



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

September 2025
Volume 50 Number 9



2025 Mother's Day Show Don Patterson Award

Best Unregistered Seedling 'Over The Top' x 'Esther Clark'

Entrant: Jerry Moreau

Size: Extra Large

Photo: Don Crain

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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Membership

Single \$15.00 per year.
 Dual \$20.00 per year.
<https://san-diego-epiphyllum-soc.square.site/>

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 your updates to:
 San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership
 P.O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127.

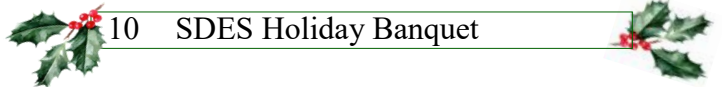
OR email Membership@sdepies.org
 For faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson, Membership Secretary—their address can be found on the membership roster.

Inside This Issue

President’s Corner / Meeting Program	3
Keeping in Touch	4
Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist	5
SDES Celebrates 55: A Look at Our History	6-9
Annual Photo Contest Announced for October	10
2024 Annual Photo Contest Epi Art Winners	11
SDES Holiday Banquet Announced	12
Safari Park Report	13
Member Appreciation Event / SDES Instagram	14
Wish List, Refreshments + News Notes	15
Epi Resource Page	16
What’s in a Name? A Beautiful Flower	17 - 19
We Leave You With This: More MDS ‘25	20

Calendar of Events

September	2	ESA Potluck and Silent Auction
	10	General Meeting
	14	Volunteer Appreciation Event @Dean’s
	24	Board Meeting
October	8	General Meeting
	18-19	Del Mar Fall Home and Garden Show
	22	Board Meeting
November	12	General Meeting
	26	Board Meeting
December	6	ESA Holiday Luncheon 12pm RSVP here
	10	SDES Holiday Banquet



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 online Zoom link from the Membership Secretary, or the President.



On the Cover:
 September 2025

Photo: Don Crain

The seedling is a cross of ‘Over The Top’ x ‘Esther Clark’. Inner petals fuchsia or light purple with a silver edge at the bottom of petal, orange mid-stripe top half of petal, ruffled edge. Next row light orange with a light purple edge. Outer petals orange with light orange edge. Stamens white and cascade. Flat and triangular growth. Extra Large.

President's Corner — *From President Carmela Griswold*



As the seasons shift, I hope your gardens thrived and your epies had a restful summer. September brings cooler evenings and signals a time of transition. While growth slows, it's a good time to start planning ahead.

Now is ideal for checking your plants' overall health, refreshing potting soil if needed, and making note of which cuttings to root or share. Many of us are already thinking about the 2026 bloom season—because as we know, great blooms start with good planning.

Our Photo Contest kicks off on September 1, and we encourage everyone to submit their entries through October 8! The contest is held online, making it easy for SDES members and other epiphyllum society members like the Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA), to participate. You can

find the full contest rules on our website: sdepis.org.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Membership Appreciation Party on Sunday, September 14, at 1 p.m., hosted in Dean DeLibertis's beautiful backyard. As always, Dean and Chris will treat us to a generous spread of delicious dishes, all while we enjoy the stunning surroundings of Dean's epiphyllum garden. Don't forget to bring your favorite beverage to enjoy during the afternoon. R.S.V.P. at hawaiiwamea@yahoo.com

Don't forget—our monthly meetings are held at Balboa Park "Casa Del Prado" building, Room 101, on the second Wednesday of each month, starting with our 7 p.m. workshop in Room 104.

Wishing you a season filled with quiet growth, reflection, and just a little dirt under your nails.

Carmela

Meeting Program & Workshop

Pre-Meeting Workshop: September's pre-meeting workshop is "*Deciphering the ESA Registry*" and how to read it, by Jerry Moreau. The workshop will be held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

September Program: Our September meeting will be held on September 10, 2025 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. There will be a member Q&A panel discussion on the topic "*Learn From Your Peers—There's Not Enough Time to Make All The Mistakes On Your Own*".

August Program: Our August meeting was held on August 13, 2025 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Ron Crain and Jerry Moreau stepped in to present on "*The Hybrids of Derek Obayashi*". They discussed his work, hybridizing efforts and the beautiful results of his labor.



Two beautiful off-season bloom photos submitted by Carmela Griswold.

Left: 'Vanilla Sunset'.

Photo: Carmela Griswold

Right: Carmela's photo of her award winning 'Pegasus'.

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!

