



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

January 2026
Volume 51 Number 1



2025 Photo Contest 1st Place Multi Bloom

'Ron Crain'

Entrant: Gilbert Hatfield

Size: Large

Photo: Gilbert Hatfield

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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

Keeping in Touch	3
Presidents' Corner Incoming & Outgoing Messages	4
Meeting Program / Now Is the Time Checklist	5
Don Crain Photos at EpiCon 2012	6
Mother's Day Show Categories 2026	7
MDS Categories + "Epies: Nature's Paintbox"	8
Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December	9
Annual Holiday Banquet Photos	10
Annual Holiday Banquet Photos	11
Officers, Directors and Coordinators for 2026	12
Derek Obayashi Named HLM + Refreshments	13
Member Wish List, Off-Season Blooms	14
Epi Resource Page	15
A New Year Brings Hope In the Garden	16
What's in a Name? A Beautiful Flower	17 - 19
MDS Show 2026 - Epies: Nature's Paintbox	20

Calendar of Events

January	7	December Board Meeting
	14	General Meeting
	28	Board Meeting
February	11	General Meeting
	25	Board Meeting
March	11	General Meeting
	25	Board Meeting
May	9-10	Mother's Day Show & Sale

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:
 January 2026

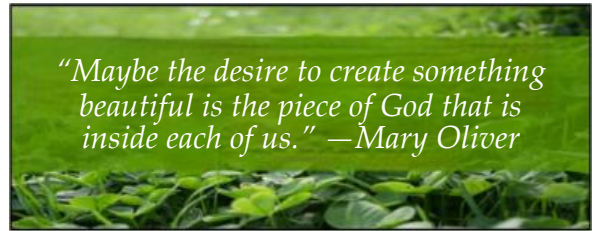
Photo: Gilbert Hatfield

The 2025 1st Place ribbon was awarded to Gilbert Hatfield, who entered a beautiful photo in the Multi Bloom Category of 'Ron Crain' - DTO 2014 Inner petals intense yellow with yellow orange edge. Outer petals yellow-orange. Overlapping, bell form. Thick, flat growth. {L} 'Marge Cocke' × 'Chiba Lovely Dawn'. Reg. #14575

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!



"Maybe the desire to create something beautiful is the piece of God that is inside each of us." —Mary Oliver

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

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



Photo Contest entry 'Super Duper'
Photo: Gilbert Hatfield

Keeping You in our Thoughts and Prayers
Gerry Mikas, Mildred Mikas, and Jim Nones

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



Another entry 'Space Rocket'
Photo: Gail Hatfield

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.

Help Preserve a Living Treasure: Support the SDES Epiphyllum Collection

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society proudly stewards one of the world's most extensive collections of epiphyllum hybrids—a dazzling array of color, form, and botanical wonder. This remarkable living archive is lovingly maintained by a team of passionate volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to its care. To ensure the continued vitality of this collection, SDES relies on the generosity of donors. Every contribution helps sustain the beauty and legacy of these extraordinary plants.

Leave a Lasting Legacy: Consider including SDES in your will or trust. Your planned gift will help safeguard this irreplaceable collection for generations to come..

President's Corner — *From Incoming President Dean DeLibertis*



Ok... New Year and a bit of a new direction. We mourn the loss of our agreement with the SDZWA Safari Park, but we move forward together. As we move forward, a greater focus must be on our Mission Statement—it will guide, rally, and unite us to heal and rise together.

If you are not familiar with our Mission Statement I am including it for your review: *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 related species.*

First and foremost, this is a hobby. A hobby I truly enjoy and the greatest joy is the chance to share with others. Please remember this as we talk, meet, and move together. Embrace the joy of the community and comradery it provides. Embrace the enthusiasm and different opinions on growing and take it all in—and filter out what works for you. There is not just one way but many right ways in the garden and life.

Growing up, my family drove the point home “the only reason to have or acquire anything, is to share it.” This can be the knowledge we gain or the plants we grow. How often this past holiday season have you heard the “joy of giving”?

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting,

Dean

President's Corner — *From Outgoing President Carmela Griswold*



Dear Members and Friends of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society,

As my term as President comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to each of you. Serving this society has been an honor. Together, we have nurtured not only remarkable plants, but also a community rooted in generosity, curiosity, and shared passion.

