



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

November 2025
Volume 50 Number 11



2023 Photo Contest Single Bloom Category

'Rugosa'

Entrant: Forrest Ehbrecht – Honorable Mention

Size: Extra Large

Photo: Forrest Ehbrecht

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

P.O. Box 126127
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Membership

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

Have You Moved?

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



Send your updates to:
 San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership
 P.O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127.

OR email 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

- November 12 General Meeting
- 26 Board Meeting
- December 6 [ESA Holiday Luncheon](#) 12pm RSVP [here](#)
- 10  SDES Holiday Banquet 
- 16 [LA C.&S.S. Holiday Sale & Auction](#)
- 24 Board Meeting (moved to January 7)
- January 7 December Board Meeting
- 14 General Meeting
- 28 Board Meeting

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:
 November 2025**

Photo: Forrest Ehbrecht

Forrest Ehbrecht entered a beautiful photo in the Single Bloom Category in the 2023 photo contest and received Honorable Mention with: ‘Rugosa’ - TMM 1941 Cardinal with deeper red midstripe. Two inch wide petals. Inner petals pointed. Outer petals rounded. Late bloomer. {XL} Reg. #08769

President's Corner — *From President Carmela Griswold*



As the days grow shorter and the air takes on a slight crispness—at least by San Diego standards—it's a wonderful time to enjoy the quiet beauty of our gardens and help our epiphyllums settle in for their winter rest. Of course, there are always a few surprises along the way—like my 'Cajun Beauty' and 'Frida Kahlo' (shown below), which decided to gift me with unexpected off-season blooms.

While our beloved epies may not be blooming at the moment, this is still an important time for them. Cooler weather means it's time to ease back on watering, check for any lingering pests, and consider light pruning if needed. For those who grow from cuttings or seedlings, this is a great time to assess your collection and plan for future growth, exchanges with fellow members, or donating to the Society for our Mother's Day sale.

Our society thrives because of the generous knowledge-sharing and camaraderie among our members. I encourage everyone to stay engaged—whether by attending meetings, contributing to the newsletter, volunteering, or sharing photos and updates on social media. Your passion keeps SDES vibrant!

Also, don't forget, our annual elections are coming up soon. If you're interested in joining the board or helping out in any capacity, we'd love to hear from you. Fresh perspectives and new ideas are welcome.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to thank all of you for your continued support, your enthusiasm, and your love for epies. Together, we make this society more than just a group of gardeners—we make it a family.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Carmela

Meeting Program & Workshop

Pre-Meeting Workshop: November's pre-meeting workshop topic is "*Pests That Plague Our Plants*" by Jerry Moreau. The workshop will be held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

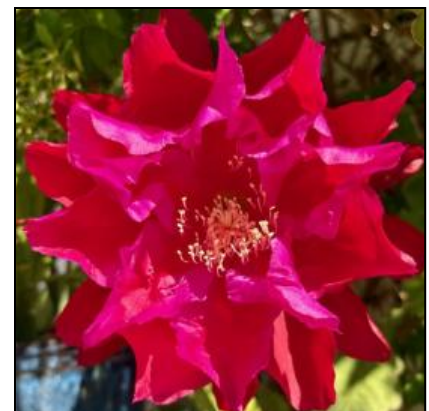
November Program: Our November meeting will be held on November 12, 2025 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. You won't want to miss this month's presentation as we'll be announcing the winners of the Annual Photo Contest, and also showing the wonderful flowers that were entered in the competition. 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.

October Program: Our October meeting was held on October 8, 2025 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. SDES Historian Patricia Neal culled our archives and created a presentation that celebrates SDES's 55th anniversary—with a look at the many talented, creative members who formed a dynamic organization that still thrives today.



Left: Members attending the October meeting were treated to a beautiful 55th Anniversary cake to celebrate SDES's Anniversary.
Photo: David Cheever.

Right: Carmela Griswold submitted a photo of 'Frida Kahlo' which bloomed earlier this month.
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

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

*"If you have ever gone to the woods with me, I must love you very much."
—Mary Oliver*



Into Autumn with 'Golden Harvest'

Photo: JK Hendershot

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

New Members

Ramon Carrera, Cathedral City, CA

Bob Hiler, Carlsbad, CA

Michael Ludwig, San Diego, CA



Another Autumn favorite 'Harvest Queen'

Photo: Chuck Everson

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.