Membership Secretary: Beth Jackson at 858-692-0314 or Membership@sdepies.org

Newsletter Editor: JK Hendershot at 619-301-3587 or EpiNews@sdepies.org

"The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture.."
—Thomas Jefferson



Beautiful 'Clown' FLECH
Photo: Don Crain

Keeping You in our Thoughts and Prayers
Michal McKee, Holling Crain, and Jim Nones

New Members

Barbara Bailey, La Habra, CA
Douglas Brehme - No address
Danielle Champion, San Diego, CA
John Ekberg, Chula Vista, CA
Greg & Mary Ann Melton, La Mesa, CA



'Clarity's Happy Hippie' SLL
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 with your ideas and questions.

Remember the Society—Help preserve a remarkable collection at the SDZWA San Diego Zoo Safari Park, home to one of the most extensive collections of epiphyllum hybrids and epiphytic species in the world. Our unique display in the heart of the Safari Park is cared for by dedicated volunteers who share a passion for these extraordinary plants. To ensure continued maintenance of the collection and display area, the Society relies on donations. Your support is always welcome and deeply appreciated—consider including SDES and the epiphyllum collection in your will or trust to help safeguard this living treasure for future generations.

Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ Maintain good grooming. Eliminate 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. Also, 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, rodents, and raccoons love to feast on them.
- ✓ Give plants a final feeding. Use a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) for the fall growing season to nourish you plants.
- ✓ 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. Fall is the season you'll see this, along with some tender, green, 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.



'Jan Sumpter' DTO
Photo: Don Crain



'Starfish' SHI
Photo: Don Crain

SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History



Dr. J. Walter Troxell,
SDES Holiday Banquet

Photo: SDES Archives

Secretary Eva Clover, and Bos'N Hartford—whose names are a tribute to our beginnings. Last month, we got to know Gladys Harper, a founding member instrumental in the formation of our society. This month, we will take a look into the life of Dr. J. Walter Troxell and his wife Miriam and their contribution as published in EpiNews (Oct. 1995) by Patricia Neal.

Dr. J. Walter Troxell was the driving force and inspiration in the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. He was the first to sign our Charter—no doubt with great satisfaction—as he had promoted an epi society in San Diego for more than 15 years.

A retired Navy Physician, Dr. Troxell enjoyed fuchsias, dahlias, and roses, as well as epies. He and his wife, Miriam, discovered epis when he found four plants on sale in Pasadena. In 1948 they won prizes for these blooms at the ESA show in Los Angeles. In 1968, garden writer Ada Perry, mentioned in her *San Diego Union (Tribune)* column that Dr. Troxell was interested in starting an ESA branch in San Diego. In her column, Perry talked about how popular the Troxell's Canterbury Drive (located in San Diego's affluent neighborhood of Kensington) garden was during epi blooming season. She also listed Troxell's potting mix recipe: three parts planting mix (all purpose), one part fir bark, and one part steer manure in her article.

In the scrapbooks in the SDES library, you'll find more on Dr. Troxell. In one interview he says, "To root cuttings, I let them dry awhile and I dip them in root hormone, plant them in the mix and then plunge them in a tub of water until the bubbles

Editor's Note: stop coming up." (Did he really do this, or was he pulling someone's leg?)

As we reflect back on our history, and our Mother's Day Show specifically, you may recall seeing trophy names honoring some of our founding members. Taking a deeper dive into the ESA's Registry, you'll also find named hybrids such as Dr. J.W. Troxell,

Dr. Troxell started cuttings in small cans and when they were ready to plant in larger sizes, he'd make slits in the sides of the smaller can and plant the whole thing into the new gallon-size can. When trimming epis, he said, "I'd say not to cut off more than a fourth of the plant. To cut back a leaf right, cut just above the eyes."

Troxell was very active in the Epiphyllum Society of America. When he was on its board of directors in the mid-1950's, he coordinated an ESA meeting in San Diego at the Community Church Social Hall on Marlborough Drive on December 2, 1955. This meeting was an attempt to gauge interest in San Diego to start a local branch of ESA. He gave a short talk on the history of epies, their culture, soil and propagation requirements and the advantageous San Diego climate for raising epies. His brother-in-law, professor Herbert S. Irwin gave a "dazzling" display of 200 Kodachrome slides of epies. While this meeting was attended by about 60 people, many of whom joined ESA, Dr. Troxell's San Diego branch didn't get started for another 15 years.

