

ESPINAS Y FLORES



VOL. 59, No. 07
JULY 2024

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA



2024 SHOW & SALE RESULTS // ALLUAUDIA AND DIDIEREA //
UPCOMING EVENTS // SDCSS YOUTUBE SERIES // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Spines of *Didierea trollii*

Photo by Pam Badger

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s message pgs 3 - 4

Upcoming events pgs 5 - 6

Plant of the Month Feature pgs 7 - 11

YouTube Videos Celebrate the SDCSS pgs 12 - 13

2024 Summer Show & Sale Results pgs 14- 36

UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

THIS MONTH’S MEETING

July 13th

OUR NEXT UPCOMING MEETING

August 10th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
Secretary	Olga Batalov
Treasurer	Ken Brown

DIRECTORS

Pat Bryan, Luis Gonzalez, Jen Greene, Kelly Griffin, Dean Karras, Georgia Kenney, and Jared Petker

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	[open]
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
Benefit Drawing Table	Chuck Ramey
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner

New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzels-Smith
Picnic Regalement	[open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinator	Pam Badger

LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

MEMBERSHIP, BUSINESS, & PUBLICITY

Membership	Olga Batalov
Business Manager	Donna Roden
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
Publicity	Christie Lathrop

CONTACT SDCSS

membership@sdcss.net

CONTACT EyF EDITOR

eyf.editor@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in articles and editorial comments are solely the opinions of the author or the editor, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the SDCSS, the board of Directors, or the organization as a whole. All material submitted to the *Espinās y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content and shared on the club’s social media with attribution. All material contained in the *Espinās y Flores* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations unless permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the article. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the express consent of the editor is prohibited.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Welcome to Summer! Well, it seems we all survived another June Show and Sale, what a fun weekend. At one point near the end of Sunday, I walked around in awe at all the activity and reflected on how smoothly the weekend had gone. The only way for such an event to happen is through a large group of dedicated volunteers with experienced leaders showing the way—many thanks to all of you for making this one of the most enjoyable shows I have participated in over the past 40 years. I especially want to thank **Rick Bjorklund** for taking the lead as Show Chair—with his masterful organizational skills and a dedicated team of helpers, he put together a beautiful show that delighted many visitors. Rick also organized and hosted a fun party to thank our volunteers, gifting a great variety of plants to all attendees; it was great fun to visit his garden, socialize, eat great food, and go home with a couple fine plants! I also want to give special thanks to **Chris Miller** for organizing the sale...what a wonderful collection of vendors, and though the tent set up was a bit late (no fault on Chris's part), the sale setup went quickly and smoothly once structure set up was complete. So many moving parts working together to pull this off still amazes me.

HUGE THANKS to all who made this happen! VOLUNTEERS make the world go around!

Many thank yous to:

Allen Clark // Alison Baldwin
Annie Wolf // Beth Dargan
Brian Shepard // Brita Miller
Candy Garner // Chuck Ramey
Denise Griffin // Der-shing Helmer
Des Bradford // Don Isreal
Donna Couchman // Donna Roden
Donna Fernandes // Georgia Kenny
Heather Chan // Herb Stern
Jared Petker // Jerry Garner
Jerry Orosz // Jessica McGee
Jodi Visosky // John Williams
Kaija Marcon // Ken Brown
Lien Lieu // Linda Stewart
Luis Gonzalez // Lynn Elliot
Michelle Heckathorn // Norb Roden
Pat Bryan // Peter Hagopian
Rocco Piersanto // Sandy Wetzels-Smith
Sergio Lopez // Sherman Blench
Sue Ann // Susan Hopkins
Tricia Bostard // Wendy Goldman
Winston Chan // Don Jones
Lou Crow // Olga Batalov
Mary Aparieio // Robin Leon
Anne Sawyers // Jose Ramos
Donna Whitker // Tom Knapik
Ann Spindel // Donna Borowy
Pauline Wong // Suzy Foran
Chris Wert // Kelly Griffin
Jim Anderson // Dean Karras
Christie Lathrop // Dale Maudlin
Tina Zucker // Roger Lane
Sara Schell // James Brisbin
Richard Johnson



I apologize if you volunteered and you are not on this list—please know that you are appreciated!

(continued)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Next up is our **July** meeting which will be in our regular location, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sales **start about 9:30**, a new member orientation happens at 12:00 and the **General Meeting starts at 1:00**. There will be all our normal activities: a **Pre-meeting Workshop by Jared Petker, Brag Table** (bring your beauties and enter in Novice, Intermediate or Advanced; **Benefit Drawing** - win a new treasure), **Library** (learn more); **Plant Exchange** (bring a plant to swap). Pam Badger will be doing a Plant of the Month talk, and our very own **Kelly Griffin** will be giving

a talk on Dudleyas. Kelly will also have his new book for sale - you can probably even get him to sign it for you! The planning committee for the CSSA -biannual Convention will be meeting at noon in the kitchen - anyone interested in volunteering, or just learning more is welcome to come. It is nice and warm out, plants are actively growing and aren't going to propagate themselves so I have to get to work. See you on the 13th! A lovely first day of Summer in my garden.

