



# Epi News

*San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.*

August 2025  
Volume 50 Number 8



## **2025 Mother's Day Show Bob & Lois Burks Trophy**

**'You Jane' Entrant: Patricia Neal**

Hybridizer: Paul Richter 2014

Size: Extra Large

Photo: Patricia Neal

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

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**Membership**

Single \$15.00 per year.  
 Dual \$20.00 per year.  
<https://san-diego-epiphyllum-soc.square.site/>

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 San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership  
 P.O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127.

OR email [Membership@sdepies.org](mailto:Membership@sdepies.org)  
 For faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson, Membership Secretary—their address can be found on the membership roster.

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**Calendar of Events**

August	13	General Meeting
	23	Safari Park Work Party
	27	Board Meeting
	30	Safari Park Work Party
September	2	ESA Potluck and Silent Auction
	10	General Meeting
	13	Safari Park Work Party
	14	Volunteer Appreciation Event <a href="#">@Dean’s</a>
	24	Board Meeting
	27	Safari Park Work Party
October	8	General Meeting
	11	Safari Park Work Party
	22	Board Meeting
	25	Safari Park Work Party

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 online Zoom link from the Membership Secretary, or the President.



**On the Cover:**  
 August 2025

Photo: Patricia Neal

The Bob and Lois Burks Trophy for Best Extra Large Hybrid was awarded to Patricia Neal for: ‘You Jane’ - PR 2014 Inner petals purple with white to lavender edge. Outer petals red. Overlapping, reflexed form. Thick, flat growth. {XL} ‘Bumpkin’ Ex Nat. Reg. #14566

## President's Corner — *From President Carmela Griswold*



In a quiet corner of the yard, nestled among vines and forgotten pots, bloomed the *Epiphyllum Oxypetalum*.

Each day, the gardener passed by the cactus-like tangle without a second glance. To her, it was just another plant, all flat stems and no flowers. But every evening, as dusk deepened, something miraculous stirred.

One moonlit night, drawn by a faint, sweet scent, the gardener returned after dark. There, glowing in silver light, a single epiphyllum flower had unfurled—white, delicate, radiant and fragrant. She stood speechless. The bloom pulsed with life, dew clinging to its petals like stars.

From that night on, the gardener waited for the rare blooms, which opened only for a few enchanted hours. She learned their rhythm, their secrets, and began tending the plant with care. Over time, it thrived, and more blooms came—each a fleeting miracle.

Neighbors whispered that the gardener's yard had magic. She only smiled. It wasn't magic, she knew, but patience and quiet attention—like the epiphyllum itself, blooming when the world sleeps, for those who know how to look.

I hope you enjoyed my little story! A big thank you to Min Shan and Lucy Warren from the Master Gardener Association for their wonderful presentations at our June and July meetings.

With sales events behind us, we're now looking forward to the Photo Contest starting September 1<sup>st</sup>—I can't wait to see your entries! Don't forget our Volunteer Appreciation Party on September 14<sup>th</sup>—details are in this newsletter.

Wishing you sunshine and smiles,

*Carmela*

## Meeting Program & Workshop

**Pre-Meeting Workshop:** August's pre-meeting workshop is "Rooting Cuttings—Tips & Tricks for Success" - led by Jerry Moreau. The workshop will be held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

**August Program:** Our August meeting will be held on August 13, 2025 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Pre-meeting workshop Room 104, 7:00 p.m. Zoom begins at 7:00 p.m. for socializing, and the online meeting will join the live meeting at 7:30 p.m. Teresa O'Donnell, President, of the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society will be discussing "Conservation and Adoption" and the great work they do in San Diego County.

**July Program:** Our July meeting was held on July 9, 2025 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Lucy Warren, from the Master Gardener Association of San Diego County discussed "The Amazing and Beautiful Gardens of San Diego's Balboa Park".



*Left: Lucy Warren, from the Master Gardener Association presented at our July General Membership Meeting.*

Photo: Carmela Griswold

*Right: Members pose for a photo following the MDS award presentation at the July meeting.*

Photo: Carmela Griswold



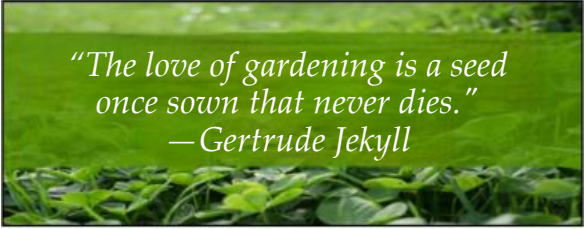
## We Are Keeping in Touch

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!

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

Newsletter Editor: JK Hendershot at 619-301-3587 or [EpiNews@sdepies.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepies.org)



*"The love of gardening is a seed  
once sown that never dies."  
— Gertrude Jekyll*



*Beautiful 'Kiwi Gold Edition' Y&AB*  
Photo: Don Crain

Keeping You in our Thoughts and Prayers  
Michal McKee, Holling Crain, and Jim Nones

### New Members

Annie Bobbitt, Oceanside, CA  
John Ekberg, Mountain View, HI  
Andrew Franks, El Cajon, CA  
Molly Hutchings, San Clemente, CA  
Sheila Roman, San Diego, CA



*'Astro De Oro' FOBx52AP1*  
Photo: Don Crain

## 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**—Help preserve a remarkable collection at the SDZWA San Diego Zoo Safari Park, home to one of the most extensive collections of epiphyllum hybrids and epiphytic species in the world. Our unique display in the heart of the Safari Park is cared for by dedicated volunteers who share a passion for these extraordinary plants. To ensure continued maintenance of the collection and display area, the Society relies on donations. Your support is always welcome and deeply appreciated—consider including SDES and the epiphyllum collection in your will or trust to help safeguard this living treasure for future generations.

## Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ Groom plants. Remove dried up or scarred foliage. Branches that have grown long should be in hanging baskets or trellised. The branches will be healthier if they're not laying on the ground or a shelf.
- ✓ Keep debris off of the branches and out of the containers. If you have your pots near or under trees you may get leaves in the containers. We typically get lots of dried bougainvillea leaves in our pots.
- ✓ Monitor humidity. Mist plants when necessary. With the hot summer weather, occasional misting or spraying is beneficial.
- ✓ Don't allow the soil to completely dry out. Smaller pots need watering more often than larger ones. Also, clay pots need watering more often than plastic containers. The best time to water is early morning or evening. Don't water during the hottest part of the day.
- ✓ Remove unwanted apples. Cut off the unwanted apple about ¼ inch above areola to prevent damage to areola.
- ✓ Protect developing fruit. Some birds love to eat them. Editor's Note: I am not sure how they managed it, but we had a nursery (or gaze) of 'raton laveur' (for some reason, raccoon sounds fancier in French) pass through last year and eat every apple. I guess it was better than skunks!
- ✓ Bait for snails and slugs. As many can attest, snails and slugs can destroy your mature plants.
- ✓ Protect epies from summer sun with shade cloth, lath houses or under the shade of trees. Too much direct summer sun can sunburn and scorch your epies.
- ✓ Protect plants from extreme wind. 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 still 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. Editor's Note: See the article written by Lois Burks in the July 2022 issue of Epi News for the 'how to' guide on grafting epies.



*'Camp Robber' SHI* Photo: Don Crain



*'Independence Rock' SHI* Photo: Don Crain

## Mother's Day Show 2026

### In Search of the Perfect Theme *by Sandra Chapin and Patricia Neal*

Have you ever been inspired by an idea that would be a great theme for the Mother's Day Show? Many of us have bounced several ideas around over the years and have often recycled themes. We're looking for new ideas and fresh inspiration.

In honor of our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we'd like to give everyone an opportunity to submit theme ideas and then vote on one for next year's show. Asking for theme ideas has been done in the past and members have come up with great ones. Shown here is a list of suggestions members voted on for the 1983 show. 'Salute to Balboa Park' was chosen that year but many of the suggested ideas were used for other shows under different names including circus, mother, around the world, Hollywood and nursery rhymes.

This 40-year-old list from SDES' past shown here might help you in searching for something new and interesting that could spark an exhibit idea in a fellow member.

Sandra and Pat have 16 years of show coordination between them and are looking forward to hearing your suggestions!

There is no limit to how many ideas you can suggest. Email them to us. Or pass them on to us at a meeting, or to a board member.

Email Sandra at [sandraleewc@gmail.com](mailto:sandraleewc@gmail.com) or Pat at [pneal@san.rr.com](mailto:pneal@san.rr.com).

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLUM SOCIETY	
MOTHER'S DAY SHOW 1983	
V O T E F O R O N E	
(Circle the number opposite the theme of your choice)	
1.	Moments to Remember
2.	Circus of Epis
3.	Carnival of Epis
4.	Epis Country Style
5.	Epis in Toyland
6.	Epis in Fairyland
7.	Sing a Song with Epis
8.	All Aboard the Epi Express
9.	Mother's Favorite Memories
10.	Mothers Around the World
11.	Fantasy on Parade
12.	Blaze of Glory
13.	Rainbow of Colors
14.	Rainbow of Epi Colors
15.	Nostalgia
16.	Good Old Days
17.	Way Back When
18.	Nursery Rhymes
19.	Song Titles
20.	Disney Fantasia
21.	Disney World
22.	A Tribute to Walt Disney
23.	My Home Town
24.	Hometown, U.S.A.
25.	Salute to Balboa Park
26.	Epis on Broadway
27.	Epis in Hollywood
28.	Epis on Vacation
29.	Epis Go to a Party
30.	Hawaiian Holiday
31.	Songs to Remember
32.	Sing a Song with Epis
33.	Sing Along with Epis
34.	No theme--Pot Pourri--Free Choice



L: 2015 theme 'An Epi Salute to Balboa Park'. R: 2014 theme 'Hats Off to Epies'. Photos: SDES Archives

# SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History



Kent and Gladys Harper,  
SDES Holiday Banquet

Photo: SDES Archives

*Secretary Eva Clover, and Bos'N Hartford—to mention a few—whose names are a tribute to the roots of our beginnings. Gladys Harper was another founding member who was instrumental in the formation of our society. Follow her interesting story, as told to Patricia Neal in 1995, to see how her life intersects with the lives of several others', to create what we know today as the San Diego Epiphyllum Society.*

Gladys Harper is not only a founding member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society and an Honorary Life Member, she was promoting Epiphyllums among family, friends and neighbors long before our society was founded. Gladys has been raising epies at her Pacific Beach home since the early 1960s. For 20 years she and her husband Kent hosted a potluck garden party each May that grew in size until it topped more than 100 people one year.

