



Σpi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

December, 2012

Volume 37, Number 12

'Karen Childs'

Size: Small

CROSS: ('Bridal Shower' × 'Little Shoe Lady') X ('Reward' × *Disocactus speciosus* ssp. *blomianus*)

Hybridizer: Wressey Cocke

Photograph by Jerry Moreau





President's Corner:

My term as president has come to an end and it was a great honor and pleasure to have served you and this organization. Thank you for allowing me this privilege. I look forward continuing serving the Society as curator/coordinator of the Epiphyllum Collection at the Safari Park and in any other way I am needed.

President's report:

Looking back on 2012, it was a busy year. We had lots to do and we did it well.

Springtime is always busy for the Society but 2012 was even busier than usual. Early in the year we continued planning EpiCon XIII with Mildred Mikas as chair of the event. Cindy Decker, coordinator of botanical sales events, had the goal to spread the word about epis to everyone in San Diego county; SDES was a presence at more garden events, selling cuttings and letting anyone who would listen learn about the beauty of our beloved flowers. May brought us our sale at the Safari Park.

Our Mother's Day Show, under the leadership of Sandra Chapin, "Epies on Wheels" was a great event. Sales that same weekend and other events provided the Society with sufficient income to continue operating within our budget for another year.

For May's finale, SDES hosted EpiCon XIII. If you attended you will know how wonderful it was. This 2-day event went over very well. People from all over the country and world came to San Diego and had a great time. Mildred did an outstanding job coordinating EpiCon XIII. It was great weekend giving us all an opportunity to meet new epi friends and renew old friendships alike.

Spring also brought a new workhouse for the Epi Display at the Safari Park. Thanks to a generous donation to the Safari Park and matching monies from the funds raised at the Park by SDES the new workhouse became a reality in April. Over

the summer volunteers installed the irrigation system and moved in all the plants from the old work house that was razed in the process. This starts a new era for the newly named *Howard L. Jones* workhouse. Long will it last and serve SDES well.

August found us at Dave O'Dell's house for another Volunteer Appreciation Party. Here we had fun socializing and eating some great food. There, Oliver Lapuebla was presented with the 2012 "Rookie of the Year" Award.

November was our annual photo contest. We had a wonderful array of photographs in the contest. Don Patterson swept the awards taking 1st place in all 3 categories. The winner of the single flower division will be on January's newsletter cover. Thank you to all who entered.

Our annual Awards & Installation Holiday Banquet will again close the year. Once again, Mildred Mikas has planned a fantastic event. I have no doubt that through his skill as Master of Ceremony, Bob Buchs will guide us through the evening with a deft combination of seriousness and laughter to make the evening memorable. I hope to see many of you there.

I want to welcome the new Board of Directors including new members to the Board, Laura Johnson and Oliver Lapuebla. Please welcome and help out your new president Ron Crain. I know he will serve the society well with much enthusiasm and hard work. Please support him as much as you can so that SDES can continue to be the best Society it can be.

Happy Holidays – Merry Christmas –
Happy Solstice
Till next time – Happy Growing!



Jerry



Safari Park Epi Display House

—By Jerry Moreau

Fall is here, it's been cooling off and we have had some early rain.

We keep busy making sure the plants and the display look good. We repaired the shade cloth on top, continued to weed and feed and finished the inventory in the workhouse. We will have many plants for sale at the Mother's day sale.


In an effort to have as complete as possible collection from our local hybridizers, I will be listing hybrids that are missing from the collection over the next year. I hope we can fill gaps in the collection from San Diego hybridizers such as but not limited to George French, Dick Chadwick, Richard Latimer, Fern La Borde, Rainbow Gardens Nursery, Don Irwin, Howard Jones, and Dr J. W. Troxell.

Helping out this month was Sandra Chapin, Ron & Velma Crain, Cindy Decker, Bill Greene, Beth Jackson, Oliver Lapuebla, Gerry Markle, Mildred & Gerry Mikas, and Jerry Moreau.

The next work party will be December 15th and possibly 29th.

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 click on the Safari Park tab or contact me.

