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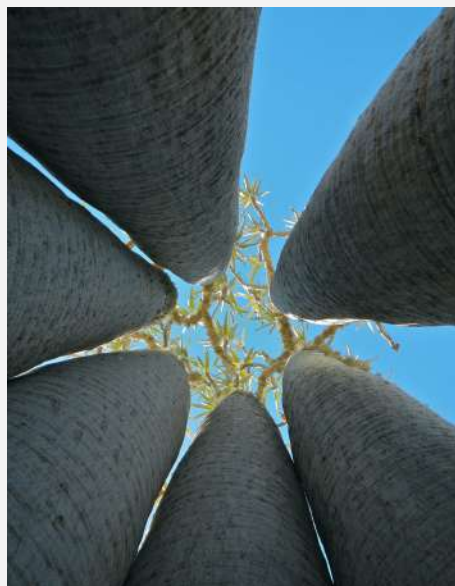


ESPINAS Y FLORES

SUMMER SHOW AND SALE GALLERY

PACHYPODIUM LAMEREI • UPCOMING EVENTS & more!

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



ON THE COVER

a ring of gigantic *P. lamerei* in
Madagascar

Photo by Kelly Griffin

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

Our next in-person meeting:

July 9th

Upcoming meeting:

August 6th

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New Member Orientation	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner
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Picnic Regalement	Kathy Clark & Sandy Wetzels-Smith
Coffee in the Garden Coordinators	[open]
	Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is Here! I am already missing June Gloom, everything seems so dry - I guess I can be happy I love succulents!

Congratulations to all who put in volunteer hours to make our June Show and Sale a very successful event! Everything went quite smoothly and the show was fantastic. Thanks to all who heeded the call to bring in plants to show, the room was nicely filled with a wide variety of plants. A big shout out to Dean Karras, the show Chair, who, like the energizer bunny, did not stop moving from early Friday to well after closing on Sunday. This job has become quite extensive—a bit more than one person can do—so we are looking to develop a **Show Committee**. See more on this in a separate article in this Newsletter.



Many thanks to all of you who volunteered - 51 volunteers on Saturday and 28 on Sunday—**thank you, thank you, thank you!!!** It was a great pleasure working with all of you—each and every one an important part of what makes this show a fun and rewarding experience.

- ♦ The sale was very well organized, as usual, thanks to Chris Miller, sales Chair and the hard working **cashier team** lead by Ken Brown and Lynn Elliot. Those folks are amazing - many working for hours without breaks keeping the line moving and reducing wait times.
- ♦ The **holding area team** lead by Norb Roden, did wonders to keep track of all the treasures our guests had selected. The new vendor signs were helpful leading people to their favorite vendors, as well as getting wayward plants returned to their vendors.
- ♦ The **greeting team**, headed by Candy Gardner and Susan Hopkins and assisted by May Fong-ho behind the scenes, was busy getting members in for early shopping, answering questions, managing volunteers, and watching over the Show inside.
- ♦ The **security team**, headed by Brian Shepard, the 'Orange Vest Brigade,' was helpful to visitors and vendors alike; providing boxes, directing people, and answering questions.
- ♦ The **kitchen team**, headed by Sandy Wetzel-Smith, kept everyone fed and had coffee handy. Thanks to Sandy for her donation of the new coffee pots!

If you volunteered and did not receive your 'thank-you' coupon, please come see me at the July meeting. Coupons will be accepted at meeting sales—you deserve it!

Of course, the other vital piece of this event is our **Vendors**—without them there would be no event. The awesome variety of plants and pottery on display was dazzling, and many people went home with 'bucket list' finds. We really do appreciate your participation. Thanks for being there!

If you are a new member, perhaps you joined to get into the sale early, or just signed up out of curiosity, I invite you to come to a meeting soon! We always welcome new people to stop by, learn, meet people with like interests, and socialize. We are a very diverse group and welcome all, from very beginners to seasoned collectors. I have been a member for over 30 years and still enjoy what the meetings have to offer, and always learn something new.

See you soon!

Pam Badger
June 24, 2022

JOIN OUR NEW SHOW COMMITTEE



A New Way To Get Involved!

As mentioned in the president's message, the job of the **Show Chair** has outgrown a single person's ability to do alone. There are many aspects and duties involved in this position and the board has decided it would be better tackled by a committee.

