



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

October 2025
Volume 50 Number 10



2024 Photo Contest Single Bloom Category

'Contrite'

Entrant: Jerry Moreau

Size: Extra Large

Photo: Jerry Moreau

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

P.O. Box 126127
 San Diego, CA 92112-6127
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 San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.
 SDES Website: <https://sdepies.org/>

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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.

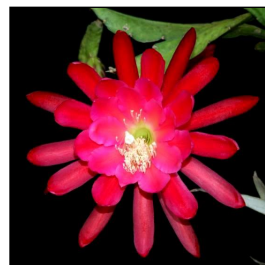
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Calendar of Events

October	5	Long Beach Cactus Club Auction
	8	General Meeting
	22	Board Meeting
	25-26	Palomar C.&S.S. Fall Show & Sale
November	12	General Meeting
	26	Board Meeting
December	6	ESA Holiday Luncheon 12pm RSVP here
	10	SDES Holiday Banquet
	16	LA C.&S.S. Holiday Sale & Auction
	24	Board Meeting (moved to January 7)

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:
 October 2025**

Photo: Jerry Moreau

Jerry Moreau entered a beautiful photo in the Single Bloom Category in last year’s contest. ‘Contrite’- GB 2008 Inner petals light rosy red with a hint of orange and white throat. Outer petals light red. Overlapping, cup and saucer form. Thick, flat growth. {XL} ‘Meadow Rose’ x ‘Labor of Love’. Reg. #13220.

President's Corner — *From President Carmela Griswold*



As cooler October days settle in and the growing season winds down, I hope you're enjoying the quiet changes in your gardens. While our epies rest in preparation for spring's spectacular blooms, now is the perfect time to tidy up your collection, check for pests, and plan ahead for next season.

Many of you may have heard that, unfortunately, the SDZWA Safari Park has decided to end our contract, citing a change in direction. The good news is that they are returning the epi hybrids housed there, and our board and volunteers are working hard to relocate the collection.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the Membership Appreciation Party in Dean DeLibertis's beautiful backyard! It was a delightful gathering filled with great conversations and shared enthusiasm for epies.

Congratulations to our 'Rookies of the Year', Gilbert Ibarra and Nan Chen! Gilbert has been an incredible help transporting plants and equipment, while Nan has done an outstanding job managing our social media and spreading the word about our activities.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for three major events: finalizing the 2026 budget, electing next year's board members, and putting the finishing touches on our annual holiday banquet—which is already in progress thanks to Mildred Mikas.

Yes, it's that time of year again—the holiday season, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are just around the corner. Time flies when you're having fun!

Carmela

Meeting Program & Workshop

Pre-Meeting Workshop: October's pre-meeting workshop is "*Jungle Jewels: Meet the Family Behind Epi Hybrids*" by Jerry Moreau. The workshop will be held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

October Program: Our October meeting will be held on October 8, 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.

October's presentation will celebrate SDES's 55th anniversary with a look at the many talented, creative members who formed a dynamic organization that still thrives today. SDES Historian Patricia Neal has combed our archives for photos that illustrate the artistic talents and volunteering spirit of the hundreds of members, past and present, who make up the heart of SDES. Included in the presentation will be a look at the golden years of large and small nurseries, visits to members' gardens, successful shows and sales, community involvement and of course, our obsession with Epiphyllums!

September Program: Our September meeting was held on September 10, 2025 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. There was 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*".

Right: Carmela Griswold presents the 'Rookies of the Year' Award to Gilbert Ibarra. Not pictured is Nan Chen who was also a recipient of the award. Photo: Jerry Moreau.



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

"Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized".
—Allan Armitage



Ushering in Fall with 'Autumn Brightness'
Photo: JK Hendershot

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.