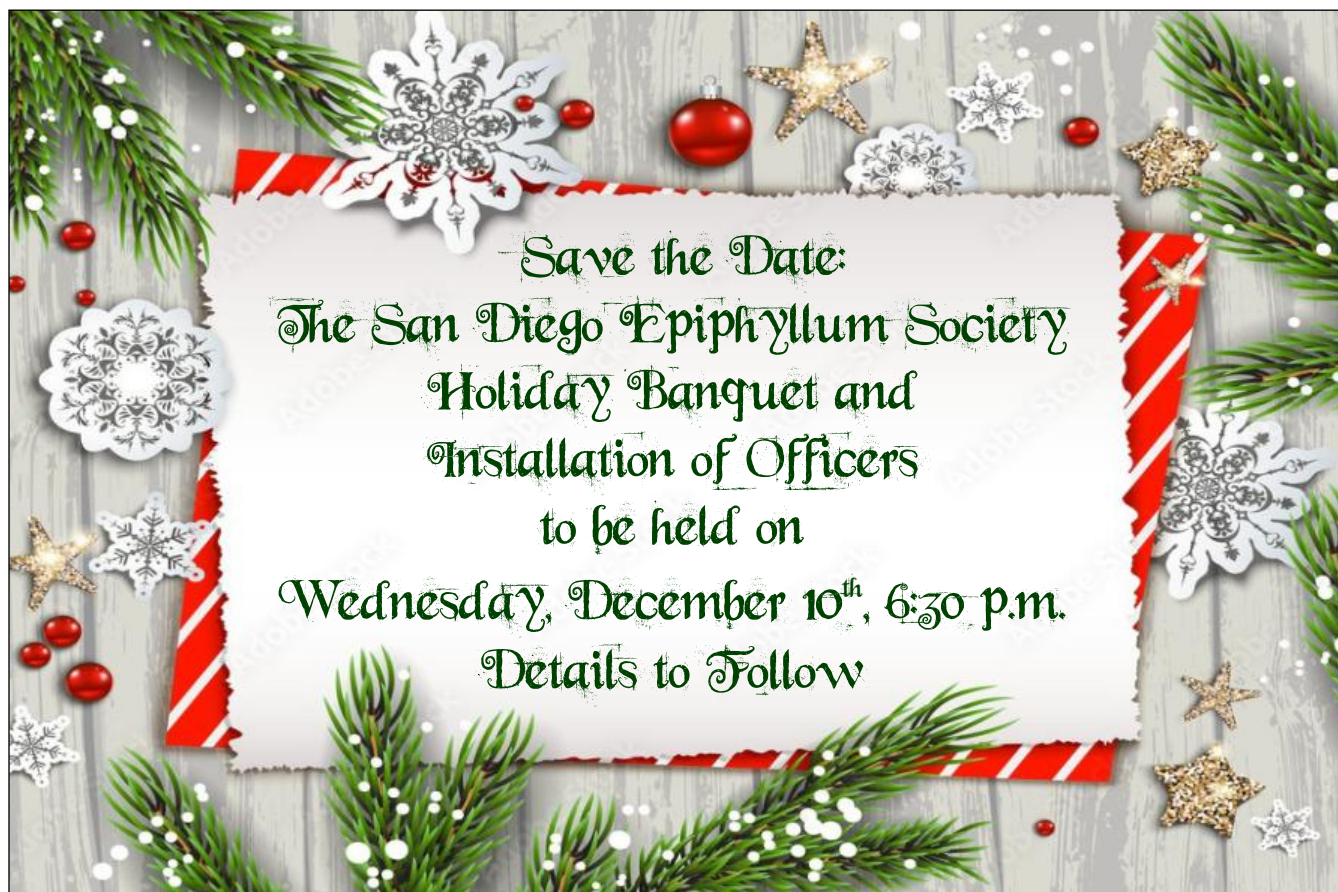
Help Preserve a Living Treasure: Support the SDES Epiphyllum Collection

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society proudly stewards one of the world's most extensive collections of epiphyllum hybrids—a dazzling array of color, form, and botanical wonder. This remarkable living archive is lovingly maintained by a team of passionate volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to its care. To ensure the continued vitality of this collection, SDES relies on the generosity of donors. Every contribution helps sustain the beauty and legacy of these extraordinary plants.

Leave a Lasting Legacy: Consider including SDES in your will or trust. Your planned gift will help safeguard this irreplaceable collection for generations to come..

Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ **Watch weather reports** for freezing temperatures. In regions of the country that freeze, plants can be protected for a short period of time with newspaper—but plastic sheeting will provide more durable protection.
- ✓ **If epies are subjected to hail**, rinse the ice off immediately. Prolonged contact to ice can damage the plants more than the impact of the hail itself does.
- ✓ **Protect your epies against strong winds.** Plants in hanging baskets or pots are subject to broken branches as they bump into other pots or are knocked to the ground due to high winds.
- ✓ **Withhold fertilizers** as your epiphyllum plants become semi-dormant.
- ✓ **Winter rains are good for epies.** Collect rainwater in opaque containers and cover containers to keep debris out. Don't let pots on benches or shelves sit in puddles of water.
- ✓ **Monitor water levels and make sure your epies do not get too much water.** As mentioned, the rains are beneficial—but be sure to keep a close eye on your plants. You may need to relocate plants when the rainy season begins to ensure they do not get too much water.
- ✓ **Monitor plants for root fungus diseases.** Discoloration of branches just above the soil level may well indicate problems down below the soil.
- ✓ **Check ripening fruit.** Most of the apples—or seed pods—should be ready for picking. Remember to use clean tools when cutting the fruit open to remove the seeds.



