



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

July 2021
Volume 46 Number 7



Disocactus speciosus

Size: Medium—Large

Photo by Jerry Moreau

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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Editors — Jerry Moreau & Linda Sinkovic
EpiNews@sdepis.org
 Design & layout by Jerry Moreau

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Have You Moved?

If you have moved or recently changed your physical OR email address, please update your address so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption.

Send it to:
 San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership
 PO Box 126127 San Diego, CA 92112-6127

OR email Membership@sdepis.org
 OR for a faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson Membership Secretary—her address can be found in the membership roster

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. During this pandemic for everyone’s health and safety all meetings are held online. The Zoom room will open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start afterwards. Check your emails for instructions and links.

Board Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. also held online. All members are welcome to attend the board meeting. If you are interested in attending request the zoom link from the Membership Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, or the President.

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Editors note:
 The SDES logo is by a local San Diego artist, Sal Leon.

Calendar of Events

July	14	General Meeting
	28	Board Meeting
August	11	General Meeting
	25	Board Meeting

Due to COVID-19 all meetings being held online.

For the up to date calendar check out:
<http://sdepis.org/news-information/calendar/>



Pfeiffera miyagawae
 Photo by Jerry Moreau

President's Corner



I hope your summer is starting off well. We still do not have guidance on when we may be able to meet again in person. Until we do, we will continue to meet on Zoom and wait for instructions for when we can once again meet in Balboa Park.

The spring blooms are winding down and by the end of the month it will be time to start thinking about doing some post bloom fertilizing. Watch out for the effects of heat on your epies and don't let them get too dried out.

We are still without a recording secretary. If there is anyone interested in the position we could really use your help. Contact me with any questions.

See you at the next meeting!

Gretchen



Epiphyllum chrysocardium



Epiphyllum phyllanthus ssp. rubrocoronatum

Meeting Program

Last Month Program: In June we enjoyed some of the booms through a peek into some of our members' gardens and some of the epi collection at the Safari Park.

July's Program: Paul Richter of the South Bay Epi Society will



treat us with a presentation on raising butterflies in Southern California. He will show how us to create a habitat for the butterflies and what plants you will need if you want little caterpillars in your yard. Paul has been raising Monarch butterflies for over 5 years. In the last year Paul has expanded and now raise Gulf Fritiraries, Anise Swallowtails and Pipevine Swallowtails.



Come join us Wednesday July 14th. The zoom room will open at 6:30 p.m. for a bit of socializing and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau

As the blooms wind down, the weather has started to warm up. This month we begin fertilizing the plants; this will help them regain energy after all they spent on flowering. We will use a balanced fertilizer mixed into the soil as well as a foliar spray fertilizer applied to the branches.

With the changes in Covid-19 precautions we are now able to have full size work parties instead of being limited to six volunteers at a time. It will be nice to be all back together! We have missed each other.

If you have something new which we could add to the collection, please let me know. I'm always on the look out for new plants for the collection (and ultimately for our members).

Helping out were Barb Alvarez, Sandra Chapin, Ron & Velma Crain, David Cheever, Cindy Decker, Dean Delibertis, Marie Dempewolf, Forrest Echbrecht, Jeff Hendershot, Beth Jackson, Heidi Lerner, Betsy & Jerry Markle, Ellen McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, Gretchen Ward, and Paul van der Ploeg,



Ellen McConnell visited hybridizer Richard Klug in Los Angeles. She was able to bring back a few of his hybrids for the collection. Thank you Ellen!



*Cindy chatting with fellow volunteer
Photo by Barb Alvarez*



'Dr Quand' a Richard Klug hybrid bloomed for the first time at the park.

Photo by Jerry Moreau



*'Arrat' an aporophyllum type that bloomed for the first time at the park.
Photo by Jerry Moreau*

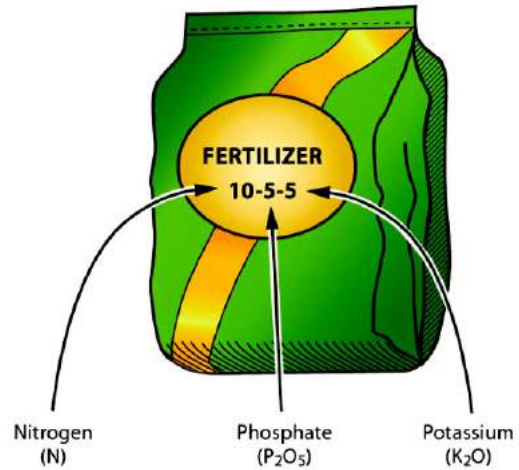
Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park
can be found on our website. Click on <https://sdepis.org/welcome-to-sdes/epiphyllums/volunteering/>

Fertilizing Your Epies

By Roger Chapin edited by Ron Crain

BACKGROUND

Sixteen chemical elements are known to be essential for the growth of most plants. These are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, molybdenum, copper, boron, zinc, and chlorine. Mineral nutrients are divided into groups according to the quantity plants use. The primary macronutrients, the one used in largest amounts, are nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. The secondary nutrients, used in lesser amounts, are calcium, magnesium, sulfur. Remaining micronutrients are used in minute amounts. Carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen are not mineral elements, but are essential elements.



Nitrogen is essential to all living organisms and promotes vegetative growth. Phosphorous is associated with early plant maturity, increased root proliferation, and bloom formation. Potassium plays roles in the opening and closing of stomata and in water retention. It also promotes growth and aids in nitrogen metabolism.

A detailed discussion of the importance of the secondary micronutrients is beyond the scope of this article. Your local garden store fertilizer salesperson can provide additional information you might desire.

N Nitrogen	Healthy foliage. Chlorophyll production. Vegetative Growth.	
P Phosphorus	Development of flowers DNA/RNA Synthesis Strong Roots	
K Potassium	Hearty Growth Synthesize Proteins & Carbohydrates	

A complete fertilizer contains the three primary nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. It may also contain some secondary nutrients or micronutrients. Each bag of commercial fertilizer carries a label stating the analysis of its contents. This analysis is represented by three figures: for example, 6-2-4. The first figure is the percentage of nitrogen by weight. The second is the percentage of phosphoric acid (not the phosphorous) by weight. And the third figure is the percentage of potash (not the potassium) by weight. The balance of the bag (88%) contains other chemicals or filler. Phosphoric acid contains 43% phosphorous and potash contains 83% potassium.

FERTILIZER AND EPIES

Most epi literature says to use a “balanced” fertilizer, such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10. But there are many types of fertilizer on the market, organic or chemical, slow release or regular, liquid or granular. What are the differences and what is the best for you?

