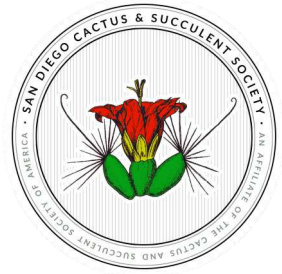


ESPINAS Y FLORES



VOL. 61, No. 07
JULY 2026

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



2026 SUMMER SHOW RESULTS // PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE //
THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS // UPCOMING EVENTS // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Ferocactus cylindraceus crested

Photo by Olga Batalov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's message pg 3

Thanks, volunteers! pgs 4 - 5 // July Speaker pg 6

Plant of the Month feature pgs 7 - 11

Member Section pgs 12 - 13

May Brag Table results pgs 14 - 40

UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

OUR NEXT MEETING!

July 11th

NEXT FUTURE MEETING

August 8th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Kelly Griffin
Vice President	Der-shing Helmer
Secretary	Olga Batalov
Treasurer	Ken Brown

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Rick Bjorklund, Patricia Bryan, Luis Gonzalez, Tom Knapik, Georgia Kenney, Rita Lunceford, and Jared Petker

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Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
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Reception	Susan Hopkins, Lien Lieu, & Candy Garner

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Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	Georgia Kenney
Coffee in the Garden Coordinator	Jodi Visosky

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CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
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SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja, & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

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General Club Publicity	Christie Lathrop
Show & Sale Publicity	Patricia Bryan & Emily Shuffield

CONTACT SDCSS membership@sdcss.net

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I for one am relieved that our annual Summer Show and Sale went so well and that we exceeded our operating budget expectations for the coming year. Our society's incredible success is only possible due to each and every one of you who donated your time, energy, and talents to make it happen.

I truly appreciate all of your contributions—they really showed. I hope you enjoyed the event as much as I did!

Finding a parking space may be a little more competitive next year at the 2027 Winter Show and Sale. But at least we won't have to wrestle with parking apps or stand in line at those kiosk "wallet robbers" anymore!

By the time you read this, our Volunteer Appreciation Party will already have come and gone. I hope you were able to join us and celebrate the reward for all of the hard work you put in. It was certainly well-deserved.

Looking ahead to July, we'll welcome a new presenter, **Trevor Adler**. His topic is one that everyone can benefit from: how to take better smartphone photos of our plants, both in the wild and at home (see the speaker feature in this issue of the newsletter for more details)!

Olga Batalov will also be presenting our Plant of the Month, focusing on variegated and crested succulents. I'm really looking forward to her presentation, and I know many of you are as well!

Two final reminders:

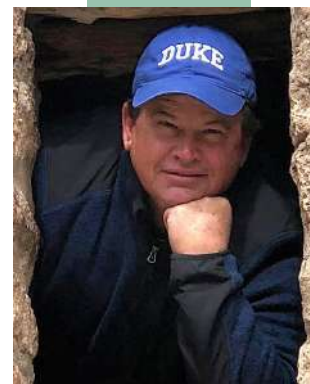
First, please consider bringing one or two of your special plants to our Brag Table. We all enjoy seeing what our members are growing, and who knows—you might even go home a winner!

Second, thank you to everyone who brings snacks to share during our break. They are always appreciated! We've had a few requests to include healthier options in our mix, which often includes sweets. If you're planning to bring a snack, we'd appreciate it if you would consider a healthy choice.

I hope to see you all at the July meeting!

Kelly Griffin

June 26, 2026





Have you ever seen a lovelier group of volunteers as ours? We appreciate you and your smiles so much! **Der-shing Helmer**



Volunteers enjoy a beautiful party at Nick Ransom's garden! Organized by Sales Chair Rita Lunceford Photos by Rita Lunceford & Olga Batalov



**JULY 11TH
SPEAKER
TREVOR ADLER
“SMARTPHONE
PHOTOGRAPHY”**

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Trevor Adler is a landscape, wildlife, and timelapse photographer and cameraman based in Temecula, California. He has a passion for capturing images that evoke curiosity and awe with the natural world.