Pam Badger
June 24, 2024



A lovely first day of Summer in my garden

Pam Badger

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER



JULY 13 SPEAKER
KELLY GRIFFIN
“DUDLEYAS ON
THE EDGE”

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Kelly Griffin has studied, photographed and admired the genus *Dudleya* for well over three decades. He first became aware of this beautiful genus while teaching Scuba diving classes off the shores of Coronado Islands. Subsequently, he set about to look for them along the shores, deserts and mountains of Oregon, California, Baja and even Arizona.

Since his early exposure to succulent plants, Kelly has traveled to many countries searching for them. He worked as the Curator of Succulents at Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years and for the past 12 years he has been working for Altman’s Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager.

Kelly has been a member of our San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society since 1992. He has been on the board of Directors for the SDCSS and he has served as both SDCSS President and Vice-President. He was very honored to have been named a Fellow of our Society.

He currently serves as a director on the board of the National Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is active on the conservation committee and is working hard on the National convention which comes to San Diego next spring April 23rd to 27th, 2025.

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKER TOPIC**

The program this month will be all about Dudleyas, arguably the most attractive California native succulent plants. Hopefully, after the program, you will agree. Kelly will also have on hand some of the new book publication; *Dudleyas*. Written by Kelly, Jeremy and Jeff. **Great opportunity to get a signed copy!**

ABOUT OUR PRE-MEETING TALK

Join us just before the meeting for **Jared Petker’s** pre-meeting demo on pollinating *Euphorbia* and seed collection strategies. Jared will bring a few plants to do some live pollinating with, along with some goody bags for the group to take on their pollinating journeys!

[SEE YOU ON JULY 13, 2024!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

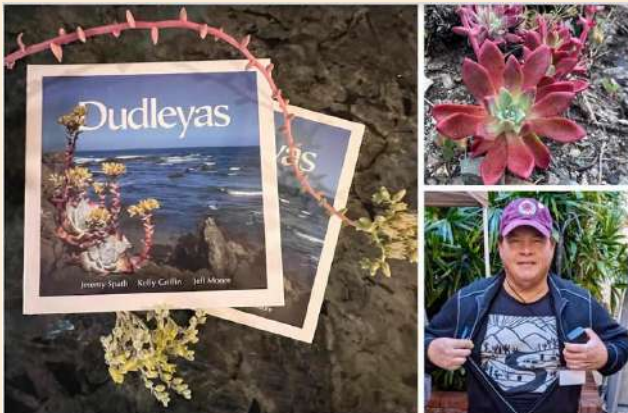
JULY COFFEE CHOCOLATE IN THE GARDEN!**Who:** Tina Zucker**When:** July 27th 8:30am - 2pm**Where:** 552 Seabright Lane, Solana Beach**Parking:** Lots of parking on the street

Less than ½ MILE from the Amtrak station and less than a mile to the beach

Note: (Please do not park in the Doe Point cul-de-sac - use Hillandale Drive)

Cash: Probably best to bring CASH as not everyone accepts credit cards. Some of you are new to the SDCSS club and I may not know you but would be happy to meet you and show you around.

You can walk around our property front to back so you can see all in ground and potted plants. I will have small and large plants for sale. In addition, I am selling some larger SPECIMENS that I have been growing for years. You can walk through my 3 greenhouses where I grow my personal plants. I will have garden ornaments for sale also. We recently planted many varieties in ground because that got too big for pots. They are looking great. **It will be a great event!**



OUR CLUB MEMBER Kelly Griffin will have A Book Signing for his newly released DUDLEYAS book! And of course, will bring some of his ALOES TO SELL....

CLUB MEMBER Jerry Garner Jerry will be here with his wonderful POTS!

CLUB MEMBERS: DR CACTUS aka Doctor Cactus = DAVID & ROCIO CARRASCO: In their quiet way, David and Rocio have joined the succulent growing community. David began over 20 years ago working for a nursery in Vista. In about 2017, he & Rocio started their own nursery. Rocio learned how to propagate. They are fabulous growers who other growers go to for their plants. They will have cactus & succulents for purchase.

Steven Hammer will also join us with his fabulous and uncommon plants!



ALLAUDIA AND DIDIEREA

ALLAUDIA AND DIDIEREA

ARTICLE BY PAM BADGER

Didiereaceae is a family of flowering plants found in continental Africa and Madagascar. It has 20 species in three subfamilies and six genera, all succulent or semi succulent, with several being of interest to collectors as ornamentals or at least interesting. The sub family Didiereoideae, endemic to Madagascar, contains only four genera, two of which are the focus this presentation—*Alluaudia* and *Didieria*—as they are the most awesome and favorites in my garden.



Sunset first day of Summer: *Alluaudia procera*
blooms
PAM BADGER



Trunk of *Alluaudia procera*

PAM BADGER

ALLAUDIA

The genus *Alluaudia* contains 6 species which are generally

ALLAUDIA AND DIDIEREA

ALLAUDIA

The genus *Alluaudia* contains 6 species which are generally available and grow well in Southern California's Mediterranean and arid climates. I have all but one species (*A. ascendens*) growing in the ground and pots in eastern San Diego County, where they thrive in the hot dry climate, leafing out after the rain. The flowers are dioecious; male and female flowers on different plants. The spines are arranged around the stems with the leaves growing between—a protection from herbivores. The leaves are deciduous, generally gone in the dry season.