Organic fertilizer, bone meal, blood meal, etc. generally are slow release and granular. They feed the soil in lieu of being leached through the soil by repeated watering. Applied once or twice a year, they continue to nourish the plant throughout the entire season. They are the most expensive to purchase pound for pound, but may be the most economical in the long run.

Fertilizing Continued...

Chemical fertilizers come in all forms. The liquid form is quick release, short-lived effect. It is best used **WEEKLY, WEAKLY!** That is to say used frequently in reduced strength. Some say that epies become addicted to liquid fertilizer like Miracle-Gro and others. Use of liquid fertilizers is very labor intensive without automatic application system. The granular chemical fertilizer can be slow release or not. The slow release is the more expensive of the two, but can be used in higher concentration without fear of plant damage from nitrogen. Plants absorb nitrogen in the inorganic nitrate form whereas nitrites and organic form must be transformed into nitrates by soil microorganisms before the nitrogen is useable by the plant. Therefore, look at the label and select fertilizers having more non-nitrate compounds. They will continue feeding your plant over a longer period of time. Totally sterile potting media has no ability to process non-nitrate forms and therefore they are leached out of the soil and lost to the plant. Some epi growers insist on applying only 6% or less nitrogen fertilizers. This may be excellent advice if quick-release fertilizers are used.

All granular fertilizer should be applied at least twice a year, first in mid-winter to late winter. Most growers recommend using no or low nitrogen fertilizer at this time to encourage bloom development. If you use organic or chemical slow-release fertilizer, a single application should be sufficient. Other granular chemical fertilizers can be applied monthly, December through February. The second application period occurs after the bloom season is over and the plants need revitalization. During this period you want to encourage vegetative plant growth with nitrogen fertilizer. This same criteria apply here. A single application of organic or slow-release may be sufficient or monthly application of quick release fertilizer July through October. Use liquid fertilizer applications “weekly, weakly” (or near full strength every third watering) throughout the entire growing season. You should withhold all fertilizer October, November, and the first half of December.

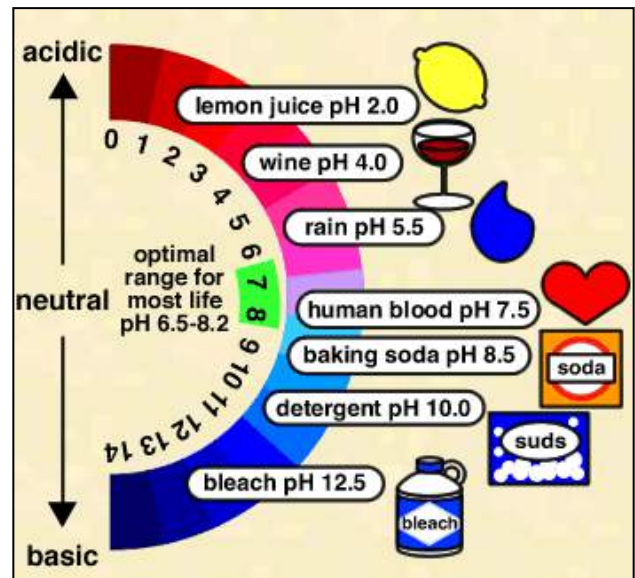
One important factor to remember when selecting a fertilizer is maintain a soil pH of between 5.5 and 6.5. It is a good idea to choose a fertilizer that has been formulated for acid-loving plants. Many of these contain sulfur compounds and other ingredients that do not raise the soil pH.

Species Issue

Welcome to the species issue! We have all enjoyed our hybrids this spring and now as we enter summer it’s time for the species to take center stage. The epiphytic cacti species come in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are day bloomers and others are nighttime bloomers. Many of us just grow the hybrids. However it is nice to have some of the species among the hybrids. As a special treat some of the species bloom more than once a year, such as *Disocactus macranthus*, see page 17. What is presented in this issue is not an exhaustive write-up about species, it is a start. Keep looking for the species corner for more in future issues.



Rhipsalis pilocarpa
Photo by Linda Sinkovic



Online sale was huge success

“A Shout Out to all those who make The Magic Happen! Excellent ‘customer service’ and extremely healthy Epies! Beautiful and makes the heart smile! Thank you, thank you, thank you!♥”

That was one of the rave reviews SDES received during our successful online sale. This year’s sale was larger and more extensive than the pop-up sale we held last year after the cancellation of our annual Mother’s Day sale.

Knowing that we wouldn’t be able to hold in-person events again this spring, we started planning early for a larger sale that offered more cuttings and plants along with a wider variety of plant material.

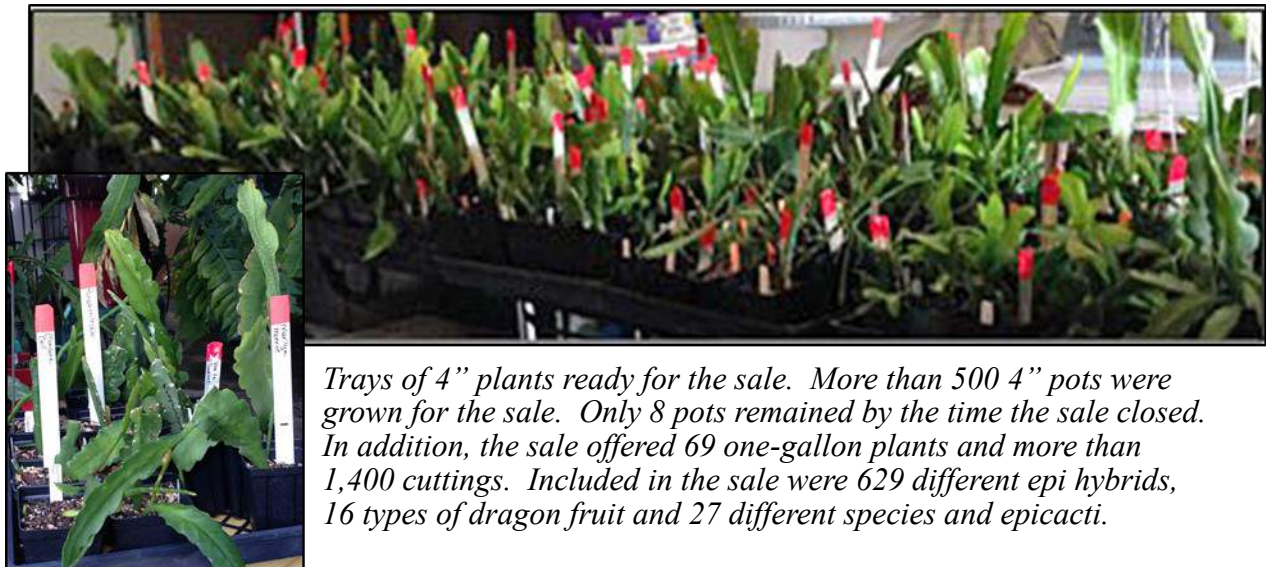
The sales planning committee – Gerry Mikas, Gilbert Hatfield, Cindy Decker, Gretchen Ward and Pat Neal – coordinated the event through emails and Zoom meetings. Again, this year, Gerry offered his garage as our packing and shipping warehouse and Gilbert, SDES’ Webmaster, prepared the SDES website store to deal with more inventory, different sizes of plants and special incentive offers for shoppers.

