



# Σpi News

*San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.*

April, 2012

Volume 37, Number 4

## 'Ruby Pinwheel'

Size: Medium

Cross: 'Ruby Snowflake' x 'Tassel'

Hybridizer: Wressey Cocke (Registered— 1981)

Photograph by Jerry Moreau





## President's Corner:

I'm wishing for 'April Showers' to bring 'Mayflower' or 'Maybe' it is May flowers - for our show and not too early like 'Mayday'. The show and sale is quietly and quickly coming upon us. As you know the theme of the show is ***Epies on Wheels***. I hope you have started planning your display and getting your plants and flowers ready for the show. Whether you create a display doing a 'Cartwheel' or bring 'Peggy's Cartwheel' it will be fun, but your display could also be a 'Color Wheel', a 'Ferris Wheel', a 'Spinning Wheel', a 'Wagon Wheel' or even a 'California Wheel'. If that is not enough for you, what about doing a 'Liberty Fire Wheel' or a 'Castle Pink Wheel', a 'Ruby Pinwheel' (like the cover photo), or even 'Wheel of Fortune' for a display. It's going to be a great show and an event not to be missed. I know it will be 'A Beautiful Day'. I hear that 'Sandra' has much planned for the show. Check in with her for any questions, to sign up with a display and/or to help out that weekend. It's going to be a 'Show Stopper', so come and be a 'Showoff' and 'Show Me' and everybody else your beautiful flowers and display.

Speaking of the show and sale. Your Society needs your help. Cuttings for the sale are needed. Please refer to the instructions on page 8 for how to mark cuttings. There is also information on the Society's website. Bring your cuttings to either the April meeting or to Cindy Decker's house at the end of the month. Every cutting makes a difference.

I want to thank the dedicated volunteers who braved the weather at the San Diego Botanical Gardens' Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale, and Tomatomania® in March. Ron & Velma Crain, Jerry Markle, and Janice Wakefield all made it through the winter rains at times down pouring with wind of 25mph with much higher gusts, and the thunder and lightning, (that's 'White Lightning' not 'Pink Lightning' and there were some 'Thunder Cloud') for San Diego that was a big storm. Weather like this is great for the plants, but not so much for us humans hanging outside selling epies. These members went 'Above and Beyond' for the Society by being out in the storm always giving their best.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Don Francis who underwent surgery in March. He is recovering and doing well. Don is a long time member and past president of the Society. He has put on some great displays in the past. He has continued to generously contribute cuttings each year toward the Society's Mother's Day sale.

There is a lot happening in April. We will be at Earth Day festival in Balboa Park for the first time. We will again be at the Cuyamaca Garden Sale. Come on down and check us out.

Till next time – Happy Growing!



*Jerry*

**April Meeting Program:** This month's program will be a special slide presentation of the Mike Hains' "Castle" hybrids. Mike is a hybridizer from England so we are sure to be delighted with photos of epies that few of us have seen or grow here in the US..

### **Cutting Party replaces April's Pre-Meeting Workshop:**

There will be no pre-meeting workshop this month. **Come early at 6:00** to help cut, mark and organize cuttings. Remember to bring cutters, markers, directories **and cuttings!**

**March Meeting Program Highlights:** For those of you who requested sources for more information on dealing with scale and deer, Scott Parker, our speaker for March, has shared the following websites:

Cycad scale <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7408.html>

Deer <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74117.html>



Mother's Day, 2012



# Epies on Wheels

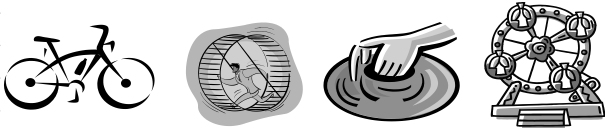
—By Sandra Chapin

**CALLING ALL WHEELS AND THOSE THAT DRIVE, PUSH, SPIN OR TURN THE WHEELS!** The Mother's Day Show "Epies on wheels" is coming soon. If everyone does just a little, it should be a big success. Consider doing a display of your own or helping with one of the general displays. Or maybe you can contribute cuttings or work at the sales. We always need help setting up and tearing down. Many hands make light work and we have a really good time while we are doing it. If you have a great idea for a display but are concerned that you might not have enough flowers...not to worry. There are

always extra flowers that members are happy to share.

