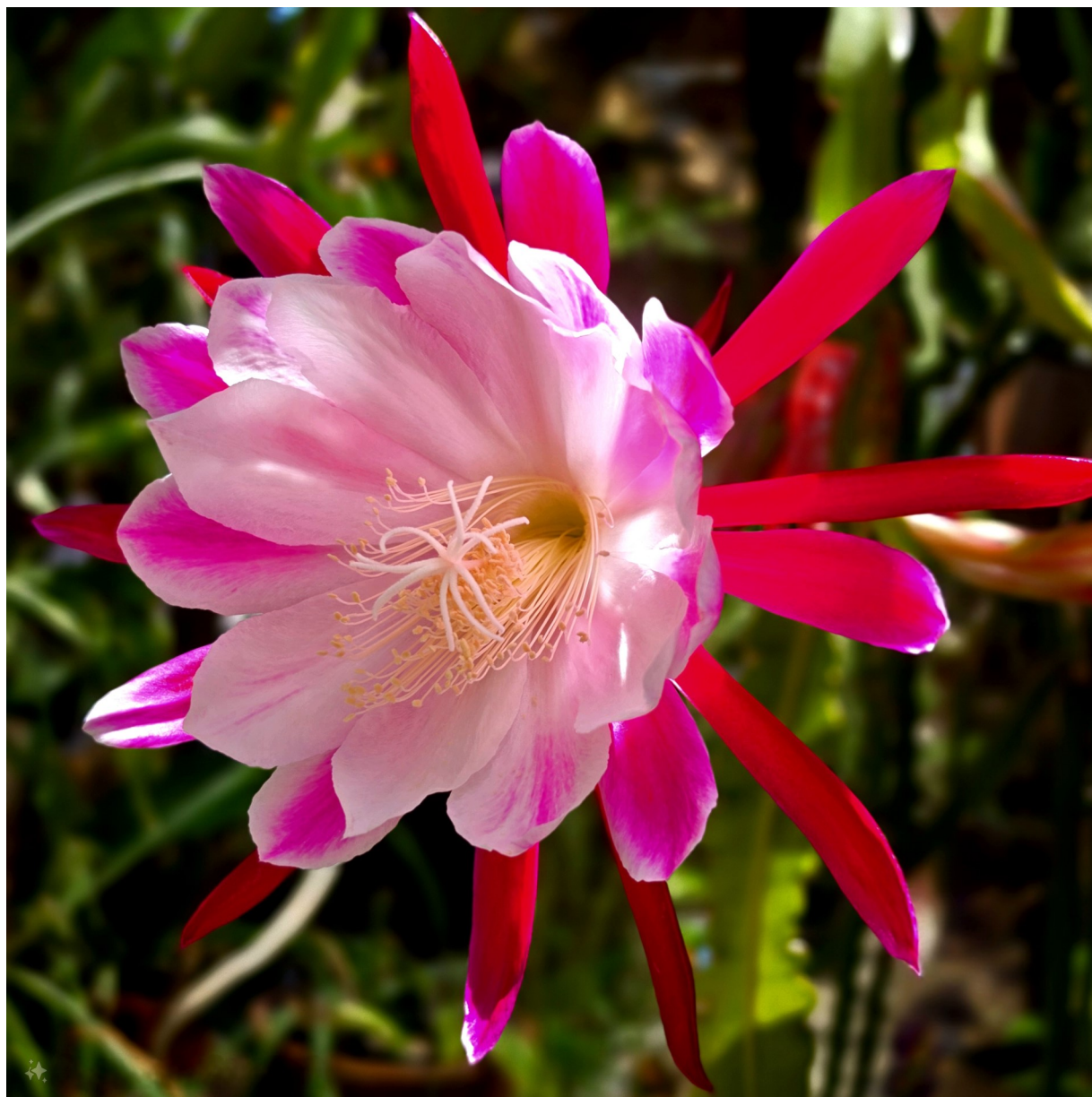




Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

August 2026
Volume 51 Number 8



A Tribute to Phyllis Flechsig 'Clown'

Hybridizer: Phyllis Flechsig (1982)

Size: Large

Photo: JK Hendershot

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)

P.O. Box 126127

San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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Editor: JK Hendershot

EpiNews@sdepis.org

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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@sdepis.org

For faster response mail directly to Beth

Jackson, Membership Secretary—their address can be found on the membership roster.

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We are doing our best to have a presence both in person and online. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the pre-meeting workshop is at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom room will open at 7:00 p.m. Check your email for instructions and links. Board Meetings are the 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.

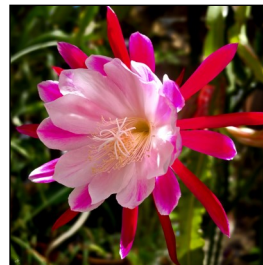


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Calendar of Events

August	5	Board Meeting
	7-8	Inter-City Show & Sale LA Arboretum
	12	General Meeting
September	1	ESA Potluck and Silent Auction
	1-30	SDES Photo Contest entries accepted
	2	Board Meeting
	9	General Meeting
	12	SDES Member Appreciation @Dean's
October	7	Board Meeting
	14	General Meeting
	17-18	SD Fall Home/Garden Show, Del Mar
December	9	SDES Holiday Banquet



On the Cover:
August 2026

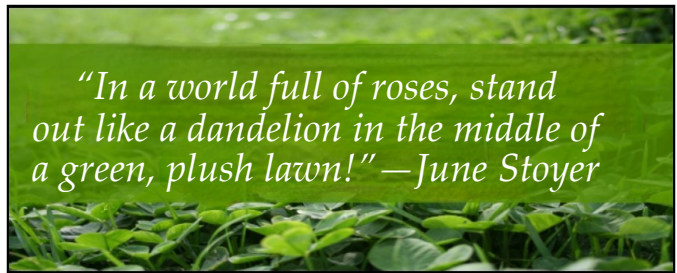
Photo:
JK Hendershot

As a tribute to Phyllis Flechsigs we remember her with one of the most celebrated and sought after epiphyllum hybrids: 'Clown' - FLECH 1982 White with raspberry veining and mid-stripe. Outer petals red. Overlapping, cup and saucer form. [L]. Reg. #09934

