



Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

February 2026
Volume 51 Number 2



'Kiwi Razzle Dazzle'

2025 Photo Contest - 1st Place Single Bloom

Size: Large

Hybridizer: Yvonne & Andrew Brunton

Photographer: Arlene Hillman

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/>

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

February		SDZWA Safari Park Free February for 65+
	4	Board Meeting
	11	General Meeting
	14	SDC&SS Winter Show & Sale - Balboa Park
	20 -21	SGC&SS Winter Show & Sale - San Gabriel
March		
	4	Board Meeting
	6 -7	OCC&SS Spring Sale - Anaheim
	11	General Meeting
	28	SD Hort. Society Spring Garden Tour
April		
	1	Board Meeting
	8	General Meeting
May		
	9 -10	Mother's Day Show & Sale
	16	SDES Epi Garden Caravan
	17	ESA Show & Sale

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 first 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:
 February 2026

Photo: Arlene Hillman

The 2025 1st Place ribbon was awarded to Arlene Hillman, in the Single Bloom Category with 'Kiwi Razzle Dazzle' - Y&AB 2009. First row red with pink-purple edge. Next row orange with pink-purple edge. Third row pink-violet with pink-purple midstripe. Outer petals orange-red with purple edge. Double, wide form. Tall, flat and three-angled growth. {L} 'Elegans Lei' x 'Elinor Victoria Latimer'. Reg. #13389.

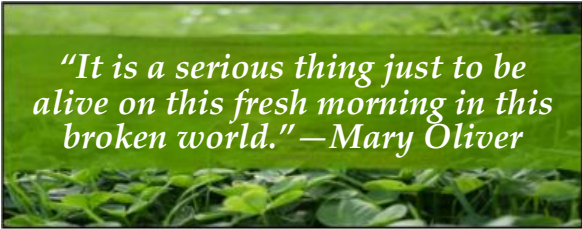
We Are Keeping in Touch

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



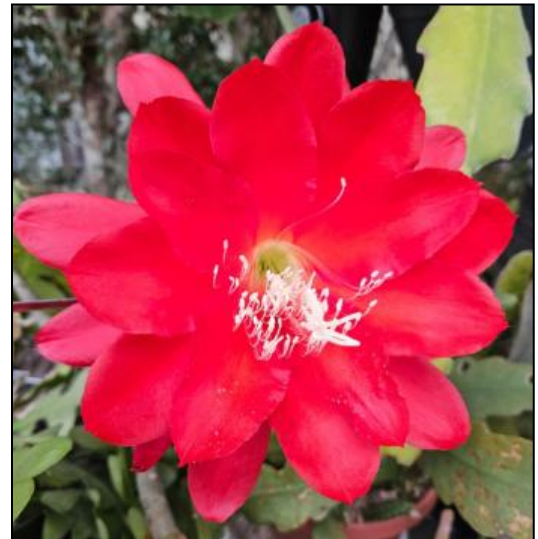
"It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world." —Mary Oliver



Off-season bloom 'Padre'
Photo: Paula Reynolds

Keeping You in our Thoughts and Prayers
Gerry Mikas, Mildred Mikas, and Jim Nones

New Members
Ramon Carrera, Cathedral City, CA
Bob Hiler, Carlsbad, CA
Michael Ludwig, San Diego, CA



Another off-season bloom 'Triana'
Photo: Paula Reynolds

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..

President's Corner — *From President Dean DeLibertis*



Dear SDES Members:

As we embark on the new year, many of us make resolutions and reflect on our lives and our purpose. For me, this is the true joy in life: being used for a purpose recognized by myself as a mighty one; becoming a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish, little clod of ailments and grievances—complaining that the world will not devote itself to making me happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole, and it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. For me, life is not a 'brief candle'. It is a sort of splendid torch, which I have the privilege of holding on to for

the moment; and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before it begins to dim, passing it on to the future.