Dean Karras, the current show chair will continue in this position and will head the committee. The duties of the committee will include: care of the trophies, updating the show plant schedule, keeping track of show ribbons, organizing plants in the show, setting up the trophy stage, etc. Some of these tasks are done the day of the show, many before and after—something for anybody. Please consider getting involved by joining this committee.

Contact Dean Karras at gnosisnursery@gmail.com.



SDCSS JULY SPEAKER



Join us **Saturday, July 9th** for our meeting and speaker! We are still ironing out the details, but will introduce them in our Meeting Reminder email coming out July 8.

Our Plant of the Month: Der-shing will be talking about a fan-favorite, *Pachypodium lamerei*. Read the article this month, then enjoy the slideshow at the meeting!

See you at the meeting on July 9th!

UPCOMING CSSA WEBINAR

Welwitschia is an anomalous cone-bearing plant from the Namib Desert in coastal southern Africa, a lone survivor of a largely vanished lineage, clinging to existence in the oldest desert region on Earth. Its peculiar form—essentially the decapitated stump of a tree with a pair of leaves that must last for the entire centuries-long life of the plant—and equally puzzling ecology—how can those expansive leaves make sense in the dry moonscapes of the Namib?—have inspired wonder and speculation from generations of botanists.

Join the CSSA for their webinar about Welwitschia with speaker **Matt Opel** on Saturday, July 9th at 10:00 a.m. PDT.

[Webinar registration here](#)



SHARE YOUR PASSION!

Have you ever read the *Espinas Y Flores* Newsletter 'Plant of the Month' article and thought - "I could do that!" Why not participate by writing a piece for our **Plant of the Month** feature? You don't have to be an expert!

Pick a genus or species that interests you, do a little research, find or take a few pictures and create an article to share with the club!

Contact Pam Badger: pambad1@mac.com

SDCSS ONLINE

FACEBOOK:

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TWITTER: [SanDiegoCactus](#)

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WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

MEMBER SECTION



What a show! The line extended all the way to the street and wrapped around the corner for those waiting for early shopping on Saturday morning.

Candy Garner



Notocactus magnificus

Pam Badger



"from my xeriscape in El Centro"

Rich Ryan

PACHYPODIUM LAMEREI

DER-SHING HELMER FEAT. PHOTOS BY KELLY GRIFFIN

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

What are Pachypodiums?

Pachypodium are a genus of succulent plant in the family Apocynaceae, native to Africa and Madagascar. You can get a general sense of the plant from its name; “*pachy*” means “thick,” and “*podium*” means “foot;” a description of the genera’s most obvious characteristic... its large bottom! All Pachypodium are “fat plants,” also known as pachycauls, and are prized by collectors for their shape. Additionally, all Pachypodium naturally feature spines. You’ve likely enjoyed the amazing Pachypodium on display at our club shows or for sale at events... *Pachypodium brevicaulis*, *Pachypodium namaquanum*, and *Pachypodium saundersii* are names you may recognize. But this article will focus on one the most common and beginner-friendly Pachypodiums, *Pachypodium lamerei*.



Wild *Pachypodium lamerei* in flower

Kelly Griffin

A popular Pachy

Have you seen a *Pachypodium lamerei*? If you live in the San Diego area, the answer is likely: yes! *Pachypodium lamerei* is the most popular and easily available Pachypodium in cultivation, mostly because of its genial response to being kept indoors. In our area, we are lucky enough that *Pachypodium lamerei* can also grow and thrive when planted directly in the ground.

How will you know a *P. lamerei* when you see one? At a glance, *P. lamerei* resembles a short, spiny, bottom-heavy palm tree. It has a gray-brown trunk with a tuft of green leaves mostly localized at the topmost growth point or branches (in warmer weather like ours, previous season’s leaves can persist along the trunk a while longer). Small specimens available at nurseries (and sometimes garden stores) can be as small as a few inches in height to over 5 feet tall. Here are some other characteristics of *P. lamerei*:

- The average **leaf** of *P. lamerei* is lanceolate and green, with a stiff midrib underneath. While most *P. lamerei* have straight margins, some cultivars can have wavy crisped edges as well. Leaves emerge once from the apical meristem and once they fall, will not grow again.



