

# The Bulletin

EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA



WINTER 2016 • VOL 72 • NO. 2

75TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
DIAMOND JUBILEE



PHOTOGRAPH: Keith Ballard

## ‘DIAMOND JUBILEE’

Hybridizer Gerry Mattijetz Reg. #12566

‘Mrs. Beardsley’ × ‘Francis C.’

**PUBLICATION INFORMATION:** *The Bulletin* is published quarterly in autumn, winter, spring and summer, by the Epiphyllum Society of America.

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**SUBMISSION** of news items, articles, slides, photographs or illustrations pertaining to epiphytic cacti, the ESA or other epi societies and their members are welcome. Query Editorial Board for lengthy articles. The Editorial Board reserves the right to reject or edit submitted materials, solicited or unsolicited. Items will be returned if requested in advance.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES:** 15th of Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATE:** Contact Editor for rates

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**PURPOSE STATEMENT SUMMARY:** The Epiphyllum Society of America was organized to: register and establish epithets and diagnostic descriptions of epiphytic cactus hybrids of the Tribe Hylocereeae, and publish the International Register (The Registry of Hybrids and Species), and periodic updates in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature, fulfill the duties of International Registration Authority, publish a newsletter, promote interest in epiphytic cacti hybrids, species, and related genera, conduct programs of interest to members; facilitate communication among members; and sponsor annual Flower Shows.

**SUBSCRIBERS** receive for one year's dues, four issues of the quarterly Bulletin, a Roster of Members, a yearly Addendum to The Registry, and a discount of \$15 off The Registry price.

**ANNUAL DUES:** For electronic world-wide delivery of *The Bulletin* \$20. For postal delivery (with black & white pictures) \$30 payable by check or money-order made out to the Epiphyllum Society of America, in US currency, drawn on a US bank. Mail payment to: ESA Membership, Geneva Coats 13674 Geranium St., Chino, CA 91710-5080 USA. All new Memberships or renewals due Jan 1. Annual Dues are applied to the following year if paid in September. Members may also pay online via our Square Market page: <https://squareup.com/market/epiphyllum-society-of-america>. Renewal receipts are not issued.

**FOR INQUIRIES** Send them to the ESA Address above or email them to genevacoats@aol.com.

**ROSTER CHANGES** or other membership issues send them to the Membership Secretary.

**MEETINGS:** Begin at 7:30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month, (except January, December and US national holidays). Admission and parking are free. Refreshments are served. Members and guests attending their first meeting receive a free potted epi. Regular meetings are held in the Lecture Hall B, Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA, USA. Take the Foothill Freeway (I-210) to the Baldwin Ave. exit, south. Follow the signs to the Arboretum. The December meeting is the Holiday Banquet. Paid dinner reservations are required.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS are open to all. The Board currently meets monthly, on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M., in the Bamboo Room, Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA.



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From Top:  
*'Bamba'* hybridizer Richard Poindexter,  
*'Ohlala'* hybridizer Earl Childs,  
*'Rio Grande'* hybridizer Cactus Pete.



# Winter Culture Calendar

**Adapted from "Culture Calendar" by Raymond Eden in The Bulletin: Vol. 56, No.2. Why do we include these basic culture rules with every Bulletin? Because they may be very helpful to a new member.**

As winter progresses in the northern half of the globe, your repotting efforts are probably over for the year, especially if you want flowers next spring. There are epi growers that start rooting cuttings all year, but rooting them will take longer in the cooler weather. Now is time to take steps to protect your epies from cold weather hazards. Watch for snails and slugs, which love the cold rainy nights. Snails especially, have been known to make their way into hanging plants where they do their dirty work above eye level. Slugs make their way into pots through their drain holes. They hide all day, and then come out at night. Never mind what the neighbors think, take a flashlight and run some nighttime "Search and Destroy Raids." Weather permitting, now might also be a good time to do some maintenance work. Check and replace wire hangers that are corroded by fertilizer residue or rust that may not withstand the rough treatment of strong winds. Look for poor drainage. Are the plant labels all still legible and will they last another year? If not, replace the labels before you have another "unknown." Are the supports for hanging plants still sound and are the platforms or shelves for the trellised or pedestal plants still okay? Do not let plants on shelves sit in a puddle. As always, pull any weeds that have started in the epi pots.

If you live in an area where frost is a serious threat, move your epies to a dark, sheltered or indoor location until spring. If frost is only an occasional threat, enclose the epi area in clear plastic sheets or even canvas. Epies don't grow much during the shortened days of winter, so too little light is not a major concern, as long as the potting soil is not too wet. Put outdoor holiday lights inside the plastic or canvas enclosure(s), and they will put out enough heat to prevent frost damage. There are thermostatic controls available. A simple timer is okay as long as the lights are on until dawn, since the coldest temperatures are just before sunrise.

Any epi with *Disocactus* in its parentage is particularly susceptible to cold. The "typical" epi will do fine if nighttime low temperatures do not drop below 45°F, with an occasional dip toward freezing, assuming it doesn't last more than a few hours. But, if daytime temperatures do not rise to at least 50° on most days, your epies will need more warmth.

Since the plants are not growing vigorously, cut back on water, but do not let the mix dry out completely. In fact, epies love rain, as long as they have good drainage and the rain is not excessive. With periodic rains that keep the mix moist, you may not need to water at all, and it might be weeks between actual waterings.

Most of us think of dehydration as a hot weather problem, but cold dry winds can cause drying too. Watering may not be the best answer. Better, shield them from strong winds, and moisten the ground beneath them to increase humidity, just like in the heat of summer. Remember though, epies like some air circulation.

Days are short, and the holidays are busy. There aren't many daylight hours to spend with our plants, but don't neglect your plants altogether. Winter doesn't last forever, and when the weather in your region warms up, it's time to fertilize. Plants of blooming age and size should get 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 at least 6 weeks before you expect flowering, to encourage flowers. Like most other things with epies, growers differ with regard to allowing small immature epies to bloom. Some growers de-bud such plants, feeling budding and flowering saps the strength of the small plants. Others feel the plants "know" what's best for themselves and leave the plants alone, fully knowing the bud(s) very well may fall off anyway.

## The Many Rewards for Volunteering.

BY Keith Ballard

First, there are the "Epibucks," which are earned by ESA volunteers and can be used to purchase cuttings, plants and supplies. Then there is the camaraderie (or friendship) that develops with your fellow epi growers. Also there's the satisfaction of helping the ESA promote its goal of encouraging the worldwide activity of growing epicacti.

Volunteering at The Pentico has some additional rewards. There's the involvement in an activity that includes fresh air and sunshine. You also learn how to care for your epies and gain information and advice from more experienced growers. Without our volunteers, many varieties of epies would go extinct or be unrecognized and unlabeled into the future. We also would not have the cuttings and plants for sale that we depend on for so much of our operating expenses.

Finally there's the annual volunteer appreciation day where you get to visit interesting places that you have never visited before and enjoy a nice lunch with your fellow volunteers. See page 29 for the story of the 2015 Volunteer Outing.

For information on volunteering for our any of our sales or our annual show please contact Marrie Caldiero. For volunteering at The Pentico please contact Ken Hanke.

# Highlights of Recent Meetings

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 6th MEETING

This evening Geneva Coats, who is involved in an amazing number of other activities, gave a presentation on African violets.

Some history on African violets includes: In 1892, Baron Walter von Saint Paul-Illaire, the German governor of a northeastern province in Tanganyika (now part of Tanzania), found a low-growing plant with very hairy, fleshy leaves, and striking blue flowers growing among shaded rocky ledges in the Usambara Mountains.