Alluaudia procera is probably the most commonly seen locally—very large specimens can be seen at the San Diego Zoo around the elephant care center; I had grown this plant for years and when I first saw these specimens, I was very impressed. *Alluaudia procera* are easy to care for, either in pots or the landscape, where they can grow to 30-40ft or more, with no water needed once they are established. The blooms come in the form of sporty looking plumes from the top of the highest stem, starting out green, then fading to pale yellow or off-white as they mature. Though mine bloom regularly, I have never seen seed. They can be propagated fairly easily from cuttings—best time is when they are actively growing and temperatures are warm. In Madagascar, they grow so large they are chopped down to use for firewood!



Alluaudia. procera inflorescence

PAM BADGER



Alluaudia. dumosa

PAM BADGER

ALLUAUDIA AND DIDIEREA

*Alluaudia comosa*

PAM BADGER

Alluaudia comosa makes a very nice potted plant, as it can develop into a small, bushy plant with striking grey stems, thorns, and small leaves which will change colors with changes in weather. In habitat they can grow into 8-12ft tall dense trees flattened on the top.

Alluaudia humbertii grows low and freely branching—not much higher than 6-8ft in habitat. It features small round leaves and grey spines. This is not one I would recommend for pots or landscape unless you want a protective border plant to keep people away, or don't mind getting tangled up in long thorny branches.

Alluaudia montagnacii, in my opinion, is the most handsome species of the group. Not reaching the heights of *Alluaudia procera*, growing only to 8-20ft tall in habitat, the dense grey spines and small leaves which can become very dark green, almost appearing black, makes a stunning plant either potted or in the landscape.

Alluaudia ascendens, the most difficult of the genus to locate, is similar to *Alluaudia procera* with taller, more singular branches, and smaller heart-shaped leaves. They grow in the same spiny, dry thickets of southeastern Madagascar as *Alluaudia procera* and the baobab.

Alluaudia dumosa, sometimes called a 'dead stick plant,' is certainly not one of the showiest plants in my collection, but has a certain charm appreciated by some collectors. In habitat they can grow to 20ft tall, dense, bushy plants, though they are slow growing in cultivation, reaching only 10-15ft in height. They are basically leafless stems up to 0.5 inches in diameter, brownish green with small, sparse spines. I have never seen it bloom, and I could find no description of their blooms. When you find another collector who appreciates this species, you have found a rare friend.

Alluaudia comosa makes a very

ALLUAUDIA AND DIDIEREA

DIDIEREA

The genus *Didierea* has only two known species which have many of the same characteristics of *Alluaudias*, grow in the same thorny forests in Madagascar, and get the same care in my landscape. The difference is that they have spines that are in clusters of four or more on mature plants where *Alluaudia* spines are singular. Though both species can be grown in pots, while young they need room in the ground to achieve their glory.

Didierea madagascariensis, if you look on the internet, is “commonly known as the octopus tree,” which makes no sense to me as it generally grows singular with possibly a few upright branches. (This name seems better suited to its close cousin *Didiereatrolii*.) Spines grow in dense clusters, 4-5 on tiny branches off thick main trunks. Leaves are long, thin lanceolate growing in clusters from the base of the spine stems. They are always the last of the bunch to leaf out in the late spring/ early summer. They are slow-growing and rather rare in San Diego— the largest I have seen is in Terry Parr’s garden in La Mesa— about 6ft tall, branched at the base—2 stems and wicked-looking.

Didieria trollii truly resembles the common name “octopus plant,” branching freely from the base, it’s limbs (2-3 inches in diameter) crawl

out in all directions. The grey spines grow in clusters surrounded by green leaves that are thin and generally not as long as the spines. They do spread out so need room in a landscape. When mature, they send out larger stems which grow straight up. Beautiful, mature



Alluaudia montanae

PAM BADGER

ALLAUDIA AND DIDIEREA

can be seen at the San Diego Zoo in the African Rocks exhibit.

In conclusion, this is a wonder group of plants which can make an interesting addition to succulent landscapes in Southern California.

PAM BADGER



Didierea madagascariensis

PAM BADGER

MEMBER SECTION

**AUTHOR'S YOU-TUBE VIDEOS CELEBRATE THE SDCSS
BY DEBRA LEE BALDWIN**

In my four-part, behind-the-scenes video series about the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, viewers meet show-and-sale organizers, volunteers, and vendors; see rare and impressive plants; and find out what to look forward to at future events.

The idea originated with SDCSS member, volunteer and vendor Rick Bjorklund, who suggested I do a video on how volunteers coordinate and set up a sale. While I was there before and during the winter 2024 show, I recognized the potential for additional topics---and that a series might serve as PR for CSS events in the San Diego area and beyond, and help promote the upcoming CSS biennial convention.

