



# Epi News

*San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.*

August 2023  
Volume 48 Number 8



## **'Jack Dray'**

Size: Large

Hybridizer: John W. Lee

Registrant: Dean & Tina Hawks, 1979

Photo: JK Hendershot, June 2023

**San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)**

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**Membership**

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Dual \$20.00 per year.  
<https://san-diego-epiphyllum-soc.square.site/>

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

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**Calendar of Events**

|           |      |   |
|-----------|------|---|
| August    | 9    | General Meeting                             |
|           | 12   | Safari Park Work Party <sup>1</sup>         |
|           | 23   | Board Meeting                               |
|           | 26   | Safari Park Work Party                      |
| September | 5    | ESA Monthly Meeting & Potluck               |
|           | 9    | Safari Park Work Party                      |
|           | 13   | General Meeting                             |
|           | 23   | Safari Park Work Party                      |
|           | 27   | Board Meeting                               |
| October   | 11   | General Meeting                             |
|           | 14   | Safari Park Work Party                      |
|           | 14   | SDES Member Appreciation Potluck            |
|           | 25   | Board Meeting                               |
|           | 28   | Safari Park Work Party                      |
| May       | 2024 | EpiCon 2024, Saturday, May 25 <sup>th</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> Additional Work Parties held

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.



**On the Cover:  
August 2023**

Photo: JK Hendershot

Jack Dray was a local hybridizer here in San Diego, and was friends with George French and another long-time SDES member Stan Christman. Jack hybridized the popular epi ‘Erica Soares’ (purple, with red midstripe, and pale lavender edges), which was registered by Jerry Moreau in 2012.

# President's Corner — *From President David Cheever*



The dog days of summer are here with all of the heat that accompanies it. Over the next few months it is especially important to keep an eye on your Epies so they do not dry out. Remember that your smaller pots dry out quicker than your one- or five-gallon pots, and clay pots dry out much quicker than their plastic counterparts.

As for our blooming season, almost all of the blooms are gone at the Safari Park and in our gardens—so now is the time to feed our Epies with a grow fertilizer to develop more cutting for next year's Mother's Day Show and Sale, and then for EpiCon XVII. Also, you'll find several informative articles in this month's *Epi News* that describe EpiCon along with its history, which will provide some good reading.

The first half of the year has gone by so quickly—along with our many exciting Spring Epi events. We do have some fun events to look forward to as we approach Fall, including our "End of Summer Member Appreciation Potluck" coming in October. Also, we have the spectacular Epi Photo Contest coming in October, and our big end of the year Holiday Banquet coming in December.

I want to thank Beth Jackson for giving the presentation on *Rhipsalis* plants by Linda Sinkovic, with all of those difficult to pronounce scientific names. Great job! Also, thanks to Barbra Alvarez for finding Dave Sohn to do a pre-workshop on keeping your gardening tools clean and sharp. If any of you have room to grow and care for some cuttings for our Society over this year for next year's sales, please contact Dean DeLibertis. We also need volunteers for our nominating committee for our elections coming up soon. Stay cool and see you at the meetings.

David Cheever, President

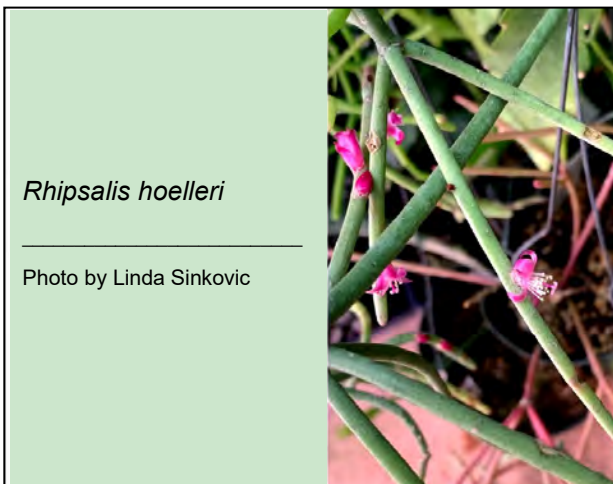
*David*

## Meeting Program

**Pre-Meeting Workshop:** This month's workshop topic is yet to be determined. Held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

**July Program:** Our monthly meeting was held in person and via Zoom on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. For our program last month, Beth Jackson gave a presentation by Linda Sinkovic on the *Rhipsalis* species, and an Ice Cream Social was sponsored by the Society.

**August Program:** Our August monthly meeting will be held in person and via Zoom on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. This month Jerry Moreau will be presenting his epi bloom photos taken this season. In Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Pre-meeting workshop Room 104, 7:00 p.m. Zoom begins at 7:00 p.m. for socializing, and the online meeting will join the live meeting at 7:30 p.m.