He collected samples of these plants and sent them to his father Baron Ulrich, who in turn took them to Herman Wendland, the Director of Herrenhausen Gardens in Hanover, Germany. Wendland named the genus Saintpaulia, in the family Gesneriaceae, in honor of the father and son who had shared their discovery with him.

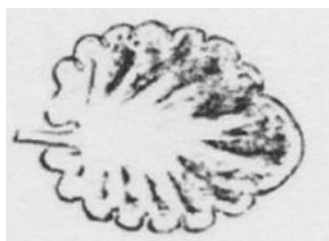
In 1893, the first commercially-produced plants were offered by Friedrich Benary in Erfurt, Germany. In 1926, Armacost and Royston of West Los Angeles, California imported African violet seeds from Germany and England and used the resulting plants to develop ten new African violet hybrids.

Since that time, African violets have become one of the world's most popular houseplants not only in the U.S., but in Europe also. Because of the tendency of Saintpaulia hybrids to "sport" or mutate, many new characteristics have been introduced to African violet growers. Some of the most important mutations include: "girl" foliage, variegated foliage, pink blossoms, double blossoms and chimerism.

To date, 21 species, six variants, and two natural hybrids of African violets have been identified in the wild. Each species has its own specific habitat unique to East Africa. African violets do not grow naturally anywhere else in the world.

Geneva showed over 100 slides that illustrated the classifications of leaf and flower types, a sample of two of the types is shown below and a picture of Geneva is included:

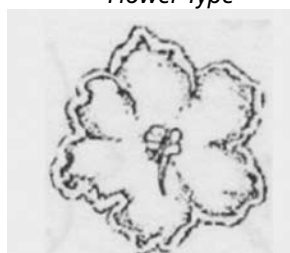
Leaf Type



"Girl"

Distinctive feature; white spot at the base.

Flower Type



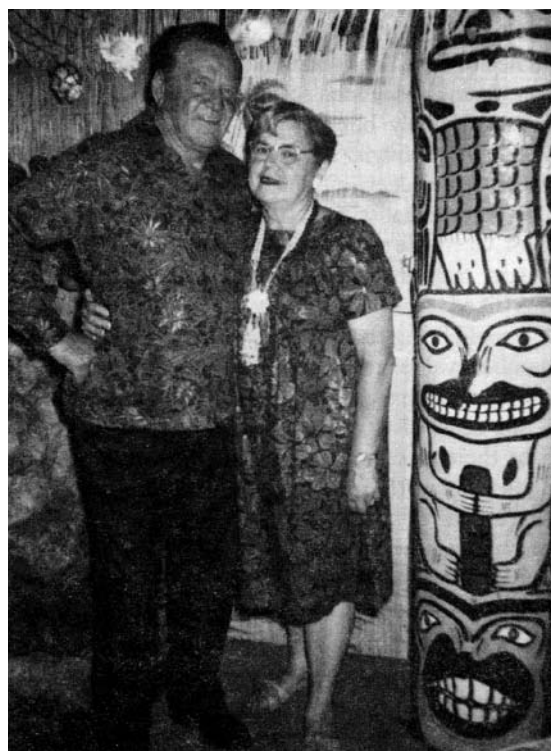
"Ruffled Geneva Star"

A flower of 5 equally sized & spaced petals with a ruffled white edge. Without the white edge it is simply a "Ruffled Star".

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 3rd MEETING

The program for this meeting was a video presentation of the hybrids of four early commercial epi nurseries by President Robert Kuettle. When he could, he included some historical data, including an interview with Mrs. Cactus Pete, and an article by F. Braun: "Epiphyllum Hybrids and their Hybridizers." This historic data is reprinted below. The presentation included originations from:

**Cactus Pete** (CP, 392 Registrations 1940-1961) "One of the two growers who are probably the most well-known to epiphyllum collectors are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vinkemulder, better known as the Cactus Petes, who for 34 years raised many fine varieties in Los Angeles and whose business, upon their retirement, was continued by their son Cactus Pete Jr., at 4949 Valley Boulevard in Los Angeles, California. The other most well-known grower is, of course, the Beahm Gardens."



Cactus Pete and Mrs. Cactus Pete Sr. ESA President 1948

President Kuettle's information included an interview with Mrs. Cactus Pete. Here is part of what she said:

"Our first introduction to the 'Orchid Cactus' must have been in about 1928 or 1929. We had given up our Gift Shop and started in what we felt was a much more interesting line. We had established a small Cactus Nursery on Glendale Blvd. in Los Angeles. These were 'Depression Days' and no one had much money to spend for luxuries and so we were not much surprised when, one day, a customer came to us, saying that she would like to have some cactus for her outdoor gardens, but could not afford them. However, she told us, she did have some plants which she called 'Phyllocactus.' These had lovely flowers, she said, and, noting that

we did not have any, she wondered if we would consider trading plants with her. In those days everyone traded. Honey, eggs, rabbits—anything that could be used. We were regular ‘Horse Traders’ when it came to that, and so we told her to bring us a few (sight unseen) and we would try them.

The plants she brought us looked pretty disappointing (in our estimation). They were semi-dormant and really looked rather sad to us, but we kept our word. There were three of them, no names, but they later proved to be what are now called

‘Gloria’, ‘Scarlet Giant’ and ‘Padre’. Pete was not very enthused with these sad-looking plants, so he said, rather emphatically, that I could have the things but NO MORE TRADING!!! We still had not seen the flowers but what could these dried-up things have which could possibly compare with the desert beauties which were our specialty?

One day this customer came back. She told us that her plants were starting to bloom and she invited us to come to her house to see them. We did! Such a sight! We will never forget it!

She had been collecting them for some time and she had quite large plants. One plant of Padre had grown up the side of her lath-house and she had trained it across the underside of the roof, along with a large and very dense ‘asparagus fern’ which almost covered it. Padre was in full bloom and, with its gay flowers surrounded by and peeping out of the soft fern, it was a heavenly sight... It truly took our breath away! Needless to say, we were SOLD on the plants right then and there!”

*I don't know how many of Cactus Pete's originations still exist, but I do have 'Eli Obidiah', 'King Midas' and 'Star of Persia'. The Pentico Collection contains over 50 varieties. KCB*

#### **Dr. R. W. Poindexter** (RWP, 461 Registrations 1940-1943)

“Another prominent early hybridizer was the late Dr. R. W. Poindexter of Compton, California. He became an enthusiast after seeing the collections of Wegener and Houghton. Prior to his death on March, 16, 1943, he sold his nursery and moved to Carlsbad, California, taking with him his choicest plants and seedlings. His hybrids, with certain exceptions, are mainly large to extra-large flowers such as ‘Marina Special’, one of the best whites; ‘Blackamore’, and the spectacular, but very variegated, ‘Joseph’s Coat’.”

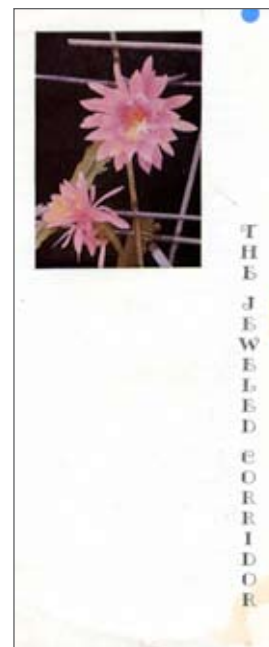


*The first Cactus Pete Catalog featured 141 varieties of Epiphyllum hybrids*

Also noteworthy is some of his unusual hybrid names like ‘Creeper’, ‘Crunch’, ‘Flabergasta’, ‘Foolze’, ‘Gewgew’, ‘Pig’ and ‘Rabbit Pants’.