SDES member Richard Russell visited the Troxells in early 1971 and wrote the following account for *Epi News*: "I had read about the Doc, but had never met him. So last week I called him, and he said that although it was too early for blooming time, 'Come on out!'.... It was a pretty little stucco house, with not a sign of any epiphyllum from the front yard. I was ushered around to the backyard by Dr. Troxell's charming wife, Miriam, and as I walked into the back, I was truly staggered. My only comment was: 'Good Lord!' The back extends to a half acre and it starts with a large screened section. There, thousands of epiphyllums, arranged tier upon tier, greet the eye. I had never seen anything like it, and I'm not sure that there is anything like it!"

Most of the plants are in half-gallon tin cans, which are stacked neatly in ascending rows. The plants are staked against very high trellises. It would take days to examine them all! Some were a few feet high, and many were 6 to 8 feet high, while a few were 20 to 40 feet high—actually growing to the top of the patio and across the screening.

Continued

SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History *Continued*

“The Doc, a retired navy physician, is a very friendly man, and he greeted me warmly. I was still reeling from the sight as he took me on a tour of his gardens, picking seven rooted cuttings out for me as we walked through his ‘nursery’.

“I asked him which of his plants provided the largest blooms (I truly love the giant flowers) and he

said probably *phyllanthoides grandiflora*. This had surprised me, since I had not heard of this hybrid. Perhaps the Doc’s variety is something special. At any rate, he said the flowers measure over ten and often times 12 inches across, and he gave me a cutting of this (which I will plant with great excitement).”



The *ESA Registry of Species and Hybrids*¹ references seven entries hybridized and registered by Dr. J.W. Troxell (JWT).

Additionally, there are ten Paul Fort & Garland O’Barr (FOB) hybrids that were named and registered by Dr. J. W. Troxell. Those include David W., George Seymour, John Robert, Mamie, Marc Mary Betty, Michelle, Nancy Pendleton, Susan T., and Yak Yak (named after the family cat). These entries are listed as FOB (JWT).

Below is a list of the named hybrids hybridized and registered by Dr. Troxell:

‘Diana Kay’ - JWT c.1980 White with green cast. Cup form. Reg. #07338

‘Italian Princess’ - JWT c.1980 Pink. (Similar to ‘Deutsche Kaiserin’.) {S} Reg. #07905

‘Judith Gwen’ - JWT c.1980 Violet-purple with deep violet throat. Reg. #07952

‘Litega’ - JWT 1981 Solid cherry red. Loose, double, cup and saucer form. Tall, triangular growth. Winter blooming. {XL} ‘Herbert S. Irwin’ x ‘Lucile K. Irwin’. Reg. #09746

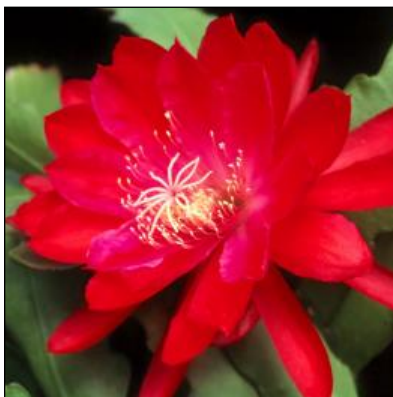
‘Michael T.’ - JWT 1981 Solid cardinal red. Overlapping, cup form. Tall, flat and three-angled growth. {L} ‘Herbert S. Irwin’ x ‘Lucile K. Irwin’. Reg. #09868

‘Stella Marie’ - JWT c.1980 Salmon red shading to deep salmon throat. Basket growth. Reg. #08961

‘Susan Kendall’- JWT c.1980 Pale reddish-purple with light purple throat. {L} Reg. #09002

Note there are additional Troxell hybrids listed which were registered by others after Troxell’s death.

¹ Epiphyllum Society of America Registry of Species and Hybrids, 2020



‘Dracula’
FOB/JWT(ESA)
Photo: Chuck Everson



The Troxells at our 1974 Show ‘Epiphyllums In Bottles’ Photo: SDES Archives



Miriam & J.W, Troxell
1978 Holiday Banquet
Photo: SDES Archives

SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Sixtieth Anniversary Issue of California Garden Magazine in June - July 1969. It was written by Virginia Norrell and features Dr. & Mrs. Troxell's Epi Garden.

"What are Epiphyllums, anyway?" an awed initiate may say after a first eye-opening look at the beautiful flowers with their exotic colors.