*Rhipsalis hoelleri*

Photo by Linda Sinkovic

(L): Presentation slide of *Rhipsalis hoelleri* by Linda Sinkovic.

(R): Beth Jackson presents on the *Rhipsalis* species.

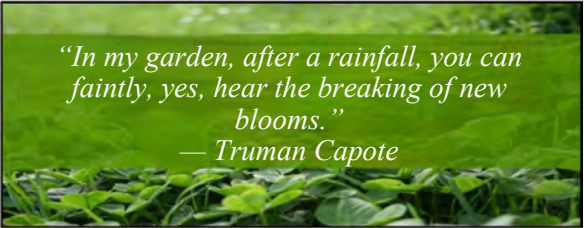
Photo: Carmela Griswold



# We Are 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!



*“In my garden, after a rainfall, you can faintly, yes, hear the breaking of new blooms.”*  
— Truman Capote

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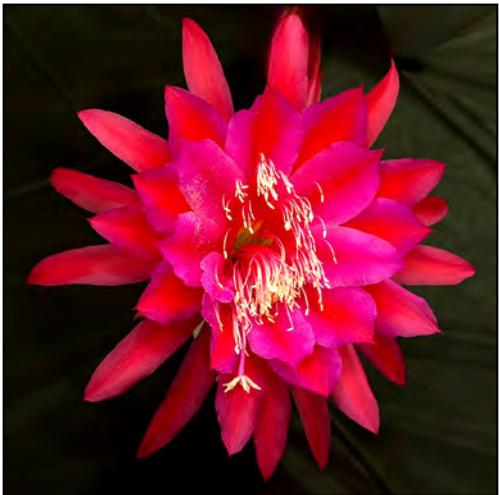
Newsletter Editor: JK Hendershot at 619-301-3587 or [EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org)



*'Autumn Pink', Mother's Day Show*  
Photo: Don Crain

New Members

Kathy Coffey, Jamul, CA  
Frank Frost, La Habra, CA  
Loise and Natali Galt, Escondido, CA  
Patti Roebuck, Oceanside, CA  
Linda and Ike Stone, San Diego, CA  
Rosalinda Vasquez, Pasadena, CA  
Bruce Zalneraitis, Port Ludlow, WA



*'Mystic Magic', Mother's Day Show*  
Photo: Don Crain

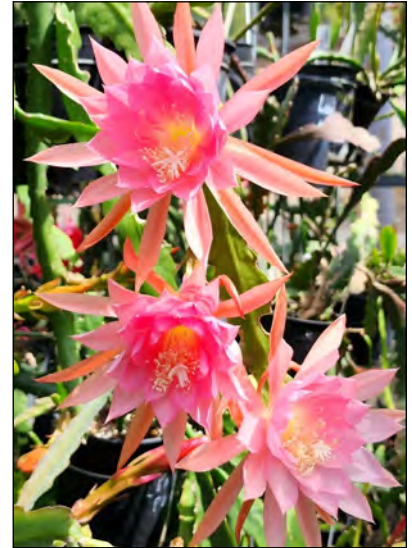
# We Need Your Help

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](mailto: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 money 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 epiphyllum collection in your will or trust.

## Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ **Groom plants.** Remove dried up or scarred foliage. Branches that have grown long should be in hanging baskets or trellised. The branches will be healthier if they're not laying on the ground or a shelf.
- ✓ **Keep debris off of the branches and out of the containers.** If you have your pots near or under trees you may get leaves in the containers. We typically get lots of dried bougainvillea leaves in our pots.
- ✓ **Monitor humidity.** Mist plants when necessary. With the hot summer weather, occasional misting or spraying is beneficial.
- ✓ **Don't allow the soil to completely dry out.** Smaller pots need watering more often than larger ones. Also, clay pots need watering more often than plastic containers. The best time to water is early morning or evening. Don't water during the hottest part of the day.
- ✓ **Remove unwanted apples.** Cut off the unwanted apple about ¼ inch above areola to prevent damage to areola.
- ✓ **Protect developing fruit.** Some birds love to eat them. Editor's Note: I am not sure how they managed it, but we had a nursery (or gaze) of raccoons pass through last year and eat every apple. I guess it was better than skunks!
- ✓ **Bait for snails and slugs.** As many can attest, snails and slugs can destroy your mature plants.
- ✓ **Protect epies from summer sun with shade cloth, lath houses or under the shade of trees.** Too much direct summer sun can sunburn and scorch your epies.
- ✓ **Protect plants from extreme wind.** Be aware that strong, dry Santa Ana winds can be harmful and plants will need wind protection, as well as more humidity.
- ✓ **If you want to try grafting, now is still a good time.** Use established, but viable, newer cuttings and be sure the cambium layers are matched for optimum growth. Also make sure your cactus pad is well rooted. Editor's Note: See the article written by Lois Burks in the July 2022 issue of *Epi News* for the 'how to' guide on grafting epies.