Cindy, Gretchen and Pat coordinated cuttings and plants from donors and lined up several volunteers to help label, bag and inventory cuttings, transport plants and materials and pack orders for shipping.

This year we offered 675 different varieties of plants – including epiphyllum hybrids, species, dragon fruit and other epicacti. The bulk of that number was epiphyllum hybrids – 626 different hybrids sold as cuttings, 4” plants and in gallons. Several old favorites were offered as well as many newer, harder-to-find hybrids including 18 different Kiwi hybrids, the most we’ve ever offered of those incredibly popular New Zealand plants.

As a special kick-off to the sale, SDES offered an early Flash Sale for members only. This early bird sale began immediately after the May 12 general meeting ended and ran through May 16. Not only did members get to shop early, they also received a special 15% discount available only during the early sale. All members received an email that gave them the code to use and the sale was on!

Continued on next page



Trays of 4” plants ready for the sale. More than 500 4” pots were grown for the sale. Only 8 pots remained by the time the sale closed. In addition, the sale offered 69 one-gallon plants and more than 1,400 cuttings. Included in the sale were 629 different epi hybrids, 16 types of dragon fruit and 27 different species and epicacti.

Online sale success ...

During that four-day Flash Sale we sold more than 900 items – the majority of them in the first 12-20 hours. Needless to say, that first day our volunteers barely had time to rest as they filled orders and packed more than 100 orders. The Flash Sale took in more than \$8,000.

The sale opened to the public at noon on Monday, May 17. With our large color ad in *California Garden Magazine* and an announcement on our Facebook page, non-members were eager to join our members who were continuing to shop even without the discount. Again, the first 12-20 hours were the busiest.

Once the mad rush was over, we settled into a quieter routine of several orders a day over the following three weeks. In the last waning days, we again offered a few special discounts for late shoppers.

Altogether it was an immensely successful sale netting more than \$15,500. Final counts show that we had 182 shoppers with 281 orders; we mailed 258 packages. Many local shoppers opted to pick up their orders in person and in fact, most of the gallon plants were sold as “local pick up only” purchases.

“I ordered several cuttings and a potted plant. All arrived safely and very healthy. Great job everyone!”



Gerry Mikas’ SUV packed with boxes ready to go to the post office. A total of 258 packages were mailed to 16 states. (Photo by Gerry Mikas)

We encountered some unique challenges this year. One buyer commented, ***“I got my plants in 4-inch pots...they are HUUUUUGE!!!!”***

The growth on many of the 4-inch plants was exceptional which presented a test for the volunteer packers – finding the right sizes of boxes to pack them in! With so many multi-plant

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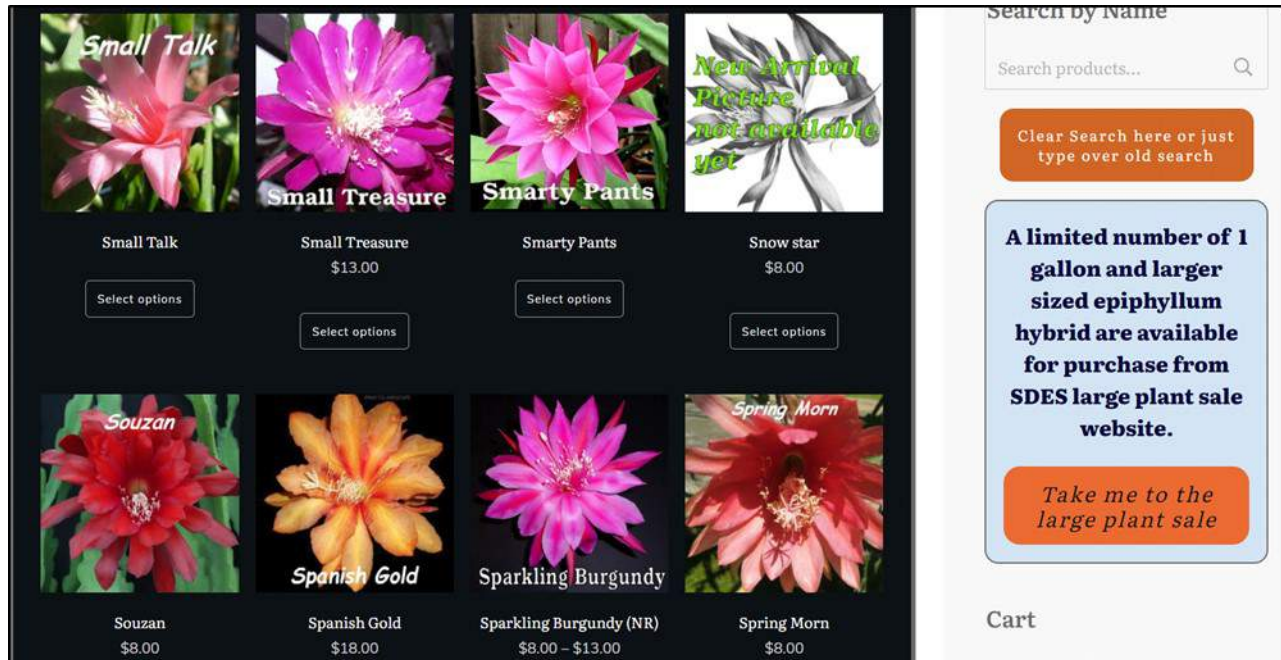


The 2021 online sale started with a Flash Sale for members only. This early bird special sale ran for only four days and included a special discount -- more than 900 items were sold earning \$8K.

Online sale success ...

More comments from our customers...