Her mother got her started with epies when she brought back a cutting of 'Amber Queen' from the Los Angeles show one year, "That was my very first one," Gladys said. "The mailman saw it one day and said, 'Oh Mrs. so-and-so down the street has a white one.' So I went to see her and we traded. I didn't know how you started cuttings or anything, so I broke off part of my plant and she broke off part of hers."

Eventually, Gladys met three other Pacific Beach women who became friends through their love of epies—Eva Clover, Thelma Rader and Vera Crousan—eleven of them became founding members of SDES. "The four of us formed what we called the Pacific Beach Epi Society. It wasn't anything

*Editor's Note:* As we reflect back on our history, and our Mother's Day Show specifically, you may recall seeing trophy names which honor some of our founding members. Taking a deeper dive into the ESA's Registry, you'll also find named hybrids such as Dr. J.W. Troxell,

except that we'd just go to each other's houses to see our epies." Gladys explained that her epi collection always grew in May when they were all in bloom. Mother's Day, her birthday and the Harper's wedding anniversary were all in the month of May and everyone knew that's all she wanted for gifts—epies. "My husband and I would drive to Cactus Pete's, which is long since gone, in Los Angeles, and I still have several plants from him. That's where I got my first 'Reward'.

"I was told that Garland O'Barr and Paul Fort stayed up all night waiting for the first bud of 'Reward' to open. It opened for the first time on May 17, 1957—"That's my birthday," I said, "I've got to have that." I have the original start and it says 1965. At that time in 1965, \$5 was the top price you paid for a cutting and you didn't get a plant, you got a cutting. Sometimes 'Reward' blooms more white than yellow, but it always blooms yellow for me."

"I got that cutting that year and came back and showed the pictures to Eva, Vera and Thelma and they said 'You know what—your yard is so pretty with these epies and it's a shame no one ever gets to see them except us.' Since it was right around my birthday I told the girls to come over for lunch. Vera said it was so much fun, 'Let's do this again next year when it's your birthday and invite my neighbor and we'll all bring something.' I decided we'd have a potluck and the next year we had 16 people. They all said 'Oh, let's do this again next year.' And that's, how the Harper garden party grew."

The Harper's garden party soon expanded from lunch into a daylong open garden, so people who couldn't get off work could stop by afterwards to enjoy the garden and eat whatever remained on the potluck table. With the formation of SDES, more and more people were invited and in July 1982, the Harper's party was written up in the San Diego Union (Tribune).

Five years after the garden parties got into swing, Gladys and her epi-cohorts read in the newspaper that the Chula Vista garden club was having a slide show one evening on epies given by Richard (Bos'n) Hartford. "Thelma, Vera, Eva and I all went down to Chula Vista to find out more about

*Continued*

## *SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History Continued*

epies,” Gladys explained. “Hartford told us that night that he and Dr. Troxell and I believe it was Bill Nelson, ‘were going to try to form an epi society’ and asked if we would be interested. Well, we just jumped at it right away.”

The first meeting to form a society was held in Balboa Park. “Nelson had gone to Del Mar Fair and displayed epies and had gotten a lot of people interested there and as I recall, 17 people showed up at that first meeting. We set our dues at two or three dollars.” They also discussed a name and settled on San Diego Epiphyllum Society instead of Epiphyllum Society of San Diego because it was too much like the Epiphyllum Society of America and they didn’t want people to confuse the two.

Dr. Troxell collected the initial dues and at the next meeting collected yet more dues from more people. He didn’t want to be responsible for it, so Gladys was elected treasurer. “I went to the old Bank of America located on Garnett Avenue, now torn down. I told the teller I wanted to open an account for a non-profit society, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. She asked how to spell it and I told her, and she looked at me and said, ‘What kind of disease is that?’ At that moment I wished we had left it as phyllocactus like the Germans had originally called it.”

After serving as treasurer, Gladys went on to serve as a director on the board, as well as displaying in the annual shows, occasionally participating in programs and coordinating our first Christmas dinners which were catered affairs in Balboa Park. Gladys has a wealth of stories and anecdotes about those epi lovers in the early days. From the years she spent travelling to Los Angeles for their annual shows to the first days of our society, Gladys speaks fondly of Dr. Troxell, his wife Mims, and his brother-in-law Professor Irwin, Bos’n Hartford, Cactus Pete, Wressey Cocke, Howard Jones, George French, and many others.

“Dr. Troxell had a beautiful yard, just gorgeous. He was a retired Navy surgeon and had a full time gardener. He had a thousand epies. I think that’s where I learned to combine food and flowers. We

used to have our board meetings in people’s homes and whenever we had our board meetings at the Troxells’, Miriam would have it catered for lunch even though there were only 12 or 15 of us attending.”

Gladys said that although SDES has gone through some growing pains, the society has continued to be a friendly, active organization. “When it was younger, and I mean smaller, you knew everybody. If I miss a couple meetings now, I don’t know half the people there, but it’s no less friendly. At least people know what an Epiphyllum is now whereas in the 60s they didn’t. But I still enjoy it, just as much as I ever did. I enjoy the people and the programs. I like to see all the young people coming in.”