*Multi-flowered 'Lotus Queen' at the Safari Park, May 2023*

Photo: JK Hendershot



*More amazing blooms from the Safari Park, May 2023.*

*Left: Alice Buchanan's 'Pristine', AB (PITT) 2005.*

*Right: Yvonne and Andrew Brunton's 'Kiwi Honey Flash' Y&AB 2009, originating from the land down under.*



Photos: JK Hendershot

## 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



Pictured above: The delicate *Disocactus quezaltecus*.

Many of us grow *Disocactus anguliger*, *Disocactus crenatus*,<sup>1</sup> or *Disocactus macranthus*. All of these species have relatively large, showy flowers.<sup>2</sup>

The flowers of *Disocactus quezaltecus* are not particularly large but they are interesting. And like many of the epiphytic cacti species discussed in these articles, this species also has an interesting naming history.

*Disocactus quezaltecus* was collected in 1941 by Paul C. Standley, an American botanist.<sup>3</sup> In 1944, he and J.A. Steyermark<sup>4</sup> described this plant, naming it “*Bonifazia quezalteca*”. In the description, the authors mention this species was so “very distinct” they couldn’t place it in any existing genus.<sup>5</sup> However, in 1959 Myron Kimmach<sup>6</sup> noted this species was very similar to *Disocactus eichlamii* and so moved it into *Disocactus*<sup>7</sup> where it has remained.<sup>8</sup>

Why did the original authors think this species was so “very distinct”? Most of the time, it looks just like other species of *Disocactus*: stems start out round and flatten out about halfway, with pointed tips;<sup>9</sup> stems are green and have jagged edges;<sup>10</sup> there are areoles on the sides of the flat portion of the stems.<sup>11</sup> It doesn’t sound too different from other *Disocactus* species.

Most other *Disocactus* species don’t have flowers like *Disocactus quezaltecus*, though.<sup>12,13</sup> These flowers are tubular and don’t open up very much. They stand almost vertically, curving up very gracefully for a total length of about 3.5 inches. The flower is nearly white at the base and darkens to pale pink at the tip. While blooming, the very tip of the flower opens and the pink stamens and pistil protrude. The flower blooms for about three days, then it begins to droop. Fruit is similar to other *Disocactus* species fruits, red and egg shaped.<sup>14</sup>

*Disocactus quezaltecus* comes from the cloud forests of Guatemala<sup>15</sup> so it doesn’t like hot and dry situations. It is epiphytic and likes semi-shade. So far it seems to be doing well here (in Santa Cruz, CA) with the same growing conditions as hybrid epies. This year it flowered<sup>16</sup> in July, after the main hybrid epi bloom.

If you want to try to grow a plant with interesting and unusual flowers, you may wish to consider trying *Disocactus quezaltecus*.

Enjoy your garden.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Previously known as *Epiphyllum anguliger* and *Epiphyllum crenatum*, respectively. If this is news to you, track down the September 2016 issue of *Epi News* (v41, n09) and read GYFF.

<sup>2</sup> They also have similar requirements for growing conditions, probably because these species are involved in the parentage of hybrid epicacti.

<sup>3</sup> He worked for the U.S. National Museum (which became part of the Smithsonian) and the Field Museum in Chicago (as Curator of the Herbarium). He was an expert in plants from the new world tropics.

<sup>4</sup> Julian A. Steyermark was the Assistant Curator of the Herbarium.

<sup>5</sup> The genus name comes from the name of the person who ran the guesthouse (Guillermo Bonifaz) in Quezaltenango, Guatemala.

<sup>6</sup> Myron Kimmach was an expert on epiphytic cacti. He was also an authority on *Echeveria*. He was the Director of the Botanical Garden at the Huntington. See November 2018 *Epi News* (v43, n11) for more information.

*Continued on the following page*

## Get Your Facts First (Continued)



Many of us grow in our collections the more common *Disocactus crenatus*, pictured above left, or *Disocactus macranthus* pictured above right.

### Notes: (Continued)

<sup>7</sup> *Disocactus eichlamii* is also from Guatemala.

<sup>8</sup> Although in 1962, Louis O. Williams (Curator of Central American Botany at the Field Museum in Chicago) made an argument to move it into *Epiphyllum*. The reasoning appears to be that as it was an epiphytic cactus, it belonged in *Epiphyllum*. Phylogenetic analysis in 2016 confirmed its placing in *Disocactus* by M. Kimmach.

