



# Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

October 2020

Volume 45 Number 10

## ‘Friend Rudi’

**Parentage:** ‘Felcino Favorite’ × (‘Peaches N’ Cream’ × ‘Frühlingsabend’, unnamed)

**Hybridizer:** Rudolf Heßing Herick

**Size:** Small

**Photo by** Jerry Moreau



**San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)**

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**Have You Moved?**

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

Send it to:

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

OR email [Membership@sdepis.org](mailto:Membership@sdepis.org)

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

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00p.m. During this pandemic for everyone's health and safety all meetings are held online. Check your emails for instructions and links.

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

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

**Editor's Note:** Cover Photo — The hybrid is named for Dr. Rudi Dorsch.

**Calendar of Events**

October	14 General Meeting 28 Board Meeting
November	11 General Meeting 25 Board Meeting

Due to COVID-19 all meetings being held online.

For the up to date calendar check out:

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



'Halloween Moon'

Photo by Matt Chaney

## President's Corner



President — Cindy Decker  
619-972-9664  
[President@sdepis.org](mailto:President@sdepis.org)

Hello to all you epi enthusiasts! I hope you were able to join our general meeting in September on Zoom. Jackson Burkholder presented “The Botany of Cacti: An Introduction”. It was a wonderful presentation with pictures of many varieties of cacti, including some we would recognize! Make sure to check and see what will be offered at the October meeting.

No doubt you are well aware: we are asking for volunteers to donate some of their time to our society by joining the board. In the past, we have been fortunate to have so many people volunteer. This willingness to volunteer is what makes the club successful. However this does take effort. Please consider volunteering for a position — the more people involved the less any one person has to do. If you are interested or have questions, you can speak with any board member or contact me or the chair of the nomination

committee. See page 7 for more information.

Next month is our PHOTO CONTEST. Please check the rules in last months' Newsletter for how to submit your photo. We look forward to seeing your submissions!

Until next time, keep looking up to the sky for the beauty of the heavens.

Be well and be safe,

Cindy



'Naranja' - JHSN  
Photo by Jerry Moreau



## Dick Kohlschreiber passes late September

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Dr. Dick Kohlschreiber, a central figure in the Epiphyllum community and a dear friend to many of us. Dick was the driving force in the founding of the South Bay Epiphyllum Society in 1986. He was the editor of the its newsletter *The EpiGram* for more than 30 years and wrote numerous articles for newsletters published by a variety of Epiphyllum societies as well as the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. In addition, he served as the registrar for the ESA's Registry for more than 25 years.

We were informed of Dick's passing just as this newsletter was going to print and will feature Dick in a future newsletter. If you would like to share photos and your memories of Dick, please contact us.

*Named for Dick the hybrid 'Dr. K' was hybridized by Helmet Paetzold in 2000.*



Photo by Chuck Everson

# Meeting Programs

by Patricia Frank

**September program:** Last month Jackson Burkholder gave us a wonderful program titled "The Botany of Cacti: An Introduction". He presented a brief overview of the different ways in which plant biologists look at cacti, The program also included additional information specific to the biology of epiphytic cacti.



**October program:** This month we will be back to enjoying some epies! We will feature a program created way back in 2010 by Linda Sinkovic titled "Small Flowered Epiphyllums". Time to let the small flowers shine! Come out and join us on Zoom, October 14th at 7:00 p.m. PDT. Check your email for the Zoom link.

## Tips for a Successful Zoom Meeting

- If using a phone or tablet, make sure it's fully charged. Zooming drains your battery pretty fast!
- Take a little time to get settled before the meeting. Consider noise: are people going to hear a loud TV in the background when you're speaking? Pick a spot with good lighting and make sure the light source faces you or is coming sideways. Having an open window behind you is a no-no. It will cause your face to be darkened by the overly bright background.
- If using a tablet or laptop computer, it's a good idea to have it on a table and propped up with some books. This way we can see you at eye level.
- As a general rule, mute your microphone unless you are speaking. Even wiggling in your seat can make audible noise.



*"All right, Mr. DeMille.  
I'm ready for my close-up."*

## Annual Photo Contest October—November

The pandemic will not stop us. Since we will not be able to have a photo contest at our meetings as we have in the past, we will have our contest online. Get your photos ready.

Categories will be Single Flower, Multi Flower, Miscellaneous, and Epi Art.

The contest will be from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in October to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in November. Submit your photos via email to SDES photo contest.

Follow this link for all the rules and other details

<https://sdepis.org/photo-gallery/yearly-photo-contest/>

# Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau

It's October and autumn is here. We had a one extremely hot weekend in September; other than that weekend, it's been very pleasant to work at the park. With the Valley Fire in the Alpine area the air quality hasn't been the greatest. This is when wearing a mask comes in handy. Here things are opening up more and we are now allowed to have six volunteers at a work party. It's an improvement from only allowing five workers.

Last issue I mentioned, creating some Tillandsia wreaths. Sandra Chapin got right to work putting Tillandsia on six 24-inch wreaths. The photo below shows me holding one of Sandra's creations. There is room for the plants to grow and expand to fill up the wreaths. These wreaths will continue to look more and more beautiful over time. We will add more decorations to increase the holiday spirit.

We received an order for 200 cuttings from the Plant Trader at the Park that we were able to fill and deliver to them.



We have a drainage issue in the old display house. The park put in a trough on the west side of the shade house to collect the runoff and use it elsewhere. However, they put the trough in a bit higher than the grade of the workhouse. The water has been finding its way underneath rather than into the trough. We are working with the park to find a solution but for now we plan to use some very decomposed DG to fill in the eroded areas.

Helping out this past month were: Barb Alvarez, Thurston Bow, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Ron & Velma Crain, Cindy Decker, Dean DeLibertis, Marie Dempewolf, Heather Jackson, Heidi Lerner, Jerry & Betsy Markle, Ellen McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, and Gretchen Ward.



*'Charming Beauty' blooming at the park in September*

*Tim Paule and Velma Crain looking for a plant*



**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/>

# It Is Election Time

By David Cheever

We are fortunate to have so many people volunteering time and effort to make our society work well and be a success. However for our society to remain a success we need you to volunteer. Please consider volunteering for a position, especially if you have not yet served — the more people involved the less any one person will have to do. On the other hand if members don't take an active role the society won't be able to do as much or function as well as it can.