Election Time Is Near— *“Many hands make for light work” —John Heywood*

We are fortunate to have so many people volunteering time and effort to make our society work well and be a success. However, for our society to remain successful we need you to volunteer. We need your help, so please consider volunteering for any position, especially if you have not yet served—the more people involved, the less any one person will have to do.

If members don't take an active role, the society won't be able to do as much or function as well as it can. SDES is an all volunteer organization, without you we would not exist! Everything we get from the society starts from what we put into the society.

There are a few positions that need to be filled at this time. If you have some skills you can offer the society please let us

know. We can always use help with newsletter articles, technology, and the website. Reach out to Sandra Chapin or any of our board members—they will be happy to talk with you about helping out, and will let you know where your talents may be best utilized.



‘The Volunteers’
Photo: SDES Archive

In November, the final slate of officers will be presented to the membership and at that time a formal vote will be held at the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Installation of the new officers will then occur in December at the annual Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers held on December 10, 2025.

Please note the “save the date” for the Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers can be found on the previous page.

The 2026 SDES proposed slate of officers and directors are:

President	Dean DeLibertis	Director (2026-27)	Gilbert Hatfield
1 st Vice President	David Cheever	Director (2026-27)	Linda Kruger
2 nd Vice President	Jerry Moreau	Director (2026-27)	Mildred Mikas
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas	Not up for re-election:	
Recording Secretary	Open	Director (2025-26)	Ken Maculan
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson	Past President	Carmela Griswold

Today— *From A Thousand Mornings, Poems by Mary Oliver, Penguin Books 2013*



*Today I'm flying low and I'm
not saying a word.
I'm letting all the voodooos of ambition sleep.
The world goes on as it must,
the bees in the garden rumbling a little,
the fish leaping, the gnats getting eaten.
And so forth.
But I'm taking the day off.
Quiet as a feather.
I hardly move though really I'm traveling
a terrific distance.
Stillness. One of the doors
into the temple*

Photo: D A Fraser

San Diego Epiphyllum Society 2026 Calendar Year Budget

San Diego Epiphyllum Society 2026 Calendar Year Budget

January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026

Budget Categories	Income Budget 2026	Expense Budget 2026
Sales & Membership		
Mother's Day Show and Sale	14,000	4,000
Holiday Banquet	1,500	4,000
Garden Photo Caravan	400	450
Other Society Shows and Events	4,000	
SDES Volunteer Party		650
Misc. Sales Expense		1,200
SDES Club Affiliations		300
Storage Unit Historical		1,800
Storage Unit Dry		1,100
SDES Membership Dues	2,500	
Zoom Annual Fee		180
General Membership Meeting Summary		
Program Speakers/Honorarium/Donations		500
Refreshments		300
SDES Library		100
Pre-Meeting Workshop Supplies		200
Raffle Prizes		500
Raffle table/door prizes	350	600
Cleaning Supplies		100
Newsletter Summary		
Printing		450
Editor Fee		1,200
Postage		300
Membership & Newsletter Supplies		400
Operating Costs		
Memorial & Flower Fund / Cards		500
Donations		
SDES Website		500
SDES Online Store Specific Costs		
Promotional Items		120
Miscellaneous Income		
Miscellaneous Expenses		
Audio Visual / Computer Equipment		125
SDES Post Office Box		244
California Sales Tax		1,100
California Department of Agriculture Permit		150
Surety Bond /Liability (Insurance)		1,000
CA SOS filing		25
Retained Earnings CD		650
SDES Totals:	22,750	22,744

Continued on the following page

San Diego Epiphyllum Society 2026 Calendar Year Budget

SDES members, it is that time of year again where we plan for next year’s budget and provide you with a look at the upcoming fiscal year for the Society’s planned income and expenses.

The 2026 operating budget can be found on the previous page and the capital plan for 2026 is included below. There are three items provided for your consideration and vote by the December 2025 general meeting to take place during the Holiday Banquet and Installation of Officers.