Working professionally in the television and documentary space for over 15 years in a career that spans from adventure television and nature documentaries to commercial work and independent projects, Trevor’s style of photography, videography, and visual storytelling has led him to expeditions around the globe with clients that include National Geographic, Travel Channel, Discovery, and NBC Sports.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER TOPIC

Your smartphone is capable of capturing incredible photos and videos—you just need to know a few professional techniques.

In this presentation, Trevor will share camera tips and tricks that he has learned over 15 years working in the professional TV and documentary space, with a focus on how those tips and tricks can be applied to iPhone or other smartphone cameras.



OUR PLANT OF THE MONTH TOPIC

Join us at 1am, just before Trevor’s talk, for a Plant of the Month presentation about crested and variegated plants presented by our very own Olga Batalov. Catch a preview of this subject in this month’s newsletter!

[SEE YOU ON JULY 11TH, 2026!](#)

CRESTING & VARIEGATION

BY OLGA BATALOV



Variegated *Ferocactus* at the SDCSS brag table
Olga Batalov

Mutant plants tend to be desirable by collectors due to their unique, unusual or abnormal growth. Of course, as with all things, it tends to be a personal preference, with some collectors instead showing disdain towards mutant plants. Some examples of mutants are crested or monstrose plants, with monstrose plants lacking the symmetry of crested plants. Cresting is when a plant displays abnormal growth that is flattened, ribbon-like or fan-shaped instead of normal, symmetrical growth. The symmetry of the growing point goes from radial (circular) to bilateral (linear). The plant or stem generally no longer grows taller and instead grows sideways. This mutated growth also usually comes with suppression of flowering. The scientific term for turning normal stems into wedges, fans or crests is fasciation. Fan-shaped growth is referred to as flabellate, while wavy-edged growth is called undulate.

Why do plants crest? The normal radial growth pattern from the meristem at the top of the plant or stem gets disrupted. There is an underlying genetic or cellular reason, although the trigger itself is generally not definitively known. It is likely that environmental conditions, including physical damage to the meristem of the plant, play a role in creating crests but not in a reproduceable way. The simplest disruption results in the creation of two meristems, which is called dichotomy. A more complex multiplex crest has row of "daughter" meristems. As these multiplex crests develop further, the individual meristems fuse to create phalangeal crests, which result in long ridge-like crests or brain-like contortions. Crests are usually not propagatable by seed, only by vegetative propagation of the mutated section(s). There is one well-known exception: celosia, a cut flower popular in the floral industry with crested varieties that come true from seed. Crests are highly desired by collectors for their unique forms. Crests can occur in the wild naturally but are usually rare, although they can occur at higher frequencies in a certain area. One would think that creasting is not advantageous in the wild, but wild crested plants can thrive and actually grow bigger than non-crested plants because of their disrupted growth pattern.



Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus, photographed at the 2019 SDCSS Summer Show

