



# Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

March, 2016

Volume 41 Number 3

## ‘Zotz’

**Cross:** none listed  
**Size:** Extra Large  
**Hybridizer:** Richard G. Latimer, Sr.

Photo by Jerry Moreau





## President's Corner

"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn." - Lewis Grizzard, American writer and humorist.

My epies have started to bloom. I missed two of them while I was away on vacation, but 'Ernst Gündchen' is putting on quite a show. It's time to fertilize again with a low nitrogen formula to stimulate the blooms. I'm still waiting for my seedlings to flower. One bloomed last year, but it was a disappointing white. Hope springs eternal!

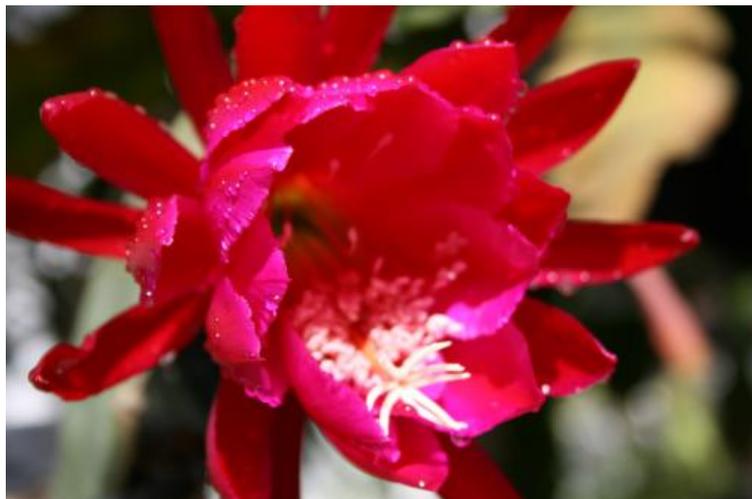
This month starts our sales events where we spread the word about our lovely flowers and bring in some revenue for the club. If you have an interest in helping at one of the sales, please contact Cindy Decker. You needn't spend an entire day working at the sale. You can work a few hours in the morning or afternoon. It's a lot of fun and a great learning opportunity.

For our program this month, Gina Contreras will do a presentation on how to set up a display for the Mother's Day show. I would like to encourage our members who haven't yet made a display for the show to give it a try this year.

Remember to bring your blooms to the meeting for all to enjoy. I'm looking forward to seeing you here.



*Janice*



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Internet / Web	Open

'March Inn' photo by Jerry Moreau

## Meeting Programs

— Patricia Frank

**Pre-Meeting Workshop:** Ron discussed the importance of micronutrients and beneficial fungi (mycorrhizae) for epies. In March Ron will discuss and demonstrate repotting epies. Bring in your questions. 7:00p.m. room 104

**February Program:** Last month featured a program of the hybrids by George French. He was a prolific hybridizer with almost 400 registered hybrids. George was SDES's 2nd President and played a vital role in the society up until his death in 2009. He gave many presentations at the meetings, volunteered at the Safari Park and could always be found by his display at the Mother's Day Show greeting people and making new friends.

**March Program:** It's coming soon... That time of year we all look forward to... Mother's Day weekend! Everyone is busy getting their display together for the show... Wait... You don't have a display idea yet? Never been to our Mother's Day show? Well, have we got a program for you! We have a demonstration planned on how to set up a display for the Mother's Day Show. And to inspire you to create your own display, we will have a presentation of photos of recent Mother's Day shows. Come out to Casa Del Prado Room 101 on March 9th at 7:30 p.m. to enjoy the evening with friends and plan your exhibit!



Display at the Mother's Day show 2010  
Photo by Jerry Moreau



## Calendar of Events 2016

### March

- 4,5,6 San Diego Home & Garden Show
- 9 General Meeting
- 12 Safari Park Work Party
- 23 Board Meeting
- 26 Safari Park Work Party

### April

- 13 General Meeting
- 16 Safari Park Work Party
- 23 Cuyamaca Spring Garden Festival
- 24 Cutting Party at Cindy's
- 27 Board Meeting
- 30 Epi Sale at Safari Park

### May

- 1 Epi Sale at Safari Park
- 1 SBES Show & Sale
- 7 Mother's Day pre-sale
- 8 Mother's Day Show and Sale
- 11 General Meeting
- 15 ESA Show & Sale
- 25 Board Meeting
- 28 Epi Con XV

### June

- 8 General Meeting

## Inside This Issue

President's Corner	2
Meeting Program	3
Calendar of Events	3
Safari Park Report	4
Clay Pots for Sale	4
Mother's Day Show	5
Epi Con XV	5
Cutting Parties & Cutting Info	6
Get Your Facts First	8
Some Remarks on <i>E. chrysocardium</i>	9
Now Is The Time	14
What's Blooming	15
Member Benefit/Plant Sale	15
Keeping in Touch	15
Member Fun Photos	16
Past Show Display Photos	17

# Safari Park Epi Display House

— Jerry Moreau

**THE BUDS ARE SPROUTING!** Yes, it is happening. All the hard work the volunteers have been doing is paying off. This spring will be another spectacular display of blooms. We continue maintaining the collection at the park to keep the plants looking good. We continue to remove the clay pots from the display house, hunt for snails, weed, and fertilize with bloom fertilizer. It is the cycle of life and this time of year we prepare and look toward spring and the spectacular bloom that we love so much. The weather has been great for working with the epies.