ABOUT THE FOUR-PART SERIES



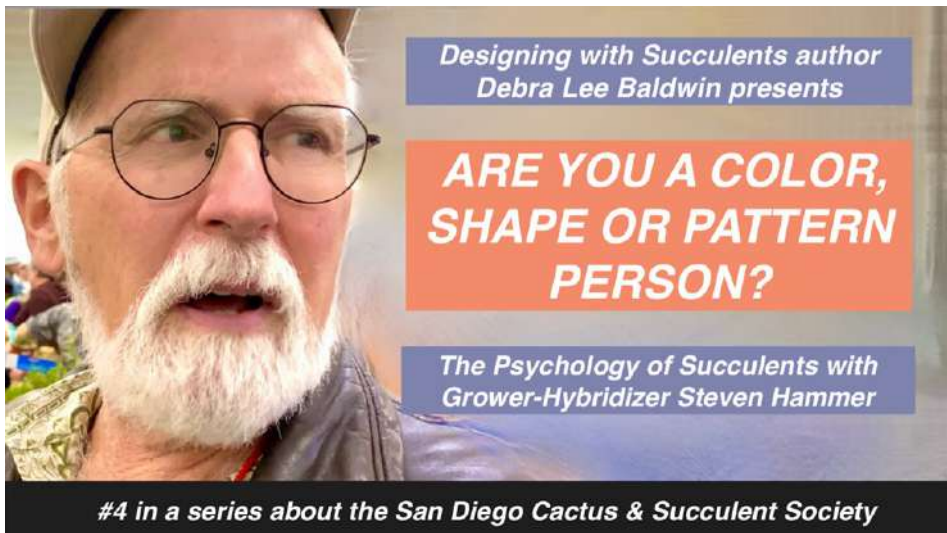
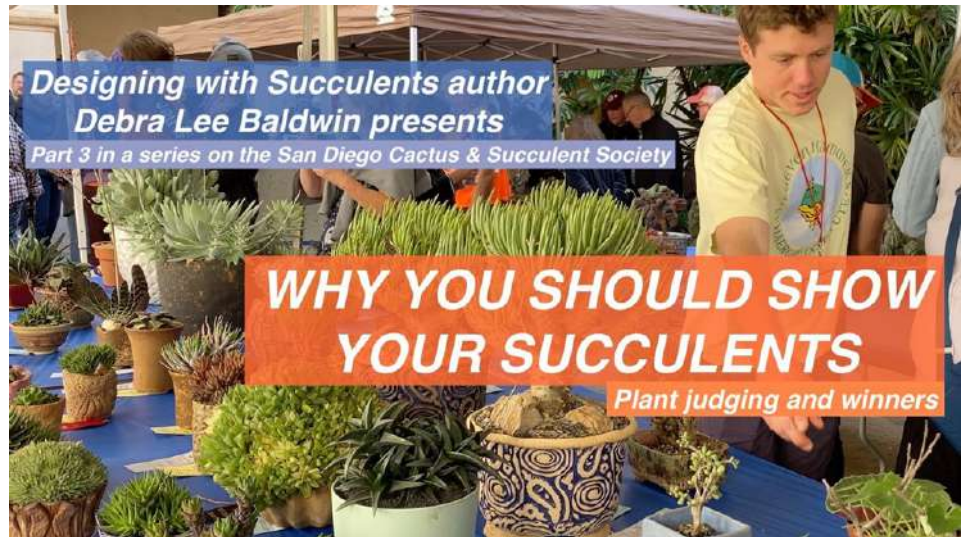
[Part One: SHOW SET-UP AND VENDORS \(6:24\)](#) We go behind-the-scenes at a show the day before it opens, meet growers and see the succulents they're proud of, and observe a set-up so efficient, member-volunteer Rick Bjorklund says "it's like a symphony."

[Part Two: SHOW & SALE DAY \(6:01\)](#) See more rare plants, meet renowned experts, and view beautiful specimens that shoppers have snapped up and happily discuss. So aglow are some, you'd think they'd bred those variegated agaves and colorful *Gymnocalycium* themselves.



MEMBER SECTION

Part Three: PLANT JUDGING & WINNERS: Why You Should Show Your Succulents (5:30) We eavesdrop on show judges, see impressive plants on display, and view blue-ribbon specimens staged in stunning art pottery.



Part Four: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SUCCULENTS: Are You a Color, Shape or Pattern Person? (4:47) Grower-hybridizer Steven Hammer, a delightfully erudite *Mesemb* and *Haworthia* expert, holds forth on why succulents are sexy. Except he doesn't use that word; rather, he entertains listeners with clever comments and masterful metaphors.

View a gallery of 73 blue-ribbon-winning plants on the corresponding page of my site:

<https://debraleebaldwin.com/garden-show/succulent-show-and-sale-videos/>



About Debra Lee Baldwin: Debra is an award-winning horticulturist and photojournalist who lives in San Diego's North County. She wrote the Timber Press bestsellers *Designing with Succulents*, *Succulent Container Gardens* and *Succulents Simplified*. Debra spreads the word about "plants that drink responsibly" via her YouTube channel (now at 8.5 million views), "Celebrating the Joy of Succulents" newsletter, and her comprehensive, ad-free "Success with Succulents" website. She enjoys succulents with symmetrical shapes, like *Aeonium canariense*, which she uses as a garden gap-filler.