Olga Batalov



Variegated Agaves from Rick Bjorklund's garden

Olga Batalov



Astrophytum myriostigma cv 'Onzuka' photographed at the 2018 CSSA Show

Olga Batalov



Agave 'White Rhino' photographed at the 2023 CSSA Show

Olga Batalov

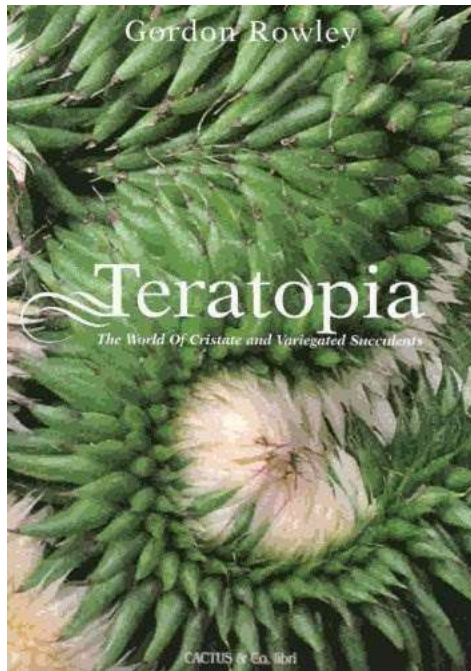


Tissue culture variegates being produced by Plug Connection



Olga Batalov

Another desirable type of mutation in plants is variegation, which is caused by the partial or complete absence of chlorophyll. This localized absence of chlorophyll creates spots/blotches of yellow or white, depending on the pigments that remain. A complete absence of chlorophyll creates an albino plant, which cannot survive on its own. Variegated plants are also technically chimeras because they consist of two or more different tissues. Some "variegation" is natural like in *Aloe variegata* and *Aloe maculata*—these are generally not considered variegated by plant collectors. Some variegation is temporary due to a nutrient or light deficiency. Some variegation is caused by a virus, such as in tulips. True variegation is genetically controlled and a result of plastids that lack chlorophyll. Variegation can come up at the seedling level or from sports in offsetting or branching plants.



Types of variegation include complete albino, cross-banded, striped/striated, streaked/lineate, pale-centered (mediopictus), margined (marginate), pale-tipped, blotched (maculate), marbled (marmorate), nettled (reticulate), mottled (guttate) and dusted (punctate). Generally, the less chlorophyll a plant has, the slower the growth rate.

If you want to learn more, check out the book *Teratopia*, the world of cristate and variegated succulents, by Gordon Rowley - available at our club library!

OLGA BATALOV



Celosia argentea var cristata

Olga Batalov



Hey, plant lovers!

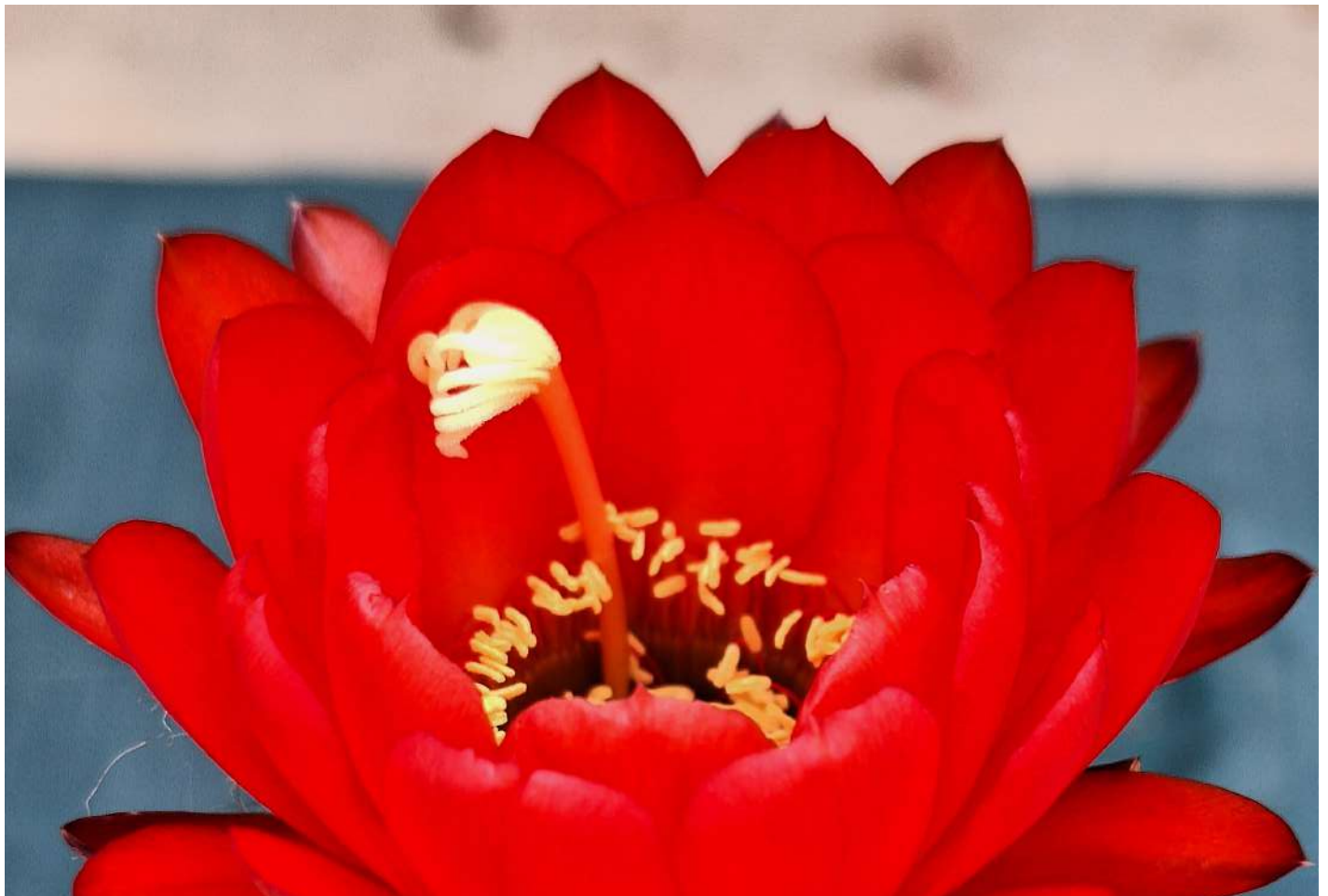
The Coffee in the Garden calendar is wide open.

