



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

September, 2017

Volume 42 Number 9

‘Stina D’

Parentage: ‘Orchid Bells’ x ‘Ruby Snowflake’

Hybridizer: Wressey Cocke

Registrant: Dorothy & Jerry Friedman

Size: Medium

Photo by 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.

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Editor— **Jerry Moreau & Linda Sinkovic:**(619) 208-7654 jerrysdca@cox.net orlinda@cruzware.com**Membership:****New memberships** as well **renewals** can be processed at our secure web site:[Click here](#)SDES Membership — digital *Epi News*

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San Diego Epiphyllum Society

c/o Membership

PO Box 126127

San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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News of interest to SDES membership, brief articles about our members, or our community are welcome. Not sure? Send it anyway. Email Jerry, editor at: jerrysdca@cox.net by the 15th the month for inclusion in the following month's *Epi News*. Submit your articles, announcements, events, photos, or other items of interest. Share events of other organizations and other items of interest to our members. The newsletter is usually, but not always, produced to go out first of the month.

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Upcoming Events**September**

13	General Meeting
16	Safari Park Work Party
27	Board Meeting
30	Safari Park Work Party

October

11	General Meeting
14	Safari Park Work Party
14	End Of Summer Epi Bash
25	Board Meeting
28	Safari Park Work Party

November

8	General Meeting
11	Safari Park Work Party
22	Board Meeting
25	Safari Park Work Party

Mark Your Calendar

For

Epi Con XVI

**Hosted by San Diego Epiphyllum Society
at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park on
Saturday May 26th, 2018**

President's Corner



Well here it is September already, and the heat continues. I just got back from our Alaska cruise and land tour, and I didn't see one epi this year. What a beautiful country up there! We have been there twice before but this year we actually spent time smelling the many flowers in bloom. One that

was in bloom all over Fairbanks was the Amur Chokecherry tree. We went to a native Alaska forest nursery, where a family had planted 20 acres with all the native plants found in the state. They were labeled and many were in bloom. Fireweed, Forget Me Not, Skunk Cabbage, Petunias, Dahlias and Nasturtium were blooming in the towns we visited. The Dahlias and Nasturtiums blooms were much larger than I have seen growing here in San Diego. Going through Denali Park with all the flowers and trees is always a treat for us to see. If you ever have the opportunity to see the last frontier, don't pass it up.

Some September fun facts.

The name September comes from the Latin septem for seven, since this was the seventh month of the Roman calendar.

September starts on the same day of the week as December each year, but does not end on the same day of the week as any other month in the year. September is the ninth month and the only month with the same number of letters in its name in English as the number of the month.

More people are born in September than any other month.

5th: National Cheese Pizza Day

9th: National Teddy Bear Day

16th: National Play-Doh Day

19th: International "Talk Like A Pirate Day"

And let's never forget September 11, 2001.



Tim

Society Officers and Directors

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Publicity	Open

Meeting Programs

by Patricia Frank

Pre-Meeting Workshop: Janice Wakefield will be filling in for Ron this month. She will be discussing fertilizer. The workshop is held at 7:00 p.m. in room 104.

August Program: Don Patterson presented another wonderful program titled "Oh, 2 B a bee!".

September Program: "The Drought-Defying California Garden" will be presented by Master Gardener Lucy Warren at September's General Meeting. Home landscapes that require copious amounts of water simply aren't an option anymore. But Lucy will explain why that doesn't mean you have to settle for barren expanses of rock mulch or artificial turf. California native plants can create a lush, wildlife-friendly landscape that requires minimal irrigation once it's established. Learn which plants will work best in your yard, how to get them established, and how to keep them looking great all year long. There is a native plant for every purpose, usually more than one! Please come out and join us for an informative and enjoyable evening on Wednesday, September 13th in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m.



Refreshments at the General Meetings

As you know, refreshments are served at the general meetings. We rely on the members to provide these. In order to have a good assortment of items it helps if everybody contributes at some time during the year.

If your last name begins with the letters **K-O** please bring some refreshments to the September general meeting. Anyone is welcome to bring in some goodies.

Baked goods, dragon fruit, cheese & crackers, fruit, and nuts are just some of the possibilities for us to enjoy.

