The differences were so subtle that questions were raised about the validity of the five species listed by Britton and Rose. Recently a phylogenetic analysis study was done and earlier this year (2022) a paper was published discussing the results.

The result showed there are two species of *Aporocactus*: *A. flagelliformis* and *A. martianus*. The other “species” listed by Britton and Rose are variations within these two species: “flagriformis” and “leptophis” are actually *A. flagelliformis*, and “conzattii” is actually *A. martianus*.

Both species occur in cloud forests and pine-oak woodland (temperate forests) at higher elevations.⁵ *A. martianus* has been found in the central part of the state of Veracruz, Mexico as well as in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico; *A. flagelliformis* occurs in the Sierra Madre Oriental from the state of Guanajuato to the central part of Veracruz, to the north and west of the occurrence of *A. martianus*.^{6,7}

Aporocactus is a small and interesting genus. Both species are pretty easy to grow; you can treat them like epicacti hybrids—make sure they are grown in well draining mix.⁸ I hope this was not too confusing.⁹ In any case, enjoy your garden.



Above: an example of *A. martianus*.

Notes:

¹ From the Greek word *aporia* (question) plus the word “cactus” (which also comes from the Greek *kaktos* via Latin).

² This was not just a random whim; the idea was that all the colorful and day blooming flowers should be under *Disocactus*.

³ It turns out *Aporocactus* is more closely related to *Selenicereus* and *Weberocereus* than to *Disocactus* and *Epiphyllum*.

⁴ Sorry, can't think of a better word than ‘pointy ness’.

⁵ *A. martianus* above 1500 m /4900 ft; *A. flagelliformis* above 2000m /6500 ft.

⁶ States of Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Puebla, Queretaro, Veracruz, Mexico.

⁷ Even though the species occur fairly near to each other, they are not encountered together; that is, there is an allopatric distribution.

⁸ Also see Get Your Facts First: *Aporocactus* and *Aporophyllums* in Epi News Volume 42 Number 6 (June 2017).

⁹ Science never stops, and people keep refining knowledge and finding new facts. It can be confusing though. *Continued on the following page*

Get Your Facts First (Continued)

Resources:

Bauer, R. 2003. "A synopsis of the tribe Hylocereeae F. Buxb." *Cactaceae Systematics Initiatives* 17, 3-63.

Britton, N.L. and Rose, J.N. *The Cactaceae*, Carnegie Institution of Washington 1923, available at: http://publicationsonline.carnegiescience.edu/publications_online/cactaceae/default.html

Cruz M. Á, S. Arias, & T. Terrazas, 2016. Molecular phylogeny and taxonomy of the genus *Disocactus* (Cactaceae), based upon the DNA sequences of six chloroplast markers. *Willdenowia* 46, 145-164. www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.3372/wi.46.46112

Hunt, D. 1989. "Notes on *Selenicereus* (A. Berger) Britton & Rose and *Aporocactus* Lemaire (Cactaceae-Hylocereinae)", *Bradleya* 7, 89-96.

Hunt, D. and N.P. Taylor, 1991. "Notes on miscellaneous genera of Cactaceae", *Bradleya* 9, 81-92.

Hunt, D., et al, *The New Cactus Lexicon*, 2006, ISBN 0 9538134 4 4

Korotkova, N., T. Borsch, and S. Arias. 2017. "A phylogenetic framework for the Hylocereeae (Cactaceae) and implications for the circumscription of the genera", *Phytotaxa* 327(1), 1-46 .

Martinez-Quezada, D.M., S. Arias, N. Korotkova, T. Terrazas. 2020. "The phylogenetic significance of the stem morpho-anatomy in the Hylocereeae (Cactoideae, Cactaceae)", *Plant Systemics and Evolution* 306:8

Rosas-Reinhold, I., D. Sánchez, and S. Arias. 2022. "Systematic Study and Niche Differentiation of the Genus *Aporocactus* (Hylocereeae, Cactoideae, Cactaceae)." *Botanical Sciences* (100) 2, 423-445.



Above: beautiful red-orange blooming *A. martianus*.