The rest of 2026 and all of 2027 is up for grabs.

Members love to visit fellow club members gardens and gain inspiration and appreciation for different plants and collections.

Join the fun!

Please contact [Jodi Visosky](#) if interested.



"I don't know name of cactus that was given to me, but I was told that it produces beautiful red flowers. Voila! La belle fleur!"

Patty L



Dudleya viscosa spotted in San Diego

Olga Batalov



Melocactus's nice hat

Olga Batalov

Do you come to meetings early and enjoy talking to new SDCSS members? **We are seeking a volunteer to help hand out new member ID cards at the meetings.** If interested in learning more, please reach out to us at membership@sdcss.net

The SDCSS monthly newsletter welcomes all contributions from its members!

If you have a personal contribution related to cacti and succulents that you'd like to share with the club, please let us know, and you could see your work in a future issue. We'd love to hear from you!

Contact the editor: eyf.editor@gmail.com



SAN DIEGO
Cactus & Succulent Society



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

A special thank you to our dedicated Show Chair, Jared Petker, President Kelly Griffin, and our dedicated judges: Wendy Goldman, Miles Anderson, Phuc Hyunh, Kelly Griffin, Matt Maggio, and Tom Knapik. Additional thanks to our incredible Clerk team, and the fastidious Show Tally team.

The brag table will be back at our July meeting, so we'll see your great plants very soon!



THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL SUMMER SHOW!

Thank you to all of the folks who helped set up and tear down the show floor, as well as to all of the clerks who ensured judging went smoothly!