The nominating committee (currently consisting of David Cheever, Patricia Frank, and Sal Castellitto) polled the membership during the past month and propose the following members for the offices listed.

Of particular note, no names have currently been put forward for the offices of club Treasurer or Recording Secretary.

If you are interested or have questions, speak with any board member or contact the chair of the nomination committee: David Cheever at [dcheevye@gmail.com](mailto:dcheevye@gmail.com) or see him at a general meeting.

Thank you to Gretchen for stepping up for the position as President. I'd like to welcome back to the

board Patricia Neal as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. She did this position last century and we can look forward to exciting things from her.

Ron Crain has served 16 years on the board and is stepping down however he will continue as pre-meeting workshop coordinator. The society is grateful for all of Ron's service to the society. Paula Reynolds wants to continue as director and raffle table coordinator. Mildred Mikas and Gilbert Hatfield will continue their term. We have an open Director position to replace David Cheever and finish his term. David has agreed to take on the 1<sup>st</sup> VP— Programs position. In all other positions the incumbent is continuing for another year.

Thank you to everyone who takes an active role in the society either as an officer, director, or coordinator position. Your work and dedication to the society is greatly appreciated.

In November the final slate of officers will be presented to the membership and a formal vote will be held at the regular monthly (now Zoom ) meeting. Installation of new officers will occur in December at the annual holiday party.

## The candidates for 2021 SDES officers are:

President	Gretchen Ward
1st Vice President	David Cheever
2nd Vice President	Patricia Neal
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson
Treasurer	<b>OPEN</b>
Recording Secretary	<b>OPEN</b>
Corresponding Secretary	Sal Castellitto
Director (2021-22)	Lauren Burnette
Director (2021-22)	Paula Reynolds

Not up for re-election:  
 Director (2020-21) Gilbert Hatfield  
 Director (2020-21) Mildred Mikas  
 Director (2020-21) **OPEN**  
 (This open Director position will be appointed to fill in David Cheever's remaining term.)

*"Many hands make for light work"*  
*John Heywood*



'The Volunteers'  
 Photo by Jose Almandoz

Pre-Meeting  
Workshop Corner

# Why Not Aporophyllum?

Reprinted from *Epi News* Vol 37, No. 4  
Updated by editor to reflect current nomenclature

By Ron Crain

As I have mentioned in previous *Epi News* articles, many epi growers prefer or at least are very fond of the small-flowering hybrids. If you are one of these people, you might consider adding to your collection some or many of the aporophyllum hybrids. Most aporophyllum are produced as a result of crossing a species plant of the genus *Aporocactus*, usually *Aporocactus flagelliformis*, hence the name,



*Aporocactus flagelliformis*

and an epi hybrid. Others are the result of a cross between *A. flagelliformis* and any of a number of other epiphytic cacti species. In either case, most of the offspring of these crosses produce flowers in the small to medium size range with the blooms being more numerous than many epi hybrids. They also tend to produce the more cylindrical, rat-tail-like stems similar to *A. flagelliformis* rather than the flat growth that is typical of the epiphyllum hybrids and therefore make a more compact plant. So, if space is an issue in your garden, aporophyllum might be a good choice for you. Many aporophyllum flowers are pink, red or orange although the hues vary widely.



'Peggy's Cartwheel'

Aporophyllum hybrids tend to be somewhat spiner than the epi hybrids. This is because most of them have the very spiny *Aporocactus flagelliformis* in their lineage. And also because they are descended from *A. flagelliformis*, they can generally take a little more direct sunlight than a typical epi hybrid can. So, if you have a spot in your garden that is just a little too sunny for your regular epis, where they might get sunburned or sun-bleached, an aporophyllum might fit there nicely. Generally speaking, the more spiny the aporophyllum, the more sun it can take as the

spines themselves help to shade the stems. Other than that, aporophyllum culture is nearly identical to that of your regular epi hybrids.



'Starfire'

Aporophyllum have been around for a long time with hybrid varieties produced back in the forties and fifties by hybridizers like Peggy Williams who registered 'Peggy's Cartwheel,' a small-flowered variety, in 1940 and 'Peggy's Red Spider,' a medium from 1955; in the early sixties by Harry Johnson who named 'Starfire,' a medium, 'Temple Fire' and 'Odalisque,' both smalls and 'Brilliant,' an extra-small, all in 1960; and much more recently, Helmut Paetzold, a German hybridizer, who registered 'Goldi Paetz,' a small in 1993, 'Angela Paetz,' a medium from 1996, and 'Nellie Paetz,' a small from 1999, among many others. These are just a few examples of the aporophyllum hybrids that have been registered by many different hybridizers over the past three quarters of a century.

Aporophyllum that have been named and registered with the Epiphyllum Society of America will appear alphabetically in their Registry of Species and Hybrids in the general listing along with the many epi hybrids. Usually the phrase "Aporophyllum type" will be included in the description and/or species like *Aporocactus martianus* and *A. flagelliformis* will be listed in their lineage. If you have a too sunny spot or a tight spot that will only accommodate a plant that doesn't take up too much space or if you just like small flowers, give aporophyllum a try.



'Temple Fire'

# Get Your Facts First

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

By Linda Sinkovic

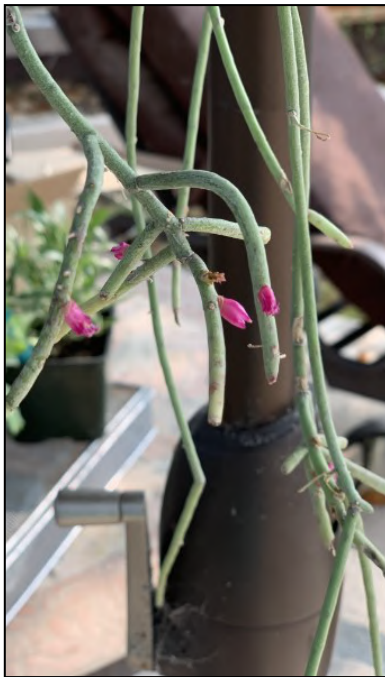
I have a confession to make: I've always had a problem pronouncing an organism's scientific name, if I've only ever seen it written. My idea of a particular pronunciation is often incorrect<sup>1</sup> to the point of provoking quizzical looks from my listeners while they try to figure out what I am actually talking about. In an effort to better communicate, I've been looking at pronunciation guides for botanical Latin.

