



Epiphyllum News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

January 2023
Volume 48 Number 1



Epiphyllum oxypetalum

2022 1st Place Single Bloom People's Choice Photo Contest Winner

Size: Large

Photo: Carmela Griswold

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Send your updates to:
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OR email Membership@sdepis.org
 For faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson, Membership Secretary—her address can be found in the membership roster.

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Calendar of Events

January	7	Safari Park Work Party ¹
	11	General Meeting
	21	Safari Park Work Party
	25	Board Meeting
February	4	Safari Park Work Party
	8	General Meeting
	18	Safari Park Work Party
	22	Board Meeting
March	4	Safari Park Work Party
	8	General Meeting
	18	Safari Park Work Party
	22	Board Meeting

¹ Additional Work Parties held every Tuesday.

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.



‘Connie Mayer’

Photo: Terence Brashear

President's Corner — *From President David Cheever*



Now that we've survived the Holidays, I wanted to wish all of you a Happy New Year. Father Time thankfully keeps adding one year at a time to everyone—so, let us welcome in 2023.

Now is the time to start dreaming about and planning for our epis to bloom this spring. Some will be blooming for the first time, pleasing us with what we were expecting—or surprising us with something new and different. As a helpful garden tip, if you have a rainwater catching system or a trashcan under the eaves of your house, you may want to use this water to keep the soil damp for your epiphyllums.

On December 14th, we had our Holiday Banquet at the Butcher Shop Restaurant. We had the installation of our Officers and Directors, and the San Diego Epiphyllum Society's 2023 Budget was approved by our members. Many thanks to Lauren Burnette for the work that went into planning and setting up the beautiful tables, the delicious dinner, the wonderful raffle, and the great gift exchange at the end of the program. I know that everyone in attendance had a wonderful time.

In addition to the program at the banquet, this year's recipient of the Roger Chapin Memorial Award—also known as the "Volunteer of the Year" award was Dean Delibertis for his outstanding contributions to SDES. A big thank you to Dean for all that you do.

I would also like to thank our members for the wonderful year and encourage anyone who would like to get more involved in the coming year with SDES to contact me or any of our Board Members. See you at our meetings.

David

Meeting Program

Pre-Meeting Workshop: This month master workshop leader Ron Crain will be discussing winter fertilizing in preparation for the coming bloom season. Held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

December Program: In lieu of our December monthly meeting, SDES members celebrated together at our Holidays Banquet at the Butcher Shop. David Cheever, in the photo below formalized the 2023 Installation of Officers and Directors. Our next meeting will resume as scheduled in January.

January Program: Our January monthly meeting will be held in person and via Zoom Wednesday, January 11th. Our program will be an interesting one. Colleen Chapin will be discussing poisonous and toxic plants potentially located in our own backyards.



Left: David Cheever, Beth Jackson, Patricia Neal, Lauren Burnette, Paula Reynolds, Linda Bennett and Sal Castelletto pause for a photo at the Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers held December 14, 2022 at the Butcher Shop Steakhouse in San Diego, CA.

Photo: JK Hendershot

Keeping in Touch...

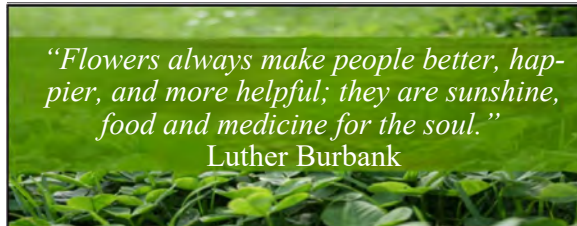
Our members are the most important part of our society! Together we create more beauty to enjoy.

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

Membership Secretary: Beth Jackson at 858-692-0314 or Membership@sdepis.org

Newsletter Editor: JK Hendershot at 619-301-3587 or EpiNews@sdepis.org



"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

Luther Burbank



'Christopher Ryan Tunnell'

Photo: Terence Brashear

SDES News Notes

SDES mourns the passing of Katherine Barto and Mark Piette. Details to follow next month.

Sending positive thoughts, and best wishes to Gerry Mikas for a speedy recovery.



'Pink Plumes'

Photo: Terence Brashear

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 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 money 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—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ **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-released granules can be used. If liquid is used, another application may be needed in a month. Plants that are not large enough to bloom 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 colder 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. So, you may want to forgo pruning for 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 repot 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.



'Persian Princess'

Photo: Doug Hillman

Monthly Refreshment Schedule for 2023 Meetings

Starting in January, SDES will be returning to our usual rotation of bringing refreshments to the monthly meeting. We have used this rotation for years; but like many things, we got off track with the COVID shutdown. Since we started having in-person meetings again, we’ve been winging it with refreshments. It’s time to return to our normal patterns.