January	A-E	July	Society
February	F-J	August	F-J
March	K-O	September	K-O
April	P-T	October	P-T
May	U-Z	November	U-Z
June	A-E	December	Banquet



"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

~Luther Burbank

Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau



Things have slowed down in August. Not much is happening with the new Epi Garden Trail this month -- we have been told that the plants will be moved into the new area in the middle of October. We started the summer feeding of the plants. We continue to convert the old display house into a workhouse by reconfiguring the layout: we are putting up more pipes to hang plants and rearranging the plants to fit. We continue to weed and repot the plants. We still are taking plants out of the clay pots (they are already in a plastic pot inside the clay pot) which are lighter and take up less space. If you, or anybody you know, are interested in the clay pots

we are selling them for \$5 each. They are 10-11 inches in diameter. All proceeds go to support the collection and display.

There was great fun playing with the epies this month. Thank you! Ron & Velma Crain, Dennis Hughes, Laurie Lasslo, Theo Moore, Jerry Moreau, Fred Savage, Paul Van Der Ploeg, and Janice Wakefield.



The next work party will be September 16 & 30



Betsy Markle
Photos by Jerry Moreau



Beth Jackson & Ron Crain
Checking for correct cultivar names in the
Registry of Hybrids and Species

Support your passion, support the Society's collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Currently we have the world's largest public display of epiphyllum hybrids and epiphytic species on display. We are currently creating a very unique new display and to keep this going SDES needs money to make it happen. All money raised goes into the care of the collection and display. We are all volunteers who create and maintain the display because we are passionate about it. All donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Consider putting SDES & the epi collection/display in your will or trust.

Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park
can be found on our website. Click on SanDiegoEpi.com



Oh, 2 be a Bee!

A selection of pictures from the August Program



Neoregelia



Neoregelia 'Potpourri'



Billbergia from Brazil



Billbergia 'La Via En Rose'



Monadenium ritchiei



Rebutia albipilosa red flower

Oh, 2 be a Bee!

A selection of pictures from the August Program



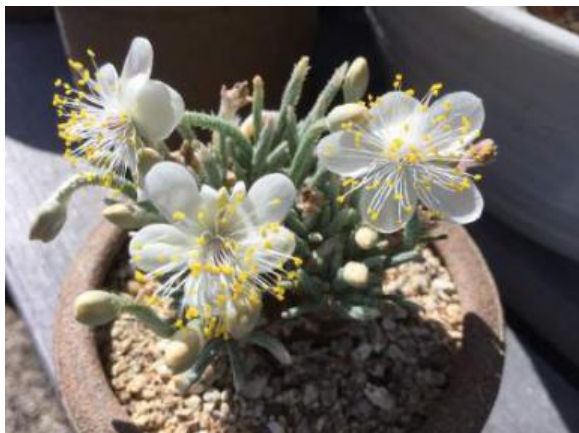
Aeonium nobile beginning to bud May 17 and blooming June 25, 2017



Eulychnia castanea var. *varispiralis*



Mammillaria eichlamii



Avonia species



Turbinicarpus krainzianus v. *Minimus*

Photos by Don Patterson

Oh, 2 be a Bee!

A selection of pictures from the August Program



'Aristeo'



'Baby Cake'



'Mango Tango'



'Grand Marnier' unregistered seedling



'Astro Zombie'
unregistered seedling



unregistered seedling



unregistered seedling



End Of Summer Epi Bash

October 14th!

Come join us!

By Sandra Chapin

What a busy spring! Epies bloomed beautifully this year -- it was an outstanding season. And like every epi season, very busy. At the end of summer our epi lives slow down some, so it is the time we get together with our fellow epi lovers for the annual End of Summer Epi Bash.

On October 14th all members are invited to a party where we can relax, talk about epies, gardening or whatever, and really get to know each other. Everyone is encouraged to come. It doesn't matter if you are new to the society or a long time member— everyone is welcome.

The society will provide the main course and beverages. We ask that you bring appetizers, side dishes, or desserts to share.

There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting or you can contact Sandra Chapin at 858-451-1744 or sandraleewc@gmail.com

This year the party will be hosted by Karl Almryde at 5911 Lomond Dr. SD.



