



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

January 2020

Volume 45 Number 1

Photo Contest Winner 1st place Multi-Flower & People's Choice

Seedling 'Chiba Lovely Dawn' x 'Gold Medal'

**Hybridizer: Fred Stegner
Size: Extra-Large**

Photo by Jim Nones



San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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San Diego, CA 92112-6127

Epi News is published monthly by

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

SDES Web Site: www.SanDiegoEpi.com

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Design & layout by Jerry Moreau

Membership:

New memberships as well as **renewals** can be processed at our secure web site: [Click here](#)



SDES Membership — digital *Epi News*
Single Membership \$15.00 per year
Dual Membership \$20.00 per year

Have You Moved?

If you have moved or recently changed your physical OR email address, please update your new 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

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Rm 101, Pre-meeting workshop at 7:00 in Rm 104. Board Meetings precede the general meetings at 6:00 p.m. in Rm 104.

Members are welcome to attend the board meeting.

Meetings are held in the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park.

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

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Editor's Note: The 50th anniversary art on the cover was created by Sal Leon, a local San Diego artist. His art will be on the cover for 2020.

Calendar of Events

January	
8	General Meeting / Board Meeting
11	Safari Park Work Party
18	CSSA Free Event at the Huntington
25	Safari Park Work Party
February	
12	General Meeting / Board Meeting
15	Safari Park Work Party
29	Safari Park Work Party
March	
6-8	Del Mar Home & Garden Show
11	General Meeting / Board Meeting
14	Safari Park Work Party
28	Safari Park Work Party

For the up to date calendar check out:

<http://sdepis.org/news-information/calendar/>

President's Corner



The treasures hidden in the heavens are so rich that the human mind shall never be lacking in fresh nourishment
Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

This is a new year with new opportunities. Our epies are just waiting for spring to arrive in order to show their pretty colors. After all the rain, I know I am looking forward to flowers. I am checking the plants for proper drainage after all the rains and am happy to say everything looks good.

December 11th was the Holiday Dinner and Installation of Officers at the Butcher Shop Restaurant. Many thanks to Mildred & Gerry Mikas for coordinating and organizing a fine holiday celebration! I'm sure we all had a great time -- I know I did. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped to make the event a success.

We wish to thank the board members of 2019 for contributing their time to SDES. We also welcome back those that have chosen to return for another year. We have two new members serving on the SDES board as directors: David Cheever and Paula Reynolds. Dennis Hughes will be our new treasurer.

This year's recipient of the Roger Chapin Memorial Award AKA "Volunteer of the Year" award is Gretchen Ward for her outstanding contribution to SDES (see more page 8). Don Francis received the Honorary Life award for his long time service to SDES (see more page 7).

I would like to encourage everyone to become more involved in the activities of SDES. See you at the next meeting!

Till next time,

Cindy



Society Officers, Directors, & Coordinators

President	Cindy Decker 619-972-9664 President@sdepis.org	Sales Table & Events	Cindy Decker SalesEvents@sdepis.org
1st Vice President	Patricia Frank Programs@sdepis.org	Garden Caravan	Mildred Mikas GardenCaravan@sdepis.org
Programs		Holiday Banquet	Mildred Mikas Banquet@sdepis.org
2nd Vice President	Gretchen Ward MothersDay@sdepis.org	Internet / Webmaster	Gilbert Hatfield Webmaster@sdepis.org
Mother's Day Show		Workshops	Ron Crain Workshops@sdepis.org
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Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson 858-692-0314 Membership@sdepis.org	Research & Education	Linda Sinkovic Research@sdepis.org
Director 2018-19	Gilbert Hatfield Directors@sdepis.org	SDBGF Rep	Pat Neal 858-565-0340 SDBGF@sdepis.org
Director 2018-19	Mildred Mikas 760-690-1124 Directors@sdepis.org	Librarian	Marie Dempewolf 619-573-5060 Librarian@sdepis.org
Director 2018-19	Paula Reynolds 619-224-2194 Directors@sdepis.org	Historian	Gretchen Ward Historian@sdepis.org
Director 2020-21	Ron Crain Directors@sdepis.org	Raffle Table	Paula Reynolds 619-224-2194 Dennis Hughes Raffles@sdepis.org
Director 2020-21	David Cheever Directors@sdepis.org	Hospitality	Nell McChesney 760-294-0057 Hospitality@sdepis.org
Immediate Past Pres.	Tim Paule 619-443-0826 PastPresident@sdepis.org	Name Tags	Gerry Mikas 760-690-1124 Store@sdepis.org
		Refreshments	Lauren Burnette 401-862-5288 Refreshments@sdepis.org
		Publicity	Terence Brashear Publicity@sdepis.org

Meeting Programs

by Patricia Frank

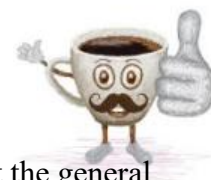
Pre-Meeting Workshop: In January Ron will present information on winter fertilizing. Please come and join Ron to learn and ask questions about the care of your epies at 7:00 p.m. in Casa Del Prado Room 104.

December Program: Last month we enjoyed our annual Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers. A fun time was had by all.

January Program: Our January program is "Organics Alive and Worm Gold," presented by Sean Garrity. His presentation will focus on live microbiological solutions and their dramatic effects on soil biology and plant nutrition, describing organic methods, which optimize nutrition through balanced soil biology. Using live microbes, carbon-based salt-free fertilizers, fresh fermentation's, and premium soil amendments his company has saved thousands of plants and trees over the last 20 + years. Please come out and join us on Wednesday, January 8th in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. for an informative and enjoyable evening.



Refreshments at the General Meetings



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

Be part of the SDES "Cookie Crew"

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

If your last name begins with the letters C—G please bring some refreshments to the January general meeting. Anyone is welcome to bring in some goodies.