Now is the Time

- ✓ **Maintain good grooming** by eliminating unsightly and non-productive branches. This directs the plant's energy into the healthier branches which will produce stronger blooms next spring. Branches that have grown long should be in hanging baskets or trellised.
- ✓ **Protect plants from excessive direct sunlight.** Although the end of summer is in sight, in Southern California we can still anticipate some very hot days.
- ✓ **Prevent soil from drying out.** However, keep an eye on the humidity. Even though it may be very hot, too much watering during humid weather can contribute to root rot. Make sure there is air circulation around your pots.
- ✓ **Protect new growth from wind damage.** Hot, dry Santa Ana winds blow in September. Keep an eye on your plants during these days.
- ✓ **Protect apples (seed pods) from birds and rodents.** Birds and raccoons love to eat them.
- ✓ **Give plants final feeding of a balanced fertilizer for the fall growing season.**
- ✓ **Mist or hose down branches to clean off dirt and pollutants.** With the hot summer weather letting up a bit, occasional misting or spraying is beneficial.
- ✓ **Some die-back is natural** in epies and fall is a season you'll see this along with some new growth.
- ✓ **Many species plants bud and bloom now.** Remember to give them some fertilizer and don't move plants that are budding.
- ✓ **Watch for pests.** Late summer and early fall is an active time for snails. During dry weather, snails and slugs are drawn to moist, potted plants. As many can attest, snails and slugs can destroy your mature plants.

What's In A Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course!

By Jerry Moreau, Volunteer Curator/Coordinator Epiphyllum Collection & Display



Above: 'Robert S. Hughes-H'

Photo: Jerry Moreau

This month we take a look at I. J. Hughes, a perhaps lesser-known hybridizer from the Los Angeles area, who had just over 30 registrations to his name. To provide you a little background, Isaac John Hughes was born in 1909 in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. In 1930, I. J. married Ethel C. Cobbin Hughes in Los Angeles, CA. Ethel was born nine days after I.J. in 1909—in Warwickshire, England.

Hughes earned the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II, and after the war, returned to Southern California to raise a family. Hughes's draft card listed him as being employed by the Los Angeles Wholesale Drug Company, and Ethel was a telephone operator all of her life and eventually retired from what was then Pacific Bell.

Both I. J. and Ethel were active in the Epiphyllum Society of America until her death in 1986. I. J. passed away in 2000, and both were laid to rest at Los Angeles National Cemetery, in Los Angeles, CA. They had a son Robert, who lived in Fallbrook, CA, and was the namesake of the epiphyllum

which bears his name 'Robert S. Hughes-H'. The photo is shown above, and was registered in 1992.

Hughes's first registration was in 1979, but most of his plants were registered in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He did something a little different with the cultivar names. He ended many of his hybrid names with '-H' (hyphen H). Raymond Eden and Donald E. Clinton (REDC) registered two of his hybrids and didn't follow his naming system when they named two of his hybrids. Eden and Clinton used the names 'Epitome', and 'Pure of Heart'. And to make it less consistent, Mr. Hughes didn't follow his own naming convention of using '-H' (hyphen H) when naming 'Sara Robinett' (no -H), 'Kimberley H.', 'Michael H.', 'Pamela H.', and 'Stacy H.'—the last four names were 'H.' (initial H period).

Unfortunately, I've not seen many of Mr. Hughes's hybrids in circulation, but I hope they are out there somewhere in our members' collections. In 1983, Mr. Hughes and his wife Ethel were honored by the Epiphyllum Society of America and were presented the Alice Buchanan Award, which recognizes outstanding service to the ESA through contributing to the Society's welfare or advancing its ideals and objectives.

Continued on the following page



L: 'Pamela H.'

Photo: SDES Archives

R: 'Pure Of Heart'
President's Choice
winner in 2018

Mother's Day Show

Photo: Jerry Moreau



What's In A Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course! (Continued)



Above: 'Ethel Hughes-H'
Photo: Roger Chapin

Another prolific hybridizer that most everyone is familiar with is George French, from San Diego, CA. In 2005, French was recognized by the Epiphyllum Society of America and was presented the Founders Award, which is to honor those whose accomplishments have influenced the epiphyllum world both nationally and internationally.

French had fun with his naming process and named one of his hybrids 'Coral Mist-F'. Although it's not listed this way in the Epiphyllum Society of America's *Registry of Species and Hybrids*, it is on the registry form that George submitted to the ESA at the time of registration.

It would be more helpful to have the '-F' after George's 'Coral Mist', because there are already two other 'Coral Mist' hybrids. Earl Child's 'Coral Mist' that was registered in 1975, by Sherman E. Beahm (Beahm Gardens) and Joyce Carr's 'Coral Mist' 1987. Joyce's hybrid is also of interest. This hybrid is one of the few named by her with the hybrid name not starting with Liberty, for example: 'Liberty Glow', 'Liberty Julie', or 'Liberty Super Alf'.