This rotation is alphabetical and ensures everyone shares in providing refreshments. It goes alphabetically by last names. Please note which month you are requested to bring something to share.

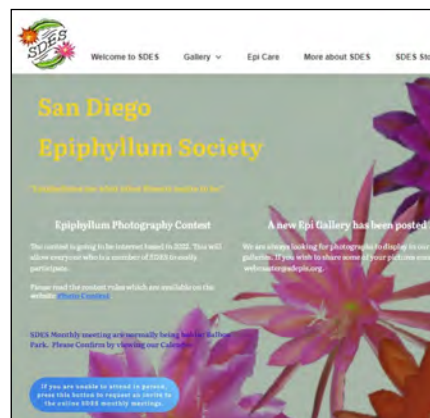
We have two months that we don’t require refreshments. In July, we have often had an ice cream social; and in December we have the annual banquet.

January	C—G	July	Society
February	H—L	August	H—L
March	M—Q	September	M—Q
April	R—U	October	R—U
May	V—B	November	V—B
June	C—G	December	Banquet

Webmaster Update and Web Analytics *by Gilbert Hatfield*

Editor's Note: If you are a statistics geek, you may enjoy seeing where our web traffic comes from and what web content people are actually viewing. For me, one huge take-away is the global reach the society's website has on viewers and epi lovers around the world. Gilbert did a great job of compiling those statistics for our readers to provide us better insight.

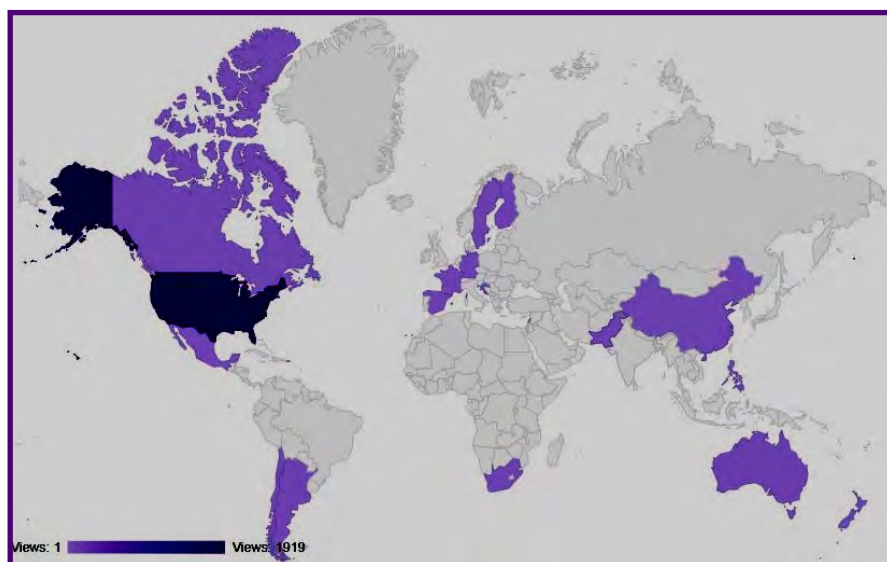
Update from the website: A few years ago, I started tracking the website analytics which is little more complex than finding out where our viewers are coming from, what pages they look at and what equipment they use to find us and view the website on. About a year ago, the analytic program we were using stopped being supported. On October 20, 2022, a different analytics program was installed and I'm excited to announce that we are still serving an international audience. From October 20, until November 7, SDES website was viewed close to 2,000 times by a little over 700 visitors. The pages that were most viewed were the bloom galleries, followed by the members only section.



Highlights from the web: The online epiphyllum Photo Contest was a huge success this year. Our three judges did a great job, and we thank them for it. We also thank those that took the time to vote for the People's Choice. We even had a few non-numbers vote for People's Choice. We always have allowed non-members to vote at our in-person meetings and did not change that for this year's contest. Thanks to Gretchen Ward, there will be a video documenting the contest available for viewing on our website.

Analytics for those interested in such things:

- Top ten countries: USA, China, Chile, Australia, Argentina, Germany, Canada, Sweden, Bangladesh, and France.
- Devices used to view the website: 59% desktop computers, 33% mobile devices, and 8% computer tablets.
- How viewers accessed: 72% have our website bookmarked for easy viewing, 14% found us through Facebook, 13% through a search engine, and 1% through other sources.
- The SDSE Photography Contest website pages received more views by far, than any other pages this month followed by the 'members only' section.



There were 1,919 views to our website between October 20, and November 7, 2022, with the darker shaded purple representing the global locations with the highest number of views. The lighter purple represents locations with a fewer numbers of views.