January	C—G
February	H—L
March	M—Q
April	R—U
May	V—B
June	C—G

July	Society
August	H—L
September	M—Q
October	R—U
November	V—B
December	Banquet



I smile like a flower not only
with my lips but with my
whole being.
Rumi

Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau



December was a great month to be out at the park. I love this time of year -- the air is cool yet warm enough to make it pleasant. These winter rains are good for the plants; they clean out the salts in the pots which build up from the city water. We even had a few blooms. One of the consistently blooming epies is 'Beautie Wegener'.

SDZG had their volunteer appreciation party the beginning of the month and there are a few milestones to make note of from our volunteers. Barb Alvarez and Linda Sinkovic each logged 100 hours. Betsy Markle reached the 500 hour mark. Tim Paule has been

volunteering for 5 years, and reached the 3000 hour milestone. For Marie Dempewolf, it's been 10 years. Sandra Chapin, Mildred Mikas and Gerry Mikas have all volunteered for a wonderful 25 years. Thank you all for your service. It is greatly appreciated. The display and collection wouldn't be this great without our wonderful volunteers.

Helping out these past couple of work parties: Barb Alvarez, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Ron & Velma Crain, Cindy Decker, Marie Dempewolf, Heidi Lerner, Jerry & Betsy Markle, Ellen McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Tim Paule, Paul vander Ploeg, Janice Wakefield, and Gretchen Ward.

The next work parties will be January 11th & 25th.

A new sign appeared in the Epiphyllum Trail. I love it! I think it is a great addition and good educational information. The sign says "Can you believe a cactus can grow high in the canopy of a jungle rain forest? Epiphyllum can. And they do it beautifully, with large, jewel-toned blossoms that burst forth in spring. These cactuses are what is known as epiphytes—plants that grow on another without harming it."

As you noticed there was an interesting word choice when pluralizing cactus. They used the word cactuses as opposed to cacti. I'm not sure why the design

department at SDZG did this. However, in my research I found that both cactuses and cacti are acceptable usages of the plural of cactus. Nonetheless, cacti is the more common usage of the plural of cactus.



Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park
can be found on our website. Click on <http://sdepis.org/volunteer/epi-house/>

Holiday & Installation of Officers Banquet

By Mildred Mikas



Mildred Mikas,
our hostess with the mostess

Our Holiday Dinner and Installation of Officers was a huge success! Almost 80 wonderful epi lovers attended, dressed in their holiday finery. The Butcher Shop did a great job decorating the room for the season. We had ten tables covered with white table cloths and green napkins and each table had a large poinsettia, which someone got to take home. The food was delicious! There were many “Wear Your Name Tag” and Door prizes. Karl Almryde said, “It seemed that everyone went home with a gift.” We also had a gift exchange with 33 people participating. If you weren’t there you missed a great party. This was our 13th year celebrating at the Butcher Shop and

we plan to return next year. So mark your calendar for December 9, 2020!



Kim Verstraten and Paula Reynolds

Will Harvey’s friend and member David made a slide tribute to Will who passed away a few weeks before the banquet. Will told me the



President Cindy Decker
and Dave Decker

week before he passed away that he was looking forward to the dinner. He always celebrated his birthday at our dinner with family and friends. He would have been 94.

President Cindy Decker introduced and thanked the 2019 SDES Executive Board and presented them each with a gift of appreciation for their service. Cindy then introduced the 2020 Executive Board. It’s good to see some new faces on the board this year. Thank you to all



Incoming 2020 Board of Directors

who take and interest in the society and volunteer. Cindy presented the Roger Chapin Memorial Award to Gretchen Ward and Honorary Life Membership to Don & Judy Francis.

Although Don and Judy were not able to attend this year’s dinner, the award will be presented to them in person in the near future. And of course, they will begin receiving the *Epi News* with this issue and we hope some of their award-winning displays will inspire others for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Mother’s Day Show.



Elaina & David Cheever



Mischa Dobrotin with his
granddaughter Katie

Don Francis receives Honorary Life Membership Award

Honorary Life Membership is the highest honor the SDES can award. It is awarded to any SDES member who goes above and beyond in their dedication to the Society and supports its mission statement: to encourage the study of epiphyllum, and to develop public support and interchange of ideas on growing, displaying and collecting of epiphyllum and its related species. Past members receiving this award have served the Society well in many different capacities, including (but not limited to) serving on the executive board in different positions, donating thousands of cuttings, volunteering at sales, events, and/or Safari Park epi collection, and/or helped out as needed over the years.



Don Francis 1997 the year he was SDES president with George & Madeline French At the Mother's Day Show Photo by Chuck Everson

Don Francis has been a very active member, participating and contributing in many valuable ways. He taught the monthly workshop for two years, was president for one year and was second vice president for three years and coordinated three Mother's Day Shows. His home and garden have been included in a garden caravan and he once did a live TV segment with KUSI-TV from his home to promote the Mother's Day Show. Don and his wife Judy (often with the help of his brother Norman) designed and built several award-winning displays for the annual Mother's Day Show. They won first place in the Troxell category four times and second place four times.

Often their displays have been large, creative floor displays.

During his first year as show chairman (1995) Don began the tradition of a separate table to display and award ribbons to mini and small epies. Later he and Judy donated a perpetual trophy to be given for this category and that trophy was named the Don and Judy Francis Award.

He has donated thousands of cuttings and plants for various sales and over the last few years donated his epi collection to the Park.



Don attending EpiCon IV 1994 hosted by SDES Photo by Chuck Everson



Making cuttings with Don from his collection with Velma Crain (left) and Linda Sinkovic (right) Photos by Jerry Moreau

Gretchen Ward is the Volunteer of the Year for 2019

Awarded annually, the Roger Chapin Memorial Trophy is in memory of Roger Chapin. This award is for an outstanding volunteer in SDES. Roger was a member for 13 years. During this time he served as both president (2001 & 2002) and a director. Roger volunteered many years at the Safari Park and served as the curator and coordinator of the epi collection for eight years. He taught the pre-meeting workshop for several years. Roger loved epies and SDES. He shared his knowledge talking to the public at all the shows, sales, and events put on by the Society. Roger was an Honorary Life Member of SDES. The award is nominated by the president.