Below is a list of I. J. Hughes' hybrids:

'Blessed Event-H'
'Calavo-H'
'Cranberry Red-H'
'Epi Love-H'
'Epitome' (REDC)¹
'Ethel Hughes-H'
'Fallbrook Fantasia-H'
'First-Love-H'
'Heart Throb-H'
'Honey Bunch-H'
'Kimberley H.'

'Lisa Hughes-H'
'Love Bird-H'
'Making Love-H'
'Michael H.'
'Michael J.-H'
'Minnie Girl-H'
'My Hobby-H'
'My Mom-H'
'My Princess-H'
'My Sweetheart-H'
'Pamela H.'

'Patricia Hughes-H'
'Peacemaker-H'
'Plumish-H'
'Pure Of Heart' (REDC)¹
'Robert S. Hughes-H'
'Rosy Pink-H'
'Sara Robinett'
'Sheri Hughes-H'
'Stacy H.'
'Yellow Face-H'
'Young At Heart-H'

¹ Registered by Raymond Eden and Donald E. Clinton



L: 'Stacy H.'
Photo: SDES Archives

R: 'Epitome'
Photo: SDES Archives



Monthly Member Highlight—Linda Sinkovic



SDES Featured Member

Linda Sinkovic, Santa Cruz, CA.

I recently had a chance to talk with member Linda Sinkovic who resides in Santa Cruz, California. Linda joined the San Diego Epiphyllum Society (SDES) in May of 2004. Linda served as co-editor of Epi News prior to me taking over the role this past April, and is a current contributor. Linda agreed to sit down for an interview so our readers around the world could have the opportunity to get to know her a little better.

Linda, tell us a little about yourself—where you grew up, what kind of work you do, or did if you are retired. I was born in Los Angeles, CA. My family relocated to Silicon Valley in the early 1970's, and I spent many, many years working in the high-tech industry, during this time living in various places in the Santa Clara Valley and the Santa Cruz mountains. I went to the University of California Santa Cruz to finish up my degree in the 1990's and we ended up staying in Santa Cruz. In 2004, we moved to San Diego for my husband's job and stayed there for a while, but returned to central California in 2016. I am currently retired and enjoying life.

That's a very beautiful part of California—I'll be curious to hear how your epies grow there. Would you tell our readers how you got interested in epies? Well, I inherited my grandfather's 'April Shower' plant—which was hybridized by Cactus Pete in 1946, and it is still growing strong.

Linda, aside from your position as co-editor, have you held any other positions within the SDES? Yes, I held the position of Recording Secretary for one year. Also, I served as Director for a few years—while I was the SDES Librarian. Also, as you mentioned, I was co-editor of *Epi News*—along with Jerry Moreau—from August 2015 until March 2022.

Well, I'm guessing your role as co-editor was pretty much a full-time job! I also wanted to mention how much I always looked forward to your 'Get Your Facts First' (G.Y.F.F.) monthly article, and after a brief hiatus, I am pleased to report it is back! So, let's shift gears now, are you currently active in other epi societies? Other plant or garden societies or groups? I am a member of three other California epiphyllum societies: the ESA, South Bay Epiphyllum Society, and the SF Epiphyllum Society. Also, Monterey Bay Cactus and Succulent Society, Ballarat Cactus and Succulent Society, Cactus and Succulent Society of America, British Cactus and Succulent Society, Deutsche Kakteen Gesellschaft (DKG), and EPIG. I've volunteered with my local chapter of the California Native Plant Society and I belong to Pacific Coast Native Iris Society and Pacific Bulb Society. *Continued on the following page*



Above Left: 'Lin Sinkovic' RUD, 2011. Above Right: 'Linda Sinkovic' DTO, 2012. Photos: Linda Sinkovic

Monthly Member Highlight—Linda Sinkovic (Continued)

How long have you been growing epies—and what do you grow—hybrids, species? I have been growing epicacti since about 1995. I grow a few hybrids but I prefer to grow species. I particularly like what used to be referred to as Rhipsalids: *Rhipsalis*, *Lepismium*, *Pfeiffera*. *Schlumbergera* and *Rhipsalidopsis* hybrids grow really well here, so I grow those also. I also like *Disocactus* species because of the beautiful, colorful flowers.

