



Ep i News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

February 2020

Volume 45 Number 2

‘Mombasa’

Parentage: ‘Clown’ x ‘Lady Ruffles’
Hybridizer: George French
Size: Extra-Large

Photo by Jerry Moreau



San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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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

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

April

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

For the up to date calendar check out:

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

President's Corner



"The purpose of life is the investigation of the Sun, the Moon, and the heavens."
— Anaxagoras of Clazomenae, Greek philosopher 5th century BC

I love the rain. However I am enjoying these latest few days of sun and warmth, which remind me that spring is just around the corner. Spring is not that far away so this is a good time to start thinking about using your 0-10-10 fertilizer. We all look forward to our beautiful flowers.

EPICON XVII this year will be held at Pickwick Gardens on May 23 from 8am-4pm. You will enjoy guest speakers, a chance to met and talk with other epi lovers and a silent auction. See the article in this issue of EpiNews for sign up information

We are entering a special year for all of us at SDES. It is our 50th anniversary year and we are planning a celebration. We are still searching for any old articles or history items about the formation of our society. Since it is our 50th anniversary, we want to showcase everything available, in order to tell our history to members new and old.

If you have not attended a pre-meeting workshop (by Ron Crain, who shares his tremendous knowledge of epies) you are missing an opportunity to learn more information about how to take care of your plants. Don't miss it!

The raffle table is always in need of your duplicate plants or cuttings. The proceeds from the raffle benefit the club greatly. Please look through your collection and see what you can donate. Any kind of garden related items are good.

Don't forget that special someone on Valentine's Day!

Till next time,

Cindy 

Society Officers, Directors, & Coordinators

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Meeting Programs

by Patricia Frank

Pre-Meeting Workshop: In February Ron will share his epi wisdom on a yet-to-be-determined epi-related topic at 7:00 p.m. in Casa Del Prado Room 104.

January Program: Last month we were delighted with a program titled "Organics Alive and Worm Gold," presented by Sean Garrity.

February Program: This month we will feature a program of the hybrids by George French. He was a prolific hybridizer with almost 400 registered hybrids. George was a founding member, second President and played a vital role in the society up until his death in 2009. He gave many presentations at the meetings, volunteered at the Safari Park and could always be found by his display at the Mother's Day Show greeting people and making new friends. Please come out and join us on Wednesday, February 12th 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 **H—L** please bring some refreshments to the February 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



“Just living isn't enough," said the butterfly,
 "one must have sunshine, freedom and a
 little flower." -Hans Christian Anderson”

— Louisa Thomsen Brits, *The Book of Hygge: The Danish Art of Living Well*

Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau



January was a wonderful time to be at the park working with the epies. We continue to prepare plants for the spring sales, keep the display looking good, and repotting. We also fertilized for blooms. The mornings started out cool but warmed up nicely as the sun began to shine on us. It's really nice to be out there this time of year. We even had a few things blooming!

Helping out these past few work parties were: Barb Alvarez, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Ron & Velma Crain, Cindy Decker, Marie Dempewolf, Dennis Hughes, Beth Jackson, Heidi Lerner, Ellen

McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Tim Paule, Paul vander Ploeg, and Janice Wakefield.

The next work parties will be February 15th & 29th.



Beth Jackson left and Janice Wakefield above at a recent work party. Photos by Jerry Moreau



'Wedding Bells' (right), blooming at the park in January. This was labeled 'Wedding Dance'. The experienced and knowledgeable eyes of the volunteers didn't think this was correct. So we went to the ESA's Registry of Hybrids and Species and easily concluded it was in fact 'Wedding Bells'. This is an ongoing effort to check blooms for correctness then noting on the pot that it is correct. If anyone does have 'Wedding Dance', please let me know. I would love to have a cutting for the park collection.



'Herbert S. Irwin' (left) also blooming at the park in January.

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/>

Members visit Huntington Library/Botanical Gardens



In January SDES members took advantage of the free CSSA event at the Huntington Library. This is a benefit of membership in SDES. It was a beautiful day to visit, the weather was perfect. Members toured the gardens and were able to enter greenhouses normally closed to the public. Members enjoyed a special plant sale only for members. We met other cactus and succulent enthusiasts and visited with some members of the ESA and SBES. And there were donuts!



found in 1919 by Henry E. Huntington. He was a man of vision – with a special interest in books, art, and gardens. During



his lifetime, he amassed the core of one of the finest research libraries in the world, established a splendid art collection, and created an array of botanical gardens with plants from a geographic range spanning the globe. These collections are amazing and are continually being expanded. For example, there are 12 gardens with 15,000 different varieties of plants. They have an incredible cactus and succulent garden with many aloes blooming this time of year. If you missed it this year and want to go keep it in mind for next year. Here are some photos from the Huntington.