This year's recipient of the Roger Chapin Memorial Trophy is Gretchen Ward.



She is fairly new to SDES but has demonstrated the spirit of what a volunteer needs to be. President Cindy Decker said "I can go to her and asked for help and she is always up for it and even more she asks me first if she can do something." A member since 2017 Gretchen has donated her time at the Safari Park as well as taking on the 2nd Vice President position to coordinate the Mother's Day Show last year and coordinate the show again next year. Gretchen with her archeology background and love of history also volunteered to be the society's Historian. Recently she was part of the judging panel at the photo contest. In addition, she has donated cuttings and plants to sales events and Mother's Day and has been on the nominating committee. Gretchen received the Rookie of the Year award in 2018.

Roger Chapin Award Past Recipients

First year awarded	2009
2009	Ron & Velma Crain
2010	Linda Sinkovic
2011	Cindy Decker Beth Jackson
2012	Bob Buchs
2013	Bill Greene
2014	Janice Wakefield
2015	Jill Rowney
2016	Tim Paule Dennis Hughes
2017	Mildred Mikas
2018	Jerry Moreau



Top Photo: Gretchen receiving the Roger Chapin Memorial Award. Middle Photo: Working with Velma Crain at the Safari Park. Photo above right: Gretchen and Mildred Mikas at a cutting party for a Mother's Day Show and sale. Left Photo: Gretchen receiving the Rookie of the Year award from Sandra Chapin in 2018.

CSSA Annual Free Event



THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

DESERT FORUM

Saturday, January 18, 2020

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 9:45 **Registration**
Please bring your SDES, CSSA, or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission. In order to receive free admission, you must arrive by 9:45. Late arrivers will need to pay for Huntington admission.
- 9:00 – 10:00 Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the lower part of the Desert Garden
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden**
Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory & the aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales – (exclusively for CSSA and club members)**
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping, and no shopping after 1:00.*
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 5:00 **Free Time**
Participants are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries from 10:00 to 5:00.



Lunch:

- Café 1919 in the visitor center features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and grilled items
- The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is an option for Asian food
- Red Car (coffee shop) by the Store, offers a small selection of pre-made options

This is a free event for SDES members because SDES is an affiliate member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. All members are welcome to attend. You should wear your SDES name badge or be in the society's membership roster. It is \$25.00 for a guest to attend. Do not forget to renew your membership. There will also be a plant sale exclusively for CSSA members.

Check out their website www.huntington.org to see what is on exhibit.

Espostoa — a genus of columnar cacti, comprising 16 species known from the Andes of southern Ecuador and Peru Photo by Jerry Moreau at the Huntington.

 **SDES**
50th Anniversary
1970-2020

You may have noticed the six large Epiphyllum photos hanging in Room 104 and wondered what the backstory is for them.

In 1979 SDES requested members submit slides of epies to the board and six would be chosen for display in 104. Slides of 'Encinitas', 'Madeline', 'Pegasus', 'Rosetta', 'Tassel' and 'Wedding Bells' were selected. I haven't found the names of the photographers but we do know that SDES Official Photographer Fred Shamblen coordinated the project and George French made the wooden frames.

Epi Photos in Room 104



'Padre'
Photo by Gilbert Hatfield

Get Well Wishes

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

June Anderson, Chuck Everson,
Robert Kuettle, and Emily Lovci

THE CASE OF THE MISSING FILES

In a 1987 *Epi News* there was a note that SDES had rented a storage space specifically to house its files – meeting minutes, financial documents, receipts, etc. Until then various members had housed files at home and everyone was asked to bring in the files so that they could all be stored in one place.

Does anyone know where these files are? What happened to this storage place? Where was it located? When and where were the files moved? Presumably we paid a monthly rent; is there a history of payment anywhere? In the early 90's we rented a storage space for our large sale canopy but it didn't include moving paper files into it.

If you have any clues on where we can search for them, please contact the president or someone on the board. We would like to add the files to the current ones and complete our 50 years' of history. Thank you.



SDES is an all volunteer organization & without you SDES would not exist!

We all get much from the Society and that starts from what we put into the Society.

How can you help out the society? Here are just a few possibilities.

Volunteer at meetings or events. This could be anything from bringing in food, setting up, cleaning up, welcoming in guest and new folks, or a friendly smile.

Volunteer at sales, or offer to grow cuttings/plants for the society. Check with Cindy Decker for her needs at upcoming sales.

Take an interest in the newsletter. Write articles, interview members, research information about epies, or do you have any other ideas. Contact the editors Jerry or Linda EpiNews@sdepis.org

Offer your garden for an event such as epi photo caravan or end of season epi party.

Safari Park Epi Volunteer. Work with the epi collection and display at the San Diego Zoo Safari



'The Volunteers'
Photo by Jose Almandoz

Park. Talk to Jerry Moreau about this volunteer opportunity. Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park can be found on our website. Click on SanDiegoEpi.com

If you are interested contact President Cindy Decker President@sdepis.org 619-972-9664 or speak with her at a meeting.