Questions or comments can be sent to treasurer@sdepis.org

San Diego Epiphyllum Society 2026 Calendar Year Budget January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2026

Plant Collection Income & Expense Budget	Income 2026	Expense Budget 2026
Plant Collection Totals	\$4,500	(\$5,000)
Other Sales	1,000	
May Sales (historical)	3,500	
Soil & Supplies		(\$1,600)
Water		(\$2,400)
Liability Insurance		(\$1,000)

SDES Capital Projects	Income 2026	Expense Budget 2026
Website Refresh		5,000
Plant Collection Expansion		4,500

SDES Raffle Table Better Than Ever *By Carmela Griswold*



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

Photo: Carmela Griswold

Several members have commented on the popularity of the SDES Raffle table so we thought it was worth mentioning again. Every 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 longtime 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!

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!

Workshop Corner: Christmas and Thanksgiving Cacti

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

Editor's note: As we approach the holiday season, many of our members, like me, have a love and fascination for both the Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti. Truth be told—before I joined the society, I never realized there was a difference between these two holiday cacti. In conversations with Lois Burks, I learned she had previously written an article on the topic that explained the nuances, as well as the care and propagation of Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti. Lois graciously allowed us to reprint her article, which was written and copyrighted in 1984. Below is the article as it was originally published.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti (holiday cacti) are probably the best known and most popular houseplants in the world. These compact free flowering plants are seen in full bud between Thanksgiving and Christmas everywhere plants are sold. Their popularity is not an accident. They are marvelous house and patio plants. They can be raised in almost any type of container, remain compact for years, bloom at a time of year when flowers are scarce, bear more blossoms and become more handsome as the years pass. And, they're easy to grow, too! Many families have large specimen plants that have been passed down from generation to generation. I have heard of specimens that are more than 50 years old that measure several feet in diameter and produce hundreds of blooms. And what blooms they are! The lovely two-tiered blossoms have that shimmering iridescent quality so characteristic of cactus flowers. The plants will flower for several weeks, with individual blooms lasting several days each.

There are differences between Thanksgiving and Christmas Cacti that are worth mentioning. Thanksgiving Cacti (*Schlumbergera truncata*) are also popularly called "crab claw cacti" because the leaf-like segments (which are not really leaves but

stem-segments) that make up the arching stems are notched and look rather like claws. They bloom during the Thanksgiving season, and there is an ever increasing variety of flower colors available: white, yellow, peach, orange-red, lavender, purple and purple with white.

Christmas cacti (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) flower closer to the Christmas holidays. The blooms are almost always light reddish purple or carmine, and are slightly more regular in shape than those of Thanksgiving cacti. Christmas cacti have stem-

segments that are only slightly scalloped at the edges, rather than notched like those of Thanksgiving cacti.

One of the questions most often asked about holiday cacti is, "How can I get my plants to bloom?" There are several answers to that question. Bud development normally takes place during the fall, when days are shorter and temperatures are cooler. If you are fortunate enough to live in a place where you can leave your plants outdoors during the fall months without worrying about them freezing—

then do so. They should bloom on their own accord. If you live in a colder climate or must raise your plants indoors, the answer is a little more complex, and inducing the plants to flower may require a little more effort (but it is definitely worth it!) on your part. If it is possible for you to situate your plants in a bright window in a cool room that does not receive artificial light at night during the fall, and where the night temperatures range from 50° to 55°F, the plants should come into bloom naturally. If this is not possible, you will have to subject them to the "short day" treatment. At about 5:00 p.m. each day, starting in late September or early October, put them in a dark closet or a box in a cool area (below 60°F night temperature). Take them out at about 8:00 a.m. the next day and return them to a bright window. Con-



Schlumbergera bridgesii Christmas Cactus

Photo: SDES Archives

Continued on the following page

Workshop Corner: Christmas and Thanksgiving Cacti *Continued*

tinue doing this until buds are well developed, which usually takes six to eight weeks. This may sound a little tedious, but your efforts should be well rewarded with a lovely display of blooms.

One of the nicest things about holiday cacti is their ease of culture. If you bear in mind that they are not desert cacti, but tropical cacti, having originally come from the rain forests of Brazil, you will have the key to their care. They prefer filtered light rather than direct sun. If you are raising them as house plants, place them near an east or west facing window where the plants will only receive a few hours of direct sun each day. If you must put them in a south facing window, use something like sheer curtains to diffuse the sunlight a little.

Check your plants every few days to determine when it is time to water, as holiday cacti should never be allowed to dry out completely. Water thoroughly when the top 1/3 of the mix feels dry, and do it so that the water runs freely from the drain holes. Your potting mix should be porous, humus—and a bit acidic with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5.