Above and below photos by Velma Crain all others by Beth Jackson



It is curious to wonder if trees like these may have inspired Dr. Seuss



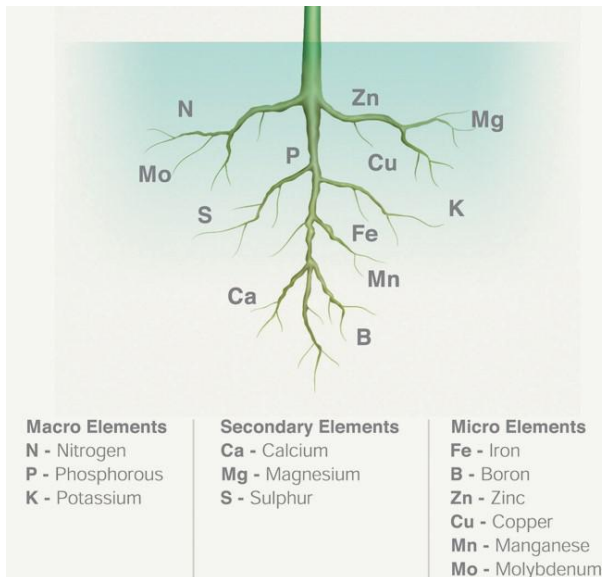
Fertilizing Your Epies

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.



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.

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.

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.

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

Continued next page

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

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	

Fertilizer continued

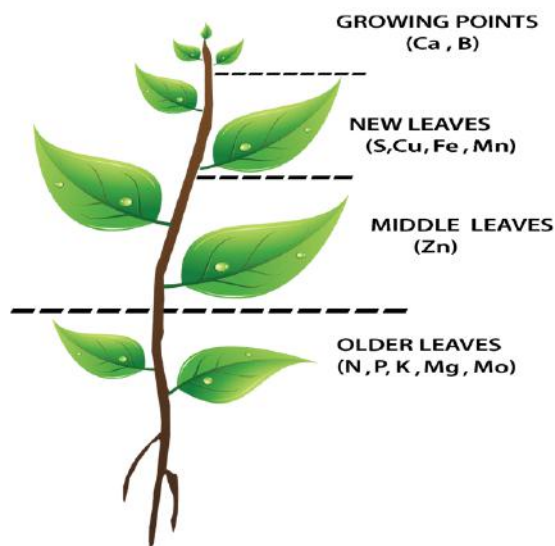
become addicted to liquid fertilizer like Miracle-Gro and others. Use of liquid fertilizers is very labor intensive without automatic application system. The granular chemical fertilizer can be slow release or not. The slow release is the more expensive of the two, but can be used in higher concentration 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.



Reprinted from the ESA Bulletin November/December 1993
Volume 49 #2 page18



‘Allen Obayashi’
Photo by Jerry Moreau



Your Mother's Day Show Checklist

This is an exciting show season for SDES – our 50th anniversary. The show will come to life with a variety of themes used in past years and with 50th Jubilee Commemorations. Show Chairman Gretchen Ward will have a large sign at the entrance explaining this year's special significance as well as individual signs at tables displaying the year and theme that display represents. At the February meeting Gretchen will have a floor plan available so you can select which table(s) and location you want and tell her your theme.

**It's never too late to plan what you're going to do for the Mother's Day.
There are many ways to be part of the show:**

- ▽ Create a display — theme or non-themed — mini-display, half a table, table-sized, several tables — you choose!
- ▽ Create a floral arrangement
- ▽ Enter flowers to be judged individually. You can enter small flowers on the smalls tables, newly registered seedling, French hybrids on the George French table or you can enter up to 6 flowers on the Society's table IF you don't have a display of your own.
- ▽ Bring in a plant for display — all epiphytic cacti are eligible
- ▽ Create an educational display (see page 19 for a list of past educational displays. Do you have fresh ideas on one of the topics? New information that makes that topic current?)
- ▽ Bring in a flower for the People's Choice Table.

**It has also been a long-time tradition for members to volunteer to decorate one of the category tables with the theme — again use either a theme from a past show or the 50th Jubilee theme.
Those tables include:**

- ▽ Society table
- ▽ Small blooms table
- ▽ Registered seedlings table
- ▽ In Memorial table
- ▽ George French registered hybrids table (as a founding member George displayed at every show for almost 40 years. What a great way to honor him with a creative display for our 50th.)

Now is the Time

- ✓ **Continue to watch weather reports for freezing conditions.** Do not prune frost damaged foliage until all threat of freeze has passed.
- ✓ **Watch for snails and slugs.**
- ✓ **Promote good bloom in mature epies** with a low nitrogen fertilizer (0-10-10). Reapply regularly if you use a liquid.
- ✓ **To promote new growth on newly potted or immature epies,** use a higher nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-10).
- ✓ **Protect against strong sun.** Don't allow plants to be exposed to intense sunlight; even the winter sun can damage epies. Unseasonably warm temperatures, extra water and/or shade may be needed. Epies love to be misted when the air is dry.
- ✓ **Protect budding plants** from bud drop by not moving plants.
- ✓ **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'



'American Beauty'
Photos by Jerry Moreau



'Casper'

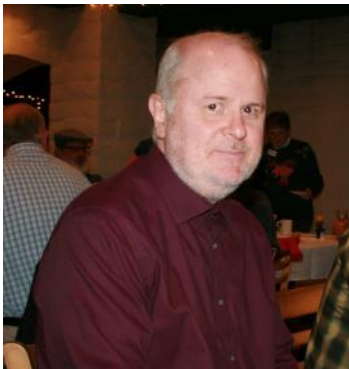
Welcome New Members!!

Elaina Cheever in San Diego
Richard Casanova in Long Beach

Get Well Wishes

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

June Anderson, Chuck Everson,
and Emily Lovci



It is with sadness we report that the Epiphyllum Society of America President Robert Kuettle passed away in January just as this newsletter was going to print.