Helping out these past work parties were Sandra Chapin, Humberto & Gina Contreras, Ron & Velma Crain, Cindy Decker, Marie, Dempewolf, Bob Holzinger, Dennis Hughes, Beth Jackson, Judy Johnson, Jerry & Betsy Markle, Mildred & Gerry Mikas, Jerry Moreau, Tim Paule, Paul Vandepbloeg, and Janice Wakefield. Thank you, your effort is greatly appreciated.

The next work parties will be March 12th and 26th. Epi Sale at the park is April 30 & May 1.

Sandra Chapin and Velma Crain at the Safari Park Epi Sale last year. All proceeds from the sale help support SDES's epi collection at the park.

## Clay Pots for Sale

At the Safari Park, we are in the process of phasing out the very heavy 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 \$10.00 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](mailto:jerrysdca@cox.net) or Ron at:  
[hikerron@cox.net](mailto:hikerron@cox.net)

Put CLAY POTS in the subject line.



# Mother's Day Show May 8, 2016.

## Plant Sale May 7-8, 2016

Our 2016 Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale will be upon us before we know it. This year's theme is **'California Dreaming'**. It is never too soon to start thinking and planning what you want to do for the show. There are many ways to be part of the show. Start "Dreaming" how you can create a display, themed or non-themed, large to small, a flower display, flowers to be judged individually, or an educational display. If that is not your thing then you can volunteer. Help is always needed in the pre show/sales planning, making cuttings, sales area, show set up, potluck lunch, and more. Gina Contreras, Mother's Day Show Chair is on hand help and will bring us an amazing show this year. You can contact her at



ginaecontreras57@gmail.com or (760)294-4146



Sign up sheets will be coming in the near future along with any pertinent information. As always, thank you for your wonderful support!

Many people venture to the Casa del Prado on Mother's Day explicitly to purchase epi cuttings and plants. But many others come to revel in the array of magnificent color with hundreds of epies from all members' collections making their way to room 101. The theme only adds to the fun. Figuring out a way to display the blooms in a thematic setting can really stretch your creativity and imagination.

## Epi Con XV

Hosted by South Bay Epiphyllum Society  
at the South Coast Botanic Garden on Saturday, May 28th, 2016.

Every two years one of the three Epiphyllum Societies of Southern California hosts Epi Con. This is an event where epicactus enthusiasts from all over the world gather to compare notes on all things epi-related. This all started back in the fall of 1987 where representatives of the ESA, SDES, and SBES met at the San Diego Botanical Gardens and decided that there should be a meeting open to the general memberships of the combined Societies. Voilà, Epi Conference One, Epi Con I, was created. This is an event that should not be missed. SDES is considering renting a bus to head to Epi Con. If you are interested, talk to Mildred Mikas at the meeting or call/email her.



'EpiCon VII'



'EpiCon X'



'EpiCon IX'

# Time to Prepare For Mother's Day Sale Cutting Party at April General Meeting April 13 & Cutting Party at the home of

## Cindy Decker Sunday, April 24—2-5pm

4007 South Tropic Dr, La Mesa — ddecke@juno.com (619) 972-9664

Soon we will need to make cuttings for the Mother's Day sale. This sale is our biggest fundraiser to keep SDES running for another year. Your help is needed. Any amount is greatly appreciated of named hybrids and species. You can bring them to the April general meeting, Cindy's house, or talk to a board member to arrange someone to pick them up. If you need help making cuttings ask about that too.



Larry & Dave unwrapped donated cuttings at a cutting party. Photo by Jerry Moreau

## Calling for Cuttings: The life blood of SDES

SDES has a well-known reputation for our excellent show and sale. There are many people who are not members but who come to our show every year just to buy cuttings. Some of these regular shoppers travel many miles just because we have a tremendous selection of cuttings. They know we offer top quality, a wide selection and good prices. Let's not disappoint these people this year.



Betsy & Jerry Markle processing donated cuttings at the cutting party in Cindy's yard. Photo by Jerry Moreau

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. we will be labeling, sorting, and bagging cuttings. If you don't have enough time to cut before the meeting, try to cut and deliver the cuttings to a Board Member to bring to the **Cutting Party on April 24th**. Sales of cuttings is the mainstay of our club's treasury. This is when we need every member who can to help out. If you have plants that can provide a few cuttings but you **need help** in making those cuttings, please call any of the board members.