Over the past term, I have been continually inspired by your dedication—whether through sharing cuttings, offering growing advice, volunteering at sales events, or simply showing up with enthusiasm and kindness. Our society thrives because of members who are willing to teach, to learn, and to support one another.

We have celebrated our 55 years with stunning blooms, welcomed new members, and preserved the rich legacy of Epiphyllum cultivation here in San Diego and around the world. These accomplishments belong to all of us. Leadership may guide, but it is the collective spirit of the society that allows it to flourish.

As I step aside, I wish Dean DeLibertis good luck in guiding the society to be better and with fresh ideas. I encourage each of you to continue being involved, sharing your knowledge, and fostering the friendships that make this society so special.

Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and your unwavering support during my term. I look forward to seeing all the beautiful people I've met and continue our love for epies.

With sincere appreciation,

Carmela

Meeting Program & Workshop

Pre-Meeting Workshop: The workshop topic for January will be “Fertilizing and Protecting Your Epies for the Winter” led by Jerry Moreau. The workshop will be held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

January Program: Our January meeting will be held on January 14, 2026 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Andy Cuffel, will be discussing “Growing and Maintenance of Tillandsias.” He will be bringing some plants to sell to members. 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.

December Program: The Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers was held on December 10, 2025 at the Butcher Shop Steakhouse in lieu of our monthly meeting. **Don Crain** was awarded the *Roger Chapin Volunteer of the Year Award* for his hard work, dedication and countless hours spent photographing and archiving all our events to showcase our Society. Thanks Don, for all that you do.



Don Crain receives the Roger Chapin Volunteer of the Year Award for his service.

Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ **Begin to feed with low or no nitrogen fertilizer**, such as “Hi Bloom” or “Bloom”. Low/no nitrogen fertilizers will have label ratings around 0-10-10 or 2-10-10. Either liquid or time-released granules can be used. If liquid is used, another application may be needed in a month. Those plants that are not large enough to bloom can be fertilized with a higher nitrogen content, such as 5-10-10.
- ✓ **Watch for pests.** Keep plants free of debris where pests can breed and hide. Wet weather is snail and slug weather. Bait or hand pick them. Spray with insecticides only when necessary and follow directions carefully.
- ✓ **Protect epies from freezing temperatures.** New tender growth is especially susceptible to colder temperatures and winter winds. Be sure to take the measures and precautions necessary to protect them.
- ✓ **Prune out unproductive and unsightly growth** to allow more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches. However, if you live in an area where your epies will be exposed to more freezing nights, this unproductive or damaged growth will help protect the healthier growth from the elements. So, you may want to forgo pruning for a bit longer.
- ✓ **Let epies enjoy the winter rains.** As long as your epies are in loose draining soil, the rains won’t hurt them and will help wash out the fertilizer salts that can build up in potted plants. If you have epies sitting on shelves that are not of the wire shelving type, or if they are on tables, make sure they’re not sitting in puddles of water after heavy rains. If you collect rain water for future use, store in covered opaque containers to prevent algae build-up and mosquito larvae infestation.
- ✓ **Pick ripe apples (seed pods).** After removing the seeds from the pod, they can be planted immediately without having to be dried out. However, artificial light and heat may be needed to encourage germination.
- ✓ **Do not replot plants that you want to bloom this spring.** Some buds are already starting their earliest formative stages. Once buds set, take precautions to avoid rearranging your plants. Moving plants—even in their early stages—can cause forming buds to drop. If you want to rearrange them, be cautious if you do it now.

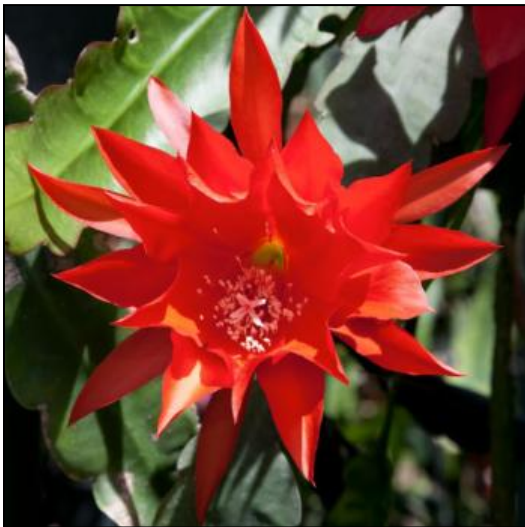
Award-Winning Don Crain Photos — *EpiCon XIII* May 2012