Remember also that if you do not have a display you can put up to six flowers on the Society Table. All members are encouraged to put blooms on the People's Choice Table, the Small Bloom Table, the George French Hybrid Table, the Newly-Registered and Seedling Tables. After judging we all gather in room 104 for a pot luck lunch. Bring your favorite dish to share and relax and enjoy the fellowship before we get back to the sales. Bring your enthusiasm, your flowers, your cuttings, your time and energy and we will have a wheeling good time and show! Call or email me to sign up or if you have any questions: [sandralwc@yahoo.com](mailto:sandralwc@yahoo.com) 858-451-1744.

Get those wheels spinning and plan your display.



SDES 2012 Calendar	
Apr 22	Earth Fair/Earth Day at Balboa Park (SDES booth for sales)
Apr 28	Cuyamaca Spring Garden Sale (SDES booth for sales)
April 29	Cutting Party, Cindy Decker's house
May 5 & 6	SDES Safari Park Epi Sale
May 6	SBES Show & Sale
May 12 & 13	SDES Sale & Show
May 20	ESA Show & Sale
May 26 & 27	EpiCon XIII - hosted by SDES in San Diego— Mark this as a priority on your calendar!
June 2	SFES Show and Sale
Dec 12	SDES Annual Awards Banquet

## Now is the Time

- ✓ Keep plants in filtered sunlight to develop buds.
- ✓ If mature plants have not yet budded, try moving them to a sunnier position.
- ✓ Check newly formed buds for flowering space
- ✓ Do not move or disturb plants that have budded. (The buds will be more likely to fall off)
- ✓ Check the labels on the pots. Are they still legible?
- ✓ Check for pests— snails, slugs, scale, mealy bugs and aphids. April is an especially good month for escargot— Snails and slugs seem to be plentiful this time of year

# SDES Events for May, 2012:

*San Diego Safari Park*  
**Annual Epiphyllum Plant/Cutting Sale\***  
**May 5-6**

9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. (Saturday), 4:00 p.m. (Sunday)

\*Next to the Plant Trader



Come enjoy camaraderie of all the “epiholics” , check out any new blooms or cuttings you may not have, and, while you’re there, visit the epi house– a “must see” during blooming season– especially in May!



*San Diego Epiphyllum Society Presents:*

## Epies on Wheels

### Annual Mother's Day Flower Show

Sunday, May 13, 2012

11:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park  
Cutting Sales start at 9:00 a.m. on the patio

Early Bird Cutting and Plant Sales  
Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.



### *SDES Hosts* Epi Con XIII

**Saturday, May 26th: Escondido Center for the Arts**

**Sunday, May 27th**

See page 5 for further details and page 9 for registration form



**Reminder: Take Epi Photos at the M.D. Show** then bring your favorite to be judged at November meeting. Winning photos will be featured on the cover of *Epi News*.



## Safari Park Epi Display House

—By Jerry Moreau

We had a great work party in March even though one got rained out. We have a great crew of epi lovers doing lots of good work maintaining the epies and keeping them looking good.

The **BIG NEWS** is that the new work / propagation house was built in March. (Pictures on page 10) Now we need to install the irrigation system and gravel on the ground before we can move the plants.

At the next work party we will be making cuttings for the May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> sale at the Park.

I want to welcome a new volunteer Victoria Lea to the epi crew. I'm looking forward to continue working with her.

Helping out and having fun this month were Jean Bonner, Sandra Chapin, Velma & Ron Crain, Cindy Decker, Bill Greene, Beth Jackson, Oliver Lapuebla, Laurie Lasslo, Jerry Moreau, and Fred Savage.

If you are interested in joining the fun and learning a lot about epies in the process come and volunteer at the Park. Information on how to sign up can be found on the website [www.SanDiegoEpi.org](http://www.SanDiegoEpi.org) click on the Safari Park tab or contact me.

The next work party will be April 14<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

## EpiCon XIII - May 26<sup>th</sup> & May 27<sup>th</sup> 2012

This year's international Epi event will be held in San Diego and sponsored by SDES. Find details in last month's *Epi News* and on-line at [SanDiegoEpi.org](http://SanDiegoEpi.org). There you will find a registration form that can be downloaded and printed.

### A Step Back in the History of EpiCon: Part II

**EPICON V** was hosted by the ESA on June 22, 1996 at Friends Hall, Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA. The event was well attended with over 30 from SDES attending. Each of the four epi societies gave an update on their activities: ESA President Peggy Oberg represented ESA and talked a bit about ESA's new directory. She then introduced representatives from the other three societies- Tony Yanko of the South Bay Epiphyllum Society; Phil Peck, SDES; and Vera Ward of the San Francisco Epiphyllum Society. Rudi Dorsch. spoke briefly about EPIG -- an international epiphytic group with 175 members.