The true epiphyte will not call them "orchid cactus," although that is a common name for them. This term relates to the origin of the flowers. It is thought that in antiquity, these plants, which grew up in the trees of Mexico and Central America in the jungles, were close to orchids—close enough that a crossing took place and the epiphytes changed, producing the brilliant blooms that we see today.

In a peaceful garden on Canterbury Drive in San Diego, CA, your editor spent a fascinating Monday morning visiting with Dr. J. W. Troxell, epiphyte extraordinaire.

Dr. Troxell's collection of epiphyllums, each a unique plant, numbers over 800.

"Epies were discovered around the middle of the 18th Century," Dr. Troxell said. "Various navigators and explorers who penetrated the jungles found these and took some over to England and from there to Germany, where the study of the plants really started. The first real definitive work was done by Kurt Knebel, the German hybridizer."

"How do you propagate epiphyllums?" I asked. "By making cuttings. Just take one of the blades and put it in a good planter mix to get it started, and when it's once established you can probably get some in about three years. You have to bloom

them twice to see if they're going to stay the same thing, so it takes about five years to get an established blossom out of your cross-pollination."

To start a cutting, Dr. Troxell explained that you cut a blade and put it in a mix in a pot. Keep it a little moist, but not too wet and it will start putting out roots and growing. The soil mix which seems

to work best is three parts of ordinary planter mix (but be sure it's one that has been sterilized), one part of steer manure, and one part of fir bark. That keeps the soil loose and on the acid side, which is necessary for these plants. The fir bark takes care of the acid.

The nursery people usually advocate fertilizing once a month with any fish emulsion put right in the water. Dr. Troxell feels this may be too much. "I fertilize mine about four times a year," he said. "February, I give them Hi-Bloom, which is 0-10-10, and then they don't get anything again until May, when they get a small feeding, again of fish emulsion. Then I don't give them anything

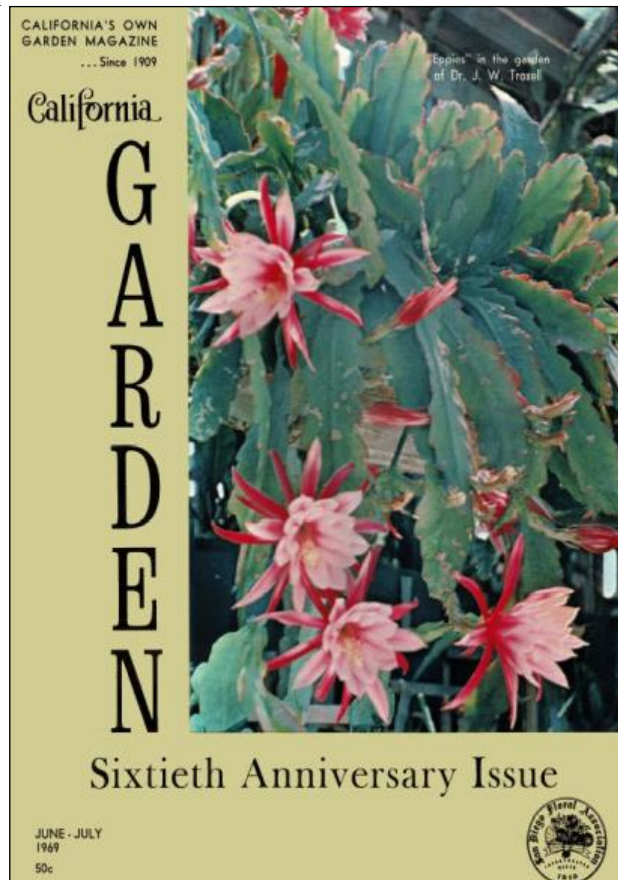
until I trim them back."

Although these plants bloom mainly from April through June, there are some that bloom off-season. Dr. Troxell says he has some that bloom ten months out of the year. "You must never forget that TLC," he laughed. "It really works."

About the first of September, Dr. Troxell fills up all the pots with steer manure and doesn't do another thing with the plants until February.

I asked with surprise if he didn't water them at all during that period. "No, not in a normal year. But if you have a very dry spell, you have to give them a little moisture. You just have to watch and use your head."

Continued



SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History Continued

“What if you have heavy rainfall?” I asked. The answer is to be sure to have loose soil and drainage, have the plants in pots up off the ground. If they get too much water, they will simply drown.

Some of these plants develop blades that are twenty feet long. When these are in peak bloom you can have over forty or fifty blooms at once all along the blades, and that is truly a sight to behold.