Source: Gilbert Hatfield

Society Officers, Directors and Coordinators for 2023

President	David Cheever President@sdepis.org	Garden Caravan	Mildred Mikas GardenCaravan@sdepis.org
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2nd Vice President Mother's Day Show	Pat Neal MothersDay@sdepis.org	Internet/Webmaster	Gilbert Hatfield Webmaster@sdepis.org
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Recording Secretary	Carmela Griswold Recording@sdepis.org	Safari Park	Jerry Moreau SafariPark@sdepis.org
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Director 2022-23	Mildred Mikas Directors@sdepis.org	SDBGF Rep	Pat Neal SDBGF@sdepis.org
Director 2023-24	Linda Bennett Directors@sdepis.org	Librarian	Marie Dempewolf Librarian@sdepis.org
Director 2023-24	Paula Reynolds Directors@sdepis.org	Historian	Pat Neal Historian@sdepis.org
Director 2023-24	Lauren Burnette Directors@sdepis.org	Raffle Table	Paula Reynolds & Dennis Hughes Raffles@sdepis.org
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		Refreshments	OPEN Refreshments@sdepis.org
		Social Media Publicity	Eddie Huey OPEN Publicity@sdepis.org

Save the Date!

Annual SDES
Mother's Day Show
and Sale

Circus Memories
And Epies
May 13-14, 2023



Graphic by: Patricia Neal

'Orchid Cactus' Is No Ugly Duckling *by Tineke Wilders*

Editor's Note: This article was originally published on Sunday April 26, 1992, and was written by freelance garden writer/broadcaster Tineke Wilders. Sandra Chapin provided a photocopy of the article and thought it would be worthy of reprinting in an upcoming issue of Epi News. After a bit of research, I was able to locate Ms. Wilders and received permission to reprint her article. The article is in its original form except where noted.

One of the most exotic flowering members of the cactus family is the Epiphyllum, or "orchid cactus," commonly referred to by its fans as an "epi."

Like other members of the cactus family, epies do not have leaves, just stems, most of which are long, flat, usually spineless and smooth, and notched along the edges.

This jungle native is a true epiphyte, meaning it attaches itself to an elevated support plant, such as a tree branch, as opposed to the "terrestrial" type of cactus, which grows in the ground, usually in desert areas. Most epiphyllums are native to the humid, tropical regions of Central and South America.

Although this plant is somewhat of an ugly duckling for much of the year, when it blooms, its huge, exotic flowers offer a visual experience you'll never forget. Only then will you understand why it is known as the "orchid cactus," since the beauty of its blooms rival those of even the most breathtaking orchid.

George French, a Point Loma charter member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, has been growing epies for 38 years and hybridizing them for 25 years.

He says he chose to specialize in epies because "they are easy to grow, they don't require the heat that orchids do, or the constant care, and I simply love the striking and beautiful flower."



'Jennifer Ann' FRE

Photo: George French

French, in his 80s, has registered 176 new hybrid varieties of epies, 60 of them in the last three years. This is a remarkable achievement, considering it takes between seven and 10 years before it produces a consistent enough flower for it to be registered.

One of French's most popular yellow hybrids was named after his granddaughter, 'Jennifer Ann'.

Naturally, French always displays his best flowering plants at the San Diego Epiphyllum Society's annual Mother's Day show. This year's show, which takes place May 10, 1992 salutes the America's Cup Races with the theme "Sail on with Epies."

Epies make ideal potted plants and are best suited to tubs, baskets or hanging pots to accommodate their arching, trailing stems. These characteristics also make them ideal plants for apartment dwellers.

Epies should be planted in coarse, well-draining soil consisting of leaf mold, peat moss, some sand, charcoal, and perlite or pumice, supplemented by redwood or fir bark.

New plants are easily started from stem cuttings and root best in the spring or summer. Before rooting a new cutting, allow it to dry out for a couple of days, so the stem will not rot.

Newly rooted cuttings might bloom the first season; however, the best blooms usually are on 2 to 3-year-old root-bound plants. As the plant gets older, blooms become larger and more numerous.

The months of April, May and June are the time to enjoy the epies' prolific flowers. Bloom sizes fit into six categories, starting with miniatures that measure ½ inch across to extra-large, at 9 or more inches.

Bloom colors can be almost any shade of the rainbow—except for blue, which so far has eluded epi

Continued on the following page

'Orchid Cactus' Is No Ugly Duckling (Continued)



'Vivace' FRE

Photo: George French

growers and breeders all over the world, including George French.

But you can find several shades of yellow, white, pink, purple, red and orange, as well as many that are a blend of two or more colors. Epies are ideal plants for San Diego because their perfect growing temperature is between 45 and 70°F. However, inland growers need to protect them from winter frost.

