



# Σpi News

*San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.*

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October, 2012

Volume 37, Number 10

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## 'Pixie Dust'

Size: Small-Medium

Cross: *Disocactus macranthus* x 'Spun Gold'

Hybridizer: Don Burnett

Photograph by Linda Sinkovic





### President's Corner:

Autumn has arrived and the weather is finally cooling off here in San Diego. I really like the fall especially the change of seasons. The days are warm and the nights have a chill in the air. I hope you are enjoying this time of year too.

Do you know or have any information about a founding member Petey Kelly? If so, please contact me or send information directly to Jill Rowney, the *Epi News* editor, for the November newsletter. Your help with this is greatly appreciated. It's an on-going project to document SDES's history.

I want to thank Cindy Decker and her crew for doing a wonderful job of getting the word out about SDES at the Del Mar Home and Garden Show. As part of SDES's mission, we go out and educate people about the flowers we love and, if we are lucky, bring in more members.

Don't forget about the annual SDES photo contest at the November meeting. More information is on page 8.

Till next time – Happy Growing!



*Jerry*

### SDES Calendar of Events

**October:**

- 10 General Meeting
- 13 Work Party at the Safari Park
- 24 Board Meeting
- 27 Work Party at the Safari Park

**November:**

- 14 Photo Contest  
(See page 8 for more details)

**December**

- 12 Holiday Dinner  
(See page 7)



### SDES Meetings-

**Pre-Meeting Workshop:** Come to Room 104 at 7:00 before the General Meeting to join in the discussion and hear from our resident botanist, Ron Crain. Workshop is free and open to everyone.

**September Meeting Highlights:** September's speaker was a representative from Kellogg Garden Products who shared volumes of info about growing plants here in San Diego.

**October Meeting's Program:** Our very own George Plaisted will present an informative program on fertilizers and fertilizing. The program will include the types, frequency, and quantity of fertilizers.. This program is sure to nourish and stimulate your brain to grow and flourish. Don't be a manure head come on in and with your questions to cultivate your epi growing desire.



# Safari Park Epi Display House

—By Jerry Moreau

Summer heat is here and the volunteers still come. What a great team we have. September proved to be hotter than August but we came out to the Park anyway and had fun. We worked, laughed, and drank lots of water to keep us going. All the plants that should be in the workhouse are there. We have now begun the fall weeding and feeding of the plants in the display house. We also repotted plants and worked on the sprinkler system in the display house; sprinkler heads get clogged with debris in the lines. The display house continues to look better and better. Some of the Epiphyllum species are blooming and I noticed buds forming on some of the small hybrids,

Helping out were Sandra Chapin, Ron & Velma Crain, Cindy Decker, Marie Dempewolf, Bill Greene, Beth Jackson, Oliver Lapuebla, Yogi, & Carol LeBlanc, Laurie Lasslo, Katie Lutz, Gerry Mikas, Jerry Moreau, and Fred Savage.

The next work parties will be October 13 & 27.

If you are interested in joining the fun and learning a lot about epis in the process come and volunteer at the Park. Information on how to sign up can be found on the website [www.SanDiegoEpi.org](http://www.SanDiegoEpi.org) click on the Safari Park tab or contact me.

## SDES Board of Directors: Slate of Officers for 2013

The following are nominated for the coming year:

<b>President:</b>	Ron Crain
<b>1st VP (Programs):</b>	Velma Crain
<b>2nd VP (Mother's Day Show Coordinator):</b>	Sandra Chapin
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Marie Dempewolf
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Laura Johnson
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Beth Jackson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Janice Wakefield

### Directors:

Nominated for a 2-year term:  
 Oliver LaPuebla  
 Mildred Mikas

To serve the 2nd year of their 2-year term:  
 Cindy Decker  
 Bill Greene  
 Dave O'Dell

Thanks to Beth Jackson and her Nominating committee (Cindy Decker, Judy Johnson, Patricia Frank, and Laura Johnson) for putting together a great slate of officers.

If you would like to take a more active role in the actual business of SDES, please let one of the Board members know. Your help is always welcome!



## Announcing 2013 Show Theme!!

It is never too early to be thinking of display ideas for next year's show. While our plants take a little rest from blooming we can be creative with ideas on how to display them. The 2013 theme is **Flora and Fauna--AKA Epies and Animals**. Start planning how those jungle, zoo, farm, circus animals etc. can display our beautiful Epies. Looking forward to next year's show!!!