One of the longtime favorites of the epiphyllum world is the beautiful and mysterious night-blooming cereus. Another is the Christmas cactus. These plants are really best suited for hanging baskets. Although they are sometimes tied up to trellises, they look unhappy and restrained in that position.

We touched on the subject of grafting these plants. “You can graft these, all right,” Dr. Troxell said. “It will speed up your blooming time if you graft them, because you’ll get them about a year earlier. To do it, you just cut the top off one of the blades, be sure that the scion you insert there is new growth, make an incision and insert the scion. Then just hold it together for a couple of minutes and it will seal itself.”

With reference to color, the big problem now is to produce a sure yellow bloom. There are about fourteen listed (registered) yellows, but Dr. Troxell is dubious as to their staying power. He

showed me several of his “yellows” and commented that they might be yellow one year, and perfectly white the next year!

“They’re beautiful,” he said, “white or yellow, but it’s such a disappointment. I had a graft here this year that had a dozen blooms on it. Last year it was a lovely yellow. This year I thought I’d have something beautiful to look at, and there wasn’t a yellow bloom on that plant!”

Among the range of colors from subtle shadings to the most intense, we find fuchsia, reds, oranges, solid white, and there is one called lilac which is a true lilac color. Of course, some work is being done by everyone to produce dependable yellow color.

Dr. Troxell has been experimenting with crossing his epiphyllums with yellow cacti to get a yellow flower. But he admits that he’s had no takes, not even any usable seeds.

Thinking about the orchid ancestry that Dr. Troxell had mentioned earlier, I asked if anyone had ever tried crossing the epiphyllum with an orchid.

“That’s been tried,” he said. “But it just doesn’t work, and I don’t know why.” He went on to say that how the crossing in antiquity could have happened is anybody’s guess. It’s one of the most interesting mysteries of these plants.



‘Susan Kendall’
Photo: Galen Pittman



‘Litega’
Photo: Mark Piette



‘Indian Princes’
Photo: Galen Pittman

Annual Photo Contest Announced for October

The 2024 Annual Photo Contest was a tremendous success; more photographers were involved than in previous years.

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society Annual Photo Contest dates have been set. Photographs will be accepted between September 1, 2025, and October 8, 2025 (the 2nd Wednesday in October).

The photography contest will again be held online, allowing the SDES and members of other epiphyllum societies associated with the Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA) to easily submit entries.

The contest categories are Single Bloom, Multi-Bloom, and Epi Art. All entries that meet the contest requirements will be judged by a team of judges.

Don't forget to participate in the People's Choice category! You can view the online entries and vote for your favorite photo. The rules for voting in the People's Choice category can be found on the website.

The SDES November 12, 2025 general meeting presentation will be a slide show of all submitted photographs highlighting the contest winners. The results will be posted on our website shortly thereafter.

The following links provide additional information on the SDES Photography contest Information and a link for contest rules. [Photo Contest – SDES \(sdepis.org\)](http://sdepis.org)



Source: Sdepis.org

2024 Annual Photo Contest—*And the Winners Were...* Epi Art Category



'La Cucaracha' en la noche
Color Pencil & Wash Study

1st Place Jeff Hendershot
'La Cucaracha' en la noche

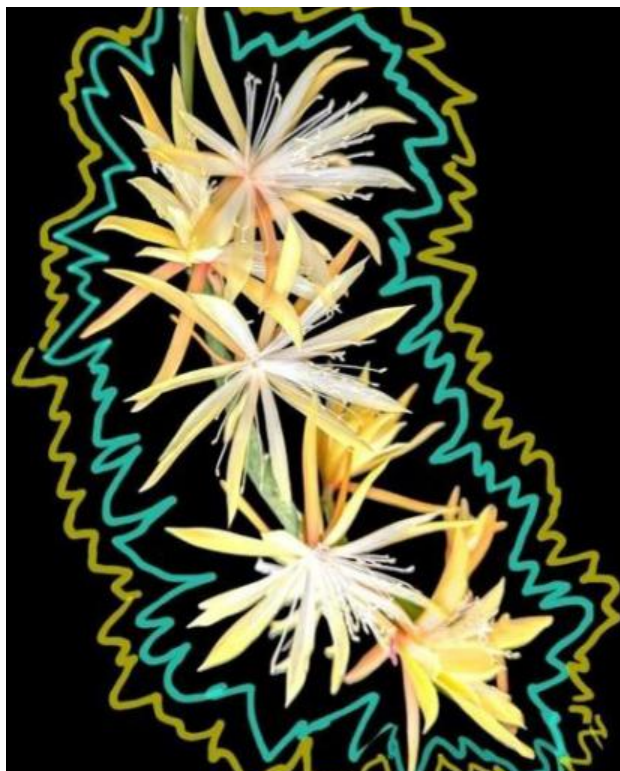


3rd Place Leonora Rodriguez
Pegasus Flying Away



Blue Epiphyllum
AI Study Number 1

Honorable Mention Jeff Hendershot
Blue Epiphyllum AI Study Number 1



2nd Place Steve Griswold
Epies Electrified



Honorable Mention Gilbert Hatfield
Great Party, See you next year



San Diego Epiphyllum Society 2025 Holiday Installation Banquet

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
(Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)