The best spot to grow an epi is in the shady fork of a tree, just like their native habitat. They also do well in a lath house, on a sun porch, in a greenhouse or under shade cloth.

They should be watered every 10 to 14 days during the summer in coastal regions, and more often inland, as well as given a regular misting to provide much-needed humidity. Fertilizer should be a low-nitrogen type to stimulate growth (a 10-10-10 NPK formula, for example) and given only in early spring and late summer. From January to

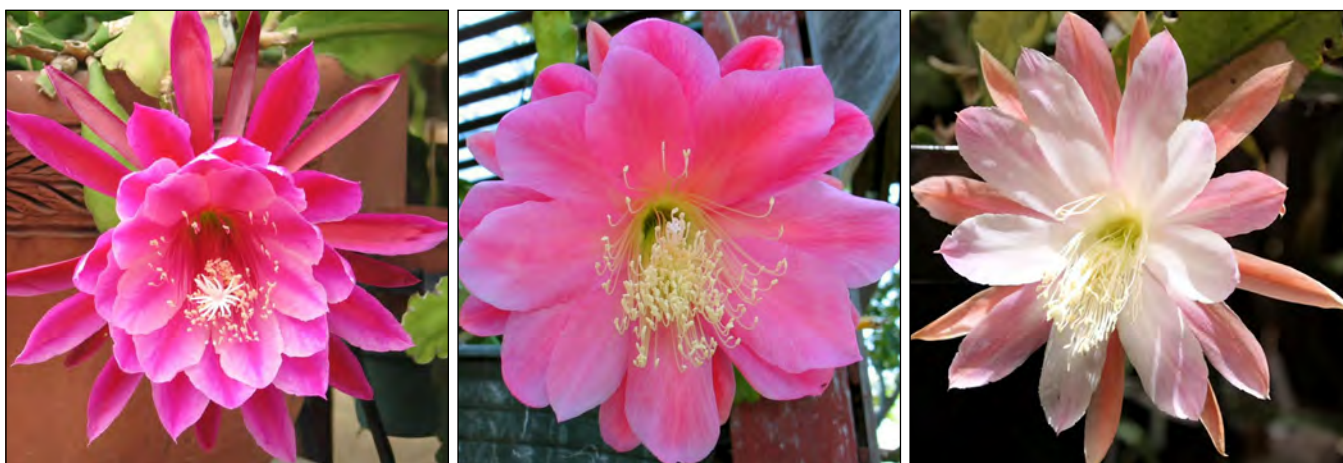
April, a bloom stimulator like 0-10-10 NPK can be given.

Epiphyllums are not popular nursery plants, since they take up a lot of space and bloom only for a short period of time during spring. For the rest of the year, they tend to look unappealing and are thus not very salable. However, cuttings are available year-round from Rainbow Gardens in Vista, CA and from the Nairobi Plant Trader at the San Diego Safari Park. If you plan to visit the Safari Park soon, check out the spectacular epi display house with its hundreds of flowering plants. (Now the Epiphyllum Trail)

Cuttings also are traded by members of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society at their monthly meetings. (7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park).

Cuttings also will be sold at the society's upcoming minishow Saturday, May 9, 1992 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the courtyard patio of the Casa del Prado, and at its annual Mother's Day Show on Sunday, May 10, 1992 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the same location.

Thank you to Tineke Wilders for allowing us to reprint her article which provides insight to the earlier days of our society. Ms. Wilders is currently retired and is living in Ensenada, Baja California, MX and can be reached via email at tinekegardens@gmail.com.



Above left: 'Trapeze' FRE, Center: 'Rosy Dawn' FRE, Right: 'Gideon Joy' FRE. Photos: George French

Monthly Member Highlight—Barbara Michalec



SDES Featured Member

Barbara Michalec, Escondido, CA.

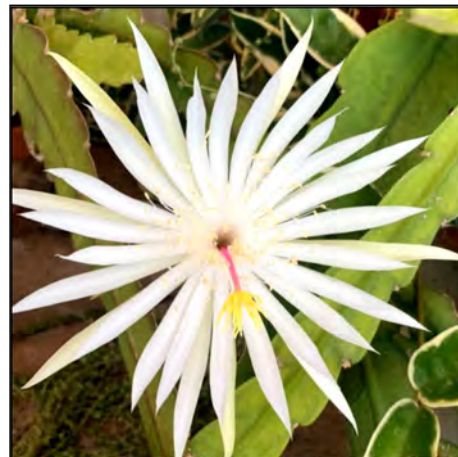
I recently had a chance to meet new member Barbara Michalec, while volunteering at the Safari Park. Barbara recently joined the SDES, and lives in Escondido, CA. Barbara agreed to sit down for an interview so our readers around the world could have the opportunity to get to know her a little better.