There will be more about Robert in the March *Epi News*.

There is sad news that we must report. SDES member Beverly Devereux of La Puente, CA passed away in the beginning of January.



Let's keep their family and friends in our thoughts and prayers so they may find the healing they need during this time of grief.

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.

SDES need a Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary has the following responsibilities:

- They will have charge of the general Society correspondence and shall route any other mail to the appropriate office or chair.
- They will answer all inquiries promptly.
- They will give report of correspondence at monthly Executive Board Meetings.
- They will perform duties of Recording Secretary if that officer is absent.
- And they will notify the Executive Board members of Board Meetings via email or phone.

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



'The Volunteers'
Photo by Jose Almandoz

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 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.



The Mother's Day Sale

By Cindy Decker



I know it seems early but it's time to check through your Epies. As you start to look around at your plants you may notice some that you can donate to this year's Mother's Day plant sale. We always need plants! The ones from your own garden are the best because you take the time to care for them. Consider donating duplicates or plants that you are ready to pass on to a new home. You can also start cuttings from some of your favorite epies. You can set them aside for now and continue to care for them until May. Then you can bring them to the park on Friday before the sale in May. I'm looking

forward to seeing what you might have to share. I also need people to start saving and collecting small and medium boxes and box lids for the sale. This makes it easier for shoppers to put in their cuttings and rooted cuttings as they browse. All will be appreciated!

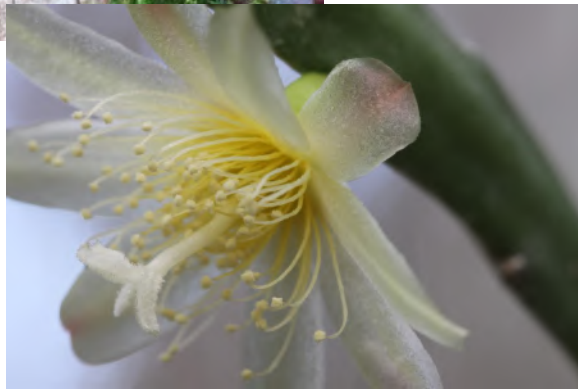
Get Your Facts First

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

By Linda Sinkovic

Happy February! As usual we're going to talk about some kind of epiphytic cactus. This month's column is a little different though; I want to discuss a whole genus rather than focusing on a single species.¹ Therefore this month's discussion is about *Pfeiffera*.²

Why choose *Pfeiffera*? Well, first of all, it's an interesting genus; contrary to appearances, it's not closely related to other epiphytic cacti. Most people thought these plants were some kind of *Rhipsalis* or *Lepismium*. In fact, until fairly recently all the species currently in *Pfeiffera* were thought to actually be in the genus *Lepismium* (at that point *Pfeiffera* was considered a subgenus of *Lepismium*). However, molecular



Pfeiffera boliviana
above photo by Dick Kohlschreiber
below photo by Linda Sinkovic

phylogenetic studies have demonstrated that *Pfeiffera* is not closely related to *Lepismium*,³ but instead more closely related to a terrestrial cactus genus *Corryocactus*. What's interesting is that *Pfeiffera* species independently evolved from terrestrial cacti into epiphytic forms.⁴

Pfeiffera occurs in the wild in Bolivia and northern Argentina.⁵ *Pfeiffera* species usually have spiny branches, though there are exceptions. Most

Pfeiffera species have colorful flowers. I've discussed *P. boliviana* and *P. miyagawae* in previous columns;⁶ *P. miyagawae* has bright orange flowers and *P. boliviana* flower color is variable, from very light yellow through yellow and pink. Other species include *P. asuntapatensis*, *P. ianthothele*, *P. monacantha* ssp. *monacantha*, *P. monacantha* ssp. *kimnachii*, and *P. paranganiensis*, all with colorful flowers ranging from pale yellow through orange-red, depending upon the species.

Most of the species are fairly easy to grow; make sure they don't dry out but also make sure they have a well draining substrate. In my experience they are sensitive to low humidity, so be ready to mist them if the humidity drops. They seem to enjoy a little more sun and air movement than a typical hybrid epicactus.⁷ I try to keep them in locations with temperatures above 50° F / 10° C.⁸

I hope you found this month's column interesting and are now considering the addition of some *Pfeiffera* species to your garden.

See you next month!

Notes:

*1 If you think this is interesting and want more overviews like this, please let the editors know. If you don't, you ought to let them know that, too.

*2 Pronounced “Fi-Fir-Ah”, with the stress on the first syllable, like the name. Don't pronounce it with the stress upon the second syllable, like I did before realizing I was pronouncing it wrong... It's named after Louis Pfeiffer (1805-1877), a German botanist.

*3 Or *Rhipsalis*.

*4 We are most likely talking some convergent evolution here. As in how birds and bats and dragonflies all evolved wings, even though they are not closely related. *Pfeiffera* species did not inherit their epiphytic form from *Rhipsalis* or *Lepismium* species, because they aren't closely related to either group.

*5 Typically on the eastern slope of the Andes mountains.

*6 *P. boliviana*, August 2018; *P. miyagawae*, March 2019.

*7 Though as usual, probably best to avoid direct unfiltered sun between 10 am and 2 pm.

