



# Epi News

*San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.*

July 2022  
Volume 47 Number 7



## **'Magi's Gold'**

Hybridizer: Jim Nones 2014

Parentage: 'Frühlingsgold' x 'Dijonnaise'

Size: Medium - Large

Photo: JK Hendershot

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

P.O. Box 126127

San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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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 your updates to:

San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership

P.O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127.

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

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

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**Calendar of Events**

July	9	Safari Park Work Party
	13	General Meeting
	27	Board Meeting
	30	Safari Park Work Party
August	6	Safari Park Work Party
	10	General Meeting
	24	Board Meeting
	27	Safari Park Work Party
September	10	Safari Park Work Party
	14	General Meeting
	24	Safari Park Work Party
	28	Board Meeting



'Foxy Lady' from Dean Delibertis' Garden. Photo: Jerry Moreau

## President's Corner — *From President David Cheever*



Greetings from your new president. As you may know, I first learned about the SDES by visiting Balboa Park many years ago (20+) on the Saturday before Mother's Day, and buying some cuttings for my mother. Yes, they are all unknowns now—because the names have all faded away. I'm a native San Diegan and became a member after I retired in 2018. I joined the society and became a volunteer at the Safari Park's epi shade house. I don't have a lot of room at my house, but working with the other volunteers at the Safari Park's large collection and seeing all the blooms around Mother's Day, is all worth the time and effort. Plus, I learn a lot about the care and upkeep of the plants while working with all of the other volunteers.

We had a great Cutting Sale at the Safari Park and all the proceeds go toward the funding of supplies for the epies we take care of there. We also had a wonderful Mother's Day Weekend Sale and Show that will help us continue our education and scholarship plans for the future. Thanks again to everyone!

We are also proud to have awarded our first two scholarships to the following students: Sarah Roberts of Cuyamaca College for \$1,800, and to Marikathryn Ross of Southwestern College for \$1,800, both are Floral Design majors. We will also be giving them a year's membership to the SDES and sending them our newsletter. Look for more information on our winners in next month's issue.

Now springtime has past, and as we move into summer most of our blooms are emblazoned in our memory—or well documented in our photos. It is time to give our epiphyllums a boost of energy, as in fertilizer, to help them grow bigger and stronger for next year. We need to check and make sure our epiphyllums are not getting too dry and with the possible restriction on water use. You may want to give them a little more shade, to make that water last a little longer. Until next time, David Cheever

## Meeting Program

**Pre-Meeting Workshop:** This month Dean Delibertis and Ellen McCollum will be discussing how to make perfect cuttings that have the best chances for rooting. Held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

**June Program:** Last month we enjoyed a slide show presentation and discussion led by David Cheever who spoke on Hugelkultur—or mound culture. Hugelkultur is a centuries-old, traditional way of building and creating a raised [garden bed](#) from rotten logs and plant debris.

**July Program:** For our July meeting and program, we will have a representative from the Turtle and Tortoise Society speak—along with some small visitors. There will also be a presentation of the engraved Mother's Day Show trophies which will be awarded to our winners. Please come and join us on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> either in-person, or online via Zoom.



*Left: Master workshop leader Ron Crain delivers a slide presentation on common epi pests at the June Workshop.*

*Right: David Cheever presides over his first meeting as SDES President.*



Photos: JK Hendershot

## Keeping In Touch...

Our members are the most important part of our society! Together we create more beauty to enjoy.

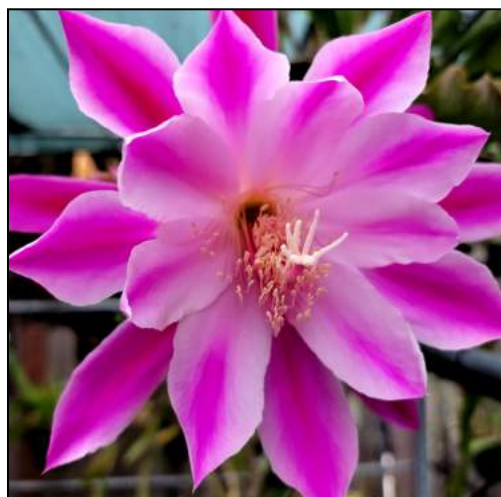
As with any group, we are more effective and stronger when we are unified together—and our membership spans the globe! Although the epies are what bring us together at first, lifelong friendships are made in the society. Knowledge, plants, passions and stories of those who came before us are shared between members—and everyone has fun!



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

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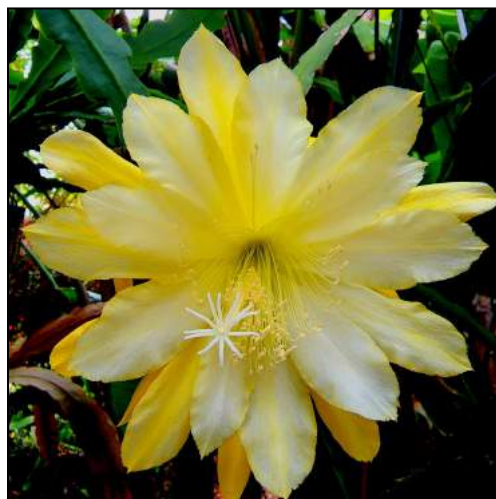


*'Bumpkin' FRE*

Photo: Chris Welcher

## Welcome to Our New Members

Alexandra Chyla, San Diego, CA  
 Steve Griswold, Vista, CA  
 Monette and David Karr, San Diego, CA  
 Stan Sato, Gardena, CA  
 Olivia Ybarra, La Mesa, CA



*'Going Bananas' FB/WC*

Photo: Forrest Ehbrecht

## We Need Your Help

If you have epies—cuttings or plants, succulents, interesting garden items, or other plants you would like to donate to stock and increase the variety of items on our raffle table—we need your help. To make a donation or to obtain more information on how you can help, please contact director, and raffle table coordinator, Paula Reynolds via email at [paularey@aol.com](mailto:paularey@aol.com) with your ideas, and questions.