'Ernest William Angus' LAT (RGL)



'Amoena' CLDG



'Sweet Baby' GM



'Grand Ovation' FB(HST)



'French Dynasty' FRE



'Gold Medal' WCx047(EW)

'Epies: Nature's Paintbox'

Mother's Day Show Categories 2026

Best Novice Display *The LeBlanc Novice Trophy*

This trophy goes to a first-time exhibitor of a display using the show's theme. The display can be of any size but not a flower arrangement. It is not just for new members: any member who has never entered a display in the show and is doing so for the first time is welcome to enter.

Best Newly-Registered Hybrid *The Buddy Hurst Trophy*

This trophy is awarded to the best newly registered hybrid flower. To be eligible the flower must have been registered within the **last seven years** and been grown by the exhibitor. However, it need not have been registered by exhibitor.

Best Extra Large Flower *The Bob and Lois Burks Trophy*

The category for Best Extra Large Flower was established in 2018. This newly-named trophy is awarded for the best extra large bloom. All entries must be registered as an extra large flower. Any flower that isn't registered as XL but happens to bloom really large at the time of the show will be disqualified.

Best Flower on the Society Table *The Eva Clover Trophy*

Members who do not have a table display in other categories are welcome to place up to six flowers on this table. Each flower must be labeled by its name along with the exhibitor's name. Show judges will select the winning flower from those entered.

Best Small Flower *The Don and Judy Francis Trophy*

Blooms that are registered as extra-small, small, and small-medium are eligible for this table. There is no limit to the number of flowers an individual may place on this table. However, blooms of flowers that are registered as medium or large but are blooming smaller than usual **are not eligible** for this trophy.

Best Unregistered Seedling *The Don Patterson Trophy*

This newly named category is awarded to the best unregistered seedling on this table. This table offers a preview of the flowers that hybridizers have been developing but have not yet been named and registered. The hybrid cross and hybridizer's name must accompany the flower.

Best Flower Arrangement *The Walter and Penny Bunker Trophy*

This trophy is awarded to the best flower arrangement using the show's theme. It must include flowers from plants eligible for the Nelson Trophy and other plant material and flower arranging props. Mini displays are entered under a separate category.

Best George French Hybrid *The George French Trophy*

This trophy is in honor of founding member and world-renowned San Diego hybridizer George French. All exhibitors are invited to display their best French hybrids.

Best Plant *The William and Ruth Nelson Trophy*

Eligible plants may be either hybrids or species plants of or between the following genera of the cactus family: *Selenicereus*, *Hylocereus*, *Aporocactus*, *Heliocereus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Disocactus*, *Rhipsalis*, *Rhipidalidopsis*, *Schlumbergera* or other closely-related genera. Eligible plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the six months preceding the show. There must be at least three plants on display for the trophy to be awarded.

Best Mini Display *The Mildred and Gerry Mikas Trophy*

This trophy goes to the best mini tabletop display with the show's theme. **A mini display should be no wider than 30"**. At past shows we've accepted half table displays but now half table displays will be included in the Troxell One category. In addition, a mini display cannot be a floral arrangement. An arrangement is something that can be picked up as a whole piece; a mini-display is something that is constructed in its space.

'Epies: Nature's Paintbox'

Mother's Day Show Categories 2026 *Continued*

Best Educational Display

The Richard G. Latimer Educational Trophy

This trophy goes to the best educational display. There must be at least two educational displays for this trophy to be awarded. If a display has won this award in a previous SDES show, it is ineligible to win again. However, to promote SDES' goal of education, prior winning displays are always welcome to be displayed so that visitors can learn more about epies.

The People's Choice Award

The George and Jerry Plaisted Award

Everyone is invited to place one flower on the People's Choice table. Only the name of the flower is shown to visitors who vote for their favorite bloom. Winner of the award is announced at the next general meeting.

Best Show Theme Display Division ONE

The Jacob W. and Miriam Troxell Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the best display using the show's theme. This category - Division ONE - is for displays that use only one table.

Best Show Theme Display Division TWO

The Jacob W. and Miriam Troxell Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the best display using the show's theme. This category - Division TWO - is for displays that use two or more tables or is a floor exhibit.

