



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

December, 2010

Volume 35, Number 12

'Sugar Plum Fairy'

Size: Small

Cross: 'Galago x seedling (by Beahm)

Hybridizer: Wressey Cocke— 1977

Photograph by Jerry Moreau



President's Corner:

As the year draws to a close, so does my 2nd year of being President. I am filled with many emotions, gratitude, sadness, happiness, relief. It has been a wonderful two years. The best part has been the many friends I have been able to spend time with at shows,

sales, meetings and parties. Our 40th anniversary was certainly a highlight. I just want to say thank you for all the love and support you all have given me. I am looking forward to continuing seeing you all.

Sandra



SDES Board of Directors: 2011

President: Jerry Moreau
1st Vice President (Programs): Velma Crain
2nd Vice President (Mother's Day Show Coordinator): Sandra Chapin
Recording Secretary: Jeff Hilbers
Membership Secretary: Beth Jackson

Corresponding Secretary: Michal McKee
Treasurer: Janice Wakefield

Directors:
 Nominated for a 2-year term:
 Linda Sinkovic
 Ron Crain
 Bob Buchs
 To serve the 2nd year of their 2-year term:
 Cindy Decker
 Mildred Mikas

SDES Meetings-

—By Velma Crain

Pre-Meeting Workshops: There will be no pre-meeting workshop in and December. However Ron will see you on January 12th 2011 in room 104 at 7:00 pm!!!

November 10th Meeting and Program



2011 Show Date Announced— May 14-15
“Holidays with Epies” will be on the Sunday **AFTER** Mother's Day. Due to an oversight, the second full weekend in May was reserved for our annual Mother's Day Show— but Mother's Day occurs the weekend before. So we shall have a week longer to celebrate our moms and prepare our displays. Mark your calendars!



Safari Park Epi Display House

Aka: Wild Animal Park

—By Jerry Moreau

Great crew out at the park this month and wonderful work was accomplished. We moved about 2 dozen more plants into the George French section, potted up cuttings that had rooted in perlite, and trimming the epies. The order of new pots was delivered. Now we can add more plants to the lower house. We will be adding plastic terra cotta colored 10" pots in the mix of the terra cotta pots. This will allow us to add more plants without worrying about the added weight of the heavy terra cotta pots.

Helping out this month was Sandra Chapin, Steve Peters, Marie Dempewolf, Sam Pebbles, Ron & Velma Crain, Bill Greene, Cindy Decker, Kathy Elliott, Larry Taylor, Gerry & Mildred Mikas, and Jerry Moreau.

The next upcoming work parties will be Dec 11, Jan 15 & 29.

Installation of the beautiful bench is completed.



Wanted! Society Historian

Are you someone who wants to volunteer but don't have a lot of time to go to meetings? Do you like to craft and scrapbook? Are you interested in people, flowers, and history? Then there is a job for you. The Society is looking for a Historian. Is that you?

The Society's Historian keeps the historical information about the Society in forms of notebooks, letters, epi memorabilia, articles, scrapbooks, photo albums, and the website. Make this as fun as you want.

The Society's history should be displayed at events such as the Mother's Day show, Society's anniversary, Installation/Holiday Banquet, EpiCon, and other similar events. Contact Sandra Chapin if you are interested.



What a Birthday Bash!

The 40th anniversary of SDES was celebrated in grand style on November 10th 2010. Over 60 people attended our gala. One of our founding members, Gladys Harper was there as well as three members who joined that night. The rest of us ranged in between. We had a fantastic

potluck (apparently plant people are good cooks also.) Bob Buchs organized and coordinated the program. Highlights of the last forty years were the Mother's Day shows and the beginning of the Wild Animal Park display. A member of council-member Todd Gloria's office read a proclamation that No-

vember 10th 2010 was Epiphyllum day in San Diego. We also had a letter from Mayor Jerry Sanders. Our annual photo contest was held , so

we had beautiful pictures of epies. There were displays of other awards and trophies from past years Jean Costanza brought in two of her off season bloomers. Sandra Chapin was delighted to have an Epi Society bloom to display. It has been a wonderful forty years and the club is looking forward to the next forty.