**Remember the Society**—Support your passion, support the Society's collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Currently, we have the world's largest collection of epiphyllum hybrids and epiphytic species on public display. We also have a very unique new display, and to keep it intact SDES needs additional funding to maintain it. All monies raised goes toward the care of the collection and display. We are all volunteers who create and upkeep the display because we are passionate about it. All donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Consider putting SDES and the epi collection in your will or trust.

## Now is the Time

- ✓ **Mist plants.** With the hot summer weather, occasional misting or spraying is beneficial. Do not allow soil to completely dry out. Smaller pots need watering more often than large ones. Also, clay pots will need watering more often than plastic ones. The best time to water is early morning or evening; do not water during the hottest part of the day.
- ✓ **Fertilize plants that have completed their blooming cycle.** Use slow release nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-10. Be sure that you do not overfeed. Also, note that too much fertilizer can burn the roots.
- ✓ **Remove spent blooms and unwanted apples.** Cut off about ¼ inch above areola to prevent damage to areola.
- ✓ **Transplant to larger containers the plants that are outgrowing their pots.** For example, transplant 4 inch pots into one gallon containers and the one gallon pots into two gallon. Mature plants that have been in large containers for a few years can benefit from ‘potting on’, when the plant is removed from the container, and fresh potting mix and the plant are put back into the same container. Do not water for a week after repotting.
- ✓ **Plant new cuttings.**
- ✓ **Protect epies from summer sun with shade cloth, lath houses or under the shade of trees.**
- ✓ **Ensure air circulation around epies.** Do not crowd them too closely together. Also, be aware that strong, dry Santa Ana winds can be harmful and plants will need wind protection, as well as more humidity.
- ✓ **If you want to try grafting,** now is a good time. Use established but viable newer cuttings and be sure the cambium layers are matched for optimum growth. Also make sure your cactus pad is well rooted.
- ✓ **Plants that have grown long branches should be in hanging baskets or trellised.** The branches will be healthier if they're not laying on the ground or a shelf.

## Correction to Mother’s Day Show Photos

It was brought to our attention that two of the display photos included in the June issue of Epi News, listing Mother’s Day Show winners were incorrectly labeled, and two of the members names were inadvertently switched. Our sincerest apologies go to Lauren Burnette, and Sandra and Colleen Chapin. The photo displays are correctly identified below.



*Above Left: Lauren Burnette, Third Place, Troxell One Trophy. Above Right: Sandra and Colleen Chapin receive Honorable Mention with their beautiful beach display.*

Photos: Patricia Neal

# Workshop Corner: Grafting Hybrid Epiphyllums

By Lois Burks, Honorary Life Member, San Diego Epiphyllum Society



Lois Burks at the California Epi Center, Vista, CA.

Photo: Chuck Everson

*Editors Note: During a volunteer event at the San Diego Safari Park a few month back, two members were discussing grafting epiphyllums. I have always been fascinated with grafting, as my grandfather once grafted three varieties of apples on one tree. The next week I happened upon an interesting article on the topic written by Lois Burks. I reached out to Lois to ask if we might reprint the article. Lois graciously agreed and below is the article as it was published.*

Grafting a hybrid epiphyllum cutting (the scion) onto another type of stronger growing cactus (the stock) is done for a number of reasons; 1.) to improve the vigor of a weak growing variety. 2) To propagate a great number of cuttings as quickly as possible, which is usually done for commercial purposes by an epiphyllum nursery. 3) To speed up the usually very slow development of a hybrid epiphyllum seedling in order to have it produce flowers sooner. And 4) Just for fun! It is pure pleasure to see that a new graft has ‘taken’ and to watch how fast it grows.

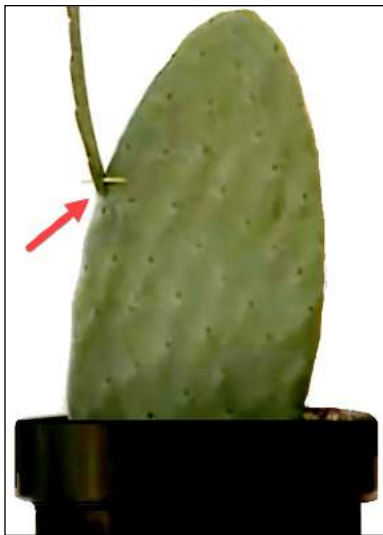
I will not write about all the possible methods of grafting or all the possible combinations of cactus stocks and scions, and there are many. Instead, for the sake of brevity and simplicity, I will simply describe the method of grafting hybrid epiphyllums onto *Opuntia ficus-indica* root-stock that has worked for us at California Epi Center in the past, and that we used most frequently. The grafting method we used is not the only way to graft. It is simply a method we had developed that is satisfactory to us in terms of efficiency and speed.

Before I go into the actual mechanics of grafting, I would like to tell you about some of the conclusions we have reached as a result of our grafting experience. Of course, there can be exceptions to any of the following statements, but generally speaking we have found these conclusions to be accurate.