*‘Gladys Harper’ FRE*

Photo: Ron Crain

Gladys participated in the very first SDES Epiphyllum show in 1971, as well as the first theme show in 1974: “Epiphyllums in Bottles.” “George French came up with the theme. We used fancy bottles and we only had maybe ten or twelve displays.” Gladys has continued to display at almost every Mother’s Day Show. Her table “trademark” is a glass fishbowl with an epi at the bottom and a goldfish swimming around it—a favorite with the hundreds of visitors every year.

Today, Gladys’s epi collection is smaller as she and Kent travel often and stay active with other events. “I promised my husband I would narrow down to my 50 favorites. I started throwing out and repotting two years ago, and I still have four hundred or so!” So much for me weeding down. “I have often wondered—if could only choose one, which would it be? I used to think it would be ‘Tassel’ I’d pick—but there’s so many more that are so much more gorgeous than ‘Tassel’. There weren’t so many people hybridizing back then, other than Sherman Beahm’s Nursery, Cactus Pete and Hurst. Nobody around here was hybridizing, except Wressey Cocke in Redondo Beach.”

Gladys still has many of the original plants she obtained in the ‘60s, although they have been cut and restarted. “Just yesterday I cut up ‘Hymn to the Sun’. It was a large beige flower Eleanor Norwich gave me in 1967; she and her

*Continued*

# SDES Celebrates 55: A Look Back at Our History Continued

her husband were charter members too. It was looking awful and hasn't bloomed in years. You don't see it at shows anymore; it has kind of a ruby throat, very unusual, sort of darker than 'King Midas' and larger than 'King Midas'."

To have the same plants she purchased in the 60s, Gladys obviously has a green thumb when it comes to epies. At the height of her epi-growing she had over 300 plants and attributes the Pacific Beach climate to some of her success. "Living so close to the coast, we get the moisture at night which the epies take up through their branches. In the 40 years we've lived here, there's only been a couple nights when it's gone below 30°F."

Giving an example of how she dedicates herself to epi culture, Gladys commented, "One of our programs years back, Dr. Troxell and I, and I think Howard Jones from Escondido—who did a lot of hybridizing, were on the panel for soils—what kinds to use for epies, what kind of containers."

"In the earliest days we didn't have the kinds of things we do now—redwood planters were not as prominent as they are now and we didn't have one gallon plastic pots. We would get the one gallon metal containers from restaurants and paint them and use them. We found that to be good material to use for epies but they deteriorated after awhile, rusted through. So on this panel we were advising what to use for different containers to start plants in and what kind of soil, Dr. Troxell said 'Well, I'm a simple man so I just mix such and such' and he had about three or four ingredients. Howard Jones had four or five different ingredients and I said, 'Well, this is the recipe that I use' and it was this whole page-long list of ingredients—bone meal, phosphate, etc.! They looked at me and I remember saying, 'Well, what do you expect? I'm a woman and I'm complicated.' I still use that for-

mula today although I probably have simplified it down a bit because for instance, leaf mold is very hard to get so I don't use leaf mold anymore."

The Harpers are currently redoing much of their garden with plans to replace the shade cloth and repotting all the epies. Gladys's epies share her small yard with mini roses; vegetables, herbs, cacti, succulents, epidendrums, geraniums and Aloysious, a desert tortoise who has made his home with the Harpers for more than 30 years. Aloysious has free roam of the garden during summer, and hibernates in the garage during the winter.

Speaking of winter, Gladys has an outstanding collection of Santa Claus figures and memorabilia from around the world. Each year they've had "Santa's Open House" on Twelfth Night when part of the collection is displayed for friends, family and neighbors. Her collection is so large that only a portion can be displayed each year.

"The 20<sup>th</sup> year of our garden parties was '84 or '85 and everyone was so sorrowful that day, but it was so much work. We've had our Santa Claus open house all thru the '60s and we're still continuing them, they're easier than the garden parties."

Although Gladys is attempting to downsize her epi collection, she continues to be an active member, even mentioning that she thinks about serving on the board of directors again. "I know it's hard to get volunteers, but we live in such a fast-paced society now. Everybody is so busy. I'm finding that even at my age, there's a lot I want to get done and I don't have the time or the energy. Hopefully, the younger people coming in will have that energy."

*Gladys Harper passed away in May 2016 at age 90. Her husband Kent passed in 2020 at age 92. Both are buried at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego.*



L. Garden Party article 1982. C. Gladys's "trademark" fish bowl. R. Gladys and Kent. Photo: SDES Archives

# Annual Photo Contest Announced for October

The 2024 Annual Photo Contest was a tremendous success; more photographers were involved than in previous years.

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society Annual Photo Contest dates have been set. Photographs will be accepted between September 1, 2025, and October 8, 2025 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in October).

The photography contest will again be held online, allowing the SDES and members of other epiphyllum societies associated with the Epiphyllum Society of America (ESA) to easily submit entries.

The contest categories are Single Bloom, Multi-Bloom, and Epi Art. All entries that meet the contest requirements will be judged by a team of judges.

Don't forget to participate in the People's Choice category! You can view the online entries and vote for your favorite photo. The rules for voting in the People's Choice category can be found on the website.

The SDES November 12, 2025 general meeting presentation will be a slide show of all submitted photographs highlighting the contest winners. The results will be posted on our website shortly thereafter.