Beth Jackson & Velma Crain



Gabrail & Gabraila Peñaloza



Gina & Humberto Contreras



Sandra Chapin
Photos this page by Jerry Moreau

Potting Media for the Jungle Cactus

By Roger Chapin



INTRODUCTION

Cacti are generally associated with a desert environment, inhabiting the sandy ground of the hot arid areas of the United States and Mexico. But quite a number of cacti make their home in the rainforests of tropical Mexico and Central and South America. They are called epiphytic because they grow on other plants, although they are not parasites. In their native habitat, these epiphytic species often grow in the forks of trees or in rock crevices where their small, fibrous roots take hold in decaying vegetative matter and bird droppings. This light, loose medium allows water and oxygen to reach the plants' roots, which absorb the moisture and dissolved nutrients. A few epiphytic species are rooted in the ground and use their aerial to climb up tree trunks. Because their root systems are relatively small, continually water-soaked soil will suffocate the roots. The jungle's frequent rains are ideal for keeping plant roots moist but not saturated. High in the trees, the plants receive much-needed air circulation from shifting tree branches which also let in the dappled sunlight they need to produce blooms.

See Myron Kimmach's article *The Species of Epiphytic Cacti* in the Epiphyllum Society of America's [Directory of Species and Hybrids](#), Fourth Edition for a comprehensive description of epiphytic cactus species.

SCOPE

The material presented here will specifically address the planting and propagation media for the Epiphyllum species and hybrids, but can be generally applied to all epiphytes, bromeliads, orchids, etc. The concepts, ideas, and opinions expressed in this paper are based on three sources. The first source is the author's experience in propagating around 500 hybrid epiphyllum varieties. The other two sources are the only books known to

have been written about the culture and propagation of the numerous epiphyllum species and their 10,000+ registered hybrids. The first of these publications is Scott Haselton's book, *Epiphyllum Handbook*,* copyrighted by the author in 1946 and printed in Pasadena, California. The second book, *Fine-Flower Cacti* by F. R. McQuown was first published by Redwood Press Limited, Trowbridge & London in 1965. These two books provide help to those who have a newly acquired interest in epiphyllums to know and fully enjoy their plants.



POTTING SOILS— PAST AND PRESENT

Because the root system is limited, a rich soil is necessary to give them the required nutrition. A semi-acidic soil rich in nitrogen to approximate their natural habitat should be used. Haselton on page 57 of his book states that "you should never use lime for epiphyllums". He believes that it is the desert (not jungle) cactus that require soils rich in lime, i.e. sweet or non-acid soils.

It is interesting to note the various soil mixtures; however when comparing them, they all are quite similar. The number of different potting mixes is as diverse as the people using them. There are features that they must share: good drainage and aeration. The diversity in the mixes comes from climate, the type and shape of pots used, and the watering habits of the person caring for the plants.

One of the early growers here in the USA,

Continued next page

Dr. R. W. Poindexter, found the following mixture satisfactory after years of experimentation (Haselton):

- * 4 parts leaf mold
- * 2 parts German peat moss
- * 3 parts cow or sheep manure
- * 2 parts gravel
- * 2 parts sharp sand

One of the best-known early German growers and hybridizers, Curt Knebel, recommended (Haselton):

- * 1 part leaf mold
- * 1 part river sand
- * 1 part peat moss
- * 1 part crumbly loam
- * 1 part rotted manure



McQuown gave this recipe for use in “nematode-free countries”:

- * 60% leaf-soil (leaf mold)
 - * 25-40% garden soil
 - * 0-15% (unspecified) drainage material by volume.
- To a bushel of this he added a
- * 4-inch pot of bone meal
 - * 4 oz. sulfate of potash

Current recommendations are provided by some of the nurseries that specialize in epiphyllums. For instance, Rainbow Gardens suggested in their 1997-98 *Plant Catalog* the following epiphyllum potting mix for home preparation:

- * 1 part leaf mold
- * 1 part coarsely ground bark
- * 1 part ¼” - ½” redwood or fir bark
- * 1 part perlite or horticultural pumice
- * ½ part horticultural charcoal
- * ½ cup bone meal per cubic foot of mix

Jim Pence in his 1994-1995 *Epi World Catalog* suggests an alternative in addition to one similar to the Rainbow Gardens mix. It uses one part commercially packaged camellia-azalea mix, one part perlite or horticultural pumice, and one part small orchid bark. Both nurseries recommend that if one lives in an extremely humid area, Florida, the Gulf States, or Hawaii, to lighten the mix by increasing the proportion of perlite or pumice to leaf mold or potting mix.

Cornell University developed two soilless mixes for commercial growers— one of which is an epiphytic mix that can be easily adapted to home use (*Backyard Gardener.com*, “**Potting Soil Recipes and Soil Reconditioning**”).