*At least six of his 461 registrations including: 'Eden', 'Kumso', 'Plupel', 'Rongo' and 'Sunset Orchid' I know still exist, but there are more. KCB*

**Coolidge Rare Plants Nursery** (CLDG, 239 Registrations 1938-1951) “D. W. Coolidge of Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens, 889 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena, was another important hybridizer, although this formed only a small part of his business, which was a very high-class establishment specializing in raising orchids, camellias and other choice shrubs. Upon his death, the business was carried on by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Mulvihill. Upon Mrs. Mulvihill’s death in 1955, the site was acquired by a church, and the entire stock sold on the site to persons fortunate to be present and with prior knowledge of the sale. Coolidge introduced his hybrids through commercial growers of these plants. His originations include one of the best modern hybrids, and one of the most used in hybridizing, ‘Pegasus’.



*Coolidge Catalog #2 featured 69 varieties of Epiphyllum hybrids*

*Of the Coolidge originations, 'Astronaut', 'Ber-Tee', 'Golden Halo', 'Pegasus', 'Pink Chiffon', 'Punch Bowl', 'Winged Pharoah Improved', and 'Young Nun' I know still exist, and there are about 40 varieties in The Pentico Collection. KCB*

**Earl Childs** (EC, 151 registrations 1970-1977) Earl Childs first shows up in The Bulletin in December 1959 as winning in the Photo Contest. The record also shows he was quite active in the society: winning in Annual Shows and later Photo Contests, giving presentations and apparently hybridizing. Earl is the individual who took photographs of Gertrude W. Beahm’s typed list of epi hybrids, which was the genesis of the Registry/Directory.

He personally registered exactly three of his hybrids: ‘Clarence Bright’, ‘Gladys Jones’ and ‘Lururia’. All the rest were registered by others, mainly by Hawks’ Epiphyllum Nursery (HKS) 129, by Beahm (BHM) 15 and a scattering of individuals.

*I know that 'Bill Ward's Ruby' and 'Ohlala' still exist, and there are over 30 varieties in the Pentico Collection. KCB*



# Geneva's Tips for Growing African Violets

- Grow only the number of plants for which you have space and time to tend.
- When in doubt THROW IT OUT. Fussy growers aren't worth your time.
- Save a leaf or two if you would like to try to start the plant over.
- Use mature but not old leaves for propagation.
- Experiment until you are successful.
- Inspect plants daily. Watch for pests and disease.
- Keep the soil lightly and evenly moist.
- Use room temperature water. Cold water can kill roots.
- Filtered or distilled water is best. Do not use softened water (high in sodium).
- Provide good drainage. Never allow the pot to sit in standing water.
- Don't allow the pot to get bone dry and then flood it. Roots will rot.
- Top or bottom watering are OK...wicking or capillary matting are superior.
- Leach the soil every month or two if you don't regularly top water.
- Mason's twine in a fine gauge is good for wicking.
- Use synthetics for wicks, like acrylic or nylon.
- Do not use natural fibers which will rot, such as cotton or wool.
- Furnish humidity and ventilation. About 50% humidity is preferred.
- Kitchens and bathrooms provide superior humidity and warmth.
- Keep the room temperature between 60-80 with no sudden extreme changes.
- Cleanse leaves with tepid water when they need it.
- Avoid leaving standing water on leaves or crown of the plant. Blot dry with QTips.
- Fertilize regularly but lightly, using a weak liquid solution.
- Use a urea-free fertilizer formula.



*Geneva Coats with a few of her violets and streptocarpus*

- Look for balanced N-P-K levels.
- Provide plenty of good light but not strong direct midday sunlight.
- Turn the plant regularly for balanced growth.
- Try different exposures. A change in windows or using fluorescent light may help.
- Fluorescent lighting is kept about 6"-12" above plant for 12-14 hrs daily.
- Repot every six months to a year, using fresh mix.
- Don't overpot. Use a pot about 1/3 the diameter of the plant.
- Use a sterile mix that is light and easily penetrated.
- Suggested mix is equal parts peat, perlite and vermiculite. You may also add charcoal.
- Remove spent blooms, withered stems and old leaves regularly.
- Remove suckers before they get large and ruin the symmetry of the plant.
- Enjoy your violets, but LIMIT YOUR COLLECTION!
- Give away your excess plants to friends, neighbors and retirement homes.



*Some of Geneva's African Violets (L-R) Mac's Scorching Sun, Rebel's Splatter Kake, Optimara Friendship, King's Ransom*

# THE ESA's 75th DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

by Keith Ballard

The ESA's 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Luncheon was held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Monrovia Restaurant in Monrovia, CA. Jim Nones planned and worked hard to make the day a success, and should be commended for that success. Jim made displays, invited guests, obtained donations of door prizes as well as cuttings for a silent auction, and even got certificates of recognition from various city officials for some of this year's honorees. 75 years after the founding of the ESA, Jim even had located and invited some descendants of the original ESA Founders. Like earlier celebrations planned by Jim, he had a wall full of memorabilia and photos of historic people, events and epiphyllum flowers from the ESA Archives.

Marrie Caldiero once again made beautiful centerpieces for each of the tables, featuring fruit, greens and white roses. She also put long-stemmed red roses at each place setting.

All four of the California Epiphyllum Societies had representation at the party. The ESA, SBES and SDES were all there, of course, and even SFES was represented by Rose West.

The program follows. Generally, photos are included herein for each of the presentations or introductions. Jim had planned each of the Presentation Teams to include one or more of the ESA Board of Directors, as a way of involving as many people as possible in the celebration.

The affair started at 11:00 a.m. and the time before lunch was set aside as a social time to allow the guests to greet old friends or meet new friends.

Promptly at noon, Keith Ballard, who was substituting for ESA President Robert Kuettle (who was convalescing from a recent surgery) welcomed the attendees and announced that lunch was served.

After lunch, the team of Keith Ballard, Pat Ballard and Ed Beardsley gave some **ESA History and acknowledged some special guests**. Keith told the history of the founding of the ESA, using the same text about the founding from the article "The ESA's Historic Firsts," also in this Bulletin. He then stated that Mr. Scott Hazelton in effect started what became the ESA, then Keith introduced Mr. Hazelton's two grandchildren: Scott Hazelton Jr. and Linda Hazelton. Also present was Ida Watanabe,

daughter of R.F. Kado, nursery owner and charter member of the ESA. Pat Ballard stated that there are seven living former ESA Presidents, three of which were present in the room: Loretta Garcia, Keith Ballard and Ed Beardsley. Ed then introduced: Myron Kimnach, Internationally recognized as an authority on cactaceae; President Janice Wakefield of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society; Jim Hendrick as the representative of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Dr. Rudi Dorsch, a frequent speaker at EPICONs.

Next was the **Presentation of the 2015 Alice Buchanan Award** by Dr. Dick Kohlschreiber and Ken Hanke. Dr. Kohlschreiber read the complete requirements for the award, which state in essence: "given for efforts for the ESA above and beyond the call of duty, and generally given only to ESA Members." Then Ken presented the well-deserved award to Marrie Caldiero, who was completely surprised by the award.