Now is the Time

- ✓ **Begin to feed with low or no nitrogen fertilizer,** such as "Hi Bloom" or "Bloom". Low/no nitrogen fertilizers will have label ratings around 0-10-10 or 2-10-10. Either liquid or time-release granules can be used. If liquid is used, another application may be needed in a month. Plants that are not large enough to support blooms can be fertilized with a higher nitrogen content, such as 5-10-10.
- ✓ **Watch for pests.** Keep plants free of debris where pests can breed and hide. Wet weather is snail and slug weather. Bait or hand pick them. Spray with insecticides only when necessary and follow directions carefully.
- ✓ **Protect epies from freezing temperatures.** New tender growth is especially susceptible to cold temperatures and winter winds.
- ✓ **Prune out unproductive and unsightly growth** to allow more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches. However, if you live in an area where your epies will be exposed to more freezing nights, this unproductive or damaged growth will help protect the healthier growth from the elements. You may want to forgo pruning a bit longer.
- ✓ **Let epies enjoy the winter rains.** As long as your epies are in loose draining soil, the rains won't hurt them and will help wash out the fertilizer salts that can build up in potted plants. If you have epies sitting on shelves or tables, make sure they're not sitting in puddles of water after heavy rains. If you collect rain water for future use, store in covered opaque containers to prevent algae build-up and mosquito larvae infestation.
- ✓ **Pick ripe apples (seed pods).** After removing the seeds from the pod, they can be planted immediately without having to be dried out. However, artificial light and heat may be needed to encourage germination.
- ✓ **Do not replot plants that you want to bloom this spring.** Some buds are already starting their earliest formative stages. Once buds set, don't rearrange your plants. Moving plants can cause forming buds to drop. If you want to rearrange them, do it now.
- ✓ **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: Golden Jubilee: 'Celebrating Our History'

State of the Society Report

By President Cindy Decker

It's that time of year when according to the By Laws I am required to submit an annual report of the State of the Society. 2019 was a wonderful, exciting, and busy year for SDES.

The year started out with many of us going to the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Garden, a free event as an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society Of America. The year was filled with great programs thanks to Patricia Frank our 1st Vice President. She outdid herself! We had great programs featuring George French hybrids celebrating his birthday in February. In March we were delighted by Don Patterson's program "Oh, 2 B a bee! Continued". We enjoyed Don's bromeliads, cacti, and epiphyllums in all



Lori Scott from the Safari Park presented Sandra Chapin with her 25 year pin for volunteering at the Safari Park. Sandra doesn't remember when she started volunteering so it is at least 25 years.



Ron & Marj Myers in their Garden during the Photo Caravan. Ron is the last living person to have signed the SDES charter back in 1970

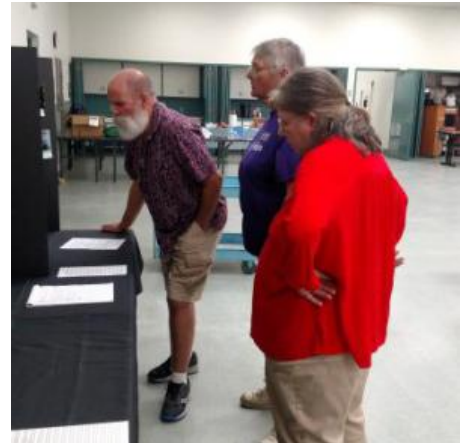
their glorious flower forms. April showers brought May flowers and we learned how to display flowers



Boxes of epi cuttings being prepared for the Mother's Day Sale

for our Mother's Day Show from Sandra Chapin and a slide program of past displays. You could hear the member's "oohs and ahhs". May was our annual Mother's Day Show and Sale event. It's our biggest event where we get to show off the flowers we love and get others hooked like we are. There were lots of cuttings and plants for

sale. Many members shared their plants in order to increase the variety of cuttings and plants we could offer. This was also a great Mother's Day show under the leadership of Gretchen Ward our 2nd Vice President. In May, there was a



L-R Don Crain, Gretchen Ward, & Marie Dempewolf judging the photo contest.

presentation by Dr. Cliff Oliver on how to capture stunning images from your mobile phone.

May also brought us a wonderful garden tour and



Ron & Velma Crain, Ellen McCollum, and Sandra Chapin at a successful Safari Park Epi Sale this year
Photos by Jerry Moreau

photo caravan. We saw some great gardens and collections of Paula Reynolds, Garden Jewel Nursery, Ron & Jean Bonner, and Marj & Ron Myers.

Continued next page

Society Continued

Mildred Mikas does an incredible job putting all this together. We ended up the Seaside Buffet for a delicious dinner and great time socializing.

In June the winners received their trophies for the displays at the Mother's Day Show and we also shared our knowledge of epies. There were a lot of



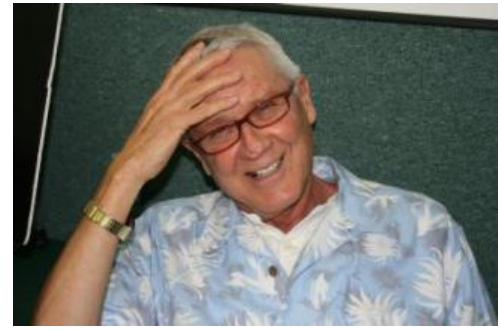
SDES members attending and displaying flowers at the South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show

good questions from the audience. July brought out the warm weather and a slide show by Jerry Moreau titled "Old and Forgotten, New and Exciting". This was a program of epies to consider for your collection. In August our good friend Linda Nickerson of Elk Creek Ranch came with her dragon fruit knowledge and fun sense of humor. She also had some cuttings which were immediately snatched up. "Pet Friendly Gardening" by Judy Macomber, publisher of Pet Lovers Publications was the talk at our September meeting. October was the our annual end of summer party, hosted by Sue & Mark Aldrich. Two things usually happen at the end of summer party: we announce the theme for the next Mother's Day Show and we award our Rookie of the Year award which went to Paula Reynolds this year. In October, there were also a few tweaks to our Photo Contest. We tried something different by extending the contest over the October and November meetings. The photos were displayed in October. In November, all the



Some of the photos in the Photo Contest

photos from the October meeting were again displayed with the winning ribbons attached for all to see. We also celebrated the life of our friend



Don Patterson

Don Patterson, the man and his flowers with a delightful program.