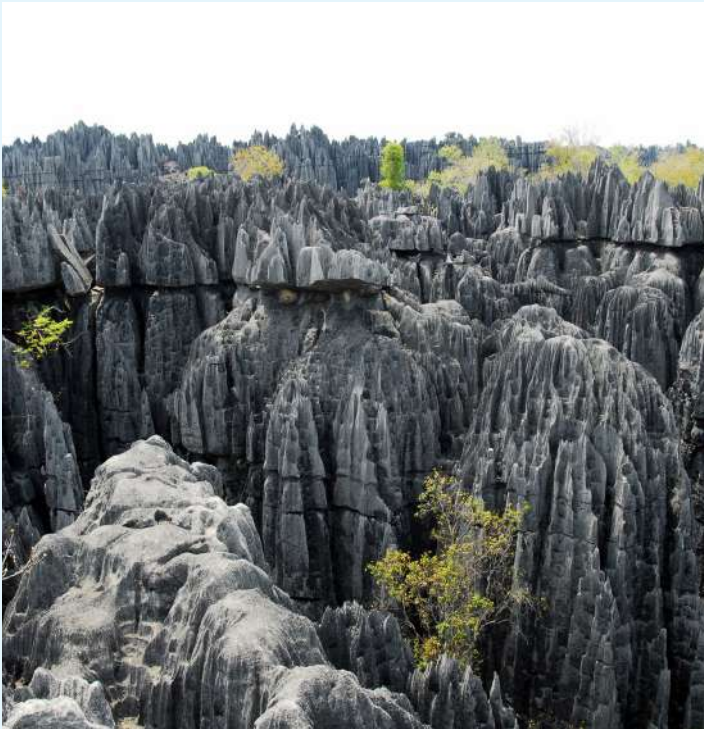
Spines of *Pachypodium lamerei*

Jared Petker

- *P. lamerei* have **spines**; normally two longer spines below and a shorter third above them. Like the leaves, spines grow once, emerging from the apical meristem, and once broken off do not grow back. Wild Pachypodium are often smooth-trunked; their spines having been abraded by wind scouring and other natural forces.

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

- The **flowers** of *P. lamerei* are a lovely white with yellow throat. Once pollinated, the plant will produce a double-banana-shaped seed pod which, once ripe, breaks open and releases many tufted seeds to be dispersed by the wind. While indoor plants rarely flower, in-ground plants produce blooms in the late spring and through the warm months.

Habitat of *Pachypodium lamerei*

Kelly Griffin

The “Madagascar Palm”

While *Pachypodium lamerei* grows quite well in San Diego, they are only adapted to one place on earth: the island of Madagascar. In the wild, *P. lamerei* grows on limestone or gneiss rock in dry forest or in full sun up to over 2000ft above sea level in the southern and southwestern parts of the island. Like most Pachypodium, *P. lamerei* grows in xeric areas where frost is uncommon, which explains they may be prone to rot when exposed to relatively colder or wetter weather. As one would expect, their succulence is a successful evolutionary strategy to store water and nutrients in an unforgiving environment. In a strategy that mimics other xeric plants, they keep a limited group of leaves on the very top of their body to conserve water and energy expenditure. Pachypodium photosynthesize through their leaves, but have the ability to photosynthesize through their trunk as well. Despite their harsh homeland, wild plants can grow up to a whopping 25ft in height.

*Pachypodium lamerei*

Kelly Griffin

Kelly Griffin was kind enough to supply the beautiful photos you see in the article (and on the cover) of mature wild plants looking gigantic and much more magnificent than those you can find in cultivation.

Cultivation

Knowing now what we do about *Pachypodium lamerei*, how can we best keep and grow these in our homes and gardens? To be honest, this plant's needs are pretty minimal! As far as both succulents and Pachypodium go, they are a great plant for beginners. Tips for success: *P. lamerei* generally enjoys a lot of bright/direct sunlight, is quite tolerant of heat, and will accept a lot of water in the active growing season (when in leaf). They can be potted in a variety of materials, but it's best to mix in a fair amount of pumice or another inorganic material to prevent root rot in colder months. In indoor conditions, plants are more likely to rot if potted poorly and kept sodden, so allow your soil to dry out somewhat between waterings (avoid fully bone dry soil). [cont'd pg 11](#)

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Pachypodium lamerei

Kelly Griffin

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

Indoor plants rarely branch or flower, and can etiolate and grow very tall as a single trunk, so plan ahead for that.