As we begin to "reimagine" our work parties—our first party went well. I hope those in attendance enjoyed "the joy of feeding your epies", or better said "do you want your flowers to bloom in the Spring?". We learned to use granular feed, liquid fertilizer, and did some foliage feeding of the epies in the garden. The next work party will be at Sandra Chapin's house on February 21, 2026. Sandra is also an epi foster parent that could use a little help in the garden. If you need a little help in the garden, speak up: we need a garden for March. Looking forward to seeing you at our next general meeting.

Dean

Meeting Program & Workshop

Pre-Meeting Workshop: February's pre-meeting workshop is yet to be determined—stay tuned and plan to attend, as our workshops are always full of valuable information. Join us in February for the workshop which will be held in Casa Del Prado Room 104 at 7:00 p.m.

February Program: Our February meeting will be held on February 11, 2026 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Jerry Moreau will be presenting a Valentine's themed discussion entitled "Epies In Love." You won't want to miss this entertaining and informative discussion to learn about those epies with a love-themed nomenclature. Zoom begins at 7:00 p.m. for socializing, and the online meeting will join the live meeting at 7:30 p.m.

January Program: Our January meeting was held on January 14, 2026 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Andy Cuffel led a discussion on "The Growing and Maintenance of Tillandsias." Andy brought in several plants that he made available to sell to our members.



Paula Reynolds submitted two beautiful photos of additional off-season blooms. Shown left is 'Ucayali Gold'. Pictured on the right is 'Chamaleon' so named as it actually changes color the longer it is open. See David Cheever's submission of 'Chamaleon' on page 13.

Photos: Paula Reynolds



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 or so. Plants that are not large enough to bloom can be fertilized with a higher nitrogen content, such as 5-10-10, for example.
- ✓ **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, light frost 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 additional freezing nights, this unproductive or damaged growth will help protect the healthier growth from the elements. Therefore, you may want to forgo pruning for a bit longer. The choice is yours based on your specific conditions.
- ✓ **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. Your saved water will come in handy once the rainy season has passed.
- ✓ **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. You may want to place your containers on a sunny window sill indoors. This will speed up the process.
- ✓ **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.



*More amazing off-season blooms—
shown right:
'Harald Knebel'.*

*And pictured left:
'Gold Charm'.*

Photos:
Paula Reynolds



Epi Garden Caravan Slated for Saturday, May 16th

We Are in Search of Gardens by Jerry Moreau

Our Society is only as strong as its members, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated, fun-loving community. Last year's Garden Caravan was a huge success thanks to you.

Now it's time to plan another wonderful garden tour. This year it's scheduled for May 16th when there will be lots of flowers for us to enjoy. Each year we visit 4 - 5 members' gardens to see how they grow their epies, admire the beautiful blooms, and discover what else is thriving in their spaces. This is a fantastic way to gather ideas and inspiration for your own garden. One garden is already scheduled as our final stop, where we will all gather, socialize, and enjoy

food together as a community of passionate epi gardeners.

This is where you come in: *would you be willing to open your garden for the tour?* There is no cost and very little preparation required, and it doesn't matter whether you grow 10 epies or hundreds. If you're interested in sharing your garden, please contact Jerry Moreau via phone or text at 619-208-7654, email jerrysdca@cox.net or speak with Jerry at the meeting so we can include you in this year's Garden Caravan.

Check out the photos below of past garden events!



Photos: JK Hendershot

How to Make the Perfect Epiphyllum Cutting

Making your cuttings:

- Please choose growth that is hardened off, **not new, tender growth**.
- Cuttings should be 6 to 8 inches long and in good health. (6 to 8 inch cuttings will root much faster than those cuttings that are smaller. If the cuttings are longer, they tend to produce buds instead of roots.)
- Cut an entire branch (that can be cut into 3 or 4 cuttings) instead of cutting 6 inches off of 3 or 4 branches.
- Please be sure to make cuttings from plants that you know and are certain bloom correctly.
- Please follow the guidelines shown for marking your cuttings using the info graphic to the right. If you do not have time to mark all of your cuttings, you can wrap those of the same name in a newspaper—tape it closed, and mark the package on the outside with the name. We will have Sharpie markers at the event to mark the rest of the cuttings.