JARED PETKER

High Point Award (1-25 entries): Kelly Griffin

High point award (26-50 entries): Jared Petker

Sweepstakes Trophy: Peter Walkowiak

SDCSS SUMMER SHOW 2025 NOVICE CATEGORY	Divisions I, II and IV				Div III Collections	Totals for Ribbons	Trophy Points	Total Points
	Blue 3 Pts	Red 2 Pts	White 1 Pts	Sub-Total	7 Pt / 5 Pt / 3 Pt	0 Pts	10 Pt ea	
Ron McCullough	16	3	-	54	7,7	-	1	78
Madelyn Sonogo	3	4	2	19	7,5	-	-	31
Abraham Jaimes	5	2	-	19	7	-	-	26
Jackie Karras	2	1	1	9	-	-	1	19
Mr. Fancy Plants	3	1	-	11	5,3	-	-	19
Carolyn Dougharty	3	1	-	11	-	-	-	11
Ben Zhan	3	-	-	9	-	-	-	9
Ted Galvez	2	1	-	8	-	-	-	8
A. Alcasid	2	-	1	7	-	-	-	7
Scott Berquist	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	6
Terri Capoot	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	6
Charlene Cheung	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	6
Kristine New	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	6
Mike Clark	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	4
Cosman, Keith	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Ralph Moran	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	3
Ron Labaco	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2

SDCSS SUMMER SHOW 2025 INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY	Divisions I, II and IV				Div III Collections	Div VI Artwork	Trophy Points	Total Points
	Blue 3 Pts	Red 2 Pts	White 1 Pts	Sub-Total	7 Pt / 5 Pt / 3 Pt	0 pts	10 Pt ea	
Jared Petker	15	9	6	69	-	10	30	109
Chris Garcia	13	12	4	67	-	-	-	67
Dan Mahr	5	3	2	23	7	-	10	40
Vicki Hoffman	5	3	2	23	-	10	-	33
Chuck Ramey	7	2	-	25	-	-	-	25
Antonina Lansangan	3	3	2	17	7	-	-	24
Orosz, Naomi	5	1	4	21	-	-	-	21
Wendy Goldman	3	3	3	18	-	-	-	18
Gonzalez, Luis	5	-	3	18	-	-	-	18
Der-shing Helmer	1	1	2	7	-	-	10	17
Lisa Brosseau	1	3	1	12	5	-	-	15
Pauline Wong	3	1	2	13	5	-	-	13
M Aparicio	4	-	-	12	-	-	-	12
James Brandl	2	2	2	12	-	-	-	12

SDCSS SUMMER SHOW 2025 ADVANCED CATEGORY	Divisions I, II and IV				Div III Collections	Div VI Artwork	Trophy Points	Total Points
	Blue 3 Pts	Red 2 Pts	White 1 Pts	Sub-Total	7 Pt / 5 Pt / 3 Pt	0 pts	10 Pt ea	
Peter Walkowiak	24	15	5	107	-	30	40	177
Kelly Griffin	8	4	2	34	-	40	20	94
Tina Zucker	7	9	3	42	-	10	20	72
Dean Karras	5	2	1	20	-	20	10	50
Doug Hobson	2	3	4	16	-	10	10	36
Botanic Wonders	3	1	4	15	-	-	20	35
Brian Shepherd	5	3	2	-	-	-	10	33
Jim Smith	1	4	3	14	7	10	-	31
Sphaeroid Institute	4	4	1	21	-	-	10	31
DR Cactus	4	4	-	20	-	-	10	30
Rita Lunceford	1	1	1	6	-	10	10	26
Maria Tanedo	3	2	3	16	-	-	10	26
Candy & Jerry Garner	2	5	3	19	-	-	-	19
Kyle Williams	2	-	3	9	-	-	10	19
Arnold Chaney	4	1	1	15	-	-	-	15
Matt Maggio	1	-	-	3	-	-	10	13
Don Palmer	1	1	3	8	5	-	-	13
Steve Salley	-	2	1	7	7	-	-	12
Thorn Oasis	1	4	1	12	-	-	-	12
Pam Badger	1	2	3	10	-	-	-	10
LA Succulent	1	2	2	9	-	-	-	9
Anton DeLaCruz	1	2	1	8	-	-	-	8
Mike Fernardes	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Jarrett Wishnick	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2



**BEST NOVICE
SUCCULENT**

Senna meridionalis
Ron McCullough

BEST NOVICE CACTUS

Astrophytum myriostigma
Jackie Karras



**BEST INTERMEDIATE
CACTUS**

Thelocactus macdowellii
Dan Mahr



**BEST INTERMEDIATE
SUCCULENT**

Euphorbia bupleurifolia
Jared Petker



BEST SUCCULENT

Adenium 'Showstopper'