SDES Calendar of Events	
2012	
Dec 12	Holiday Banquet/Installation of Officers
2013	
Jan 14	General Meeting
Jan 12 & 26	Work Parties at Safari Park
Jan 28	Board Meeting



**In Search of:
'Jerry Plaisted'**

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of an epi hybrid plant of this name, please let Jerry Moreau know. He is looking to add this hybrid to the Safari Park Epi Collection. He is also interested in hybrids from local San Diego hybridizers: Richard Chadwick, Don Irwin, Howard Jones, and Dr J. W. Troxell.

November Meeting Program: Marj Myers did an outstanding job sharing her expertise with flower arrangements. She gave us all great ideas for our holiday arrangements. For those thinking ahead, there were lots of ideas for the floral arrangements in our Mother's Day Show as well.

December Festivities: In lieu of a General Meeting, the general membership will convene at the Butcher Shop Restaurant for the SDES Annual Award & Installation Holiday Banquet. By now you should have purchased your ticket and reserved your seat for an evening of camaraderie and good food. Please see the website, last month's Epi News, or Mildred Mikas for more details.



Name That Epi

— Ron Crain

.As an avid epi grower and collector, you might, after a while, decide that you are ready to try making your own hybrid crosses and begin the interesting process of growing some plants from seed with the ultimate goal of producing a new hybrid to be registered with the Epiphyllum Society of America and given a name. You've talked to some experienced hybridizers and feel ready to make the time commitment required for this worthy endeavor. You then go through the process of making a cross yourself by transferring pollen from one flowering epi to another, you wait patiently while a fruit develops and ripens. You pick it, clean the seeds of fruit pulp or maybe you skip this step and then you plant them. Or, you might grow some seedlings from a naturally pollinated fruit. You keep them covered for months to keep the humidity high. You might even have had some seedlings passed along to you from someone else who started them, and nurtured them to a certain point before handing them off to you.

You might provide the seedlings of your first cross with bottom heat through the winter so that their growth isn't retarded by cold night temperatures and in so doing force them to blooming size a year or so sooner than otherwise. At some point you notice that a few of your seedlings grow much faster and seem sturdier than any of the others and they become your favorites even though they have not flowered yet. Maybe one of these in particular strikes you as a super grower. You baby this plant and its sister seedlings from the same cross for 5, 6, 7, 8 years or longer and some of them are finally getting ready to flower.

You discard many seedlings from this cross before they have bloomed because they were weak or very weak growers, or their stems spotted badly, or they might have withered and died on their own. Or, you discard them after they bloom because there was nothing special about the flowers, it's "just another white" or "just another pink" or it looks exactly like

another hybrid that has already been registered. After all, one of the goals of this process should be to continually improve the quality and uniqueness of our hybrid stock.

After all that, maybe you are left with one or two or three blooming seedlings that are in some way unique. You let these plants bloom for two or three years in succession to assure that they flower consistently. Maybe they are the same color or color combination of some plant that has already been registered but some aspect of its form, texture, size, etc., sets this plant apart and makes it worthy in your mind to be named. Perhaps the flower is more substantial than most, it holds up longer either on the plant or as a cut flower. It might be a tremendous grower and generous bloomer like 'Beijing'. It may have a



Above: Ron Crain and Jerry Moreau measure a bloom as part of registration process.

Below, Ron, Jerry, and Mildred Mikas agree on a petal count.



See "Registering an Epi" (Continued on page 7)



2012 Photo Contest Winners

People's Choice Category

1. 'Ruby Ermine' (double flower) by Don Patterson
2. 'Imperial Tiger' by Don Patterson
3. 'Beautiful Isle' by Don Patterson



Single Bloom Category

1. 'Rusty Canyon' by Don Patterson
2. 'Ruby Ermine' by Don Patterson
3. 'Imperial Tiger' by Don Patterson

Multiple Blooms Category

1. 'Ruby Ermine' by Don Patterson
2. 'Beautiful Isle' by Don Patterson
3. 'Sakurahime' by Steve Peters & Viki Wampler

Annual Photo Contest through the lens

When we judge the photos, we take different factors into consideration. Is the photo in focus? If it's a close-up, how is the depth of field (how much is in focus)? Is the exposure correct, or are the shadows too dark? Is the photo too grainy, from being blown up too much? Is the background subdued, so as not to distract from the subject? How about the composition, is one's attention drawn to the subject of the photo?