1. Of all of the variable factors that can influence the success or failure of a graft, the time of year seems to be the most important. We have found that grafts made in the warm months of May through September stand a much better chance of taking. This is true for several reasons. First, the *Opuntia* is in a growth cycle. Secondly, the weather is warm and usually dry (at least for those in Southern California). Thirdly, there seems to be an abundance of actively growing hybrid epiphyllum branches that are suitable for use as scions during these months.
2. The genetic affinity of the scion to the stock affects the success or failure of the graft. We have found that hybrid epiphyllum scions that have large red flowers take almost immediately and literally grow like ‘weeds’ when grafted onto *Opuntia ficus-indica*. We assume this is because the *Hylocereus* parentage of most red flowered hybrid epiphyllums is very compatible with *Opuntia*. Conversely, some of the small-flowered hybrid epiphyllums that have *psuedorhipsalis*, *chiapasia* or *disocactus* in their background do not graft as readily to *Opuntia*, nor do the successful grafts grow as vigorously as do the red-flowered hybrids. For this reason, we have tried *Hylocereus undatus* stock when grafting some of the smaller flowered hybrid epiphyllums with, to my way of thinking, unexciting results. As *hylocereus* is not as strong or vigorous a plant as *Opuntia*, the growth rate of the scions was not as fast as we would have liked.
3. A scion from a hybrid epiphyllum that grows cleanly (without blemish) on its own roots will sometimes spot when grafted. Apparently the scion does not adapt to the forced rapid growth resulting from grafting. It is impossible to predict which hybrid epiphyllums will spot when grafted. The flower color or size does not seem to be a factor, at least not with any discernable degree of con-

*Continued on the following page*

## Workshop Corner: Grafting Hybrid Epiphyllums (Continued)



Red arrow indicates where epi was grafted to Opuntia.

Photo: SDES Archive

sistency. Interestingly, when the spotted growth from these grafts is cut and potted, the resulting side growth from the cuttings will be as clean as it would have been if the parent cutting had not come from spotted grafted material.

4. A scion taken from a hybrid epiphyllum that spots on its own roots always spots when grafted. In fact, the spots are bigger and better than ever.

5. Grafts made late in the fall, from October to early December, will often show absolutely no signs of side growth until spring, and then not until after they have bloomed! Apparently, when bud formation is underway, though invisible to the naked eye at the time the scion is grafted, the scion somehow directs the energy of the stock plant toward flowering rather than making side growth. Fascinating!

6. Old woody Opuntia pads that have a thick rough bark-like epidermis (outer layer) are not the best pads to use for stock. We have grafted successfully on such pads and have found that invariably the scion shrivels up from having lost contact with the vascular layer of the pad after a few months. The best stock for grafting seems to be large young pads that have achieved full growth and hardened off. The pads

should have been rooted for a minimum of six months for best results.

7. An Opuntia pad that has already been used as stock for a large graft should be allowed a rest period of at least a month after the original graft has been removed before grafting onto it again. A large graft takes much of the strength out of an Opuntia pad, and the rest period will help it recover. If the Opuntia pad has become old and woody, let it make secondary growth on which subsequent grafts can be made. Better still, discard it and replace it with a fresh young pad.
8. Hybrid epiphyllum cuttings taken from vigorous grafts are always stronger and produce side growth more quickly than cuttings taken from plants. We have compared the growth rates of the two types of cuttings and proved this to ourselves time and time again. Aside from the rapid growth rate, which has to be the number one benefit derived from grafting in the mind of the commercial grower, the sheer beauty, quality and vigor of the resulting cuttings would be reason enough to graft hybrid epiphyllums.

You may be wondering what the light requirements are for successful grafting. Although Opuntia can be grown in full sun, hybrid epiphyllums should be raised in filtered light. How does one reconcile these factors? We raised our Opuntia grafting stock in shade structures covered with 73% density shade cloth. Although this is not an ideal situation for the Opuntia, the pads do seem to get enough light to perform well as grafting stock and the light is perfect for the hybrid epiphyllum scions. We have decided that when we recover the graft house, we will use shade cloth that lets in even more light, probably 60% density. This would give the Opuntia pads additional light and the epiphyllums would not suffer. We have found that because of their exceptional vigor, hybrid epiphyllum grafts seem to be able to tolerate a great deal more strong light without discoloring or burning than plants do.

Opuntia pads supporting large hybrid epiphyllum grafts will not live forever. The graft takes a great deal of strength out of the stock. We've found that after three or four years of supporting a large graft, the Opuntia pad will generally rot and die. We watch our grafts rather closely for signs of pad rot and remove the graft immediately when rot is detected while the epiphyllum cuttings are still salvageable.

If the graft is left on a dying pad too long, the branches will shrivel, and cuttings made from these branches take much longer to root and grow.

*Continued on the following page*

## Workshop Corner: Grafting Hybrid Epiphyllums (Continued)

And now, on to the mechanics of grafting.