## *Pseudorhipsalis amazonica* Gives Me the Blues— Sort Of

—By Ron Crain

In the spring of 2011, a plant I've had for about ten years, the species, *Pseudorhipsalis amazonica*, also known as *Wittia amazonica* or *Disocactus amazonicus*, began developing flower buds for the very first time. I thought if the buds continued to develop, I would try to use their pollen to make some crosses with some other epiphytic cacti. I had studied some Internet resources and found that making successful crosses with this plant is extremely difficult if not impossible. But, I had my plant and it was going to bloom, so why not try it anyway? I wanted to cross it with a pure white hybrid like 'Lola Leah' and also with a white, day-blooming species like *Epiphyllum crenatum*, a plant that should have no ancestors with colors other than white in its lineage. I wanted to try this because *Pseudorhipsalis amazonica*, to my knowledge is the only member of the cactus family that shows any blue coloration in its flowers. I should say blue-ish because to my eye, the shading of its petal tips tends more toward the blue-violet. Some of those same Internet resources indicated that this blue-ish coloration is not the result of blue pigmentation but is actually caused by the physical texture of the flowers'

petals such that they reflect light in the blue and violet parts of the visible spectrum. Still, this might be an interesting trait to pass on to some hybrids if I could get it to cross successfully. I mentioned to Jerry Moreau that my *P. amazonica* was about to bloom and I agreed to provide him some flowers so he could try his own crosses. As my plant proceeded through its two-week period of bloom, I supplied Jerry with flowers on two occasions.

Unfortunately, while the flower buds on my plant did continue to develop, they did so only very s-l-o-w-l-y so that by the time they opened, in mid-June, the peak of the blooming season had passed and I couldn't be choosy about what I crossed it with. I had to go with the few plants that were still flowering at that time, like 'Jill's Jewel' in the Safari Park collection, 'Sonoma Sunshine' at Sandra Chapin's, my 'Cherry Parfait' and a purple Unkown that I happen to like.

*Pseudorhipsalis amazonica* has tiny tubular, mainly carmine colored flowers with

**See "Give Me the Blues"**

(Cont. on page 5)

## Now is the Time

- ✓ **Protect your plants from direct sun.** As the angle of the sun changes, ensure plants do not get too much southern exposure.
- ✓ **If you live in a colder climate, stop feeding plants now.** New growth is susceptible to frost damage. Epis tend to go dormant in colder weather.
- ✓ **Check ripening fruit.** If in doubt, wait to pick. Remember to use clean tools when cutting fruit

open to remove seeds.

- ✓ **Watch for snails and slugs.** As summer comes to an end, they become more active in cooler, moister weather.
- ✓ **Trim out dead growth.** Some dieback is natural. If the dieback starts from the roots instead of the tips of the stems, check the root system.
- ✓ **New growth is normal during fall season.** Fertilize plants that are actively growing.
- ✓ **Start planning how much and what kind of winter protection your plants will need.**

## Give Me the Blues (Continued from page 4)

the blue-ish shading on the distal petals. When blooming, the flowers hardly open at all and the male and female reproductive structures, the stamens and pistil are held deep in the constricted corolla tube. Because of this, these flowers appear specifically designed for self-pollination only. Flowers of this type are referred to as cleistogamous. This makes cross-pollination very difficult and in order to make my crosses I had to expose the anthers and the pollen they carried by opening the tiny flowers with a pair of scissors. Having done this, I found the inside of the flower was soaking with water or thin nectar and I wondered how well

sopping wet pollen might work. I was beginning to understand why this plant is so tough to cross.

Of course, the outcome of all of this was complete and utter failure. None of our *P. amazonica* crosses produced fruit for either Jerry or myself. Oh well. As a sort of cruel consolation prize, my *P. amazonica* has bloomed again this year and is now producing fruit of its own, self-pollinated I am certain, and since *P. amazonica* x *P. amazonica* = *P. amazonica* there will be nothing special or different about the offspring, I may collect, dry and grow the seeds anyway, just for fun. I understand that *Pseudorhipsalis amazonica* grows extremely slowly from seed. Sounds challenging!

## SDES Spreads “Epi-Lore” at the Del Mar Fair Garden Show

A group of volunteers supported an SDES booth on September 14, 15 and 16 at the Del Mar Fair Garden Show. In attendance were Cindy Decker, Ron & Velma Crain, Bob Buchs, Janice Wakefield and Beth Jackson. We handed out membership/culture sheets and sold plants and cuttings. Despite the high temperature, we were able to enjoy meeting many people with whom we shared our Epiphyllum “lore”.



*Above: Beth Jackson and Janice Wakefield at the SDES Booth*

## Visiting Epi Growers in Australia

— By Mildred Mikas

While Gerry and I were on vacation in Australia and New Zealand last month, we visited Carol Rogerson, an epi grower and hybridizer, who lives outside Auckland New Zealand. Carol greeted us warmly and provided cookies and scones and tea in her shade house. Carol has four small green houses and a large shade house.