Finally, we check the name of the flower against the description in the directory. If a photo is submitted under an incorrect name, it is disqualified.

The first place photos in each category are the cover photos for the January and March issues. We also try to include photos of all the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place photos in the December issue for all the members to see.

Now is the Time

- ✓ **Water if necessary.**
- ✓ **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**



Happy Holidays!

Single Bloom

Photo Contest Winners

Multiple Blooms



1st Place: **'Rusty Canyon'** (Don Patterson)



1st Place: **'Ruby Ermine'** (Don Patterson)
1st Place-People's Choice



2nd Place: **'Ruby Ermine'** (Don Patterson)



2nd Place:
'Beautiful Isle'
(Don Patterson)

3rd Place-
People's Choice



3rd Place: **'Imperial Tiger'** (Don Patterson)
2nd Place- People's Choice



3rd Place: **'Sakurahime'** (Steve Porter/Viki Wampler)

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

—By Linda Sinkovic, Librarian



Happy December! Those of us in the Northern Hemisphere have Schlumbergeras and Rhipsalis blooming, and maybe some epi hybrids too. Here at my house, 'Herbert S Irwin' starts to flower in October and keeps blooming intermittently until February or March.

Some non-epiphytic cacti are blooming too, some of the Mammillaria species for example. Along with all the epiphytic cactus at my house, I also grow some terrestrial cactus and succulents. That's where this month's book review comes in.

The Punctured Thumb is a book that covers the basics of terrestrial cactus and succulents. Care and cultivation technique is covered as well as some history. Various species are grouped under chapter headings such as "The Ferocious" or "The Minis". There is a chapter on epiphytic cactus but unfortunately it's only an overview.

Actually this whole book is basically an overview of some cactus and succulents. That's not a bad thing, and it could be interesting for those who are new to cactus. The target

audience for this book appears to be those who don't have much experience with cactus. However, there are other books aimed at this same target which might be a better choice.

That said, the writing style is very friendly and quite accessible. However, this book suffers from a lack of photographs (though there are drawings). In addition, this book was published in 1977, so some of the species names have been changed. Having to look up new names makes it more challenging to use this book.

So I can't really recommend this book – the person who would benefit the most from this would be the new grower. But the new grower probably doesn't know about all the species name changes over the years, so they would be taking additional time trying to figure out why the names don't correspond with more modern sources. For other growers, this might be a good read for historical reasons. But for actual information, I'd look somewhere else.

Have a fabulous holiday season and a Happy New Year! And enjoy those offseason blooms.

The Punctured Thumb, George Ashley, 1977, San Francisco CA
ISBN 0-89286-124-X

Registering an Epi Hybrid (Cont. from pg 4)

unique shape like the distinctly bell-shaped 'Crystal Claret', or the beautifully ruffled 'Frida Kahlo'. Or, maybe it possesses a wild combination of colors, like the aptly named 'Over the Top', or it changes colors as the flower matures, like the one of a kind 'Chameleon'.

Once you have decided to register your new hybrid, and you've made up a name, it is then a simple matter to fill out the form, (a copy of which exists in the ESA's Directory of Species and Hybrids) and send it in. After it is approved your hybrid will show up in the next annual Addendum to the Directory. A rather simple but happy conclusion to a long process.

Welcome to our New Members!

Barry & Gwen Cross
San Diego

Robert Klap
San Diego



Does your mailing label have a colored mark on it? Somewhere on this label should be a date—It is the date when your membership expires. If you find a mark on your label, it is a reminder that your membership is up for renewal. You won't want to miss a single issue of *Epi News*, so be sure to send your renewal to the membership secretary at the SDES PO Box 126127 address on the back page.

—Beth Jackson, Membership

Notes from Members

I received a phone call from long time member Patricia Reed, a member since 2002 from Montana. She recently moved to Miles City from Scobey, Montana to be nearer her daughter & family.