We Are Keeping in Touch and New Members

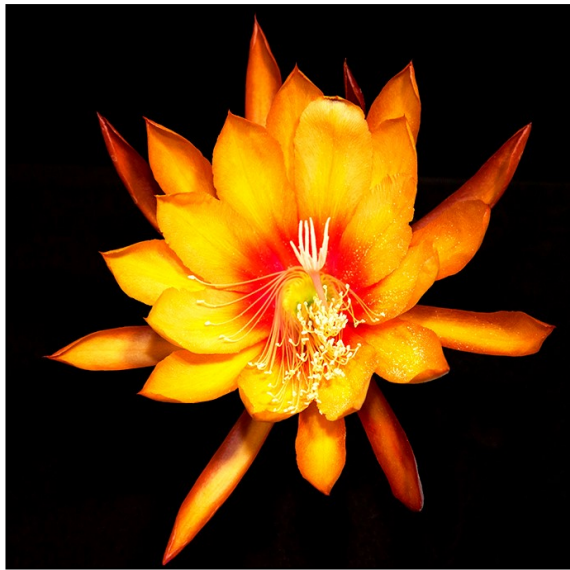
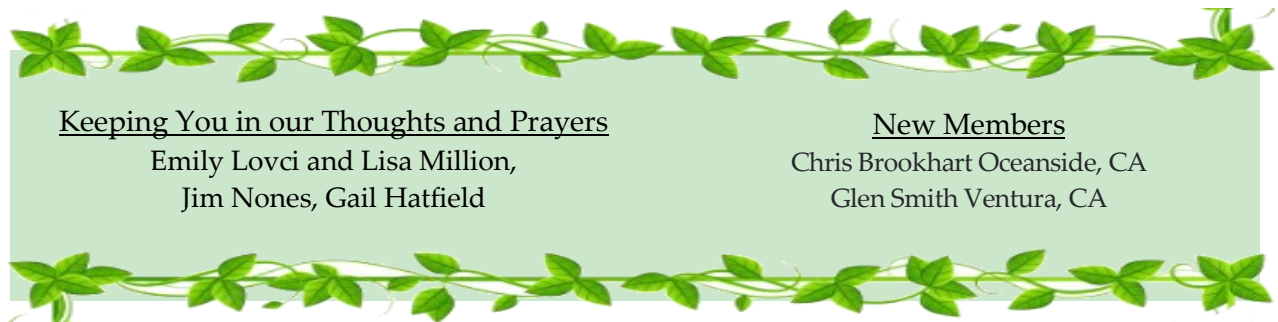
Our members are the most important part of our society. Together we create more beauty for all to enjoy.

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@sdepis.org

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



'Linda Sinkovic' DTO
Photo: Don Crain



'Indiscreet' LAT(PITT)
Photo: Don Crain

We Need Your Help with Raffle Table Items

If you have epiphyllums (cuttings or plants), succulents, species, 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 our raffle table coordinator, Paula Reynolds via email at paularey@aol.com with your ideas and questions. We are always looking for fun and exciting new items.

President's Corner — *From President Dean DeLibertis*



Dear SDES Members:

Hello! Before anything else, I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to everyone who has volunteered thus far and also to those who will be volunteering through the remaining part of this year. Volunteers are essential part of any organizations, especially, such as ours and the success of our events would not have been successful without our volunteers.

With that being said, I will be hosting the SDES annual member appreciation event, which will be held on Saturday, September 12th at 12:00 P.M. We want to show and express our appreciation for your

investment to the San Diego Epiphyllum Society and for being a Foster Parent. Food, which includes the main dish, hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be provided. Please bring a smile, a good story to tell, and your favorite beverages to share.

At this event, the volunteers who will take care of the 4-inch pots for Mother's Day sale (Foster Program), your flats will be ready for pick up. We have about 20 trays of the 4-inch pots with rooted epies. As a Foster Parent, you are committed to nourish these rooted epies and keep them alive. And of course, when you turn these in at the Mother's Day event, make sure you've taken one pot for yourself.

We look forward to seeing you at the August meeting and other upcoming events.

Dean

Meeting Program & Workshop

Pre-Meeting Workshop: The August pre-meeting workshop will be led by Jerry Moreau. The topic will be: *"Repotting Your Epies—The Telltale Signs That It's Time to Repot"*. 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 12, 2026 in Casa Del Prado Room 101 at 7:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Julie Turko, with the Lakeside River Park, who will be discussing *"The San Diego River Watershed."* You won't want to miss this informative presentation on the watershed system. Zoom begins at 7:00 p.m. for socializing, and the online meeting will join the live meeting at 7:30 p.m.

July Program: Our July meeting was held on July 8, 2026 in Casa Del Prado Room 101. Cynthia Pardoe, President of the San Diego Geranium Society gave an interesting and informative presentation on *"The Geranium Family and Pelargonium Family."*



Pictured (left) The amazing "Flying Saucer" cactus which is an *Echinopsis* hybrid. Available at torchcactus.com.

Pictured (right) Traisen Freude (often spelled Traisen-freude) which is a trailing hybrid cactus belonging to the genus *Hildewintera*.