**Making your cuttings:** Please choose growth that is hardened off, **not new, tender growth**. Cuttings should be 6 to 8 inches long and of good health. (6-8" cuttings will root much faster. If they are longer, they tend to produce buds instead of roots.) Cut an entire branch (that can be cut into 3-4 cuttings) instead of cutting 6" off of 3-4 branches. (*Jill Rowney shared: I severely stunted the growth of our 'Sakurahime' six years ago by trimming off 6" of the ends of several branches. I was a novice and treated the plant as I did other house plants—pinch them back and they'll grow 2 or more sprouts there... oops! It has taken this long for it to finally begin to grow again. I actually planted up new cuttings two years ago— that plant is much healthier!*)

It's that time again. If you have a chance to get cuttings made, bring them to the April meeting— early.

Continued next page

Please follow the guidelines below for marking your cuttings. If you haven't time to mark all of your cuttings, you can wrap those of the same name in a newspaper— tape closed, and mark the package on the outside with the name. We will have Sharpie pens at the meeting to mark the rest of the cuttings.

**Marking your cuttings:** Begin the name of the cutting at the top and write towards the bottom. Make sure there is no writing within 2 inches of the bottom of the cutting— it will be beneath the soil when planted and forever lost. Try to check for correct spelling (as is in the official directory of Species and Hybrids”). If you are not sure, wrap them together and write the name on the newspaper wrapping as you think it should be spelled. We can look it up at the meeting.

Flower size:

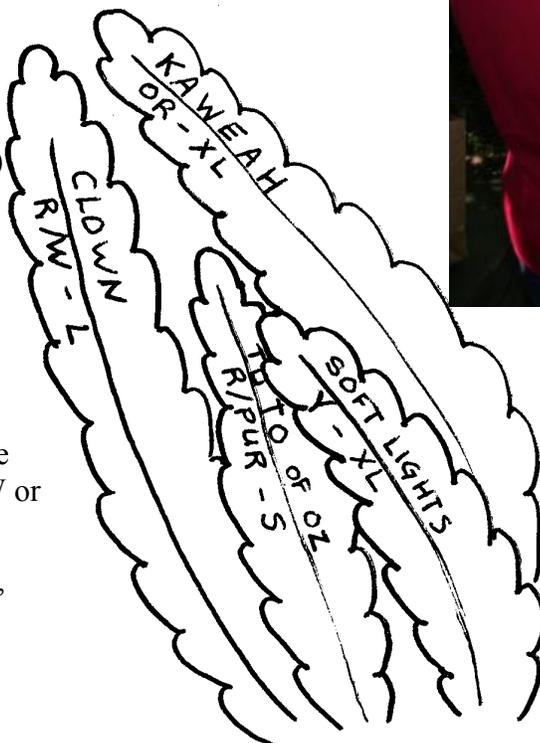
- XS—extra small (under 2”)
- S—small (2-5”)
- M—medium (5-7”)
- ML—medium to large
- L—large (7-9”)
- XL—extra large (larger than 9”)

Flower Color:

- W—white
- R—red
- O—orange
- Y—yellow
- Pk—pink
- Pur—purple

For flowers that have two colors, list the predominant color first such as Y/W or R/O

For multiple-colored flowers, pick the predominant color, then add “multi” such as “red-multi”



Members making cuttings at another member's garden. Photo by Jerry Moreau

## Return all Perpetual Trophies!

Be sure to bring your trophy (ies) to the March or April meeting so that they can be checked over, repaired as needed, and awarded to this year's winners.



Members checking hybrid information at a cutting party. Need to make sure the information is correct — color, size, and name. Photo by Jerry Moreau

# Get Your Facts First

— Linda Sinkovic

*"Get your facts first, then you can distort them as much as you please..."*

Mark Twain

In previous issues I've talked about "Ric Rac Cactus". This is an informal name for cacti with lobed branches, such as *Epiphyllum anguliger*, *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, and *Weberocereus imitans*.<sup>\*1</sup> Their branches are all pretty much the same shape, and they are difficult to distinguish unless flowering.

There is another epiphytic cactus with lobed branches, though I would not consider it part of the "Ric Rac Cactus" group as the branch shape is pretty distinctive. This is *Selenicereus chrysocardium*,<sup>\*2</sup> sometimes referred to as Fern-Leaf Cactus.

*Selenicereus chrysocardium* was brought back from Chiapas, Mexico, in 1951. In 1954 at the New York Botanic Garden the cuttings finally produced a flower. The appearance of this flower's bright golden stamens gave rise to the species name "chrysocardium", meaning "Golden Heart".

*Selenicereus chrysocardium* is found in the rainforest. In habitat it grows climbing up trees or hanging down from rocks. The branches can be up to 12 inches wide and are deeply lobed, resembling a fern. The branches can be up to 16 feet long! The branches look great and their shape is very decorative. The flowers are white with bright golden stamens and very large, up to 12 inches wide and 12 inches long.