Next was a **Tribute to Galen Pittman**, which was given by Geneva Coats and Jerry Moreau. The tribute included the presentation of a "Recognition Award" from the LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's office to Galen's mother, Doris Pittman, and sister, Kathy Brown, for Galen posthumously. Geneva also announced the creation of the "Galen Pittman Award," which replaces the "Best In Show Award" in the ESA's Annual Flower Show. This will include a new trophy in addition to the perennial "Best in Show" ribbon. Jerry then spoke about Galen.

This was followed by an interlude of **Musical Entertainment** by Tommy Dodson, singer/pianist for our celebration again this year. He always sings a mix of old favorites, not just holiday songs.

Next was a **Tribute to Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens** who are retiring at the end of this year, by Michele Davis, co-owner/operator of the former Grey/Davis Epiphyllum Nursery. Then Chuck Everson gave a nice historical sketch of the history of Rainbow Gardens through the years, starting with the purchase of Blue Bird Nursery.

This was followed by the **Presentation of the 2015 ESA's Founders Award** to Don Patterson. This award is given for "Lifetime" achievement, promotion, advancement, etc. of epiphyllum and/or epicactus culture. The award was presented by Jim Nones, Dr. Rudi Dorsch and Jerry Moreau. Don himself followed with a very witty and humorous acceptance speech.

The last formal presentation was of **Certificate of Recognition Awards**: to Darryl Miyamoto, Evelyn Shiraki, Ed Beardsley, Dick Kohlschreiber and Keith & Pat Ballard. These "Certificate of Recognition Awards" were from various governmental offices. They were given by the full board that was present: Jim Nones, Geneva Coats, Ken Hanke, Marrie Caldiero, Heather Sabin, Maria Schmidt, and Jeff Bates.

As the day closed, the ongoing Silent Auction was concluded, with among other things, a cutting of Yellow Tang selling for \$52! Jim Nones and Maria Schmidt drew names and handed out epiphyllum cuttings and other donations as door prizes. Finally, those people whose birthday was closest to the day of the founding of the ESA, May 5 (ignoring the year), won the table centerpieces and the party was over.





*(L-R) Geneva Coats, Jerry Moreau, Doris Pittman & Kathy Brown. A Tribute to Galen Pittman.*



*Heather Sabin presenting certificate to Evelyn Shiraki & Darryl Miyamoto. In the background Board members (L-R) Ed Beardsley, Marrie Caldiero, Jim Nones & Ken Hanke.*



*Don Patterson with Founders Award & Jerry Moreau*



*General room view with serving tables*



*Janice Wakefield, President of San Diego Epiphyllum Society & Sandra Chapin*



*Linda Hazelton & Scott Hazelton Jr.*





*Loretta Garcia, Keith Ballard & Ed Beardsley*



*Marrie Caldiero with Alice Buchanan Award & Ken Hanke*



*Myron Kimnack (standing) & Chuck Everson*



*ESA Board (L-R): Marrie Caldiero, Keith Ballard, Geneva Coats, Ed Beardsley, Heather Sabin, Maria Schmidt, Jim Nones, Ken Hanke & Jeff Bates.*



*Tommy Dobson, Singer/Pianist*



*Chuck Everson & Michele Davis. A tribute to Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens.*



# The 2015 VOLUNTEERS OUTING

by Keith Ballard

It has become an annual tradition to treat the ESA volunteers to an interesting, horticulturally-focused outing and a lunch. This year, the ESA Volunteer Coordinator, Marrie Caldiero, outdid herself planning a trip to two gardens in Pasadena, the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden and the Arlington Garden, which took place on Sunday, October 25th. Most people saw the gardens first, and then had lunch during the period from 10:30am to 4pm, but the Ballards had something else to do in the morning, so we did it in reverse order.



*Hostesses (L-R) Christina Prevost & Marrie Caldiero*

The lunch was held at the lovely home of Marrie's daughter, Christina Prevost. The lunch was delicious, as you would expect, and a picture of our hostess and the lovely backyard are included herein. Pat and I left the luncheon early to get to the gardens in time to have a tour before they closed. The members that had toured that morning told us to try to get the owner, Jim Haddad, as a tour guide, and to be sure to see the compost area. The gardens are located in the older part of Pasadena, in a maze of streets. We only found it with the help of our GPS.



*Volunteer Luncheon in Prevost Backyard*

The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden located at 270 Arlington Drive in Pasadena, is a superb example of the many private gardens that were a part of that phenomenon in the early 1900s, and one



*Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden Trail View*

of the few still intact today. It was designed and created in 1935 by Kinzuchi Fujii, a landscape designer and craftsman from Japan. His patrons, Charles and Ellamae Storrier Stearns, were wealthy benefactors of the arts and significant players in the cultural and civic life of Pasadena.



*The Teahouse Setting*

The teahouse is named Niko-an, meaning Abode at Two Ponds. The original teahouse was built in Japan to Kinzuchi Fujii's exacting specifications, then disassembled and shipped to Los Angeles for reassembly in the garden. The twelve tatami mats (3' x 6' each) covering the floor signified a teahouse of great importance. The teahouse in the Imperial Garden in Japan only has 6 mats. In addition to the authentic teahouse, the garden landscape offers a variety of other beautiful details. With its grand size of nearly two acres, the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden contains many of the much admired design features found in the most lavish of Japanese-style gardens of its era.

The gardens have survived many changes since 1935: the original Storrier Stearns mansion is long gone, there was a destructive fire in 1981, and there have been land use battles with Caltrans. Though





*The Inside of The Teahouse Setting*

the original teahouse burned down in 1981, it has been rebuilt. Dr. Takeo Uesugi, an accomplished landscape architect and designer, worked closely with the current owners, Jim and Connie Haddad to restore the teahouse, faithfully adhering to Kinzuchi's original drawings, photographs and architectural plans. Like the first, it was built in Japan, disassembled and shipped to Los Angeles and reassembled in the garden.

At our check-in at the Japanese Garden, when the staff learned that Pat and I were part of the earlier ESA tour, they had Jim Haddad conduct a personal tour just for us. We did see the compost area, a long series of wood covered concrete boxes about 6 feet long and 3 feet high and wide along a long wall. Jim stated that they were so efficient that after a period in them, horse manure could be eaten. I don't think so!!



*The ESA Volunteers at the Storrier Stern Japanese Gardens*

Right across the street is a very different garden, Arlington Garden. The only dedicated public garden in Pasadena, it is 3 acres that are owned by Caltrans and leased to the city. The garden is open every day of the year, and is free. First and foremost, Arlington Garden is a water-wise garden, featuring drought-tolerant plants from California and the Mediterranean. The space has been divided into many "garden rooms" featuring cacti, succulents, rare native plants,

etc. The spaces really do feel like rooms, with one area having a patio table and chairs, then around a corner, you'll find another having Adirondack chairs for relaxing. There is even an orange grove that produces hundreds of pounds of oranges, which the garden volunteers have made into marmalade at E. Waldo Ward and then sell each year as a fundraiser for the garden. As beautiful as the Japanese garden across the street is, this is the park to visit if you'd like to sit and read a book, or watch the birds.



*Arlington Garden View (2nd Garden)*



*Some of the bird life photographed by Heather Sabin (clockwise from top left: Lesser goldfinch, White-crowned sparrow, Acorn woodpecker in an oak, female Anna's hummingbird in an Leonotis leonurus 'Alba' variety.*



# The ESA'S Historic Firsts, Part 1

by Keith Ballard

This article, gathered from the pages of ESA's *The Bulletin*, highlights the first occurrence or appearance of an event or thing that became, at least for an extended period, part of the ESA's "life" or functioning over the years. For some of the "firsts," some additional data not gathered from *The Bulletin* is included. This listing is in generally in chronological order. In the early years, the individual Bulletins were numbered using Roman numerals. For consistency's sake, in this article all Bulletins are cited using Arabic numerals.