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

New Members
Ramon Carrera, Cathedral City, CA
Bob Hiler, Carlsbad, CA
Michael Ludwig, San Diego, CA



Another Fall favorite 'Autumn Fancy'
Photo: JK Hendershot

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

- ✓ Protect your plants from the direct sun. As the angle of the sun changes, ensure plants do not get too much southern exposure. You may need to move some plants to new spots or remove or adjust your shade cloth.
- ✓ Be sure not to over water. You may need to relocate plants when the rainy season begins to ensure they do not get too wet. Epies hate wet feet!
- ✓ If you live in a colder climate, stop feeding plants now. New growth is susceptible to frost damage. Epies tend to go dormant in colder weather.
- ✓ Check ripening fruit. If in doubt, wait to pick the apples—or seed pods. Remember to use clean tools when cutting the fruit open to remove the seeds. Also, be on the look out for birds and raccoons who love to feast on the tasty fruit.
- ✓ Watch for snails and slugs. As summer comes to an end, snails and slugs become more active in the cooler, moister weather.
- ✓ Trim off all dead growth. Some plant die back is natural. If the die back starts from the roots instead of the tips of the stems, you may want to consider repotting the plant to check the roots for viability..
- ✓ New growth is normal during fall season. You should continue to fertilize plants that are actively growing. Again, this depends on your local climate.
- ✓ Start planning now how much and what kind of winter protection your plants will need. In some parts of the country cold weather is right around the corner.
- ✓ Now is a good time to do an inventory of the plants you have—checking for duplicates. If there are plants that you have two or more of—or plants that are otherwise healthy but perhaps haven't bloomed in a few years, consider setting those plants aside to donate to the Society for our Mother's Day Sale. We all probably have one or two plants that—at the time we could not live without—but perhaps now they've lost their luster, so why not let us help you find new homes for those epies.



'Sammy' DTO
Photo: Gail Hatfield



'Sweet Baby' GM
Photo: Gilbert Hatfield

Election Time Is Near— *“Many hands make for light work” —John Heywood*

We are fortunate to have so many people volunteering time and effort to make our society work well and be a success. However, for our society to remain successful we need you to volunteer. We need your help, so please consider volunteering for any position, especially if you have not yet served—the more people involved, the less any one person will have to do.

If members don't take an active role, the society won't be able to do as much or function as well as it can. SDES is an all volunteer organization, without you we would not exist! Everything we get from the society starts from what we put into the society.

There are a few positions that need to be filled at this time. If you have some skills you can offer the society please let us