The following links provide additional information on the SDES Photography contest Information and a link for contest rules. [Photo Contest – SDES \(sdepis.org\)](http://sdepis.org)



Photographer  
Svante Lundqvist



Photographer  
Svante Lundqvist



Photographer  
Gilbert Hatfield



Photographer  
Gilbert Hatfield



Photographer  
Frank Supplie



Photographer  
Don Crain



Permission of ESA



Photographer  
Svante Lundqvist



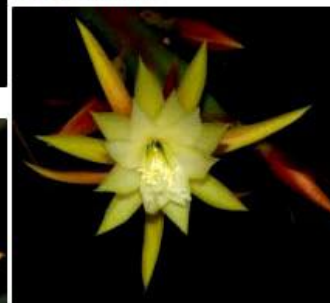
Photographer  
Frank Supplie



Photographer  
Frank Supplie



Photographer  
Frank Supplie



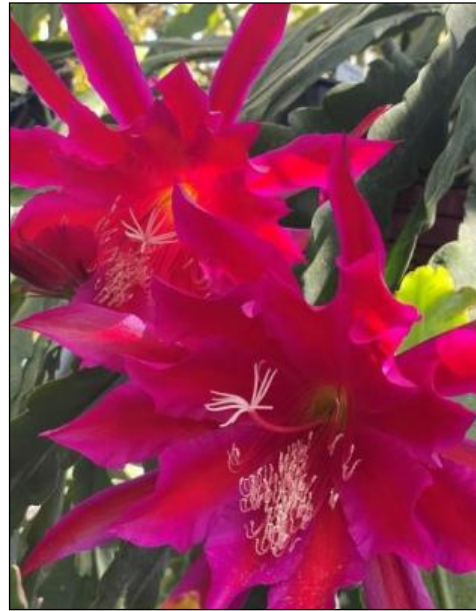
Permission of ESA

Source: Sdepis.org

# 2024 Annual Photo Contest—*And the Winners Were...* Multi-Bloom Category



1<sup>st</sup> Place Carmela Griswold  
*Oxypetalum*



Honorable Mention Doug Hillman  
'Romantic Night'



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Gail Hatfield  
'Kiwi Classic'



Honorable Mention Carmela Griswold  
'Tiger's Eye'



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Gilbert Hatfield  
'Vanilla Sunset'



Honorable Mention Arlene Hillman  
'Ferris Wheel'

## 52 Weeks of Epiphyllum in Your Garden by Dean DeLibertis

*Editors Note: As epi enthusiasts we look forward to each bloom season in mid-to late-spring—and then as quickly as it arrives it is gone. While we enjoy the beautiful flowers it can certainly be a bit of a disappointment once they are gone. Dean DeLibertis sets out to discover how you might have epies blooming year round in your garden. It will take bit of planning and some work on your part, but the reward will surely be worth it. Enjoy the read.*

The goal was to have a bloom every week of the year; yes 52 Weeks of Epiphyllum. Time travel is how you obtain success with plants, life and love. Look to the goal, see the path's end and *plan backwards* to where you are today:

8. GOAL: I want blooms! I want 52 weeks of epies!
7. I want big, mature, healthy plants (more branches more chances at buds).
6. Pots, light, soil mix, water, fertilizer, bloom food, humidity, pesticides (our monthly workshops are there to help with this).
5. How often am I in the garden? Be honest, you are trying to create the optimal environment.
4. Acknowledge not all plants have exactly the same needs.
3. How do I create optimal conditions?
2. What conditions do epies need to grow?
1. I want to grow epies.

Five years of hands-on effort in my garden and the list comes down to 37 plants. There's a heavy lean on species to fill in some of the gaps during the year. The nice thing about species is they are very consistent and bloom several times a year. Hot house grower Rudolf Hessing also played a big part in the success of my collection. In using a species (*Epiphyllum Anguliger*) as a cross gives his hybrids a strength, consistency and a great looking leaf in the off times. Yes, they are generally small—but put on a great show. *Continued*



*'Full Moon Beauty'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot



*'Clarity's Git'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot



*'Desert Sunrise'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot



*'Harald Knebel'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot

## 52 Weeks of Epiphyllum in Your Garden *Continued*

Now let's take a look at the epiphyllum hybrids and species we will be using to create the 52 week blooming garden.

Amoena	Full Moon Beauty	Mary Ruth Nicklas
Bruno Forster	German Empress	<i>E. Oxypetalum</i>
Call of the Wild	Harald Knebel	Pyjama Drama
Chardonnay Twist	<i>E. Hookeri Strictum</i>	Picky, Picky, Picky
Chatter Box	Jalisco Beauty	Professor Herbert Irwin
Clarity's Git	Jalisco Chris	Ramona Paetz
Clarity's Neon Spark	Jalisco Grace	Sassy Sandra
Desert Sunrise	Jalisco Joy	Tiger's Eye
<i>Disocactus Macranthus</i>	Jalisco Queen	Triana
DonOro	Kiwi Musical	Ucayali Gold
Felcino Filou	Kiwi Playboy	Wild Ginger
Firefall	Kodi I	
Fruhlingspracht	Kodi II	

### And now the inconvenient truths: Growing Zone, Maturity, Consistency

**Growing Zone:** (Location, location, location) I reside in National City, CA, just south of San Diego. The plants in my garden are less than one mile from the ocean and only 30 feet above sea level. This proves to be an easy zone to grow with mild temperatures and high humidity. Follow the same conditions in zones where hybridizers grew their seedlings and plants. For example, under a shade cloth in San Diego or a greenhouse in Germany. The seedlings that survived did well in the location where that hybridizer chose to grow, and you will need to replicate that environment. You may see that, for me, George French, Evelyn Shiraki, Don Patterson, Robert Kuettle and hot house grower Rudolf Hessing play a big part in the success of my collection.