2024 SUMMER SHOW AND SALE RESULTS



Thanks to everyone whose work and plants made the SDCSS Summer Show a success.

A special thank you to our dedicated Show Chair, Rick Bjorklund, our dedicated judges Kelly Griffin, Terry Parr, Mark Fryer, Phuc Hyunh, and Tom Knapik, and our Clerk team.

The brag table will be back in July, so we'll see your plants very soon!

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

BEST NOVICE SUCCULENT

Adenia ballyi
Chase Bahne



BEST NOVICE CACTUS

Echinocereus rigidissimus
Luis Gonzalez



2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

BEST INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

Monvillea spegazzinii crest

Norbert Roden

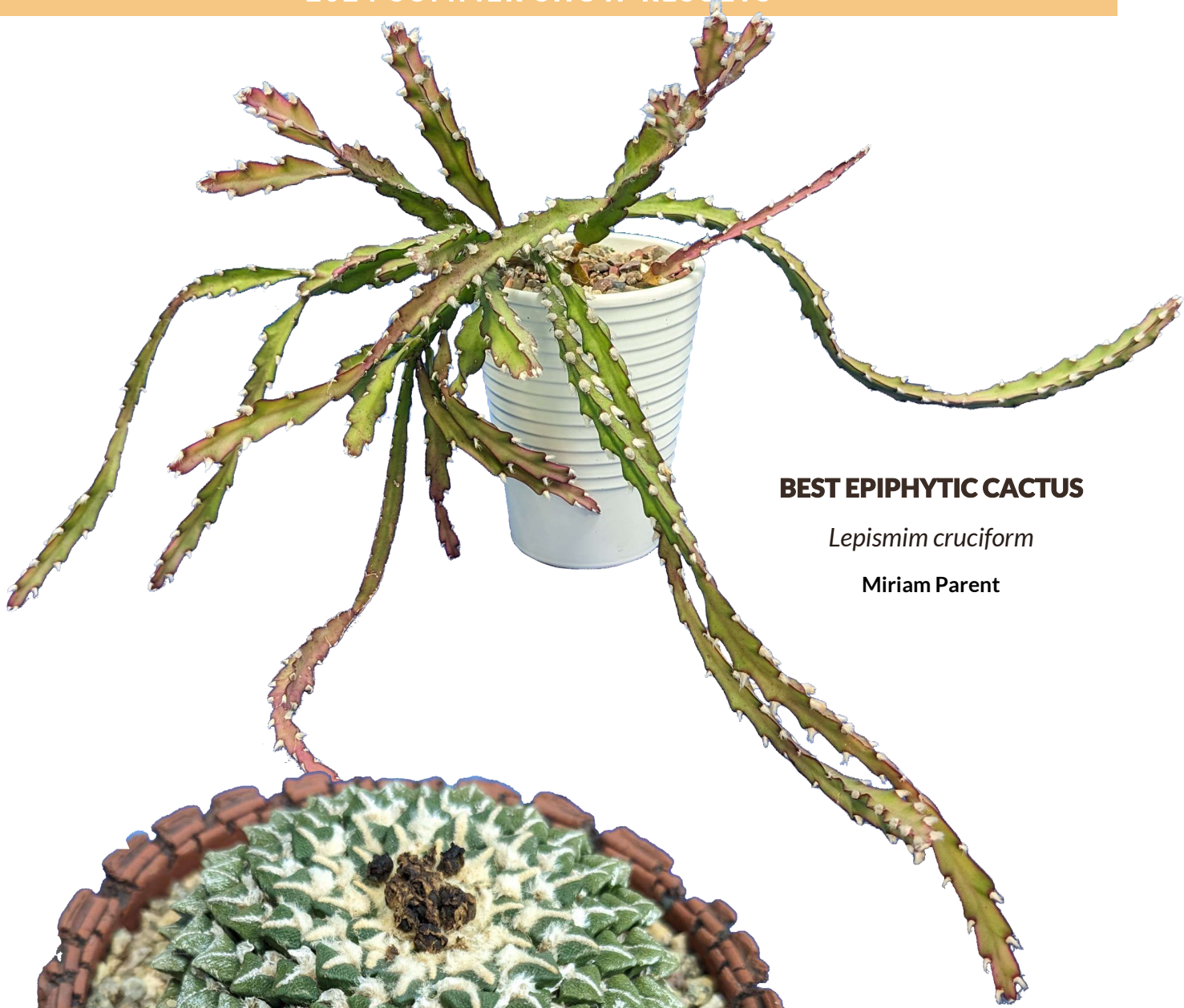


BEST INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