<sup>9</sup> Stems can be up to about 31 inches (80 cm) long in total; and flat portion of stem can be up to 2.3 inches (6 cm) wide.

<sup>10</sup> Stems are reddish when young, then become green. Edges are serrate to crenate.

<sup>11</sup> Areoles have short bristles and develop spines after flowering.

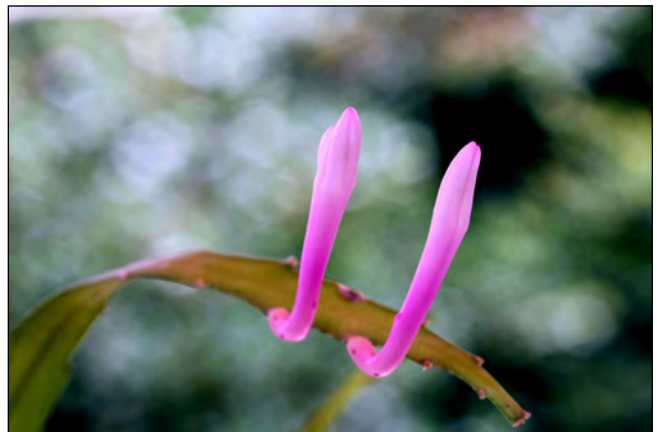
<sup>12</sup> The flowers of *Disocactus eichlamii* have a similar shape. However, the flower color of *Disocactus eichlamii* is red and magenta. The flowers of *Disocactus salvadoriensis* are also tubular but look more like the flowers of *Disocactus biformis*.

<sup>13</sup> One thing I noticed when researching this article was how the flower made such an impression on the original authors. In the first description, they said the flowers were “of exceptionally beautiful color and form”. I agree, the flowers are very beautiful.

<sup>14</sup> Dimensions of fruit are about 0.7 inch x 0.5 inch (18mm x 13mm).

<sup>15</sup> Found at 1800 m (5900 ft) of altitude.

<sup>16</sup> This is the first year it has flowered, and I don’t know if that is because it was such a very cool and wet spring here in Santa Cruz, CA.



Above: *Disocactus quetzaltecus* bud formation.

Photos: Linda Sinkovic

### References:

**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](http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.3372/wi.46.46112)

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**Kimnach, M.** 1959, “Icones Plantarum Succulentarum”, *Cactus and Succulent Journal (US)*, 31(5), 137-141.

**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.

**Standley, P.C. & Steyermark, J.A.** 1944. “Bonifazia”, *Field Museum of Natural History, Botanical Series* (23)2, 66-67.

**Williams, L. O.** 1962. “Epiphyllum”, *Fieldiana Botany* (29)7, 378.

# Workshop Corner: Rooting Epies in Soil vs. Perlite

Article and Photo by Workshop Leader Emeritus Ron Crain

*Editor's Note: In our June pre-meeting workshop we discussed rooting epi cuttings in water. In this article, we will examine the pros and cons of rooting cuttings in pure perlite.*

Over the last several years, more epiphyllum growers have been rooting their epi cuttings in pure perlite rather than in the more traditional potting soils. While the downside of this method is that it creates an extra step (since once the cuttings have developed roots, they need to be transplanted into potting soil), there appear to be fewer cuttings lost to rot. This is due to the fact that perlite is more open and porous than our usual potting soils and whatever moisture it contains drains and evaporates more quickly, discouraging rot. You can root epiphyllum cuttings in perlite in individual containers OR you can do it in a community pot. An advantage to this method is, if you have MANY cuttings to root, they can be placed very close together in their community container and will save you some space—at least for the several weeks to a few months that it takes for the cuttings to root.

If you are unable to resist the urge to water your cuttings too much while they are rooting, this method may work better for you.

The perlite can be slightly moist but no wetter. If the perlite is bone dry out of the bag, you can slightly moisten it using the mist setting on your hose nozzle. Remember that until your cuttings have developed some roots, soaking wet perlite will only cause them to rot. Without compressing too much, firm up the perlite lightly with your fingers. Plant deep enough so that the cutting will stay upright while it is rooting. You may have to plant slightly deeper than you would if you were planting in potting soil since the perlite is lighter and does not compact as much. When rooting in perlite, it can be helpful to use a clear plastic container because you can actually see the roots growing through the perlite medium.

Locate your newly planted cuttings in a place that receives little direct sunlight. These cuttings may

not have roots for several weeks. So, they cannot yet absorb very much moisture from the perlite. Too much sunlight and heat before they have rooted will only cause the cuttings to dry out and begin to shrivel. Since the perlite is so much lighter and full of air spaces than potting soil, it dries out very quickly. To prevent the cuttings from drying, you may have to LIGHTLY mist them a few times while they are rooting, especially if the weather is hot and the humidity remains low. Don't mist them to the point where the perlite is soaking wet. What you want here is a slight moistening.