Rita Lunceford



BEST CACTUS

Copiapoia cineria
Peter Walkowiak



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Astrophytum myriostigma

Jackie Karras



BEST EUPHORBIA

Euphorbia aff. kalisana

Jared Petker



RAREST PLANT IN SHOW

Dorstenia sp. 'Lav 24877'

Der-shing Helmer



BEST OPUNTIEAE

Pterocactus tuberosus
Botanic Wonders

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

Pelecyphora strobiliformis
Brian Shepherd



BEST ECHEVERIA

Echeveria 'Pagoda'

Tina Zucker



BEST BURSERA

Bursera microphylla

Peter Walkowiak





**BEST PELARGONIUM
OR SARCOCAULON**

Sarcocaulon vanderietiae
Peter Walkowiak



BEST MAMMILLARIA

Mammillaria guelzowiana SB
1160
Peter Walkowiak



BEST GRAFT

Pachypodium brevicaule

Tina Zucker

BEST MINIATURE

Aloe x 'Enana'

Kelly Griffin



BEST ALOE

Aloe pearsonii

Doug Hobson



BEST SANSEVIERIA

Sansevieria kirkii 'Silver Blue'

Jared Petker



BEST SUCCULENT BONSAI

Operculicarya decaryi
Botanic Wonders



**BEST CAUDICIFORM OR
PACHYCAUL SUCCULENT**

Fockea edulis
Peter Walkowiak





BEST AGAVE

Agave albopilosa
Kelly Griffin

**BEST
MESEMBRYANTHEMUM**

Lithops bromfieldii v. *glaudinae* 'Embers'
Sphaeroid Institute



BEST BAJA PLANT

Stenocereus eruca
DR Cactus



BEST MEXICAN PLANT

Mammillaria theresae
Kyle Williams





**BEST SAN DIEGO COUNTY
NATIVE SUCCULENT**

Dudleya sp. nov.
Matt Maggio

**JUDGE'S CHOICE:
TOM KNAPIK**

Pseudolithos harardheranus
Tina Zucker

**JUDGE'S CHOICE:
TOM KNAPIK**

Mammillaria geminispina
Doug Hobson



JUDGE'S CHOICE:
WENDY GOLDMAN

Euphorbia stenoclada
Jared Petker

JUDGE'S CHOICE:
WENDY GOLDMAN

Agave nickelsiae
Vicki Hoffman





JUDGE'S CHOICE:
PHUC HUYNH

Mammillaria karwinskiana
Dean Karras

JUDGE'S CHOICE:
PHUC HUYNH

Eulophia petersii
Peter Walkowiak



**JUDGE'S CHOICE:
MILES ANDERSON**

Copiapoa dura
Peter Walkowiak



**JUDGE'S CHOICE:
MILES ANDERSON**

Aloe castilloniae
variegated high-yellow
Kelly Griffin



JUDGE'S CHOICE:
KELLY GRIFFIN

Pachypodium namaquanum
Peter Walkowiak



JUDGE'S CHOICE:
KELLY GRIFFIN

Euphorbia abdelkuri
Dean Karras

**JUDGE'S CHOICE:
MATT MAGGIO**

Aloe x 'High Gear'
Kelly Griffin



**JUDGE'S CHOICE:
MATT MAGGIO**

Euphorbia viguieri crested
Maria Tanedo





SHOW CHAIR'S CHOICE:
JARED PETKER
(GUEST JUDGE:
DER-SHING HELMER)

Aloe x 'Casty Blue II'
Kelly Griffin



SHOW CHAIR'S CHOICE:
JARED PETKER

Gasteria 'Tums'
Kelly Griffin



PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Haworthia collection

Jim Smith



PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Adenium crispum

Rita Lunceford