Pseudolithos cubiformis

Annie Wolf

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



BEST EPIPHYTIC CACTUS

Lepismim cruciform

Miriam Parent



BEST CACTUS

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus
var. *elephantidens*

Kal Kaminar

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



BEST SUCCULENT

Hoodia gordonii

Dean Karras

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE
AWARD**

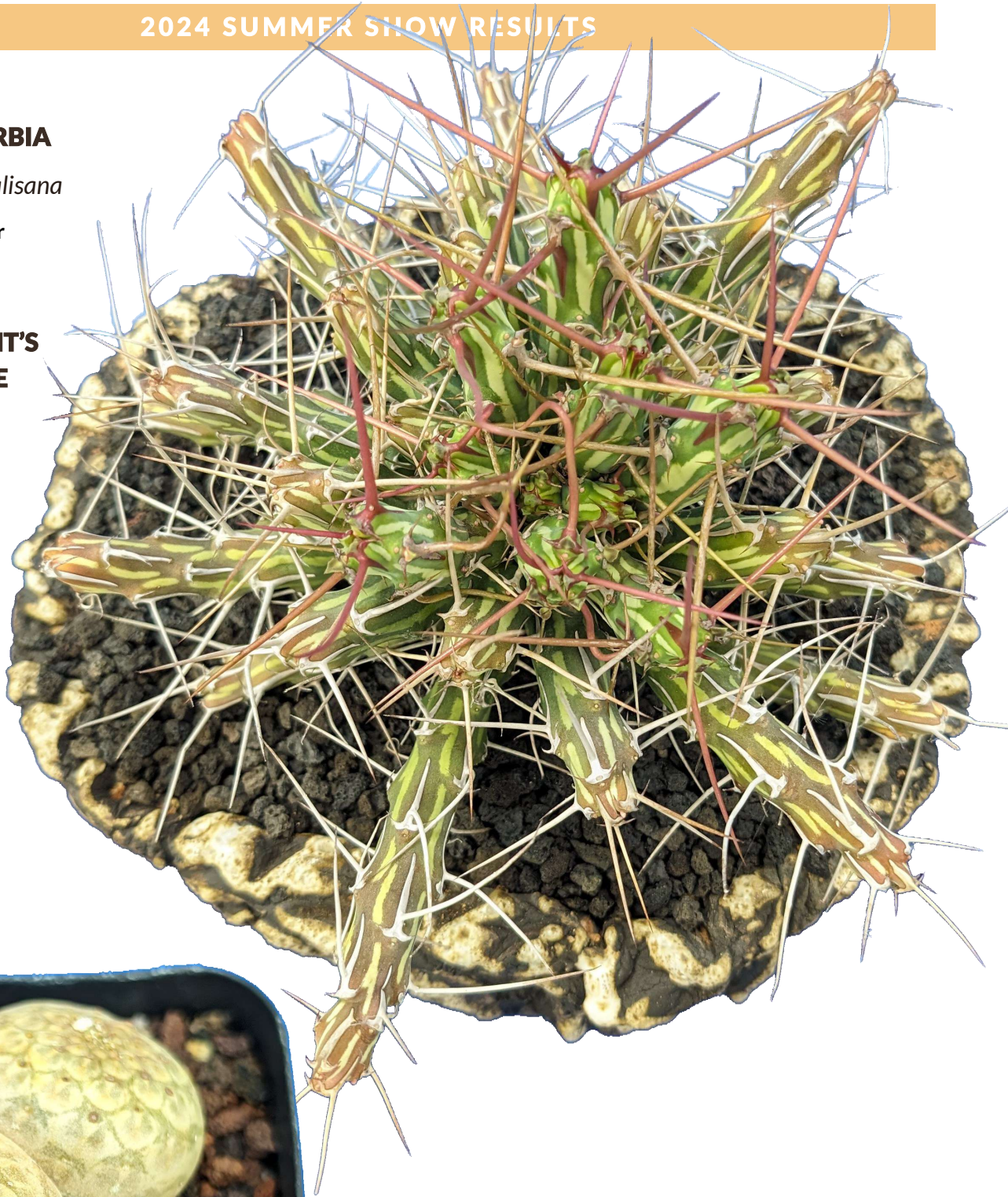
2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

BEST EUPHORBIA

Euphorbia aff. kalisana

Jared Petker

**PRESIDENT'S
CHOICE**



RAREST PLANT IN SHOW

Euphorbia turbiniformis

Thorn Oasis

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

**BEST PLANT FROM SEED,
GROWN BY AN EXHIBITOR**

Jatropha cathartica (22 months old)