Photos: JK Hendershot



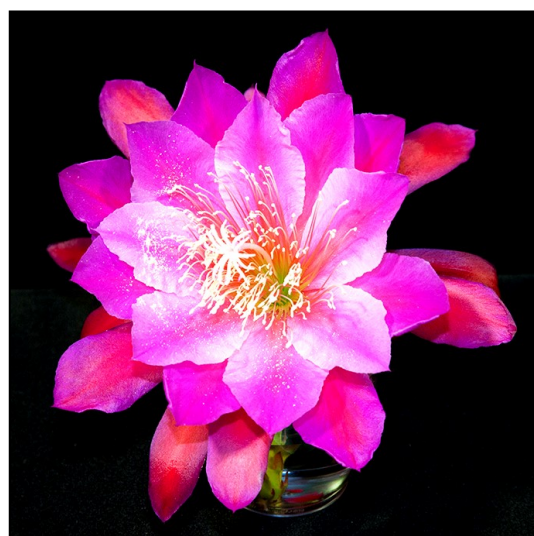
Now Is the Time—Seasonal Checklist

- ✓ 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.



'Al Bustan' FOBx50D

Photo: Don Crain



'Deirdre' WATTS (PITT)

Photo: Don Crain

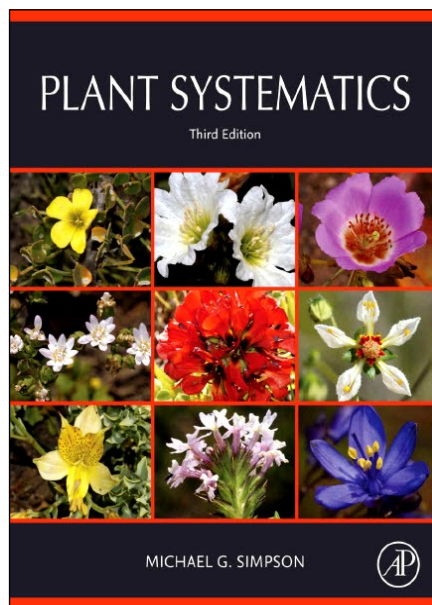
Idée fixe Article and Photo by Linda Sinkovic

...an *idée fixe* (french for 'fixed idea') is a preoccupation of mind... a fixation. — Wikipedia

Greetings from France. Other than the very hot weather we've been having on and off since the end of May things are pretty good here.¹ I am still a beginner in the French language, but I am learning.^{2,3} And though I did not bring any plants with me, I have been accumulating a new collection courtesy of Kakteen-Haage and other nurseries. The shade house⁴ has been finished so as the temperatures drop a little the plants will move into there.

If (like me) you grow species plants, a lot of the information is contained in technical papers, such as description of new species, or relationships between species. These papers can be technical and not easy to read due to the terminology. As in any other field there is a lot of terminology used in taxonomy and systematics. I'd like to mention a book which has cleared up a lot of terminology and techniques (for me, anyway): *Plant Systematics*.

Plant Systematics is a textbook intended for an upper-level undergraduate or graduate audience.⁵ It covers principles of systematics and taxonomy and also the details of phylogenetic systematics, as well as dealing with morphology. In addition, there is a lot of in depth coverage of various plant families. The book is beautifully illustrated with



plenty of photos and drawings. This is an excellent book which can help you decipher and comprehend plant science papers. If you are interested in this subject, I highly recommend this book.

Earlier I mentioned papers describing new species. In the latest *Bradleya* (44) there is a description of a new species of *Rhipsalis* recently discovered in Bahia (a state in Brazil). *Rhipsalis boanova* (Zappi & N.P. Taylor) has flat branches with red flowers and red fruits. In the description they mention this plant resembles *Rhipsalis oblonga* aside from the fruits and flowers. The photos look intriguing and I am looking forward to growing it when it becomes available.

In this article there is also a discussion of a few other *Rhipsalis* species, including an [excellent photo](#) (which can be viewed by clicking the hyperlink) of *Rhipsalis olivifera*.⁶ If you are interested in *Rhipsalis*, you should read this article. Issues of *Bradleya* can be purchased from the British Cactus and Succulent Society; this article is also available for download on the Bio One site.

Next time I will talk about the new Joël Lodé book set, *Taxonomy of the Cactaceae*. Until then enjoy your plants.

Notes:

- ¹ Though I will say obtaining fresh chiles has not been easy, or at least finding fresh jalapeños, even in the marché. It looks like next year we'll be growing chiles.
- ² I'm learning fairly quickly, the immersion aspect helps a lot. There's still so much to learn though.
- ³ I am also the possessor of un nouveau genou prothèse (a new prosthetic knee) so I've been working through the PT involved with that and learning a lot of French from my kiné (physical therapist).
- ⁴ We are renting this house so it is nothing fancy: basically a pergola from a home goods store covered with shade cloth and wire shelves inside.
- ⁵ And the author teaches at San Diego State.
- ⁶ The photo(s) show the flowers, the berries, and the stems very clearly.

References:

- Simpson, Michael G., *Plant Systematics*, 2019. 3rd Edition. ISBN 978-0128126288
- Nigel P Taylor, Igor Souza Riberio, Lidyanne Y S Aona and Daniela C Zappi, 2026. "A remarkable new species of *Rhipsalis* Gaertner (Cactaceae) and notes on other Brazilian species", *Bradleya* 44, 41-47.
<https://doi.org/10.25223/brad.n44.2026.a7>



Facing north-east into the shade house. We still need to put the shelves inside; the plan is to tape the bottom of shelves with copper tape before any plants go on — as this is the land where les escargots come from,

Annual Photo Contest Announced for September

The 2025 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, 2026, and October 1, 2026.