*8 Although I am experimenting with a *P. miyagawae* plant this winter. It's in a covered, unheated shadehouse. Provided we don't get some freaky cold weather, the temperature in the shadehouse should stay at 40° F / 4.5° C or above.

Continued page 14

Antidepressant Microbes In Soil: How Dirt Makes You Happy

By Bonnie L. Grant, Certified Urban Agriculturist

Reprinted with permission from Gardening Know How

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/soil-fertilizers/antidepressant-microbes-soil.htm>

Prozac may not be the only way to get rid of your serious blues. Soil microbes have been found to have similar effects on the brain and are without side effects and chemical dependency potential. Learn how to harness the natural antidepressant in soil and make yourself happier and healthier. Read on to see how dirt makes you happy.

Natural remedies have been around for untold centuries. These natural remedies included cures for almost any physical ailment as well as mental and emotional afflictions. Ancient healers may not have known why something worked but simply that it did. Modern scientists have unraveled the why of many medicinal plants and practices but only recently are they finding remedies that were previously unknown and yet, still a part of the natural life cycle. Soil microbes and human health now have a positive link which has been studied and found to be verifiable.



Soil Microbes and Human Health

Did you know that there's a natural antidepressant in soil? It's true. *Mycobacterium vaccae* is the substance under study and has indeed been found to mirror the effect on neurons that drugs like Prozac provide. The bacterium is found in soil and may stimulate serotonin production, which makes you relaxed and happier. Studies were conducted on cancer patients and they reported a better quality of life and less stress.

Lack of serotonin has been linked to depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder and bipolar problems. The bacterium appears to be a natural antidepressant in soil and has no adverse health

effects. These antidepressant microbes in soil may be as easy to use as just playing in the dirt.

Most avid gardeners will tell you that their landscape is their "happy place" and the actual physical act of gardening is a stress reducer and mood lifter. The fact that there is some science behind it adds additional credibility to these garden addicts' claims. The presence of a soil bacteria antidepressant is not a surprise to many of us who have experienced the phenomenon ourselves. Backing it up with science is fascinating, but not shocking, to the happy gardener.

Mycobacterium antidepressant microbes in soil are also being investigated for improving cognitive function, Crohn's disease and even rheumatoid arthritis.

How Dirt Makes You Happy

Antidepressant microbes in soil cause cytokine levels to rise, which results in the production of higher levels of serotonin. The bacterium was tested both by injection and ingestion on rats, and the results were increased cognitive ability, lower stress and better concentration on tasks than a control group.

Gardeners inhale the bacteria, have topical contact with it and get it into their bloodstreams when there is a cut or other pathway for infection. The natural effects of the soil bacteria antidepressant can be felt for up to 3 weeks if the experiments with rats are any indication. So get out and play in the dirt and improve your mood and your life.

Resources:

"Identification of an Immune-Responsive Mesolimbocortical Serotonergic System: Potential Role in Regulation of Emotional Behavior," by Christopher Lowry et al., published online on March 28, 2007 in *Neuroscience*.
http://www.sage.edu/newsevents/news/?story_id=240785 ^[1]

Mind & Brain/Depression and Happiness – Raw Data "Is Dirt the New Prozac?" by Josie Glausiusz, Discover Magazine, July 2007 Issue. <http://discovermagazine.com/2007/jul/raw-data-is-dirt-the-new-prozac> ^[2]

URLs in this post:

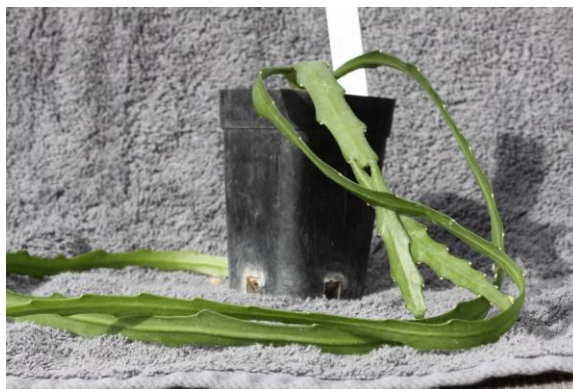
[1] http://www.sage.edu/newsevents/news/?story_id=240785: <http://www.sage.edu/newsevents/>

Antidepressant Microbes continued

[news/?story_id=240785](http://discovermagazine.com/2007/jul/raw-data-is-dirt-the-new-prozac)

[2] [http://discovermagazine.com/2007/jul/raw-data-is-dirt-the-new-prozac:](http://discovermagazine.com/2007/jul/raw-data-is-dirt-the-new-prozac)
<http://discovermagazine.com/2007/jul/raw-data-is-dirt-the-new-prozac>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6WxEQrWUik&feature=youtu.be>



Pfeiffera asuntapatensis

GYFF continued

References:

Barthlott, W., K. Burstedde, J. L. Geffert, P. L. Ibsch, N. Korotkova, A. Miebach, M. D. Rafiqpoor, A. Stein and J. Mutke. 2015.