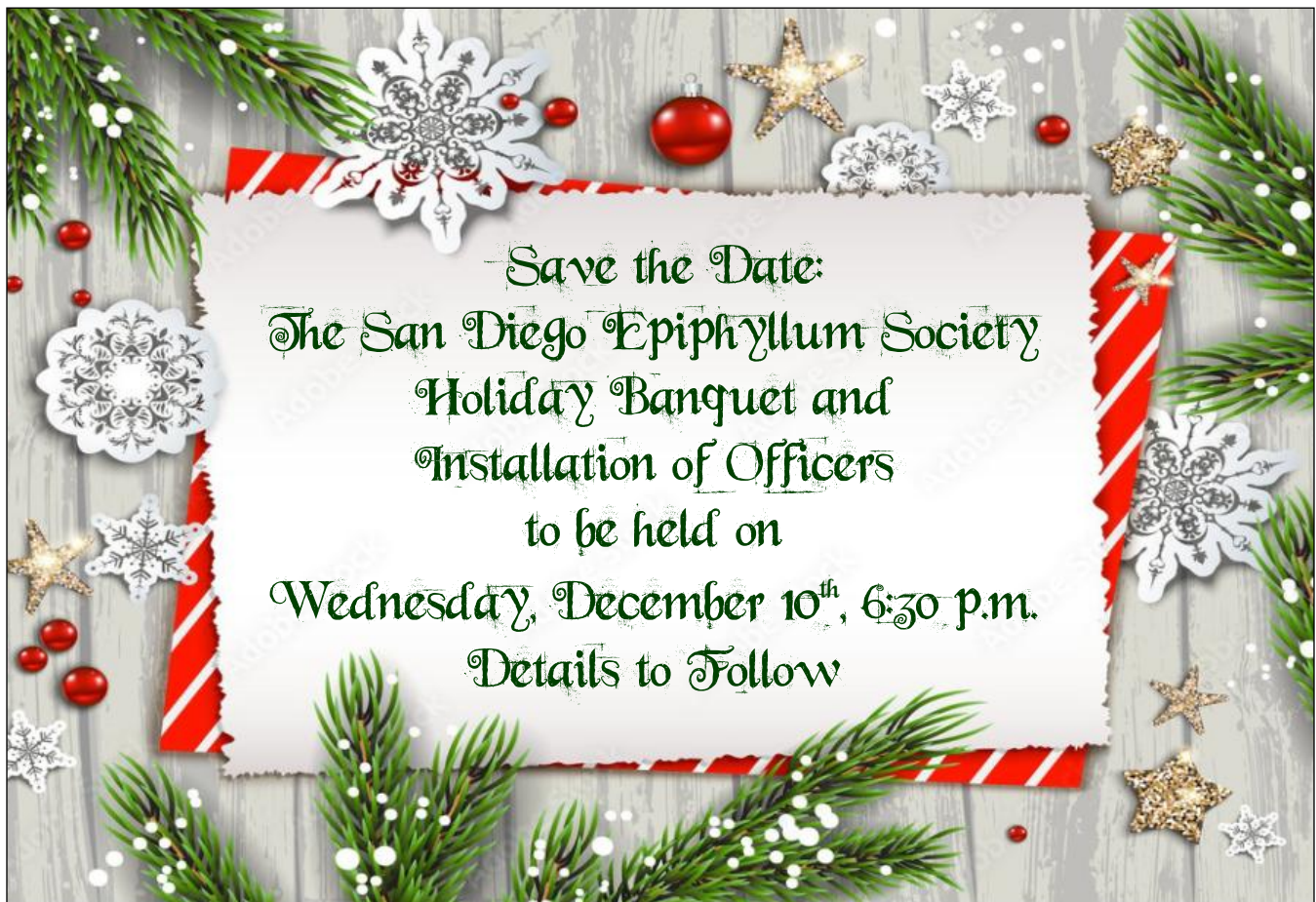
know. We can always use help with newsletter articles, technology, and the website. Reach out to Sandra Chapin or any of our board members—they will be happy to talk with you about helping out, and will let you know where your talents may be best utilized.



‘The Volunteers’
Photo: SDES Archive

In November, the final slate of officers will be presented to the membership and at that time a formal vote will be held at the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Installation of the new officers will then occur in December at the annual Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers held on December 10, 2025.

Please note the “save the date” for the Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers can be found below.



Annual Photo Contest Deadline Approaches

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 \(sdepis.org\)](https://www.sdepis.org/photo-contest)



2024 Photo Contest Winners—*People's Choice & B.I.S.*



Single Bloom People's Choice Jerry Moreau
'Dragon Serpent'



Single Bloom People's Choice Doug Hillman
'Stern Von Erlau' x Nat.



Multi-Bloom People's Choice Gail Hatfield
'Jalisco Beauty'



Multi-Bloom People's Choice J. Hendershot
'Awesome'



Epi Art People's Choice Doug Hillman
Going on a Road Trip with the Kids



Best in Show (B.I.S.) Carmela Griswold
E. Hookeri spp. *hookeri*

Member Appreciation Event Held in September

An End of Summer Member Appreciation Event was held on September 14, at the home of Dean DeLibertis, in National City, CA. There were nearly forty people in attendance, and everyone had a wonderful time—enjoying the fun, food, and fellowship in Dean’s lovely and spacious back yard. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon as guests visited, relaxed, remembered old friends, and stories of the past—while looking forward to future gatherings and events. As usual, Dean did a great job as host, serving delicious dishes. To top off the afternoon event, both Gilbert Ibarra and Nan Chen were presented the coveted “Rookie of the Year Award” for their volunteer service. Photos: Jerry Moreau.