San Diego Epiphyllum Day

Presented by Councilmember Todd Gloria

WHEREAS, The San Diego Epiphyllum Society is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Balboa Park as part of the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, this November 10, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The San Diego Epiphyllum Society as a non-profit organization with the purpose to encourage the study and growing of epiphyllums, epiphytic cacti species and related species, SDES works to develop public support and facilitate the exchange of ideas on growing, displaying, and collecting epiphyllums and related epiphytic species; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society organizes its annual two day Mother's Day Show and Sale in Balboa Park and also organizes, presents & hosts every sixth year, an international epiphyllum convention where epiphyllum experts and enthusiasts from all over the world meet to exchange information about newly introduced hybrids, advanced propagation techniques and other developments in the culture of epiphytic cacti; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society has continued for over thirty years to maintain and increase the epiphyllum collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park into one of the largest public displays of hybrid epiphyllums and epiphytic cacti species in the world achieving its mission of education and conservation; and

WHEREAS, members of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society educate the public about the history of, and the propagation and hybridization of epiphyllums at numerous venues throughout Southern California including the San Diego Botanic Garden, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Cuyamaca College, South Bay Botanic Garden at Southwestern College, San Diego County Fair at Del Mar, The Spring and Fall Home and Garden Shows at Del Mar, Balboa Park; and

WHEREAS, The San Diego Epiphyllum Society with a national and international membership is an affiliate of the Epiphyllum Society of American, and having earned ESA's prestigious Founder's award for lifetime achievement in the culture, promotion, and proliferation of epiphyllums and epiphyllum collecting; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on the behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim November 10, 2010 to be "**San Diego Epiphyllum Society Day**" in the City of San Diego.

From our Librarian:

Outside of A Dog

Outside of a dog, a man's best friend is a book. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. -- Groucho Marx



Next month I'll be out of town when I am supposed to be writing this column, so no column for December. Therefore it'll be a little bit early for this, but here goes: Happy Holidays to all, and may your Holiday Cactus bloom spectacularly.

--By Linda Sinkovic, Librarian

November's Photo Contest—another success!

Among all of the wonderful photos displayed for perusal were a few exceptional ones. Winner of both "People's Choice" and First Place :

Lourdes Macks— *Epiphyllum strictum*

2nd place: Sam Peebles—"Wedding Bells"

3rd place: Michal McKee- "Wild Plum"

Honorable mention: Michal McKee- "Asoka"

Congratulations one and all. Look for the 1st place winner on the cover of January, 2009 Epi News.



SDES Annual Awards Banquet And Installation of Officers

December 8, 2010
Social Hour: 6:30 p.m.
Dinner— 7:00 p.m.

The Butcher Shop
5255 Kearny Villa Rd
San Diego

Menu:
Fillet mignon
or
Mahi-Mahi
Salad
Dessert

Gift Exchange
(Garden-related: \$10-15 value)

Members: \$25.00
Guests: \$35.00

Reservation deadline:
November 30

Banquet Coordinator:
Mildred Mikas
(760) 690-1124
bethjacks@yahoo.com

Directions:

From Interstate 163,
Exit Clairmont Mesa Blvd. East; Right (south) on
Kearny Villa Road. 5255 is
two blocks south at intersection of Lightwave Ave.



“Christmas Cactus” and “Easter Cactus”

By Dick Kohlschreiber

Reprinted from South Bay *Epi Gram*- November, 2010 with permission

At the October meeting, someone asked what the difference was between Christmas cacti and Easter cacti (except for the fact that one blooms close to Christmas and the other blooms in the Spring—often close to Easter). Both of these genera have gone through a lot of different names over the years.

Easter Cactus- when I first got interested in epiphytic cacti, they were known as Rhipsalidopsis. There were two species: *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri* and *Rhipsalidopsis rosea*. I still like these names. Prior to being called Rhipsalidopsis, gaertneri was called *Epiphyllum gaertneri* and *Epiphyllum russellianum* var. *gaertneri*. When the taxonomists decided that they wanted to decrease the number of genera names, gaertneri was lumped into Rhipsalis and was called *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*. The last change has been to call it *Hatiora gaertneri*. *Rhipsalidopsis rosea* was lumped into *Rhipsalis rosea* before the last change to *Hatiora rosea*. All of the different hybrids of Rhipsalidopsis are the result of crosses of gaertneri and rosea and those crosses are now called *Hatiora xgraeseri* (*xRhipsalphylopsis graeseri*). To determine what genus plants belong to, taxonomists look at the characteristics of the stem, the areoles, the flowers, the pericarpel, the hypanthium, the stamens and how they are inserted and the fruit. These two plants do not exactly match the characteristics of the Hatiora but come fairly close. They both have a regular funnel form flower – gaertneri’s flower is scarlet while the flower of rosea is pink.

One of the most beautiful plants I ever had were two plants of *Hatiora rosea*. When I had them for about two years, they both came in full bloom one Spring and they were spectacular. The plants were covered with small pink flowers. But I soon found out that after these plants bloom, they have a habit of self destructing. I came out one day and there were segments all over the ground underneath where the plants were hanging. I’ve always thought that this was one way they reproduce as the segments did root easily. I never had good plants after that.