Using the perlite-only method, once the cuttings have rooted, they must be transplanted into potting soil. This is because the perlite by itself contains almost no nutrients and will not sustain the plants indefinitely. As long as your cuttings are properly labeled, multiple varieties can be rooted together in a community pot since they are going to

be transplanted anyway. Any container that is several inches deep can be used. If the container has no drainage holes, make sure to drill at least several of them in the bottom. Fill the container nearly full, 4 or 5 inches deep with perlite and firm it up lightly with your fingers. Again, this perlite can be slightly moistened.

Start placing cuttings in the container, using a fork to make a space in the perlite for the cutting to be worked into. Epiphyllum cuttings in a community pot can be planted quite close together, so you can fit quite a few in a single container. They really only need to be about an inch apart. Again, plant deep enough so they don't fall over and make sure they are right side up.

Using this method, transplanting is easy. The cuttings are simple to remove from the perlite since it is loose and does not compact around the roots. Loosen the cuttings up with a fork, remove them from the container and shake the excess perlite from the roots. If the roots tangle a little bit, wiggle them around until they are separated. The left over perlite can be reused in your regular potting soil recipe. Enjoy experimenting with your epies!

## EpiCon Returns in May 2024 after Six-Year Hiatus

Plans are currently underway for the return of EpiCon (Epiphyllum Conference) XVII in May 2024. To provide some history, the first EpiCon was held in 1988, and then subsequently were held every two years. The event was cancelled in both 2020 and 2022, due to the global pandemic. For newer members of the Society who joined after 2018 (including myself)—you may be wondering what exactly is EpiCon and why would I want to make plans to attend?

EpiCon is a world-class event with attendees from around the globe. It's a forum for epi enthusiasts to come together to meet with hybridizers, thought leaders and other individuals with expertise in the areas of horticulture, and the care and propagation of epiphyllum and its related species. Aside from the technical knowledge that can be garnered from attending EpiCon—it's a time for friends both old and new to come together from various societies, socialize, share their personal best practices, and their passion for epies. Join us for the 17<sup>th</sup> Epiphyllum Conference; we look forward to seeing you in May!

A large, vibrant pink epiphyllum flower is the background for the central text box. The flower has multiple layers of petals and a bright yellow center. The text is overlaid on the flower in a white, semi-transparent box.

*Save the Date!*

**EPICON XVII will be held  
Saturday, May 25, 2024  
at California Center for the Arts,  
Escondido, CA.**

**Plans for guest speakers and costs are still in the planning stages. Information will be posted on the SDES Website at [sdepis.org](http://sdepis.org), the SDES Facebook page and in our newsletter, *Epi News*, when plans are formalized.**

Photos: JK Hendershot

# EpiCon Topics and Presenters over the Years...

By Patricia Neal, San Diego Epiphyllum Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

EpiCon is an event held every two years by one of the Southern California epiphyllum societies. Three societies have taken turns hosting the conference: Epiphyllum Society of America, San Diego Epiphyllum Society and South Bay Epiphyllum Society in San Pedro. The first EpiCon was hosted by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society in 1988, and was held at the San Diego Safari Park (formerly the Wild Animal Park). The event featured demonstrations on epiphyllum culture and care as well as discussions on growing hybrids. Since then the conferences have featured a variety of topics which include:

- ✓ Species and other epiphytic cacti.
- ✓ Reports on trips exploring for epiphytic plants in Central and South America—including Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia, and Peru.
- ✓ Visits to epiphyllum hybridizers and gardens in Germany, Switzerland, and England.
- ✓ Genetics of hybrid epiphyllums.
- ✓ Pest management, snails, and companion plants such as ferns.
- ✓ Dragon fruit.
- ✓ Photographing epies and computer programs for epiphyllum databases.
- ✓ The latest hybrids by Southern California hybridizers.
- ✓ And features on many epiphyllum hybridizers and nurseries over the past 50-plus years including:
  - Yvonne and Andrew Brunton – who hybridized the Kiwi epies in New Zealand at their Craigmyle Epiphyllum Nursery.
  - Curt Knebel in Germany – one of the original hybridizers who began hybridizing prior to World War I.
  - R.F. Kado – a Japanese hybridizer and nursery owner in Los Angeles, prior to World War II.
  - Wressey Cocke – Known for 50<sup>th</sup> cross hybrids from Ruby Snowflake x Tassel.
  - George French – Beloved local San Diego hybridizer.
  - Fort and O’Barr – Hybridizers from Los Angeles.
  - Alice Buchanan – Co-owner of California EpiCenter.
  - Rudolf Heßing-Herick who lives in northern Germany and has been specializing in hybridizing small flowers and off-seasons blooms.
  - Walter Haage in Germany who continues his family’s deep roots in the horticultural world. He owns Kakteen-Haage Cactus Nursery in Erfurt, Germany which was established in 1685—more than 330 years ago.
  - Dr. Rudi Dorsch, one of the leading experts in epiphytic cacti and Schlumbergera, as well as a liaison between German and American epiphyllum societies.