This plant is easy to grow, although it is probably a good idea to keep it warm during winter and give it a lot of space for its branches.<sup>\*3</sup> I've had my plant for ten years but I have yet to see any flowers. Happily I came across an article<sup>\*4</sup> written by Eckhard Meier discussing cultivation techniques to get the plant to flower. Apparently this plant needs a rest period (little water, no fertilizer) for 6 weeks in summer and for about 3 months after flowering. I plan to try this technique and hope to be able to report flowers next year.



Photo by Ralf Bauer.  
*Selenicereus chrysocardium* flower, 1996

Enjoy off season blooms and get out into your garden.

#### Notes:

\*1 And their associated hybrids, such as Rudolf Heßing's 'Jalisco' series, or Helmut Paetzold's 'Taskamore'.

\*2 Synonyms are *Epiphyllum chrysocardium* and *Marniera chrysocardium*.

\*3 Also watch for snails and slugs; the *S. chrysocardium* plants at the Safari Park got very chewed up last year.

\*4 In the March 1988 [Epi News](#)

#### References:

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Mangelsdorff, Ralph, and Noller, Hans-Günther, "Auf den Spuren von Thomas Baillie MacDougall in Chiapas (Mexiko). Teil 2:

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# SOME REMARKS ON *EPIPHYLLUM CHRYSOCARDIUM*

by Eckhard Meier

Re-printed from *Epi News* March 9, 1988

**Editors note:** Since this article was first published in 1988 *Epiphyllum chrysocardium* and *Cryptocereus anthonyanus* have been moved to the genus *Selenicereus*.

When I was in your country two years ago, I repeatedly saw *Epiphyllum chrysocardium* in various collections. This plant is perhaps better known as "Fern Cactus" due to its deeply incised stems very much resembling a fern, or as "Golden Heart Cactus", because of the many golden yellow filaments in the center of the flower which beautifully contrast the surrounding white petals. However complaints about its unwillingness to flower can be heard and many collectors keep it only because of its unique growing habit. This is a pity, since the flowers of *E. chrysocardium* are among the largest in the cactus family often measuring 12 inches across and more. They are very beautiful too, in Europe they appear between November and January, not rarely during the Christmas Season.



Photos by Linda Sinkovic.  
*Selenicereus chrysocardium*,  
Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney,  
2005. Some of the branches are  
about 10 inches wide.

## HISTORY

*E. chrysocardium* was found in the state of Chiapas, in southern Mexico by Tom McDougall, a famous collector and plantsman, in 1951. It flowered for the first time at the New York Botanical Garden the night of Jan. 1st/2nd 1954 causing a considerable sensation among cactus fanciers around the world. The first

description was made by

Alexander, who classified it as an Epiphyllum. A little

later the famous German cactologist Curt Backeberg reclassified it as a *Marniera*, a genus he had set up for *Epiphyllum macropterum* some years before because of its bristly pericarpel, different from all other Epiphyllums. As *E. chrysocardium* has got bristles at its pericarpel too, he consequently re-named it as *Marniera chrysocardium*, a name widely spread since that time. Critical voices however, stated that bristles can also be found on other "typical" Epiphyllums such as *E. crenatum* (one of the ancestors of our epis due to its frequent use for hybridizing, especially in the 19th century), *E. lepidocarpum*, *E. anguliger* (one of the rickrack cactuses) and others, so that the name "Marniera" was rejected by many (but not all) prominent scientists such as Myron Kinnach and Franz Buxbaum.

## CLASSIFICATION "FRUITLESS"

When Alexander described this plant for the first time, a fruit was lacking. During the following years, attempts to set fruit were not successful. The study of fruit and seed is of such great importance that it generally must be included when describing or classifying any new species. But sometimes this has to be delayed when no fruit is available, as was the case here. Backeberg's, opinion that this species was special could not be confirmed.



Photo by Chuck Everson  
*Selenicereus chrysocardium* flower

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The difficulties to obtain fruit are manifold:

1st) *E. chrysocardium* is self-sterile (as are all the species of epiphyllum) and thus cannot be pollinated with its own pollen. If you have a second specimen of a different source it won't help to solve the problem, all plants in cultivation have proved to belong to one clone only, i.e. they are all offsprings of one and the same plant found in habitat only once in the past.

2nd) *E. chrysocardium* flowers in winter when other possible pollinators are resting" and thus not in bloom. If a *Selenicereus* (Queen of the Night) were used as a pollen parent and should turn out to be fertile (which I have not yet been able to try out), the forthcoming fruit and its seeds morphologically would always turn out to be typically "chrysocardium-like" and could, without reservation, be used for further studies. (However, offspring would be hybrids with characteristics of both parents.)