Miles Anderson/ Miles' To Go



BEST OPUNTIEAE

Tephrocactus bonnieae

Miles Anderson/ Miles' To Go

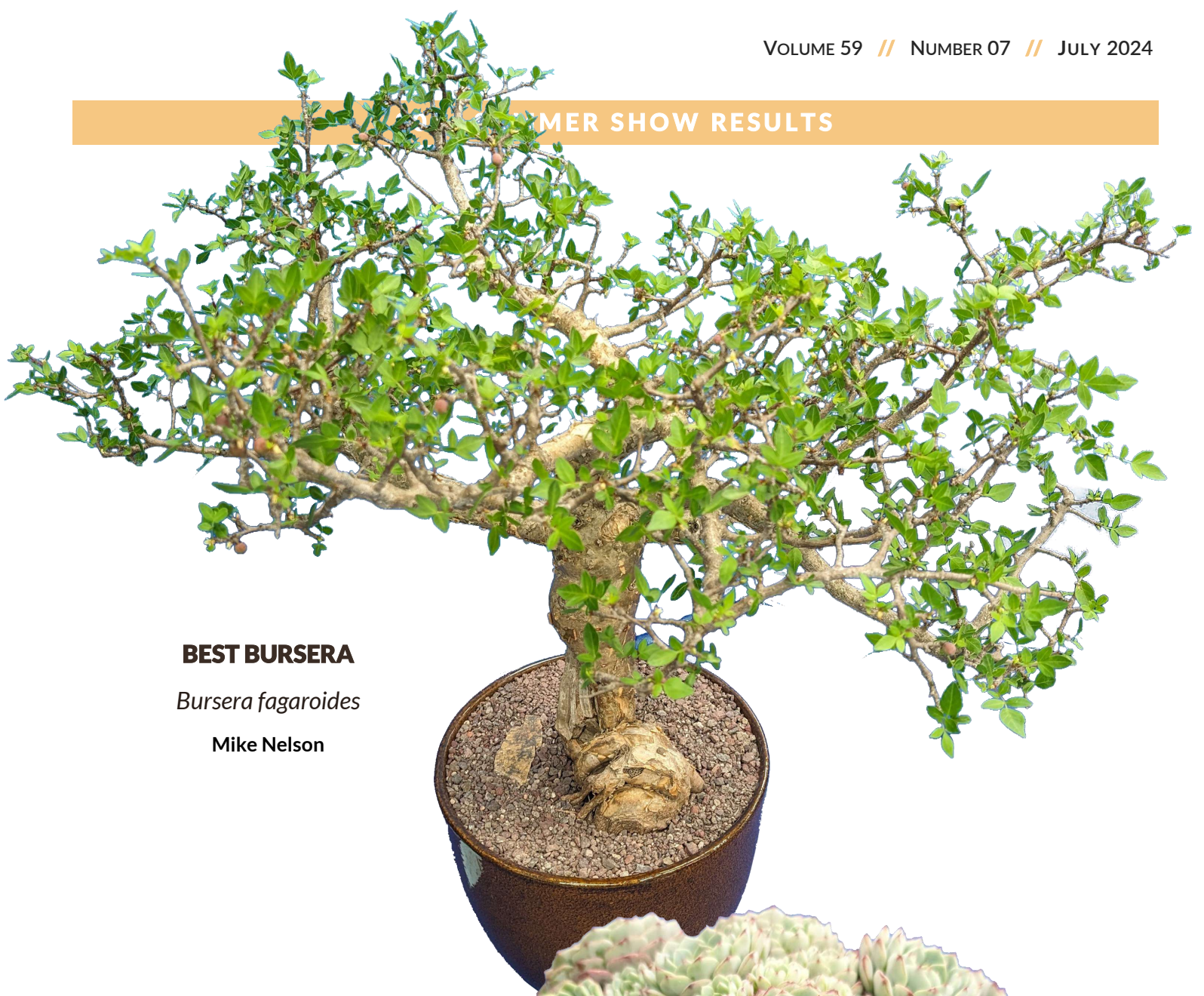


SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

BEST BURSERA

Bursera fagaroides

Mike Nelson



BEST ECHEVERIA

Echeveria minima

Woody CDP



2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



**BEST PELARGONIUM
OR SARCOCAULON**

Sarcocaulon vanderietiae

Eric Herd



BEST MAMMILLARIA

Mammillaria theresae

Kyle Williams

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



BEST GRAFT

Aztekium ritteri

LA Succulents



BEST MINIATURE

Agave albopilosa

Kelly Griffin

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

BEST SANSEVIERIA

Sansevieria sp.

Chuck Ramey



BEST ALOE

Aloe cv. 'Amanecer' KJG

Kelly Griffin



2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

BEST SUCCULENT BONSAI

Operculicarya decaryi

Botanic Wonders

**BEST CAUDICIFORM OR
PACHYCAUL SUCCULENT**

Gerrardanthus macrorhizus

Annie Wolf



PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



BEST AGAVE

Agave albopilosa

Kelly Griffin



BEST

MESEMBRYANTHEMUM

Gibbaeum heathii (small form)

Sphaeroid Institute

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



BEST MEXICAN PLANT

Strombocactus disciformis

Brian Shepherd



BEST BAJA PLANT

Pachycormus discolor

Candy and Jerry Garner

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



**BEST SAN DIEGO COUNTY
NATIVE SUCCULENT**

Ferocactus viridescens

Dean Karras

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



BEST EXHIBIT

“Madagascar”

Pam Badger

MOST ARTISTIC EXHIBIT

“Patagonian Treasure”