Where: The Butcher Shop Steakhouse
5255 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123
(Restaurant visible from SR 163)

Phone: (858) 565-2272

Join Us for a Festive Beginning to the Holidays!

Come for an evening of fun, good food, fellowship, an optional gift exchange, door prizes and other surprises.

Entrée choice: Prime Flat Iron Steak, Salmon, Vegetarian or Gluten Free

For our optional gift exchange, you should bring a wrapped, NEW garden-related gift (\$20.00 value). Bring something you would like to receive!

The dinner price is only \$35.00¹ for members and \$85.00 for non-members. SDES offsets the difference—it's our way of saying "Thank You" for a great year.

Note: No host bar will be available in the Banquet Room

You can sign up online at our [secure website](#) starting in September, or purchase your reservation at the September, October or November meetings. Make sure to choose your entrée.

See Mildred or Gerry Mikas (treasurer). *All credit cards accepted.*

Or you can send a check payable to 'SDES Dinner' to Mildred Mikas,
3502 Avenida Amorosa, Escondido, CA 92029

All reservations must be paid by December 1, 2025. That's when we finalize payment to the restaurant and provide a total head count of those attending.

Questions call 760-690-1124 or e-mail mvmikas@cox.net

¹Honorary Life Members are once again invited as SDES Guests.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Banquet!

Safari Park Epi Collection and Display *By Beth Jackson*



Summer is coming to a close as we turn the page of the calendar to September. For most, September marks the beginning of cooler temperatures, but for the San Pasqual Valley—the home of the SDZWA Safari Park—the average high temperature for September is around 90.3° F, with an average low temperature of 57.5° F (based on data collected by the SDZWA Safari Park).

As the heat of the afternoon sun beats down on the plants inside the shade houses, it is important that the watering system be checked regularly to ensure all the plants are receiving the correct amount of water. Often times, some of our larger plants will crowd out their smaller counterparts, and will restrict their ability to get water and sunlight. As we make cuttings for various sales events, we are always cognizant of trimming back some of those larger plants to allow the smaller plants to thrive.

Around the Park, the heat continues as we tend to our routine activities including maintaining the [Epiphyllum Trail](#). Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, the plants ([About Epiphyllum](#)) are flourishing.

This month, we filled a small order for The Plant Trader for cuttings. It seems that visitors at the Park are still interested in buying cuttings and plants even though the blooming season is past. Our upcoming projects include cutting down and removing the weeds around and behind the large shade house, and monitoring the watering system.

Thanks again to our volunteers—we couldn't be successful without your contributions. Your hard work and countless dedication helps keep the collection healthy and happy. Thank again for all you do!



Row 1: Two photos taken last month capture two Don Patterson late-blooming beauties. Left: 'Melon Parfait (DP) 2010, and Right: Unregistered seedling DP.



Row 2: Left: *E. hookeri*. Center: Saturday Work Crew. Right: Pink Flamingo.

Photos: JK Hendershot



Save the Date: Summer-End Member/Volunteer Appreciation Social Slated for September 14, 2025

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and we find it's time once again to mark you calendars and save the date for the Society's **End of Summer Member/Volunteer Appreciation Social**. The San Diego Epiphyllum Society's feature event will be held on:

Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

The event will be hosted at the home of Dean DeLibertis located at:

3035 East 7th Street, National City, CA 91950-3021

Please bring the beverage and/or mixer of your choice.

Please R.S.V.P. no later than August 31, 2025.

By emailing hawaiiamea@yahoo.com or call/text Dean at (619) 829-2689.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Members enjoy the 2022 Event.

Photo: JK Hendershot



San Diego Epiphyllum Society Launches New Instagram Social

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society recently launched a new Instagram account [@SDEPISOCIETY](https://www.instagram.com/SDEPISOCIETY). At the time of this publication, we have over 70 followers and the numbers are growing every day.