And now I'm confident enough to discuss a *Rhipsalis* with a name which was formerly difficult for me to pronounce.<sup>2</sup>

The plant in question is *Rhipsalis hoelleri*. It is a fairly new species; it was collected<sup>3</sup> in 1987 by Countess Beatrix Orssich<sup>4</sup> and then grown at the University of Bonn Botanical Garden. Described in

1995 by Wilhelm Barthlott and Nigel P. Taylor, they named it for master gardener Werner Höller. At that time, Mr. Höller's duties at the Botanical Garden included taking care of the large collection of epiphytic cacti.

Photos by Linda Sinkovic  
Unless otherwise noted



*Rhipsalis hoelleri* plant left and flowers above and bottom right  
Photo above by Jerry Moreau

As epiphytic cacti go, *R. hoelleri* resembles its close relative *R. puniceodiscus*, at least in the shape and form of the branch segments.<sup>5,6</sup> However its flowers are quite different from the flowers of *R. puniceodiscus*: *R. hoelleri* flowers are small and dark pinkish purplish red.<sup>7</sup> The fruit is red and smaller<sup>8</sup> than that of *R. puniceodiscus*.

Culture is similar to that of *R. puniceodiscus*. *R. hoelleri* does not like to be overwatered and

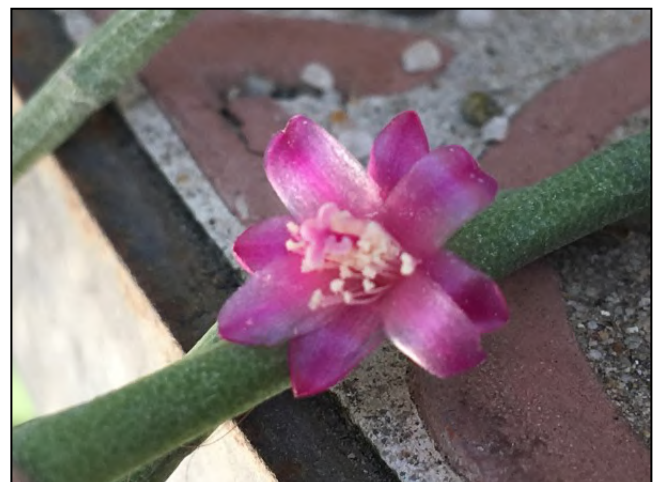
should be planted in a well draining mixture. As with many *Rhipsalis* it likes semi shade. In the literature, blooming time is given as the spring, but my plant has bloomed as early as the beginning of May and as late as the beginning of September.

This plant has small flowers of an unusual color and is well worth growing in your shade house. It can be a little difficult to track down, but The Huntington Garden has offered it at past plant sales.

Stay healthy and wear your mask in public. See you in December.



*Rhipsalis puniceodiscus*



Notes and references continued next page

# Now is the Time

- ✓ **Protect your plants from direct sun.** As the angle of the sun changes, ensure plants do not get too much southern exposure.
- ✓ **If you live in a colder climate, stop feeding plants now.** New growth is susceptible to frost damage. Epies tend to go dormant in colder weather.
- ✓ **Check ripening fruit.** If in doubt, wait to pick. Remember to use clean tools when cutting fruit open to remove seeds.
- ✓ **Watch for snails and slugs.** As summer comes to end, they become more active in cooler, moister weather.
- ✓ **Trim out dead growth.** Some dieback is natural. If the dieback starts from the roots instead of the tips of the stems, check the roots.
- ✓ **New growth is normal during fall season.** Fertilize plants that are actively growing.
- ✓ **Start planning how much and what kind of winter protection your plants will need.**

## Botanical Alert!

by Linda Sinkovic

Paul Hoxey has described a new species of *Lymanbensonia* in the Fall 2020 issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal.

*Lymanbensonia* is a small genus of epiphytic and epilithic cacti. Most of the species in this genus were previously included in *Pfeiffera*. Species of *Lymanbensonia* are found in southern Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

*Lymanbensonia choquequiriensis* is found only near Choquequirao Archaeological Park -- about 100 miles west of Cusco, Peru -- at an altitude of about 10,000 feet (3250 m). This species most resembles *Lymanbensonia micrantha*. However, this species has 4 angled stems (unlike all other *Lymanbensonia* species) and small pink flowers.

Hoxey, P. 2020. "A new species of *Lymanbensonia* (Cactaceae) from Peru", *Cactus and Succulent Journal (US)*, 92(3), 231-235.

GYFF continued

### Notes:

\*1 My guess is all those various pronunciation rules for different languages have become all mixed up in my brain, just like all the various vocabulary words; you know, like when you're trying to think of a word in German and your brain says, "Nope, can't help you! But how about this Japanese word instead? It means the same thing."

\*2 You can pronounce it "hell er i", with the stress on the first syllable.

\*3 The exact location where she collected it is not known, but it's thought to be near the town of Domingos Martins, in the state of Espírito Santo, in the mountains almost 400 miles to the northeast of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

\*4 Yes, she is the person which *Schlumbergera orssichiana* is named after. At the time of collecting *R. hoelleri* she was living in Teresópolis, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This city is in the mountains, about 80 miles to the northeast of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

\*5 See SDES *Epi News* Volume 45 Number 7 (July 2020) *Get Your Facts First* for some discussion of *Rhipsalis puniceodiscus*.

\*6 The diameter of the branch segments is smaller than that of *R. puniceodiscus*; *R. hoelleri* branch segments are 3-4 mm diameter (0.12-0.15 inches).

\*7 Flowers are up to 10 mm (0.4 inches) in diameter. This color, referred to as 'carmine red' in the descriptions, is an unusual color for *Rhipsalis* flowers; most *Rhipsalis* species have white to cream colored flowers. Judging by the number of photos I saw on Google Image, it's also a very popular color for Porsche cars.