Brian Shepherd



WINTER SHOW RESULTS



JUDGE'S CHOICE: MARK FRYER

Eriosyce paucicostata

Chris Miller



JUDGE'S CHOICE: MARK FRYER

Ariocarpus frumdosus

Thorn Oasis

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



JUDGE'S CHOICE: KELLY GRIFFIN

Aloe florenceae

Kendra Krishnan



JUDGE'S CHOICE: KELLY GRIFFIN

Gymnocalycium cardenasianum

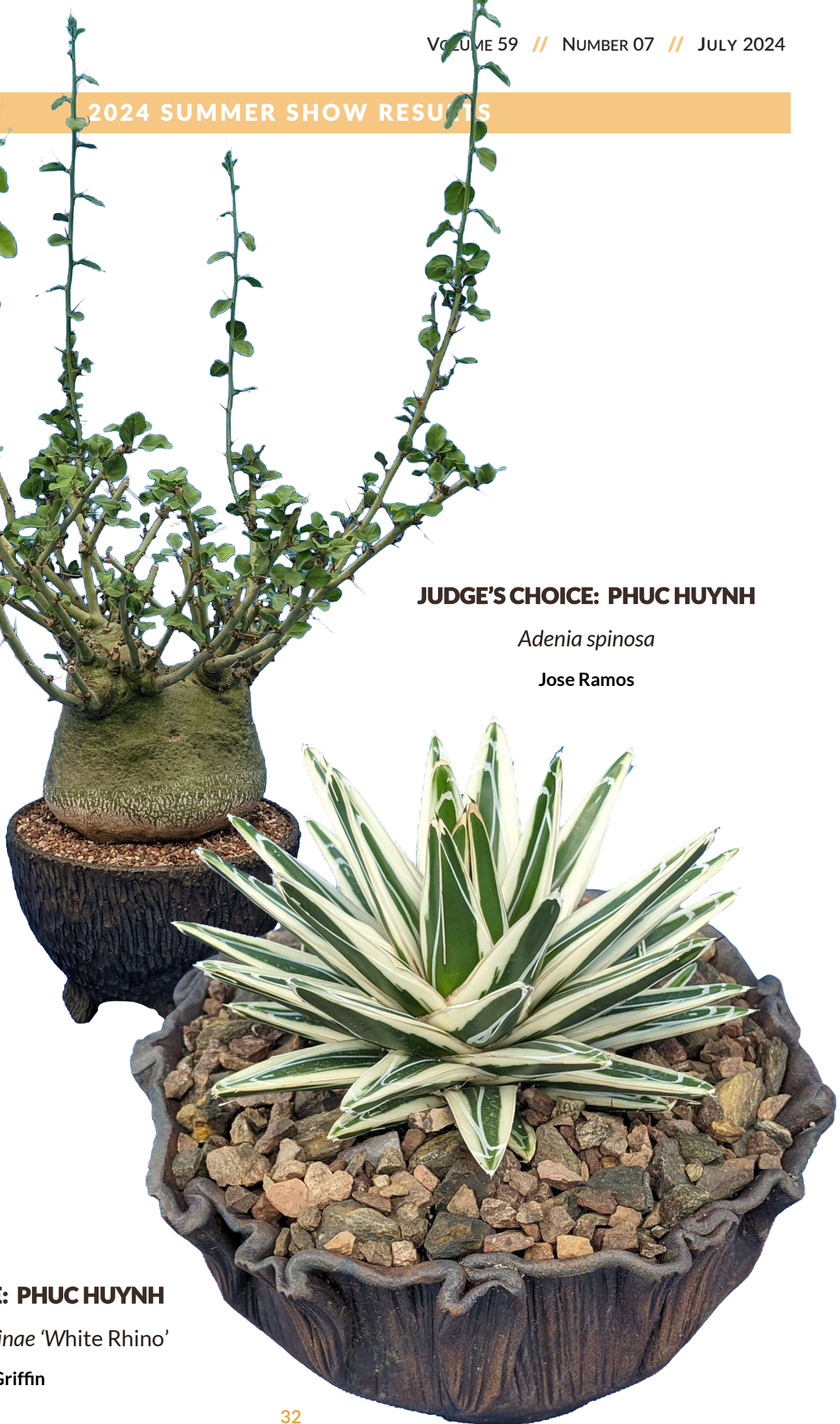
Chris Miller

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

JUDGE'S CHOICE: PHUC HUYNH

Adenia spinosa

Jose Ramos



JUDGE'S CHOICE: PHUC HUYNH

Agave victoriae-reginae 'White Rhino'

Kelly Griffin

SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

JUDGE'S CHOICE: TOM KNAPIK

Euphorbia poissonii variegated

Annie Wolf

JUDGE'S CHOICE: TOM KNAPIK

Copiapoa haseltoniana

Brian Shepherd



2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



JUDGE'S CHOICE: TERRY PARR

Ferocactus glaucescens x *Stenocactus phyllacanthus* 'Narrow Minded'

Miles Anderson/ Miles' To Go



JUDGE'S CHOICE: TERRY PARR

Euphorbia persistens

Doug Hobson

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS



**JUDGE'S CHOICE: RICK BJORKLUND
(GUEST JUDGE: DER-SHING HELMER)**

Fockea edulis

Botanic Wonders



**JUDGE'S CHOICE: RICK BJORKLUND
(GUEST JUDGE: JARED PETKER)**

Euphorbia francoisii

Candy and Jerry Garner

2024 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

SHOW CHAIR'S CHOICE

Allulaudia comosa

Jared Petker



SHOW CHAIR'S CHOICE

Aloe castillonae variegated

Kelly Griffin