December was of course our wonderful Holiday Banquet. It's a beautiful way to end the year. As usual it was a very well attended party with everyone in Christmas spirit. Awards for Honorary Life and Volunteer of the year award were presented.

Throughout the year we have had some steadfast members volunteering to make each of the meetings



Bill Green enjoying the Holiday Banquet

amazing. Ron Crain, who has been doing the pre-meeting workshops for 11 years which are always a highlight for members. Lauren Burnette and Velma Crain at refreshments. George Plaisted with his store for us to buy supplies at many of the meetings. Marie Dempewolf staffing the library. Gerry Mikas taking care of the name badges (make sure to get a name badge, so you will be able to partake in the monthly drawing to win a prize.) Paula Reynolds and Dennis Hughes who run the raffle are the reason some members come to our meetings. Members walk away with lots of



Will Harvey

Continued page 15

Get Your Facts First

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

By Linda Sinkovic

Happy New Year! Let's hope 2020 is a good year for all of us.

The very first column of 'Get Your Facts First' was written about *Rhipsalis pilocarpa*. Since that was six years ago, and my growing conditions have changed, it's probably time to talk about this plant again.¹

Compared to other epiphytic cacti, the name has remained remarkably stable. First described by Alberto Loefgren as *Rhipsalis pilocarpa*, in 1920 Alwin Berger moved it to a new genus *Erythrorhipsalis*.² In 1987 Wilhelm Barthlott moved *Erythrorhipsalis* to subgenus status, and the plant name changed back to *Rhipsalis pilocarpa*.



Rhipsalis pilocarpa

Rhipsalis pilocarpa appears to be rare in the wild, and found only at a few locations in southeastern Brazil in the Atlantic coastal forest (*Mata Atlântica*).³ Found at altitudes between 1640 and 2950 feet, it grows epiphytically in the seasonal tropical forest.⁴ Although in the wild there many not be many occurrences of this plant, it looks like there are a lot of locations online that have it for sale. It looks to be a pretty popular plant; *R.*



Rhipsalis pilocarpa
Stem detail

Photos by Linda Sinkovic

pilocarpa is available at many nurseries, not only cactus nurseries.⁵

This popularity might be due to its looks. In appearance, branches are cylindrical, about 0.2 inches in diameter, green, with many white bristly spines.⁶

Branch segments emerge in a whirl at the tip of a branch. The flowers are white, often with pink tips on the petals.⁷ Flower size ranges from one inch to about 1.5 inches.⁸ According to some sources, the flowers are fragrant, though I have not noticed any scent. This plant has always bloomed for me in December, both in San Diego and here in Santa Cruz, though others report blooms at other times of the year. Fruits are red, round and bristly, a little less than 0.5 inch in diameter.⁹ I'm hoping my plants will develop some fruits this year, as I'd like to try starting *R. pilocarpa* plants from seed.

Even if you don't care about flowers or fruits, *R. pilocarpa* is a nice looking plant. It will do well growing alongside your hybrid Epicacti. It prefers a little brighter spot in my yard, though still in semi shade.¹⁰ Like all epiphytic cacti, don't let it dry out and don't keep it too wet. So far, this plant seems to be able to deal with temperatures as low as 45° F, provided the plant is not wet. It doesn't seem to mind heat, but if conditions get dry make sure to mist this plant regularly. Pests include the usual suspects though I've only ever had problems with mealy bugs on this plant.¹¹

So why not give a home to a plant that is rare in the wild, provides nice flowers and colorful fruit, and looks good all year round? Add a plant of *Rhipsalis pilocarpa* to your garden.

Enjoy your garden and see you next month.

Continued next page



Society Continued

new things for their collection. And we can't forget the friendly smile of Nell McChesney, our hostess welcoming us at the meetings. The year had its sad times with the passing of three of our members. Linda Fisk, a long time member.



Mark & Sue Aldrich at the Holiday Banquet
Sue is SDES's Recording Secretary

We will really miss Don Patterson, but he still remains in our gardens, every time I see one of his hybrids I will think of him. And in November we lost Will Harvey who delighted us with his jokes and being MC at some recent Holiday Banquets. These members will always be in our hearts.

I want to thank out going board members Janice Wakefield who has done an amazing job as treasurer and Jerry Moreau who is stepping down as director. He will continue on as editor and coordinator/curator of the Safari Park collection. I also want to welcome new board members Paula Reynolds and David Cheever. They will make a great addition to the board. I'm looking forward to working with them in their new capacity. I know they will bring much to the society.

Overall we had a fantastic year! I'm looking forward to a great 2020.



GYFF continued

Notes:

- *1 Also, I have some nice photos, which made it easier to decide this month's subject.
- *2 The name comes from the Latin *pilus* ("hairy") and the Greek *karpós* ("fruit"). *Erythrorhispalis* comes from the Greek *eruthrós* ("red"), referring to the red fruit.
- *3 According to Taylor & Zappi (2004), it is only known from eight localities throughout its entire range, which is in the states of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Paraná.
- *4 500 meters to 900 meters.
- *5 I mean, it's listed for sale on the Walmart site (under the name "Snow White Mistletoe Cactus Plant") so if that doesn't make it popular, I don't know what does.
- *6 6 mm.
- *7 I've seen photos where the flowers do not have pinkish tips on the petals. Not sure of the reason though... maybe the ambient temperature?
- *8 2.5 cm to 4 cm.
- *9 12 mm.
- *10 Right up against the shade cloth. You could probably also grow it in a tree under dappled shade.
- *11 It does not appear to be affected by high heat (more than 85° F / 29.4°C) the way *Schlumbergera* or *Rhipsalidopsis* is, for example. As far as the usual pest suspects, that would be snails & slugs, mealy bugs, scale, those cabbage loopers (little green caterpillars) and roof rats.