Myron Kimmach, Director Emeritus of the Huntington Botanical Gardens and editor of *The Journal*, a publication of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, gave a slide presentation on epiphytic cacti species. Myron showed slides of a wide variety of epiphytic species, arranging them into North American or Mexican species and South American species. He pointed out differences, as well as similarities, and emphasized that epi "branches" are stems and not leaves; a plant's leaf is a tiny scale in the areola. Myron pointed out that no fossil cactus has ever been found; however, today's most primitive species are still found around epiphytic cacti origins in the Andes. Some of the highlights of Myron's presentation included photos of species which have two of the three largest flowers - *Hylocereus calcaratus* with flowers a foot wide (Myron said he's only seen one flower in 25 years) and *E. grandilobum* with flowers a foot and half across, the day-blooming species *E. laui* named after Dr. Alfred Lau, the orange-colored

*See EpiCon History continued on page 10)*

From our Librarian:

# Outside of A Dog

*Outside of a dog, a man's best friend is a book. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. -- Groucho Marx*



This month is tax time; maybe you've had to pay additional taxes this April so don't have money for buying books. In the interest of staying within budget, this might be a good time to revisit some of the free resources on the internet.

The first place to start is our own SDES site. There are some photos and lots of information on epi care, as well as a calendar of events. Next, there's the ESA site, with event listings and a large gallery of epicactus hybrid photos – this is the place to check for photos of the brand-new registrations as well as older hybrids. The South Bay and San Francisco societies also have pages with event listings and contact information.

Going back to the SDES site, there is a page with links to all sorts of epi-related galleries, forums, and nurseries. Rather than reproduce it in this article, I suggest you visit the site and see for yourself.

However, suppose your interests are wider than epiphytic cactus and you are interested in terrestrial cactus as well; where can you find information? I've mentioned the Cactus and Succulent Society of America here before, but there are other societies that have links to all sorts of information about cultivation, growers and propagation about cactus and succulents. For example, Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society, based in Missouri, has a well organized page of links. The

British Cactus and Succulent Society has information on cultivation of various genera and a gallery of great photos. Ballarat Cactus and Succulent Society in Australia has a gallery of Joyce Carr epicactus hybrids as well as terrestrial cactus information.

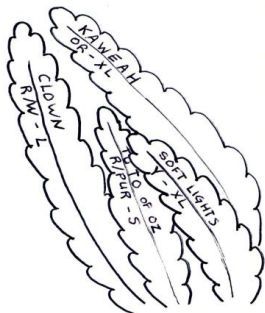
All this talking of international clubs reminds me that the best place to find a listing of clubs is at the Cactus Mall. This site has international listings of clubs and nurseries and is a fantastic resource. If you are interested in terrestrial cactus, you should visit.

Ok, that's it for this month. Make sure to spend time with your epis, the weather is getting nice and the buds are, well, budding.

- San Diego Epiphyllum Society, [www.sandiegoepi.com](http://www.sandiegoepi.com)
- Epiphyllum Society of America, [www.epiphyllumsociety.org](http://www.epiphyllumsociety.org)
- South Bay Epiphyllum Society, [www.mattslandscape.com/sbes/](http://www.mattslandscape.com/sbes/)
- San Francisco Epiphyllum Society, [www.sfepi.org](http://www.sfepi.org)
- CSSA, [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org)
- Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society, [www.hscactus.org](http://www.hscactus.org)
- British Cactus and Succulent Society, [www.bcss.org.uk](http://www.bcss.org.uk)
- Ballarat Cactus and Succulent Society, [www.cactusoz.org](http://www.cactusoz.org)
- Cactus Mall, [www.cactus-mall.org](http://www.cactus-mall.org)

—By Linda Sinkovic, Librarian

## April 29th - Cutting Party 12:00 noon—5:00 pm



Come and join the fun! Bring your cuttings (lots of them), clippers, directory (new or old), and sharpies to Cindy Decker's house: 4007 S. Tropico Drive, La Mesa. Just east of 125 and off 94: (Taking 94 east, exit on Spring St, heading east; Follow signs to Campo Road—continue east on Campo Road; Turn left on Camino Paz, Right at Carthay Circle which turns into Kahlua Way which THEN turns into S. Tropico Drive. Check your map—on-line to get a clearer picture or call Cindy if you get lost! (619-698-6662). Afterwards, refuel with the pizza and beverages provided.