\*8 Fruit of *R. hoelleri* is 8 mm (0.3 inches) in diameter.

### References:

Barthlott, W. & Taylor, N. P. 1995. "Notes towards a monograph of *Rhipsalideae* (Cactaceae)", *Bradleya* 13, 43-79.

Bauer, R. 1996. "Rhipsalis hoelleri Barthlott et Taylor, eine neue Art art Brasilien", *EPIG* 8(2), 43-45.

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

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

# Ron Miller, SDES Past President



Ron & Joan Miller

We received the news that Ron Miller passed on July 28, 2020. His wife Joan provided this information to the Society.

Ron and Joan were very good friends with another past president Howard Jones. In 1981, Howard convinced them to join SDES. During the 1980's both Ron and his wife were very involved with SDES. Ron was the society's photographer in 1982-83 and served as director in 1983-84. He spoke at the general meetings many times over the years.

Ron & Joan were regulars at work parties, sales, and shows at the Safari Park. Ron was one of the people who were involved in building the first epi display house. Ron and Joan were also part of a 10-person expedition to Baja California on the search for "Cochemiea setispina" -- now called *Mammillaria pondii ssp. setispina*

-- a small cylindrical cactus reported to be found in the area near San Borja, in the mountains of central Baja.



From 1985-86, Ron served as the Society's president. Their home would often be on garden tours. In her note to the society, Joan said "Our education and appreciation of these beautiful plants gave us years of happy rewards." In 1986, Ron was awarded Honorary Life Membership for his service to the Society.



Ron at the sale at the Safari Park



Putting up the "Front Porch" was Howard Jones, bossing from right to left Gene Lund, John Pilland, Vernon Hook, Dick Chadwick, Ed Broz, Gus Schlapfer, Bill Foster, Ray Conser, Ron Miller, Ed Post, and Nate Ogdon



L-R Howard Jones, Joan & Ron Miller and Carol & Frank Granatowski – three of the people most responsible for the epi display house in the mid-1980s —Howard, Ron, and Frank. Frank was also president in 1982-83.

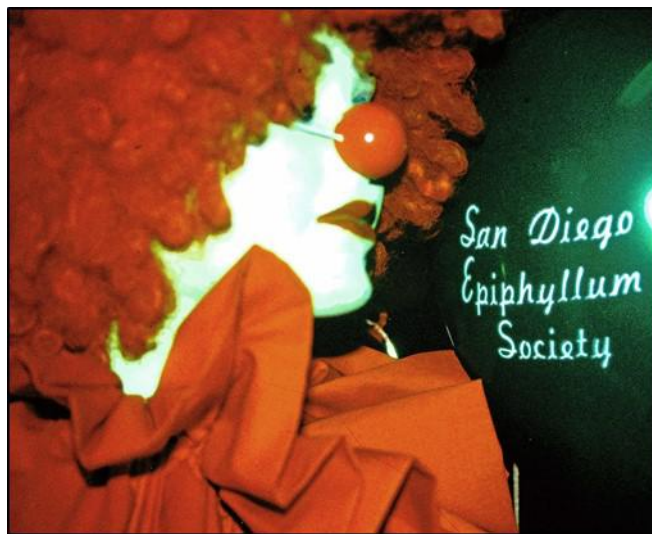
 SDES  
50th Anniversary  
1970-2020

By Patricia Neal

Blasts from the Past



**1976** Don Patterson and Jerry Williams take a break during Mother’s Day Show set-up for “Spirit of 76”, a non-competitive show celebrating the Bicentennial.



**1990** A life-sized manikin dressed as a clown highlighted the “Circus Time” theme for Mother’s Day.



*Photo by Scott*

**1945** Actress Jinx Faulkenberg (right) poses with her mother, Marguerite, in front of Epiphyllums at a photo shoot for the film *The Gay Senorita*. These photos were among a large assortment of 4 x 5 color positives of Epiphyllums in Gene Schmedding’s photo collection. In 1945, Cactus Pete named an Epiphyllum hybrid ‘Jinx Faulkenberg’. We don’t know how Gene came to have these photos; however, she was friends with Mrs. Cactus Pete, Cecelia Vinkemulder, who gave Gene several other items. As a Los Angeles-based nursery, Cactus Pete probably provided the Epiphyllums used for the photo shoot



*Photo of ‘Jinx Faulkenberg’ from the SDES archives. While the ESA Directory spells Faulkenberg with an “e”, the correct spelling of the actress’s name is Faulkenberg with a “u”.*

 **SDES**  
 50th Anniversary  
 1970-2020

### Blasts from the Past



**1987** Leo Kihm (above) raised magnificent Easter Cactus and set up a full table of blooming plants during the Mother’s Day Shows for several years. In 1987 he was the second person to receive an educational award.



**1984** SDES members Greg Balvin, Helen Barkdoll, Rick Latimer and Debbie Capp worked with the San Diego Zoo as advisors for the Zoo’s Tropical Cactus Exhibit in Fern Canyon.

*Photos by Rick Latimer*

**SDES**  
**50th Anniversary**  
**1970-2020**

**Educational Displays**

From the beginning SDES members have created educational displays and provided hands-on demonstrations. Here's a look back at a few of them.



**2014-2018** Janice Wakefield won four educational trophies all for different subjects including exploring what "Tyrian Purple" means (above), Fort and O'Barr registrations with a detailed look at hybridizing crosses (left) and flower shapes (below right).

With her photographic and researching skills, she produced fresh and new looks on Epiphyllum hybrids.