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Dennis Hughes and Tim Paule learning how to mix potting mix for the epies at the Safari Park. Yes, we use an old cement mixer. Instructor Ron Crain will be happy to teach anyone else who'd like to learn to use it.

Mother's Day Show

Golden Jubilee: 'Celebrating our History'

By Gretchen Ward

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society! The theme for the 2020 Show will be centered around a celebration of 50 years of the SDES. Display tables and flower arrangements can be presented that simply celebrate our Golden Jubilee, but what about something a little different? What about a veritable potpourri of choices?

'Celebrating Our History': If you choose to do a theme from the past, we will provide a sign for your table that explains what year and theme you're representing. This will require some added coordination with Gretchen Ward (your Show chairperson) as she'll need to know the theme you choose to celebrate for the anniversary. Two weeks before the Show you'll have to be locked into your choice, so we know which sign to make for your table. Plus, we will need to help the judges understand what they're looking at to ensure the proper trophy rules are applied. If you're not feeling it, you can always do an anniversary theme, but why be predictable? Let's look at our past and show our guests next Mother's Day what we've done in the past. So, choose your favorite and get creative!

Here's the list of previous themes that we've had for our Mother's Day Show over the last 49 years. Any questions? Drop Gretchen an email (gward56@hotmail.com) or talk to her at the next meeting.

Past Mother's Day Themes

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1-1971 No Theme | 27-1997 Lights! Cameras! Action! Epis! A Salute to Hollywood Movies |
| 2-1972 | 28-1998 African Safari |
| 3-1973 | 29-1999 Ancient Civilizations |
| 4-1974 Epiphyllums in Bottles | 30-2000 Around the World in "Epi" Days |
| 5-1975 Seashore Fantasy | 31-2001 Jungle Delights |
| 6-1976 Spirit of '76 | 32-2002 Wild, Wild West |
| 7-1977 Down Mexico Way | 33-2003 Once Upon a Time |
| 8-1978 Polynesian Paradise | 34-2004 Epies and Heirlooms |
| 9-1979 Oriental Fantasies | 35-2005 Landmarks Across America |
| 10-1980 Galaxy of Epis | 36-2006 Fun and Games with Epis |
| 11-1981 The Four Seasons | 37-2007 Asian Fantasy |
| 12-1982 Holidays Around the World | 38-2008 Epies, A Pirate's Treasure |
| 13-1983 Salute to Balboa Park | 39-2009 Epies Through the Decades |
| 14-1984 California Odyssey | 40-2010 Epies in Fantasyland |
| 15-1985 Mother | 41-2011 Holidays with Epies |
| 16-1986 Melodies in Epis | 42-2012 Epies on Wheels |
| 17-1987 South Pacific | 43-2013 Flora and Fauna aka Epies & Animals |
| 18-1988 Oriental Odyssey | 44-2014 Hats Off to Epies |
| 19-1989 Sunday in the Garden | 45-2015 A Walk in the Park, Epies Salute Balboa Park |
| 20-1990 Circus Time | 46-2016 California Dreaming |
| 21-1991 Rainforest Gifts | 47-2017 Out of This World: Epies in Space |
| 22-1992 Sail on with Epis | 48-2018 Epies in Oz |
| 23-1993 A Mother Goose Epi Parade | 49-2019 Blooms, Beads, and Bourbon Street: Epies at Mardi Gras |
| 24-1994 Epis in Wonderland | |
| 25-1995 South of the Border | |
| 26-1996 Galaxy of Epis | |

SDES
50th Anniversary
1970-2020

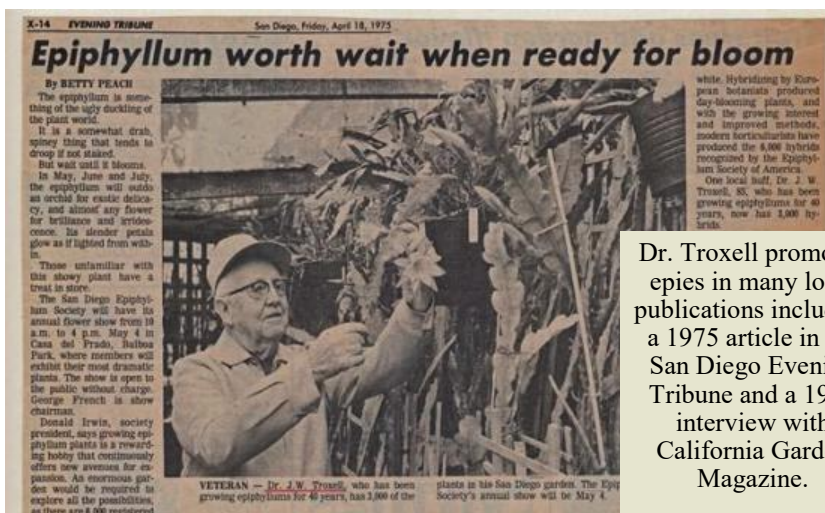
By Patricia Neal

Dr. Jacob Walter Troxell

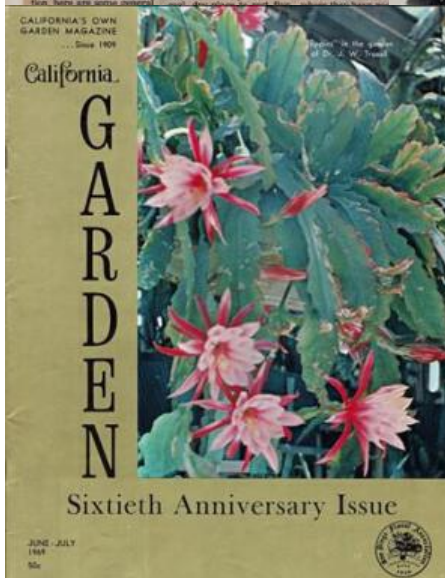


The driving force and inspiration for SDES was Dr. J. Walter Troxell. The retired Navy physician and his wife Miriam were avid gardeners and discovered epies when they found four plants for sale in Pasadena. In 1948 they won their first awards at the ESA show. Dr. Troxell was very active with ESA and served as one its directors.