Barbara, tell us a little about yourself—where you grew up? My dad was a career Air Force officer which meant we moved often, every couple of years. The downside to that nomadic existence was leaving behind friends and pets and living far away from our extended family. I went to 12 different schools in the 13 grades from kindergarten to graduation. The upside was I got to live in and explore interesting parts of the United States and the world, including various towns in Texas and Mississippi in the U.S.—and foreign countries such as Japan, France and Germany. I learned both French and German—most of which I’ve forgotten now.

In Germany, I saw the actual Berlin Wall up close—guard towers, concertina wire, and minefields. We went to Berlin and crossed ‘Checkpoint Charlie’ into East Berlin with guards using mirrors to search under every vehicle. We went to Dachau in southern Germany, and the images there searing themselves into my teenage brain like a branding iron. We tried to visit Czechoslovakia on the very day the Soviet Union led Warsaw Pact troops invaded, and we got turned back at the border. I never thought the wall would come down in my lifetime. I’m so glad I was wrong.

Wow, what a story—you’ve had a front row seat to world events. Berlin is one of my favorite destinations. As an aside, if you’ve not seen the movie “Wings of Desire” directed by Wim Wenders (filmed in 1987 in black and white), starring Peter Falk, I would highly recommend it. It shows post WWII Potsdamer Platz as a deserted wasteland—a stark contrast to today, as it is a bustling city center and was one of the largest building sites in Europe—home to Daimler-Benz, Sony, and the Ritz Carlton. So let’s switch gears now and talk about what kind of work you do—or did, if you’re retired. I’ve had a number of careers over the years. My daughter loves that I scooped ice cream and learned to make all kinds of decadent soda fountain treats. That was a summer job before college, but what I learned there has come in handy over the years. My first real job was as a video game programmer back in the days of 8K games housed in the upright wooden cabinets found in bars and pizza parlors. I stayed in the industry as it morphed from uprights to home game systems like the Sega Genesis and Sony PlayStation with 1M and 2M games and then into PC based games with unlimited resources. My love of languages

Continued on the following page



Left: Barbara’s front yard with native plants. Right: Night blooming cactus. Photos: Barbara Michalec

Monthly Member Highlight—Barbara Michalec (Continued)



Beautiful unknown pink epi.
Photo: Barbara Michalec

came in handy, because we had to learn a new programming language and a new hardware system every couple years as the game technology advanced.

When the game industry tanked in San Diego, I had to ask myself what I wanted to be when I grew up. I'd been trying to get the video game folks to do educational software for a while, so I thought why not actually go into teaching. I went back to school and got a CA teaching credential. My first job in education was teaching algebra and pre-algebra at a high school. I realized my love was with the littler kids, so I moved to teaching Kindergarten and 1st Grade. It was fabulous teaching kids how to read and seeing them zoom from learning the alphabet to reading chapter books, even Harry Potter. Quite a thrill.

We have several former teachers in our group—and speaking of video games! We need to introduce you to our member, Linda Sinkovic in Santa Cruz, CA. As a young girl, Linda was a member of the team that produced the Atari arcade

game Paperboy in 1984, and her name can be found on the arcade game credits. Well, we've managed to cover yet another one of my favorite topics—that of travel, and video games, so let's shift gears now and have you tell our readers how you got interested in epies. I'm now retired and learned about epies from volunteering at the Safari Park. I had owned a night blooming cereus when living in San Diego. Its fragrance was amazing. When a friend of mine passed away a couple years ago, he left me a large pot of soft pink epies (unknown). I had no idea what he'd given me and it's a miracle they survived my move to Escondido and my lack of attention. As a volunteer at the Safari Park, I met Ada Wildberger (a SDES member and Safari Park volunteer) whose enthusiasm for epies was contagious. We both love plants in general, so it was predestined that we meet and I start working with Jerry Moreau and the other volunteers at the Safari Park display and Epiphyllum Trail. I have *so* much to learn and working with folks who know what they're doing and are willing to teach is a joy.

So, are you currently active in other epi societies? Other plant or garden societies or groups? I also belong to the California Native Plant Society and am slowly learning about natives. When I moved to Escondido, my front yard was all white gravel, and the backyard was grass at least six inches high watered daily and a haven for mosquitos. Above the back yard was an inaccessible slope, home to five 30 foot tall Brazilian Pepper trees under which nothing grew. It took a while, but I had the gravel and Brazilian Peppers removed, steps and a trail built up the hill, a raised bed installed with drip, and natives planted everywhere on high-efficiency, low-water sprinklers. At first it looked like the yard was mulch with just a few plants here and there. But now the natives are starting to fill in and the bees and butterflies and hummingbird populations that come are remarkable.