Marking your cuttings:

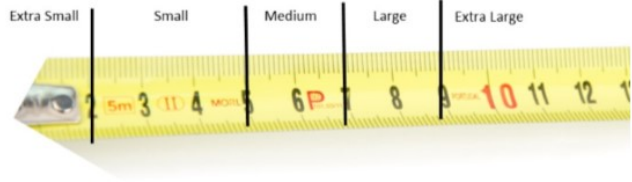
- Begin writing the name of the cutting at the top and write towards the bottom.
- Make sure there is no writing within 2 inches of the bottom of the cutting—it will be beneath the soil when planted, and the name and information will be lost forever.
- If you are using a new Sharpie, firmly tap it on a hard surface to avoid “engraving” the cutting.
- Try to check for the correct spelling (as listed in the official *ESA Registry of Species and Hybrids*) SDES has copies of the registry in the library.
- If you are not sure of the spelling, wrap them together and write the name on the newspaper wrapping as you think it should be spelled. We can look it up at the event. Happy Cutting!

Cuttings are the “lifeblood” of SDES

Order Your Exhibitor Name Plate Now

Be ready for the Mother’s Day Show by ordering an exhibitor’s name plate for your display table. This 2” x 6” engraved plate comes in blue, green, or red with a brass stand. The cost is \$20.00. Don’t forget to order your name badge too. **(Not required to enter show).**

You can purchase it through the SDES website or contact Gerry Mikas at 760-690-1124 or via email: gmikas@cox.net, or see him at the general meeting.



Flower size:

XS—extra small (under 2”)

S—small (2-5”)

M—medium (5-7”)

ML—medium to large

L—large (7-9”)

XL—extra large
(9+” or larger)

Flower Color:

W—white

R—red

O—orange

Y—yellow

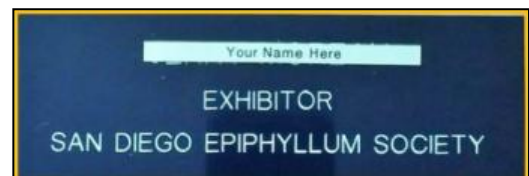
Pk—pink

Pur—purple



⇒ For flowers that have two colors, list the predominant color first such as Y/W or R/O

⇒ For multiple-colored flowers, pick the predominant color, then add “multi” such as “red-multi”



(Not required to enter show)

Update February 2026: Hummingbirds in Our Garden and “The Hummingbird Ladies” *By JK Hendershot*

Editor’s Note: This article originally ran in the October 2022 issue of Epi News. It detailed hummingbirds nesting and raising their babies in our garden three times that year. The amazing addition to the story is they’re still producing three charms a year since 2022, and they’re using the same nest! They keep adding and building on top of the original nest and it’s now four times the size of the original nest (photo below).

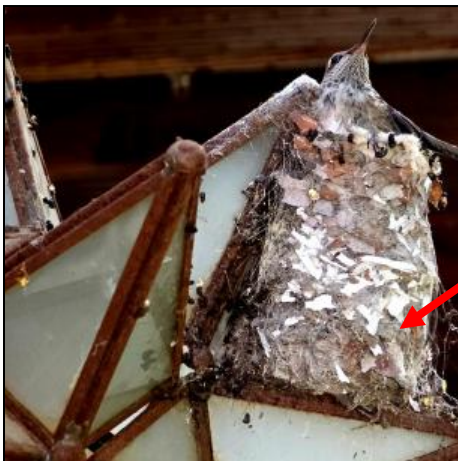
This past spring, we had the privilege of watching a hummingbird build her nest on an ornamental light fixture under the covered pergola on our patio. It was amazing that we were able to observe the mother caring for her two very small eggs, that eventually hatched into two adorable baby hummingbirds. It was miraculous witnessing the whole process once—but the mother came back two more times—laying two eggs each time, for a total of six eggs and six babies. So between growing epies, raising monarch butterflies, and the addition of three “charms” of hummingbirds (because they’re charming), there was a lot going on in our garden.