**Sunny Down**  
 TMM 1950  
 White with yellow midstripe and throat. Serrated edges. Outer yellow.  
 L

**Sonnenuntergang**  
 KN#314 1935

X

Blaze Of Beauty	1957	O-R	L	
Convent Garden	1957	O/Pur	L	
Coppola	1956	O	M	
Corona Del Sol	1957	O/Pur	XL	
Gibber	1957	Ll O	L	
Impresario	1957	R-O/Pur	M	
Maharannee	1957	Rose/R	XL	
Maximilian	1957	O	L	
Nadine	1959	BHM	L	
Premier	1955	Rose/Viol	M-L	
Tribal Beauty	1960	BHM	O/Pur/Gold	XL

**Cottlet**  
 KN#305 1938 M-L

X

**1935 M-L**

Adorable	1957	Dal	L	
Calcutta	1957	Ed/WIR	XL	
Elise Lindh	1957	W/Bal	M-L	
Helen Song	1957	W/Bal/R	M-L	
Jungle King	1957	Dusky Dal	L	
Kalender	1957	W/Bal/W/R	XL	
Le Secret	1957	Dal	L	
Lena	1957	W/Bal	L	
Markova	1957	Dk P/Wal/R	L	
My Dear	1957	Laz/Dal/R	L	
Paul L. Fort	1957	Dal/R	L	
Sister Julia	1958	Dal	L	
Spanish	1957	BHM	Laz P/WIR	M

**Tallichief**  
 FOBSZAKI 1942  
 Bright red. Flawel form 5

X

Aria	1955	P/WIR	M
Classic	1956	Tyran Rose	M
Dawn Miss	1955	W/Bal	S-M
	1957	W/Bal	M-L

**Oscar Steudte**  
 KN#268 1935 L

X

**The Miracle**  
 CLDG 1949  
 White. Outer petals sulphur yellow.  
 L

Big Chief	1957	RE/Fach	XL	
Bianary	1957	R	XL	
Bounty	1957	W/W	XL	
Cheaps	1957	R	M	
Chloe	1952	O/Sal	M	
Command	1957	R	L	
Cortez	1957	R/Pur	XL	
Dal Mar	1957	BHM	R	L
Desire	1957	R/O	L	
Egypt	1957	R/Pur	M-L	
Freddie	1959	BHM	R/Pur	M-L
Gala Day	1952	STEP	Dal-O	L
Golden Chariot	c.1955	O/Fach	L	
Greek God	1957	R	XL	
Happy-Go-Lucky	1957	Deep Apple/Pk	M-L	



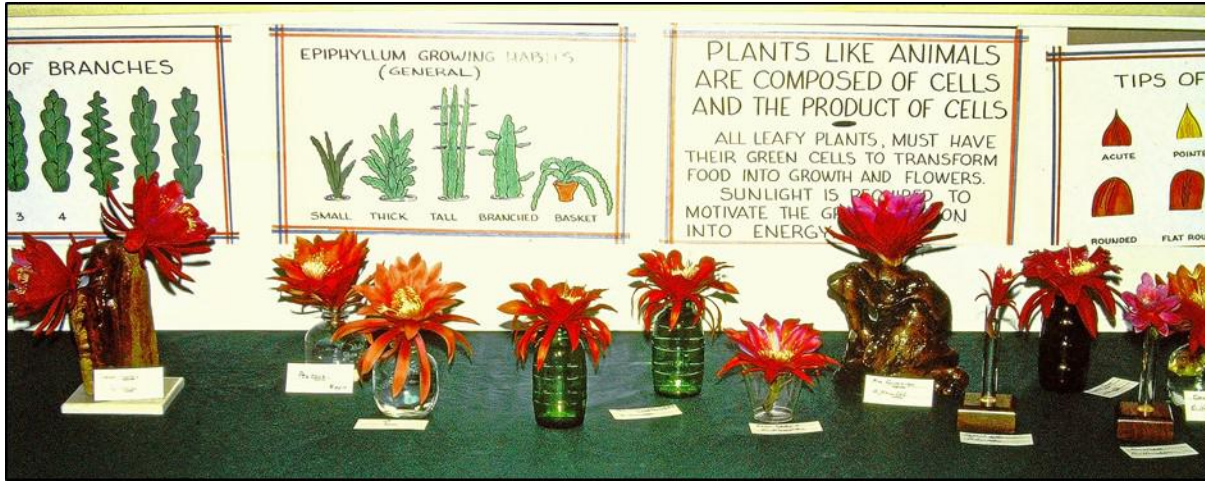
**1998** Phil Peck introduced computers and digital imagery into his educational display of "Virtual Epis."



**1980s** Demonstrations on how to pot and grow epi cuttings were popular with visitors who were discovering epies for the first time. (Top left) Frank Granatowski displayed an ideal potting mix and how to plant cuttings. (Bottom left) Robert and Shala McNeil displayed newly planted cuttings as well as 4" pots showing new growth.

 **SDES**  
**50th Anniversary**  
 1970-2020

**1980s** Hybridizing, species, leaf and petal shapes all featured in educational exhibits in the 80s. Helen Barkdoll and Rick Latimer Jr. provided many of the exhibits; however, our old photo files don't always have names and dates that identify the exhibits.

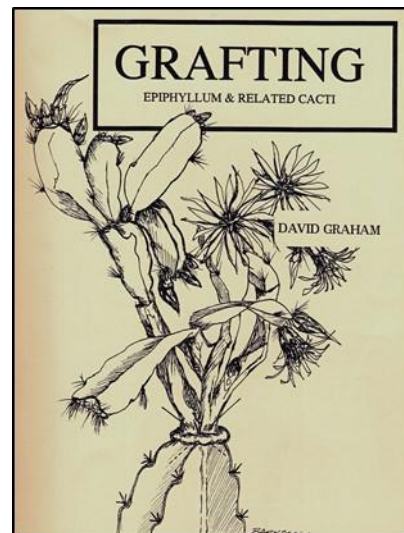
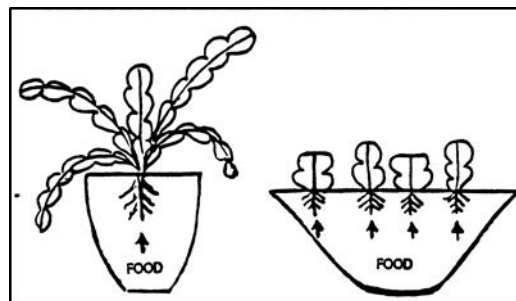


 **SDES**  
 50th Anniversary  
 1970-2020

**1990s** Several members put together competitive, award-winning educational displays that highlighted the many aspects of growing Epiphyllums.



Paul Kloppenborg featured “Hybridizing with George French” in 1998 (above), lessons learned in the garden (left) and “Power Growing” in 1995 which turned into featured articles in *EpiNews* and *California Garden Magazine*



David Graham’s in-depth grafting displays and popular demonstrations where he gave away grafted epies lead to his book *Grafting Epiphyllum and Related Cacti*. His son Daniel featured hybridizing exhibits.