Most commercially packaged house plant mixes are satisfactory for holiday cacti, but if the drainage seems a little slow, you can add a bit of perlite to improve it. During the spring and summer months when the plants are actively growing, ferti-

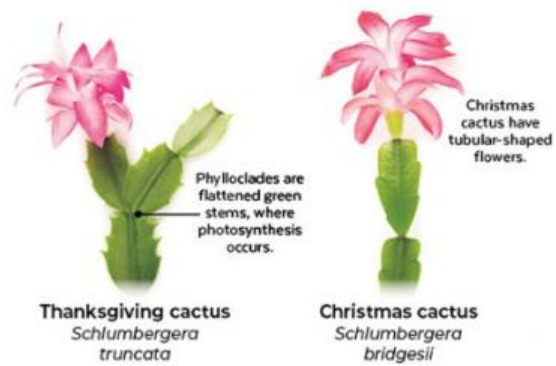
lize with either a liquid or granular product that is fairly well balanced, i.e. 6-6-6 or a 10-10-10. Follow the package directions for application. You may start new plants from mature one-or two-joint stem cuttings. Dip the cuttings in rooting hormone and allow them to cure in a shady place for a day or so. Then plant them in slightly moist mix just deep enough to remain upright. Rooting takes about a month in warm weather.

Holiday cacti are relatively pest free. The most common problems are scale (small tannish insects), and mealybug (small cream colored insects that leave a cottony residue), both of which may be controlled with an application of one of the new nontoxic insecticidal soaps that are available at your local nursery or home and garden center.

Once you have brought your holiday cactus into bloom, laden with its iridescent jewel-like flowers, you will never again want to be without these plants in your collection. If you cannot locate plants at your local nursery, they are available from many mail order sources or by purchasing online.

Thanks to Lois for sharing her epi wisdom and allowing the reprinting of her article for our readers to learn from and enjoy. Lois and her husband Bob, co-owned the California Epi Center, in Vista, CA.

IDENTIFYING HOLIDAY CACTI



This chart compares the flower and stem structure of *Schlumbergera truncata* Thanksgiving Cactus versus *Schlumbergera bridgesii* the Christmas Cactus.

Graphic: www.gardengatemagazine.com



Schlumbergera truncata pictured in red and orange.

Photos: gardengatemagazine.com



Epiphyllum In Popular Culture—A Deeper Dive



*Blooming tán huā party scene in the film
Crazy Rich Asians. Ivanhoe Pictures.*

Editors Note: I am often asked by friends and family to tell them about the flower group that I am a part of. Although SDES has a Mission Statement, it can still be a bit confusing for the novice to understand.

I've compiled some examples of epiphyllum in popular culture, that might be more relatable in our explanations to educate those friends and family members, so they might better understand the flowers, what we do—as well as the 'why'. Enjoy the read.

The **Epiphyllum**, or night-blooming cereus, is a flower whose fleeting, nocturnal bloom has imbued it with potent symbolic meaning, securing its place in global popular culture. Known by romantic names like “Queen of the Night” (*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*) and *tán huā* (昙花) in Chinese, its sudden, stunning

display followed by its rapid fading has made it a powerful metaphor for transient beauty, rare opportunities, and the magical, hidden aspects of life.

A cinematic symbol of wealth and transience

The most recent and significant appearance of the Epiphyllum in popular culture was in Kevin Kwan's 2013 novel *Crazy Rich Asians* and its blockbuster 2018 film adaptation. The story is a classic tale of rich boy meets a common girl from a working class family, here while studying at NYU. The two fall in love and the boy, Nick, takes the girl, Rachel, home to meet his parents in Singapore. Unbeknownst to her, Nick is “Singapore Royalty” from old money, with deep roots to the country's development. With twists, turns, and medaling family dynamics, Rachel almost walks away from her happy ending.

In a pivotal scene, Nick's grandmother—the family's matriarch—hosts a party to celebrate the blooming of their *tán huā* plant. The over-the-top celebration is a demonstration of the family's immense, old-money wealth and exclusive status. The party-goers gather in the middle of the night, their attention focused on a seemingly ordinary plant, to witness a magnificent, rare spectacle.

The scene is layered with symbolic meaning. For the uber-wealthy, who can have anything they desire, the ephemeral flower represents a commodity that money cannot buy. It is a rare moment of natural beauty that can only be appreciated through patience and being present and in the moment. This stands in stark contrast to the film's many displays of extravagant material excess. The flower's fleeting nature also serves as a metaphor for the film's central themes of tradition, heritage, and the pressures of maintaining a prestigious family name, all of which are beautiful, fragile and sometimes fleeting.