3rd) Due to the very long receptacle of *E. chrysocardium* flowers, it is hardly feasible to use short-tubed species or 'hybrids as pollen parents. This is because the pollen of such plants is normally unable to grow through the long style to the ovules situated inside the ovary to complete fertilization. Most of our epis as well as *Heliocereus speciosus* (Sun Cactus) and other related species seem unfit for our purpose, whereas true species of the genera *Epiphyllum*, *Selenicereus* or *Hylocereus* and the more long tubed epis seem to be more appropriate, which after all, can be seen as a further complication, not to mention the different bloom seasons as outlined above.

4th) *E. chrysocardium* is a shy flowerer when not cultivated properly (see below). As a result flowers have not often been seen in cultivation.

After having learned to flower *E. chrysocardium* regularly, I tried everything to get fruit, but for a long time the efforts were in vain. I had already made experiments, freezing the pollen of various species to have at hand for off-season bloomers. These experiments were successful in a few cases, but never when using *E. chrysocardium* as a seed, parent ("mother"). On the other hand I succeeded in putting the once frozen pollen of *E. chrysocardium* onto the stigmas of an unknown epi (similar to, 'Moonlight Sonata') thus getting a fruit with viable seeds resulting in a few nice flowering hybrids with *E. chrysocardium* as "father". I have selected two of them so far and called them 'Hunsrück Charm' and 'Hunsrück Cup' (Simmern, the West German town where I live, is situated in the Hunsrück Mountains, hence the names of the hybrids.) Some readers may perhaps remember the former flower for I introduced it to a greater audience in my slide show held at the Casa del Prado on April 9th, 1986. Its extra-large flowers are of a nice rich lavender fading to light lavender and almost white at the edge, whereas the sister seedlings' bloom is very similar to the well-known variety 'Punch Bowl'.

In 1982 there was an unexpected late flower of *E. chrysocardium* open in May when several epis were in bloom, too. This was a great chance to have "fresh" pollen of a suitable epi at hand to obtain the long awaited fruit and to harvest (as a byproduct, so to say) viable seeds to raise some interesting seedlings, which might perhaps show some interesting features inherited from their mother, such as huge, long-tubed and off-season flowers or deeply incised stems, thus showing a different and more attractive growth habit compared with other epis. From the epis then in bloom I chose 'Malcho's Beauty' as a pollen parent because it had the deepest color and a tube slightly longer than that of the others. At the same time I used *E. chrysocardium* as a "father" too, putting its pollen onto various epis such as 'Discovery', 'Flammenspiel' (a Haage cross), 'King Midas', 'Nevada' and, again, onto 'Malcho's Beauty' (this time though, it was the other way around). All went well except for the last cross. Whereas the cross *E. chrysocardium* ("mother") x 'Malcho's Beauty' ("father") was successful and resulted in the long waited for fruit with viable seeds, the reverse cross was the only failure.



Photo by Chuck Everson  
*Selenicereus chrysocardium* flower

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## FRUIT DECIDES GENUS

The fruit of *E. chrysocardium* was a little sensation. From the beginning onwards, that is to say long before it was ripe, it was quite exceptional from other Epiphyllum species because of the long bristly spines completely covering it. When ripe after 11 months, it was almost 3 inches long and 2 1/3 inches wide and green in color, very much resembling that of a *Cryptocereus anthonyanus* (another of the rick-rack cactuses, but more related to *Selenicereus* than to Epiphyllum). The grayish pulp was sweet and edible, the seeds were black and relatively big.

With the additional description of the fruit and seeds in the German Cactus Journal ("Kakteen und andere Sukkulente" vol.34, No.12, 1983) the "old" question of whether our chrysocardium was an Epiphyllum or a Marniera could finally be settled. Due to the detailed study of the pollen and the seeds done by Prof. Wilhelm Barthlott, then professor of botany at Berlin University, now curator of Bonn Botanical Gardens, we can be quite sure today that it is a typical Epiphyllum which only differs from the other members of its family in that the pericarp of the fruit is densely covered with bristles. The morphology of flower, pollen and seeds is much the same as with the other Epiphyllums. To base a new genus on only one different characteristic is not advisable.



Photo by Eckhard Meier

*S. chrysocardium* ripe fruit after 11 months of ripening period

## USES FOR POLLEN

As an old epi-fancier you can imagine that I have always had in mind too, to obtain viable seeds of *E. chrysocardium* and the various reverse crosses, because

there are some interesting features such as its large, long-tubed and offseason flowers as well as its unique growing habit, which would greatly enrich the spectrum of epis already available. All the seeds turned out to be viable and the tiny seedlings come up very well. Then however, a fungus destroyed all those where *E.*



Photo by Chuck Everson

*Selenicereus chrysocardium* flower

*chrysocardium* had served 'as the "mother"'. It was those very seedlings on which I had set my special hopes for achieving the above-mentioned aims. The other seedlings, where our plant had been the pollen parent "father" kept growing well, with the only exceptions of the cross 'Nayada' x *E. chrysocardium*, which soon began to turn yellow, then died a little later. Living in a cold climate part of the world, we always have space problems in winter, since we have to move all our plants in before the frost begins. Thus I – could only raise few of each cross, which is a pity indeed. I picked out the strongest seedlings only and "threw away the tiny ones, knowing well that they might have turned out to be the ones with the most unique characteristics. I grafted some of them on to *Hylocereus undatus* to speedup growth and all have bloomed at least once already. Some of those left on their own roots started to bloom last year.