- * 1/3 bushel Douglas fir bark (finely ground)
- * 1/3 bushel sphagnum peat moss (shredded)
- * 1/3 bushel perlite (medium)
- * 8 tbsp. ground dolomitic lime
- * 6 tbsp. Superphosphate (20% powdered)
- * 3 tbsp. 10-10-10 fertilizer
- * 1 tbsp. Iron sulfate
- * 1 tbsp. Potassium nitrate

Now what kind of potting mix do you use? Ask ten people, get ten different answers. How confusing!!! Here is my suggestion: try the one most similar to your area, the coast, inland, amount of heat and moisture, etc. Then experiment a little. The one thing everyone seems to agree on is that epis need media that drains well. Epis just don’t like wet feet!

Now here are some of our members’ mixes:

Beth Jackson in Sorrento Mesa purchases commercially available cactus mix. She mixes three parts cactus mix with one part perlite and one-half part oyster shell. (old) and (new) Two parts potting soil, one part fine orchid bark, one part perlite, & a dash of oyster shells.

Janice Wakefield in El Cajon uses an organic potting soil such as Kellogg’s Shade mix or Patio Plus. She mixes two parts potting mix, two parts coir (one part fine and one part coarse), two parts #3 perlite, one part Worm Gold Plus, and 1-1/2 teaspoon trace elements FTE 503. Two parts = Five gallon bucket - Makes about three cubic feet.

Derek Obayashi and Gilbert Hatfield use A1 Potting Soil from Hanson Soils. <http://www.a1soils.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

A-1 Potting Soil is a lightweight blend of nitrogen fortified redwood shavings, peat moss, coir, perlite, & horticultural sand. A wetting agent is added to enhance the mixtures ability to absorb water. The components allow for a light friable planting medium with excellent soil porosity.

Linda Sinkovic, in Santa Cruz, CA, uses one part acid potting mix, one part perlite, a handful of well-crushed egg shell, and a handful of decomposed granite. She uses a 4 inch pot as a scoop - four scoops is one part. Mix well and store in a clean container.

Patricia Frank, in La Mesa, CA, uses three parts Ocean Forest® Potting Soil and one part perlite.

Out at the Safari Park, in San Pasqual Valley, the mix is one part good quality potting soil, one part fine coir, and one part perlite.

Sandra Chapin, in Rancho Bernardo, uses a combination of one part Coir (ground coconut husks), one part potting mix, and one part perlite. I have switched from the use of sphagnum peat moss to coconut fiber, Coir, for two reasons. Coir is a renewable resource and it re-wets readily when dry. The Coir is also not as acidic as peat moss. Coir is more balanced with a pH range of 5.4-6.8.



Coir, fine—coconut fiber

A direct comparison between Coir and peat is given in Dr. Geoff Cresswell's paper "COIR DUST—A PROVEN ALTERNATIVE TO PEAT". The following table from his paper compares the chemical properties of three peat-type materials available in Australia.

MATERIAL	MOISTURE %	pH	EC'Ds/m	N %DWt	P %DWt	K %DWt	CL %DWt
Coir Dust	13	5.1	0.80	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.07
Sphagnum peat	9	3.3	0.85	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.05
Sedge peat	83	4.9	0.35	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.05

Containers and their relationship to potting mixes. As mentioned earlier, containers play a role in the preparation of a potting mix. Clay pots allow the potting mix to dry out more rapidly than tin cans or plastic pots. Pot size and shape also play a role in potting mix selection. Small pots dry out more rapidly than larger ones and tall, slender pots dry out faster than short, fat pots. Therefore, the potting mixes need to be adjusted to compensate for pot sizes and watering habits.

Glazed or painted clay pots retain more moisture than unglazed ones. However, the clay retains salts that build up and therefore require more maintenance than non-porous containers. The potting mixture used in clay pots can be heavier to retain more moisture when the plants are grown in a hot, dry climate or if one is forgetful about watering. If one lives in a cool climate or has the tendency to over water, they should keep their potting mix light and use clay pots for quicker moisture evaporation.