So now the coincidence part. As I was culling through old electronic issues of Epi News, attempting to get ideas for future issues, I was drawn to a pdf file from November 1999. I opened the file and started scrolling through the pdf and came upon an article that described the program notes at the monthly membership meeting for the prior month of October 1999. It read: “*Our program for the evening was Marion and Susan Stacey, The Hummingbird Ladies. It was great! They had three birds with them.*”

So if this wasn’t odd enough, in the third charm (yes, the third time **is** a charm), one of the hummingbirds looked a little peaked, and he didn’t want to leave the nest. We were concerned that he might have a problem. I then Googled “hummingbirds San Diego” and the website and phone number popped up for “Hummingbird Rescue Center”. At this point, I am thinking could this be the same place—the ladies were active over twenty years ago? I was feeling a bit adventurous, so I thought I would call the number given and see what happens. I dialed the number, and after numerous rings a rather spry-sounding woman answered “Hummingbird Rescue—what’s your emergency”? I stammered a bit, because I wasn’t sure if this warranted being labeled a true “hummingbird emergency”, and explained to the woman that our hummingbird did not want to leave the nest. She then rather forcefully interjected something about “tough-love”, and “he wouldn’t get hurt if he fell out of the nest”. I apologized, thinking I was wasting her time and taking away precious resources from a true hummingbird emergency, so she assured me that the bird was probably fine (which he was), and asked if that was all I needed.

I thanked her again, and thought maybe I should give her a donation for the time spent—but before hanging up, I had to ask her if she remembered a “Marion Stacey” at the Center. She abruptly responded I’m Marion Stacey—and I am 92 years old! A bit taken a back, I responded “great to meet you!”

Continued



Left: New and improved ‘bump-up’ nest that has been reused and reconstructed over the last four years, Red line indicates original size.

Right: hatchlings from the first charm—so hungry!

Photos: JK Hendershot



Update February 2026: Hummingbirds in Our Garden and “The Hummingbird Ladies”: Coincidence? (Continued)

She told me to try her when it's cooler and she added that she needed a white plumeria—so if any of our readers have a white plumeria to gift to Marion let me know.

Still a bit shocked that Marion was still at it, I mentioned the conversation to a few of our more tenured members, and one member said Marion was the reason she started putting out feeders and plants that attracted hummingbirds. Another member recounted the story that Marion narrated at their last presentation. Apparently, the hummingbirds need to be fed twice hourly, so Marion went to the bank and did her banking with a hummingbird securely tucked in her décolletage. Actually, the account was a little more descriptive—but adding a word or two in French always seems to add a certain *je ne sais quoi* and class to the situation. On that note, I think this is probably a good place to end this part of the story. So I will let you—our readers decide—were the hummingbirds a sign? Was there a reason I stumbled onto the article, and Marion Stacey? Or, were these sequence of events just coincidental? You decide.

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in Epi News in November 1999, and was entitled “The Three R's of Humming Bird Rescue”.