Biogeography and biodiversity of cacti. *Schumannia* 7, 176. ISBN 978 3 7308 1144 3

Charles, Grant. 2012. "The Love of Books", *The Cactus Explorer* 6, 23. Accessed 13 January 2020, http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/Explorer6/Cactus%20Explorer%206_Complete.pdf

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

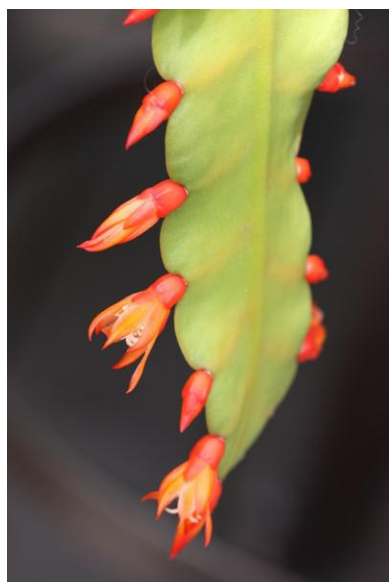
Korotkova, N., T. Borsch, D. Quandt, and W. Barthlott. 2010. "A phylogenetic analysis of *Pfeiffera* and the reinstatement of *Lymanbensonia* as an independently evolved lineage of epiphytic *Cactaceae* within a new tribe *Lymanbensonieae*", *Willdenowia* 40, 151-172.



Pfeiffera monacantha
ssp *monacantha*



Pfeiffera miyagawae



Pfeiffera monacantha
ssp *kinnachii*



Pfeiffera monacantha
ssp *monacantha*



Pfeiffera paranganiensis

Photos by Linda Sinkovic

The history behind the hybrid ‘Golden Anniversary’

By Jerry Moreau

There is some confusion about the hybrid ‘Golden Anniversary’. Look at the description in the ESA registry and you can see the description does not agree with the actual flowers. ‘Golden Anniversary’ flowers are described as white with bottom half of edge golden yellow and outer petals yellow. Instead the flowers seem to belong to ‘King Of Yellows’: inner petals light yellow with deep yellow throat and pinched tips, outer petals deep yellow to bronze. Both hybrids were hybridized by Wressey Cocke and both hybrids registered by Ethel Hurst of Hurst Nursery.

Don Burnett knew both Ethel and Wressey. One day Don told me the story of ‘Golden Anniversary’. Don remembers seeing an 8 X 10 photo of ‘Golden Anniversary’ every time he went to Ethel’s

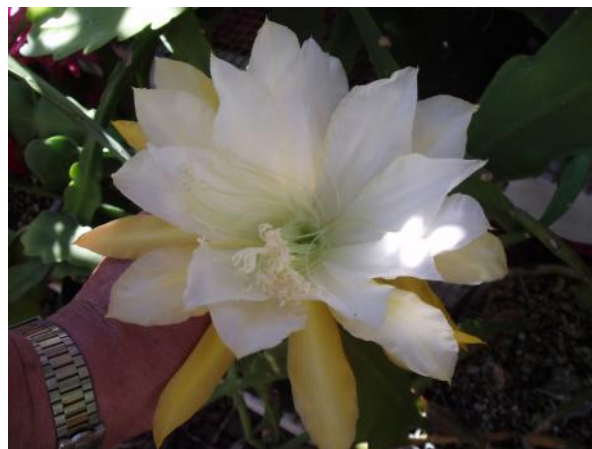
nursery. He said it used to hang next to the cash register. Ethel was very proud of the hybrid saying it was a real knock out. Later Don spoke with



‘King Of Yellows’
photo by Galen Pittman

Wressey at a South Bay Epiphyllum Society show about ‘King Of Yellows’; Don showed him a flower and asked which cross it came from. Wressey thought it was from his 175th cross but couldn’t remember at that time. (Wressey Cocke’s 175th cross is ‘Clarence Wright’ X ‘Soft Lights’.) Don told me, “I’m 99.9999% sure ‘King Of Yellows’ was one of Wressey’s 175th cross.”

Don said he and Evelyn Shiraki both bought ‘Golden Anniversary’ from Ethel Hurst; he believes they made the purchase on the same day when Wressey Cocke had brought in a bunch of plants from his 175th cross to Ethel. Don said, “Ethel got all mixed up like she started to do those last few years.” (He added that he and Evelyn had stopped taking free cuttings from her because she was making so many mistakes.)



‘Golden Rule’
A sister seedling of ‘Golden Anniversary’
photo by Roger Chapin

Don and Evelyn grew the cuttings labeled as ‘Golden Anniversary’. About 3 or 4 years later, both of them had flowers bloom and went back to Ethel (on different days) to show her. He showed a big bright yellow flower to Ethel and she asked, “Where did you get that? I don’t have that one, can I have it?” Don being generous (as always) agreed and asked for ‘Golden Anniversary’ in exchange. Ethel told him ‘Golden Anniversary’ had died and she didn’t have it any more.

Don believes Ethel sold cuttings marked ‘Golden Anniversary’ which were actually ‘King Of Yellows’. Don also mentioned Matt Cheney had shared cuttings of ‘Golden Anniversary’ purchased from Europe and the resulting plant bloomed like ‘King Of Yellows’.

So what happened? We can’t be absolutely sure but we can guess. It sounds like the plant labeled as ‘Golden Anniversary’ is actually ‘King Of Yellows’. It’s an easy thing to figure out, because the flowers are different. (Check out both descriptions in the registry.) In addition, ‘King Of Yellows’ may have been registered with the incorrect parentage information. If you are growing ‘Golden Anniversary’ check it to see if it is actually ‘King Of Yellows’. Let’s make a good effort to have correct names for our plants.