- 1) Make sure all of your tools are sterile. You will need a sharp knife, a pair of cutters, plastic plant tie, toothpicks (or long cactus spines), and a tag with the name and date of the graft.
- 2) Select a large well rooted Opuntia pad (as mentioned we use Opuntia ficus-indica "Luther Burbank Spineless Hybrid") for the stock plant. The pad should be tied between stakes or to some type of trellising for support.
- 3) Cut away all secondary growth from the rooted pad on which you intend to graft. Wear gloves. Although the pads we use are supposedly spineless, the areoles are full of small clusters of golden spines called glochids that are very painful when imbedded in your fingers.
- 4) Use a newspaper or disposable cloth to wipe away as many of the glochids as possible.
- 5) Cut your hybrid epiphyllum scion. Mark the name on the scion with a waterproof marking pen. Select an actively growing scion that is from 8" to 12" in length with a good strong midrib if possible. Although we have grafted old hardened off scions and young weak scions when there was no choice, our success rate has been much higher using young strong scions.
- 6) Cut an "L" shaped wedge in one side of the stock. The cut can be made anywhere along the side of the pad and should be deep enough horizontally to expose the growth layer and at least ½" of the inner core of the pad. The cut should be long enough vertically to provide at least 1½" to 2" of flat surface against which the scion can be tied.
- 7) Cut off ¼" from the lower end of the scion. This will ensure that freshly exposed vascular bundles in the scion come in contact with those in the stock. Strip away at least 1" of the epidermis from the midrib of the scion, taking care not to break the midrib.
- 8) Placing the scion against the vertical surface of the wedge you have cut in the pad, insert the exposed midrib down into the horizontal surface of the wedge. If you have a scion with a good strong midrib, it will be strong enough to be inserted into the Opuntia pad by grasping the scion above the exposed midrib between your thumb and forefinger and applying downward pressure. If you have selected a very young scion with a weak midrib, and are worried about breaking it, make a hole in the horizontal surface of the wedge with a toothpick. Then insert the midrib of the scion into the hole.
- 9) Secure the scion to the stock by inserting two toothpicks or cactus spines through the scion, one on each side of the midrib, into the pad about ½" above the horizontal part of the wedge. For additional stability, tie the scion to the pad with plastic plant tie. Attach the label showing the date and name of the graft.
- 10) Should there be a possibility of rain, protect your new graft by draping plastic sheeting over the pad. It is essential that moisture be kept away from the freshly cut surfaces of the stock and scion.
- 11) Now all you have to do is wait. If the weather is warm, you may see evidence that your graft has taken in as little as two weeks. A month would be the norm, however. If the weather is cool, your wait could be considerably longer, up to several months. And if the weather is cold, don't worry about whether your graft has taken until spring.
- 12) Once your graft starts to put out fairly long side branches, the growth will need to be tied to some sort of support such as stakes or trellis. And now you can start to wait again, this time for flowers!

*Thanks to Lois for allowing the use of her article. Lois and her husband Bob, co-owned the California Epi Center, in Vista, CA. Lois joked that their grafting method should have been called the "Hack and Stab Method"—which is what it was! To learn more about Lois refer to the April issue of Epi News.*

## Monthly Member Highlight—Sandra Chapin



SDES Featured Member

Sandra Chapin, San Diego, CA.

*I recently had a chance to catch up with Sandra Chapin, who joined the SDES in 1995. She lives in San Diego, CA, and has volunteered at the Safari Park for 27 years. Sandra agreed to sit down for an interview so our readers around the world could have the opportunity to get to know her a little better.*

***Sandra, tell us a little about you—your early years, and where you grew up?*** I grew up on a grain farm in northern Idaho. I guess I have always liked to play in the dirt. In high school, I planned to major in Home Economics and become a home extension officer for the US Department of Agriculture. When I graduated from college I married my husband Roger, and had my first daughter—so plans changed and I taught high school instead.

***So, how did you get from Idaho to San Diego?*** My husband's job gave us the opportunity to move around a bit, and as a result over the years I was able to teach in Idaho, Washington, Kansas and finally California. The last 20 years of my career, I taught independent study to teenagers who were pregnant or parenting, for the Poway Unified School District, in Poway, CA, and I retired from teaching in 2004.

***We've covered Idaho, farming and teaching. Let's switch to epies—how did you first become interested in epies?*** We first found epies in the early 90s quite by accident, when my three daughters took me to San Diego's Balboa Park to celebrate Mother's Day and my birthday. We stumbled into the San Diego Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale and the rest is history.

***Tell our readers what piqued your interest in joining the San Diego Epiphyllum Society?*** Well, it's funny you should ask. Actually, my husband Roger first joined the society, but I vowed to remain loyal to my roses. Eventually, Roger wore me down and I joined the society because tickets to the society's Christmas dinner and banquet were cheaper for a member couple, than for a member/non member couple. I steadfastly insisted I was not going to get involved.

***Well, that has to be one of the best reasons I've heard in recent memory to join a group! I say that with peace, love, and laughter! You've come a long way from not wanting to get involved to being involved in almost every aspect of the society. How exactly did that happen?*** It was probably around

*Continued on the following page*



*Left: Sandra's favorite 'Daisy Dean'.*

*Right: Roger's favorite 'Norwood'.*

Photos: SDES Archives



## Monthly Member Highlight—Sandra Chapin (Continued)



Sandra Chapin and daughter Colleen at the Epi Sale.

1999, and our Recording Secretary resigned and somehow I found myself taking over the position. Since then I have been President, First Vice President—Second Vice President several times, Recording Secretary a few times, and a Director. So much for my resolve NOT to get involved! **Quick question—it sounds like you breezed over the Newsletter Editor position—any interest there?** No, I'm good—but I have written many articles about epies, both for the EpiNews and for other publications.

**Let's discuss some of the other epi societies—do you belong to any other societies, and if so which ones?** I also belong to South Bay Epiphyllum Society in Palos Verdes, CA; the Epiphyllum Society of America, at Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia, CA; and the San Francisco Epiphyllum Society in San Francisco, CA. I have had the amazing opportunity to participate at one time or another, as a presiding judge for all of those societies' shows and events.