So we covered your first epi. Tell us about your favorite epies? Yes, the pink unknown—as far as favorites, I like them all. I'm sure over time I'll develop favorites, but right now they all seem marvelous.

Are there any epies that you have been trying to add to your collection and just cannot seem to find? Perhaps some of our readers can help or steer you in the right direction. Being new, I will probably have to come back to you on that one.

In what type of container do you plant your epies? A particular soil mix or fertilizer? Do you fertilize your epies? If yes, when? My goal in the next couple years is to install some type of shade structure that's strong enough for me to hang epies on. I have the perfect spot for it on my back patio. I just need to decide on the right materials and do it. Right now the few epies I have are in pots on the ground under my back patio cover, but the space there is limited. Something tells me that my collection of epies

Continued on the following page

Monthly Member Highlight—Barbara Michalec (Continued)



Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin, August 2018. Photo: JK Hendershot

will be growing in the coming years if I hang around the Park and SDES for long. So I better get a move on.

What is your philosophy on life or gardening? A quote from John Muir sums up my philosophy on life and gardening: “When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

Can you tell our readers what interests you have other than epies? My main interests outside of epies and the Safari Park are quilting, crafting and baking. I’ve been sewing since I was six and making quilts since I moved to San Diego in the 70s. I’m also interested and dabble in a lot of other things—crocheting, knitting, book-making, rock-painting, jazz and bluegrass music, piano, watercolors, cats, astrology, UFOs, rock-hunting, vermi-composting, archeology, basket weaving, writing, hypnosis, languages (French, German, Spanish) and traveling. I don’t do any of them well. I know just enough to engage five and six year-olds in a classroom—and myself outside the classroom.

Is there a fun fact or something interesting about you that you would like to share? A surprising or unexpected talent? Here’s another quote by Albert Einstein that resonates with me: “I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious”.

Rumor has it that you are editor of your quilting guild’s newsletter—is that accurate? Hmmm. No comment. (Note to self: good to know.)

Any last thoughts or anything we’ve missed? That about sums me up except to say that I’ve really enjoyed all the folks I’ve met at the Safari Park and SDES. Everyone has been so welcoming and including. I’m sure I’m going to learn a lot and have fun in the process. Many thanks.

We would like to thank Barbara for taking the time to share her interesting story. We all look forward to getting to know you better, and thank you for providing our readers with your story and a window into your life. Please be sure to say hello and introduce yourselves to Barbara at our next in-person meeting.



Barbara’s two favorite feline friends enjoy a restful day while Barbara volunteers. Photos: Barbara Michalec.

Member Appreciation Potluck Held in October

An End of Summer Potluck and membership appreciation event was held October 22, at the home of Dean Delibertis, in National City, CA. There were nearly forty people in attendance, and everyone had a wonderful time—enjoying the fun, food, and fellowship in Dean’s lovely and spacious back yard. It was a pleasant fall Saturday afternoon as guests visited, relaxed, remembered old friends, and stories of the past—while looking forward to future gatherings and events. As usual, Dean did a wonderful job as host, serving salmon, green beans, pasta alfredo, spinach salad and fresh baked bread to accompany the many side dishes guests provided. And don't forget the delicious desserts including Beth’s cheesecake!

During the event, President David Cheever presented the “Rookie of the Year” award for 2022, to Jeff Hendershot. Jeff was humbled to have received the beautiful hand-painted award with the image of the epi ‘Firecracker’, as well as the honor associated with the award and the spirit it represents.

Honorary Life Member Bill Green was also in attendance, and his 94th birthday was celebrated with a birthday cake and singing Happy Birthday. A good time was had by all, and we will look forward to our next event.



Photos: JK Hendershot



Results Tabulated—Officers & Budget Approved

We would like to extend a thank you to our members who voted in our recent survey. Here are the tabulated results collected from the November 2022 survey. We greatly appreciate you helping the Board of SDES understand what is important to you. Note: all of the following questions had 59 responses or views—not all questions had mandatory answers required, the total count of answers may not be 59.