Carol has hybridized several epis. Her

goal is to produce small, compact plants and off-season bloomers. She starts her seeds in 4-inch pots in Zip Lock bags. Carol is a member of ESA and has registered a number of her hybrids. By the looks of her compact plants profuse with buds (in winter) she is on the right track. We had a wonderful afternoon visit. Carol hopes to attend to one of our EpiCons in the future.

We were also able to visit Grant Bayley, a former editor of the Auckland Hoya & Epiphyllum Society.

**See Photos on Page 8**

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*



Though some of us may understand Latin and Greek I think many of us don't have enough knowledge of them to understand species names. That includes me – I don't have a background in Latin or Greek – but I'm definitely interested in the meaning of species names. Often a species name will reflect some outstanding characteristic of that particular species so it's useful to know the meaning of the name.

So while rummaging around in the library for something to review I came across Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms. Imagine my delight when I found that “oxypetalum” means “with sharp petals” and “pumilum” means “dwarf”. Other words that could apply to epiphytic species include “anguliger” (“bearing angles or corners”), “macranthus” (“with large flowers”), and “rhipsalis” (Greek for “wickerwork”). In addition there's a pronunciation guide so you don't need to worry about mispronouncing the word.

This book sounds great, right? It's not like Latin or Greek have changed a lot in the last 100 years, after all. Yet there are some issues with the book's publishing date of 1945, and once again the issue is nomenclature.

For example, the illustration for “Schlumbergera” does not show a Christmas cactus, but instead shows an Easter cactus (*Hatiora*). And the Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera*) photo is listed

under “Zygocactus” (now a synonym for *Schlumbergera*). Granted this is just another example of the confusion in naming of epicactus in general and *Schlumbergera* in particular<sup>\*1</sup> but this is something you should be aware of when using this book.

I think this is an interesting and useful book (within its limits). Good for checking out if you have interest in the meaning of plant names, particularly cactus-related names.

I was able to find a copy of this book for sale on Amazon, but there are newer lexicons available if you are interested in a book like this for your own, including Gardener's Latin: A Lexicon and Latin for Gardeners.

Enjoy the offseason blooms!

Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms, W. Taylor Marshall and R. S. Woods, Pasadena 1945  
No ISBN

### Notes

\*1 There is a discussion about the history of naming *Schlumbergera* and all the u-turns and renaming in Christmas Cacti: The genus *Schlumbergera* and its hybrids, A.J.S. McMillan and J.F. Horobin, 1995.

—By Linda Sinkovic, Librarian

## It's Species Time!

Just glance through the list of “Off-Season Blooms” on page 9 and discover that most growers with species in their collections are enjoying many blooms this time of year– even when the plant is not in the healthiest of condition

Will Harvey writes,  
“...As I type, a Dutchman's Pipe (*E. oxypetalum*) blossom is opening at the sole remaining areole. This is the third and final blooming of the old plant, for this year at least. Snails and prior blossoms had reduced the number of available areoles to this last one. Poignant.”



## SDES 2012 Holiday Installation Banquet

*Wednesday - December 12<sup>th</sup>*

*Cocktails\* 6:30 p.m. - Dinner 7:00 p.m.*

### The Butcher Shop Steakhouse

5255 Kearny Villa Road - San Diego

(858)565-2272

(Visible from Hwy 163)



#### Join us for a festive beginning to the Holiday Season!

The doors of the Butcher Shop Steakhouse will open at 6:15 p.m.

\***Wine** will be served at **6:30 p.m.** and, if you wish to purchase another type of beverage, just order from the waiters and *pay them directly*. **Dinner** will be served at **7 p.m.** Installation of officers and remainder of program will follow dinner.

Don't forget our optional **Holiday Gift Exchange** (Items of \$15.00 value, garden-related, and wrapped would be nice). Bring something you yourself would like to receive! There will be a drawing for a door prize as well as a drawing for those who "Wear Your (SDES) Name Tag" (*for those whose dues are current*) .. See you there!

**Tickets are only \$25.00 for members** (the society pays the rest) and \$60.00 for guests. Dues must be current and paid through January, 2013. Choose Filet Mignon or Mahi Mahi and pay for your dinner at the October or November meeting. Or mail a check to:

**Mildred/Gerry Mikas - 3502 Avenida Amorosa, Escondido CA 92029**

For questions call 760-690-1124 or e-mail [mvmikas@cox.net](mailto:mvmikas@cox.net)

All reservations must be made and paid for by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. **There will be no sales at the door!**

Please make your selection with care, as we are unable to accommodate any changes that evening. We have a minimum guarantee of 55 people. It's really a fun way to spend time with your epi friends. Ask any people who have attended in the past, what an enjoyable evening they had.

Entrée tickets will be available at the door on the night of the dinner.