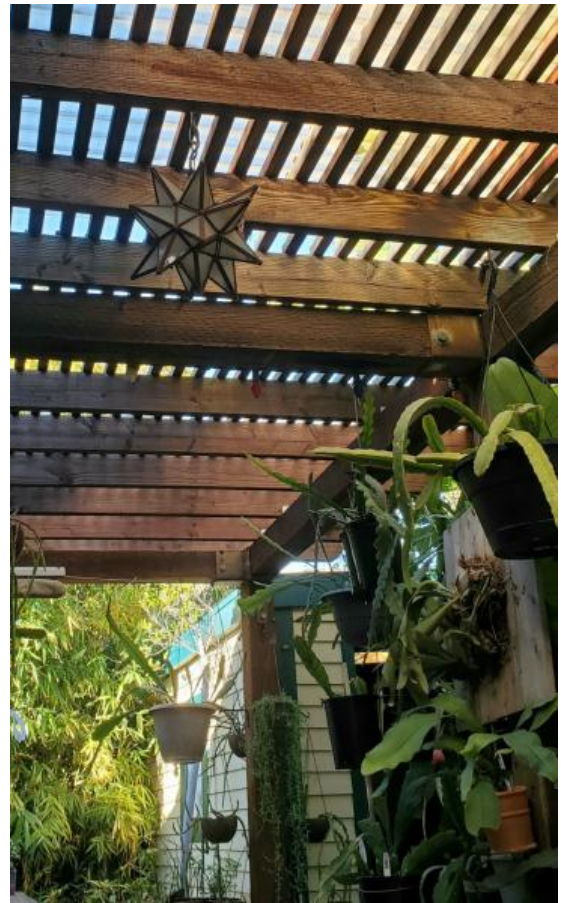
For most people, the “Three R's” usually mean reading, writing and arithmetic. But in the Stacey family, they mean rescue, raise and release. Our family specializes in the care and rehabilitation of injured or orphaned hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds have been the family project for the past six years. We began with a few birds brought home by Susan, a keeper at the San Diego Zoo. Then other family members became involved as a result of the sheer amount of work, time, expense, and knowledge required. Now we not only care for the birds turned over to the Zoo, but also for birds from Wildlife Center, Project Wildlife, and Bob Farner's Wildlife Rescue in Vista, CA.

When the phone rings, the household goes on “hummingbird alert”. Nets, food, eyedroppers, cages, and baskets of baby birds are scooped up and bundled into the car for emergency house calls. Time is crucial in the care of hummingbirds. If these delicate birds are left too long without proper food, they will go into torpor—a natural state similar to a deep sleep. It is difficult to arouse them from this state.

Baskets of babies and cages of fledglings have to go everywhere we go because of the frequent feedings. From dawn to dusk, the birds are hand fed every 25 minutes. We customized eyedroppers to approximate the mother bird's beak. The tip must be fine enough to be inserted in the baby's crop. Inexperienced feeders may get fluid in the tiny bird's lungs, resulting in death.

The hummingbirds are fed a very special food that fulfills all their nutritional requirements while in our care. Sugar water cannot be used to raise baby birds. They can suffer permanent problems in their development due to malnutrition. Hummingbirds should never be given honey, brown sugar, molasses, fruit juices, bouillon, or sugar substitutes.



Note in upper left-hand corner of the photo the ornamental glass star light fixture and the birds' nest.

Photo: JK Hendershot

Continued on the following page

Update February 2026: Hummingbirds in Our Garden...Coincidence?

The weaning process usually begins after a bird has attempted his first flight. Then the bird graduates from his nest to a small portable cage with other fledglings. Test tube feeders with tempting red colored sugar tips are positioned for him to investigate and to begin eating independently. Until he is completely self-feeding, food is offered to ensure he is eating sufficiently.

When a bird is able to control his flight between food and perch, he is placed in a larger cage. Along with about twenty other fledglings, he then moves to an outside aviary. The aviary exposes him to real flowers, plants, a variety of types of feeders, fruit flies, and variable weather in the outside world. Hummingbirds are extremely territorial, and the young birds must learn to compete for food. There is a minimal amount of contact with humans at this point.

After about two weeks in the outside aviary, the birds are usually ready to be released. They have grown up with good nutrition, they have become proficient flyers and independent eaters, and they have learned the necessary skills to survive. They are self-reliant birds, no longer dependent upon or bound to us. Groups of about twenty to thirty birds are released directly from the aviary every two weeks from April to August. Our involvement with hummingbirds lasts all year round. However, "baby season" runs from January to August. From August to January, we receive injured birds. During the whole year, we go to schools to help educate children on how important all birds are to our environment. For more information or to make a donation go to <https://hummingbirdrescuecenter.org>.