“Wonderful selection of epiphyllums!!!” ... “I received the most healthy and beautiful plants and cuttings and the prices super affordable.”... “Thanks a lot for providing that opportunity to all of us!!!!”... “Great sale! I am really happy with all plants and cuttings I got.”...“ Such a great experience. Very professional and friendly!”...“ They sell out so fast...”



orders and plants with long growth, finding boxes to accommodate them was a challenge. Many of us cleaned out our garages looking for boxes.

Along with that, some shoppers placed more than one order within a few hours, so we looked at incoming orders to see if anyone placed multiple orders. If they did, it was easier for us to combine those orders into one box. On the other end of the spectrum, some orders were so large that they had to be shipped in more than one box. Really large boxes cost a lot to ship, thus making it economical to split an order into two smaller boxes.

With the exception of Saturday evenings and Sundays, the goal was to get all orders to the post office by 11 a.m. the following morning.

There were a few issues to work out with the web site ISP and with their capacity printing orders and labels.



The Mikas' patio became the “store” for potted plants with an arrangement of ladders and boards to support all the trays. (Photos by Gerry Mikas)

Should you meet one of your society members who volunteered their time to make this sale happen, let them know how much you value their effort in trying times to keep the society viable.

Online sale success ...

Thank you, Volunteers!

*“The plant sale leaders were very nice to me and my sister. I did a plant pickup at the home in Escondido and you could just tell that they enjoyed the event.
Thank you again, epi plant friends!”*

Our successful online sale was made possible through the efforts of several members who donated their time and energy to make it happen. A big thank you to the following members who donated cuttings, plants, packing materials and their time and energy to prepare cuttings and plants, transport materials, and fill and pack orders. Our apologies if we've accidentally missed anyone's name; we appreciate the help everyone gave us.

Barb Alvarez

Janice Wakefield

Beth Jackson

Jeff Hendershot

Cindy Decker

Jerry Moreau

David Cheever

Linda Sinkovic

Dean Delbertis

Mildred Mikas

Ellen McCollum

Pat Neal

Esther Mendoza

Paula Reynolds

Forrest Ehbrecht

Ron Crain

Gail Hatfield

Sal Castellitto

Gerry Mikas

Sue Aldrich

Gilbert Hatfield

Tim Paule

Gretchen Ward

Velma Crain

Get Your Facts First

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

Article and photos by Linda Sinkovic

I write a lot about *Rhipsalis*, but somehow I've missed writing about *Rhipsalis paradoxa*. Which is sort of weird if you think about it, because a lot of folks already grow *R. paradoxa*, it's not like it's some super rare plant that nobody knows about.

In fact, people have been growing *R. paradoxa* for over 150 years. It was first described in 1837, although at the time it was described under the name of *Lepismium paradoxum*. In 1844 it became *Rhipsalis paradoxa*.¹



Rhipsalis paradoxa ssp. *paradoxa* plant

Rhipsalis paradoxa comes from eastern and southeastern Brazil. It is epiphytic in the Atlantic and seasonal forest, found near sea level to an



Rhipsalis paradoxa ssp. *paradoxa* new growth

altitude of about 2950 feet.² *R. paradoxa* is currently divided into two subspecies, which differ in their distribution, branch diameter and flower color. They are most closely related to *Rhipsalis pachecoleonis* (and its subspecies).

The subspecies I've seen most often in cultivation is *R.*

paradoxa ssp. *paradoxa*. It is found in southeastern Brazil.³ Branches^{4,5} are three angled with the angles offset between successive areoles; each segment resembles a succession of chain links. Blooming in the summer, the flowers are white -- fading to yellow -- and almost 1 1/4" in diameter.⁶

The flowers of *R. paradoxa* ssp. *septentrionalis* are yellow. This subspecies occurs in eastern Brazil.⁷ The branches are narrower and the 'wings' are less prominent than those of ssp. *paradoxa*, though the branches have the same sort of chain link appearance.⁸

R. paradoxa is a pretty easy grower and will grow happily alongside epi hybrids. The chain link appearance of its branches means it is interesting to look at even when not in flower; when it is in flower, it is very decorative.

Enjoy your garden.

Notes & resources next page



Rhipsalis paradoxa ssp. *paradoxa* flower

GYFF Continued...

Notes:

*1 And yes there are some other names it was listed under, including the illegitimate names *Hariota alterna* (1841) and *Rhypsalis alterna* (1868). If you are wondering what makes a name illegitimate, the ICBN (International Code of Nomenclature) has rules about what names can be used. If I understand correctly, typically it's a situation like "no we're not going to use your name, this has already been described under a different name" which leads to a name being illegitimate. If you are interested in reading all the rules and figuring it out, see the resources for a link.

*2 About 900 meters.

*3 It is found in the states of Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina, São Paulo.

*4 Branch diameters on the plant I measured were about 1 to 1.5 cm / 0.4 to 0.6 inches.

*5 One of the plants is about 6 feet in length, and would be longer if I didn't keep chopping off segments in order for it to not drag on the ground.

*6 3 cm. I have not noticed a scent.

*7 States to the north of the distribution area of ssp. *paradoxa*: the states of Pernambuco (eastern portion), Bahia (eastern portion), Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo.

*8 I have a plant marked *R. paradoxa* ssp. *septentrionalis* but I'm not certain it is correct.

Resources:

Anderson, Edward F., *The Cactus Family*, 2001, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. ISBN 0-88192-498-9

Barthlott, W., K. Burstedde, J. L. Geffert, P. L. Ibisch, N. Korotkova, A. Miebach, M. D. Rafiqpoor, A. Stein and J. Mutke. 2015. Biogeography and biodiversity of cacti. *Schumannia* 7: 1-205.

Britton, N.L. and Rose, J.N. *The Cactaceae*, Carnegie Institution of Washington 1923, available at :

http://publicationsonline.carnegiescience.edu/publications_online/cactaceae/default.html

Epiphyllum Society of America, 2014. *Registry of Hybrids and Species*, 6th edition

Hunt, D., et al, *The New Cactus Lexicon*, 2006, ISBN 0 9538134 4 4

Korotkova, N., L. Zabel, D. Quandt, N. P. Taylor, K.F. Müller, and W. Barthlott. 2011. "What does it take to resolve relationships and to identify species with molecular markers?", *American Journal of Botany* 98(9), 1549-1572.

International Association for Plant Taxonomy, "International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants (Shenzhen Code) 2018", accessed 2021 06 14, available at: <https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php>



Lepismium cruciforme var. *floribunda*
Photo by Linda Sinkovic

Now is the Time

✓ **Mist plants.** With the hot summer weather, occasional misting or spraying is beneficial. Do not allow soil to completely dry out. Smaller pots need watering more often than large ones. Clay pots will also need watering more often than plastic ones. Best time to water is early morning or evening; do not water during the hottest part of the day.