## Founding of The ESA

The ESA was founded on May 5, 1940. The whole story is told in an excellent article by Shirley Marneus which is found in *The Bulletin*: Vol. 45, No. 6 (July/August 1990). This original article will not be reproduced here, but a brief overview is included herein.



*Introducing The Founders*

The essence of the story is that: "Mr. Scott Haselton of Pasadena, former editor of the 'Cactus and Succulent Journal of America', while gathering material for his 'Epiphyllum Handbook' was distressed by the confusion of names of cultivated epiphyllum varieties, and suggested a committee be formed to work on the problem of names and perhaps start an organization of growers. A committee was formed with Dr. Robert W. Poindexter as chair, which did over time, standardize 66 epi names and organized a meeting of interested growers and commercial nurserymen. The meeting was held at the Ventura home of Mrs. Theresa Monmonier on May 5, 1940, for the purpose of organizing a flower society and to decide on which word to call the plants, Epiphyllum or Phyllocactus?"

By unanimous votes, the Epiphyllum Society of America was formed, and the plant name selected was Epiphyllum.

One of the goals of the newly formed ESA and still a goal today, is to prevent duplicate names for epi hybrids.

(If you want a copy of any of the original articles or Bulletins, contact the ESA librarian, Jim Nones.)

## First Bulletin

The first ESA Bulletin: Vol. 1, No. 1, is dated November 5, 1945. A picture of its cover is shown herein. The five-year gap from the 1940 founding of the ESA until the printing of the first issue of the Bulletin was due to World War II. This first Bulletin is only five pages, but those pages cover similar topics to today's Bulletins, including: "Highlights of the Meeting," "Seasonal Tips," etc. In this issue, a memorial to Dr. Robert W. Poindexter caught my eye.



*The First Bulletin Cover*

Dr. Poindexter was one of the ESA founders; he presided at the founding meeting until the first ESA President was elected, and he was a very active hybridizer with 461 Registrations.

The publishing schedule of the early Bulletins apparently was flexible, and there were often six or more per year. This was changed to four per year to coincide with the seasons in 1995. The Bulletin numbering system is what the early members thought was appropriate for what they viewed as a Scientific Journal.

## First Annual Garden Tour

Epi garden tours started shortly after the ESA was founded. A map for the first is found in Vol. 1, No. 5 (May 1946) which was for use as you drove yourself to the tour stops. Over the passing years, tours got to be a "big deal," sometimes even bigger than the shows. The tours varied in structure. Sometimes they were auto tours. Some were timed. Some used a bus or two and lasted all day, and for many, lunch was provided. Members' gardens were always toured, and sometimes the tour included commercial epi nurseries. Judging from the Bulletin, the touring tradition died out in the mid-1990s.

## Registry/Directory

Printing descriptions of epi flowers started quite early. In fact, the first occurrence was in *The Bulletin*: Vol. 2, No. 1 (1946). By Vol. 2, No. 6 (1947) it became a regular feature for a while in *The Bulletin* as "Originators Descriptions". These descriptions were not to a standard format (that came later) and often omitted the flower size, and more importantly, omitted the parentage. The parentage was omitted intentionally, as the commercial originators were concerned that if people knew the parentage, other hybridizers might be able to identically reproduce the same results as the epi's the nurseries were trying to sell. In reality, that doesn't happen with human children or with epi's either.

With time, the number of different new epi's and those discovered by the ESA's Research Committee became too large for the Bulletin, and it became clear that an independent document was necessary.

In spite of some misgivings about the task including: formatting, the amount of real data available and how long it would take to compile, work started in 1954 on the Directory according to The Bulletin: Vol. 9, No. 4. Quoting from that Bulletin's "News Note":

"Work on the Epiphyllum Directory is moving along slowly, but surely. To show the amount of work involved on just the first three letters of the alphabet, A, B and C, about 700 names are listed. Some carry simply the earliest published date; others also include the hybridizing date, hybridizer, even the plant number. Many have a single word description, others up to about eight words."

Many different people contributed to the Directory effort, and apparently work was not continuous, as it appears that it was 1977 before the Directory was ready for the next step.

Combining information from two of then-editor Velma Featherstone's articles on the same events, from Vol. 32, No. 1 (1976) and Vol. 34, No. 6 (1979):

"The listing (i.e. Directory) we are printing was built on this foundation. Earl Childs took pictures of Gertrude W. Beahm's typed list."

Gertrude W. Beahm was certainly the guiding light of this whole endeavor and she did no end of research in compiling the records of names of hybrids.

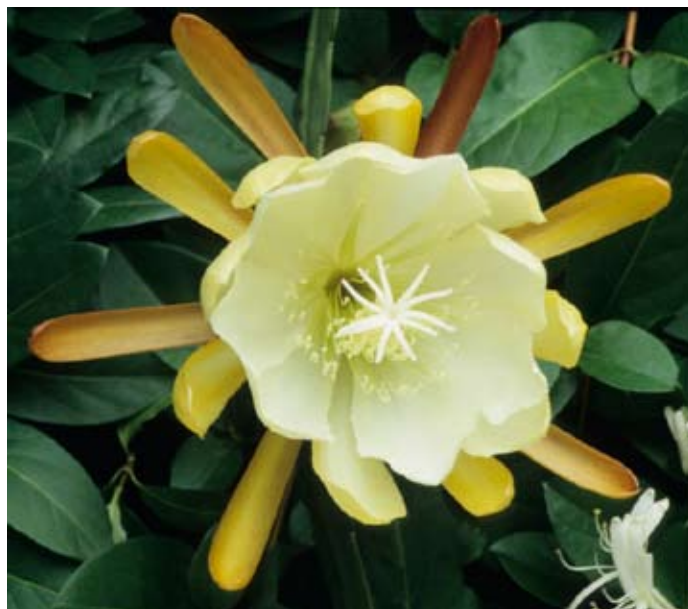
"In 1967, my husband, Porter Featherstone, enlarged and printed 14 sets of these pictures, more than 2000 prints, but still, only fourteen people could own a set. From this beginning Fred L. Turner, in 1974-75, started computerizing lists of known names. He distributed the resulting computer print-outs incrementally, because of the cost factor, in the Bulletins of 1977 to the Society and to commercial growers. This was with the hope that more complete information could be obtained where it was lacking and new hybrids added later."

Thus, the Directory's first edition can be dated to 1977. This is also verified by the fact that Vol. 38, No. 5 (1983) states that the Directory Addendum No. 1, which was the first document updating or correcting the Directory, was dated 1978. Thus, the Directory itself must have been dated 1977.

Additionally, by 1977 the concern over revealing the parentage of new hybrids was long since gone. Also, until a lot of individual collectors were hybridizing, the name "Directory" made sense as it "directed" a potential buyer "to who had what hybrid." But that concept too is also long gone. In 2014, the name was changed for the 6th Edition to the "ESA's Registry of Hybrids and Species" because that more accurately reflects the publication's current function.

### Oldest registered Flower

The oldest flower in the Registry is 'Speciosus Lateritius' dated 1828, which probably is long since extinct. Actually, there are two dates for any given hybrid, when it was hybridized and when it was registered. More than likely, hybrids with dates in the Registry before the ESA was founded and the Registry existed, are probably hybridization dates and after the Registry existed are probably registration dates.