**Maturity:** All plants have to be fully mature in order to bloom consistently. As we all know, from a cutting to a plant that blooms usually takes about 3 to 5 years, and some hybrids take longer. Not all epies are equal! Fully mature may take five to seven years.

To make this a success, my choices focus was on the hearty, sturdy, and disease resistant growers. As in any type of relationship, high maintenance translates to an abundance of work. I recommend you choose for lower maintenance and higher success. *Continued*



'Jalisco Grace'  
Photo: JK Hendershot



'Jalisco Joy'  
Photo: JK Hendershot



'Kiwi Musical'  
Photo: JK Hendershot

*52 Weeks of Epiphyllum in Your Garden Continued*

Another important point is the sharing of information can help mold your choices. The San Diego Epiphyllum Society meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, and the members in the front row alone have a collective century's worth of stories, successes and experience.

If you find yourself waiting more than three years, be sure to check two basics: is more light needed and/or is root rot present? Another inconvenient truth: plants take a break every once in a while; they do not always bloom every year. I have a 'Clown' in my collection that will bloom, take three years off, bloom again, and take another three years off. This was one of the reasons it was omitted for consideration for this project—but it is still worthy for a spot in your collection.

**Consistency:** Choosing plants that I can count on was a big factor. I did not want hybrids that take a break or jettison the buds at the first sign of stress. Again, my choices focus on the hearty, sturdy, disease resistant, and strong growers to gain success.

Consistent bloomers ranked next to the choice of hybrids that bloom multiple times a year. Overlapping blooming was my insurance policy that I would have blooms for 52 weeks. Thus, even if a plant takes a break, you'll have a chance that another will be blooming at the same time. Many of the choices allow for double or even triple week booming. I hope some of these ideas and methodologies help you in your gardening endeavors. Best of luck to you.

*Continued*



*'Kodi I'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot



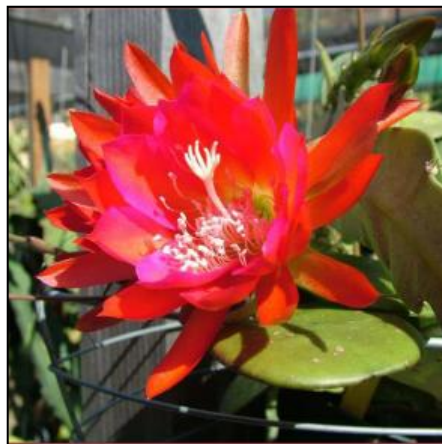
*'Professor Herbert Irwin'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot



*'Ramona Paetz'*  
Photo: JK Hendershot



*'Tiger's Eye'*  
Photo: Jerry Moreau

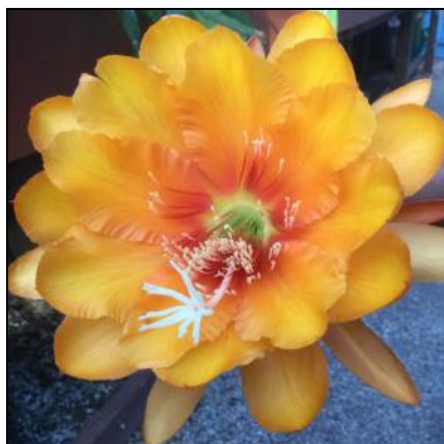


*'Bruno Forster'*  
Photo: Roger Chapin



*'Call of the Wild'*  
Photo: Jerry Moreau

*52 Weeks of Epiphyllum in Your Garden Continued*



*'DonOro'*  
Photo: Jerry Moreau



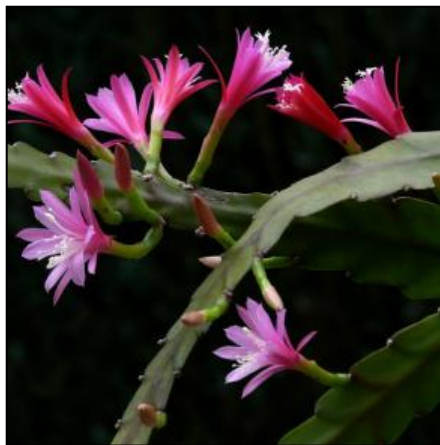
*'Chardonnay Twist'*  
Photo: Robert Kuettle