In 1955 he coordinated an ESA meeting in San Diego to garner interest in epies. While several of the 60 attendees joined ESA after that meeting, it wasn't until 1970 that Dr. Troxell was successful in forming an epiphyllum society in San Diego.



Dr. Troxell promoted epies in many local publications including a 1975 article in the San Diego Evening Tribune and a 1968 interview with California Garden Magazine.



Miriam Troxell became the very first Honorary Life Member when the SDES board voted to award her the honor in June 1976.

Miriam passed away in 1981 and Dr. Troxell passed in 1982.

In 1984, SDES established the Jacob W. and Miriam Troxell award for the best-themed display. The first person to be awarded the trophy was Ray Conser for the "California Odyssey" theme.



At the **June 1975** general meeting, SDES honored Dr. Troxell on his 87th birthday with a cake and 100 people attending. Back Row: Richard Latimer Jr, Gene Schmedding, Juana Curtis, Hazel Jacob, Petey Kelly, Richard Hartford, Gladys Harper and Gene Lund. Middle Row: Eva Clover, Bill Nelson, George French. Front Row: Dr. Troxell, his wife Miriam and President Don Irwin.

 **SDES**
50th Anniversary
1970-2020

Some Key Members
of the Early Years



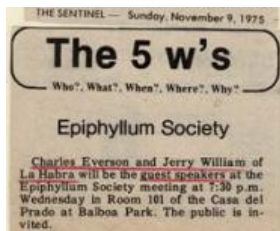
Gladys Harper

A founding member of SDES, Gladys began growing epies in the early 60's and started hosting May garden parties in 1965. Once SDES was formed her garden parties grew until 1985 when more than 100 people attended the last one. After that she occasionally opened her home for the annual garden tours. She was one of the first treasurers and directors and always participated in the annual Mother's Day Show.



Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams

Before Rainbow Gardens, Chuck and Jerry lived in La Habra and were keen ESA members. They gave their first SDES slide presentation in 1975 and today are still key members in epi meetings, shows and EpiCons. They continue to share their vast knowledge and experiences with epi lovers worldwide.



First Board of Directors

SDES' first Board of Directors met at the Troxell home June 26, 1971. Back Row: George French, R.A. Hartford, William H. Nelson, Owen Hamilton, Walter Scott. Front Row: Dr. J.W. Troxell, Gladys Harper, Eva Clover, Veronica Popelar and Dr. Leroy N. (Lee) Phelps. This meeting was in conjunction with ESA's Board and a committee was formed to write the first by-laws. Lee Phelps was chairman of the by-laws committee.



Howard Jones

A resident of Escondido, Howard was a driving force in establishing the Epiphyllum collection at the Safari Park formerly known as the Wild Animal Park. He also hybridized epies and one of his most well-known is "Miss Escondido."

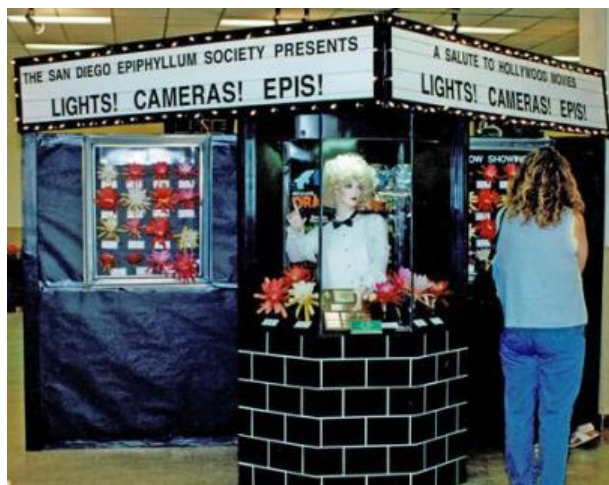
 **SDES**
50th Anniversary
 1970-2020

Show Themes

For more inspiration for the 50th anniversary Mother's Day show – one last look at a few different show themes.



2011 Holidays With Epies. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Halloween, New Year's Eve were all represented at this show with this Easter display by Galen Pittman and Jerry Moreau winning 1st Place. Show coordinator was Sandra Chapin.



1997 Lights! Cameras! Epies! A Salute to Hollywood Movies. Randall Weidner and Ron Kandt built a marquee inviting guests in and won 1st Place. Randall was show coordinator.



1990 Circus Time. Gus and Marge Schlapfer and Sean Minogue won 1st place with their circus train. Pat Barret was show coordinator.



1986 Melodies in Epies. Two photos at left - Mary Alice Buas decorated the Society table with wind chimes while another exhibitor used old 45's to complement the epies. Kathie Van Arum was show chairman.

2003 Once Upon a Time. Ron and Velma Crain won 1st place with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Show coordinator was Jill Peck.



2008 A Pirate's Treasure. Jerry Moreau and Galen Pittman again won 1st place with their pirate's chest sunk in a coral reef. Sandra Chapin was show coordinator.

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.

We want to keep in touch with you. If you know of a member who can no longer attend meetings and/or events, we can send a cheery card to let them know they are missed. If there is a member who is having a milestone birthday we can send happy birthday wishes. If there is a member who is ill or a member who has passed away, we can send a get well or sympathy card. Why? Because we care about each other.

Keep in touch with us. Let us know what is going on in your garden. Have questions? Ask us. Have growing tips? Share with us. Want to see something in the newsletter? Tell us.