We are lucky in San Diego to be able to grow *Pachypodium lamerei* directly in the ground. While there are always risks involved with setting your favorite plant outside, this is in my opinion the ideal way to grow *Pachypodium lamerei* as it can lead to the more attractive qualities of the plant. *Pachypodium* flower from spring through summer in our area, and flower development often induces branching in mature plants (3-5 years old, and/or a meter tall). If you live in areas of San Diego that are subject to light frost, that may damage the growth point of your plant, which can also lead to branching. Branching is rarely achieved in indoor plants due to this lack of light/flowering or other growth-point damage. Please note that this information doesn't apply to more tender non-*lamerei* *Pachypodium*, for whom frost can be a death sentence. If you experience a freeze, keep an eye out for any rot at the tips of your plant. In very very bright heat and sun it is also possible to burn your plants, which normally doesn't kill but may discolor the trunk. In extreme cases sunburn can lead to dermis damage and possibly rot, but that would have to take place under very hot and dry conditions.

Propagation

Pachypodium lamerei are able to be propagated from both cuttings and seed. Unlike some succulents like cactus or Euphorbia which can be propagated via sliced stem cuttings, you can NOT achieve such results with a *Pachypodium*. Instead, in my experience, you'll have the most luck if you propagate smaller branches that you see growing from the base of the plant. Simply remove with a clean knife, allow the cut to heal, then root your cutting in pure perlite.



Some terrific candidates for propping

Jared Petker



Seed horn with seeds emerging

Jared Petker



One of our many in-ground *P. lamerei*

Jared Petker

Pachypodium flowers can be pollinated with a brush, cat whisker, or natural pollinators to produce an abundance of seeds via their seed horns, which burst

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

open in late spring and early summer. Fresh *Pachypodium* seed is typically very easy to germinate; for great and easy results, prepare a pot or pan of sterile perlite and sand, and surface sow the seed. Enclose the pan in a new ziploc bag, water thoroughly with pure water, and keep at a stable temperature around 80-85 degrees until germination occurs. I have had very good results with this method, but have also achieved success doing some really stupid things like putting my seeds in full sun with a piece of cling wrap on top. Just take a look at the seed itself... the tufted seed is meant to travel long distances, settle, and attempt to grow under exposed conditions. If this plant has survived living in the harsh Madagascan Tsingy, at least a few of their seeds can probably survive you.



Seed extravaganza!

Jared Petker

Interesting Varieties and Cultivars

Pachypodium lamerei used to be classified as a subspecies of *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* before being given it's own species name. *P. lamerei* itself now has its own varieties, some of which are also commercially available., but there is a lot of hybridization, variability and misnaming out there. Still, these are some vars you may encounter.. *Pachypodium lamerei* var. *ramosum* is generally more branched than the typical *Pachypodium lamerei*., and can make for an impressive in-ground specimen. "*Pachypodium lamerei* var *fiherense*" is not formally recognized, but is another cultivated variety that has a more squat and compact form.



What was sold to us as "*P. fiherense*"... as you can see, the leaves are unusually crisped

Jared Petker

If you're anything like me, your mind automatically wonders what the morphological range of a plant can encompass outside of the typical version. I am happy to report that *Pachypodium lamerei* does take some highly interesting forms outside of the typical columnar look. From the virus that causes the camo-like 'Particolor' look to the waves of *P. lamerei* cristata, there's a range of rare looks and styles for everyone to enjoy.



P. lamerei 'Particolor' leaf coloration... I stole this photo from the Gordon Rowley book, sorry.

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



A huge (and pricey) crested *P. lamerei* seen at Solana Succulents (photo taken with permission from J Moore)

Jared Petker



Pachypodium lamerei fma *inermis*

Jared Petker

I hope you've enjoyed this introduction to *Pachypodium lamerei*, and hope you'll try growing one for yourself!

DER-SHING HELMER

and thanks again to Kelly Griffin for the kind use of his photos!

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Pachypodium lamerei. (2021, November). In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pachypodium_lamerei

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A huge thank-you to everyone who entered their plants into the 2022 Summer Show!

We are still compiling our comprehensive list winners, but please enjoy this gallery of plants that won the highest honors in this year's event.



Jared Petker

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST NOVICE SUCCULENT

Euphorbia medusae hybrid

Pete Hagopian



BEST NOVICE CACTUS

Cleistocactus sp.