**So we met when I became a volunteer at the Safari Park at the time our meetings were suspended during COVID. Tell me what that experience has been like?** Meeting you or the Safari Park?

**Let's stick with the Safari Park for now.** Well the Safari Park—or The Wild Animal Park as we then knew it—has a special place in my heart. My husband Roger was curator and coordinator of the Safari Park's Epi Collection and I helped him there. I have volunteered at the park for over 27 years and have lost track of the hours I've volunteered. I would encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to contact Jerry Moreau for more information. We work hard, play hard—have fun, learn about the plants and each other—and I've formed friendships and bonds that could never be matched or replaced.

**So what types of epies do you enjoy collecting?** Early on I started collecting the small epies. I like them because they bloom more often and lasted longer than their larger counterparts.

**Let's talk about your first epi, your favorite epies and how you grow your epies.** I don't remember our first epi—it obviously was not 'Unforgettable', or I would have remembered that. But my all time favorites epies are 'Daisy Dean', 'Marmalade and Honey', and 'Sandra's Roger'—named in honor of

*Continued on the following page*



Above Left: Forrest Ehbrecht and Sandra enjoy the Safari Park, Right: Sandra, Ron and Velma Crain visit the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

Photos: Jerry Moreau

## Monthly Member Highlight—Sandra Chapin (Continued)



*Sandra Chapin at the 2022 Safari Park Plant Sale.*

my husband. Roger's favorite was 'Norwood'. We started growing epies on tables under the shade trees, and we soon cut down the trees and built the first of four shade houses to accommodate them. Of course, I did insist that my roses would not be cut down or removed during the process.

***Let's move on to named hybrids—you have a few hybrids named after you, tell me about that?*** Actually I have two—'Sassy Sandra' was hybridized by Don Francis in 2016, and 'Sandra Chapin' was hybridized by Derek Obayashi in 2018. Both are beautiful flowers and I appreciate the tribute. Also, as I mentioned earlier, 'Sandra's Roger' was hybridized in 2008 by Richard G. Latimer. We never actually hybridized and registered anything we had grown, but assisted others in registering their hybrids.

***So tell our readers what do you enjoy doing in your spare time—aside from taking care of the garden, the roses and epies?*** I enjoy any and every opportunity to be creative. For one of the Epi Cons hosted by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, I painted epi flowers onto canvas tote bags that I made for the attendees. I enjoy cooking, baking, and I have been told I am pretty good at knitting.

***What is your philosophy on gardening and life in general?*** Well, my philosophy on gardening is that there is always room for one more epi, as is also true in life—there is always room for one more friendship. ***Sandra, I'll add my two cents here as well—sometimes the ones that look the worst in the garden in the beginning turn out to be the best in the end—right?***

***As we wrap up our conversation, tell me what the San Diego Epiphyllum Society has meant to you?*** After my initial reluctance, and especially after I lost my husband, the society has become my family. I'm grateful for the shows, the field trips, parties and all our epi adventures. I have especially enjoyed being show chairman and exhibiting at the shows. My daughter and grandchildren have been involved helping me create displays and we all have had an amazing time bringing us all closer together.

*We would like to thank Sandra for taking the time to share her interesting story, and we would like to show our appreciation for her volunteer work within the society and at the Safari Park over the years. It is always a brighter day at the Park when Sandra is there. Thank you for all you do and for providing our readers with your amazing story and a window into your life.*



*Left: Roger and Sandra Chapin in 2006, in front of the old work house at the Safari Park .*

*Right: Sandra stops for a photo with a 'Scoop of Raspberry' FB.*



# Epi Photo Caravan 2022: A Tremendous Success

By Mildred Mikas, Garden Caravan Coordinator

The word of the day was simply ‘wow’—what a wonderful day members had attending our Epi Photo Caravan. We started at 9 a.m. with 68 degree weather, at **Dean Delibertis’** garden in National City, CA. Our friendly host greeted us with a smile and a light breakfast consisting of quiche, sausage, and watermelon—which was a pleasant surprise for attendees. Then another wow factor—a beautiful large yard, brightly colored tables and chairs and plants. It’s hard to imagine that his entire personal epi collection is hanging in a large pepper tree. Upon leaving, Dean gave us a gift bag with two 4-inch potted oxy-petalum—one to keep and one to share. The suggestion was to give them to a friend to promote more interest in epies and the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. What a wonderful idea!

The next stop was **Paula Reynolds’** garden in Pacific Beach, CA., where we found her waiting in front of her home to greet us. We followed her to her back yard where she was rooting about 200 4-inch potted cuttings for next year’s SDES Sale. The next area of her garden was her new shade house. She had many of her own plants hanging neatly in rows, and were all named—‘wow’. Then Paula showed us her seedlings, which were in different stages of growth. Paula also had healthy tomato plants growing from her compost pile. Upon leaving, she gave us a small jar of jelly she had made, and provided us bottled water. As we exited, members noticed epies hanging from the large tree in her small front yard.

On to **Lauren Burnette’s** home and garden in San Diego, CA. Greeting us in front of her home was her friendly husband Gary, and a close friend ready to usher us into their side yard where her epies were growing. Lauren was waiting there with iced tea in her lovely backyard. This was a smaller garden but it definitely had that ‘wow’ factor. We proceeded to their back patio which was landscaped perfectly. There was even a small waterfall and fish pond with plants. Many, many different plants were also in bloom. Lauren’s patio and garden were right out of the pages of a beautiful garden magazine. We are fortunate that Lauren chose to share her relaxing, wonderful garden with us.