Best Flower Display

The Gus and Marge Schlaffer Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the best flower display. This display **does not** reflect the show's theme. It can be one table or more.

President's Choice/Best in Show

The President's Choice for George French Award

This trophy is awarded to the flower that the current SDES president chooses as his or her favorite. All flowers and all exhibitors are eligible for this award—hybridizer private grower, nursery, named or unnamed hybrid, unregistered seedling, or any sized flower.



SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society once again held its annual Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers at the *Butcher Shop Steakhouse* in San Diego on December 10, 2025.

Over 62 members and guests were in attendance, all dressed in their finest holiday attire. The attendees were greeted by Patricia Neal and Gerry Mikas, who checked in members and provided each with a raffle ticket, and directed those who brought a gift for the gift exchange to the gift exchange table.

The room was beautifully decorated for the holiday season, and while members were settling in to their tables, pictures were taken of all of those in attendance, and are provided on the following two pages for your enjoyment.

Mildred Mikas, our Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the attendees. The business portion of the meeting was also held, during which the society's budget was approved and new officers were recognized (see photo below center). Carmela Griswold, our outgoing president, thanked each board member (see photo below left) with a gift—which was a token of her appreciation—as she passed the torch to Dean DeLibertis who was elected our new president effective January 2026.

After the business concluded, the wait staff began serving our meal. The dinner was amazing—as is the Butcher Shop tradition—with a selection of entrees, including flat iron steak, for the main course and delicious cheesecake topped with caramel drizzle for dessert. Everyone had a chance to visit, and catch up with friends while enjoying their dinner. Beautiful Schlumbergera centerpieces were also given to a guest sitting at each table.

After dinner, a raffle was held with various prizes which included some coveted epi cuttings, garden supplies, and garden gift certificates. Dean DeLibertis provided 4" potted epies to each attendee, and included 'Don Crain', and 'Tail Feathers'—to mention a few. Everyone in attendance went home a winner. Following the raffle, those who brought gifts for the gift exchange participated and took home many of the treasures that were beautifully wrapped and decorated for the exchange.

Following the gift exchange, Sandra Chapin and Velma Crain recognized Don Crain, who was named recipient of the esteemed Roger Chapin Award for 2025 for all of his hard work, and masterful photography provided to the society showcasing all our events over the years.

Another successful SDES event to ring in the holidays. We also remembered those members who were unable to attend this year due to illness or scheduling conflicts. A special thank you to Mildred Mikas and Gerry Mikas (shown below right), and Patricia Neal (shown following page top left) for their hard work in organizing and coordinating, to make sure everyone had an excellent, enjoyable experience.



SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December (Continued)



SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December (Continued)



Society Officers, Directors and Coordinators for 2026

President	Dean DeLibertis President@sdepis.org	Internet/Webmaster Deputy Webmaster	Gilbert Hatfield David Cheever Webmaster@sdepis.org
1st Vice President Programs	David Cheever Programs@sdepis.org	Workshops	Jerry Moreau Workshops@sdepis.org
2nd Vice President Mother's Day Show	Jerry Moreau MothersDay@sdepis.org	CSSA Affiliate Rep	Jerry Moreau CSSA@sdepis.org
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas Treasurer@sdepis.org	EpiNews Editor	JK Hendershot EpiNews@sdepis.org
Recording Secretary	OPEN Recording@sdepis.org	Research & Education	Linda Sinkovic Research@sdepis.org
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson Membership@sdepis.org	SDBGF Rep	Patricia Neal SDBGF@sdepis.org
Director 2025-26	Ken Maculan Directors@sdepis.org	Librarian	Marie Dempewolf Librarian@sdepis.org
Director 2026-27	Gilbert Hatfield Directors@sdepis.org	Historian	Patricia Neal Historian@sdepis.org
Director 2026-27	Linda Kruger Directors@sdepis.org	Raffle Table	Paula Reynolds Raffles@sdepis.org
Director 2026-27	Mildred Mikas Directors@sdepis.org	Hospitality	OPEN Hospitality@sdepis.org
Immediate Past President	Carmela Griswold PastPresident@sdepis.org	Name Tags/ Internet P.O.S.	Gerry Mikas Store@sdepis.org
Sales Table & Events	Cindy Decker & Dean Delibertis Salestable@sdepis.org SalesEvents@sdepis.org	Refreshments	David Cheever Refreshments@sdepis.org
Garden Caravan	Jerry Moreau GardenCaravan@sdepis.org	Social Media Publicity	OPEN OPEN Publicity@sdepis.org
Holiday Banquet	Mildred Mikas Banquet@sdepis.org		

SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December (Continued)



Photos: JK Hendershot

SDES News Notes + Refreshments



SDES Installation of Officers and Awards Ceremony at the Holiday Banquet held in December.