ESA Hosts Annual Potluck and Silent Auction



The Epiphyllum Society of America hosted its general membership meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. The meeting included its Annual Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser. The main course choices included many delicious homemade items including: BBQ pork, amazing macaroni salad with chicken, chili, and a ‘back by popular demand’ chicken enchilada casserole. Also, there were many tasty side dishes—along with desserts that included a birthday cake celebrating Jim Nones’s birthday. We were too busy eating to take dinner photos!

If the dinner was not enough, after the meal, members and their guests were able to peruse three rows of tables that contained what might be described as an epi hobbyist and collector’s dream come true. But before we get to that, there were planters, succulents, oriental vases, cacti, and plumeria all looking for new homes. And for entertainment, there was a near tussle over an ‘out-bid’ shown top right below.

With regard to the epiphyllum—there were donations from sought-after local hybridizers which included: Jim Nones, Don Patterson, and Robert Kuettle, to mention a few. In addition, members from South Bay and the San Diego Epiphyllum Society were in attendance. SDES provided a donation of several newly registered hybrids that included: ‘Call of the Wild’, ‘Twizzler’, ‘Tiger’s Eye’, and ‘Velvet Glow’. Everyone enjoyed the evening—catching up with old friends and new—and then eagerly scampered home with their newly-acquired winnings. Photos: JK Hendershot





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](#), or purchase your reservation at the 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 nvmikas@cox.net

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

Looking forward to seeing you at our Banquet!

Note: to receive member pricing membership dues must be paid through December 2025.

Farewell to the Safari Park Epi Collection *By Beth Jackson*



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the end of an era: the Safari Park Epiphyllum Collection, lovingly maintained for nearly five decades, will soon be leaving its home at the Park.

On July 31, 2025, SDZWA Park Management informed us that the longstanding Garden Agreement with the San Diego Epiphyllum Society would not be renewed. While we were initially told that the Epiphyllum Trail and shade house management would transition to the Horticulture Department, plans quickly shifted. We were later offered the opportunity to relocate all named hybrids and asked to remove the collection and our supplies by the end of September.

Despite our best efforts, we have not yet found a new space large enough to house the collection. We were granted extensions through October and now mid-November, allowing us more time to complete the move. The search continues, and we remain hopeful.

For those of us who have cared for these plants—some for decades—the news was abrupt and deeply painful. The collection has been more than a garden; it has been a living archive of passion,

community, and horticultural artistry. We are heartbroken, saddened, and yes, angry. But above all, we are proud.

Proud of the thousands of hours volunteered. Proud of the blooms that brought joy to visitors year after year. Proud of the friendships forged in the shade of the epiphyllums.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported this collection—whether by volunteering, visiting, or simply admiring a flower in bloom. Though this chapter is closing, the spirit of the collection lives on in every cutting, every memory, and every person it touched.

We will keep you updated as we continue our search for a new home. Thank you for being part of this journey.

If you know of a space—public or private—that could become the new home for this cherished collection, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Beth Jackson at bethjackso@yahoo.com with any leads or ideas. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of the Safari Park Epiphyllum Collection continues to bloom.



Photos: JK Hendershot

Wish List, Refreshments + News Notes

Join Us to Celebrate the Holidays

ESA Holiday Luncheon

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



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!

Member Wish List and Off-Season Blooms

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', 'Gladycy 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'



Off-Season Blooms

This list is comprised of informal research on off-season epi blooms. Here you can track which epies have been blooming consistently off-season over the years. If you would like to add to the research and list what epies have been blooming in your garden, email the editor with your list of blooms. Here's what's been blooming this past month:

Barb Alvarez (Lemon Grove): 'Rustling Flame'

Carmela Griswold (National City): 'Vanilla Sunset', 'Pegasus'

Geneva Coats (Los Angeles): 'Space Rocket', 'DonOro'

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): 'Ernst Gundersen', 'Kodi II'

Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): 'Fayette', 'Grace Ann'