Our last stop which included lunch was at **Sal and Ivette Castellitto’s** home in Scripps Ranch, CA, and ‘wow’—what a difference three years make. He has since added new features, including moving his epies to the shade house he had built on the opposite side of their garden. Sal has been very busy in his garden—which he refers to as his retirement hobby. Epies were also hanging over the patio, which he waters by hand on a ladder. The garden has a new sitting area, a barbeque grill with stools, and many other plants and citrus trees which were in bloom. Lunch was catered by North Park Produce and Poway Bakery & Grill. For dessert we had watermelon and Sal’s delicious homemade banana bread.

Members were impressed with all of the gardens and noted they were getting good ideas as take-aways. Also, we had new members in attendance, which gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better and make new epi friends. Everyone in attendance received a hard-to-find cutting from the Mikas’ garden, ‘Yellow Tang’, various Kiwis, and even ‘Spiced Takuan’—to name a few. We are looking for destination gardens for next year’s Epi Photo Caravan—so it’s not too early to volunteer. Thank you to our kind hosts who opened their gardens to us, and we hope to see you all next year.



Left: Sal and Ivette’s patio and garden.

Photo: G. Mikas

Right: Dean’s garden and hanging baskets.

Photo: D. Delibertis



## *Epi Photo Caravan 2022: Garden Descriptions & Review* by Jerry Moreau

*Editors Note: Several members mentioned they would like to see more detail on each of the gardens. Our goal is to show you the ‘wow’ factor as Mildred described—along with all the wonderful things you missed, and give you F.O.M.O.—fear of missing out on next year’s event.*

Dean’s garden is spacious. He grows many of his epies in two large trees. How he gets some of them up in the trees is a mystery to me. Some of his epies hanging in the trees are very large. His other plants are grown along the fence. He has a separate area where he roots his cuttings, along with the cuttings he roots for SDES’s sales. He also has some plants in pots on what looks like telephone poles off the driveway in the front of his garage. He grows some of his plants in old gallon paint cans—and they seem to do well in them. His plants are very well cared for and are very healthy. Blooming at Dean’s home was ‘Foxy Lady’ and ‘King of Yellows’.

Paula’s garden is very well maintained. She has plants all over and they all look great. She keeps her unknowns in the front yard mostly hanging in a tree. In the back part of her driveway behind a fence is one of the many places where she roots cuttings. She has several places where she roots cuttings and like Dean, roots many cuttings for the society’s sales. In the back of her yard is where she has her plants. She has many of them hanging under a large canopy shaded area. Others are in trees and against the walls. Paula had about a half a dozen epies blooming for us during the caravan. Blooming during our visit were ‘Calisto’, ‘Diego Rivera’, ‘Falling In Love’, ‘Jackpot’, ‘La Cucaracha’ and ‘Ventura Jubilee’, which all looked amazing. She also had several seedlings blooming that she had inherited. She also had two big buds of ‘Connie Mayer’ that bloomed the next day.

Lauren’s garden is small and beautiful. She shared that it is the only back yard done by a company who did some work at the San Diego Zoo. After they designed her yard (before she purchased the house), they decided to stop doing residential work and just stick to commercial projects. Her garden includes a beautiful water feature with Shubunkin Goldfish (a Japanese hybrid goldfish sometimes referred to as the Calico or Speckled Goldfish). She has a few epies in this area. Lauren has a small collection, with most of her plants growing on the side of her home. Unfortunately, Lauren’s epies bloomed before the caravan. However, she did have a lovely unknown hybrid with four extra-large blooms open to greet us.

Sal and Ivette’s garden is also spacious—but not quite as large as Dean’s. However, it did easily accommodate us all for lunch. Their yard is filled with many other plants including roses, fruit trees, plumeria, and a beautiful, fragrant jasmine. Their epies are now in newly constructed shade structure that is located on the side of their house, which we passed as we entered the garden. They have a small-to medium-sized collection growing. Blooming for Sal and Ivette were ‘Amapola’, ‘Londonii’, and a beautiful unknown hybrid. An amazing lunch was provided and the caravan was enjoyed by all.



Left: Lauren’s garden pond. Middle: Dean’s Pepper Tree with baskets. Right: Paula’s rows of potted epies.  
Photo: Jerry Moreau