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 11, 2026 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 \(sdepis.org\)](https://sdepis.org/photo-contest)

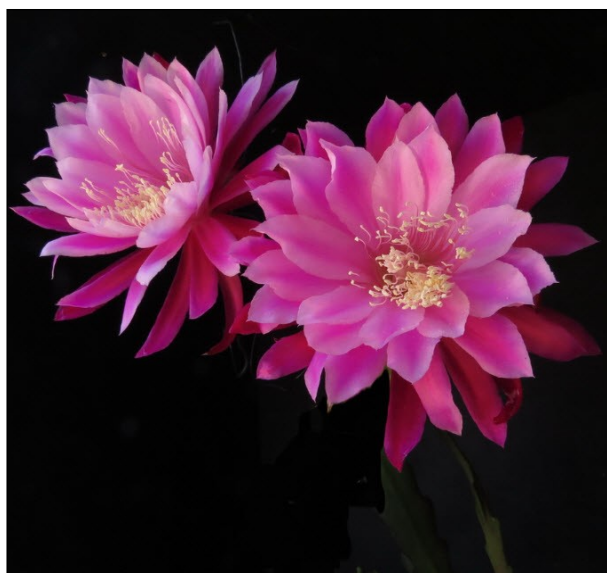


Source: Sdepis.org

2025 Annual Photo Contest—*And the Winners Were...* Multi-Bloom Category



1st Place Gilbert Hatfield
'Don Crain'



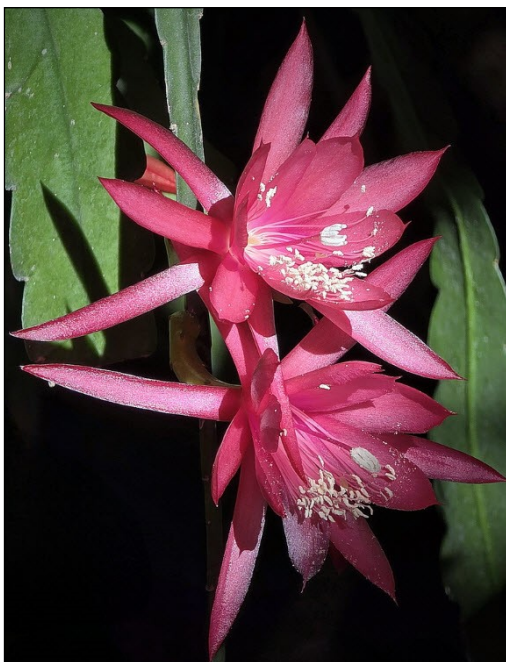
2nd Place Gail Hatfield
'Heaven Sent'



3rd Place Jeff Hendershot
'Imperial Tiger'



Honorable Mention Doug Hillman
'Super Natural'



Honorable Mention Jeff Hendershot
'Sea Horses'

Save the Date: Summer-End Member/Volunteer Appreciation Social Slated for September 12, 2026

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and we find it's time once again to mark your 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:

Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

The event will be hosted at the home of our Society President 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, 2026.

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

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Members enjoy the 2025 Summer-End Event.

Photo: Jerry Moreau

SDES Raffle Table Still Has Quite the Draw



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

Photo: SDES Archives

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!

SDES Thanks Michele Davis for Their Donation

Editor's Note: SDES would like to thank Michele Davis, the former founder and co-owner of Gray/Davis Epiphyllum nursery for her generous donation of cuttings and potted epi plants. If you are not familiar with the Gray/Davis history, please read the interesting article written by Patricia Neal and published in Epi News in July 1993.

In 1986 when mother and daughter, Jean Gray and Michele Davis, bought 3,000 epies from Gene Lund, they had no intention of going into business. At the time Jean already had 1,000 epies of her own and Michele had 2,000. "We were such epi freaks," Jean remarked.

Jean was the first of the two to become interested in epies. "About ten or twelve years ago I went to Simpson's Nursery in Jamul, CA with my husband looking for fruit trees and there was a plant with a beautiful flower in bloom. I had to have it. I didn't know what it was; but it turned out to be an epi named F.W. Beul.

"That was my first experience with an epi. Then I found out about the San Diego Epiphyllum Society and I took Michele to a meeting and we were both hooked." Since then they have been very active members of SDES and served as board members for some time. "Up until last year we were very active in the society," Jean commented. "But it's gotten too much to handle with the business."

During the earlier years of their epi passion, Jean and Michele often visited Gene Lund to see his epies. "When he said he was going to sell his epies," Jean explained, "I couldn't face not being able to go over to see his plants, so we bought his collection of 3,000."

"We had no place for them," Michele added. "They sat here on the ground and we built the shade house over them. We put the cart before the horse. My Dad, brother and husband built the shade house, but Dad died before we could get the

misting and watering system in."

Shortly after they finished the shade house in September, they were hit with a black frost in December and lost a third of everything. "What a mess," Michele remembered. "That's when my sister Linda took pity on us and came over to help for three years. She works full time, but helps us when we need it, although she has two epi houses of her own."

The following year in 1987, Michele's husband Jim built the graft house. "I wanted a graft house for temperamental ones I couldn't get to grow in pots," Michele explained. Soon the graft house held more than just the temperamental epies.

The late Charlie Coons, who used to run the cutting table at SDES meetings, made a deal with Jean and Michele. "He had all kinds of 50s crosses," Michele continued. "He said he would make a deal with us—he would give us all the 50s crosses if he got first choice cuttings for the Mother's Day Show. We agreed.

Unfortunately, he died before we finished the graft house. The cuttings were really in poor shape, because he was ill and not able to care for them, but we put them all on grafts anyway and now we're waiting for them to bloom.

"Today in the grafting house we grow our best sellers. We graft now, keeping in mind what varieties we're going to need," Michele said that their best sellers vary depending on what is attracting the most interest among growers. Lotto, however, is probably the overall best seller because it is fragrant.

Located in a former horse corral at Michele and Jim Davis's Santee home, their hobby became a business three years ago. "We were members of SDES for so long when we just traded cuttings, that it's hard to convert from just being members to business," Jean commented. The business keeps the family busy and occupied about 12 to 16 hours



Jean Gray working at the nursery.

Photo: SDES Archives

Continued

SDES Thanks Michele Davis—Gray/Davis History Continued

a day, six days a week.