After she settles in she will be building a shade house for her lovely epis. She said most of the epis survived the trip. When I asked her what her favorite epi was she said, "Padre" because it "always performs well and is reliable like an old friend."

Patricia loves receiving her Epi News each month and enjoys all the photos and articles. In May she sends us her wish list and we at SDES try to fill it. She wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

—Mildred

Epi Hybridizers

In the next few issues, we will review biographical notes of epiphyllum hybridizers. I believe these notes were presented at one of our Epi-Cons. In my files, the author was not listed. If you know the source and date of these bios, please let me know,

—Jill Rowney, editor

Sherman H. Beahm

Sherman H. Beahm and his wife Gertrude W. Beahm were among the leaders in promoting Epiphyllums in the early part of this century. In 1920 they established a nursery, Beahm Gardens, in Pasadena, where they specialized in roses and carried a line of cacti and succulents. Sherman became well-known for his epi hybridizing efforts, many of which are still available today.

Gertrude's love of plants began with her father, J. B. Wagner, the rhubarb and berry specialist who operated a nursery in Pasadena for many years. He was friends with Luther Burbank, Albert Etter, John Lewis Childs and

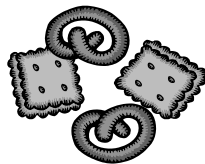
David Fairchild. Gertrude began working in her father's office in 1908 and began collecting cacti as she accompanied her father on road trips in search of worthwhile plants.

She became one of the premier cacti collectors in the country and was one of the original members of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America when it organized in 1929. In addition, she was a member of the Epiphyllum Society of America and, along with her husband, edited its newsletter for 18 years.

Gertrude passed away in 1962 and Sherman, or "Ernie", in 1977.

D. W. Coolidge

D. W. Coolidge of Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens was an important hybridizer in his time and introduced his hybrids through commercial growers. Epiphyllums formed only a small part of his business as he specialized in orchids, camellias and other choice shrubs. On his death, the business was carried on by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Mulvihill until her death in 1955 when the nursery was disbanded and sold.



Refreshments at our General Meetings:

Is it your turn to bring goodies? Bring cookies, fruit, veggies, or whatever snack suits your fancy! 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.

Off-Season November Blooms

Barb Alvarez: 'Fifty Grand', *E. pumilum*

Don Burnett: 'Don's Chantilly Lace', 'Jalisco Grace', *D. macranthus*

Sandra Chapin: 'Al Cid', 'America', 'Cleopatra Paetz', 'Crystal Claret', 'Donald Raymond', 'Ernst Gündchen', 'George's Favorite', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jalisco Starlight', 'Jungle Moon', 'Menno Paetz', 'Möve', 'Mormor', 'Ramona Paetz' (blooming like crazy!!), 'Ruth Wallace', 'Something Special', 'Whirlygig'

Beth Jackson: 'Daisy Dean', 'Ernst Gündchen'

Robert Kuettle: 'Doris W. Pittman', 'Vanilla Sunset'

Katie Lutz: 'Argus', 'Crimson Arrow',
E. hookeri

Mildred Mikas: 'City Lights', 'Climax', 'Ernst Gündchen', 'Light & Bright', 'Shinto', 'Slim Hathaway', 'Smokey Topaz', 'Wedding Bells'

Jerry Moreau: 'Crimson Arrow', 'Donald Raymond', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jeanette Davis Latimer'

Don Patterson: 'Jalisco Disco', 'Martha Paetz'

Allen Pellymouter: 'Bruno Forster', 'Something Special', 'Ruby Pinwheel'

Pentico Collection: 'Hobie'

Galen Pittman: 'Doris W. Pittman'

Safari Park: 'Blue Madam', 'Bumpkin', 'Chimu', 'Delight', 'Ernst Gunthur',
E. angular, *E. thomasianum ssp. Thoma-*
sianum, *L. houlettianum*

Linda Sinkovic: 'Herbert S. Irwin'



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

Can be found on our website:

SanDiegoEpi.org. Click on "Safari Park", then click on "Epi House", then "Volunteer".

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)

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)

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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 will be the
Holiday Installation Banquet
December 12, 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 :
TBA