## Why Not Aporophyllum?

— Ron Crain

As I have mentioned in previous Epi News articles, many epi growers prefer or at least are very fond of the small-flowering hybrids. If you are one of these people, you might consider adding to your collection some or many of the aporophyllum hybrids. Most *aporophyllum* are produced as a result of crossing a species plant of the genus *Disocactus*, usually *Disocactus flagelliformis*, which was formerly known as *Aporocactus flagelliformis*, hence the name, and an epi hybrid. Others are the result of a cross between *D. flagelliformis* and any of a number of other epiphytic cacti species. In either case, most of the offspring of these crosses produce flowers in the small to medium size range with the blooms being more numerous than many epi hybrids. They also tend to produce the more cylindrical, rat-tail-like stems similar to *D. flagelliformis* rather than the flat growth that is typical of the epiphyllum hybrids and therefore make a more compact plant. So, if space is an issue in your garden, aporophyllum might be a good choice for you. Many aporophyllum flowers are pink, red or orange although the hues vary widely.

Aporophyllum hybrids tend to be somewhat spiner than the epi hybrids. This is because most of them have the very spiny *Disocactus flagelliformis* in their lineage. And, also because they are descended from *D. flagelliformis*, they can generally take a little more direct sunlight than a typical epi hybrid can. So, if you have a spot in your garden that is just a little too sunny for your regular epis, where they might get sun-burned or sun-bleached, an aporophyllum might fit there nicely. Generally speaking, the more spiny the aporophyllum, the more sun it can take as the spines

themselves help to shade the stems. Other than that, aporophyllum culture is nearly identical to that of your regular epi hybrids.

Aporophyllum have been around for a long time with hybrid varieties produced back in the forties and fifties by hybridizers like Peggy Williams who registered 'Peggy's Cartwheel,' a small-flowered variety, in 1940 and 'Peggy's Red Spider,' a medium from 1955; in the early sixties by Harry Johnson who named 'Starfire,' a medium, 'Temple Fire' and 'Odalisque,' both smalls and 'Brilliant,' an extra-small, all in 1960; and much more recently, Helmut Paetzold, a German hybridizer, who registered 'Goldi Paetz,' a small in 1993, 'Angela Paetz,' a medium from 1996, and 'Nellie Paetz,' a small from 1999, among many others. These are just a few examples of the aporophyllum hybrids that have been registered by many different hybridizers over the past three quarters of a century.

Aporophyllum that have been named and registered with the Epiphyllum Society of America will appear alphabetically in their Directory of Species and Hybrids in the general listing along with the many epi hybrids. Usually the phrase "Aporophyllum type" will be included in the description and/or species like *Disocactus martianus* and *D. flagelliformis* will be listed in their lineage.

If you have a too sunny spot or a tight spot that will only accommodate a plant that doesn't take up too much space or if you just like small flowers, give aporophyllum a try



## Return All Perpetual Trophies!

Time to dust off the perpetual trophy(ies) that you won last year and bring to the April meeting. They will be checked over, repaired as needed, and awarded to this year's winners.





## Cuttings— The Lifeline of SDES

SDES has a well-known reputation for our excellent show and sale. There are many people who are not members but who come to our show every year just to buy cuttings. Some of these regular shoppers travel many miles just because we have a tremendous selection of cuttings. They know we offer top quality, a wide selection and good prices. Let's not disappoint these people this year.

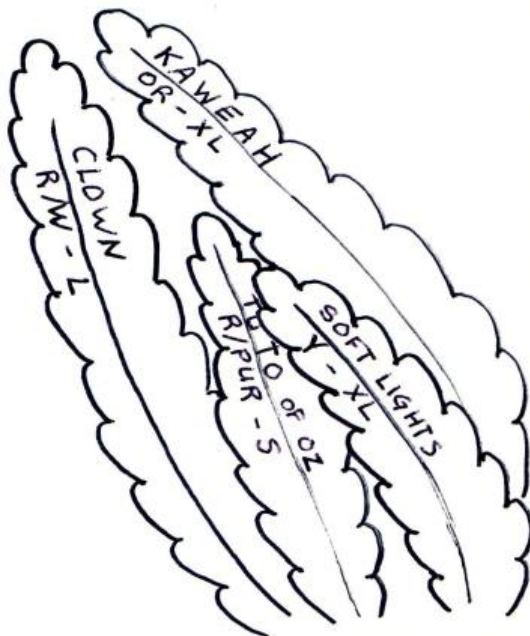
It's that time again. If you have a chance to get cuttings made, bring them to the April meeting—early. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. we will be labeling, sorting, and bagging cuttings. If you don't have enough time to cut before the meeting, try to cut and deliver them to a Board Member or to Cindy Decker's house (4007 S Tropic Dr, La Mesa) before the **Cutting Party on April 29th**. Sales of cuttings is the mainstay of our club's treasury. This is when we need every member who can to help out. If you have plants that can provide a few cuttings but you **need help** in making those cuttings, please call Jerry Moreau (619) 208-7654.