Hummingbird Flowers for Your Garden

- Firecracker bush: small red blooms.
- Cape honeysuckle: orange blooms.
- Hummingbird bush: red tubular flowers.
- Mexican butterfly weed: orange-yellow blooms, great hummer favorite.
- Mexican bush sage: long slender rose-purple spikes studded with small white flowers, very drought tolerant.
- Firebush or Texas scarlet bush: orange tubular flowers, large shrub
- Lantana: perennial. Also attracts butterflies, best in sunny areas, and well-drained soil.
- Turks cap: good planted around trees.
- Autumn sage: comes in three colors: red, coral or white, sub-shrub, hummer favorite.
- Scarlet sage: red flowers, sub-shrub, afternoon shade, good ground cover.
- Mexican cigar plant: red-yellow tubular flowers. full sun, drought tolerant.
- Mexican honeysuckle: orange or red tubular flowers, drought tolerant.
- Shrimp plant: resembles in shape and color of shrimp.



Above Left: Hummingbird Bush, Middle: Tutti Frutti Hummingbird Plant, Right: Mexican Bush Sage

Photos: lowes.com

News Notes, Social Media + Refreshments

Seniors Free All February Long!

During the month of February, guests ages 65 and older receive free admission to the SDZWA San Diego Zoo Safari Park (Zoo not included). There's something for everyone when you visit the Safari Park. Take an exciting expedition on Africa Tram to spot herds of giraffes and rhinos, then wander among kangaroos and connect with platypuses at Walkabout Australia. Join us for [Journey into the Wild](#) to learn about wildlife from the Amazon to right here in the Southwest, and relax with refreshments on the patio at Kijamii Overlook. **Guests 65 and older must present a valid photo ID at the turnstiles for free entry. Parking is not included. Special experiences may incur additional costs.** For more information go to <https://sdzsafaripark.org/seniors-free>



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](#). 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): 'Meadow Rose', 'Frida Kahlo'

David Cheever (San Diego): 'Chameleon', 'Jemo', 'Felicino Filou', 'Pixie Dust', 'Light N Bright'

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

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): 'Harald Knebel', 'Gold Charm'

Beth Jackson (San Diego): 'Cadet', 'Saxon Heritage', 'Elena Knaris'

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

Ken Maculan (Escondido) 'Lola Leah'

Off-Season Blooms (continued)

Jerry Moreau (San Diego) 'Jemo'

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): 'EpiCon VII', 'Harald Knebel', 'Padre', 'Chameleon', 'Jalisco Passion', 'Triana', 'Gold Charm', 'Aztec Treasure', 'Ucayali Gold'

Species Blooming

Here is a list of all the species blooming:

Carmela Griswold (Vista): *Disocactus anguliger*

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

Forrest Ehbrecht (San Diego): *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, *E. hookeri*, *E. thomasianum*, *Selenicereus Pteranthus*.

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

Paula Reynolds (Point Loma): *Disocactus anguliger* - *Noller Uruapan*, *Epiphyllum crenatum* var. *chichicastengo*, *D. macranthus* (shown right), *Epiphyllum hookeri* ssp. *guatamalense* var. *Montrose*.

Off-Season Bloom Photos Submitted by Members



'Elena Knaris'
Photo: Beth Jackson



'Saxon Heritage'
Photo: Beth Jackson



'Cadet'
Photo: Beth Jackson



'Light N Bright'
Photo: David Cheever



'Pixie Dust'
Photo: David Cheever



'Chameleon'
Photo: David Cheever



'Felicino Filou'
Photo: David Cheever



'Epi Con VII'
Photo: Paula Reynolds



'Jemo'
Photo: David Cheever

Off-Season Bloom Photos *Continued*



Left: *'Aztec Treasure' KBY 1985. Dark pink with orange-red midstripe.*

Photo: Paula Reynolds

Right: *'Lola Leah' HATH (HST) 1991. White with broad petals.*

Photo: Ken Maculan



Left: *beautiful 'Jalisco Passion' RUD 2009 another wonderful example of an off-season blooming plant.*

Right: *'Disocactus macranthus, a species used frequently in hybridizing.*

Photos: Paula Reynolds



Mother's Day Show 2026

We Are Pleased To Announce Our 2026 Show Theme

Epies: Nature's Paintbox

Be sure to check Epi News for more information

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 2026¹

President	Dean DeLibertis
1st Vice President	David Cheever
2nd Vice President	Jerry Moreau
Treasurer	Gerry Mikas
Recording Secretary	Open
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson
Immediate Past President	Carmela Griswold
Director 2025-26	Ken Maculan
Director 2026-27	Gilbert Hatfield
Director 2026-27	Linda Kruger
Director 2026-27	Mildred Mikas

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.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

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



What's in a Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course!