'Prince Of Fire'



'Saint Tropez'



'Virginia Peel'



'Virtuoso'



'Autumn Pink'



'Court Jester'



'Marmalade'



'Jinzaburo Matsumiya'



‘Generiis’



‘American Sweetheart’



‘Satin Ruffles’



‘Sandra’s Roger’
Named for Roger Chapin



‘Three Oranges’



‘Mystic Magic’



‘Mr. P’
Named for Don Patterson



‘Avatar’



'Crete'



'Black Satin'



'Borgia'



'Daisy Dean'



'George Nakanishi'



'Pacific Dawn'



'Sammy'



'Miss. Escondido'

Now is the Time

- ✓ **Maintain good grooming** by eliminating un-sightly and non-productive branches. This directs the plant's energy into the healthier branches which will produce stronger blooms next spring.
- ✓ **Protect plants from excessive direct sunlight.** Although the end of summer is in sight, in Southern California we can still anticipate some very hot days.
- ✓ **Prevent soil from drying out.** However, keep an eye on the humidity. Even though it may be very hot, too much watering during humid weather can contribute to root rot. Make sure there is air circulation around your pots.
- ✓ **Protect new growth from wind damage.** Hot, dry Santa Ana winds blow in September. Keep an eye on your plants during these days.
- ✓ **Protect apples (seed pods) from birds and rodents.**
- ✓ **Give plants final feeding of a balanced fertilizer for the fall growing season.**
- ✓ **Mist or hose down branches to clean off dirt and pollutants.**
- ✓ **Some die-back is natural** in epies and fall is a season you'll see this along with some new growth.
- ✓ **Many species plants bud and bloom now.** Remember to give them some fertilizer and don't move plants that are budding.
- ✓ **Watch for pests.** Late summer and early fall is an active time for snails. During dry weather, snails and slugs are drawn to moist, potted plants.



SDES Annual Photography Contest! November General Meeting!

Contest Categories: Single Flower, Multi Flower, and Miscellaneous
Here are the rules:

- You must be a member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society to enter.
- You must be the originator of the photographs.
- Photographs must be of epiphyllum hybrids or epiphytic cacti species.
- You are limited to a total of ten (10) photographs in the contest.
- Photographs must be of named hybrid, species, or seedling with known parentage. Photographs with misnamed hybrid or species will be disqualified. (For example; label photograph as 'Clown' and it is not 'Clown').
- Photographs may or may not be matted but not framed.
- Size of photographs entered are to be a minimum size of 4" x 6" and maximum of 8" x 10" in size.
- Write your name, email address (if available), telephone number, and name of flower or parentage, if a seedling, on the back of your photograph
- Any photographs that do not meet the rules of the single and multi-flower categories will be moved to the miscellaneous category. (For example; unknowns, framed photographs, and Photoshoped works).
- Ribbons (Blue-1st, Red-2nd, White-3rd), and honorable mention will be awarded in the Single Flower and Multi Flower categories. Honorable mention will be awarded in the Miscellaneous category. Ribbons may also be awarded for "People's Choice" and "Judges' Choice".
- Winning photographs will be published in *Epi News*, Society's website, and may be used in the Society's social media and promotional material. First place winners of the Single and Multi-flower categories will also be featured as a cover photograph of *Epi News*. By entering this contest you consent to having your photograph published in the SDES's newsletter, website, and social media. See <http://sdepis.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PhotographicRights.pdf>

Off-Season Blooms

This month we will start again to list what has been blooming in member's gardens. This list is a bit of informal research of off-season epi blooms. Here you can track which epis have been blooming consistently off-season over the years.

If you would like to add to the research and list what epis have been blooming in your yard, email the editors with your list of off-season blooms and species. There are two list because the hybrids are off-season bloomers and the species bloom different times of the year anyway.

Blooming Off-Season

Heny Brandenburg (San Diego): 'Fringe of Gold', 'Wedding Bells'

Don Burnett (South Coast LA): 'Connie Mayer', *D. macranthus* hybrid, 'Pink Plumes', 'Rudi Friend'

Sandra Chapin (Rancho Bernado): 'Aviana', 'Educator', 'Ernst Gundchen', 'Great Waltz'

Victoria Chapman (Chula Vista): 'Frida Kahlo', 'Chiyo Matsumiya'

Pat Neal (San Diego): 'Paris Ballet', 'Red River Valley', 'Rumpelstiltskin', 'Wings of Gold'

Allen & Camilla Pellymouter (Chula Vista): 'Cactus Gem', 'C'est Magnifique', 'Curt Backeberg', 'Dear Heart', 'Dr. von Förster', 'Gladyce Jones', 'Jeannie Marie', 'Liberty Glow',

'Snowflake' (STEP), 'Something Special', 'Stina D'