Photos: JK Hendershot



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

Derek Obayashi Awarded SDES H. L. Membership

By Jerry Moreau



Derek with 2017 MDS award.

Photo: SDES Archives

Honorary Life Membership is the highest honor the San Diego Epiphyllum Society (SDES) can bestow, recognizing those members whose dedication goes above and beyond in supporting the Society and its mission: to encourage the study of epiphyllum and related species, and to promote public engagement and the exchange of ideas on growing, displaying, and collecting these remarkable plants.

Past recipients have served SDES in many different capacities, and Derek is no exception. A member since 1982, Derek has been an active and dependable presence in the Society for decades. Over the years, he has presented on a variety of topics at meetings and Epi-Con events, displayed plants at shows, donated cuttings, and served as a show judge, among his many other contributions. His kindness and can-do attitude make him fun to be around, and inspire others to be part of the Society.

Congratulations, Derek, on receiving the Honorary Life Membership! the San Diego Epiphyllum Society deeply appreciates all you have done, and continue to do, for the Society. The Society is only

as strong as its members, and you are a shining example to us all. (See complete article on page 17.)

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', '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'



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 (Vista): 'Meadow Rose', (shown right) 'Frida Kahlo'

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

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): 'Harald Knebel', 'Gold Charm'

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

Ken Maculan (Escondido) 'Lola Leah'

Jerry Moreau (San Diego) 'Christmas Pink', 'Doris W. Pittman', 'Jalisco Joy'

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): 'EpiCon VII', 'Harald Knebel', 'Padre', 'Chameleon', 'Jalisco Passion', 'Triana'

Species Blooming

Here is a list of all the species blooming:

Carmela Griswold (Vista): *Disocatus anguliger*

Dean DeLibertis (National City): *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *Guatamalese*.

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, *E. hookeri*, *E. thomasianum*, *Selenicereus Pteranthus*.

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

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): *Disocactus anguliger - Noller Uruapan*, *Epiphyllum crenatum* var. *chichicasten-go*, *D. macranthus* (shown right), *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalese* var. *Montrose*.



Photo: Carmela 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 2026¹

President	Dean DeLibertis
1st Vice President	David Cheever
2nd Vice President	Jerry Moreau
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Secretary	Open
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past President	Carmela Griswold
Director 2025-26	Ken Maculan
Director 2026-27	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2026-27	Linda Kruger
Director 2026-27	Mildred Mikas

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



A New Year Brings Hope In the Garden We Tend

by Jerry Moreau



'Happy New Year' DB(RWK)
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'New Attitude' FB (HST)
Photo: Chuck Everson



'New Day' CEC
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'New Horizon' AB(HST)
Photo: SDES Archives

'Happy New Year', dear friends,
the calendar turns like a quiet wheel in the sky,
and just beneath the soil a 'New Beginning' rests, unhurried,
unafraid.

Each 'New Day' rises from the pots in a hush,
dew gathering on the handles of our tools,
soft as a gift laid on every palm
that has turned the earth and tried again.

Between roots and perlite a 'New Attitude' is learning
to loosen its grip on what will never bloom,
to compost disappointment into nourishment,
to make peace with what must go back to soil.

Here, even the smallest branch finds its 'New Flair',
a thin green edge of courage on the stem,
color trembling at the border of the season,
quiet proof that beauty does not ask permission.

The paths that held yesterday's footprints and worry
now open toward a widening 'New Horizon',
pale with morning, bright with maybe,
inviting every step to be a gentler one.

So we stand together at the garden gate of this year,
hands still smelling faintly of soil and fertilizer,
and listen for the unseen work before us,
trusting the seeds we buried in our own darkness.

We share with one another 'Happy New Year'!
For every heart a 'New Beginning',
for every morning a 'New Day',
for every spirit a 'New Attitude',
for every branch a 'New Flair',
for every journey a 'New Horizon'.