✓ **Fertilize plants that have completed their blooming cycle** with slow release nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-10. Do not overfeed. Too much fertilizer can burn the roots.

✓ **Remove spent blooms and unwanted apples.** Cut off about ¼ inch above areola to prevent damage to areola.

✓ **Transplant to larger containers the plants that are outgrowing their pots.** For instance, transplant 4 inch pots into one gallon containers and the one gallon pots into two gallon. Mature plants that have been in large containers for a couple years can benefit from "potting on," when the plant is removed from the container and fresh potting mix and plant are put back into the same container. Do not water for a week after repotting.

✓ **Plant new cuttings.**

✓ **Protect epies from summer sun with shade cloth, lath houses or under the dappled shade of trees.**

✓ **Ensure air circulation around epies** by not crowding them too closely together. However, strong, dry Santa Ana winds can be harmful and plants will need wind protection, as well as more humidity.

✓ **If you want to try grafting,** now is a good time. Use established but viable newer cuttings and be sure the cambium layers are matched for optimum growth. Also make sure your cactus pad is well rooted.

✓ **Plants that have grown long branches should be in hanging baskets or trellised.** The branches will be healthier if they're not laying on the ground or a shelf.

Do You Have A Favorite Night-Bloomer?

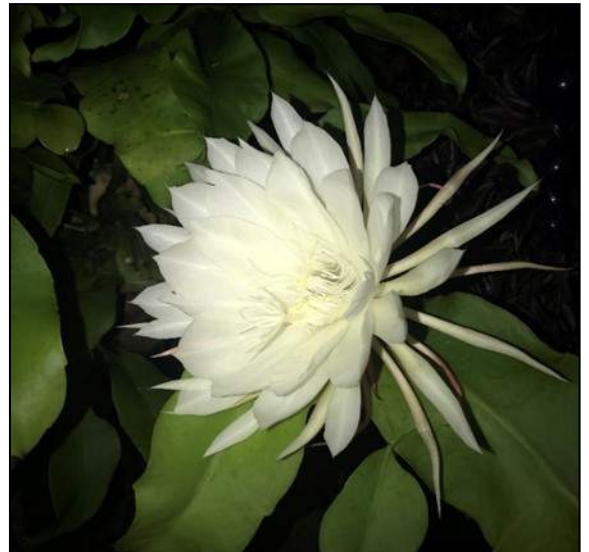
By Gretchen Ward

As we move into the warmer months of summer, I anticipate the blooms from the species part of my collection: the night-bloomers! The species in my collection tend to bloom as the weather warms. *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *hookeri* is covered with flower buds now as many of my day blooming hybrids finish showing off the majority of their blooms. I also look forward to the *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* and its huge fragrant night-time blossoms in July, August, and September at my house. I usually have two or three rounds of blooms on my *E. oxypetalum*. Last year the scent of the *E. oxypetalum* combined with the blooms on my *Epiphyllum thomsonianum* to create an intoxicating multi-layered tropical perfume. Imagine the sweet smell of a gardenia combining with the sweet smell of cotton candy. At least that is how it seemed to me. Perhaps you experience the smells differently.

I had the good fortune to be introduced to *Epiphyllum* hybrids and species at an early age. They have been a part of my life since I was a little girl. My mother brought home her “night-blooming *Cereus*” as she called it, from a local nursery, and every summer we anticipated the fragrant blooms. A long time ago I learned that the name she had for it was incorrect, but generally, we just always called it “Mom’s night-bloomer,” still do. It is a night-bloomer, but it is definitely not a *Cereus*. Some of the confusion probably comes from old names and taxonomic designations that have changed over time, but it can be difficult to get people to let go of the way things used to be. Plus, if you search online for information, the Internet is loaded with erroneous explanations that incorrectly identify these plants with incorrect names or misleading nick names. These days I try to educate people that the nick names are misleading and easily confused since there are at least four different species that people call a night-blooming *Cereus*, or Queen of the Night – both inexact names.

My personal favorite is the *E. oxypetalum* for sentimental reasons, but it is the *Epiphyllum pumilum* that amazes me. I thoroughly enjoy the multiple small blooms that are characteristic of this species and it lasts longer than the *E. oxypetalum* with blooms that are viewable the next morning for a few hours before they wilt.

Epiphyllum oxypetalum has a following of people from all over the world. For some it is kind of a love-hate relationship because in some parts of the world, *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* is considered a nuisance and an invasive species because where it is tropical and the conditions are just right it has escaped into the wild and competes with native species. In other places it is regarded with spiritual reverence.



Epiphyllum oxypetalum
Photo by Gretchen Ward



Epiphyllum pumilum
Photo by Gretchen Ward

Continued next page

Night-Bloomer Continued...

The best way to refer to any species of plant is to use its taxonomic name. There are at least 60 different common names for *E. oxypetalum* alone, in at least eight different languages, across many countries, dialects, and regions. Some names are familiar to us, others less so. Out of curiosity I started looking for the different names that people have for *E. oxypetalum*. Some of these are just translations of 'Queen of the Night.' Others have been mistakenly applied to *E. oxypetalum* when it is actually a different type of flower that should more properly have one of the names below. Either way you go, there is someone out there that may use one of the following to refer to *E. oxypetalum*, including:



Epiphyllum oxypetalum
Photo by Chuck Everson

Bethlehem Lily	Iruludavare
Bladkaktus (Leaf Cactus)	Jin Gou Lian
Blattkaktus (Leaf Cactus)	Jungle cactus
ब्रह्मकमल (Brahmakamal)	කඩුපුල (Kadupula) (Sword)
bunga bakawali	Königin der Nacht (Queen of the Night)
cactus orquídea (orchid cactus)	Levélkaktusz (Leaf Cactus)
chengyu	Moon Flower
Christ in the Manger	Nattblommande (Night Flowering)
Dama de Noche (Lady of the Night)	Night Blooming Cereus
Didysis lapenis	Night Lotus
Dtohn Boh Dtan	Night Queen
Dutchman's Pipe	Nishagandhi
Enamorada de la Noche	Nopalillo Criollo
Эпифиллум остролепестный	Novia de la Noche
(Epifillum ostrolepestnyy)	(Bride of the Night)
Fleur de Lune (Moon Flower)	Pa-nani-o-ka
Flor del Baile (Dance Flower)	Princess of the Night
Flower from Heaven	Qiong Hua
Flower of Bakavali	Rainha da Noite, Reina De La Noche
Flower of Triumph	(Queen of the Night)
月下美人 (gekka bijin, yuè xiá měirén)	Stor Bladkaktus
(Beautiful Woman Under the Moon)	曇花 (tan-hua)
Golden hook sickle	曇花一現 (tán huā yī xiàn)
Gul-e-Bakavali	White Jade Flower
Honolulu Queen	Wijaya Kusuma



Epiphyllum thomsonianum
Photo by Gretchen Ward

Other plants that might occur in a collection of night-blooming epiphytic cacti include *Disocactus anguliger*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*, *E. pumilum*, *Selenicereus anthonyanus* and *S. grandiflora* (also called 'Queen of the Night'). And there are others, including the slow growing *Deamia testudo* ('dog-tail cactus') and the 'curly epi' with the additional nick name of 'Curly Sue', more accurately called *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalense* var. *monstrose*. There are quite a few night blooming species in addition to the ones mentioned here.