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): 'Big Surprise', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Blazon', 'Princess Olga', 'Prometheus', 'September Morn'

Pat Shea (Port Charlotte, FL): 'Unforgettable'

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): 'George's Favorite'

Rose West (North SF Bay) 'Grace Ann', 'Mike's Adam', 'Space Rocket'

Blooming Species

Heny Brandenburg (San Diego): *Epiphyllum pumilum*

Don Burnett (South Coast LA): *E. oxypetalum* var. 'Mark Twain', *E. pumilum*, *Selenicereus grandifloras*, *S. valdius*

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): *E. hookeri* ssp *hookeri*

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): *E. hookeri* ssp *hookeri*



Want/Wish List

If you have epis on your wish list that you are looking for it is possible someone in the Society has it and is willing to share a cutting or two with you. As a service and benefit to members this list is being included in the newsletter. Send your wish list along with contact information to the editors to get it added here.

Jerry Moreau: jerrysdca@cox.net

'Christmas Angel', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Christmas Red', 'Cinnamon Spice', 'Imp', 'Martha's Madness', 'Pete's Snowflake', 'Piland's Pride', 'Pink Snowflake', 'Raspberry Ice', 'Tara', 'Xmas Bells'

William Thomas: wmst@cox.net

'Sonoma Sunset', 'Grand Empress', 'Slim Hathaway', 'Bold Gold', 'Pinafore', 'Yellow Heart'

Janice Wakefield: jwakefield@cox.net 'Jasa'



'Frühlingsgold'

'Frühlingspracht'

Keeping In Touch

Members are the most valued part of SDES. If you know of a member who can no longer attend meetings and/or events, we can send them a cheery card to let them know we miss them. If there is a member who is having a milestone birthday we can send them happy birthday wishes. If there is member who is ill or a member who has passed away, we can send a get well or sympathy card. You can notify any board member or just contact your Corresponding Secretary:

Terryll Rogan text preferred at (760) 518-6363

and follow up with an email at terryllr@aol.com

Get Well Wishes

Please keep Bill Thomas and Linda Sinkovic in your thoughts and prayers . Wishing them both a speedy recovery and hoping to see them back at society events soon.



'Born Free'
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Note from San Francisco Epiphyllum Society:

Thank you so much for including an article and photos of our San Francisco Flower Show in your June SDES newsletter! Thank you for the epi cuttings donation from SDES! You are wonderful to support us. We look forward to each issue.

Thank you,
Rose West, Treasurer & Membership
San Francisco Epiphyllum Society



It Is Election Time

“Many hands make for light work” John Heywood

The society has been doing well and is fortunate to have so many people volunteer to make it successful. However to make this happen takes effort. Please consider volunteering for a position — the more people involved the less any one person has to do. If interested or have questions you can speak with any board member or contact the chair of the nomination committee Dennis Hughes at deninkorea@yahoo.com

President: Tim Paule
 1st VP: Open
 2nd VP: Sandra Chapin
 Recording Secretary: Dennis Hughes
 Corresponding Secretary: Terryll Rogan
 Membership Secretary: Humberto Contreras
 Treasurer: Janice Wakefield

Directors:
 Director (2018-19) Beth Jackson
 Director (2018-19) Cindy Decker
 Director (2018-19) Jerry Moreau
 Not up for reelection.
 Director (2017-18) Ron Crain
 Director (2017-18) Laura Johnson



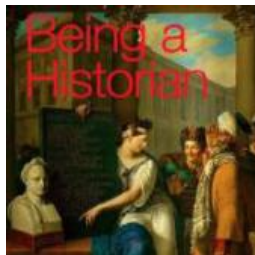
‘The Volunteers’
 Photo by Jose Almandoz



‘Wonderful One’
 Photo by Jose Almandoz

Historian

The Historian shall ensure that historical events and annual shows are recorded in the SDES scrapbooks and photo albums, which are retained in the Library. The Historian shall accept and review any photographs, articles or epi memorabilia submitted by members for inclusion in the scrapbooks.



Publicity Coordinator

The Publicity Coordinator shall ensure an announcement of the annual Mother’s Day Show will be mailed in a timely manner to the San Diego Union-Tribune and other local media. The Publicity Coordinator shall assist the Mother’s Day Show Chairman in publicity as requested by the Chairman (i.e. posters, photographs, and flyers).



If you are interested contact President Tim Paule timpaule@cox.net (619)-443-0826 or talk to him at a meeting.