**Making your cuttings:** Please choose growth that is hardened off, **not new, tender growth**. Cuttings should be 6 to 8 inches long and of good health. (6-8" cuttings will root much faster. If they are longer, they tend to

produce buds instead of roots.) Cut an entire branch (that can be cut into 3-4 cuttings) instead of cutting 6" off of 3-4 branches. *(editor's note: I severely stunted the growth of my 'Sakurahime' many years ago by trimming off 6" of the ends of several branches. I was a novice and treated the plant as I did other house plants—pinch them back and they'll grow 2 or more sprouts at the cut... oops! It took several years for it to finally begin to grow again.*

Please follow the guidelines below for marking your cuttings. If you haven't time to mark all of your cuttings, you can wrap those of the same name in a newspaper—tape closed, and mark the package on the outside with the name. We will have Sharpie pens at the meeting to mark the rest of the cuttings. If you haven't time to cut the long cutting ("branch") to size, bring the whole thing! We'll cut it there.

**Marking your cuttings:** Begin 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 forever lost. Try to check for correct spelling (as is in the official directory of Species and Hybrids"). If you are not sure, 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 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 (10" 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"





# S.D.E.S. EpiCon XIII– 2012

As of April 1, 2012

**Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$ **55.00\***

**Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** - 8:30 a.m. to noon \$ **20.00\***

**TWO DAY EVENT** – attend one or both days - **2 Day Total \$ 75.00**

**Day 1**

**8:30 California Center for the Arts Escondido**, 340 N. Escondido Blvd. Escondido CA 92025

Speakers, Silent Auction, Cutting & Plant Sale, Sit-down Lunch —Circle Preference:

a) **Chicken Marsala** or b) **Chicken Piccata**

**Day 2**

**8:30 – 12:00** Tour of Epi House and Cutting Sale at San Diego Zoo’s Safari Park, (formerly San Diego Wild Animal Park)

**(Light Refreshments 9 a.m.)**. Price includes Admission, Parking & morning refreshments

**12:00 – Lunch on your own.** Visit other Safari Park Gardens or Members’ Gardens

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



**Circle one:**      X      **I will attend only Saturday May 26 (\$55.)**

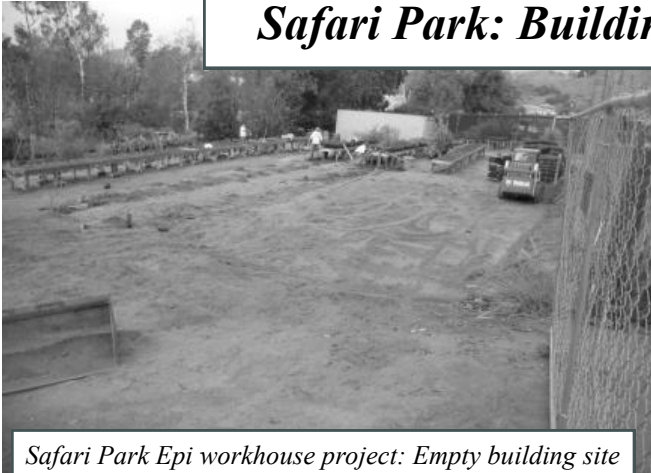
  X      **I will attend only Sunday    May 27 (\$20.)**

  X      **I/We will attend BOTH Saturday AND Sunday (\$75. Per Person)**

Make checks out to S.D.E.S. – or VISA /MC accepted

Send your Reservations to: Mildred V. Mikas 3502 Avenida Amorosa, Escondido CA 92029