There are also some night blooming hybrids such as the dragonfruit 'Connie Mayer,' and epies 'Taskamore,' and 'The Lost Dutchman.' These latter two have *S. anthonyanus* in their ancestry.

Night-Bloomer Continued...



Epiphyllum hookeri ssp. *hookeri*
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Why do epiphytic cactus species bloom at night and wilt shortly into the next day?

Many of our epies start to open in the evening. This may be a trait inherited from a night-blooming ancestor. But what advantage is there to blooming at night? Perhaps it takes less energy away from the plant if the flower opens during the cool of the night. In doing so the plant may also take advantage of night-time pollinators. Plants then wilt before the heat of the next day sets in. Taking advantage of the cooler temperatures of the night and early morning may help ensure that a plant is able to reproduce and ensure its longevity. The energy of producing a seed pod is quickly turned

inward and is not spent keeping the bloom open for several days. Most nocturnal blooming plants have white or cream-colored flowers. The bright white of most night blooming epiphytic cacti acts as an attractant where the bright colors of the day blooming hybrids function in a similar manner to bring in daytime pollinators. The scent of the night-bloomers is usually quite pungent and also brings pollinators, and likewise some of the day blooming hybrids have a fragrance of varying kinds that does the same, especially in the early mornings, or late evenings, like their night-blooming relatives. Blooming at night may mean there is less competition for the pollinators. While nocturnal pollinators like bats are mostly found in the tropics, moths



Epiphyllum hookeri ssp. *columbiense*
Photo by Jerry Moreau



Epiphyllum hookeri ssp. *guatamalense* var. *monstrose*
Photo by Gretchen Ward

exist all over the world and seek out the nectar produced by night blooming epiphytic cacti. Sphinx moths (Family: *Sphingidae*) are large and some can hover at a flower like a hummingbird and feed on nectar with their long proboscis.



'Connie Mayer' —Dragon fruit hybrid
Photo by Gretchen Ward

In the days leading up to blossoms opening, the buds swell and turn upwards, their back petals loosen, and it is now time to keep an eye out for nighttime blooms to occur. Finally, on the night of the bloom event, some people host

Continued next page

Night-Bloomer Continued...

night-bloomer watch parties – sharing drinks and food until the bloom opens, slowly starting with the petals gently twisting and unfurling and then by midnight the flower is revealed in all its fragrant glory, only to wilt shortly before dawn. A few night blooming species will last for a few hours into the next day but are all wilted and hanging by noon of the following day. And as soon as they are done blooming, I start thinking about when they will show me their beauty next year.



Epiphyllum oxypetalum
Photo by Gretchen Ward



Epiphyllum oxypetalum in the process of opening
about 9 o'clock in the evening
Photo by Gretchen Ward

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Epiphyllum oxypetalum introduced to China 1645 — http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=2&taxon_id=200014503

The botany of night blooming Cereus in popular culture – <https://awkwardbotany.com/2018/10/10/botany-in-popular-culture-the-tan-hua-flowers-in-crazy-rich-asians/>

Poetry and History of night blooming cactus – <https://www.nybg.org/poetic-botany/selenicereus/>

Why do flowers bloom at night – <https://askabiologist.asu.edu/questions/what-are-moon-flowers-and-why-do-they-bloom-only-night>

Pollinators – <https://www.thoughtco.com/insect-pollinators-that-arent-bees-or-butterflies-1967996>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/15/science/night-blooming-cereus.html>

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Selenicereus vagans
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Disocactus macranthus

Article and photos by Linda Sinkovic

Collected in 1942 and first described as *Pseudorhipsalis macrantha*, *Disocactus macranthus* is an epiphyte from the cloud forests in southern Mexico. It is a little picky to grow; however, if you think about the conditions where it grows naturally, you can see it does not like to be too hot, too dry, or too wet and cold. It does best if the winter temperatures are above 50°F/10°C.

Typically flowering between October and January, its flowers are small, yellow, and fragrant. Perhaps because of these flowers, it is found in the ancestry of many small flowered, fragrant epicacti hybrids. An unfortunate side effect of this popularity can be confusion as to whether a plant is *D. macranthus* or actually a hybrid with *D. macranthus* parentage.

*Disocactus macranthus**Disocactus macranthus*Hybrid of
Disocactus macranthus

Although there is no foolproof way to tell, a reasonable determination can be made by examining the flower. If the petals are thin with very little tapering of the flower petals, the petal ends are rounded rather than pointed, the color is consistent among the petals (that is, the petals are the same color instead of varying), and the flower has a sweet scent, the plant is most likely *D. macranthus*.

For more information check the references below. In addition, see Epi News volume 43, number 11 (November 2018) for a discussion of *Disocactus macranthus*.

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Mother's Day 2022

Preparing for Next Year's Sale

By Patricia Neal

The best time to sell epies is when people can see them in bloom. That means the ideal time is selling during the weekend of our annual Mother's Day Show. If all goes well, we will be back in Casa del Prado for our regular in-person show and sale in 2022.

At the height of the 1980s and 1990s, we had a lot of members who had enormous collections of epies. They were incredibly generous in donating cuttings to the annual sale, often even cutting branches with buds on them. For example, in 1997 an article in *Epi News* reported that only 30 members donated almost 10,000 cuttings and more than 600 plants for the annual sale which offered 700 different hybrids. The article recognized the top ten individuals who donated more than 4,000 cuttings from their personal collections.

Sadly, those days are gone. Almost all of those large collections were disbanded when

members passed or were no longer able to care for them. While several people donated their collections to the Park, we no longer have the generous huge donations of the past. This year we had only 1,443 cuttings for sale.

