



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

January 2022
Volume 47 Number 1



‘Rumpelstiltskin’

Hybridizer: Don Burnet
Parentage: ‘Whatta Dream’ x ‘Ivan The Terrible’
Size: Large — Extra Large
Photo by Jerry Moreau

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

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Membership:

Single \$15.00 per year
[https://checkout.square.site/
 pay/52076e42dc684d9a8d03f874b3a06e2c](https://checkout.square.site/pay/52076e42dc684d9a8d03f874b3a06e2c)

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Have You Moved?

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

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

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

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We are doing our best to have a presence both in-person and online. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the pre-meeting workshop is at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom room will open at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Inside This Issue

President’s Corner	3
Meeting Program	3
Stay In Touch	4
Officers & Coordinators Contact	4
Workshop Corner: Fertilizer for Blooms	5
New Board Member	6
Now Is The Time	7
50 th Anniversary Celebration Postponed	7
Safari Park Report	9
Off-Season Blooms	10
Epicacti Resources	11
One Last Thing	12

Calendar of Events

January	5	Dec. Board Meeting
	8	Safari Park Work Party
	12	General Meeting
	15	Safari Park Work Party
	26	Board Meeting
	29	Safari Park Work Party
February	9	General Meeting
	23	Board Meeting

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



‘Happy New Year’
 Photo by Jerry Moreau

President's Corner



Happy New Year!!

I want to wish each and every one of you a new year filled with love, joy, and epies!

SDES is looking forward to an exciting year. I want

to welcome Carmela Griswold to the board as our new Recording Secretary. I'm looking forward to working with her. As we're still not sure how this pandemic will play out in the coming months, we are being flexible and going with the flow. At this point

we are still having meetings in-person and online. David is coordinating some wonderful programs. And don't forget about Ron's pre-meeting workshops! Our programs and workshops are a great way to help you get the most out of your membership.

Soon spring will be here and there will be many flowers to enjoy. So get out there and fertilize for blooms and watch the buds grow.

Till next time,

Gretchen

Meeting Program

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

January's Program: This month we have Lucy Warren presenting on the Gardens of Balboa Park.

Come join us Wednesday January 12th. Either in-person on online on Zoom.

In Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Pre-meeting workshop room 104 7:00 p.m.

The Zoom room will open at 7:00 p.m. for a bit of socializing and the online meeting will join the in-person meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Online Voting Success

Due to the pandemic, the Board came up with the idea of online voting for members. This idea has worked really well; the members voted online for the election of officers in November and again in December for the 2022 budget, SDES By-Laws, and Standing Rules.

The online voting for the December vote was closed at 6:00p.m. just before the December general meeting. The 2022 budget, By-Laws and Standing Rules were overwhelmingly approved. Details about the vote can be found in the minutes of the December General Meeting.

Get Well Wishes

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

Gwen Tolleson

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

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

Keep In Touch



Members are the most important part of our society! Together we create more beauty for all to enjoy.

As in any group, we are more potent together. We have members all over the world! Although the epies are what bring us together at first, lifelong friendships are made in the society. Knowledge, plants, and passions are shared between members. And everyone has fun!

Corresponding Secretary Sal Castellitto Corresponding@sdepis.org

Membership Secretary Beth Jackson at

858-692-0314 or Membership@sdepis.org

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Linda Sinkovic at EpiNews@sdepis.org