What was your first epi? Tell us about your favorite epies? My very first hybrid epi was a no-name red that I got from a friend at UC Santa Cruz. Among the hybrid epicacti, my favorites change constantly; overall I prefer the small spiky-petaled types of flower, although I am partial towards orange flowers no matter what the flower shape. I have two namesakes, both of which I like very much: ‘Lin Sinkovic’ and ‘Linda Sinkovic’.

Wow, I think it is pretty cool to have not one—but two hybrids named after you! So back to your collection—are there any epis that you have been trying to acquire that you just cannot seem to find? Perhaps some of our readers can help or steer you in the right direction. I can’t think of any off hand right now, but if I do I will be sure to let you know, so you can add them to the ‘Wish List’ column.

Do you have any themes to your collection, for example, all reds, pinks, small or fragrant flowers? Not really—there are no themes. I grow hybrids that I like. The majority of the plants that I grow are species plants.

Who in the epi world has influenced you? A tough question to answer! I have learned so much from so many people and the list is very long. If I had to choose one person, I guess I would say Dick Kohlschreiber.

Who is or was one of your favorite hybridizers and why? Another difficult question. Too difficult for me to answer, actually.

So, no identifiable favorites hybridizers—what if you were to hybridize an epi, what would you name it and why? Maybe after characters from Terry Pratchett’s ‘Discworld’ series.

OK, let’s focus on your plants and growing epies in your specific climate. In what type of container do you plant your epies? A particular soil mix or fertilizer? Do you fertilize your epies? If yes, when? Santa Cruz is on the northern edge of the Monterey Bay. This area of California is referred to as the Central Coast. There are fairly regular incursions of marine layer and usually it doesn’t get too hot here (though September and October days are often hot and dry).

My plants live outside in two small shade houses most of the year; I have a few plants such as *Pseu-*
Continued on the following page



Left: Linda at a ryokan (traditional Japanese inn) in Ise, Japan. Right: *A. flagelliformis*. Photos: Linda Sinkovic

Monthly Member Highlight—Linda Sinkovic (Continued)

dorhipsalis amazonica and also some *Epiphyllum* species plants (too big to easily move) which live in the greenhouse year round. Almost all the plants (greenhouse or shade houses) are in plastic pots, with a few plants growing on moss-covered terra cotta pots.

If the weather turns cold in the winter—if it gets below say 40° F/4.5°C.—I will move the more sensitive plants into the greenhouse for a few days. It's only for a few days because my greenhouse is not large and there is not room for all the plants in my collection.

My mix is typically: 1 part perlite, 1 part acid (azalea) mix, 1 part coir. For the more picky plants, I have a super fast draining mix based upon an article I read in the *EPIG Journal* (No. 80, 2018). Super-fussy plants live on moss-covered terra cotta pots.

I try to fertilize once a month (year round) with liquid fertilizer diluted to 5-5-5. Moss-covered pots get foliar feed once a month.

My tip is to plant in the smallest container you can get away with. This will help you to not overwater your plants.

That's a great tip! Tell us about your philosophy on life or gardening? There's an expression from Zen Buddhism, "Kan-kyakka!". The literal translation is 'Look at your feet!', however I translate it more as, 'Pay attention to where you are'.

What interests do you have other than epies? My varied interests include geology (particularly the western part of North America), language study (mostly Japanese), knitting (especially socks), photography, lacquerware, and travel.

Is there a fun fact or something interesting about you that you would like to share? A surprising or unexpected talent? I was a member of the team that produced the Atari arcade game Paperboy (1984) and my name can be found on the arcade game credits screen. ***Wow. The Atari is certainly a flashback!***

Linda, on a scale of 1 to 10, how obsessed are you with your epi collection? I would say probably a 6 or 7; I try to go out and see the plants and look in the greenhouse every day. My husband might say an 8 or 9, since he is the one who has to deal with the greenhouse automation. But it's all worth it!

We would like to thank Linda for taking the time to share her interesting story. We thank her for her continued contribution to the society over the years, her informative articles and for providing our readers a window into her life.



Above Left: Linda visiting La Jolla, CA. Above Right: *Aporocactus flagelliformis*. Photos: Linda Sinkovic.