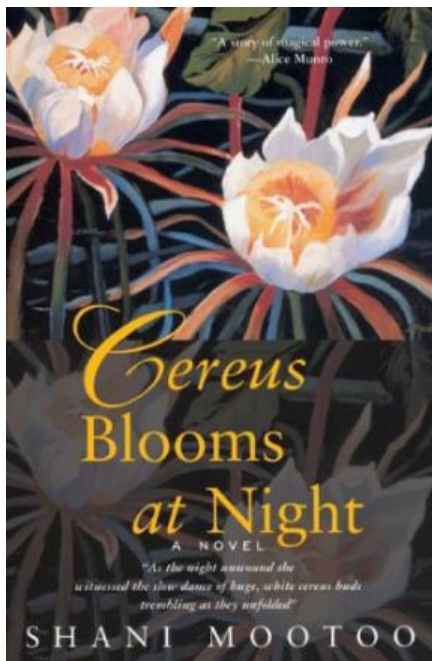
Folklore and myth: The legend of the exiled goddess

Before its Hollywood debut, the Epiphyllum was steeped in ancient folklore and mythology, particularly in Asian and Central American cultures. In a prominent Chinese legend, the *tán huā* was once a goddess who bloomed in the day and fell in love with a young man. Their forbidden romance enraged the Jade Emperor, who punished the flower by exiling her to bloom only for a single, fleeting moment in the dark of night. In her sadness, the goddess chose to bloom only when her lover, now a monk, descended the mountain to fetch water.

This tragic love story transformed the flower into a symbol of forbidden love, sacrifice, and the enduring hope of reunion. It also cemented its image as a melancholic and deeply meaningful emblem of ephemeral beauty. In Indian and Sri Lankan traditions, the night-blooming cereus is also revered, associated with celestial beings or the Hindu god Brahma, with the wish-granting folklore adding to its mystique.

Continued

Epiphyllum In Popular Culture—A Deeper Dive *Continued*



A literary motif of transience and hidden beauty

The poetic nature of the Epiphyllum’s bloom has made it a recurring motif in literature, symbolizing the transience of life and the importance of cherishing fleeting moments.

Shani Mootoo’s *Cereus Blooms at Night*: In this critically acclaimed 1996 novel, the night-blooming cereus is a central metaphor. The story of a marginalized woman in a small Caribbean village reflects the flower’s dual nature: her outward life appears unremarkable, but her inner world is full of vibrant, complex, and beautiful secrets. The brief bloom of the cereus at night mirrors the moments of love, pain, and self-discovery that are largely hidden from the world.

The Chinese Idiom “Ephemeral as an Epiphyllum Bloom”: The concept of *tán huā yī xiàn* (昙花一现), which means “an epiphyllum bloom flashes once,” is a well-known idiom in Chinese culture. It describes something that appears only briefly and quickly fades away, underscoring the precious and temporary nature of life’s wonders. This sentiment has resonated in countless works of Chinese poetry, prose, and philosophy.

Artistic and cultural inspiration

Beyond film and literature, the Epiphyllum’s striking form and story have inspired artists and cultural figures across various mediums.

Art and Design: The Epiphyllum’s dramatic flowering has been captured in visual art, from traditional Chinese paintings to modern digital illustrations. Its delicate petals and strong, angular stems offer a compelling contrast that appeals to designers. L. C. Tiffany Studios was also inspired with the production of their *Night Blooming Cereus Base* (N84-44) ca. 1900-02. See *Epi News* Vol. 49, Issue 9, p. 10.

Naming Conventions: Hybridizers and collectors celebrate the Epiphyllum’s allure through creative naming. Popular hybrids can be found in the *ESA’s Registry* and include ‘Sound of Music’, for example, referencing its enchanting qualities, with names that highlight their unique characteristics.

Gardening and Social Events: For home gardeners, cultivating and witnessing an Epiphyllum bloom is a rare, shared experience that has become a social event, including our Mother’s Day Show. Enthusiasts share photos online, creating a community around this shared fascination. For many, the act of waiting and watching becomes a meditative practice, fostering a deeper connection to nature.

Symbol of Good Fortune: In both Chinese and Indian cultures, observing a cereus bloom is considered an auspicious event, believed to bring luck and prosperity. This adds a layer of hope and positive anticipation to the already miraculous event, turning the silent, nocturnal blooming into a moment of spiritual significance.

The enduring appeal of the ephemeral

The Epiphyllum’s place in popular culture is cemented by its powerful symbolism. It is a humble, unassuming plant for most of its life, only to reveal a moment of breathtaking, hidden brilliance in the dark. This narrative resonates on a profound level, speaking to universal human experiences of patience, anticipation, and the beauty found in life’s most fleeting moments. The Epiphyllum reminds us to appreciate the subtle, almost-missed wonders of the world, whether through a cinematic spectacle or a personal, midnight garden vigil. Its story is a testament to the fact that even the most temporary of phenomena can leave a lasting cultural impression.

So in conclusion, the next time you are asked “tell me about your flower group”, you may want to start out by saying “have you ever seen the movie *Crazy Rich Asians*?”



San Diego Epiphylsum Society 2025 Holiday Installation Banquet

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
(Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)

Where: The Butcher Shop Steakhouse
5255 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123
(Restaurant visible from SR 163)

Phone: (858) 565-2272

Join Us for a Festive Beginning to the Holidays!