*Epiphyllum 'londonii'*

When I was looking at the Registry I happened to notice the hybrid 'Londonii' dated 1853. I have this cultivar! This is a perfect example of why a given name should not be reused, as someone may still have the original cultivar.

### First Annual Photo Contest

The Annual Picture Contest of members' photos was another early stand-alone activity that was very popular. This contest, like the Garden Tours, for a time was a bigger deal than the Shows. This contest typically took place at the September meeting after the installation of new officers, but occasionally was scheduled later in the year.

The results for the first contest are documented in The Bulletin: Vol. 2, No. 3 (1946). The thing that's really striking about this report that at least 12 different people took part in this contest and won awards. The total participation may have been even more than the 12 winners. By 1980, the Photo Contest had 14 categories of photos, but apparently participation was waning, and in 1983, the contest became a show of members' pictures without any competition. In 1993, the Annual Photo Show disappears completely from the Bulletin record. But according to The Bulletin: Vol. 51, No. 4 (June 1996), a photo competition was reborn as part of the Annual Flower Show, and has been included in every flower show since.

In addition, the reader is reminded that more often than not, a photo slideshow is part of most current general meetings.

### First Flower Show

The first Flower Show was actually an evening show, and was held at the Central Los Angeles Public Library downtown. The introduction to the show results in The Bulletin: Vol. 2, No. 8 (Spring 1947) by Muriel Merrell reads:



"On Thursday evening, May 15th, the ethereal gates to flower-heaven were swung wide at the Los Angeles Public Library, that all Epiphyllum lovers might go at will midst wondrous blooms and bask in the reflected ecstasy of their exotic beauty. Hundreds of flowers banked the many displays (in gamut from diminutive to magnificent), each flower claiming its full heritage of perfection. A new record of attendance was established. People came from everywhere to admire, and to become - inevitably potential 'collectors'..."



*Some of the Epi Flowers of the First Flower Show*

The Award results included:

Largest Flower (Epiphyllanae):

1st Prize - 'Sun Goddess'

2nd Prize - 'Amber Queen'

3rd Prize - white seedling

Smallest Flower (Epiphyllanae)

1st Prize - 'Tom Thumb'

Finest Flower

1st Prize - 'Moncherie'

2nd Prize - 'F.W. Beul'

Prize - 'Landmark'

From here the categories list only the winning person for:

Best Decorative Arrangement using one flower

Best Decorative Arrangement using more than one flower

Most Attractive Corsage

Card Table Display

The Flower Name-Guessing Contest

Over the years the location of the Annual Flower Show as well as the general meetings have varied quite a bit. Locations have included: the Central L. A. Public Library, the Pasadena Library, John Adams Middle School, Cambridge Park, Vertigo Playground and Yosemite Playground.

### First Daytime Flower Show

Through 1959, all the Flower Shows had occurred in the evening. Then, as per Madeline McGill in Vol. 15, No. 6:

"The first all-day E.S.A. Flower Show was held Sunday, May. 15, 1960 at Cambridge Park in Burbank, Calif. The weather was ideal and over 300 visitors turned out to see the display of beautiful cut flowers, plants in bloom and truly beautiful unusual arrangements of epiphyllums..."

"...Clarence Mendelson walked away with the cup as Sweepstakes-winner. Two of his arrangements were so beautiful that they are worth mentioning in detail. One huge display used a gilded century plant as a tree with 54 assorted blooms on the branch tips, another used epies with a puya stalk in bloom. Simply exotic!"

The Members-Only Show Rules included the following categories:

CLASS I – Single named varieties with predominating colors – 12 sections

CLASS II – Displays of more than one flower

Sections Included: 5 to 10 varieties, 10-20, 20-40, more than 40.

CLASS III – Corsages – 3 sections

CLASS IV – Flower arrangements – 4 Sections

CLASS V – New hybrids – non-commercial – 3 Sections, not by color

CLASS VI – Unusual displays

CLASS VII – Collections of small epi flowers under 4 inches

CLASS VIII – Related epiphytes - 2 Sections

CLASS IX – Best epiphyllum plant in bud, bloom or both

### First Flower Show at the LA County Arboretum

*Quoting from The Bulletin: Vol. 17, No. 6 (June 1962):*

"The Third Annual Daytime Flower Show was held at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum (the old name) in Arcadia, California, this year. The tremendous response of the public to publicity concerning our Show was never anticipated. 7,000 visitors attended, waiting in line for over 45 minutes to gain admittance. The double line extended far out into the parking lot for almost two blocks, the parking lot was jammed with automobiles three deep in space allowed for one car, on-the-street parking extended solidly for over a mile, and cars kept circling the area waiting for a vacant parking space to appear. The Show for which those people waited so patiently was well worth it. It was the most beautiful show ever presented by the ESA and had the greatest variety of entries. It also broke previous attendance records for any other Flower Show held at the Arboretum by any other organization."

The actual room this show was held in is never stated in the Bulletin record. Show instructions by the Show Chair in the previous Bulletin, Vol. 17, No. 5 (April 1962), state that the show room was "roughly 100 feet long and 65 feet wide, and 9 feet high." These dimensions don't even come close to those of Ayres Hall, so it must be the Lecture Halls A & B before the two rooms were divided by a hard wall. No wonder there were lines and a 45 minute wait to pass 7,000 people through the Show! Lecture Hall B, which the ESA now uses for General Meetings, is also called the Bamboo room.

At this time, the ESA General Meetings were not being held at the Arboretum. The Bulletin records state that both the meeting before the first Arboretum Show and the following meeting were held at Verdugo Playground. In fact, the General Meetings continued to be located other than at the Arboretum until September 1976, with this announcement in The Bulletin: Vol. 32, No. 1:



*Volunteers from the first Fundraiser at The Los Angeles Zoo. Noel Burndahl, who was President of the ESA at the time, is standing underneath the letters "LU" on the yellow EPIPHYLLUM banner hanging behind the last row.*

"We also start our fiscal year with a new meeting place and different day. Our next meeting will be held at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, in the lecture hall where we hold our annual flower shows."

That date was September the 7th on a Tuesday. The previous meeting day had been Thursday.

I remember that the first few shows Pat and I attended, around 1980, were in the Arboretum's Lecture Rooms A & B. I also remember that something like 10 years ago there was a scheduling conflict, and the ESA Show ended up in the combined rooms. Those two rooms feel really small after using Ayres Hall.

### First "Off -Campus" Fundraiser

Of course, epi cuttings have been offered for sale from the very first ESA meetings and shows. Our sales provide the funds for the various activities of the ESA. The first recorded off-campus fundraiser plant sale was the result of the following invitation reprinted from: Vol. 34, No. 4, (1979):

"The Epiphyllum Society has been asked to participate in a 'Garden Day' at the Los Angeles Zoo on April 29th, along with many other plant societies. This is a golden opportunity to promote our hobby. They expect at least 8,000 visitors and we will be permitted to sell cuttings and keep the proceeds of the sale. We will need cuttings to sell, so we are asking our members to bring cuttings to the meeting in April."

This fundraiser plant sale, keeping the same form and location at the zoo, lasted through April 1990.

Since the first fundraiser there have been many short term ones over the years, and a couple of very important long term and current ones including: the "Southern California Spring Garden Show" at The South Coast Plaza (originally called Crystal Court) in Costa Mesa. Another is the "Green Scene" at the Fullerton Arboretum. These two fundraisers continue to this year, but as important as they have become to the activities of the ESA, their early history has not been well-documented in the Bulletin.