“It’s a lot of work,” Michele said. “Two people can’t take care of all these plants. Gus and Marge Schlapfer and Dot and Bob Miller come over to help a couple times a month. I don’t know what we would have done without them. Marge, especially, has helped out fertilizing and alphabetizing. And last winter when the heavy rains caused the plastic over my patio to collapse, tearing the patio away from the house, Bob and Gus came over and fixed it in the rain.”

“Epies are so common in the San Diego and Southern California that it’s not really a profitable business in the local market,” Jean remarked. “Two-thirds of our business is wholesale to nurseries throughout the U.S. and overseas.”

Michele said the hardest part of starting a business was deciding “Who’s going to do what? Who does what best? Mom has some health issues and can’t do the physical stuff, so I do all the grafting and cutting and Mom sits and marks them. “When you start a business, you settle into grooves,” Michele continued. “Each of us has our niche in the business.”

In addition, Jean does all the photography and computer work. “I work half the night, sometimes until 3 or 4 o’clock in the morning on the computer.” Jean has entered all their current epi inventory into the computer, listing the name, location, color, size, shape, where they got it, when they got it and who the hybridizer was. “While I do the photography and can give you the information that’s in the computer, Michele knows more about the individual plants,” Jean commented.

Michele has a reputation for being able to name an epi from looking at just the foliage. She attributes this knack to saturation, curiosity and paying attention. “I really learned to identify a plant from foliage alone after acquiring some misnamed plants.”

Jean and Michele credit Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens with helping them get their business off the ground. “They’ve been a lot of help,” Jean said. “They’ve been terrific and helped us get going.”

Taking care of 2,500 epies can be a challenge, especially in an inland area such as Santee, where summers are hot and winters get down to 18°F.

They hand water once or twice a week throughout the summer and fertilize with Liquinox by siphon. However, in January through February to feed for blooms they apply a granulated fertilizer by hand.

Misting in summer, they say, is trickier if it’s humid. Misting in humid weather can cause root rot. Not only that, but misters don’t always get to all the plants, so hand watering is also required. “If it’s really hot, we’ll turn on the misters for just a few minutes to cool them off,” Michele pointed out. In addition, they have floor fans for cooling and air circulation.

Jim takes off work twice a year—a week in fall to put plastic over the shade houses for winter and a week in spring to remove the plastic for the summer. Kerosene heaters are also used in the winter to keep epies safe from freezing temperatures. “One winter we kept the house too warm and didn’t have many blooms,” Michele said. “This past winter we kept it cooler and had more blossoms.”

With 2,500 epies is it possible to have a favorite? “Everybody knows I think all epies are pretty,” Michele remarked. “My favorite is Radiant Fire. It is the most perfect of all. It’s crisp and it holds up for days.”

Jean used to say her favorite was Tele “when I was into oranges. But I’d have to say Radiant Fire now too. We like that firm shape that really holds up.”

“I’d like to hybridize someday,” Michele commented. “I don’t have the flowers for it yet. But I’d like to go back to species and hybridize from them; I want to use *Anthonyanus* and *Chrysocardium*. I’d like to go back to the original plants; they were hardier. A lot of our hybrid epies you don’t know what the parentage is.”

You’ll always find Jean and Michele (and Linda) wearing their distinctive Gray/Davis “uniform” of a white t-shirt with pink and green epi and matching pink or green trousers at all our shows displaying their gorgeous blooms, answering questions and meeting epi enthusiasts from all over.

“Our enthusiasm hasn’t waned a bit,” Jean commented. “If we could go to every meeting of every society, we would.”

Michele added, “We still go crazy when we see new flowers—we still have to have every new one.”

Member Wish List and Items of Interest

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 or two with you.

As a service and benefit to our members this list is being included in the newsletter. Send your wish list along with your contact information to the editor to have it included here. If you do receive your request, kindly let the editor know so we may remove your entry.

Sal Castellitto: aclarasd@aol.com
'Buttercup', 'Christmas Elf', 'Spanish Gold', 'Christmas Kiss', 'Kiwi Honey Gold'

Forrest Ehbrecht:
forrestkehbrecht@yahoo.com
'Forrest Fyre', 'London Delight'

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

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'

Dr. Diane McClure Lott: jefflott01@cox.net
'Tiger's Eye', 'Juliana Obayashi', 'Alakazam' and any small epies.

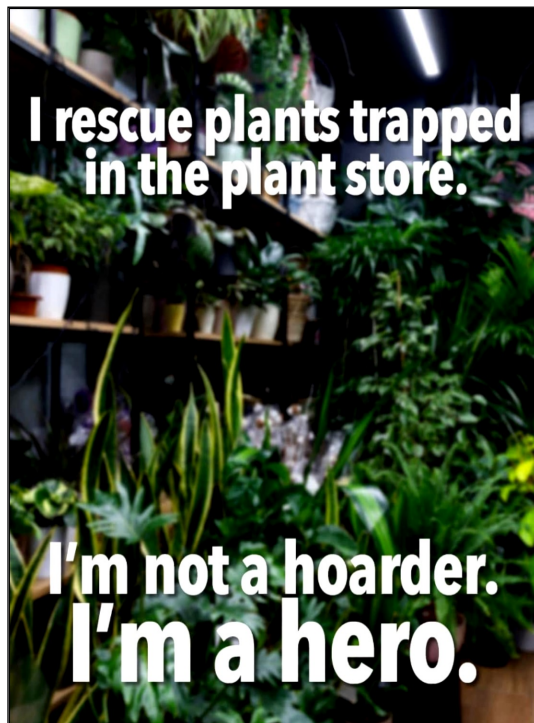
Jim Nones: jan46@gmail.com
'Mother Juana', 'Mila Antonio Nones'

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

Paula Reynolds: paularey@aol.com
'Sunset Cliffs', 'Voltaire'

John Smolowe: johnsmolowe@gmail.com
'Ulana Mauve Delight', 'Kiwi Sweetheart', 'Jennie Martinez', 'Kiwi Waltz King', 'Alpine Lace'

Janice Wakefield:
jwakefield.home@gmail.com
'Bobby Brynildsen', 'Jasa', 'White Cloud'



Left:
A very
relatable graphic
submitted by
Beth Jackson.
Source: Facebook



Blooms, Social Media + Refreshments



Left: Beautiful 'Kiwi Stargazer' Y&AB 2010. Parentage 'Elinor Victoria Latimer' x 'Pink Plumes'.