For those that are new to Instagram, the platform is designed for visual content—encouraging users to express themselves and share stories through images and videos.

As we tell our story, Instagram gives us a great opportunity to connect with those social media users who have similar interests, and it provides SDES an ideal platform to share our mission as it relates to epiphyllum.

Using Instagram social media as a tool, we're able to post photos and videos from events such as our Mother's Day Show and Sale, and our Garden Caravan—as well as additional sales events and activities to attract new members to our group. And, Instagram also provides a forum to showcase the beautiful bloom photos taken by our members. Be sure to check for frequent updates and follow us today!

Wish List, Refreshments + News Notes

If there is an epi that you are looking for it's possible someone in the society might have it and is willing to share a cutting 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
 'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Spanish Gold',
 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold'

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

Carmela Griswold:
calcolors@gmail.com 'Massimo', 'Crystal
 Flash', 'Tassel', 'Lilac Time'

Oliver Lapuebla: OliverRyanLP@gmail.com
 'Hedgehog'

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

Priscilla Merriam: pafmerriam@gmail.com
 'Frida Kahlo', 'Gold Coin', 'Oberon',
 'Ron Crain'

Anh Nguyen: anhsandiego@gmail.com
 'Angel Falls'

Jim Nones: jan46@gmail.com
 'Mother Juana', 'Mila A. Nones'

Leonora Rodriguez: 'Lenore Overture',
 'Kinneloa', 'Spanish Flare'

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

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



Join Us to Celebrate the Holidays ESA Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:00 Noon
 Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery
 1175 E. Alostia Avenue
 Azusa, CA 91702
 Tickets \$25/per person includes entrée & beverage

RSVP via email to genevacoats@aol.com or 909-438-8242



'Merry Christmas' - Jim Nones



Monthly Refreshment Schedule

January	C—G	July	Society
February	H—L	August	H—L
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 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@sdepies.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 2025¹

President	Carmela Griswold
1st Vice President	Dean DeLibertis
2nd Vice President	Sandra Chapin
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Secretary	Michal McKee
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past President	David Cheever
Director 2024-25	Oliver La Puebla
Director 2024-25	Linda Bennett
Director 2025-26	Ken Maculan
Director 2025-26	OPEN

¹ Click 'Title' hyperlink to email an officer.

Resources

As a benefit to our members we have compiled 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 them included, please contact the editor.

Epi Nurseries:

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

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

Epic Foundation - Frank Süplie
www.epiphyllum.online

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

Heny's Epiphyllums - Heny Brandenburg
<https://www.facebook.com/emeraldmoonepiphyllums/>

Kakteen Haage - Ulrich Haage
<http://www.kakteen-haage.de/>

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/>

Master Gardener Assoc. of San Diego County

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

Website includes: live meetings, programs, a blog, and items of interest for gardeners.

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/>

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

Meets quarterly. Check Facebook for dates

www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403



What's in a Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course!

By Jerry Moreau

Don Patterson started collecting epies in the early 1970s when a friend gave him some epi hybrids, one of which was 'Tassel'. With his plants in hand he joined the newly formed SDES.

Don was the Society's Historian (1972-1974) during the term of George French's presidency. Although he did not continue in the official role of Historian, over the years he kept the people and history of SDES alive for many years through articles and programs he provided the society.

Don was awarded the ESA Founder's Award in 2015, for all he contributed to the society and toward the promotion and advancement of epi cactus culture. In 2016, Don was also recognized as a SDES Honorary Life Member, for going above and beyond supporting SDES and its mission.

Don once shared a story, which later became part of an article he wrote for our newsletter. "In the early 70s, I visited a friend in Hillcrest named Bill. Bill, who was also an artist, invited me into his back yard to look at his plant collection. There, perched in shaded trees were several epi hybrids. One 'unknown' Bill called "Helen's Big Red Purple". The name, he explained, originated with the lady who first gave him the plant—with the beautiful colors red and purple. Over the years, I've learned many of us have such inheritances—beautiful and, well, unidentified. In my mind, who cared—it was an epi! Also included in this gift was a large container of 'Tassel'. Wow, Tassel!

These plants became my Garden of Eden. Years later, so many epi people, epi plants, societies, and

hybridizing efforts, on my part, have contributed to a life enriched by their presence."