## RESULTS NOT AS HOPED

So far my hopes for these offspring have not come true. This refers to all the crosses where *E. chrysocardium* was used as the pollen parent (including the attempt with frozen pollen that resulted in 'Hunsrück Charm' and 'Hunsrück Cup'). Not one of these seedlings any stems reminding one of its "father". They are just ordinary epi branches, completely lacking deep incisions. The blooming season is in spring as with most

Continued next page

of the other orchid cacti. The extra-long tube of the "father" can't be found and the flower size is not exceptional. The only resemblance is found in some seedlings' cup formed flowers.

Nevertheless some seedlings have beautifully colored flowers worth admiring ranging from silvery white to different shades of yellow ('Discovery' x *E. chrysocardium*), from white over fiery orange to dark red with more or less bluish sheens at the edges of the petals ('Flammenspiel' x *E. chrysocardium*) and from dark lavender over light lavender *t.o* - almost white ("unknown garden form" x *E. chrysocardium*) and the hope of even more variation in color with first - time blooms this year.



Photo by Eckhard Meier  
*S. chrysocardium* flower

#### FOR THE FUTURE

I am convinced that some of the more sought-after characteristics of *E. chrysocardium* may turn out in the second generation of seedlings (F2-generation) when bred among each other, which is very important. As this has to be done at a greater scale than can be done over here, I have begun (and will continue) to send cuttings of my F1-hybrids to friends in California and I would greatly appreciate any efforts aimed at achieving new garden forms combining the good characteristics of our "Golden Heart" with those already present in our dear epis. The first step into this direction has been done and it should turn out to be quite promising to continue with our efforts.

#### NOTES ON CULTIVATION

*Epiphyllum chrysocardium* is unique and rewarding, I have been cultivating this species since 1970 and every year around Christmas the flowers can be greatly admired. I have tried out different methods of cultivation in the past and maybe I can give good advice to those who haven't seen flowers up to now.

It is very important to keep it in a rather small container due to its weak rooting system, characteristic to so many epiphytes. When repotting is necessary because the plant has become too voluminous, use a container not more than one or two sizes bigger. Do not fill the whole pot with mix but leave a rim of about 2 inches at the top thus allowing room to put several layers of cow manure onto the compost every successive spring as an alternative to frequent repotting, which is always accompanied by a certain amount of root disturbance, which many epis do not like at all.

You can keep *E. chrysocardium* as a hanging basket or tied to stakes or to a trellis, which I would recommend because the plant seems to grow more happily with the long stems supported in this way.

The most important thing however is to keep two resting periods in the course of a year. We all know that our epis (as well as all the other cacti) will only flower when there is a resting period of at least 6 weeks (better more!) prior to the blooming season. *E. chrysocardium* blooms in winter and the development from bud to flower takes quite a while (in Central Europe at least 2 months, greatly depending on the temperatures in fall and early winter), the all-important first resting period should last from the beginning of August to mid-September, during which watering must be reduced drastically and fertilizing ceased altogether. As with epis in winter the compost should become almost dry, not bone-dry which results in root damage, bud drop and worse. From mid-September onwards (often later) tiny green buds can be seen and from then on watering and mild fertilizing should begin again. After flowering a second resting period should be granted, the forming and the developing of the huge flowers have taken away a lot of vigor to be regained now. This second resting period begins a little later for *E. chrysocardium* than it does for our epis and lasts until March or April. With

Continued next page

the beginning of the warm season water and fertilizer must be amply provided, since it is now that the plants grow and get the strength necessary to bloom in the following winter.

If you have not had the luck up to now to admire the beautiful and impressive flowers, try to cultivate *E. chrysocardium* according to the schedule outlined above. There may be a certain shift in time due to the different climate in Southern California, but in principle the alternate changes between growing and resting periods twice in the course of a year is, in my opinion, very important as it is the case with our Schlumbergeras or "Zygos", the cultivation of which is much the same.

So have a try and above all, make sure your specimen is able to rest in summer and winter. Cover the plants or move them to a special location where they will receive controlled amounts of water. This little extra care will certainly pay well for the huge and fragrant flowers are truly gorgeous even though they will last for only one night. The first few can be expected on specimens of about 3 to 4 feet in length and will increase in number each year.

They are among the largest flowers not only within the Cactaceae but also within the whole plant kingdom. As an extra-bonus for your care they'll appear off-season when almost nothing else is in bloom.