Right: 'Silence' FOBx50C53. Solferino purple with darker midstripe. 1956.

Photos: JK Hendershot



Monthly Refreshment Schedule

January	C—G
February	H—L
March	M—Q
April	R—U
May	V—B
June	C—G

July	Society
August	H—L
September	M—Q
October	R—U
November	V—B
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!

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@sdepis.org

Mission Statement

SDES is a community of epi growers who encourage the study of epies and the interchange of ideas on growing, displaying, and collecting epies and its related species.

SDES Officers for 2026¹

<u>President</u>	Dean DeLibertis
<u>1st Vice President</u>	David Cheever
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Jerry Moreau
<u>Treasurer</u>	Gerry Mikas
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Open
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	Beth Jackson
<u>Director 2025-26</u>	Ken Maculan
<u>Director 2026-27</u>	Gilbert Hatfield
<u>Director 2026-27</u>	Linda Kruger
<u>Director 2026-27</u>	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.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



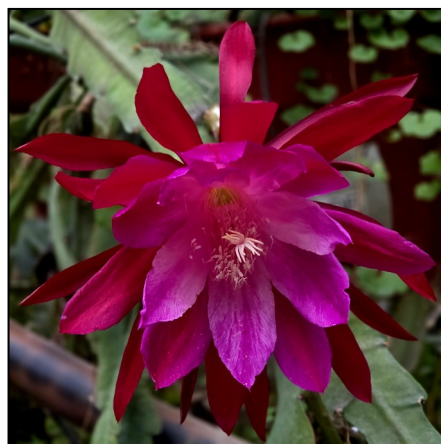
Epiphyllum Trail Bloom Photos—May 2026



'Cabrolee' FRE



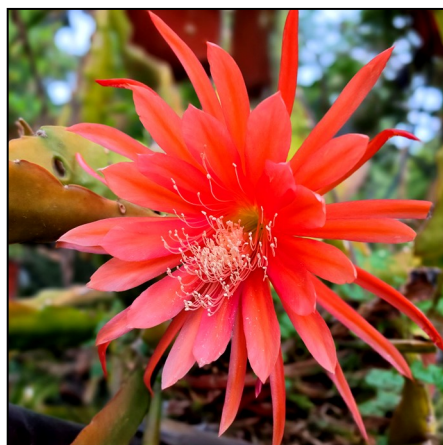
'Judy Johnson' FRE (GAM)



'Audrey's Star' EU



'Banbury Boy' FRE



'Pharo' SHF



'Neon Smile' GM



'Savoir-Faire' WATTS(PITT)



'Sonoma Sunshine' KBY



'Ibis' CP

Photos: JK Hendershot

Celebrating the Life of Phyllis Flechsig *by Jerry Moreau*

The cactus and succulent community of San Diego and beyond honors the life of Phyllis Flechsig—hybridizer, grower, teacher, and generous steward of plants—who passed just days before her 95th birthday.

Born Phyllis Bettina Grant in Berkeley, California, she showed an early love for both writing and the natural world, publishing her first stories at age ten. After graduating from Pomona College in 1953, she married Arthur “Art” Flechsig, a marine biologist. Together they made their home in Encinitas, California, raising four children and cultivating a space that became both sanctuary and laboratory. With greenhouses and shade structures built by Art, Phyllis’s garden grew into a living practice of propagation and hybridization.

She joined the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society in 1980 and the San Diego Epiphyllum Society in 1983, becoming a steady and respected presence in both. She shared her knowledge through presentations, articles in *“Espinas y Flores,”* and generous mentorships. She also contributed regularly to the community through “Plant of the Month,” collaborating with Dorothy Dunn Pasek, and served on the SDCSS Board of Directors during Rick Lati-

mer’s presidency. Prior to this, she had been active with the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society before finding her way to the San Diego club.

Phyllis is best known for her epiphyllum hybrids, especially the iconic ‘Clown’ (1982), named for the laughter its bloom inspired. Alongside ‘Clown’, she introduced beloved cultivars such as ‘Three Oranges’, ‘Hearth Fire’, ‘Arturo’, ‘Ribbons & Ruffles’, and ‘Phyllis’s Fancy’, registering 27 hybrids in total. She also specialized in hand-pollination and growing from seed, often favoring the unusual. As she once said, “If you can get it at Home Depot, I’m not going to grow it.” She preferred to call herself the “introducer” of her flowers, reflecting both humility and respect for the process.



Phyllis Flechsig attending MD Show.

Photo: Jerry Moreau

In the late 1970s, she founded a mail-order cactus and succulent nursery, shipping

plants nationwide for over a decade before returning to local sales through society events. Every plant she offered was grown from her own seed or cuttings.

Her influence extended into public gardens. As an early volunteer and docent at Quail Botanical Gardens (now the San Diego Botanic Garden), she helped shape its early collections, propagated for



Phyllis Flechsig and Casey.

Photo: SDES Archives



Phyllis attending EpiCon.

Photo: SDES Archives



Phyllis in her garden.

Photo: SDES Archives

Celebrating the Life of Phyllis Flechsig *Continued*

the nursery, donated *Rhipsalis* to the epiphytic displays in Toni's Tree House, and served as a liaison with the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

Phyllis's plants were as celebrated as her presence in the community. At SDCSS summer shows, she received numerous honors, including: *Best Epiphytic Cactus Plant*: 1985, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, *Best Opuntiae*: 1995, *Best Aloe in Show*: 1985, 1994, 2002, 2005, and *Best Echeveria*: 1988.