Lou Crow

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

Dudleya rubens

Nick Basinski



BEST INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

Gymnocalycium ragonessii

Chris Miller



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST CACTUS

Tephrocactus geometricus

Brian Shepherd



BEST SUCCULENT

Cyphostemma betiforme

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST EPIPHYTIC CACTUS

Rhipsalis houlletiana

Terry Parr

BEST MINIATURE

Pediocactus peeblesianus

Woody Minnich



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST EUPHORBIA IN SHOW

Euphorbia horombensis

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST ECHEVERIA

Echeveria pulvinata 'Ruby Blush'

Tina Zucker



BEST PLANT FROM SEED GROWN BY AN EXHIBITOR

Tephrocactus alexanderi var. *bruchii*

Sternberg

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST BURSERIA

Bursera fagaroides

Peter Walkowiak



BEST PERLARGONIUM OR SARCOCAULON

Pelargonium mirabile

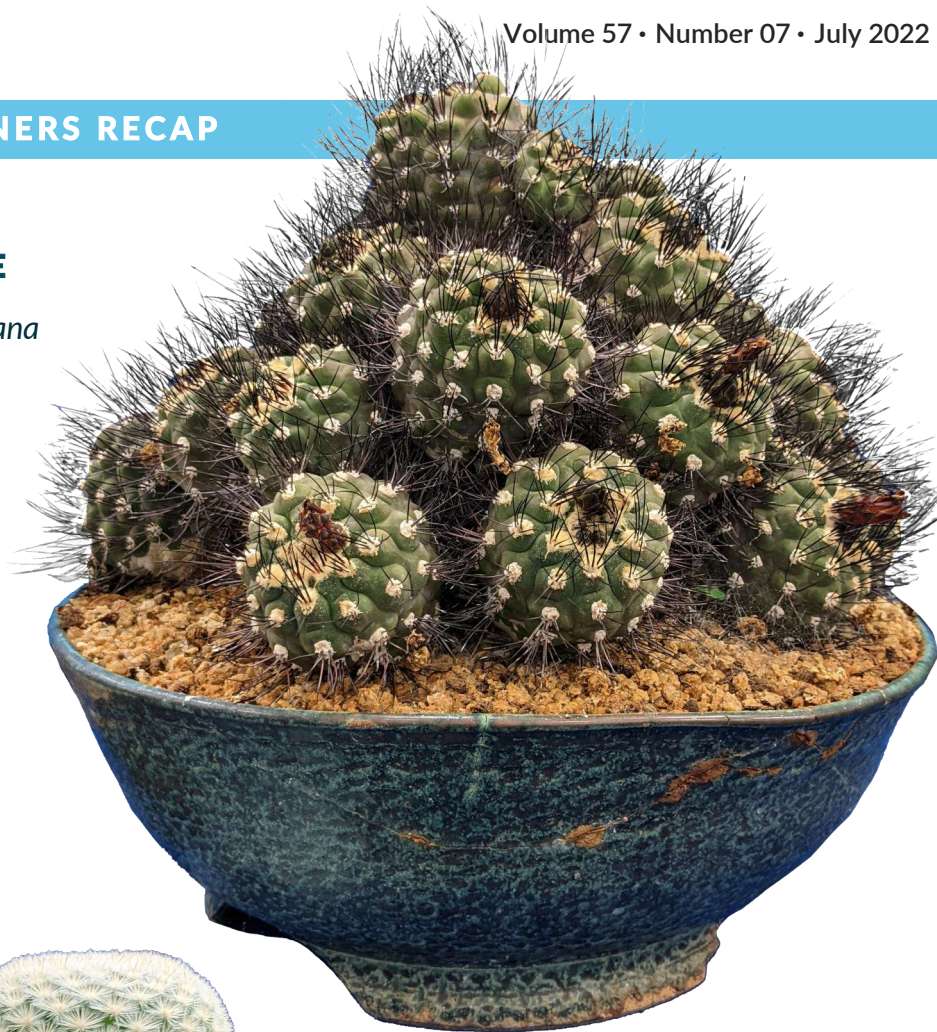
Tina Zucker

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST OPUNTIEAE

Weingartia neumanniana

Peter Walkowiak



BEST MAMMILLARIA

Mammillaria candida

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Uncarina roeoesliana

Peter Walkowiak



RAREST PLANT IN SHOW

Aloe pachydactylus

Matt M.