With the best wishes to the Society and its members  
Eckhard Meier  
Simmern, West Germany



Photo by Klaus Rippe  
*S. chrysocardium* flower

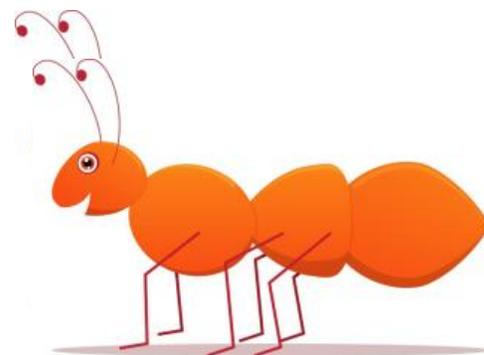
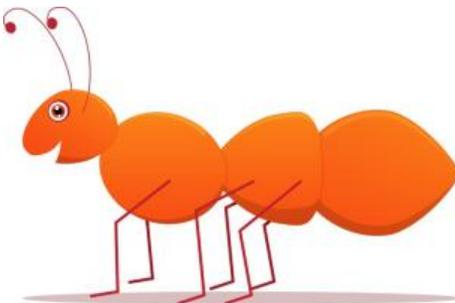
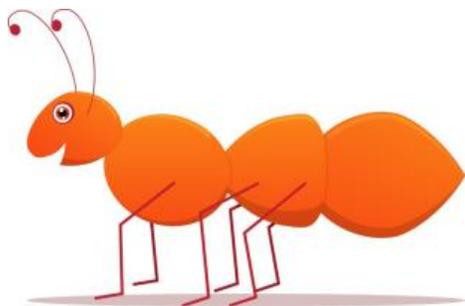


Photos by Eckhard Meier  
*S. chrysocardium* flower



## Now is the Time

- ✓ **Remove dead and unsightly branches.** Remove dead leaves and debris from containers, eliminating a haven for harmful pests and allowing oxygen to get to the soil and the roots.
- ✓ **Bait for snails.** Snails become more active in wet weather.
- ✓ **Check for aphids and ants.** Ants are attracted to the nectar in developing buds, but do no damage to epies. However, their presence is an indication that mealy bugs which are brought in by ants may be on the plant or in the soil. Small infestations may be controlled with a 50-50 solution of water and isopropyl alcohol. Larger infestations may require chemical treatment such as Malathion. When using chemicals to control pests, be sure to read labels and follow instructions completely.
- ✓ **Check for scale insects.** Little spots that can be flicked off with your fingernail are probably scale. They should be removed promptly with soapy water. You may have to repeat treatment. Again chemical treatment may be necessary for large infestations.
- ✓ **Give mature plants a final feeding of nitrogen-free liquid fertilizer.** Use 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 on mature plants; 5-10-10 on immature ones. If using granular fertilizer, mix it into the soil.
- ✓ **Don't relocate plants that are developing buds.** This can cause buds to drop. However, some bud drop is normal. A plant may set more buds than it can support and will naturally shed some.
- ✓ **Ensure developing buds have room to grow.** Hanging plants need enough space between plants for the flowers to open freely. Trellised plants also need space for blossoms to open, but also ensure that ties holding the plant aren't constricting buds.
- ✓ **De-bud young plants.** Some of last year's cuttings will set buds, most of which will not develop into full buds or blooms. Pinching off these buds will redirect the plant's energy back into its roots to form new branches, making for a fuller, healthier mature plant in the future. However, some people prefer to leave the buds alone, letting Mother Nature take its course as they drop off of their own accord.
- ✓ **Check for root rot.** While the winter rains are good for epies, the deluge we often receive in winter may be doing more harm than good. Over-watering causes stagnant soil and root rot. Is there enough air circulation around your epies to help dry out the excessive rain, especially those plants in plastic pots? Is the soil so constantly saturated with water, that no oxygen is getting to the roots?
- ✓ **Remember that epies draw moisture from humidity.** Even though some outdoor plants aren't getting direct rainfall, they may still be getting plenty of moisture from the air. They, too, can get root rot if they're watered too much during wet weather. Keep an eye on them as well.
- ✓ **Any plants sitting on shelves, benches or patios** should not be left standing in puddles of water. If they're sitting in saucers, turn the saucers over and sit the plants on top.
- ✓ **It's important to keep an eye on all our plants.** Signs of root rot include thin, withered branches. Sometimes discolorations appear at the base of the plant and spread up through the branches. Healthy branches should look plump and shiny and feel waxy.
- ✓ **Start planning your display for the Mother's Day Show.** You can enter a full, half, or mini table display or flower arrangement based on the theme, "California Dreaming".