Her broader contributions were recognized with the Epiphyllum Society of America's *Founders' Award* in 2005 and *Honorary Life Membership* (2013) in both the San Diego and Palomar Cactus & Succulent Societies. In 2012, Jim Nones honored her with a namesake hybrid, 'Phyllis Flechsig'.

Her life was richly textured: a skilled knitter and craftswoman, a devoted reader and puzzler, and an

avid traveler—especially after Art's passing in 2003. Yet she remained deeply rooted in her Encinitas garden, where even in later years she continued tending her plants, including the original mother plant of 'Clown'.

Phyllis is survived by her children Karl (Lu Ann), Katrin, Gregor, and Natasha (Kevin Lohman); five grandchildren; her sister Kathy Truesdell (Bill). She was cared for in her later years by her daughter Katrin, at home in the garden she had shaped over a lifetime. More enduring than any award is the living legacy she leaves in gardens, collections, and the community she helped cultivate.

Phyllis Flechsig's life reminds us that cultivation is a relationship—shaped by patience, curiosity, and care. In every cutting shared and every bloom that brings unexpected joy, her presence continues. We remember her with gratitude.



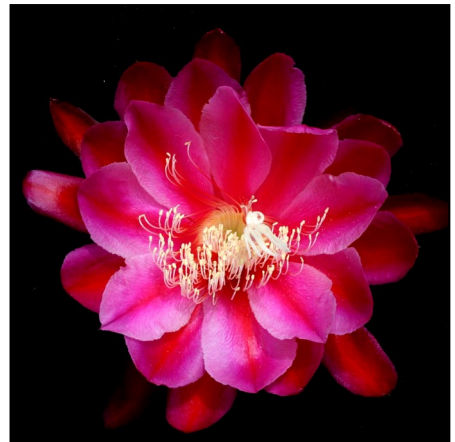
'Three Oranges'

Photo: Chuck Everson



'Vista Sun'

Photo: SDES Archives



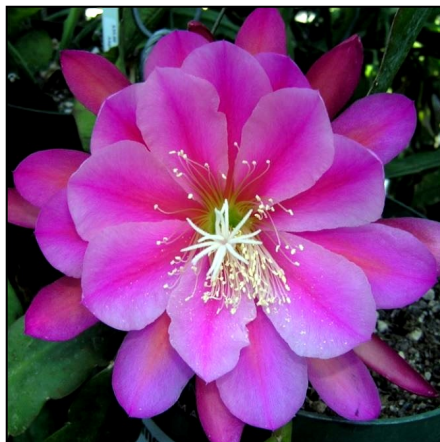
'Katrin'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Natalie Karrin'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Bandera'

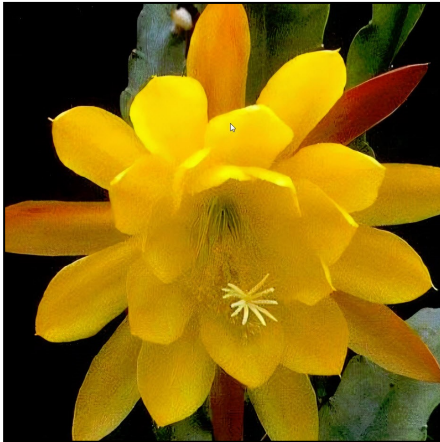
Photo: SDES Archives



'King's Ransom'

Photo: Jerry Moreau

Celebrating the Life of Phyllis Flechsig With Blooms



'Verano'

Photo: Chuck Everson



'Madras Ribbon'

Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Arturo'

Photo: SDES Archives



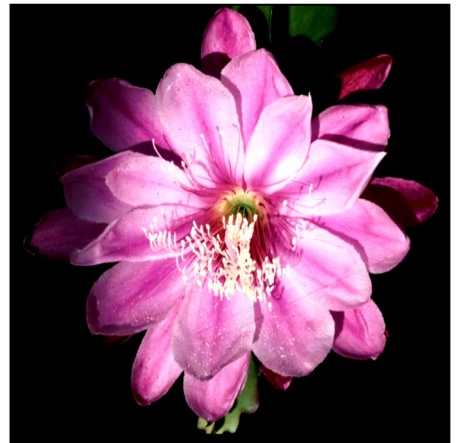
'Flechsig's Flame'

Photo: Robert Kuettle



'Phyllis Flechsig'

Photo: SDES Archives



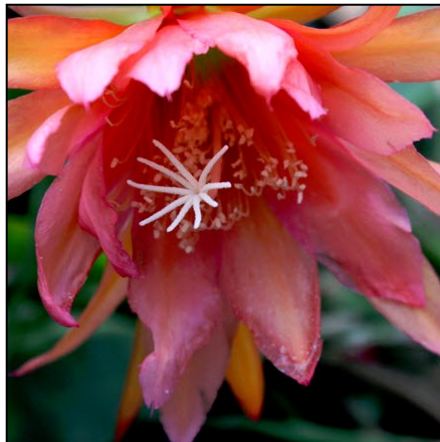
'Antique Gown'

Photo: Chuck Everson



'Phyllis's Fancy'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Olivia Joy'

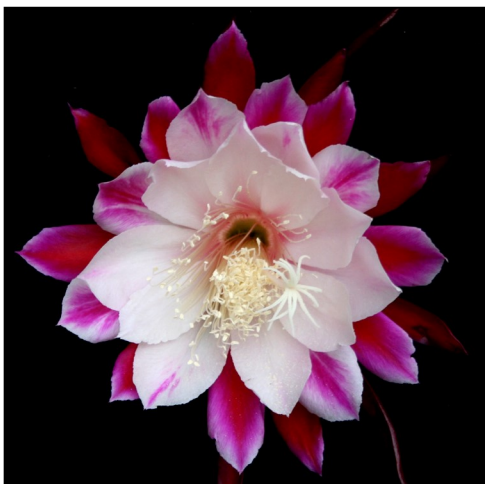
Photo: Katrin Flechsig



'Choral Fantasy'