Jerry Moreau (San Diego) 'Christmas Pink', 'Doris W. Pittman', 'Rusty Canyon'

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): 'Aztec Treasure', 'Bumpkin', 'DTO', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jalisco Queen'

Species Blooming

Here is a list of all the species blooming:

Dean Delibertis (National City): *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalese*

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*, *Selenicereus Pteranthus*, *Lepiesmium cruciform*

Jerry Moreau (San Diego): *Disocactus anguliger*, *Epiphyllum Laui*

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): *Disocactus anguliger* - *Noller Uruapan*, *Epiphyllum crenatum* var. *chichicastengo*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalense* var. *Montrose*, *Epiphyllum phyllanthus*, *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*. *Selenicereus validus*

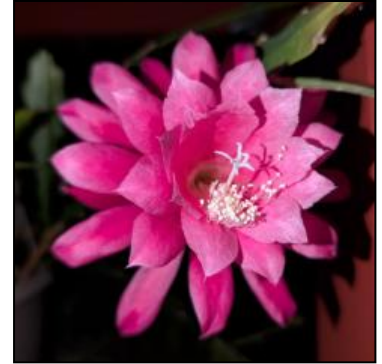
More Photos—Off-Season Blooms & Misc.



'DonOro'
Photo: Geneva Coats



'Space Rocket'
Photo: Geneva Coats



'Pink Christmas'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



E. Laui
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Vanilla Sunset'
Photo: Carmela Griswold



'Pegasus'
Photo: Carmela Griswold



SDES Member Appreciation Event
Photo: Steve Griswold

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	OPEN
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.mastergardnersd.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

Rudolf Heßing Herick has been growing epies and hybridizing for more than 40 years. Throughout that time he has produced many beautiful hybrids. Living in Germany and having only the space of his 10m² (32.81 ft²) greenhouse to grow plants presents some challenges. Because of this, his focus has been on creating smaller plants that produce flowers more often throughout the year, with the added bonus of interesting growth. Rudolf is one of the only hybridizers currently working to produce smaller epi hybrids. He works with small conventional hybrids, *Aporocactus*, and other epicactus species. The growth he has been introducing into his hybrids has come from using *Disocactus anguliger* with its deeply lobed stems. He has also used other species such as *D. ackermannii*, *D. aurantiacus*, *D. biformis*, *D. eichlamii*, *D. phyllanthoides*, *D. quezaltecus*, and *D. speciosus* ssp. *cinnabarnius*. He is devoted to quality and is therefore ruthless about which hybrids he registers. Rudolf rarely hesitates to discard hybrids that do not meet his standards.

Rudolf has many remarkable stories that showcase his passion for epies. One story he shared at a past EpiCon was about a seedling that he threw into the compost pile. Later, he began to think about it again and realized he liked it more than he had first thought. In the middle of the night he decided to retrieve it from the compost. He got out of bed in his pajamas, went outside to the compost bin, and rescued the seedling, which he later named 'Pyjama Drama'.

Another story took place while Rudolf was in the United States riding in a car with Dick Kohlschreiber and Rudi Dorsch. They were discussing epi hybrid names, and Dick (who served as ESA registrar from 1990 to 2018) remarked how hybridizers often chose unusual and challenging names. Rudolf joked that they were being "picky, picky, picky" and decided on the spot that one of his hybrids would carry that name, becoming 'Picky Picky Picky'.

Another notable hybrid to look for is 'Jalisco Charme', which blooms in different colors in winter and summer. Rudolf also named three hybrids for Dick Kohlschreiber: 'Kodi I', 'Kodi II', and 'Kodi III', with "Ko" referring to Kohlschreiber and "Di" to Dick. He used a similar naming convention for other hybrids, creating 'Moya' and 'Toya' for Molly and Tony Yanko, and 'Jemo' for

Jerry Moreau. Some of his naming series also include groups that begin with Jalisco, Felcino, Rudolf's, Thirty, and Forty.