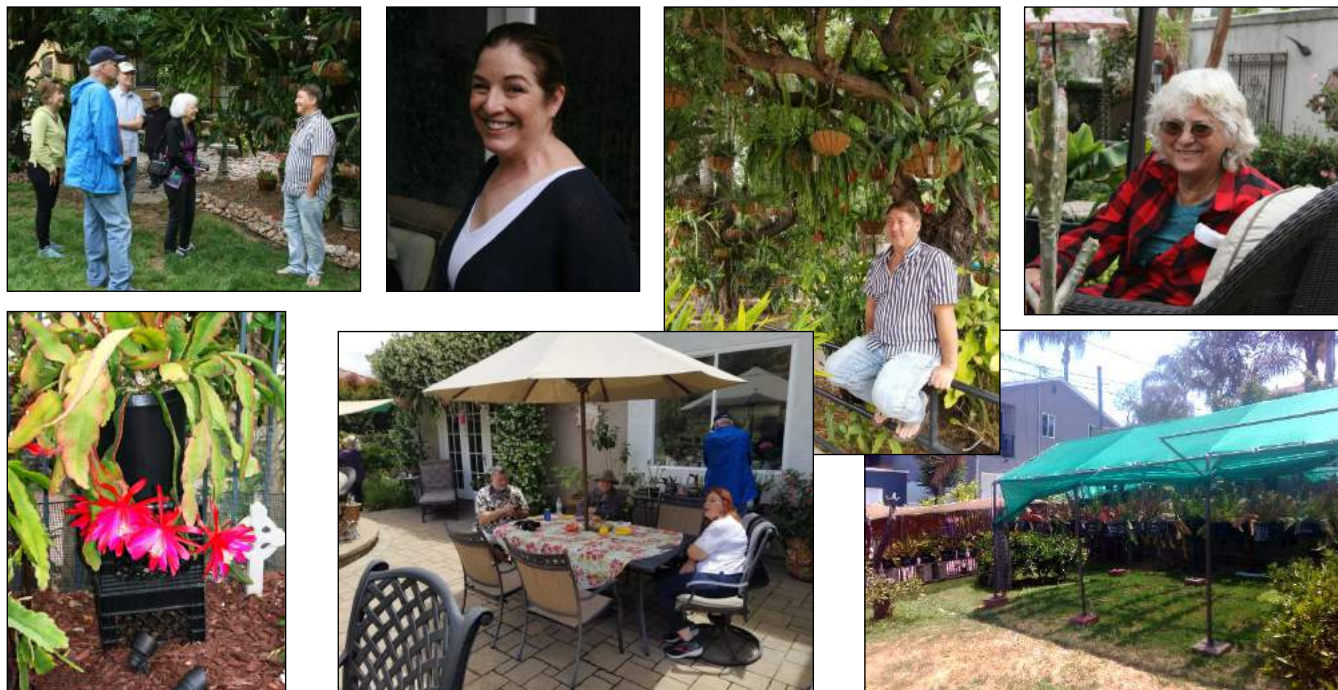
Photo: Dean Delibertis



Photo: Paula Reynolds

# Epi Photo Caravan Photo Collage

Contributing Photos: G. Mikas, J. Moreau, P. Reynolds, and D. Delibertis



## Society Officers, Directors, and Coordinators \*

President	David Cheever <a href="mailto:President@sdepis.org">President@sdepis.org</a>	Holiday Banquet	Mildred Mikas 760-690-1124 <a href="mailto:Banquet@sdepis.org">Banquet@sdepis.org</a>
1st Vice President Programs	<b>OPEN</b> <a href="mailto:Programs@sdepis.org">Programs@sdepis.org</a>	Internet/Webmaster	Gilbert Hatfield <a href="mailto:Webmaster@sdepis.org">Webmaster@sdepis.org</a>
2nd Vice President Mother's Day Show	Pat Neal 858-565-0340 <a href="mailto:MothersDay@sdepis.org">MothersDay@sdepis.org</a>	Workshops	Ron Crain <a href="mailto:Workshops@sdepis.org">Workshops@sdepis.org</a>
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Corresponding Secretary	Sal Castellitto <a href="mailto:Corresponding@sdepis.org">Corresponding@sdepis.org</a>	EpiNews Editors	JK Hendershot <a href="mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org">EpiNews@sdepis.org</a>
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Director 2021-22	Lauren Burnette <a href="mailto:Directors@sdepis.org">Directors@sdepis.org</a>	Hospitality	Barb Alvarez <a href="mailto:Hospitality@sdepis.org">Hospitality@sdepis.org</a>
Immediate Past Pres.	Gretchen Ward <a href="mailto:PastPresident@sdepis.org">PastPresident@sdepis.org</a>	Name Tags	Gerry Mikas 760-690-1124 <a href="mailto:Store@sdepis.org">Store@sdepis.org</a>
Sales Table & Events	Cindy Decker <a href="mailto:Salestable@sdepis.org">Salestable@sdepis.org</a> <a href="mailto:SalesEvents@sdepis.org">SalesEvents@sdepis.org</a>	Refreshments	David Cheever <a href="mailto:Refreshments@sdepis.org">Refreshments@sdepis.org</a>
Garden Caravan	Mildred Mikas 760-690-1124 <a href="mailto:GardenCaravan@sdepis.org">GardenCaravan@sdepis.org</a>	Social Media Publicity	Eddie Huey <b>OPEN</b> <a href="mailto:Publicity@sdepis.org">Publicity@sdepis.org</a>

\* Complete listing appears in July and December issues.

# The Wildflowers of Joshua Tree: May 2022

*Photos by JK Hendershot*

We had the opportunity to visit Joshua Tree National Park, in Joshua Tree, CA, this past May and wanted to share a sample of the many wildflowers that were still in late bloom. For those of you who have never been—it is truly a magical place. For more information visit <https://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm>.



*Notch-Leaved Phacella*



*Two Joshua Trees*



*Barrel cactus flower*



*Desert Marigold*



*Desert Indian Paintbrush*



*Mojave Aster*



*Sunset from Arch Rock Nature Trail, Joshua Tree National Park, Twentynine Palms, CA.*

## Safari Park Epi Collection and Display *by Jerry Moreau*

June and the summer bring our volunteers a slight sense of sadness as our flower season has come and gone. Fortunately, at the end of the month, we are still seeing a few late bloomers for all of us to enjoy. With things slowing down a bit, and our sales events and Mother's Day show behind us—we have time to get back to the basics.

Now that the many amazing blooms are fading we can once again fertilize the plants, to thank them for all they have given us and to help them grow and prepare for the next blooming season. During the summer months, we typically use a slow release nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-10.

The good news—I know we will continue to have some epi blooms, especially from the small- to medium-sized epies. One attribute I specifically enjoy about the smaller epies is that they will bloom more than once a year.