Come for an evening of fun, good food, fellowship, an optional gift exchange, door prizes and other surprises.

Entrée choice: Prime Flat Iron Steak, Salmon, Vegetarian or Gluten Free

For our optional gift exchange, you should bring a wrapped, NEW garden-related gift (\$20.00 value). Bring something you would like to receive!

The dinner price is only \$35.00¹ for members and \$85.00 for non-members. SDES offsets the difference—it's our way of saying "Thank You" for a great year.

Note: A no-host bar will be available in the Banquet Room

You can sign up online at our [secure website](#), or purchase your reservation at the November meetings.
Make sure to choose your entrée.

See Mildred or Gerry Mikas (treasurer). *All credit cards accepted.*
Or you can send a check payable to 'SDES Dinner' to Mildred Mikas,
3502 Avenida Amorosa, Escondido, CA 92029

All reservations must be paid by December 1, 2025. That's when we finalize payment to the restaurant and provide a total head count of those attending.
Questions call 760-690-1124 or e-mail nvmikas@cox.net

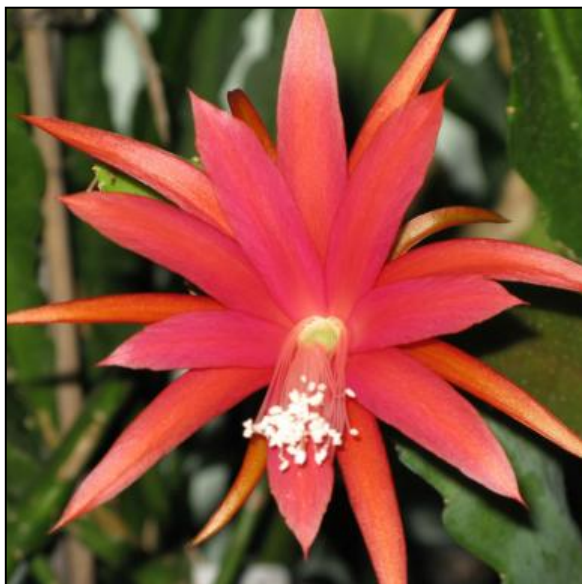
¹Honorary Life Members are once again invited as SDES Guests.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Banquet!

Note: to receive member pricing membership dues must be paid through December 2025.

Gratitude in Bloom—November Reflections

By Jerry Moreau



'Maiendank'

Photo: Walter Widemann

As we gather this month to celebrate Thanksgiving, our hearts turn toward gratitude. Among the many epiphyllum hybrids, only a few carry names that speak directly of thankfulness and appreciation—'Maiendank' (which means "May Thanks"), 'Thanks A Lot', 'Thanksgiving', 'Thanx', and 'Cheers!'. Each is a gentle reminder that gratitude is something we can grow and nurture, much like the plants in our gardens.

This season encourages us to reflect on everything that brings us joy and meaning, the people in our lives, all of the beauty around us, and the community that holds us together. I feel deeply thankful for all of you who comprise our society, especially those who lend their time and energy to keep our group thriving. Many of you have become a cherished part of my chosen family over the years, and for that, I am deeply and profoundly grateful.

I am also thankful for the flowers that fill my garden with color and memory. Marcel Proust once wrote, "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are

the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." My epies do just that. They help keep memories alive, telling stories of dear friends and hybridizers who are no longer with us, people like George French, Don Patterson, and others whose legacies bloom anew each season.

Certain hybrids bring particular joy with every bloom. 'Ron Crain', 'DTO', 'Doris W. Pittman', 'Dracula's Mark', and 'Sassy Sandra' to name just a few remind me of the people and stories behind them.

So do the whimsical hybrids 'Clown', 'Pyjama Drama', and 'The Kitty'. Each one represents a thread in our larger tapestry of shared history and creativity. I remain grateful to the hybridizers who told these stories and passed them along for us to enjoy and keep alive.

John F. Kennedy once said, "We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." I try to live by that thought, balancing work, play, learning, and time among my plants. The garden continually reminds me that I do not know everything and that there is still so much to learn and experience. That sense of discovery makes life wonderfully exciting.

Chris Prentiss said it well: "It is more important that we listen to others than to always be speaking, for in that way we learn what there is to know. We should be easy to talk to, and grateful for new information." I hold that lesson close.

Which hybrids make you feel grateful? I would love to know—please send your list to CSSA@sdepis.org

As Maya Angelou once expressed with such grace, "I'm grateful for being here, for being able to think, for being able to see, for being able to taste, for appreciating love—for knowing that it exists in a world so rife with vulgarity, with brutality and violence, and yet love exists. I'm grateful to know that it exists."

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you. May your gardens—and your hearts—be full of gratitude and bloom beautifully this season.