## THE LOVELY "RAT-TAIL" CACTUS

Reprinted from Cactus &amp; Succulent Journal (U.S.), Vol. 54, 1982 pp 120-122

By Charles H. Everson



Fig. 1. *X Aporophyllum 'Lawrence'*, a beautiful hybrid developed by Johnson's Cactus Gardens and named for the late Lawrence Gonzalez

Growing high in the rugged jungle terrains of Mexico is one of the most unusual of all epiphytic cacti — the *Aporocactus*, nicknamed the "rat-tail" cactus. Hanging from the stems and thick branches of trees, these beautiful plants are slender, vine-like cactus, creeping or clambering, sending out roots freely, thus being able to attach themselves easily to trunk depressions and ledges of rocks in the wild.

The best known "rat-tail" must be the beautiful, lavender flowering *A. flagelliformis* — originally thought to have been introduced from Peru in 1690, but actually a native of Mexico. In 1923, Britton &

Rose said "It is very common in Mexico to see this plant about the houses of the poorer citizens, often planted in the end of a cow's horn and hung on the side of the house.... the dried flowers are used as a household remedy and sold in the drug stores under the name of *flor de cuerno*."

Flowers are rather small, diurnal, red to reddish-orange (*A. martianus*) or pink to lavender (*A. flagelliformis*), slightly irregular or zygomorphic with stamens longer than the petals. Flowers are produced in early spring and last for several days. Britton & Rose recognized five *Aporocactus* species; at the present there are only two species recognized: *A. flagelliformis* and *A. martianus*. These same species are known to have been crossed with such unusual plants as *Disocactus* and *Selenicereus*. Closely related and highly coveted is the cross of *Aporocactus* with the hybrid Epi. This cross combines the good qualities of each genus, but the results are quite different from either. Their main flowering season starts in early spring and on different occasions it is not unusual to see the same plant produce another batch in late summer and early fall. The same holds true with the species *Aporocactus*, although they seem to start blooming earlier in the season. A good example of the beautiful coloring that has originated from this great cross would be 'Temple Glow' — a proven winner, offered through our nursery for several years now, with the inner petals shaded in pink, outer petals light

orange, appearing as two flowers together. More examples include 'Fairy Dancer' — lavender-red flowers becoming lighter toward the center; 'Hazel' — an outstanding light orange-red cross of *Disocactus* × *Aporocactus*; 'Pastel Rose' and 'Pink Beauty' — both flowering light pastel pink; and finally, 'Moonlight' — a lovely, very large white to ivory flower.



Fig. 2. The "Rat-tail Cactus", *Aporocactus flagelliformis*

## Species Blooming

**Barb Alvarez** (Lemon Grove): *Epiphyllum pumilum*

**Terence Brashear** (Vista): *E. pumilum*

**Ron & Velma Crain** (Chula Vista): *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*, *E. pumilum*, *E. thomsonianum*, *Selenicereus undatus*

**Cindy Decker** (La Mesa): *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*, *E. pumilum*

**Heidi Lerner** (San Diego): *E. oxypetalum*

**Celine Dion** (Concord, CA): *E. phyllanthus*

**Safari Park** (San Pasqual Valley): *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*

**Paula Reynolds** (San Diego): *E. oxypetalum*, *E. hookeri* ssp. *guatemalense* var. *monstroze*, *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*

**Linda Sinkovic** (Santa Cruz): *E. hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*, *Lepsimium houletianum* ssp. *regnellii*, *Rhispalis hoelleri*, *R. pacheco-leonis*, *R. pilocarpa*

Continued next page

Rat-Tail continued

As to the care of these wonderful oddities, the easy part is at hand!

**PLANTING MIX:** The "rat-tail" cactus group will maintain a good, healthy growing pattern in a planting mix where the pH consistency is in the 5.5 to 6.5 range and very coarse so that the air may circulate and that the water will drain through the soil mix. Commercial potting mixes may be used after adding sponge rock and a small amount of washed builders sand to the mix. Suggested home prepared mix is as follows:

- 4 parts azalea-camellia-acid growers mix
- 1 part medium or fine redwood bark
- 1 part perlite (medium grade sponge rock)
- 1/3 part washed builders sand
- 1 part horticultural charcoal (optional)

For each cubic foot of mix, add 1/2 cup of bone meal. Should your water be high in alkaline you can add per cubic foot of mix, 1/2 cup of garden sulphur. Extreme humidity in your particular area may require the amount of leaf mold be decreased to 2 or 3 parts per mix.

**CARE AND WATERING:** These plants prefer temperatures between 45 and 70 degrees F, but will tolerate extreme heat if kept well shaded and the humidity level kept at around 50%. Rattail cactus will tolerate temperature of less than 32 degrees F for a few hours, but will freeze if exposed to temperatures below that temperature for any period of time. Protect your plants from frost and freezing. Watering requirements will depend on many variables such as pot, weather, and even geographical locations in which you live. If you are in doubt as to how much to water and how often, we suggest the following: check the soil every few days to see whether it is time to water. Remember: clay pots will dry out much faster than plastic pots, and may require watering at least twice a week during the summer months. Plastic pots retain moisture for longer periods and should be checked before watering. We use plastic pots because they do not require constant attention, but over watering is a much more distinct possibility. So if you have a heavy hand with the water hose, stick to clay pots.

**FERTILIZER:** After the first year, you may be ready to start fertilizing your "rat-tail". Place your plant on a regular fertilizing schedule by feeding once a month from April through October with a well balanced fertilizer with a ratio of 5-2-2. A recommended product would be liquid fish emulsion, using 1 TBSP per gallon of water. To



Fig. 3. X Aporophyllum 'Hazel', another beautiful hybrid, this one named for Mrs. Hazel Johnson.

promote blooms, a low nitrogen fertilizer is recommended, preferably the ratio of 0-10-10 being the most ideal. Apply once a month in February to promote blooms, and again in November for hardening off the summer growth. Do not use any fertilizer in the winter.