Early in June, we still had a fairly large number of epies in bloom. Some of the amazing flowers which we saw blooming at the park included: 'Unforgettable', 'La Bella', 'Jack Dray', 'El Toro', 'Travis Lee', 'Chili Pepper', 'Danilova', and 'Jero'—to mention a few.

Also, the blooming season gives the opportunity to check and verify actual blooms against the epi



plant names and color descriptions. This year we were fortunate that we didn't find many that were labeled incorrectly or bloomed differently than we had anticipated. We also had a few unregistered seedlings bloom, and that was exciting as you never really know what to expect.

Helping out during this past month were Barb Alvarez, Keith and Linda Bennett, Sandra Chapin, Ron and Velma Crain, David Cheever, Cindy Decker, Dean Delibertis, Marie Dempewolf, Jeff Hendershot, Dennis Hughes, Beth Jackson, Betsy and Jerry Markle, Ellen McCollum, Jerry Moreau, Paula Reynolds, Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, and Paul vander Ploeg.



*Above Left: Potted epies line the path along the Epiphyllum Trail, Middle: 'Kiwi Classic' in bloom on the trail. Right: This dedicated bench provides an beautiful spot to take in the Epiphyllum Trail.*

Photos: JK Hendershot

**Details on 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/>



# Epiphyllum Society of America Show *by Don Crain*



*'Lycorias' DB*



*'Emmett Kelly' FRE*



*'Saint-Tropez' WATTS*



*'Orange Bowl' WC*



*'Whatta Dream' AB*



*'Carbon County' SHI*

## Wish List and News Notes

If there are epies that you are looking for it is possible someone in the Society might have it and be willing to share a cutting or two with you.

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

**Sal Castellitto:** [aclarasd@aol.com](mailto:aclarasd@aol.com)

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

**Forrest Ehbrecht:**

[forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com)

'Sakurahime', 'Gobsmacked'

**Casey Gerdes:** [casey@yogawithcasey.com](mailto:casey@yogawithcasey.com)

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

**Carmela Griswold:** [calcolors@gmail.com](mailto:calcolors@gmail.com)

'Ron Crain', 'Sakurahime', 'Spiced Takuan', 'Kiwi Sweetheart'

**Bridget Kleindienst:**

[Bkleindienst13@gmail.com](mailto:Bkleindienst13@gmail.com)

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

**Andrea McArthur:**

[acmcarthur@roadrunner.com](mailto:acmcarthur@roadrunner.com)

'Queen Tatiana'

**Michal McKee:** [folklorist@gmail.com](mailto:folklorist@gmail.com)

'Elegans Lei', 'Mojave Gold'

**Priscilla Merriam:** [pafmerriam@gmail.com](mailto:pafmerriam@gmail.com)

'Frida Kahlo', 'Gold Coin', 'Oberon', 'Ron Crain'

**Paula Reynolds:**

[paularey@aol.com](mailto:paularey@aol.com)

'Sunset Cliffs', 'Voltaire'

**Janice Wakefield:**

[jwakefield.home@gmail.com](mailto:jwakefield.home@gmail.com)

'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa',

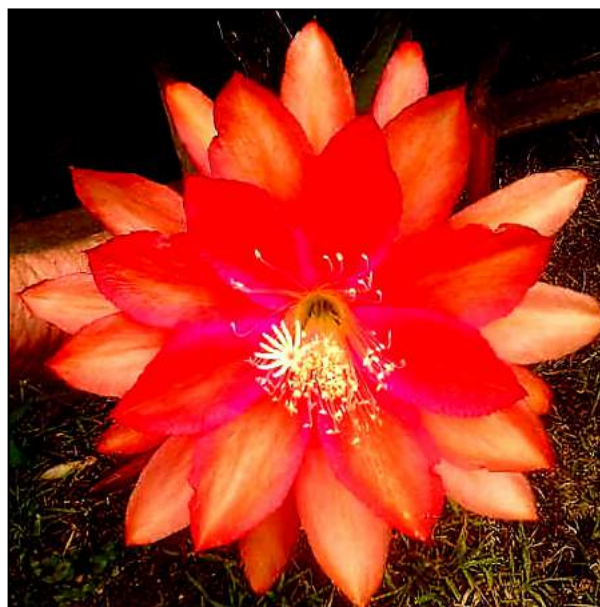


## From Paula's Garden...



'Jackpot' FG

Photo: Paula Reynolds



'Three Oranges' FLECH

Photo: Paula Reynolds

## 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 the 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 editor 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 for 2022

President	David Cheever
1st Vice President	
2nd Vice President	Patricia Neal
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Sec.	Carmela Griswold
Corresponding Sec.	Sal Castellitto
Membership Sec.	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past Pres.	Gretchen Ward
Director 2022-23	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2022-23	Mildred Mikas
Director 2022-23	Tim Paule
Director 2021-22	Paula Reynolds
Director 2021-22	Lauren Burnette

## Resources

As a benefit to our members here is a list of epi resources available to you. If you are aware of any additional resources that you feel would benefit our members and you would like to have included, please contact the editor.

### 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 their website for more information.

### Epiphyllum Society of America

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month except in December or January at 7:30 p.m. <http://epiphyllums.org/>

**San Diego Botanical Garden Society**  
<http://www.sdbgf.org/>

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

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

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

# We Leave You With This



*'Pierrette' FRE*



*'Bonnie Brae' STL*



*'Lilliput' EC*



*'Tangerine' CP*



*'Star of Persia' CP*



*'Day Break' CP*