A Look Back at the Orchid Cactus *By Lois Burks*

Editor's Note: This article entitled "Orchid Cactus" is reprinted with the permission of Lois Burks, SDES Honorary Life Member. The article was originally published in 1984—when many people outside Southern California, and certain parts of Europe knew little or nothing about orchid cactus—or epiphyllum, as we commonly refer to them today. Growing up and living in Ohio until my mid-thirties, I had never seen an epi—until like many of you, I wandered into Balboa Park one Mother's Day weekend and was drawn in by the SDES's Show and Sale, and the rest was history.

Lois, her late husband Bob, and their partners Robert and Alice Buchanan, at the California Epi Center, were instrumental in educating and making epies mainstream to the public—beyond our local communities, so we all could enjoy growing epies—and we in part have people like Lois to thank.

Most plant lovers are familiar by now with that super-market favorite, the Christmas Cactus. The good news is that the Christmas Cactus has a whole group or host of "relatives", most of which are not well known, but all of which are beautiful in their own right. And the "relative" most deserving of all of the attention is the Orchid Cactus (epiphyllum). The shimmering iridescent blossoms, the diversity of flower forms, sizes and colors are absolutely incomparable. And they're easy to grow, too!

Orchid Cacti put out flattened or triangular succulent branches, but do not have leaves. The shining green branches arch gracefully over the edges of the pot, making Orchid Cacti ideal subjects for hanging baskets. The flowers appear at notches (areoles) along the edges of the branches. The small-flowered hybrids (2" to 5" blooms) have blossoms that are borne on compact plants that

flower heavily early in the spring, and sometimes again later in the year. The larger flowered hybrids (5" to 12" blooms) have flowers that are borne on plants that require a bit more space, but which will reward you handsomely with many gigantic shimmering blossoms.

The Orchid Cacti on the market today are the end result of years of hybridization between epiphyllum species and other epiphytic cacti such as heliocereus, selenicereus, nopalxochia, chiapasia and pseudo rhipsalis. The resulting plant hybrids have been crossed with each other. All of the plant species above except the man-made hybrids are native to the jungles of Mexico, Central and South America, where they grow in the trees, taking their nourishment from the air and the decaying matter found in the forks of the branches. Although most of the true epiphyllum species are night blooming plants with white blossoms, the bigeneric hybrids we now call Orchid Cacti are all day blooming and available in every color except blue. The flower sizes range from two inches up to an amazing twelve inches.

One of the nicest things about Orchid Cacti is that there is absolutely no trick to growing them. They can be grown in hanging containers or staked in a pot in an upright position if you don't

have room for hanging baskets. Simply keep their tree-dwelling jungle heritage in mind, and you will have the key to their care. Orchid Cacti prefer filtered light, never direct noonday sun. Grow them under lath, shade cloth, or a tree. An east or west window will do nicely if you are raising them as houseplants. They prefer about 50 percent humidity, but are basically pretty tough. Less will definitely do.

If nothing else, one could safely say that Orchid

Continued on the following page



The colorful cover of the 1987-1988 California Epi Center Catalog.

A Look Back at the Orchid Cactus (Continued)

Cacti are marvels of adaptability. They prefer temperatures that range between 45°F and 70°F, but they will tolerate extreme heat if some effort is made to keep them well shaded and the humidity level up. Orchid Cacti will also tolerate temperatures of less than 32°F for a few hours, but will freeze if exposed to freezing temperatures for any length of time. If you are wintering your Orchid Cacti in the house, they prefer an evenly cool location (between 45°F and 50°F) where they do not receive artificial light at night. These cool winter temperatures and long nights are necessary for bud formation to take place.

The potting mix should be coarse, fast-draining and high in organic matter. Packaged indoor planter mix with a coarse texture will do nicely. If the mix does not appear to drain well, the addition of small bark, perlite or horticultural pumice will improve the porosity.

The main thing to remember about watering Orchid Cacti is that the mix should never be allowed to dry out completely. When you water the plants, do it thoroughly so that the water flows freely from the drain holes. Then allow the top 1/3 of the mix to dry before watering again. Nothing replaces checking the mix every few days to see whether it is time to water. Generally speaking, clay pots will dry out more quickly, and during the summer months especially, must be watered frequently. We prefer plastic pots as they do not require attention as often, but overwatering is more of a danger. If you tend to overwater, stick with clay pots. Orchid Cacti go through natural growth cycles in the spring and again in the fall. Naturally, they demand more water during this time. The plants usually rest after flowering and again during the win-

ter months. Cut down on the water a bit after heavy flowering, but never allow the plants to dry out completely. The plants should receive just enough water during the cold winter months to stay moist.