'EPICON XII' – RUD 2010  
(*Disocactus biformis* x 'Chopin') x  
'Peaches 'N' Cream'.  
Photo: SDES Archives

# EpiCon History and Those Early EpiCon Events

*Culled from the San Diego Epiphyllum Society and the Epiphyllum Society of America Archives*

*Editor's Note: As we prepare for EpiCon XVII, which will be held at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido CA, on Saturday, May 25, 2024, we thought it would be beneficial to lay the groundwork for next year's event by providing recaps of previous events in Epi News. Each month we will take a closer look at two events—beginning with EpiCon I and EpiCon II in our August issue. Each month thereafter, we will continue by featuring two additional events leading up to our kickoff in May 2024. Please be advised that there are very few—if any photographs of the earlier events available in the SDES archives. Sit back and take a look at how it all began in 1987.*

## **How EPICON Began**

In the Fall of 1987, representatives from the Epiphyllum Society of America (Los Angeles), the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, and the South Bay Epiphyllum Society (San Pedro, CA) met at the San Diego Botanical Gardens, in Encinitas, CA, and decided there should be a meeting or gathering open to the members of the three Southern California-based combined societies. The group was in agreement that a combined event would be beneficial to all of their respective organizations, and as a result of that meeting Epi Conference One (EpiCon I) was created.

## **EPICON I**

EpiCon I was held on October 8, 1988 at the San Diego Wild Animal Park (since renamed the San Diego Safari Park). The event was hosted by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society and chaired by SDES president Milt Turner. Dick Chadwick and Gus Schlapfer (Honorary Life Member) gave demonstrations on basic epiphyllum culture in the morning. After lunch, there were discussions about hybrids that never seems to grow or perform to expectations, how to improve the system for hybrid registration (for both growers and the organizations), and the propriety or appropriateness of the term “epiphyllum”, as it applies to the hybrids that we grow.

There was a tour of the epiphyllum display house. No final conclusions were reached—but many new friends were made, growing tips shared and everyone agreed that this conference must continue on a regular basis. The cost of the first EpiCon event was \$5.00, plus admission to the Safari Park and parking. The price did not include lunch, but did include a sandwich social which was held after the event at 4:00 p.m.

## **EPICON II**

EpiCon II was hosted by the Epiphyllum Society of America and held at the Fullerton Arboretum California State University, Fullerton campus on October 13, 1990. The topics discussed included: patenting epiphyllum hybrids, epiphyllum species, the Epi Directory (ESA Registry) revision project and the ESA's registration process were presented.

Dr. Rudy Dorsch, a leading expert in epiphytic cacti, spoke about the European Epi Conference and San Diego Epiphyllum Society's Pat Barrett, curator of the collection at the San Diego Wild Animal Park discussed the society's involvement in the maintenance and care of the collection. The highlight of the day was an outstanding presentation on the unlikely topic of “Genetics and Epis” by Ellen Zunino. Ellen, a botanist, cactus hobbyist and high school biology teacher, made the topic come alive and relatable to everyone in attendance.

Twenty-two members from the San Diego Epiphyllum Society were in attendance—along with Vera Ward of the brand new San Francisco Epiphyllum Society. Nearly 60 epi lovers gathered in all. The Epiphyllum Society of America hosted a sandwich social, it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, as well as new ones. The event was a success and we look forward to planning EpiCon III which will be hosted by the South Bay Epiphyllum Society and held at the South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA.

# EpiCon Program Covers over the Years...



Photos: SDES Archives

# Safari Park Epi Collection and Display *by Jerry Moreau*

Summer is here and we are in the thick of it. It has been warm at the park and the epies have been loving every minute of it. This is also the time of year when we see lots of new growth and we are fortunate to still see some occasional blooms.



We were busy again making cuttings this month, as we had another order to fulfill at the Safari Park's Plant Trader. Summer is always a bit of a challenging time to make cuttings as the new growth we had mentioned earlier, may make it more difficult to obtain salable cuttings. We typically do not like to use the young, tender, new green growth until it has had the chance to harden off—which typically happens the next season.