February 2026 – Love in Bloom: A Valentine's Reflection by Jerry Moreau

February invites us to celebrate love, in all its beautiful forms. We often think of love between people, while we gardeners know another kind of devotion: the quiet, steadfast love we feel for our plants. Epies, with their lush blooms and radiant colors, capture that affection perfectly. Each flower seems like a love letter from nature, reminding us that beauty doesn't strive to be admired, it simply *is*.

When asked, "What's your favorite bloom?" many of us smile and reply, "The one that's flowering right now." Flowers don't bloom for us, yet they bring joy all the same—a reminder that love, too, often appears when and where we least expect it.

English poet and novelist Alfred Austin expressed it best: *"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."* Gardening is a love story; patience, care, and tenderness blooming into beauty.

And love blooms among *gardeners*, too. Like our flowers, we're a colorful, creative, sometimes quirky bunch, drawn together by our shared passion. We trade plants, stories, and laughter, nurturing friendships as surely as we nurture newly acquired plants. Marcel Proust's words come to mind: *"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."*

As we prepare for spring's awakening, we show our love in simple ways: fertilizing, watering, re-

potting, and snipping cuttings to share with friends, the raffle table, or our Mother's Day sale. Each act of care becomes a small Valentine, a gift of life and connection. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow captured this spirit beautifully:

*"Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits."*

Of course, our love and kindness extends beyond epies to our friends. Many of us started with one tiny cutting and soon learned that the heart, like the garden, always has room for one more. Gardeners are kind and generous people. Carl Jung once reflected, "Nature seemed to me full of wonders, and I wanted to steep myself in them. Every stone, every plant, every single thing seemed alive and indescribably marvelous." In our gardens and in our hearts we find that same wonder, that pure and tender joy that love brings.

Gardening teaches us that love is rooted in care, patience, and presence. The blooms may fade, but their beauty lingers, just as kindness and friendship do. So this Valentine's month, may your garden be full of beauty, your heart full of gratitude, and your hands full of love.

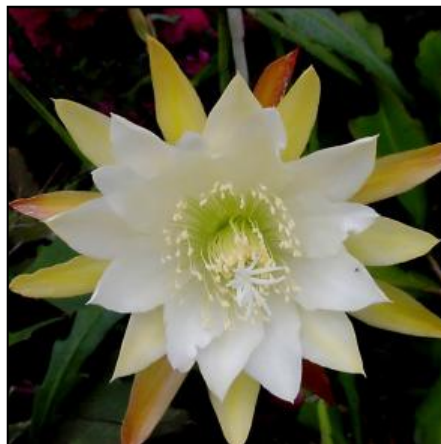
And finally, an additional thought from poet and novelist Alfred Austin, to close this month of love:

*"We come from the earth, we return to the earth,
and in between, we garden."*



'Lover'

Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Love In Bloom'

Photo: Roger Chapin



'Looking For Love'

Photo: SDES Archives

What's in a Name? A Beautiful Flower of Course!



'Kiwi Love Story'
Photo: SDES Archives



'Kiwi Young Love'
Photo: SDES Archives



'Chiba Lovely Dawn'
Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Clarity's No Ordinary Love'
Photo: Svante Lundqvist



'Crazy Love'
Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Butterfly Love'
Photo: Roger Chapin



'Easy To Love'
Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Love Potion #9'
Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Gift Of Love'
Photo: SDES Archives



Mother's Day Show 2026

Epies: Nature's Paintbox

May 9-10, 2026