Autumn Is in the Air—*Our Fall Favorites*



'Golden Harvest' FOBx52AP2
Photo: Joyce Carr



'Autumn Shadows' FRE
Photo: JK Hendershot



'Autumn Brightness' LMD
Photo: JK Hendershot



'Autumn Pink' FRE
Photo: Don Crain



'Autumn Fancy' LMD
Photo: JK Hendershot

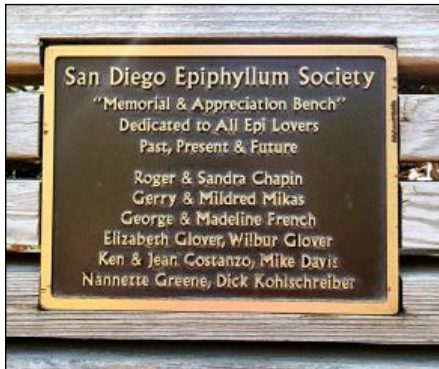


'Autumn Frost'
Photo: Joyce Carr

Safari Park Volunteer Memories *By Beth Jackson*



We've culled through some recent photos of SDZWA Safari Park volunteers over the last few years, and have included them for your enjoyment. In every photo you will see volunteers with big smiles on their faces as the Park truly brought out the joy and passion for epies in each and every one of us.



Photos: JK Hendershot, Jerry Moreau, SDES Archives

Wish List, Refreshments + News Notes

Join Us to Celebrate the Holidays

ESA Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:00 Noon
 Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery
 1175 E. Alostia Avenue
 Azusa, CA 91702
 Tickets \$25/person includes entrée & beverage

RSVP via email to genevacoats@aol.com or 909-438-8242



'Merry Christmas' - Jim Nones



Monthly Refreshment Schedule

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



San Diego Epiphyllum Society Grows With 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!

Member Wish List and Off-Season Blooms

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

'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Spanish Gold', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold'

Casey Gerdes: casey@yogawithcasey.com
'Crystal Flash', 'Gladycy Jones', 'Glow Bug', 'Kiwi Contradiction', 'Monastery Gardens', 'Ron Crain'

Carmela Griswold:

calcolors@gmail.com 'Massimo', 'Crystal Flash', 'Tassel', 'Lilac Time'

Oliver Lapuebla: OliverRyanLP@gmail.com
'Hedgehog'

Michal McKee: folklorist@gmail.com
'Elegans Lei', 'Mojave Gold'

Priscilla Merriam: pafmerriam@gmail.com
'Frida Kahlo', 'Gold Coin', 'Oberon', 'Ron Crain'

Anh Nguyen: anhsandiego@gmail.com
'Angel Falls'

Jim Nones: jan46@gmail.com
'Mother Juana', 'Mila A. Nones'

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

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 past month:

Barb Alvarez (Lemon Grove): 'Rustling Flame'
Carmela Griswold (Vista): 'Cajun Beauty', 'Frida Kahlo'

Geneva Coats (Los Angeles): 'Space Rocket', 'DonOro'

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): 'Harald Knebel', 'Kodi II'

Barb Landon (Manhattan Beach): 'Fayette', 'Grace Ann'

Jerry Moreau (San Diego) 'Christmas Pink', 'Doris W. Pittman', 'Rusty Canyon'

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): 'Aztec Treasure', 'Bumpkin', 'DTO', 'Harald Knebel', 'Jalisco Queen'

Species Blooming

Here is a list of all the species blooming:

Dean DeLibertis (National City): *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalese*

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*, *Selenicereus Pteranthus*, *Lepiesmium cruciform*, *Lepismium cruciforme* f. *spiralis*

Jerry Moreau (San Diego): *Disoctus anguliger*, *Epiphyllum Laui*

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): *Disocactus anguliger* - *Noller Uruapan*, *Epiphyllum crenatum* var. *chichicastengo*, *Epiphyllum hookeri*, *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalense* var. *Montrose*, *Epiphyllum phyllanthus*, *Epiphyllum thomsonianum*. *Selenicereus validus*

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 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@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 2025¹

President	Carmela Griswold
1st Vice President	OPEN
2nd Vice President	Sandra Chapin
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Secretary	Michal McKee
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past President	David Cheever
Director 2024-25	Oliver La Puebla
Director 2024-25	Linda Bennett
Director 2025-26	Ken Maculan
Director 2025-26	OPEN

¹ 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

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

1st 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.mastergardensd.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

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/>

South Bay Epiphyllum Society

Meets quarterly. Check Facebook for dates

www.facebook.com/groups/511560205668403



We Leave You With This — *Photos by Don Crain*



'Seven Seas' FB



'Garland O'Barr' FOB



'Butterscotch Topping' HST



'Pegasus' CLDG



'Hong Kong' FOB



'Royal Coachman' FRE