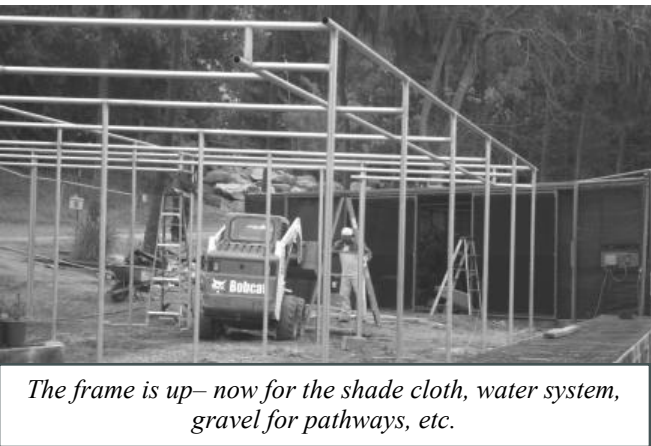
***Safari Park: Building the new workhouse***



*Safari Park Epi workhouse project: Empty building site*



*Erecting the frame.*



*The frame is up– now for the shade cloth, water system, gravel for pathways, etc.*



*Volunteers extraordinaire: Vemla Crain and Sandra Chapin*

***EpiCon History*** *(Continued from page 5)*

flower *Heliocereus aurantiacus* var. *blomianus* which is sold as *H. elegantissimus* in nurseries and used as a parent for many day-blooming hybrids and *R. hoelleri* whose flowers are embedded in the stem and leave scars. Myron commented that some species plants are virtually identical and can only be identified by their individual blossoms.

Shirley Marneus, head of Cal Tech's drama department and an ESA member, spoke about ESA founding member R.F. Kado. Kado was a Japanese nurseryman in Los Angeles who came to be well-known for the grottos he designed for private Catholic families (including John Barrymore and Fibber Magee and Molly), the Maryknoll convents and other Catholic facilities. He began hybridizing Epiphyllums and was featured in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1939 for

his epis, but when he and his family were moved to a Japanese detention camp during World War II his epi collection was given to his good friends the Sherman Beahm family. After his release from the camp for reasons unknown he never returned to his work with Epiphyllums but went on with his landscaping career and in 1946 the year he became a U.S. citizen the City of Los Angeles awarded him the title of Landscape Architect. Unfortunately, there has been confusion over the years regarding some of his epi hybrids. The Beahms featured many of his plants in their catalogs, but some of Kado's names have been lost and many others were unnamed. When he wrote descriptions of the plants, his descriptions were taken as names, something he did not intend. For instance, in the ESA Directory you'll find "Apricot Pink" which was a description of the flower's color, but not the flower's name. Shirley showed slides of some of the Kado

*See EpiCon History continued on page 11)*

## ***EpiCon History*** (Continued from page 10)

hybrids including 'Miss Santa Monica', 'California Beauty', 'Fire God', 'Yellow Violet' (named for its bud's resemblance to a wild yellow violet), 'Snow Cap', 'Immaculata' and several shots of grottos he designed.

Ellen Zunino, a biology teacher in Los Angeles, spoke on "Pathways to Pigmentation" and gave us the bad news -- there's no way we can hybridize a blue epi. She pointed out that there are very few blue flowers; birds and insects are attracted to the bright colors of reds and oranges to help plants distribute their seeds and pollen. Ellen examined chemical structures and the interaction of pigments with light. The bad news is that epis simply don't produce pigments for blue and no amount of hybridizing is going to turn them blue.

However, Ellen pointed out the good news, that maybe some day we'll have a blue epi! It won't be through color pigments, but through cell structure. There are only five color pigments in birds -- brown, black, red, orange and yellow -- and yet there are birds with blue feathers. She talked about cell structures and how they capture light and reflect it at different light waves. Putting a cross section of an epi petal under the microscope, she found the cell structure to resemble a leaf's cell structure. The outer most layer of cells are elongated and act as prisms so light doesn't burn the leaf. Ellen said she didn't expect this in petals, but pointed out that the jewel-like sheen we find in epi petals are caused by these long cells using that microstructure to reflect various light waves. This is how a blue epi can be developed; by hybridizing plants with this sheen and possibly obtaining one that reflects blue wave lengths. Ellen recommended that hybridizers start working with species such as *Disocactus amazonicus* that have this type of cell structure. She would like to see hybridizers start using high tech reproduction such as protoplast fusion, rather than growing seeds and waiting the seven plus years it takes for Epiphyllums.

Professional photographer Dan Taylor was the last speaker for the day and talked about

photographing epis. He gave an excellent slide presentation that compared and contrasted types of film, light conditions, indoor and outdoor photography and various equipment for controlling light. Dan always uses a tripod and he said to focus about one-third of the way into the flower using a wide open f-stop. You'll get the sharpest depth of field at f22. For color print, he recommended ASA 100 up to ASA 200.