<u>Slate of Officers</u>	Do you approve San Diego Epiphyllum Society's slate of officers for 2023? <i>Membership response (total responses) 45/All answered Yes</i>
<u>Financial</u>	Do you approve the 2023 budget as printed in the November 2023 SDES Newsletter? <i>58 Yes/ 1 No</i> Do you approve of long-term investments not exceeding 15% of SDES yearly income? <i>56 Yes/ 2 No</i>
<u>Membership</u>	SDES is planning to hold EPICON in the Spring of 2024, would you plan to attend? <i>36 Yes/ 4 No/ 19 Maybe</i> If the SDES Holiday Banquet moved to a luncheon on the weekend, would you attend? <i>16 Yes (either day)/ 9 on Saturday/ 6 on Sunday/ 25 No</i> Would you attend a general membership meeting held during daylight hours? <i>18 Yes / 25 No/ 16 Maybe</i> Zoom attendance for general membership meetings has declined. Should SDES continue providing meetings via Zoom? <i>29 Yes/ 11 No/ 18 unsure</i>
<u>Newsletters</u>	How would you like to receive the EpiNews? <i>49 as an email attachment/ 8 Simple notification that it is available on the website</i> How do you read the monthly EpiNews? <i>54 The attachment to the email sent by Membership Secretary/ 3 from the website</i>

SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society once again held its annual Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers at the Butcher Shop restaurant in San Diego on December 14, 2022, after a two-year hiatus.

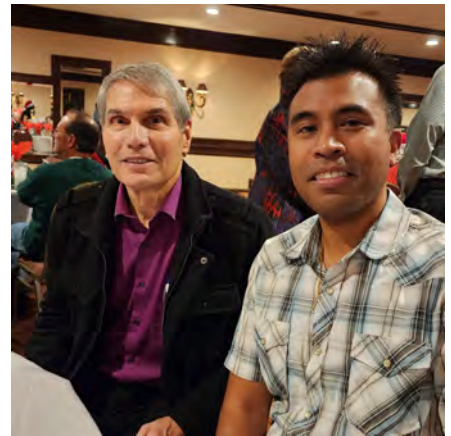
Over 40 members and guests were in attendance, and were greeted by Patricia Neal and Lauren Burnette, who checked in members and provided each with a raffle ticket and directed those who brought a gift for the gift exchange to the gift exchange table. The room was beautifully decorated for the holiday season, and while members were settling in to their tables, pictures were taken of all of those in attendance, and are provided on the following two pages for your enjoyment.

The meal was amazing as is the Butcher Shop tradition, with a selection of entrees for the main course and delicious cheesecake topped with fresh berries for desert. Everyone had a chance to visit, and catch up with friends while enjoying their dinner. Centerpieces were also given to a guest at each table.

After dinner, a raffle was held with various prizes which included some coveted epi cuttings, garden supplies and Walter Andersen's gift certificates. Most everyone in attendance went home a winner. Following the raffle, those who brought gifts for the gift exchange participated and took home many of the treasures that were beautifully wrapped and decorated for the exchange.

Following the gift exchange, David Cheever, formalized the installation of officers, and Dean Deliberitis was named recipient of the Roger Chapin "Volunteer of the Year" award for 2022. Another successful SDES event to ring in the holidays, and thanks to all who participated and organized the event.

SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December (Continued)



Photos: JK Hendershot

SDES Annual Holiday Banquet Held in December (Continued)



Photos: JK Hendershot

Safari Park Epi Collection and Display *by Jerry Moreau*

The December mornings have been chilly out at the park. One morning we arrived and it was 29°F and then warmed up to 69°F by the time we left. Another morning the frost protection system was running in the work houses. The Epiphyllum Trail is set up like this as well. The irrigation comes on when the temperature gets to 28°F or below and stays on until the temperature gets back above 28°F. The trail is at a slightly higher elevation so the temperature doesn't seem to get that low there. We did lose the collection to frost back in the early days of the display house. So this system was set up to protect the epies and has worked very well over the years.

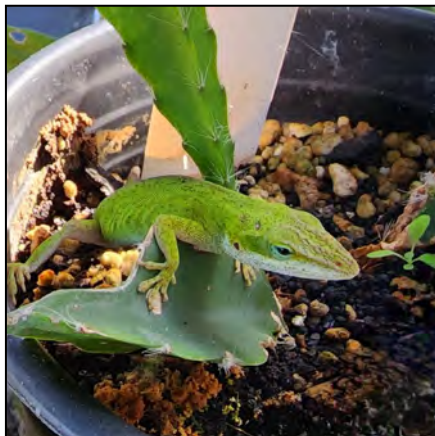
I want to say good bye and thank you to our contact in the horticulture department at the Safari Park—Linda Post who retired in December. She worked at the park for over 19 years. Her husband recently retired and they are thinking about moving back to England. It's been wonderful working with her recently. This is a big loss for all the societies who have gardens at the park, as she held a lot of institutional knowledge. The current senior managers in horticulture are all new in the past few years. We haven't been informed who her replacement will be, but I look forward to developing a good relationship with them for the society.