Orchid Cacti should be fertilized once a month starting in April and ending in the fall with mild balanced fertilizer, preferably one that does not contain over ten percent nitrogen. Once in February, and again in November, apply low-nitrogen fertilizer (0-10-10 or 2-10-10) to promote blooms and harden tender young growth in time for winter.

Orchid Cacti are relatively trouble free as far as pests go. The most common pests are scale (small round tannish insects) and mealybug (whitish insects that leave a cottony residue), both of which can be controlled by spraying with 50% Malathion diluted 1 Tbsp. to the gallon of water. Malathion will also control the ants that spread scale and mealybug. Snail bait should be put out on a regular basis, as snails love Orchid Cacti and can do a great deal of damage. The major blooming season for Orchid Cacti starts in late April, peaks in May and ends in June. During the other months of the year you may be rewarded by the occasional “off-season” bloom, especially from the small flowered varieties. Blooms will usually appear on a two to three year old root bound plant.

If you cannot locate Orchid Cacti in your local nurseries, small plants and rooted cuttings are available via mail order from several sources.

Thanks again to Lois for providing our readers the opportunity to share her story during her years as co-owners of the California Epi Center.



*Left: 'Oakleigh Conquest'
WCL (OAK)
C.E.C. sold this as a
Rat Tail Cactus
(*'Dante' x A. flagelliformis*)
Photo: Lois Burks*

*Right: 'Fifi'
CLDG (HST)
Photo: Lois Burks*



Annual Photo Contest Announced for October

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society Annual Photo Contest has been announced and will be held from the 2nd Wednesday in October to the 2nd Wednesday in November—October 12 thru November 9, 2022.

While most of our members live in Southern California, we have many members living throughout the U.S. and in other countries. The SDES strives to include all of our members in events, whenever possible. To further this objective, the 2022 SDES Photography Contest will be an online event. All of our members—no matter where they live—can now participate in our photography contest.

Start reviewing your photographs now and read the updated rules. The contest categories are *Single Flower*, *Multi Flower*, and *Epi Art*. Your photographs must be submitted **no later than the 2nd Wednesday in October—October 12, 2022, to qualify**. All entries that meet the contest requirements which will be posted online, and judged by our team of judges. As always, we will have a *People's Choice* category, so make sure to view the online entries and vote for your favorites.

Contest winners will be announced the 2nd Wednesday in November—November 9, 2022 at our general membership meeting. The results will be posted on our website shortly thereafter.

For more information please go to: <https://sdepis.org/welcome-to-sdes/gallery/yearly-photo-contest/> or click this [link for contest rules](#), and then submit your photos via email to photocontest@sdepis.org. Please be sure to read all the contest rules. If you have questions contact the webmaster@sdepis.org



Photos: <https://sdepis.org>

SDES Takes Part In Turtle and Tortoise Event and Plant Sale

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society participated in the [San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society's](#) annual adoption and plant sale event held on July 23-24, in Balboa Park. David Cheever, Tim Paule, Pat Neal, Paula Reynolds and Cindy Decker talked to their society members and patrons; and we enthusiastically enjoyed attending their event. This was the first time we'd attended, and hope to be a part of their future events. We sold epi and dragon fruit plants and cuttings, and shared our story of epiphyllums with the Turtle and Tortoise enthusiasts. A big thank you to Cindy, Pat and the team for organizing, attending and sharing what we all do as a society.



Photo: Cindy Decker

2020 Photo Contest *And the winners were...*

Multi-flower Category



*Above: 2nd Place Linda Sinkovic
'Borgia'*



*Above: 1st Place Gilbert Hatfield
'Frühlingspracht'*



*Above: 3rd Place Jerry Moreau
'Frühlingstraum'*



*Above: Honorable Mention
Jerry Moreau
'City Lights'*

*Right: People's
Choice
Gail Hatfield
'Eli Obidiah'*



Safari Park Epi Collection and Display *by Jerry Moreau*

The dog days of summer are here. We survived them by working in the shade, going at a reasonable pace, and drinking plenty of water. August brought us an order for cuttings and rooted cuttings from the Plant Trader located at the San Diego Safari Park. We also finished fertilizing and the plants are beginning to look great! We even saw a couple of buds. There was an amazing huge bud on a 'Connie Mayer' planted in the ground to the left of the shade house structure entrance.