**EPICON VI** was hosted by SBES on May 30, 1998 at the Holiday Inn, Torrance, CA. Nearly 80 people from four epiphyllum societies attended EpiCon VI. The day-long event featured dozens of gorgeous flowers lining the entryway and a well-balanced program that blended slides of epis and other epiphytes with a wealth of useful information for the home gardener. Tony Yanko, SBES President welcomed everyone to EpiCon VI, and introduced Dick Kohlschreiber who acted as master of ceremonies.

### ***German epiphytes***

Dick introduced Dr. Rudi Dorsch from Houston, TX. "I always think of myself as a plant nut until I get around Rudi." Dick commented. "He's a fanatic and goes around the world collecting plants."

Rudi talked about his travels to Germany, as well as England. Featured in his presentation were 12 "mystery" slides. He gave clues about the plant featured in each slide and attendees were asked to write down what they thought each one's name was. At the end of his program he identified each of the plants. Included in his mystery slides was: A) The Moon Flower - one of Margaret Mead's most famous paintings are of this plant. The plants' flat segmented branches wrap themselves closely to tree trunks. B) *Schlumbergera russelliana*, photographed in Germany was a plant that had been in a family for 100 years. C) Two Christmas cacti were among the mysteries: the relatively recently described *Schlumbergera kautski* and the yellow-flowered *Hatiora epiphyllloides* v. *epiphyllloides*. D) The very, very rare *Rhipsalis hoelleri*. This dark little reddish purple flowering plant's native location in Brazil

(Continued on page 12)

## Welcome to our New Members!



### A belated welcome to those who joined us in February:

Sunny Borkat  
La Mesa, CA

Lori Cravalho from  
Hayward, CA

Elaine Jacques  
Redlands, CA

### Joining us in March:

Anthony Santore  
Nesquehoning, PA.

Shauna Russell  
Costa Mesa, CA

Celine Dion  
Martinez, CA

Jean Perry  
La Jolla, CA.

William Thomas  
San Diego, CA

### Refreshments at our General Meetings:

Is it your turn to bring goodies? Bring cookies, fruit, veggies, or whatever snack suits your fancy! Call Marj Myers at 619-448-3613 or e-mail her at [epinutz@att.net](mailto:epinutz@att.net) so she will be able to coordinate the food brought to the SDES general meetings.

### *EpiCon History* (Continued from page 11)

has been kept a secret. E) *Hylocereus stenopterus*, the only red flowered *Hylocereus*. Eckart Maier has used this in hybridizing.

#### *Alice Buchanan hybrids*

Dick Kohlschreiber narrated slides of Alice Buchanan's hybrids. Ethel Hurst who has been very ill recently and could not attend EpiCon put the slide show together. Alice became interested in epis when she happened to stop at the nursery in Rosemead and she soon started stopping by to help with the plants. Eventually Alice and Lois Burke founded the California Epi Center in Vista (now Rainbow Gardens).

#### *Garden snails*

Joe Cocks, son of well-known epi hybridizer Wressey Cocks, gave a presentation on snails which have been around 100 million years. Most of us are familiar with that persistent pest that loves to eat our epis -- the brown garden snail. Joe, who works at the L.A. Natural History Museum, said there are 45 different species of land snails, but only two are really considered pests. How do you get rid of them? Well, Joe says the best way is hand picking them. He recommends watering the yard really well and then at dark hand pick every night for a few nights. He pointed out there are pros and cons regarding the use of decollate snails. They do wonderfully well in ivy beds; however, they only eat younger snails not the adults. And once they've eaten the supply of young snails they will eat young

plants and attack harmless native snails. Decollate snails are also better in greenhouses than in fields. A recipe was given for a spray solution that kills snails within 15 seconds. Mix 1/3 ammonia and 2/3 water and spray directly on the snail. The spray doesn't hurt plants.