By the way, ‘King Of Yellows’ is a great hybrid for beginners.

Continued next page

‘Golden Anniversary’ Continued

‘King Of Yellows’ - WC(HST) 1999 Inner petals light yellow with deep yellow throat and pinched tips. Outer petals deep yellow to bronze. Loose, double. Flat basket growth. {XL} ‘Lemon Custard’ x ‘Frances C.’ Reg. #12497

‘Golden Anniversary’ - WC(HST) 1990 White with bottom half of edge golden yellow. Outer petals yellow. Overlapping, cup and saucer form. Flat basket growth. Broad, frilled petals. {XL} ‘Lemon Custard’ x ‘Frances C.’ Reg. #10817

Hybrids from the cross

‘Lemon Custard’ X ‘Frances C.’

‘Golden Anniversary’
 ‘Golden Rule’
 ‘King Of Yellows’
 ‘Love In Bloom’
 ‘South Coast’

Hybrids from the cross

‘Clarence Wright’ X ‘Soft Lights’ (WC x175)

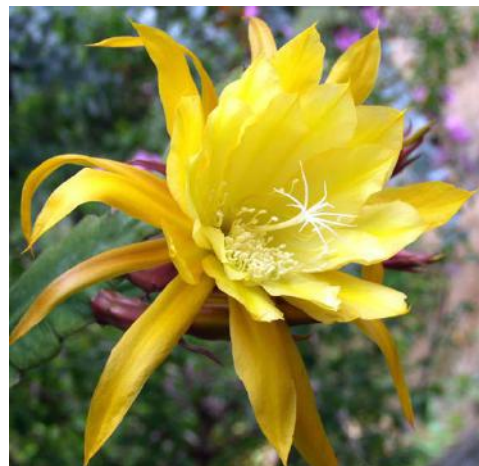
‘Band Of Gold’
 ‘Career Girl’
 ‘David’s Golden Splendor’
 ‘Deja Vu’
 ‘Don Woolley’
 ‘Fiesta De Flores’
 ‘Fort Knox’
 ‘Golden State’
 ‘Good As Gold’
 ‘Holiday On Ice’
 ‘Jeweled Crest’
 ‘Morning Sunshine’
 ‘Norma Cantafio’
 ‘Oktoberfest’
 ‘Pineapple Crush’
 ‘Royal Gold’
 ‘Silence Is Golden’
 ‘Streets Of Heaven’
 ‘Texas Gold’
 ‘The Volunteers’
 ‘Tiger Butter’
 ‘Timi’
 ‘Voodoo Moon’



‘Déjà Vu’
 photo by Chuck Everson



‘Love In Bloom’
 photo by Roger Chapin



‘David’s Golden Splendor’
 photo by Galen Pittman

 **SDES**
50th Anniversary
1970-2020

Long-time member Helen
 Barkdoll donates materials
 for SD ES history files

By Cindy Decker and Patricia Neal

Honorary Life Member Helen Barkdoll responded to our request for historical materials. President Cindy Decker visited with Helen and brought back not only boxes of papers but also recorded some of Helen's memories of the earlier days of SD ES.

Helen joined the society in 1980 and quickly became a very active member throughout the 80s. She served on the Board of Directors, as vice president, corresponding secretary, co-chaired the Mother's Day Shows in 1983 and 1988, and served on many committees including Budget & Finance, Research, Education, Seed Exchange, handbook development committee and the committee that met with Zoo horticulture about an epi display in Fern Canyon.

She was awarded Honorary Life Member in 1988.

Education and research were her passions. She gave a variety of programs on hybridizing Epiphyllum; the diversity of epi hybrids; Christmas and Easter cacti; pests, diseases and weather-related problems (with Dick Chadwick) and participated in two panels discussing epi culture and diseases.

"It's been an interesting life with Epiphyllums," she commented. "I was really active and did a lot of lecturing. I got out of epies the year my lathhouse fell over. But I'm still doing a lot of gardening – pruning trees, hauling hoses and climbing ladders."

Continued on next page...



Photo by Cindy Decker

Helen today and the cover of Epi News with a photo taken by her late husband Bob. Her presentations featured Bob's close-up photography.



During the 1980s Helen wrote columns and educational articles for Epi News as well as the ESA Bulletin.

HELP ! HELP!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EPIS
 by Dick Chadwick
 and Helen Barkdoll

Epiphyllums have comparatively few pests and diseases, once in a while something goes wrong and our epies are all that they should be. do epies shrivel up and

Hybridizing Jungle Cactus
 By Helen Barkdoll

Do you have a Christmas cactus? No blue flowering cactus? How would you like to develop

GROWING EPIPHYLLUM FROM SEED
 by Helen Barkdoll

You may have heard that growing Epiphyllum from seed is difficult and that it takes at 10 years to produce a

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
 ...Helen Barkdoll

First of all, I would like to thank everybody that responded to my questions during the lecture at the last meeting. A wealth of information and many good suggestions were received. Each month the Education Committee hopes to supply you with and pertinent information, but in order to do so we will need knowledgeable men and women to supply us with the results of their personal experiences with epis. Do you have a little bit of information that you would like to share? Learning that epies is like a jigsaw puzzle your bit of information may just be the key piece that will give us the whole picture. Some topics that we need answered are:

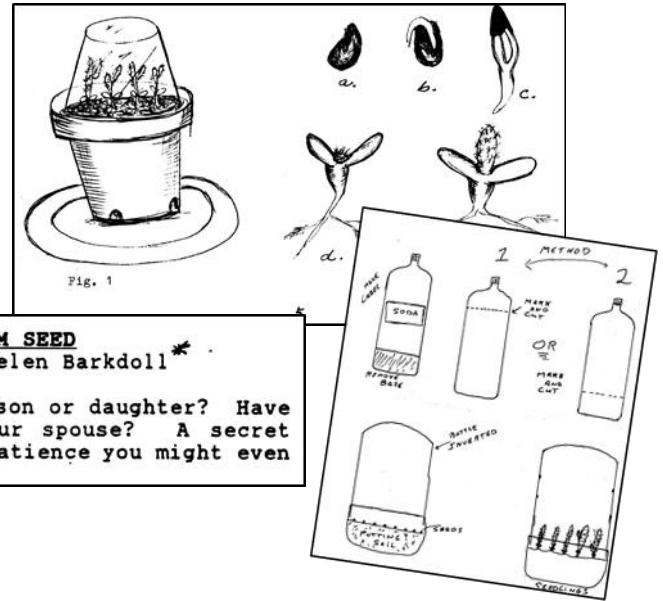
- 1) Use of hormones in rooting cutting.
- 2) Rooting cuttings in water.
- 3) Amount of sunlight needed for flowering.
- 4) Preventing bud drop.
- 5) Use of fertilizers for bloom and growth.
- 6) Effect of heat and humidity.
- 7) Photoperiodism.

Reprinted from the November 1981 issue of the Epi Bulletin

EPIPHYLLUM BRANCHES by Helen Barkdoll

Most of us are aware of the variety of sizes, different shapes and the beautiful dazzling colors of the Epiphyllum flower. These magnificent blooms have been known to initiate an insatiable appetite (Epiphyllum) for more knowledge about the species and how they grow. Supporting this fabulous flower is a leaf-like structure, which is not a true leaf, but technically called a branch. These branches have a fascination of

 **SDES**
50th Anniversary
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HOW TO GROW EPIPHYLLUMS FROM SEED

...Helen Barkdoll*

Want to name an epiphyllum after your son or daughter? Have a special name of endearment you call your spouse? A secret password? With a little luck and a lot of patience you might even have a winner!

Helen Barkdoll continued....

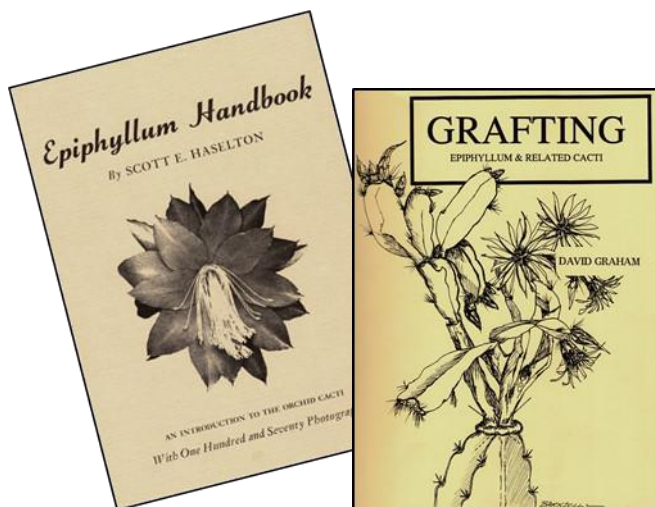
Helen did some hybridizing with epies and has three registered hybrids. She registered 'Red Baron' in 1992 and two of her crosses were registered by David Graham: 'Gemgem' and 'Nenita Graham' in 1994.

"I was hybridizing night bloomers and one night I was in my pajamas running up a ladder to collect pollen from a species hanging way up where a neighbor could see me. She asked me 'What are you doing running up and down a ladder in the middle of the night?' I suppose I shouldn't have been in my pajamas."

One enterprising project she worked on with Dick Chadwick was collecting and selling seeds. Dick was a hybridizer and an educator who wanted to start a seed exchange to encourage others to try growing epies from seed as well as get more hybridized seed into production. Helen and Dick collected fruit from hybridizers, cleaned and packaged the seeds. "We sold \$300 worth of seeds," Helen said. "I had them in boxes of small pots with growing mix and instructions."

In 1985 Helen was the first to be awarded an educational trophy from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America for her exhibit on sowing epi seeds at the Mother's Day Show. Her display was exhibited at an ESA show, the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Show and at several other garden clubs.

For several years Helen was the society's librarian. "I was librarian for a long time before they had the two bookcases," she said. "I used to have to carry a box load of books to the meetings and put them out. A nice man (Charlie Saltzer) decided it was too much for me and he made the fold-up bookcase on wheels."



Helen's artwork was used on the cover of David Graham's "Grafting."

During her time as librarian, the Society printed and sold copies of Scott Haselton's "Epiphyllum Handbook". She also worked on the SDES committee that planned on producing a handbook of its own. The project lasted more than two years and several large book publishers expressed an interest in it, but members never quite got it off the ground and the funds set aside for it were used to print another member's handbook.