**PESTS:** There are very few pests which seem to infest the "rat-tail" cactus, however those that do can be very destructive. Scale are probably the worst pests of all. Scale are small disc-like insects which suck the juices of the plants and can be controlled by spraying with 50% Malathion diluted 1 tbsp. per gallon of water. Spray as necessary. For the control of mealybugs, use the same as for scale. [*Malathion is no longer available in California. You can hand pick and use 91% isopropyl alcohol to help control scale and mealybugs.*]

**BLOSSOMS:** The blooming season for "rat-tails" starts in April and continues through the middle of summer, depending on your locale. Most "rattails" require 2 to 3 years growth and a nice root bound condition before they begin their regular blooming cycle. Rooted cuttings may attempt to produce a bloom the first year, but the bud should be removed so that the energy of the cutting can go to growth

Continued next page

# 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.

Here is what has been blooming in September.

**Sue Aldrich** (San Diego): ‘Frühlingsgold’, ‘George’s Favorite’ ‘London Glamor’, Tangerine’

**Heny Brandenburg** (San Diego): ‘Bling Bling’, ‘Prof. Dr Lenzen’, ‘Ruby Pinwheel’, ‘Rudolf’s Delight’, ‘Vittorio’

**Terence Brashear** (Vista): ‘Cleo Paetz’, ‘Connie Mayer’, ‘Harald Knebel’

**Sandra Chapin** (Rancho Bernardo): ‘Beverly Ann’, ‘Ginger’, ‘Yavapai County’

**Mike Davis** (San Bruno): ‘Anton Gunter’, ‘Felcino Festival’, ‘Grace Ann’, ‘Grace Ann’

**Cindy Decker** (La Mesa): ‘Fluid Orange’, ‘Harald Knebel’, ‘Picnic’

**Patricia Frank** (San Diego): ‘George’s Favorite’

**Gilbert & Gail Hatfield** (Lemon Grove): ‘Red Barbara’

**Michal McKee** (Escondido): ‘Ber-Tee’, ‘Coral Dance’

**Safari Park** (San Pasqual Valley): ‘Charming Beauty’, ‘Connie Mayer’, ‘Jalisco Joy’, ‘Kitty Kat’

**Paula Reynolds** (San Diego): ‘French Vanilla’, ‘Sheer Elegance’

**Theo Sieg** (San Rafael): ‘Jalisco Beauty’, ‘Romantic Night’

Rat-Tail continued

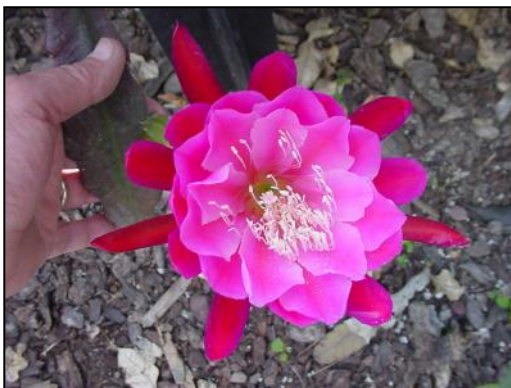
rather than the bloom. By allowing a cutting to bloom you can set back the maturity of the plant several months.

**LIGHT REQUIREMENTS:** Never allow your plant to receive direct noonday sun. Plants may be grown under lath, shade cloth, or a shady tree. They may also be grown on a patio or in a greenhouse which receives morning or late afternoon sun. Artificial light may be used (500-1000 foot-candles from a distance of 10"). Amount of light should be reduced or increased with the actual hours of daylight during each season of the year. This requirement is essential for bud formations.

**FINAL NOTE** — as with any set of rules or suggested general care for plants, please don't consider those in this article as firm and binding. Some may keep their "rat-tail" cactus enclosed most of the year (greenhouse, solarium, sun porch), while others in more sub-tropical or desert like areas allow theirs to hang outside or in a lath house most or all of the year. Don't be afraid to experiment with your plant, your mix or your fertilizer. You may lose a cutting or two before you've set upon a good course to follow, but you will be rewarded in the end with good growth, a unique plant, and absolutely beautiful blossoms! This will be your reward for meeting that challenge head on — good luck!!

[*Britton & Rose's other three species were: A. konzatti (a synonym of A. martianus) and A. flagriformis and A. leptophis, both now synonyms of A. flagelliformis.*]

[*Editor's note: This article was first published in 1982, and much has changed since then. Parts of this article have been updated.*]



L-R ‘Cleo Paetz’, ‘Beverly Ann’ and ‘Jalisco Beauty’  
Photos respectively Heny Brandenburg, Roger Chapin, and Rudolf Heßing Herick

# Keep In Touch

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



Corresponding Secretary [Corresponding@sdepis.org](mailto:Corresponding@sdepis.org)

Membership Secretary Beth Jackson at 858-692-0314 or [Membership@sdepis.org](mailto:Membership@sdepis.org)

Newsletter Editors Jerry Moreau at 619-208-7654 and Linda Sinkovic at [EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org)

## The Twelve Steps for Epiholics

1. We admitted that we were powerless over Epies – that our greenhouse had become a jungle.
2. Came to believe that nothing other than purchasing another Epi could keep us sane.
3. Made a decision to turn our house and our yard over to the great Epi Guru.
4. Made a search of other people's lists and gloated if we had more.
5. Admitted to ourselves, the Epi Guru and nobody else that we were in the total grip of Epies.
6. Were entirely ready to take over other family member's rooms for more Epi growing space.
7. Righteously demanded others remove their grooming and beauty products from the bathroom. More space for Epies.
8. Made a list of all people we disliked and sent them crenatum.
9. Made every effort to disguise our collection so others would think it boring and not beg for cuttings.
10. Continued to build our collection and denied it to everyone.
11. Tried through every means available to secretly obtain other people's list and use this information to put us one step ahead.
12. After agonizing for days finally admitted that our NOID collection was bigger than our named collection.