#### *Natural pest management*

Organic gardening and pest management was the first topic following lunch. Ann Schwind, owner of Garden Magic Co. in Manhattan Beach, talked about her experiences with natural pest management and gardening. Ann interned at Huntington Gardens and explained that she turned to organic pest management after an experience with a neighbor's cat. After spraying Malathion for the aphids on her azaleas, a neighbor's cat ran through the still-wet shrubs and she could not stop it. Knowing that the cat would then lick off the Malathion, she decided then and there that there had to be a better way. She said she found that total eradication is not the answer and that pesticide use eventually breeds "super bugs" which are increasingly resistant to pesticides and that leads to the production of stronger, more lethal pesticides. What gardeners should strive for is a healthy balance of beneficial insects to offset the "bad" bugs and sometimes this means accepting a small population of the unwanted ones. "Education is the key - work with nature not against it," she commented. Once she discovered how successful organic gardening can be, she wanted to teach others and took a photography class so she could illustrate successful organic gardens in her talks. Through Ann's business she tends 30 gardens a week and has many satisfied clients.

## Early Season March Blooms

**Sandra Chapin:** 'Aviana', 'Bruno Forster', 'Butter Taffy', 'Crimson Arrow', 'David Wayne', 'Donald Raymond', 'Elberta Kipp', 'Farbendwunder', 'Fire Flame', 'Frühlingstern', 'F.A. Haage', 'Irish Gold', 'Lil Orphan Epi', 'Orange Icing', 'Orinda', 'Margaret Elizabeth Cureton', Seedling: ('Meadow Rose' x 'Labor of Love'), 'Naranja', 'Pink Organdy', 'Something Special', 'Sweet Kisses', 'Tiny Flame', 'Torero'

**Matt Chaney:** 'Elise', 'Fluid Orange', 'Gold Charm', 'Jills Jewel', 'Jovial', 'Monica J', 'San Juan Capistrano', 'Small Talk', *Aporocactus* 'Edna Bellamy', *D. macranthus*, *Floribundum* hybrid (*E. floribundum*: probably a hybrid of *Disocactus macranthus*)

**Cindy Decker:** 'Spring Break', 'Fred Boutin', 'Harald Knebel'

**Jerry Moreau:** 'Elberta Kipp', 'Fern La Borde', 'Harald Knebel', 'Herbert S. Irwin', 'Petey Kelly', 'Stripped Beauty'

**Don Patterson:** 'Coralberry', 'Miss Plupp', 'Mousekateer', *D. nelsonii*

**Allen Pellymouter:** 'Lillie Paetz', 'Small Talk', 'Ernst Gündchen', 'Möve', 'Something Special'

**Pentico Collection:** 'Bronze', 'Star', 'Coralie', 'Fern LaBorde', 'Frühlingsgold', 'Happy New Year', 'Harald Knebel', 'Lady Edna', 'Lil' Orphan Epi', 'Miss America', 'Orange Icing', 'Pilland's Pride', 'Pink Passion', 'Sugar Plum Fairy', 'Shotzie D', 'Sparkling Burgundy', 'Vive Rouge'

**Safari Park:** 'Beautie Wegener', 'David Wayne', 'Donald Raymond', 'Friedrich Adolph Haage Jr', 'Harald Knebel', 'Lynn Gilbert', 'Orange Icing', 'Tiny Flame', 'Wedding Bells'

**Linda Sinkovic:** 'April Shower', 'Crimson Arrow', 'Gold Charm', 'Herbert S Irwin'



## Is your current contact information up to date?

Have you been receiving your newsletters on time? Several issues of *Epi News* have been returned because of incorrect addresses. Please take the time to update your current mailing address, phone number and e-mail address with our membership chair, Beth Jackson. You can send her a note to

Membership Chair, **San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc**  
P.O. Box 126127

San Diego, CA 92112-6127

Or contact her directly at [bethjackso@yahoo.com](mailto:bethjackso@yahoo.com)

(858) 638-0956



### Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park:

Can be found on our website:

[SanDiegoEpi.org](http://SanDiegoEpi.org). Click on "Safari Park", then click on "Epi House", then "Volunteer".

#### Membership:

Single Membership \$15.00 per year

Dual Membership \$20.00 per year

(Dual is for two people, same address,  
one newsletter)

International Membership \$25.00 per year



*Epi News* is published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please let the editor know of your intention to submit any articles by the date of the General Meeting so that appropriate space can be allocated.

( e-mail at [jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com) )

#### Have You Moved?

If you have moved or recently changed your address, please let us know your new address so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption. Send it to membership – USPS or email address : (PO Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127 or [sdes\\_roster@hotmail.com](mailto:sdes_roster@hotmail.com))

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*Epi News* is published monthly by

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

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**General membership meetings** are held  
on the second Wednesday of each month  
at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:**  
**April 11, 2012**

**SDES Board Meetings** are held  
on the fourth Wednesday of each month  
at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Next Board meeting will be:  
**April 25, 2012**