If you have attended an EpiCon, you may have had the chance to hear Rudolf speak about his hybridizing work and perhaps meet him in person. Rudolf is a wonderful, kind, and humble man. Generous with both his knowledge and his hybrids, he has given presentations, written articles, and consistently shared his expertise. In recognition of his contributions to

the society and his promotion of epicactus culture, Rudolf was honored with the ESA Founders Award in 2014.

In a letter to the ESA board members upon receiving the Founders Award, published in the 2015 Bulletin (Vol. 70 No. 4), Rudolf wrote:

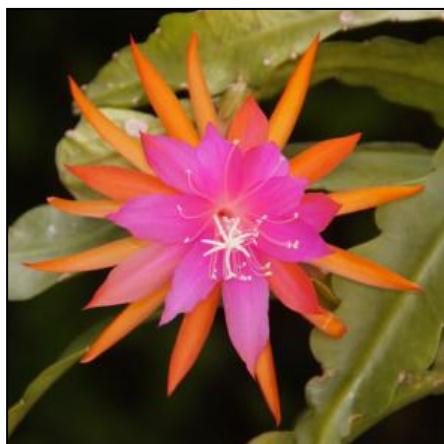
"In my life I have noted that when a person's hobby is shared with others it becomes more meaningful for them. I have always felt welcome in California. This award is an incentive for me. As you know, as an Epicactus hybridizer I am very critical and goal oriented. Some of my lineages have been ongoing for 17 years and are still not completed. I am aware that my hybrids are becoming increasingly popular in America, which makes me very happy. At this time I would like to thank my friends Rudi Dorsch and Dick Kohlschreiber who took me by the hand and opened many doors that otherwise would have remained closed. I close with a sentence from Marge Leue's book 'Epiphyllum': 'Epiphyllum hybridizers never rest'—and that is the truth!"



'Kodi III'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick

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



'Jalisco Charme' Summer
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Thirty Dreams'
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



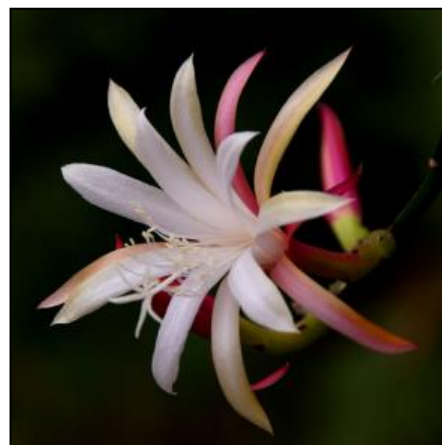
'Thirty Wonder'
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Rudolf's Engelchen'
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



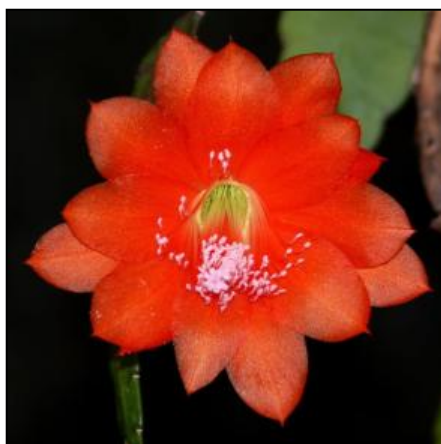
'Jalisco Charme' Winter
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Thirty Snowflakes'
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Lin Sinkovic'
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



D. ackermannii ssp. konzattianus
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Cameleon'
Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick

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



'Moya'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Ucayali Vamp'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Forty Gays'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Jemo'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Kodi I'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Kodi II'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Pyjama Drama'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Toya'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Picky Picky Picky'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick

We Leave You With This — A Beautiful Flower of Course!



'Felicino Filou'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Hans Herick'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Forty Temptations'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Felicino Flair'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Jalisco Circe'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Lisa Day'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Ucayali Gold'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Kadootje'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick



'Massimo'

Photo: Rudolf Heßing Herick