We're grateful to Helen for donating the old files that included papers from Theresa Monmonier and Gene Schmedding. She said that in the early 80s the society didn't have storage facilities and they asked that members store material at home. "That's how I happened to have these files." The files will be catalogued, scanned and added to our library files.

SDES 50th Anniversary 1970-2020

Educational Displays

When Helen Barkdoll won the first award for an educational exhibit 1985 it inspired others to develop a wide variety of ideas and displays.

With the 50th Anniversary theme for the Mother's Day Show, it would be exciting to see some of the themes re-visited or with a fresh take on topics. Some of the displays of the past include

- Hybridizing
- Grafting
- George French Hybrids
- Power Growing
- Variegated Epies
- Building an Epi House
- Easter Cactus
- Potting and Caring for Cuttings
- Potting Mixes
- Petal shapes, Colors and Sizes
- Fort and O'Barr Hybrids
- Pest Control
- Trellising Epies in Containers



Educational Display on Variegation in Epi Flowers

Originally our educational award was a small plaque donated by Cactus and Succulent Society of America. After the sudden death of then President Rick Latimer Jr. in 1995, SDES decided to start a perpetual trophy named in his honor.

Rick was an active member of ESA, CSSA and SDES. In 1988 became a member in the International Order of Succulents, an elite group in which membership is by invitation only. In addition to serving in many of SDES's officer positions, he wrote countless articles for all societies, went on a plant-finding exhibition to Baja with the Wild Animal Park and Jim Gibbons and hybridized epies.

For more on Rick Latimer please see the September 1995 issue of *Epi News* which featured a memorial tribute to him after his death.



*Rick Latimer in 1994
Photo by Chuck Everson*

SDES Library Has Been a Mainstay of Society Meetings



Before the days of the Internet, the SDES library was a busy library. With very few books in print concerning hybrid epiphyllums, members were eager to check out the books, newsletters and other printed material offered. The library was so busy that librarian Helen Barkdoll recruited two assistant librarians to help with the traffic.

Today our library still offers a wealth of information on epies (hybrid epiphyllums), *Epiphyllum* and other epiphytic cacti species, holiday cacti (*Schlumbergera* and *Rhipsalidopsis* hybrids), *Hoya*, and a variety of terrestrial cactus and succulents.

A set of ESA newsletters is available in several binders and a newly bound set of the *Epi News* is available for reading -- although not available for check-out since the newsletters are available on our website.

The books pictured at left are all available for check out to members.

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 epicacti 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 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): 'Clarity's Git', 'Clarity's Linnea', 'Friend Rudi', 'Rudolf's Surprise', 'Rudolf's Delight', 'Thirty Dreams', 'Thirty Kisses', 'Sibling Rivalry'

Terence Brashear (Vista): 'Clarity's Neon Spark', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Kiwi Honeybee'

Cindy Decker (La Mesa): 'Fluid Orange', 'Herbert S. Irwin'

Patricia Frank (San Diego): 'Gold Charm'

Gilbert & Gail Hatfield (Lemon Grove): 'Guiding Star', 'Knebel's Farbenwunder'

Beth Jackson (San Diego): 'Guiding Star', 'Hawaiian Rainbow', 'Lilli Paetz'

Patricia Neal (San Diego): 'Lollipop', 'Montparnasse', 'Paris Ballet'

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): 'Boogie Woogie', 'Light N' Bright', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Mildred Virginia', 'Ramona Paetz', 'Striped Beauty', 'Wedding Bells'

Paula Reynolds (San Diego): 'Shocker'

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

Janice Wakefield (El Cajon): 'Ernst Gündchen'

Blooming Species

Patricia Frank (San Diego): *Lepismium houlletianum*, *Rhipsalis platycarpa*

Beth Jackson (San Diego): *Weberocereus bradei*

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

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): *L. houlletianum* ssp *houlletiana*, *L. houlletianum* ssp *regnellii*, *Pfeiffera miyagawae*, *R. mesembryanthemoides*, *R. neves-armondii*

Want/Wish List

If you have epis on your wish list that you are looking for it is possible someone in the Society has it and is willing to share a cutting or two with you.

As a service and benefit to members this list is being included in the newsletter. Send your wish list along with contact information to the editors to get it added here.

Sandra Chapin: sandrалеewc@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'

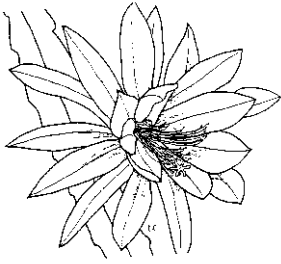
William Thomas: wmst@cox.net *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, 'Yellowhead'

Janice Wakefield: jwakefield@cox.net

'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa'



'Guiding Star'
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://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/>

Seniors Free

SAN DIEGO ZOO
SAFARI PARK

All February at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Throughout the entire month of February, adults 65 years and older are invited to enjoy the San Diego Zoo Safari Park for free. Guests must present their valid photo ID at any Safari Park ticket window to gain free admission; parking not included. Valid only at the Safari Park in February.

Marvel at the peppy platypuses, let your soul soar as you watch a free-flight bird show, explore the unique gardens including the Epiphyllum Trail, and experience an amazing variety of animals roaming vast habitats. See a cheetah run at top speed, watch the elephant herd raising energetic youngsters, and discover how everyone can help animals. Bring friends and family—there's something for everyone!

Click here for more details <https://www.sdzsafari.org/seniors-free>