*'Chatter Box'*  
Photo: Eddy Huey



*'Clarity's Neon Spark'*  
Photo: Svante Lundqvist



*'Felcino Filou'*  
Photo: Rudolf Hessing



*'Firefall'*  
Photo: Roger Chapin



*'Frühlingspracht'*  
Photo: Eddy Huey



*'German Empress'*  
Photo: Roger Chapin

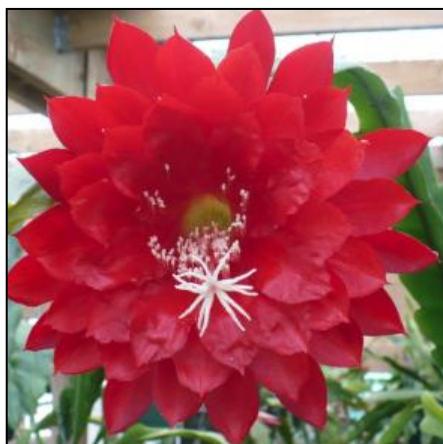


*'Jalisco Beauty'*  
Photo: Gilbert Hatfield

*52 Weeks of Epiphyllum in Your Garden Continued*



*'Jalisco Queen'*  
Photo: Rudolf Hessing



*'Kiwi Playboy'*  
Photo: SDES Archives



*'Kodi II'*  
Photo: Rudolf Hessing



*'Mary Ruth Nicklas'*  
Photo: Roger Chapin



*'Pyjama Drama'*  
Photo: Robert Kuettle



*'Picky, Picky, Picky'*  
Photo: Rudolf Hessing



*'Triana'*  
Photo: Allen Pellymounter



*'Ucayali Gold'*  
Photo: Rudolf Hessing



*'Wild Ginger'*  
Photo: Mike Davis

## SDES Raffle Table Has Quite the Draw *by Carmela Griswold*

Each month, Paula Reynolds thoughtfully prepares a selection of cuttings and plants for the SDES raffle table. Thanks to Paula's dedication—and the generous donations from Dean DeLibertis and other members—the table is always filled with exciting items such as epi cuttings and plants, succulents, and other plant and garden items that would be a welcome addition to anyone's garden. Both new and long-time members eagerly anticipate the raffle.

For the low cost of only \$1, you receive two raffle tickets. Some members spend \$1, while others may spend up to \$20—but no matter how many tickets you buy, everyone goes home a winner!

In fact, this is how I built much of my own collection. Every month, I looked forward to the raffle as the most affordable and enjoyable way to expand my epi collection. Also, if there are coveted items up for grabs, be prepared to maneuver the gauntlet of eager members anticipating their ticket number to be read aloud.

If you're looking to grow your collection, don't miss Paula's raffle table—held on the second Wednesday of each month. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings, and be sure to bring some of your friends to enjoy a fun evening with fellow epi enthusiasts!



*Paula Reynolds preps the raffle table prior to our July General Meeting.*

Photo: Carmela Griswold

## Cuyamaca College Students Receive Scholarships

San Diego Epiphyllum Society awarded three Cuyamaca College students scholarships at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCBS Scholarship and Awards Banquet held in June. Immediate Past President David Cheever and former Past President Cindy Decker were in attendance and presented checks to the recipients on behalf of SDES.

This year's winners are Terry King, a Nursery Technology major, Marina Baugher, a Floral Design major, and Miriah Mills, a Sustainable Landscape major. The scholarships in the amount of \$600, are awarded to students majoring in fields related to horticulture.

Over the years, San Diego Epiphyllum Society has consistently sponsored students wishing to pursue horticultural-related studies in the form of scholarships, and it is one way the Society gives back to students in the community, and educates them on the positive work we do—as well as the mission of SDES.



*Pictured l. to r. : SDES member David Cheever, Terry King, Marina Baugher, Miriah Mills, and SDES member Cindy Decker.*

Photo: CCBS

# Safari Park Epi Collection and Display *By Beth Jackson*



Summer is here and we have officially entered the “dog days of summer” which according to the Farmer’s Almanac lists the modern dog days as lasting 40 days from July 3 - August 11, 2025.

Historians say the phrase was originated by the ancient Greeks and Romans, who would keep track of the seasons by looking up at the sky. The star Sirius was known as the “dog star” because it made up the nose of a constellation shaped like a dog. When Sirius would appear in the sky just before the sun, near the end of July, that marked the beginning of the very hottest days of the year. The Romans referred to this period as “dies caniculares” or “days of the dog star,” which was eventually translated as just “dog days.”

Around the Park, the heat continues as we tend to our routine activities including maintaining the [Epiphyllum Trail](#). Thanks to all of our industrious volunteers, the plants ([About Epiphyllum](#)) are flourishing. We are repotting and feeding to keep

the plants thriving for the coming year. We had a small order to fill for The Plant Trader for cuttings. It seems that visitors at the Park are still interested in buying cuttings and plants even though the blooming season is past. Our upcoming projects include cutting down and removing the weeds around and behind the large shade house, and monitoring the watering system in the smaller shade house to make sure the lower hanging plants, overshadowed by larger plants hanging above them, receive enough water.

There will be an additional work party on August 30<sup>th</sup>. While we realize people’s availability may be limited due to summertime commitments our volunteers may have—we’d still love to see you!

Thanks again to our volunteers—we couldn’t be successful without your contributions. Your hard work and countless dedication helps keep the collection healthy and happy. Thank again—enjoy the summer and stay cool!