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST GRAFT IN SHOW

Pachypodium densicaule

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST SANSEVIERIA

Sansevieria erythraeae

Terry Parr



BEST ALOE

Aloe cv. 'Castaway' KJG

Kelly Griffin

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST CAUDICIFORM OR PACHYCAUL SUCCULENT

Commiphora lamii

Peter Walkowiak



BEST SUCCULENT BONSAI

Operculicarya decaryi

Al Klein

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST AGAVE

Agave albopilosa

Kelly Griffin



BEST MESEMBRYANTHEMUM IN SHOW

Pleiospilos compactus subsp. canus

Candy & Jerry Garner



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST MEXICAN PLANT

Ariocarpus trigonus

Kal Kaminer



BEST BAJA PLANT

Dudleya albiflora

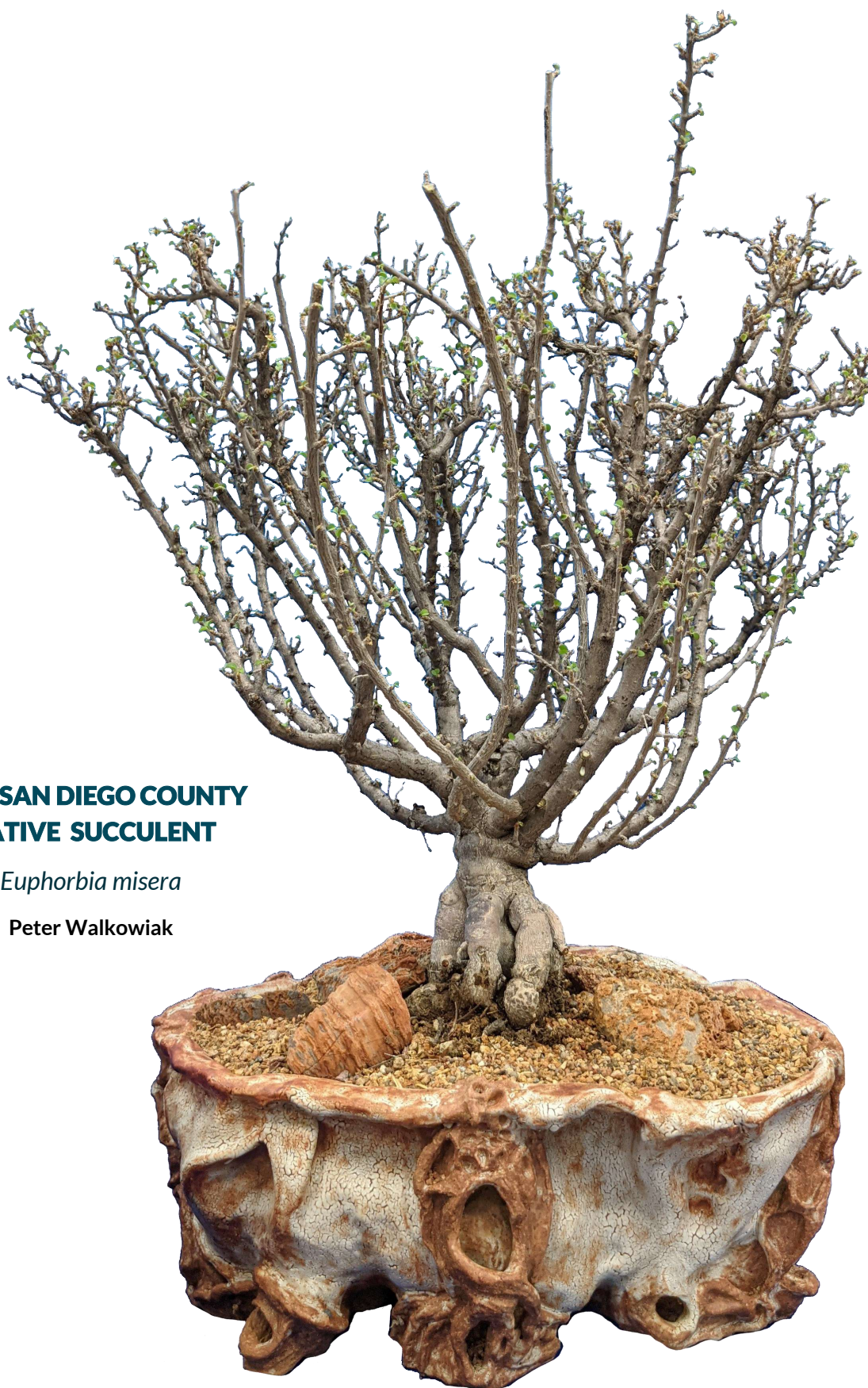
Matt M.

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST SAN DIEGO COUNTY NATIVE SUCCULENT

Euphorbia misera

Peter Walkowiak



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY

"Madagascar"

Pam Badger

MOST ARTISTIC EXHIBIT

"*Dyckia fosteriana*"

Donna Roden