In the last few years, we have been receiving fewer and fewer donations of cuttings from members. If this trend continues, we are looking at some seriously small sales in the future. Donations have fallen so low that we must now reevaluate our sales operation. One solution to the lack of cuttings is to start growing 4" pots on a wider scale in advance of the sale.

One of the reasons people say they can't or won't donate for the annual May sale is because their plants are full of

Continued on next page



As the epi flowering season winds down, we'll soon be weeding, pruning and fertilizing. This is a good time to pot up some of those pruned branches and grow them for next year's sale. Even though they're no longer attractive, they're still capable of starting a healthy new plant. (Photo at Right) The hybrid 'Sandra Chapin' is a heavy bloomer. Some those branches can now be pruned to encourage new vigorous growth and be used to start new plants. (Photos by Patricia Neal)

Preparing for Next Year's Sale...



Photo by Janette Gerrity

'Princess Kelly S'

buds and they don't want to cut them, but if our sale was later -- after the blooming season -- they would be happy to donate cuttings. This is a perfectly understandable decision; it's hard to give up those gorgeous flowers! However, there is another solution.

If everyone started rooting cuttings now, we could plan for a healthier sale next year. You don't have to do a lot of them -- just 5 to 10 plants per person would help the Society tremendously. And if you don't want to grow them yourself, **donate the cuttings to the society now** because we have **members who have the space and are willing to grow them for next year.**

We had a hugely successful sale this year primarily because last year one person accepted cuttings from several donors to pot up for this year's sale -- about 600 4" plants. This wasn't planned; it just happened to turn out that way. However, we can't expect one person to grow hundreds of plants every year. We can all pitch in with cuttings now and start growing them for next year.

Please take the time this summer when you're fertilizing and pruning your plants to think about

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Photo by Patricia Neal

'Heaven Sent'



Photo by Janette Gerrity

'Afro-Desia'

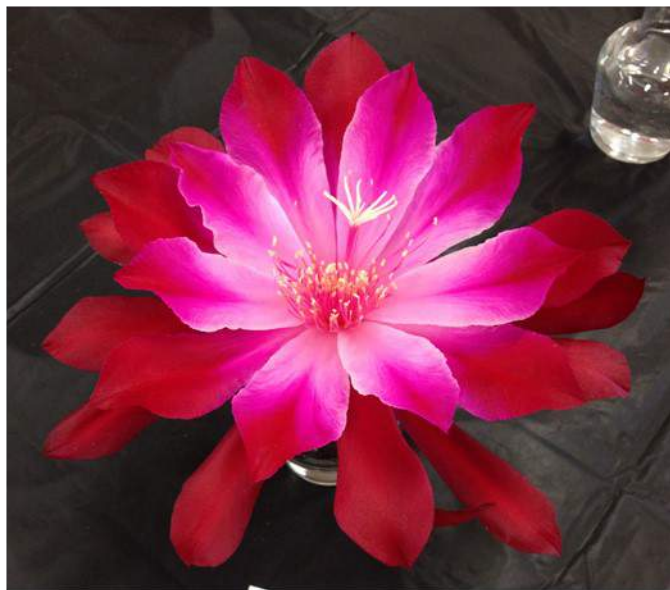


Photo by Patricia Neal

'You Jane' at 2018 South Bay Show

Preparing for Next Year's Sale...

next year's sale and your contribution to the society. Some of those branches you prune off can produce healthy plants even if they're not the best-looking cuttings. Consider potting them up now or donating the cuttings so that another volunteer can pot them up.

With a good supply of rooted plants, we'll

more than make up for the decline of cuttings that we've been experiencing in recent years. Even though we will probably never again be able to offer 10,000 cuttings in a sale, we can still provide a wide selection of epies for our regular customers and for visitors who discover epies for the first time at our show.



At the 1987 Mother's Day Show and Sale, cuttings were grouped by color onto tables where shoppers sorted through them to find the ones they wanted. (Photo from SDES Archives.)



Clockwise from top left: 'Starfish', 'Red Chrome', 'Lyonnesse' and 'Chiyo Matsumiya'.

Photos by Patricia Neal



Keep In Touch

Members are the most important part of our society. The epies are what bind us. Together we create more beauty for all to enjoy. As in any group, we are more potent together. Lifelong friendships are made in the society. Knowledge, plants, and passions are shared between members. Mostly, fun is had by all. We have members all over the world.



Corresponding Secretary Sal Castellitto Corresponding@sdepis.org
 Membership Secretary Beth Jackson at
 858-692-0314 or Membership@sdepis.org
 Newsletter Editors Jerry Moreau at 619-208-7654 &
 Linda Sinkovic at EpiNews@sdepis.org

Welcome to Our Newest Members!!!

Barbara Burch, Panama City , FL
 Dara Curtis, Ventura, CA
 Arnold Gum, San Diego, CA
 Christie Jacobs, San Diego, CA
 Catherine McCammon, Santa Barbara, CA
 Rande Martin, Santa Barbara, CA
 Amanda Orr and Ryan Farrar, Alpine, CA
 Susan Taylor, Vista, CA
 Denise Van Ostaeyen, Escondido, CA

Get Well Wishes

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

Sue Aldrich, Jeff Bates, and to the family of Georgett and Randy Klinedinst

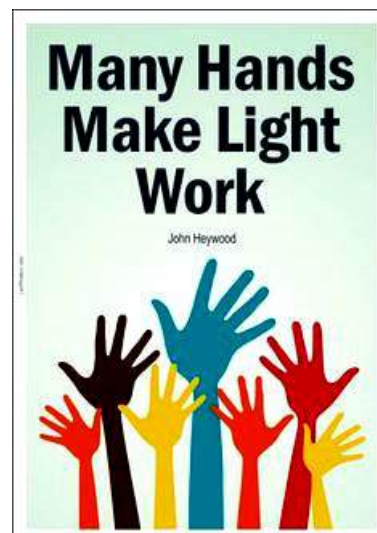
And to be mindful of any member, family, or friends who have or are suffering during the pandemic.

May we all be well and safe, until we meet again.