Schlumbergera also have gone through several name changes. *Schlumbergera russelliana* was first known as *Epiphyllum russellianum*. *S. truncate* was called *Zygocactus truncates*. *S. Opuntioides* was first called *Epiphyllum opuntioides*, then changed to *Zygocactus opuntioides* and after that, *Epiphyllanthus opuntioides*. There are six species of Schlumbergera – *S. kautskyi*, *S. microsphaerica*, *S. opuntioides*, *S. orssichiana*; *S. russelliana* and *S. microsphaerica* have a nearly regular flower. If you cut a regular flower into 4 equal parts, each quarter will be equal. If you cut a zygomorphic flower into 4 quarters, only two of the quarters will be equal. Most of the hybrids that are on the market are the results of a cross of *S. russelliana* and *S. truncate*. There have been some good *S. orssichiana* crosses and a few *S. opuntioides* crosses.

All of the *Schlumbergera* and *Hatiora gaertneri* and *Hatiora rosea* come from the mountains of southeastern Brazil. They are mostly growing as epiphytes (growing on trees or bushes) but some are saxicolous (growing on the ground or over rocks). Depending on the species, the Schlumbergera, in the Northern Hemisphere, bloom from September to February. Many of the Schlumbergera make an excellent house plant because they can tolerate low light. They’ll do better in a room that you don’t heat in the Winter. If you keep them outdoors, put them in a shaded area and watch your watering. They don’t like to be kept too wet but they also shouldn’t dry out completely. The old fashioned Christmas Cactus can be a very tough plant and is often passed down from generation to generation in families.

As far as I know, there have not been any proven crosses between *Hatiora gaertneri* or *Hatiora rosea* and any of Schlumbergera species although a lot of people have tried.

Since the Cobia nursery in Florida closed, there have not been any large commercial growers that are hybridizing Schlumbergera. Most of the new hybrids are coming from Denmark. They raise them in such large quantities that they can ship them to the U.S. and still sell them at a fair price. They are also hybridizing the Hatioras and now have a white hybrid that is quite good.



Epi This n' That

—By Jerry Moreau

Why do we love our epies?

Epies are amazing plants. Epiphyllums are a true cactus from the jungle. Scott Haselton said, "Of the myriads of plants being grown for their flowers, the Epiphyllums are among the most deserving of first place because of exotic beauty". Whether you enjoy the hybrids, species, or both, the flowers are spectacular. Epies are incredibly adaptable. Here in Southern California we get to grow them outside all year long. In other colder climates, epies have to stay inside for the winter. They get to come out for the warmer months and for all this care they reward us with their exotic beauty. The range of flower size is from a couple of inches to 13 inches across. Who

is not impressed with that? The color combinations that have been coming out in the newer hybrids are more impressive each year. The variety of shapes is amazing, from the wheel form to multi-petaled; from narrow petals to full rounded petals. The choice of colors is wide ranging. There is a rainbow of colors and color combination to chose from, except blue (the elusive epi color). What's not to like about our beloved epies. There is an epi for everyone. Let's spread the joy and epies. Wishing you all an epi-filled and joy-filled holiday season.

This will be my last column. I have enjoyed learning more about epies through writing this column and I hope you have too. Thank you for being such great readers to my musings. Look for some new and interesting columns in the New Year.

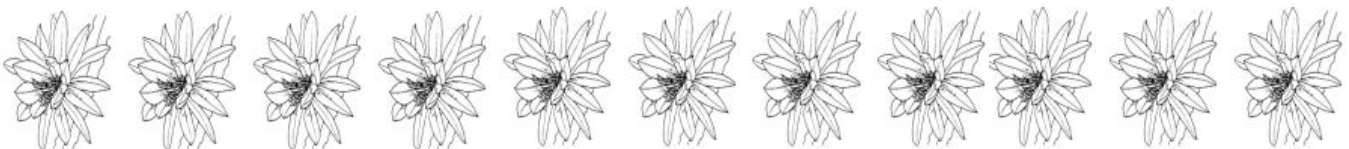
Now is the Time

- ✓ **Water if necessary**
- ✓ **Prune plants.** If some of your plants' branches appear dry and dehydrated don't panic. This is normal. Remove them by either snapping off the unwanted growth or cutting with snips. Remember to sterilize your cutting tools (burning dry with a torch), or spraying with the "Bar Rinse" sanitizing solution to prevent spreading unwanted viruses to other plants.
- ✓ **Keep an eye on the weather.** Make plans for protecting epis from bad weather (cold temperatures, high winds, hail) as we get further into winter.
- ✓ **Continue to watch for pests.**

Have you moved?

If you have moved or recently changed your address, please send your new address to our new membership chair Beth Jackson (2011) so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption.

Send it to membership – email address or snail mail address



Congratulations from San Diego's Mayor

Congratulations to the San Diego Epiphyllum Society 40th Anniversary

November 10, 2010

On behalf of the citizens of San Diego, it is my pleasure to congratulate the San Diego Epiphyllum Society on the occasion of your 40th Anniversary.