By Michael Guillot



Photo by Jose Almandoz

'Welcome'

## Welcome New Members!!!

Evelyn Avinante, San Diego, CA  
 Michael Guillot, Victoria, Australia  
 Georgett & Randy Klinedienst, Temple City, CA  
 Priscilla Merriam, Watertown, MA  
 Briana Naranjo, San Diego, CA  
 Celeste Raymond, La Mesa, CA  
 Rob Stirling, London, UK, England  
 Teresa Whitney, San Clemente, CA

## Get Well Wishes

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

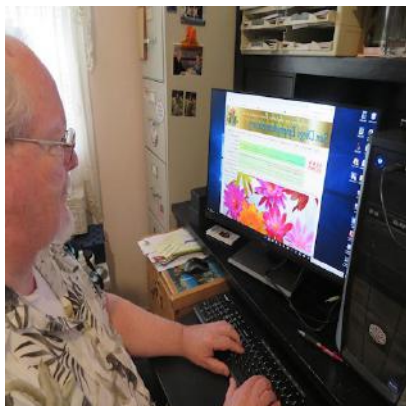
Sue Aldrich, Chuck Everson,  
 Mel Horstman, & Emily Lovci

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

To all our members who live near the fires, may they be safe.

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

## From Our Webmaster



Have you checked out the SDES website? If you haven't you should; you can find a lot of information and pictures. The SDES website is viewed worldwide; last month our site had visits from

individuals located in over 18 countries! Many visitors viewed our site multiple times. This is largely due to the support provided by society members.

Although many people from around the world can access some good information from the website there is a special section that is for members only. This is another benefit just for being a member of SDES. In the members only section you will find stuff such as:

- Epiphyllum Blooms
- Newsletter Library
- Gardening Tips
- Epiphyllum Care
- Meeting Presentations
- Off-Season Bloomers
- SDES Contacts

*The internet seems like magic.  
Here is 'Alakazam'  
a Don Patterson hybrid.*

You will have to enter a password to access the members only section. The password (which changes every three months) is sent to you via email when you get your monthly newsletter.



The Epi Bloom Catalog or picture gallery is due to the hard work of Janice Wakefield. We are adding pictures all the time. If you have a picture or can take a picture of a registered epi which is not in the picture gallery please submit it so we can make the Bloom Catalog even better.

The library contains all the past EpiNews letters listed by the year and month they were published. These may be viewed and printed.

All of this and more is available only to SDES members. <http://www.Sdepis.org>.

Submit all pictures and other comments or suggestions for the website to Gilbert at [webmaster@sdepis.org](mailto:webmaster@sdepis.org)

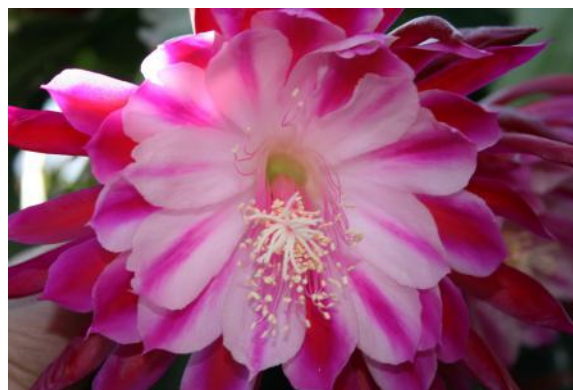


Photo by Jerry Moreau

## SDES now has a YouTube channel

**Check it out!!!!!!** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIuiTcWMQvn\\_GCVxNu7YItQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIuiTcWMQvn_GCVxNu7YItQ)

This will be a place for the Society's videos. Currently you can watch a video of the old display house during the last season it was open (2017). In the future you will be able to find meeting programs and other educational videos. Subscribe to the channel to keep up to date on videos posted.



## Epi News Submissions

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

## Mission Statement

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

## SDES Officers

President	Cindy Decker
1st Vice President	Patricia Frank
2nd Vice President	Gretchen Ward
Treasurer	Dennis Hughes
Recording Sec.	Sue Aldrich
Corresponding Sec.	Beth Jackson
Membership Sec.	Beth Jackson
Director 2020-21	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2020-21	Mildred Mikas
Director 2020-21	David Cheever
Director 2019-20	Ron Crain
Director 2019-20	Paula Reynolds

## Resources

As a benefit to members here is a list of resources for members.

If you know of any resources you would like to have included, contact the editors.

### Epi Nurseries:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Plant Societies:

**Epiphyllum Society of America**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month except in December or January @ 7:30 PM  
<http://epiphyllums.org/>

**San Diego Bromeliad Society**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month @ 10:00 AM  
<http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org/>

**San Francisco Epiphyllum Society**  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month @ 7:30 PM  
<http://www.sfepi.org/>

**South Bay Epiphyllum Society**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403>



'Petite Pazazz'  
Photo by Jerry Moreau

# One Last Thing

To give you something to look forward to here are several small blooms to entice you for the upcoming program.



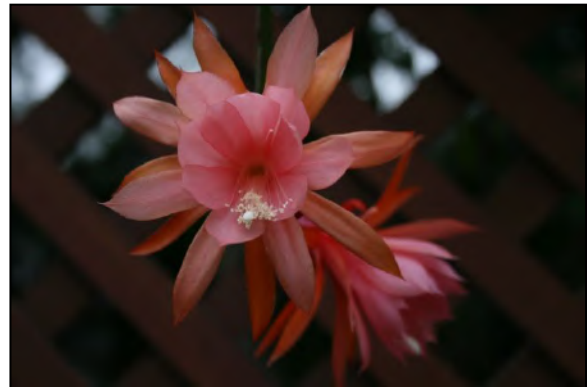
‘Basket Of Cheer’



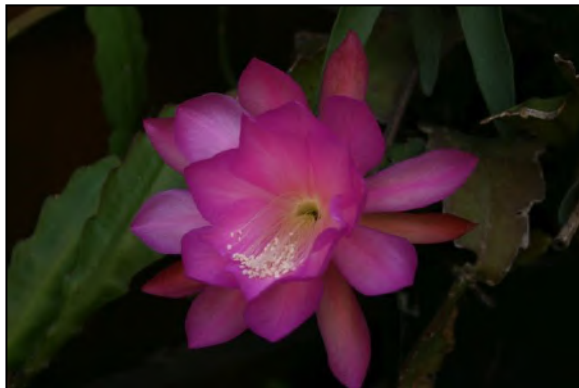
‘Frühlingsgold’



‘Little Guy’



‘Something Special’



‘Stina D’



‘Wedding Bells’