Also, there is always weeding to be done and snails to be removed. Summer also gives us the chance to see if any plants are not getting adequate water. We can relocate them or perhaps check the sprinkler heads to make sure every thing appears to be in check. All in all, everything looks great at the park and we are fortunate to be the caretakers of such a wonderful epiphyllum collection ([About Epiphyllum](#)).

I appreciate everyone who helps out at the park with the collection and display. It is worth repeating, we have something special going on with our display and collection. The [Epiphyllum Trail](#) is such a wonderful place for everyone at the park to enjoy. I do want to thank everyone for all their effort an dedication. Thank you so much for all that you do. Please know that it is greatly appreciated.

SDES members volunteering at the Safari Park this past month during July included: Barb Alvarez, Keith and Linda Bennett, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Ron and Velma Crain, Oliver

Lapuebla, Cindy Decker, Marie Dempewolf, Dean DeLibertis, Jeff Hendershot, Jerry Moreau, Beth Jackson, Paula Reynolds, Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, Ellen McCollum, Michal McKee, Dennis Hughes, Betsy and Jerry Markle, and Paul vander Ploeg.

Also, our own Cindy Decker was recognized by the San Diego Zoo and Wildlife Association for her milestone of fifteen years of service, as a volunteer at the San Diego Safari Park. Congratulations to Cindy and thank you for all you do!

**MILESTONES**  
*April, May, & June*

**15 YEARS** → Cindy Decker ←

**10 YEARS**  
Debbie Chappie  
Jaya Kaelberer  
Karin Kupka  
Sherry McGarry

**5 YEARS**  
Sally Dischinger    Rita Forsyth    Lisa Nichols  
Stephen Dischinger    Jim Keck    Claudia Robinson  
Leila Dooley    Robin Martinez    Jan Seeley  
Ken Erback    Jerry Matthews    Paul Seeley  
Yoichiro Mori

**1 YEAR**  
Peter Allen    Tom Fota    Julie Perreault  
Domenico Camplisson    Linda King    Sheri Phelps  
Karen Colby    Kathi Kopp    Maria Pike  
Lee Cummings    Aaron Lacasse    Bruce Salerno  
Helen Flaster    Lisa Nguyen    Scott Stey  
Joanne Pedersen    Melissa Treibel

**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.

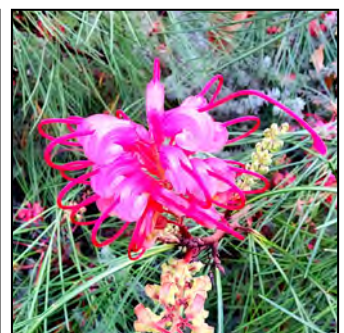
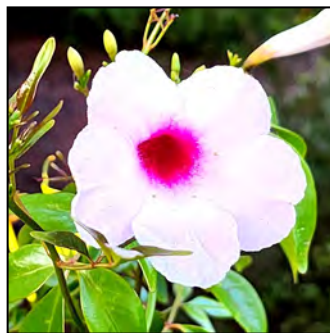
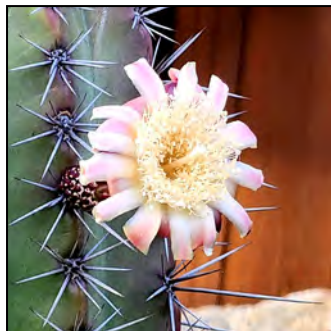


# Other Blooms Come Alive at the Safari Park



Although the epies on the Epiphyllum Trail at the San Diego Safari Park got off to a slow start—as far as blooms were concerned, the same did not hold true of the other flora at the park.

We attended the SDZWA Member Appreciation Event on May 2, 2023, and had the opportunity to tour the park, take photographs, and see the side of the park that the public sees and enjoys—it was truly a wonderful evening. Photos: JK Hendershot



# Wish List and Monthly Refreshment Schedule

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](mailto:aclarasd@aol.com)  
 ‘Bold Venture’, ‘Buttercup’, ‘Christmas Elf’, ‘Christmas Kiss’, ‘Kiwi Honey Gold’, ‘Merry Christmas’, ‘Spanish Gold’

**Forrest Ehbrecht:**  
[forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com)  
 ‘London Desire’, ‘Forrest Fyre’ (MW)

**Casey Gerdes:** [casey@yogawithcasey.com](mailto:casey@yogawithcasey.com)  
 ‘Crystal Flash’, ‘Gladyce Jones’, ‘Glow Bug’, ‘Kiwi Contradiction’, ‘Monastery Gardens’, ‘Ron Crain’