For 40n years now, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society has served as a distribution center for various community fairs. The extensive community involvement the Society has exhibited over the years has greatly developed public support in the San Diegan community.

I would also like to recognize the work the Society has done to maintain the Epiphyllum (epi) houses and the epi collection at the San Diego Safari Park. With over 1,500 plants, the display is the largest public display of epis in North America and possible the second largest display in the world. Through the Society's study and growing of epiphyllum, you have facilitated a beautiful community. The Society's work and many years of service to San Diego is truly commendable.

Please accept my best wishes for an exciting and memorable 40th Anniversary celebration. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Jerry Sanders
Mayor

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	Notes	
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Items of Interest/Concern

Remembering SDES Members





Off-Season Blooms in November:

Barb Alvarez: 'Litega', *E. pumilum*

Sandra Chapin: "America", 'David Wayne', 'Epi Society', 'First Prize', 'George's Favorite', 'J.A.D.', 'Marmalade 'N' Honey', 'Something Special'

Matt Chaney:

Cindy Decker: '

Linda Eastman (Broadalbin, NY): 'Renown' (and several more buds)

Dick France: '

Darrell Jenkins: 'Crimson Arrow', 'Easter Bunny', 'Epi Society', 'Fluid Orange', 'Harald Knebel', *R. pachyptera*

Mildred & Gerry Mikas: 'Epi Society', 'Fred Boutin', 'Front Runner', 'Gold Charm', 'Greta', 'Guiding Star', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Jeri's Jubilee', *E. cartagense*, *E. hookeri* ssp. *Hookeri* (*E. strictum*)

Jerry Moreau: 'Gold Charm', 'Jasa', 'Jill's Jewel', 'Lollipop', 'Petey Kelly

Allen Pellymouter: 'Marmalade 'N' Honey', 'Ruby Pinwheel', 'Something Special', 'Tassel', 'Uncle Slim'

Pentico: 'Beautie Wegener', 'Four Winds', 'Fringe of Gold', 'Frühlingsgold', 'George's Favorite', 'Li'l Orphan Epi', 'Lilliput', 'Lollipop', 'Star Charmer', *E. phyllanthus*, *E. thomasianum*

Galen Pittman: '

Jill Rowney: *Lepismium houretianum*

Linda Sinkovic: '

Vern Hettinger: (Kalamazoo, MI), A

WAP: 'David Wayne', 'Friedrich Adolph Haage Jr.', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jean Marie Seile', 'King Midas', 'Orange Icing', *E. anguliger*, *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri* (*E. strictum*)



Welcome to our New Members!



How To Become A Volunteer at the WAP:

Everyone is welcome to come and join us at the WAP Epi House. There are all types of work for everyone. As a member of SDES it is a great opportunity to learn, have fun, and become involved in your Society.

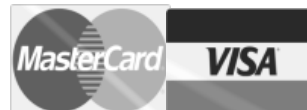
- Step 1 - **Be a member of SDES**
All people volunteering at the WAP or Zoo must go through this process as required by the San Diego Zoological Society.
- Step 2 - **Sign up at**
<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/volunteer/>.
Select any of the 4 choices, then, click on "Apply Online here". Complete the information requested and in 2 areas you should Type in all-caps 'HORTICULTURE VOLUNTEER: SDES EPIPHYLLUM HOUSE'
The first place is **Availability**; there is a box asking – "At which location would you like to volunteer?"
The second is: the very last box asking – "Please indicate your area(s) of interest."
- Alternate Step 2 - If you **do not** have Internet access you can sign up by calling
Carrie Hrvatin, Volunteer Coordinator for the Zoological Society of San Diego 619-231-1515 ext. 4030.
- Step 3 - You will then be sent information to sign up to attend an orientation. Select the date that is best for you and RSVP to the staff.
- Step 4 - Attend the orientation at the WAP or Zoo



Refreshments at our General Meetings:



Call Marj Myers at 619-448-3613 or e-mail her at epinutz@att.net so she will be able to coordinate the food brought to the SDES general meetings.



Membership:

Single Membership \$15.00 per year
Dual Membership \$20.00 per year
(Dual is for two people, same address, one newsletter)

International Membership \$25.00 per year

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

Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary!
1970-2010

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SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
OFFICERS– 2010

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SDES Web Site: www.SanDiegoEpi.org

Membership queries: sdes_roster@hotmail.com

General membership meetings are held
on the second Wednesday of each month
at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
Wednesday, November 10

SDES Board Meetings are usually held on the
fourth Wednesday of each month
at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Due to Thanksgiving Week, it will be:
Monday, November 29th at the Mikas home