Society Officers, Directors, & Coordinators

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Fertilize for Blooms

From *The Epi-Gram* Vol XXVII, No. 1, 2012

By Dick Kohlschreiber

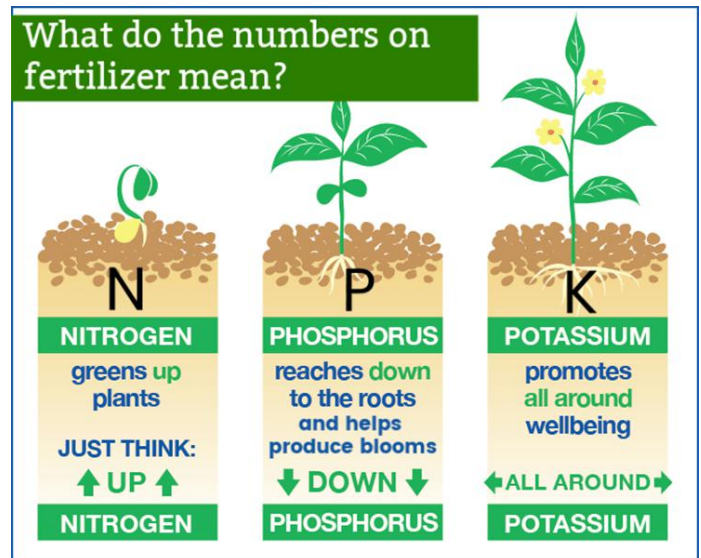
Now is the time to apply some type of a "Hi Bloom" fertilizer to your plants. I've always used a 2-10-10 formula. The numbers stand for the amount of Nitrogen, Phosphates and Potash in the fertilizer. The first number stands for Nitrogen so in a 2-10-10 formula it means that the fertilizer has 2% nitrogen. Nitrogen is needed for plant growth. If you have consistently cold temperatures, your plants really don't need any nitrogen but in Southern California, we often have periods of warm weather during the Winter and our plants can use a little nitrogen.

The second number stands for Phosphorus (usually in the form of a phosphate) and this is what really stimulates the plant to form buds for blooms. The 2-10-10 has 10% phosphates. I have seen several brands of fertilizers with much higher amounts of phosphates and if you haven't had too many flowers in the previous years, you might try one of those.

The third number stands for the percentage of Potash in the fertilizer and Potash affects the colors of the flowers. You should have much more vivid colors in your flowers if you give your plants potash. (**Editor's note:** Fertilizer potassium is sometimes called "potash", a term that comes from an early production technique where potassium was leached from wood ashes and concentrated by evaporating the leachate in large iron pots ("pot-ash"). For more information about potash check out the link [What Is Potash?](#))

High Bloom fertilizers come in liquid or granular forms. The liquid fertilizers are absorbed almost immediately both by the roots and also the foliage. The granular forms are absorbed more slowly but I find them easier to use. And if I can get the fertilizer on the plants before a good rain, it really seems to work well.

You should also look to see if the fertilizer has any trace minerals included because those are always beneficial to the plants. If you're handling your plants, it's a good time to clean out the pots- (pull the weeds and grass), replace some of the soil if needed and trim off the dead stems.



Types of Fertilizer

There are many options for how you convey nutrients to your plants. Many gardeners use a combination of different fertilizers and techniques. Try using granular products or manures to supply the main nutrients and liquids to correct minor deficiencies or quickly boost growth. The key to selecting a fertilizer is understanding what nutrients your plants need.

From the University of Florida for more information about fertilizers [click here](#).

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/fertilizer/types-of-fertilizer.html>

**New Board
Member Profile**

Carmela Griswold Recording Secretary

Please welcome Carmela Griswold, our new Recording Secretary! Although she is a fairly new member -- she joined SDES last year -- she has been growing epies for four years.

She enjoys growing hybrid epies. Like many of us, she started by growing an Unk and fell in love with the beautiful flowers. Her favorite hybrid epies include 'King Midas', 'Argus', 'Pegasus', 'French Gold', and 'Coral Sunset'. When we asked her about the SDES, she said "I've enjoyed learning from such knowledgeable people"!

She grows other plants, including other cacti, succulents and Cymbidium orchids. She comments, "I like cacti because they need less water" and when she learned about epies and the beautiful flowers, she fell in love. Her philosophy about gardening can be summed up as "Plants are like your children; they need love and care."



'Argus'
Photo by Roger Chapin

Carmela has many interests outside of epies. She has worked as a color consultant for home builders since the 1980's. She enjoys cooking, baking and hiking. She also likes to sew and crochet. She practices yoga and enjoys working out at the gym.



'King Midas'
Photo by Jerry Moreau

Carmela and her husband moved to San Diego from Pasadena, CA about five years ago.



French Gold
Photo by Jerry Moreau



'Pegasus'
Photo by Roger Chapin

Now is the Time

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

SDES 50th Anniversary Dinner postponed (again)

From Mildred Mikas: This pandemic has been frustrating for all of us. It has been especially trying to coordinate and celebrate SDES's 50th anniversary.