*This article is continued in The Bulletin: Vol. 71 No. 3 as: "THE ESA'S Historic Firsts: Part 2".*

## A Trick For Removing Epi Thorns

*by Keith Ballard*

If you have an epi thorn in your skin that you're having trouble pulling out, here is a trick to remove it that I have never had fail. Take some white wood glue, like Elmer's or WillHold, and spread it over the area of the thorn. A Q-tip is a good applicator. Use a thin coat of glue so that it will dry faster. It doesn't need to be a thick coat to work. Let the glue completely dry to a clear coat. Then, peel the glue spot off and the thorn will be pulled out and off with the glue.





**SOME OF CACTUS PETE'S HYBRIDS**



*'Acadia'*



*'Cindy Shereen'*



*'Burke Lee'*



*'Dancing Doll'*



*'Challenge'*



*'Don Juan'*





*'Eli Obidiah'*



*'Golden Glow'*



*'Flirtation'*



*'Indian Moon'*



*'Gabriel's Horn'*



*'Ivan The Terrible'*





*'Jinx Falkenberg'*



*'London Fog'*



*'Joy'*



*'Los Angeles'*



*'King Midas'*



*'Madame Pele'*



*'Maryland'*



*'Nevada'*



*'Ming Gold'*



*'Painted Lady'*



*'Miss Hollywood'*



*'Pete's Snowflake'*





*'Pete's Surprise'*



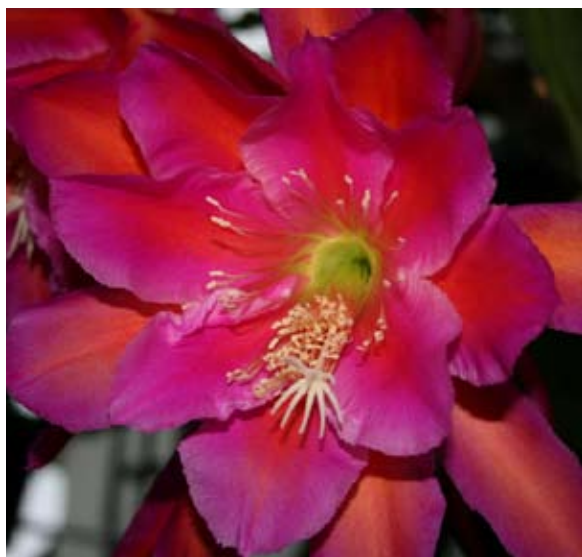
*'Rio Grande'*



*'Polar Star'*



*'Rose Luster'*



*'Rainbow Trail'*



*'Ruffled Satin'*





*'San Antonio'*



*'Star of Persia'*



*'Shauna'*



*'Tippy'*



*'Spun Gold'*



*'Will Rogers'*



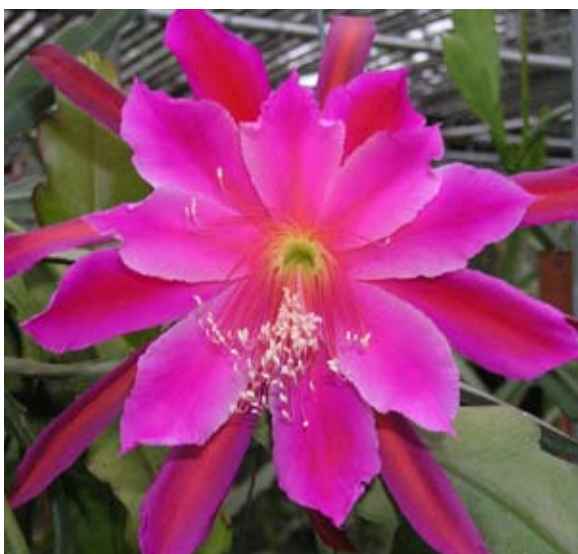
SOME OF COOLIDGE'S HYBRIDS



*'Amoena'*



*'Ber-Tee'*



*'Astronaut'*



*'Breathtaking'*



*'Beaux Yeux'*



*'Brown Bear'*



*'Cherokee Maid'*



*'Cranapple'*



*'Cherubim'*



*'Denis Kucera'*



*'Child of the Sun'*



*'Dolores Del Rio'*





*'Goldilocks'*



*'One In A Million'*



*'Gypsy Kerchief'*



*'Pegasus'*



*'Jungle Jewel'*



*'Pink Chiffon'*



*'Pink Heroics'*



*'Shinning Armour'*



*'Punch Bowl'*



*'Tranquility'*



*'Rose Gold'*



*'Yellow Delight'*



**SOME OF EARL CHILDS' HYBRIDS**



*'Albertine'*



*'Big Horn'*



*'Asoka'*



*'Bill Ward's Ruby'*



*'Beaming Light'*



*'Copper Horn'*



*'Fair Annet'*



*'Gladys Jones'*



*'Farolito'*



*'High and Mighty'*



*'Gay Señorita'*



*'Katrina'*





*'Liliput'*



*'Mystic Mood'*



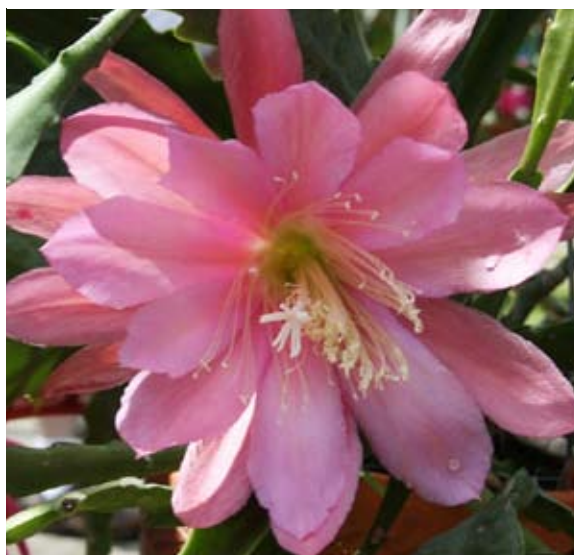
*'Marian Burlingham'*



*'Ohlala'*



*'My Melanie'*



*'Ole Pal'*





*'Peppermint Stick'*



*'Tiny Jewel'*



*'Persian Tiger'*



*'Virginia Strong'*



*'Sabrina'*



*'Zingara'*



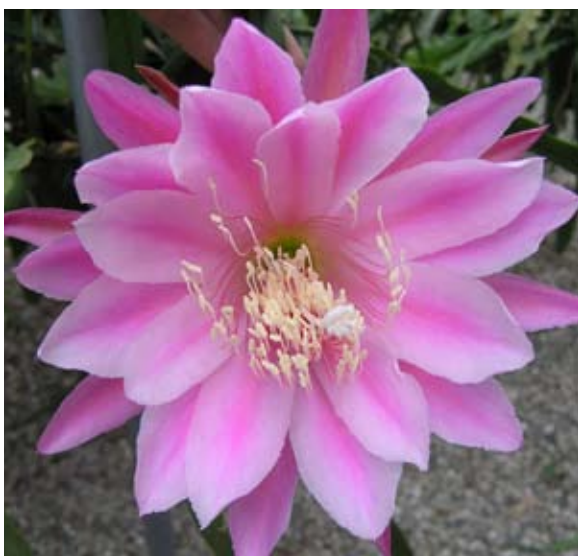
**SOME OF ROBERT POINDEXTER'S HYBRIDS**



*'Bama'*



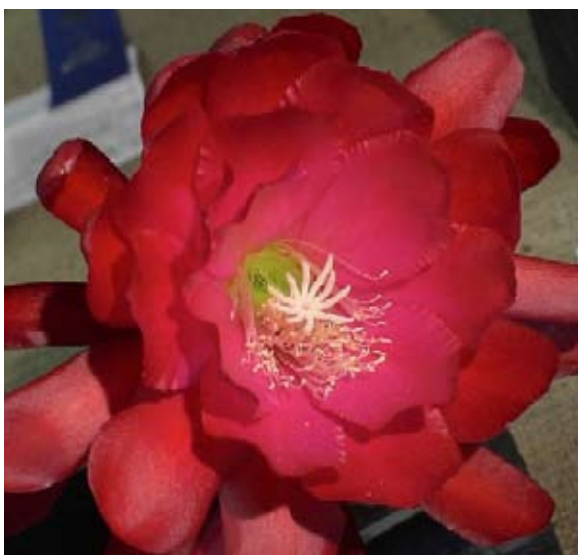
*'Blanco'*



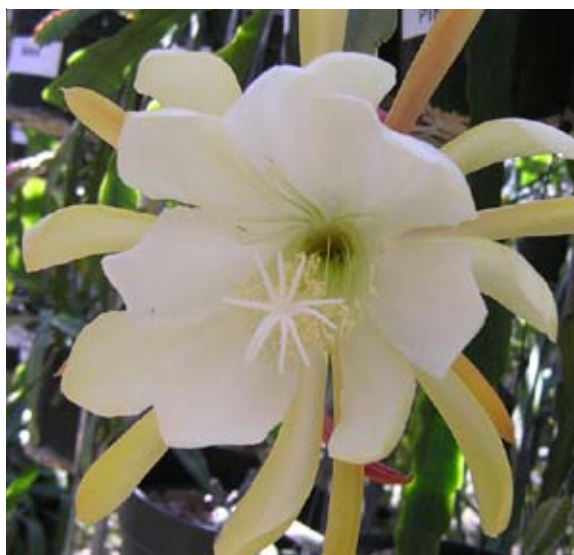
*'Bamba'*



*'Bridal Veil'*



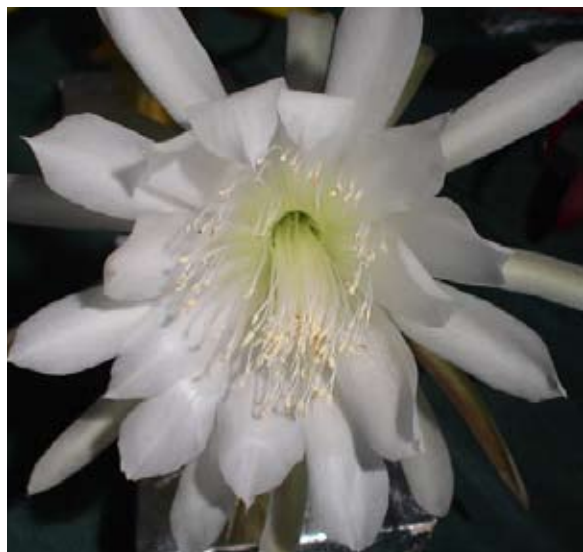
*'Blackamore'*



*'Byleelo'*



*'Dark Passion'*



*'Iceland Star'*



*'Fever'*



*'Kumso'*

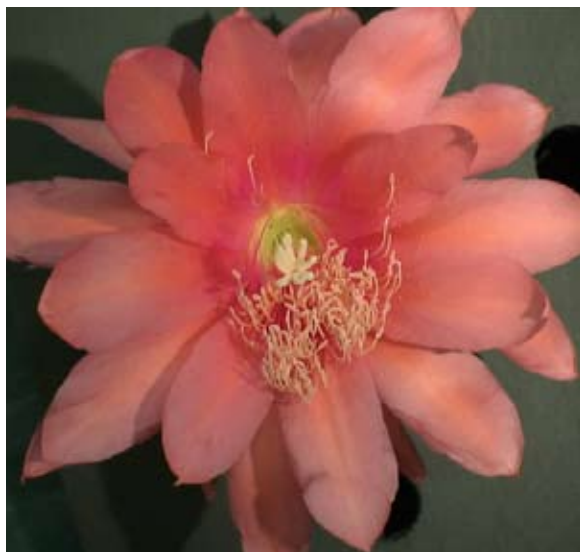


*'Flower Basket'*



*'Lucille'*





*'Party'*



*'Sunset Orchid'*



*'Rongo'*



*'Thunder Cloud'*