This year is packed with many wonderful activities like the annual sales in Balboa Park and the Safari Park, and the Mother's Day Show. There will also be the Garden Caravan. If you like you can attend other epi shows at other epi societies. There is also our ongoing work with the epi collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, where we work to display and preserve epicaeti cultivars and epiphytic cacti species and educate the public about these plants. Come join us for an hour, a day, a month, or all year! Your support means everything.

Want to write an article, have an idea for a program, or just want to join the fun? Please let us know how you want to get involved. We want to hear from you. We could not exist without you. We are greater because of you.

Corresponding Secretary Terryll Rogan at 760-518-6363 or Corresponding@sdepis.org
Membership Secretary Beth Jackson at 858-692-0314 or Membership@sdepis.org
Newsletter Editors Jerry Moreau at 619-208-7654 and Linda Sinkovic at EpiNews@sdepis.org

Save The Date!!

Epiphyllum Society of America proudly presents:

EPICON XVII

May 23, 2020 8am — 4pm

at

[Pickwick Gardens](#), Burbank, CA

All California Epi Societies and EPIG members \$60.00 & non-members \$70.00

There will be different guest speakers on wonderful subjects, mingle with other epi enthusiast, and meet new friends. There will be a silent auction which will include premium hybrids. The cost includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch

You can register at <https://mkt.com/Epiphyllum-Society-of-America>

Off-Season Blooms

This list is a bit of informal research of off-season epi blooms. Here you can track which epis have been blooming consistently off-season over the years.

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

Blooming Off-Season

Heny Brandenburg (San Diego): 'Bling Bling', 'Clarity's Mike', 'Felcino Festival', 'Friend Rudy', 'Lollipop', 'Picky Picky Picky', 'Ruby Pinwheel', 'Rudolf's Surprise', 'Thirty Heartbeats', 'Thirty Kisses', 'Thirty Snowflakes', 'Rudolf's Delight', 'Thirty Dreams', 'Vittorio'

Terence Brashear (Vista): 'Clarity's Git', 'Clarity's Neon Spark', 'Cleo Paetz', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Thirty Wishes'

Cindy Decker (Spring Valley): 'Fluid Orange', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Herald Knebel', 'Kiwi Musical'

Marie Dempewolf (El Cajon): 'Herbert S. Irwin'

Patricia Frank (San Diego): 'George's Favorite', 'Pixie Dust'

Gilbert & Gail Hatfield (Lemon Grove): 'Harald Knebel', 'Padre'

Jerry Moreau (San Diego): 'Jemo'

Mildred Mikas (Escondido): 'English Rose', 'Felcino Favorite', 'Kiwi Christmas Cracker', 'Toya'

Jim Nones (Los Angeles): 'Jennifer Ann'

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): 'Beautie Wagner', 'Bruno Förster', 'Harald Knebel', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Kafi'

Pat Shea (Port Charlotte, FL): 'Clarity's Neon Spark'

Jean Perry (Imperial Beach): 'Avery O. Fuller'

Janice Wakefield (El Cajon): 'Ernst Gündchen', 'Marmalade 'N' Honey'

Blooming Species

Patricia Frank (San Diego): *Lepismium houlettianum*

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): *Disocactus macranthus*

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): *D. macranthus*, *L. houlettianum* f. *houlettiana*, *L. houlettianum* f. *regnellii*, *Rhipsalis agudoensis*, *R. mesembryanthemoides*, *R. neves-armondii*, *R. pacheco-leonis* ssp. *pacheco-leonis*, *R. pilocarpa*

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.

Sandra Chapin: sandraleewc@gmail.com

'Elf', 'Elf Eyes', 'Elf Queen', 'Elfe', 'Elfenbein', 'Elfentanz', 'Elfentraum', 'Elfenzauber', 'Elf-Fire', 'Elfi Paetz', 'Elfie', 'Elfin', 'Elfin Kind'

Doug Gates: douggates@gmail.com

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

Bridget Kleindienst: Bkleindienst13@gmail.com

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

Tom Moore: phyllocactus1952@yahoo.com

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

Jerry Moreau: jerrysdca@cox.net 'Pink Jeroma'

Paula Reynolds: paularey@aol.com

'Point Loma', 'Sunset Cliffs', 'Voltaire'

William Thomas: wmst@cox.net 'Bold Gold',

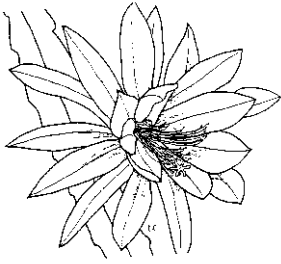
'Grand Empress', 'Pinafore'

Janice Wakefield: jwakefield@cox.net

'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa'



'Harald Knebel'
Photo by Gilbert Hatfield



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

Bookstore:

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



Epi Nurseries:

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

Plant Societies:

Epiphyllum Society of America

ESA promotes the cultivation of Epiphyllums and other epiphytic cactus species, and provides support and education to growers. ESA administers the International Registry for hybrids and species of the Tribe Hylocereeae. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month except in December or January- at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA in the Bamboo Room.

<http://epiphyllums.org/>

San Diego Bromeliad Society

2nd Saturday of the month @ 10:00 am
 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
<http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org/>

Resources

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

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

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

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

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

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 PM
 South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw
 Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA, 90275

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

1st Thursday of the month @ 7:30 PM
 The Strybing Arboretum /
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, CA 94122
<http://www.sfepi.org/>

Help us fill in our history

Do you have photos, slides or negatives of various SDES events such as Mother's Day Shows, the Wild Animal Park, EpiCons, garden tours, educational presentations, any SDES events such as parties, Epiphyllum flowers and plants? Do you have newspaper or magazine articles on Epiphyllum?

If you do, we'd like to scan them into digital format and add them to our 50 years' worth of history. If you don't want to part with them but are willing to loan them to us, we will scan them in and return them to you.

Please contact us and we'll gladly arrange to have them picked up and included in our historical files.

Thank you.