A little history: first, we wanted to celebrate our 50th in December 2020 (which was the actual anniversary year). However, as you all know the pandemic hit early in 2020 and an indoor event was not possible. So we postponed the dinner to December 2021, but as you know the pandemic is still with us.

We then thought that March 2022 could be a possibility, but now seeing there are more COVID variants showing up we need to postpone it once again.

We care about our members and want to make sure all our members stay safe and healthy. Currently we are planning to celebrate our society's 50th Anniversary on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

SDES is an affiliate member of the CSSA. With that, SDES members are welcome to the free quarterly e-newsletter *To The Point*. To receive your complimentary copy, please [Click Here](#)



'Crowning Glory' FOB



'Cranberry Puff' DP



'Derby Star' FB



'Diana Inglese' LMD



'Happiness Is' WC



'Incognito' DP

Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau

Happy New Year!!! It's January and so the epi cycle starts again. This month it is time to fertilize for blooms.

We are still enjoying some off-season blooms. It's winter and cool at the park. It's great working with the plants; we are fortunate enough that we can replant all year round. The plants in San Diego don't seem to go dormant. Some plants may slow down while others show growth. I love the plants no matter what time of year it is or what stage of growth: from new growth to blooms, epies are wonderful plants.



We can't do this work at the park without the help of all the many SDES volunteers. I'm grateful for each and every one of you. You make a difference to the society and to each other. I'm looking forward to another year of playing with the plants with you.

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



*Just a few of the wonderful
volunteers at the park
Top left clockwise — Tim Paule,
Jerry Markle, Velma Crain, Janice
Wakefield, Sandra Chapin, David
Cheever, and Marie Dempewolf*

Photos by Jerry Moreau



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

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 which epies have been blooming in your yard, email the editors with your list of off-season blooms and species.

Blooming Off-Season

Henry Brandenburg (San Diego): 'Abracadabra', 'Bling Bling', 'Clarity's Mike', 'DTO', 'Eddie Huey', 'Jalisco Charm', 'Jalisco Starlight', 'Rudolf's Delight', 'Ucayali Gold'

Sandra Chapin (Rancho Bernardo): 'Basi Paetz', 'Ernst Gunchen', 'Jalisco Starlight', 'Lisa Paetz', 'Michael Rachfahl', 'Ramona Paetz'

Ron & Velma Crain (Chula Vista): 'Felcino Fairy', 'Kodi II'

Mike Davis (San Bruno): 'Clarity Mike', 'Emmett Kelly', 'Fred Boutin', 'George's favorite', 'Harald Knebel'

Dean DeLibertis (National City): 'Jalisco Grace'

Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): 'Camilla Berggren', 'Gold Charm', 'Jalisco Curly', 'Knebel's Farbenwunder', 'Tiny Flame'



'Jalisco Grace'
Photo by Dean DeLibertis



'Fred Boutin'
Photo by Steve Pincott

Jerry Moreau (San Diego): 'Jemo'

Patricia Neal (San Diego): 'Fumiko Kida', 'Pat Barrett'

Pat Shea (Port Charlotte, FL): 'Pegasus'

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): 'Alice's Pet', 'Harald Knebel', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Striped Beauty'

Paula Reynolds (San Diego): 'Crimson Arrow'

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): 'Herbert S. Irwin'

Blooming Species

Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): *Epiphyllum pumilum*

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): *Disocactus macranthus*, *Rhipsalis dissimilis*, *R. goebeliana*, *R. pachypera*

Pat Shea (Port Charlotte, FL): *D. macranthus*

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): *D. macranthus*, *Lepismium houlettianum* ssp. *houlettiana*, *R. pilocarpa*.



'Fumiko Kida'
Photo by Jerry Moreau



'Crimson Arrow'
Photo by George French

Epi News Submissions

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

Mission Statement

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

SDES Officers

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

Resources

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

Epi Nurseries:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plant Societies:

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>

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

Epiphyllum Society of America

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

<http://epiphyllums.org/>

San Diego Bromeliad Society

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

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

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

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

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

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

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

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

One Last Thing



'Golden Jubilee' FOB



'Atlantis' WATTS



'Bea Barad' LAT



'Cassis' WATTS



'Diva' WATTS



'Irette' TDH