## Revised Refreshments Schedule

To find when it is your turn to bring refreshments for an ESA meeting, look for your last name initial in the column to the left. The meeting date to the right is when you have the privilege of providing food, serving and cleaning up. Please, note that name listing is often completely revised for each Bulletin.

LAST INITIAL ..... MEETING DATE

Be-Cr ..... Tue, Mar 1, 2016

D-Ha ..... Tue, April 5, 2016

He-Ku ..... Tue, May 3, 2016

L-Mi ..... Tue, June 7, 2016

Mk-No ..... Tue, July 5, 2016

O-Ra ..... Tue, Aug 2, 2016

Ri-Sd ..... Tue, Sep 6, 2016

St-Th ..... Tue, Oct 4, 2016

V-Ba ..... Tue, Nov 1, 2016

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# Calendar of Events

## FEB 2016

**ESA BOARD MEETING** Tue, Feb 23, 7:30 pm

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## MAR 2016

**ESA GENERAL MEETING** Tue, Mar 1, 7:30 pm

**Program:** Jack Engberg of Gro-Power presenting a talk on fertilizer & a short program on 2015 blooms from the Pentico

**Refreshments:** Members with last name starting with Bd thru Cr the March meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up.

**Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Lecture Hall 2 aka. The Bamboo Room.

**Pentico Work Party** Tue, Mar 5, 9:00 am

**Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Contact: Ken Hanke 818-239-6479

**ESA BOARD MEETING** Tue, Mar 29, 7:30 pm

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## APR 2016

**ESA GENERAL MEETING** Tue, Apr 5, 7:30 pm

**Program:** TBD

**Refreshments:** Members with last name starting with D thru Ha the April meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up.

**Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Bamboo Room.

**Pentico Work Party** Tue, Apr 9, 9:00 am

**Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Contact: Ken Hanke 818-239-6479

**GREEN SCENE PLANT & GARDEN EXPO** Sat & Sun, April 16-17, 10 am to 4 pm

ESA will be selling plants and cuttings at this event.

**Location:** Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA 92831

**ESA BOARD MEETING** Tue, Apr 26, 7:30 pm

**SPRING GARDEN SALE** Thur-Sun, April 28-30, May 1

ESA will be selling plants and cuttings at this event.

**Location:** South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, Ca 92626 — Crate and Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing

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## MAY 2016

**SBES ANNUAL SHOW & SALE** Sun, May 1

**ESA GENERAL MEETING** Tue, May 3, 7:30 pm

**Program:** TBD

**Refreshments:** Members with last name starting with D thru Ha the April meeting is your turn to bring snacks, help serve and clean up.

**Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Bamboo Room.

**Pentico Work Party** Tue, May 7, 9:00 am

**Location:** Arboretum of LA County, Contact: Ken Hanke 818-239-6479

**SDES 45th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE** Sat-Sun, May 8

**ESA ANNUAL SHOW & SALE** Sat-Sun, May 14-15, Sat SALE ONLY

**Location:** Los Angeles Arboretum, Ayres Hall

**EPICON** Sun, May 28

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