We also received a donation of plants from Michelle Davis, who lives in El Cajun, CA. She and her mother were owners of Grey/Davis Epiphyllum Nursery. Over the years, she has been a wonderful active member and is an Honorary Life Member of the society. We are very grateful for the plants and for Michelle thinking of us. This is one donation where we can rely that the plants donated are correctly identified. There were also some plants we didn't have in our collection—which we are extremely grateful for. They include 'Goodbye Charlie', 'Lotto', 'My-O-My', and 'Splash Down'. We would also like to recognize and thank David Cheever for picking



up the plants and for delivering them to the park.

Helping out during this past month were Barb Alvarez, Keith and Linda Bennett, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Dean Delibertis, Marie Dempewolf, Jeff Hendershot, Dennis Hughes, Ellen McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Paula Reynolds Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, and Paul vander Ploeg.

Aside from the crew, we did have one unexpected volunteer show up in July, that we neglected to mention. As most of us from the Saturday crew were setting up and getting ready to begin our day, a beautiful roadrunner meandered through the shade house and stopped long enough for us to capture a picture. He didn't stay long and continued out the other side of the shade house. We logged his hours and he then went beep-beep!



Above Left: 'Lotto'. Above Middle: 'My-O-My'. Above Right: Volunteer Roadrunner visits the shade house.

Above Photo: Roger Chapin

Above Photo: Svante Lundqvist

Above Photo: JK Hendershot

Details on How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park can be found on our website. If you have any questions contact Jerry Moreau. Click on <https://sdepis.org/welcome-to-sdes/epiphyllums/volunteering/>



Epiphyllum Society of America Show *by Don Crain*



'Kazoo' FRE



'Grand Soleil' COUR



'Evening Delight' MIY



'El Toro' WC



'King Midas' CP



'Eternity' WATTS

Wish List and News Notes

If there are epies that you are looking for it is possible someone in the Society might have it and be willing to share a cutting or two with you.

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

Sal Castellitto: aclarasd@aol.com

'Bold Venture', 'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold', 'Merry Christmas', 'Spanish Gold'

Forrest Ehbrecht:

forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com

'Sakurahime', 'Johnson's White'

Casey Gerdes: casey@yogawithcasey.com

'Crystal Flash', 'Gladyce Jones', 'Glow Bug', 'Kiwi Contraction', 'Monastery Gardens', 'Ron Crain'

Carmela Griswold: calcolors@gmail.com

'Ron Crain', 'Sakurahime', 'Exotic Dancer', 'Kiwi Sweetheart'

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'

Priscilla Merriam: pafmerriam@gmail.com

'Frida Kahlo', 'Gold Coin', 'Oberon', 'Ron Crain'

Paula Reynolds: paularey@aol.com

'Sunset Cliffs', 'Voltaire'

Janice Wakefield:

jwakefield.home@gmail.com

'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa', 'White Cloud'



Save the Date...

San Diego Epiphyllum Society
Holiday Banquet

Wednesday Evening, December 14,
Details to Follow

Epi News Submissions

News of interest to our 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 the 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 editor 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 for 2022

President	David Cheever
1st Vice President	Tim Paule
2nd Vice President	Patricia Neal
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Sec.	Carmela Griswold
Corresponding Sec.	Sal Castellitto
Membership Sec.	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past Pres.	Gretchen Ward
Director 2022-23	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2022-23	Mildred Mikas
Director 2022-23	Tim Paule
Director 2021-22	Paula Reynolds
Director 2021-22	Lauren Burnette

Resources

As a benefit to our members here is a list of epi resources available to you. If you are aware of any additional resources that you feel would benefit our members and you would like to have included, please contact the editor.

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 and Other Societies:

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>

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

Epiphyllum Society of America

1st Tuesday of every month except in December or January at 7:30 p.m. <http://epiphyllums.org/>

San Diego Botanical Garden Society

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

San Diego Bromeliad Society

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

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

San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society

Meets on Zoom every 2nd Friday

<https://www.sdturtle.org/>

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

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

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

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

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

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

We Leave You With This



'Lady Ruffles' FRE



'Professor Ebert' KN



'Professor Herbert S. Irwin' KN



'Harald Knebel' KN



'Hino' MIY

Photo: Barb Alvarez



'Eddie Huey' DFF

Photo: Barb Alvarez

All photos JK Hendershot unless noted.