Don was an artist and art professor. His artistry came through in many ways in his life; we are all the better for it. Don continued telling stories of the plants, flowers, and people of the epi world in a way which brought the past to life. In the early days of the society, he was friends with members such as George and Madeline French, Bill Nelson (SDES's first president), Dr. and Mrs. Troxell, Betty Cox (Cox Nursery), Jerry Williams and Chuck Everson (Rainbow Gardens Nursery), Tina and Dean Hawks (Hawks Nursery), Galen Pittman, Wressey Cocke, the people at Beahm Gardens, and many others.

It has been just over six years since Don Patterson passed away in 2019. Don was a long-time SDES member, epi grower, hybridizer and friend. Don has 86 hybrids registered to date, with a new one to be registered this year: 'Blush Whisper'. There are still more of his seedlings out there. He had an eye for beauty. His hybridizing efforts were more like that of a bee buzzing around in his garden moving pollen from one flower to another. I can hear him saying now "what would I get when I put this pollen on these flowers?" We are enriched for his curiosity and the hybrids we get to grow because of him. He had a wonderful and creative way of naming his hybrids with some names like 'Alakazam', 'DonOro', 'Ay Caramba', 'Mango Tango', 'Rusty Canyon', 'Lothario', 'Lover Boy', and 'Smarty Pants'. Rainbow Gardens named one of his hybrids to honor Don, 'Mr. P' which was what his students called him. Don, we miss you.



'Baby Cake'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Call Of The Wild'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Hopelessly Devoted'

Photo: Jerry Moreau

What's in a Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course!



'Chanteuse'
Photo: JK Hendershot



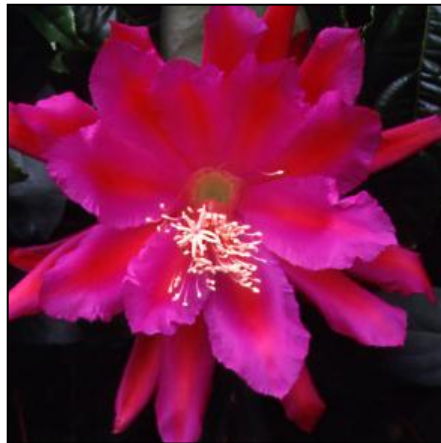
'La Cucaracha'
Photo: JK Hendershot



'C'est Magnifique'
Photo: JK Hendershot



'Incognito'
Photo: Paul Richter



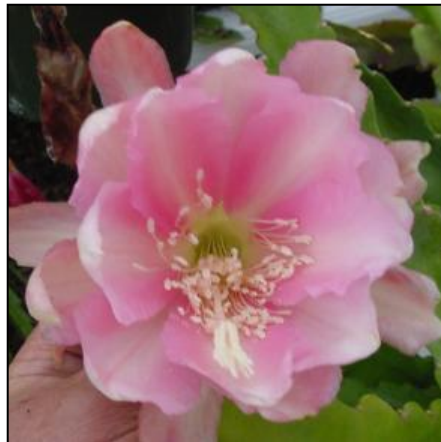
'Lips Betrayed'
Photo: Galen Pittman



'Pink Christmas'
Photo: Chuck Everson



'Cranberry Puff'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Lily Dache'
Photo: Paul Richter



'Rusty Canyon'
Photo: Jerry Moreau

What's in a Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course!



'Lothario'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Michele Davis'
Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Moonblood'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Mr. P'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'My Old Flame'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



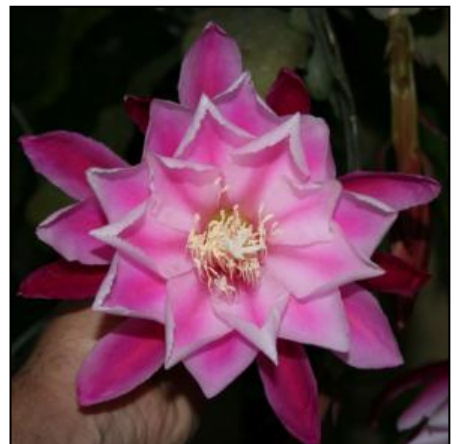
'Mango Tango'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Smarty Pants'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Ruby Ermine'
Photo: Don Patterson



'Lover Boy'
Photo: Jerry Moreau

We Leave You With This—More Mother's Day '25 Photos



Unregistered Seedling 'Pink Plumes' x 'Queen Titania' Photo: Don Crain



'Sigmund'
Photo: Don Crain



'Yellowhead'
Photo: Don Crain



'Velma Crain'
Photo: Don Crain



Unregistered Seedling 'Dracula' x Nat.
Photo: Don Crain



'Three Oranges'
Photo: Don Crain