Installation & Holiday Banquet

Wednesday December 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Let's start off the Holiday Season with SDES's Installation Banquet! Please join us for an evening of fun & fellowship. We will again be at The Butcher Shop Restaurant in Kearny Mesa.

Dinner choices are either Filet Mignon, Salmon, or Vegetarian. Your dinner comes with salad, main course, dessert, wine, and coffee or tea.

The Dinner price is \$35.00 for members and \$60.00 for non-members. SDES offsets the difference. It is our way for SDES to show appreciation to its members and for having a good year.

You can purchase your tickets at the September, October, or November meetings from Gerry Mikas all Credit Cards accepted or make your check payable to "SDES Dinner" and send your check with your dinner choices to:

Gerry & Mildred Mikas
3502 Avenida Amorosa
Escondido CA 92029

Questions? Call Mildred @ 760-690-1124 or email mvmikas@cox.net

IF YOU PAY AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, YOU SAVE \$5.00
THE COST WILL BE \$30.00



'Merry Christmas'
Photo by Jerry Moreau



'Happy Holidays'
Photo by Chuck Everson



'Party Animal'
Photo by Roger Chapin

Get Your Facts First

“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as much as you please...” Mark Twain

By Linda Sinkovic

The subject for this month's GYFF was an easy choice. I've been trying to find information on *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*, so it seemed like a good idea to write it all down once I found some.¹ Here we go.



E. thomsonianum
Photo by Roger Chapin

Currently, *E. thomsonianum* has two subspecies, *E. thomsonianum* ssp *thomsonianum* and *E. thomsonianum* ssp *costaricense*. I'll talk about the differences later. First, we need to find our way through the naming. Much like the subject of last month's column² *E. thomsonianum* has gone through some name changes. Originally described in 1895 by the botanist Karl



Dick Kohlschreiber, Rudi Dorsch &
Myron Kimmach (l-r)
At the 75th Anniversary of the ESA
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Schumann as *Phyllocactus thomsonianus*, in 1913 it was co-opted into *Epiphyllum macropterum*³ by Britton and Rose and downgraded into a synonym. *Epiphyllum costaricense* was also downgraded into a synonym for *E. macropterum*.⁴ In 1950, Backeberg moved *Epiphyllum macropterum* to *Marniera macroptera*⁵ but brought back *E. thomsonianum* and *E. costaricense* to species level. In 1965, Myron Kimmach cut through all the confusion and brought the naming to the current state.⁶

Currently we have *E. thomsonianum* ssp *thomsonianum* and *E. thomsonianum* ssp *costaricense*. Both plants have large white flowers⁷ with golden stamens that open in the evening and last only one night. Although the flowers differ slightly between the two subspecies, the main difference between the two is the brown margin found on the branches of ssp *costaricense*; ssp *thomsonianum* has green branches.

Both subspecies can become fairly large plants, up to 12 feet tall. They like part shade and would be happiest with temperatures above 50°F. Like so many of our other epiphytic cactus, they grow in a moist, fast draining situation,⁸ so they can be treated much like hybrid epicactus.

Continued next page



E. thomsonianum ssp. *thomsonianum*
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Editors note: Dick Kohlschreiber tells us that Myron Kimmach is an authority on epiphytic cacti, especially the genus *Epiphyllum*. He is also considered an authority on the genus *Echeveria* and several other cacti and succulents. He has discovered, described, and named many cacti and succulents. Myron has traveled all over the world on plant expeditions.

My plant is still very small and has not flowered yet, so I can only rely on photos. Although the flowers only last one night, they appear beautiful, much more beautiful than *E. oxypetalum*. If you are interested in species cactus and have the room, try to grow one of the subspecies of *E. thomsonianum* and you can enjoy the lovely flowers.

Have an excellent September and enjoy your plants.



E. thomsonianum
Photo by Roger Chapin

Notes:

*1 Also, it's a good idea to make sure I actually understand all this, and the best way to do that is to try to explain it to someone else.

*2 *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp *hookeri*.

*3 This name is not considered a valid name; the original name, *Phyllocactus macropterus* was described by Lemaire (yup, same guy from last month) but the original specimen used for the description does not seem to ever have existed. Also, Lemaire's description is not accurate and in fact seems to describe two separate species. See Kimmach (1965) for more detail.

*4 And they used a drawing of *E. thomsonianum* ssp *costaricense* to illustrate said *E. macropterus*. The nerve.