I would like to welcome a new volunteer to our crew, I should say new again. Oliver Lapubela joined us recently and hopped back in learning all the changes at the park since he was with us before. Oliver is very enthusiastic and is great to be around. I look forward to working more with Oliver. Also coming on board is Holling Crain, son of Ron and Velma. He will be a great help to Ron and is fun to be around.

Blooming at the park this month are: 'Charming Beauty', 'Elvis Presley', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jalisco Grace', 'Jalisco Starlight' and 'Padre'.

Helping out this month were Barb Alvarez, Keith & Linda Bennett, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Ron & Velma Crain, Holling Crain, Thurston Bow, Cindy Decker, Marie Dempewolf, Dean Delibertis, Jeff Hendershot, Jerry Moreau, Beth Jackson, Paula Reynolds, Tim Paule, Janice Wakefield, Ada Wildberger, Betsy and Jerry Markle, and Paul vander Ploeg.



Left: New volunteer *anolis carolinensis* (or green anole lizard) was spotted taking a break from the grind. Pictured right: Non-reptilian volunteers Ada Wildberger and Keith Bennett pick up the slack as they repot several larger plants temporarily removed from the Epiphyllum Trail earlier that day.

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/>



Wish List, Off-Season Blooms and Species

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 your contact information to the editor to have it included here.

Sal Castellitto: aclarasd@aol.com

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

Forrest Ehbrecht:

forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com

'Bad Hair Day', 'London Desire'

Casey Gerdes: casey@yogawithcasey.com

'Crystal Flash', 'Gladycce Jones', 'Glow Bug', 'Kiwi Contradiction', 'Monastery Gardens', 'Ron Crain'

Carmela Griswold: calcolor@gmail.com

'Sakurahime', 'Clarity's Happy Hippie', 'Kiwi Sweetheart', 'Bernhard Paetz'

Bridget Kleindienst:

Bkleindienst13@gmail.com

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

Andrea McArthur:

acmcarthur@roadrunner.com

'Queen Tatiana'

Michal McKee: folklorist@gmail.com

'Elegans Lei', 'Mojave Gold'

Priscilla Merriam: pafmerriam@gmail.com

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

Paula Reynolds: paularey@aol.com

'Sunset Cliffs', 'Voltaire'

Janice Wakefield:

jwakefield.home@gmail.com

'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa', 'White Cloud'



Off-Season Blooms

This list is comprised of informal research on off-season epi blooms. Here you can track which epies have been blooming consistently off-season over the years. If you would like to add to the research and list what epies have been blooming in your garden, email the editor with your list of blooms. Here's what's been blooming this month:

Barb Alvarez (Lemon Grove): 'Harald Knebel'

Dean Delibertis (National City): 'Jalisco Joy'

Celine Dion (Concord) 'Pixie Dust'

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): 'Jalisco Joy'

Carmela Griswold (Vista) 'Fruhlingsgold'

Jerry Moreau 'Jemo'

Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): 'Tiny Flame', 'Abracadabra', 'Erin Alleson'

Pat Neal (San Diego): 'What Luck', 'Marmalade 'n Honey', 'Jalisco Joy'

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): 'Charming Beauty', 'Elvis Presley', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jalisco Grace', 'Jalisco Starlight', 'Padre'

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): 'Bumpkin', 'Harald Knebel', 'Cynthia', 'Jalisco Queen'

Species Blooming

Here is a list of species blooming this month.

Barb Alvarez (Lemon Grove): *Epiphyllum pumilum*

Cindy Decker (La Mesa): *Epiphyllum hookeri*,

Dean Delibertis (National City): *D. Macranthus*

Celine Dion (Concord): *Rhipsalis agudoensis*

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*

Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): *Disocactus macranthus*

Ken Maculan (Escondido) *E. hookeri*

Safari Park (San Pasqual Valley): *Disocactus anguliger*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *Hookeri*, *E. pumilum*, *Rhipsalis teres* forma *capilliformis*

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): *Epiphyllum hookeri*

Linda Sinkovic (Santa Cruz): *Rhipsalis mesembryanthemoides*, *Lepismium houlltinum* f *houlletiana*, *Lepismium houllletianum* f *regnelli*

Ron & Velma Crain (Chula Vista): *Selenicereous undatus*, *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*

Epi News Submissions

News of interest to our 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 15th 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

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	Tim Paule
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 and Other Societies:

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>

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

Epiphyllum Society of America

1st 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

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

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

San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society

Meets on Zoom every 2nd Friday

<https://www.sdturtle.org/>

San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

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

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

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

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

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

We Leave You With This—*Mother's Day Show '22* by Don Crain



'Lola Leah' HATH



'Spiced Takuan' SHI



'Emmett Kelly' FRE



'Josephine Paetz' HP



'King Of Yellows' WC



'Gold Medal' WC