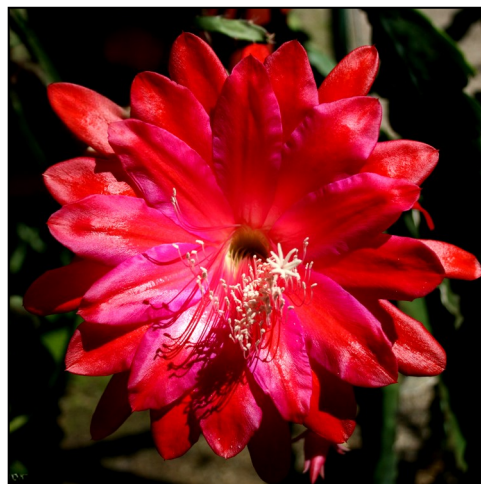
Photo: Jerry Moreau

Celebrating the Life of Phyllis Flechsig With Blooms Continued



'Clown'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



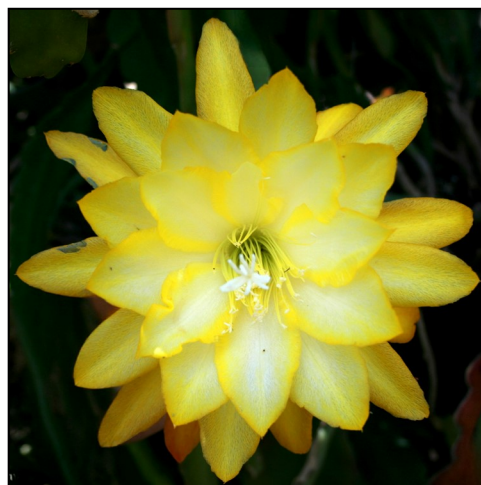
'Ribbons and Ruffles'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'For Louise'

Photo: Gray/Davis



'Yellowbird'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Dark Joy'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



'Marian Grant'

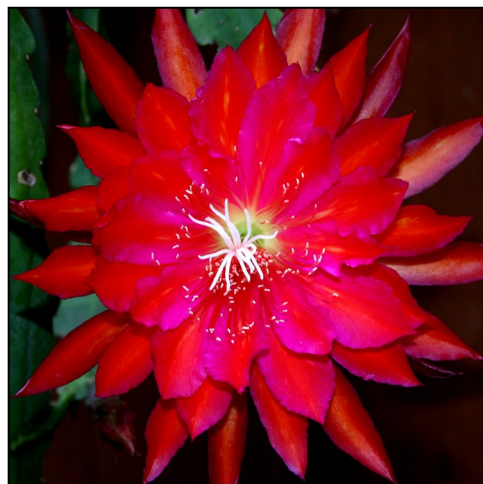
Photo: Katrin Flechsig

We Leave You With This—*More Beautiful Blooms*



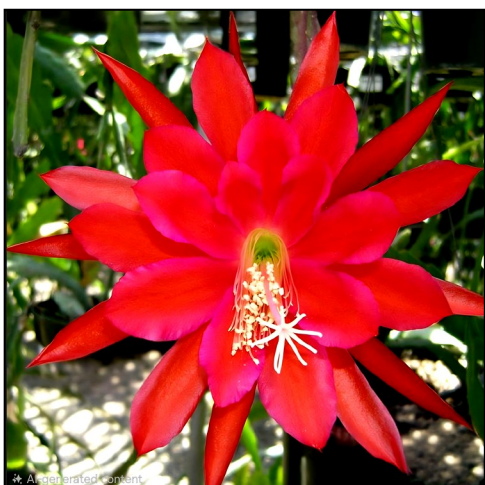
'Vista Gold'

Photo: SDES Archives



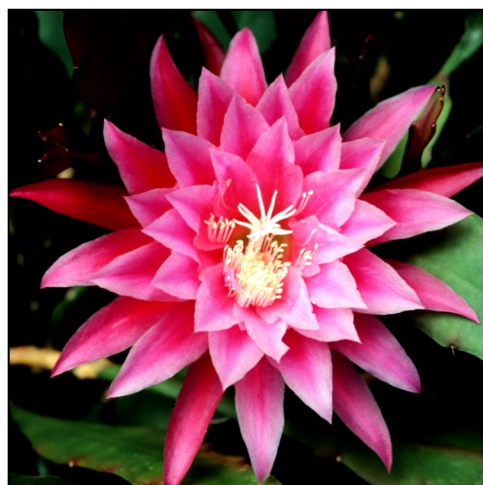
'Hearth Fire'

Photo: Jerry Moreau



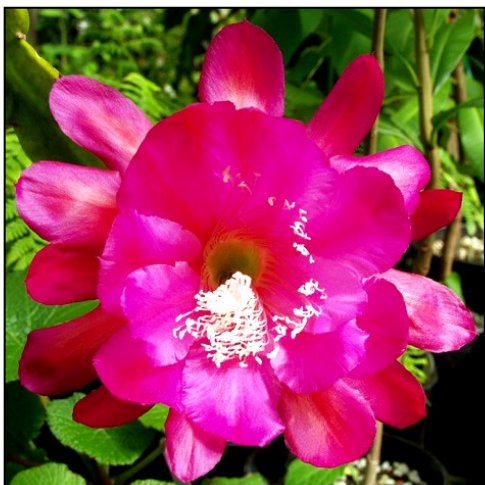
'Flechsigs Sunset'

Photo: SDES Archives



'Star Quality'

Photo: Chuck Everson



'Natasha Flechsigs'

Photo: SDES Archives



'Tayopa'

Photo: Jerry Moreau