Photo by Jerry Moreau

Disocactus crenatus ssp. *crenatus*
 'Chichicastenango'



Society Officers, Directors, & Coordinators

President	Gretchen Ward President@sdepis.org	Sales Table & Events	Cindy Decker Salestable@sdepis.org
1st Vice President Programs	David Cheever Programs@sdepis.org	Garden Caravan	SalesEvents@sdepis.org Mildred Mikas 760-690-1124 GardenCaravan@sdepis.org
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Recording Secretary	Open Recording@sdepis.org	Workshops	Ron Crain Workshops@sdepis.org
Corresponding Secretary	Sal Castellitto Corresponding@sdepis.org	Safari Park	Jerry Moreau SafariPark@sdepis.org
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson 858-692-0314 Membership@sdepis.org	CSSA Affiliate Rep	Jerry Moreau CSSA@sdepis.org
Director 2020-21	Gilbert Hatfield Directors@sdepis.org	EpiNews Editors	Jerry Moreau & Linda Sinkovic EpiNews@sdepis.org
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Director 2020-21	Tim Paule Directors@sdepis.org	SDBGF Rep	Pat Neal 858-565-0340 SDBGF@sdepis.org
Director 2021-22	Paula Reynolds 619-224-2194 Directors@sdepis.org	Librarian	Marie Dempewolf 619-573-5060 Librarian@sdepis.org
Director 2021-22	Lauren Burnette Directors@sdepis.org	Historian	Gretchen Ward Historian@sdepis.org
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		Hospitality	Barb Alvarez Hospitality@sdepis.org
		Name Tags	Gerry Mikas 760-690-1124 Store@sdepis.org
		Refreshments	David Cheever Refreshments@sdepis.org
		Publicity	Terence Brashear Publicity@sdepis.org

Want/Wish List

If you have epies 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.

Sal Castellitto: aclarasd@aol.com

'Bold Venture', 'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold', 'Merry Christmas', 'Spanish Gold'

Doug Gates: dougates@gmail.com

Epiphyllum laui, *E. phyllanthus*, *E. baueri*

Casey Gerdes: casey@yogawithcasey.com

'Crystal Flash', 'Gladyce Jones', 'Glow Bug', 'Kiwi Contraction', 'Monastery Gardens', 'Ron Crain'

Thu-Huong Ho: thuhuong13@gmail.com

'Chardonnay Twist', 'Kiwi Calypso Queen', 'Kiwi Contradiction', 'Kiwi Razzle Dazzle', 'Kiwi Remembrance', 'Kiwi Sweetheart', 'Meadow Lark', 'Ron Crain', 'Spiced Takuan'

Marcie Horton: marciehorton412@gmail.com

'Alakazam', 'Alchemy', 'Connie Mayer', 'Frühlingsgold', 'Jalisco Joy', 'Kiwi Honey Bea', 'Tangerine', 'Vanilla Sunset'

Bridget Kleindienst: Bkleindienst13@gmail.com

'Baby Cake', 'Crystal Claret', 'Heather'

Andrea McArthur: acmcarthur@roadrunner.com

'Queen Tatiana'

Michal McKee: folklorist@gmail.com

'Elegans Lei', 'Mojave Gold'

Tom Moore: phyllocactus1952@yahoo.com

'Amaranthinus', 'Coopermanni', 'Daniela Paetz', 'Desert Thorns', 'Devauxii', 'Hansei', 'Helenae', 'Ignescens', 'Jacques Courant', 'Jenkinsonii', 'Jennifer', 'Johnson's Beauty', 'Splendidus'

Virginia Payne vpayne22@gmail.com

'Clarity's Laniakea', 'Over the Top', 'Ruby Pinwheel', 'Vanilla Sunset', 'Venetian Affair'

Paula Reynolds: paularey@aol.com 'Sunset Cliffs',

'Voltaire'

Janice Wakefield: jwakefield.home@gmail.com

'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa', 'White Cloud'

Epi News Submissions

- News of interest to SDES membership, brief articles about our members, or our community are welcome.
- Send any articles, photos, and questions.
- Send submissions as a Word or Google document. Items can also be sent as text pasted into an email body. No PDFs
- Please limit formatting. Avoid excessive bolding or tabs. Avoid words in all CAPS. Please proofread and spellcheck, esp. names.
- Send photos as JPEGs attached in an email to submit to the Editor.
- All photos need caption and photographer's name. Photos need photographer's permission.
- Use of photos is at Editor's discretion.
- Send videos as MP4 or as a YouTube link. Videos must have videographer's permission.
- Materials and submissions need contributor's name.
- All submissions are at the editor's discretion.
- Submissions are due by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's *Epi News*.
- If you are not sure? Send it anyway. Email the editors at: EpiNews@sdepis.org

Mission Statement

SDES is a community of epi growers who encourage the study of epies and the interchange of ideas on growing, displaying, and collecting epies and its related species.

SDES Officers

President	Gretchen Ward
1st Vice President	David Cheever
2nd Vice President	Patricia Neal
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Sec.	Open
Corresponding Sec.	Sal Castellitto
Membership Sec.	Beth Jackson
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Director 2020-21	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2020-21	Mildred Mikas
Director 2020-21	Tim Paule
Director 2019-20	Paula Reynolds
Director 2019-20	Lauren Burnette

Resources

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

Epi Nurseries:

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

Epi Haven <https://epihaven.com/>

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

Garden Jewels Nursery — Katie Lutz
<http://gardenjewelsnursery.com/>

Heny's Epiphyllums — Heny Brandenburg
<https://www.facebook.com/henysepiphyllums/>

Kakteen Haage — Ulrich Haage
<http://www.kakteen-haage.de/>
Passionate gardener since 1685

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

Plant Societies:

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>

SDES is an affiliate member. SDES members are welcome at meetings and webinars. See website for more information.

Epiphyllum Society of America

1st Tuesday of every month except in December or January @ 7:30 p.m.

<http://epiphyllums.org/>

San Diego Bromeliad Society

2nd Saturday of the month @ 10:00 a.m.

<http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org/>

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

1st Thursday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.

<http://www.sfepi.org/>

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403>

One Last Thing

A sneak peak of the August program — blooms from the Safari Park epi collection



‘Angel Flight’



‘Elian’



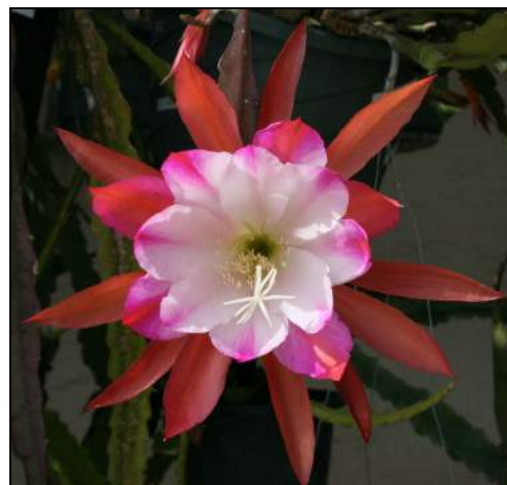
‘Happiness Is’



‘Kiwi Grand Event’



‘Grape Ice’



‘Mildred Mikas’