*5 *Marniera* is another name that is not seen today, although you may see it occasionally on old plant labels and in old plant books. The other member of the genus that you might find listed under that name is *Marniera chrysocardium*, known today as *Selenicereus chrysocardium*.

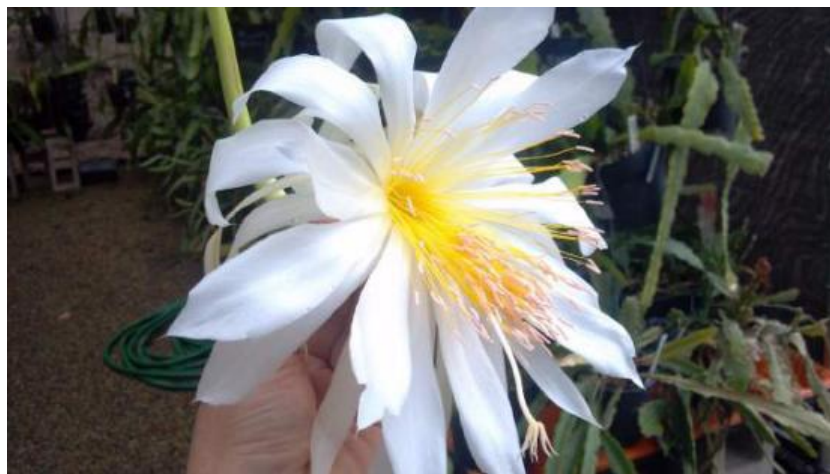
*6 He ditched *Marniera*, recognized the closeness between *E. thomsonianum* and *E. costaricense* and made the latter a subspecies of the former, and got rid of *E. macropterus*. See Kimmach (1965) for his reasons for doing so.

*7 Apparently the flowers have a 'musty' smell if you are close to them.

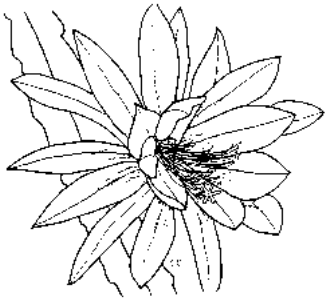
*8 *E. thomsonianum* ssp *thomsonianum* occurs in cloud forest, in southern Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. This species is called *Nopalillo* in Mexico. *E. thomsonianum* ssp *costaricense* occurs in cloud forest, in Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia.

References:

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- HUNT, D. (Editor) *The New Cactus Lexicon*. Text & Atlas. 2006. DH Books, Milborne Port, Great Britain. ISBN 0 9538134 4 4
- KIMNACH, M., "Epiphyllum thomsonianum", *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, 37:162-168, 1965



E. thomsonianum ssp. *thomsonianum*
Photo by Jerry Moreau



Epicacti Resources

As a benefit to members here is a list of resources for members. This list will continue to grow. If you know of any resources you would like to have included, contact the editors.

California

Bookstore:

Cactus Bookstore <http://www.cactusbookstore.com/> Chuck Everson



Epi Nurseries:

Epi Galleria <http://www.epigalleria.com/> Mark Piette

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

Garden Jewel Nursery <http://gardenjewelnursery.com/> Katie Lutz

Matts Landscape <http://mattslandscape.com/home/> Matt Cheney

Pacific Epiphyllum <http://www.pacificepiphyllum.com/> Chris Welcher



'Frida Kahlo'
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Clay Pots from the Safari Park Epi Display for Sale

At the Safari Park, we are in the process of phasing out the old clay pots we have been using in the Display House for many years. As you can see from the photo, these clay pots come in two styles. Many of them were sourced locally, from Tecate, Baja California Norte, Mexico. They look as though they may have been recovered from the ruins of Pompeii, and you may imagine they once graced the gardens of the villa of Pliny the Elder. They have been carefully cleaned with a stiff brush to remove the grime of millennia while at the same time, preserving their rich patina.

There are currently approximately 80 of these clay pots available for sale at \$5.00 each. All proceeds will benefit the continued maintenance of the SDES's epiphyllum collection at the Safari Park. If you are interested in them contact—Jerry at: jerrysdca@cox.net or Ron at: hikerron@cox.net Put CLAY POTS in the subject line.



'Andromeda'
Photo by Jerry Moreau



The above photo was sent from a happy customer who bought 15 clay pots for her yard.