**Carmela Griswold:**  
[calcolors@gmail.com](mailto:calcolors@gmail.com) ‘Clarity’s Happy Hippie’,

‘Kiwi Sweetheart’, ‘Bernhard Paetz’, Kiwi Razzle Dazzle’

**Bridget Kleindienst:**  
[Bkleindienst13@gmail.com](mailto:Bkleindienst13@gmail.com)  
 ‘Baby Cake’, ‘Crystal Claret’, ‘Heather’

**Andrea McArthur:**  
[acmcarthur@roadrunner.com](mailto:acmcarthur@roadrunner.com)  
 ‘Queen Tatiana’

**Michal McKee:** [folklorist@gmail.com](mailto:folklorist@gmail.com)  
 ‘Elegans Lei’, ‘Mojave Gold’

**Priscilla Merriam:** [pafmerriam@gmail.com](mailto:pafmerriam@gmail.com)  
 ‘Frida Kahlo’, ‘Gold Coin’, ‘Oberon’, ‘Ron Crain’

**Leonora Rodriguez:** ‘Lenore Overture’, ‘Kinneloa’, ‘Spanish Flare’

**Paula Reynolds:**  
[paularey@aol.com](mailto:paularey@aol.com)  
 ‘Sunset Cliffs’, ‘Voltaire’

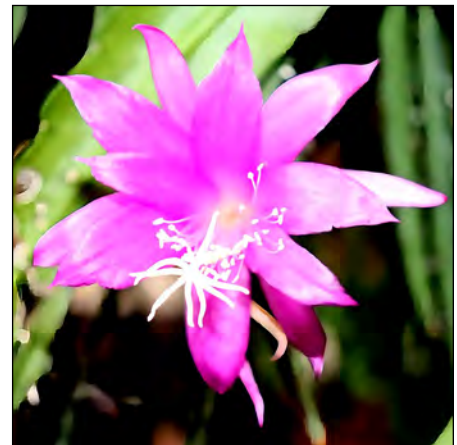
**Janice Wakefield:**  
[jwakefield.home@gmail.com](mailto:jwakefield.home@gmail.com)  
 ‘Bobby Brynildsen’, ‘Jasa’, ‘White Cloud’



*The Last of Us—Final Blooms*  
 All good things must come to an end and we have two final bloom photos submitted by readers.

Left: ‘Kiwi Gold Edition’, Y&AB submitted by Carmela Griswold.

Right: ‘English Rose’, submitted by JK Hendershot.



## Monthly Refreshment Schedule

|          |     |               |            |
|----------|-----|---------------|------------|
| January  | C—G | July          | Society    |
| February | H—L | <b>August</b> | <b>H—L</b> |
| March    | M—Q | September     | M—Q        |
| April    | R—U | October       | R—U        |
| May      | V—B | November      | V—B        |
| June     | C—G | December      | Banquet    |

## Epi News Submissions

News of interest to our SDES membership, and brief articles about our members, or our community are also 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 2023

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| President            | David Cheever    |
| 1st Vice President   | Open             |
| 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 2023-24     | Linda Bennett    |
| Director 2023-24     | Paula Reynolds   |
| Director 2023-24     | 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 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
<http://www.sfepi.org/>

#### South Bay Epiphyllum Society

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/511560205\\_668403](https://www.facebook.com/groups/511560205_668403)



# More Mother's Day Show 2023 *by Don Crain*



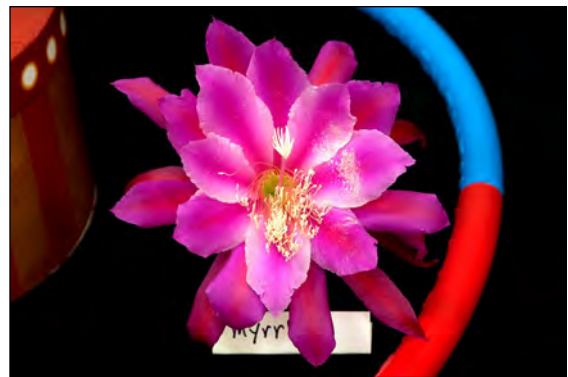
*'Jeanette' (not listed)*



*'Mango Tango' DP*



*'Love It' SHI*



*'Myrrh' STEGNER (NONES)*



*'Origami' SHI*



*'Carbon Country' SHI*



*'DonOro' DP*



*'Joyce Carr' ES(VIF)*

# We Leave You with This—Mother's Day Show 2023



*'Prairie Rose' FRE*



*'Jester' FRE (side view)*



*'George's Triumph' FRE*



*'Pegasus' x 'Marie Josephine'*



*'Apache Trail' FRE*



*'Jester' FRE*



*'French Gold' FRE*



*'Lady Ruffles' FRE*