*Two photos taken in the work house last month capture two Don Patterson late-blooming beauties.*

*Left: ‘Melon Parfait (DP) 2010, and Right: Unregistered seedling DP.*



**Details on How to Become a Volunteer at the Safari Park**  
can be found on our website. If you have any questions contact Beth Jackson.  
Click on <https://sdepis.org/welcome-to-sdes/epiphyllums/volunteering/>

# Save the Date: Summer-End Member/Volunteer Appreciation Social Slated for September 14, 2025

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and we find it's time once again to mark you calendars and save the date for the Society's **End of Summer Member/Volunteer Appreciation Social**. The San Diego Epiphyllum Society's feature event will be held on:

**Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**

The event will be hosted at the home of Dean DeLibertis located at:

**3035 East 7th Street, National City, CA 91950-3021**

Please bring the beverage and/or mixer of your choice.

Please R.S.V.P. no later than August 31, 2025.

By emailing [hawaiiwiamea@yahoo.com](mailto:hawaiiwiamea@yahoo.com) or call/text Dean at (619) 829-2689.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



*Members enjoy the 2022 Event.*

Photo: JK Hendershot



## San Diego Epiphyllum Society Launches New Instagram Social

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society recently launched a new Instagram account [@SDEPISOCIETY](https://www.instagram.com/SDEPISOCIETY). At the time of this publication, we have over 70 followers and the numbers are growing every day.

For those that are new to Instagram, the platform is designed for visual content—encouraging users to express themselves and share stories through images and videos.

As we tell our story, Instagram gives us a great opportunity to connect with those social media users who have similar interests, and it provides SDES an ideal platform to share our mission as it relates to epiphyllum.

Using Instagram social media as a tool, we're able to post photos and videos from events such as our Mother's Day Show and Sale, and our Garden Caravan—as well as additional sales events and activities to attract new members to our group. And, Instagram also provides a forum to showcase the beautiful bloom photos taken by our members. Be sure to check for frequent updates and follow us today!

# Wish List and Refreshments

If there is an epi that you are looking for it's possible someone in the society might have it and is willing to share a cutting 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](mailto:aclarasd@aol.com)  
 'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Spanish Gold', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold'

**Casey Gerdes:** [casey@yogawithcasey.com](mailto:casey@yogawithcasey.com)  
 'Crystal Flash', 'Gladyce Jones', 'Glow Bug', 'Kiwi Contradiction', 'Monastery Gardens', 'Ron Crain'

**Carmela Griswold:**  
[calcolors@gmail.com](mailto:calcolors@gmail.com) 'Massimo', 'Crystal Flash', 'Tassel', 'Lilac Time'

**Oliver Lapuebla:** [OliverRyanLP@gmail.com](mailto:OliverRyanLP@gmail.com)  
 'Hedgehog'

**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'

**Anh Nguyen:** [anhsandiego@gmail.com](mailto:anhsandiego@gmail.com)  
 'Angel Falls'

**Jim Nones:** [jan46@gmail.com](mailto:jan46@gmail.com)  
 'Mother Juana', 'Mila A. Nones'

**Leonora Rodriguez:** 'Lenore Overture', 'Kinneloa', 'Spanish Flare'

**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', 'White Cloud'



*Two lovely entries in our 2025 Mother's Day Show.*

*Left: 'Ambrosia' WC (EW) and Right: 'Kiwi Treasure Box' Y&AB*

Photos: Don Crain



## Monthly Refreshment Schedule

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

## Epi News Submissions

News of interest to our SDES membership, and brief articles about our members, or our community are also 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@sdepies.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepies.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 2025<sup>1</sup>

<a href="#">President</a>	Carmela Griswold
<a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</a>	Dean DeLibertis
<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</a>	Sandra Chapin
<a href="#">Treasurer</a>	Gerry Mikas
<a href="#">Recording Secretary</a>	Michal McKee
<a href="#">Membership Secretary</a>	Beth Jackson
<a href="#">Immediate Past President</a>	David Cheever
<a href="#">Director 2024-25</a>	Oliver La Puebla
<a href="#">Director 2024-25</a>	Linda Bennett
<a href="#">Director 2025-26</a>	Ken Maculan
<a href="#">Director 2025-26</a>	OPEN

<sup>1</sup> Click 'Title' hyperlink to email an officer.

## Resources

As a benefit to our members we have compiled 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 them included, please contact the editor.

### Epi Nurseries:

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

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

Epic Foundation - Frank Süplie  
[www.epiphyllum.online](http://www.epiphyllum.online)

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

Heny's Epiphyllums - Heny Brandenburg  
<https://www.facebook.com/emeraldmoonepiphyllums/>

Kakteen Haage - Ulrich Haage  
<http://www.kakteen-haage.de/>

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

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

#### Master Gardener Assoc. of San Diego County

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

Website includes: live meetings, programs, a blog, and items of interest for gardeners.

#### 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 Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society

Meets on Zoom every 2nd Friday

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

#### South Bay Epiphyllum Society

Meets quarterly. Check Facebook for dates

[www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403](http://www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403)



# We Leave You With This—More Mother’s Day ‘25 Photos



*'Indian Warrior'*  
Photo: Don Crain



*'Audrey Star'*  
Photo: Don Crain



*'Fantasy Dragon'*  
Photo: Don Crain



*'Foxy Lady'*  
Photo: Don Crain



*'Orangutan'*  
Photo: Don Crain



*'Nine One Nine'*  
Photo: Don Crain