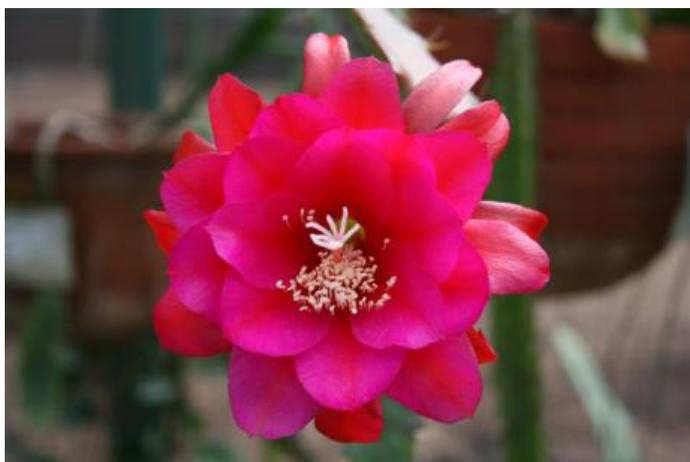
## Member Benefit

### Plants For Sale

SDES is offering plants for sale as a member benefit. Most are one-gallon or larger established plants. The price for each plant starts @ \$15.00. If interested we will e-mail you a list of available plants. Send in your request and if we do have it, we will confirm by e-mail with a picture, plant cost, & estimated shipping cost and reserve it for you for ten days.

After you decide which plants you want to buy and let us know you can make your payment. Shipping will be made after payment is received. Payment can be done by return mail, on our web site, or at a meeting in cash. Shipping will be from Escondido, CA most likely USPS.

If interested, requests should be sent to: Gerry Mikas at [Mikas@cox.net](mailto:Mikas@cox.net) or phone 858-381-7535



'Beautie Wegener' photo by Jerry Moreau

## Blooming in February

**Barb Alvarez:** 'Harold', 'Harald Knebel'

**Don Burnett:** *D. macranthus*, 'Jalisco Grace'

**Sandra Chapin:** 'Bruno Forster', 'Ernst Gündchen', 'Jalisco Disco', 'Jalisco Flirt', 'Kami', 'Martha Paetz', 'Ramona Paetz'

**Gina Contreras:** 'George's Favorite', 'Tiny Flame', *R. pilocarpa*

**Cindy Decker:** 'Beautie Wegener', 'Gold Charm', 'Harald Knebel'

**Marie Dempewolf:** 'Guiding Star'

**Beth Jackson:** 'Ernst Gündchen', 'Felcino Filou', 'Möve', 'Tralla Fitti'

**Jerry Moreau:** 'Möve'

**Don Patterson:** 'Beautie Wegener', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Wedding Bells'

**Allen Pellymouter:** 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Something Special'

**Safari Park:** 'Beautie Wegener', 'Ernst Gündchen', 'George's Favorite', 'Jugend' (KN), 'Life', 'Herbert S. Irwin', *D. macranthus*

**Linda Sinkovic:** 'Something Special', *Rhipsalis crispata*, *R. mesembryanthemoides*, *R. neves-armondii*, *R. pilocarpa*

**Janice Wakefield:** 'Ernst Gündchen', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Jugend' (KN)



'Herbert S. Irwin' photo by Roger Chapin

## Keeping In Touch

—Beth Jackson

If you know of an older 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.

Notify Your Corresponding Secretary Beth Jackson at [bethjackso@yahoo.com](mailto:bethjackso@yahoo.com) or call 858-638-0956.





President Janice Wakefield and Ron Crain  
Photo by Jerry Moreau



'Ce-Em' in the collection at the Safari Park.  
Photo by Jerry Moreau



We cannot help but have fun with being around epies. Working in the garden and being around all that beauty brings out the best in people.



Sandra Chapin

Bill Greene

Beth Jackson  
Corresponding Secretary



Linda Sinkovic



Jim Nones with 'Mystic Magic'

# Past Mother's Day Show displays to help you get ideas



Photos by Jerry Moreau

**Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park**  
can be found on our website. Click on [SanDiegoEpi.com](http://SanDiegoEpi.com)

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**March 9, 2016**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month  
7:30 p.m. in Room 101, pre-meeting workshop 7:00 p.m.  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

**Next Board meeting:**

**March 23, 2015**

7:00 p.m. in Room 104,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

*Membership:*

**New memberships** as well **Renewals** can be processed at our secure web site:

[Click here](#)



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If you have moved or recently changed your physical OR *e-mail address*, please let us know your new address so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption.

Send it to SDES Membership – at:

PO Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127

OR [sdes\\_roster@hotmail.com](mailto:sdes_roster@hotmail.com)

**Need to contact your Society?  
Keep up with events & happenings?  
Get involved?**



**SDES has a website** — [www.SanDiegoEpi.com](http://www.SanDiegoEpi.com)

There you will find lots of information about what's going on.

**Facebook** — [San Diego Epiphyllum Society](#) on Facebook.

Here you can keep up-to date with the society and members.



**Call or Email** the Officers, Directors, or Coordinators.

**Stay up-to date**

**Stay involved**

**It is your Society!**