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

By Jerry Moreau

If you've ever wandered past a stunning display of epiphyllum hybrids at our Mother's Day Show, there's a good chance you've admired the work of Derek Obayashi. A longtime member of the SDES. Derek has been part of the society since 1982, when he joined as a curious kid with a big fascination for flowers.

It all started thanks to his grandparents, Tamotsu and Fumiko Kida, who raised him to appreciate the magic of growing things. Each summer, Derek would spend time in San Diego surrounded by the blooms that filled his great-grandmother's yard. One day, family friend Jean Seile rode up on her bike and introduced him to a flower that would change his life, *Epiphyllum hookeri ssp. hookeri*. From there, things took off quickly. Jean invited him to his first SDES meeting. He attended with his grandmother and in a funny twist, everyone assumed his grandmother brought him to get a free plant. Not quite, Derek shared that it was he who was actually the one dragging her along so he could expand his collection.

In the beginning it was his grandparents who helped him build a shade house and supported his growing obsession with epiphytic cacti. Together they visited nurseries and legendary growers throughout Southern California, including Hurst Nursery, Rainbow Gardens, Wressey Cocke, and Fern La Borde. These experiences shaped Derek into the passionate hybridizer we know today.

Derek entered his first Mother's Day Show in 1989 and soon became known for his imaginative displays and mesmerizing blooms. His creative designs and flawless flowers have earned him numerous awards,

and an incredible ten People's Choice Awards over the years. Always driven to experiment, Derek began hybridizing early on, searching for beauty not in perfection but in uniqueness. He loves petals that twist unexpectedly or flowers that bloom in surprising colors. It is that creative spirit that has led him to register more than sixty-five hybrids, many of which are prized by growers worldwide.

His contributions go far beyond his flowers. Derek has been a judge, presenter, and generous donor of cuttings for SDES sales, meetings and EpiCons. The ESA proudly honored him with the 2016 Founder's Award for his lifelong dedication to the culture and promotion of epiphyllums. Even now, while living in Illinois, Derek stays active in the epi community, participating in shows, sharing knowledge, and spreading his enthusiasm for epies wherever he goes. Derek served at the ESA Registrar of hybrids from 2018-2021.

Derek admits that his collection is evolving as he focuses more on seedlings, constantly searching for the next breakthrough bloom. His advice to newcomers is simple but wise: use plastic labels written in pencil because ink fades, grow only what truly excites you, and don't hesitate to toss what doesn't. As he puts it, "I throw out a hundred or so seedlings a year. Try to create something new and interesting."

Through all his years in the epi world, Derek remains a reminder of what it means to grow with passion; someone who finds beauty in imperfection and joy in nurturing something extraordinary from something simple.



Several photos of Derek Obayashi taken over the years at various SDES sponsored events.

Photo: SDES Archives

Photo: Jerry Moreau

Photo: SDES Archives

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



'Mildred Mikas'
Photo: JK Hendershot



'Beth Jackson'
Photo: Derek Obayashi



'Bobbie Johnson'
Photo: Derek Obayashi



'Don Crain'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Jinzaburo Matsumiya'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Chitsue Kida'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'DTO'
Photo: Derek Obayashi



'Jeffrey Kida'
Photo: Derek Obayashi



'Abalone'
Photo: Derek Obayashi

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



'Mark Sumpter'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



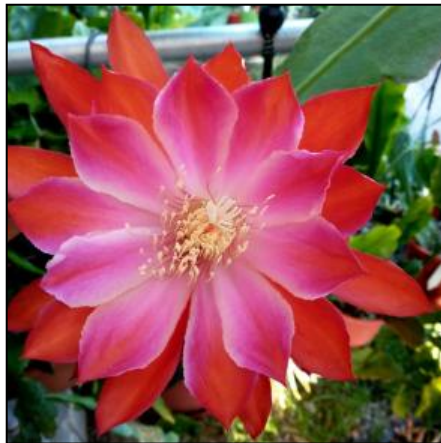
'Sigmund'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Sandra Chapin'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'The Kitty'
Photo: Robert Kuetttle



'Tomatsu Kida'
Photo: Barb Landon



'Linda Sinkovic'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Velma Crain'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Sammy'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Pat Neal'
Photo: Patricia Neal



Mother's Day Show 2026

Epies: Nature's Paintbox

May 9-10, 2026