**Pink Tickets for Mahi Mahi and Green Tickets for Filet Mignon**



## Mikas's visit New Zealand Epi Grower



*Above- Back to front: Carol Rogerson, Mildred Mikas (holding a pot of Carol's seedlings) and Gerry Mikas*

*Right: Carol Rogerson's shade house*



## Welcome to our New Members!



Pam Kish  
Spring Valley, CA

Michael Rachfahl  
Neuenkirchen, Germany

Maria McClees  
Lakeside, CA

**A special thank you** to Fred Wadsworth who included a generous donation along with his renewal. Fred lives in Los Osos near Morro Bay, and sent us pictures of his new shade house. He enjoys *Epi News*—especially the column, "Now is the Time".

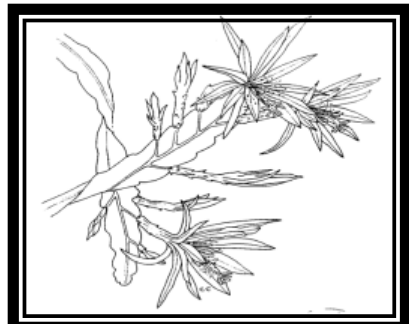


## November 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting hosts the Annual Photo Contest

— Start to check over those beautiful photos you have taken! Criteria will be the same as last year:



- Any size photo can be entered
- Photos should be matted (not framed), but don't let that preclude you from entering your best shot. Bring it anyway!
- Please write your name on the back (with the name, if known, of the epi hybrid in the photo)
- There will be a "People's Choice" winner as well as the judges' choices.
- Winning photos will be featured on the covers of *Epi News*







## Late-Season Blooms in August

**Sandra Chapin:** 'Ali Baba', 'America', 'Chiyo Matsumiya', 'David Wayne', 'English Rose', 'Ernst Gündchen', 'George's Favorite', 'Harald Knebel', 'Helmi Paetz', 'Irene Marion', 'Jungle Orchid', 'Moriah', 'Orange Icing', 'Queen Titania', 'Royal Toast', 'Ruth Wallace', 'Wressey Cocke'

**Barb Alvarez:** 'America', 'Bumpkin', 'Connie Mayer', 'Dr John T Cox', 'Fern la Borde', 'Gentle Whisper', 'Gypsy Kerchief', 'Litega', 'Tele', 'Tiny Jewel', *E. oxypetalum*, *E. pumilum*

**Beth Jackson:** 'Daisy Dean', 'Gabi Paetz'

**Jerry Moreau:** 'Donald Raymond', *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*

**Allen Pellymouter:** 'Something Special'

**Galen Pittman:** 'Light-N-Bright'

**Pentico:** 'Eternity', 'Four Winds', 'Jean Costanzo', *E. lepidocarpum*, *E. oxypetalum*

**Safari Park:** 'Argus', 'Donald Raymond', 'Space Rocket', *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*, *E. oxypetalum*, *E. pumilum*, *E. thomasianum* ssp. *thomasianum*

**Linda Sinkovic:** 'Herbert S Irwin', *E. pumilum*, *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*

### Refreshments at our General Meetings:

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



### Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park

can be found on our website: [SanDiegoEpi.org](http://SanDiegoEpi.org). Click on "Safari Park", then click on "Epi House", then "Volunteer".



## "Want" List



If there is a special hybrid that you cannot find, perhaps another member reading this newsletter is growing it and will contact you (if the plant can support "giving up" a cutting or two. Send the editor ([jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com)) a list of hybrids you want along with your contact information and it will be printed in the following issue.

**Jerry Moreau** is looking for:

- 'Jerry Plaisted'
- 'Pixie Plum'
- 'Polypet'
- 'President Richard Nixon'
- 'Pat Nixon'
- 'Pat Sage'



[jerrysdca@cox.net](mailto:jerrysdca@cox.net)  
(619) 208-7654

**Stephen Reedy** would like cuttings of:

- 'American Sweetheart'
- 'Bunny J'
- 'Chiba Lovely Dawn'
- 'Elinor V. Latimer'



[reedy149@gmail.com](mailto:reedy149@gmail.com)  
515-332-5426

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

*Epi News* is published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please let the editor know of your intention to submit any articles by the date of the General Meeting so that appropriate space can be allocated. ( e-mail at [jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com) )

### Have You Moved?

If you have moved or recently changed your address, please let us know your new address so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption. Send it to membership – USPS or email address : (PO Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127 or [sdes\\_roster@hotmail.com](mailto:sdes_roster@hotmail.com) )

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Director: **Linda Sinkovic:** (619) 583-1172

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Director: **Bob Buchs:** (858) 792-8081

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**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:**  
**October 10, 2012**

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

Next Board meeting will be:  
**October 24, 2012**