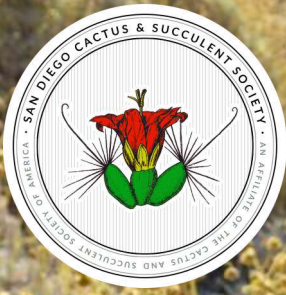


VOLUME 58 • NUMBER 07 • JULY 2023



ESPINAS Y FLORES

SUMMER SHOW GALLERY & RESULTS
FEROCACTUS • 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 crested *Ferocactus cylindraceus* in Anza Borrego Desert State Park

Photo by Dean Karras

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

Our next in-person meeting:

July 8th

Upcoming meeting:

August 12th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
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Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
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Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner

New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	[open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinators	Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Summer Show and Sale was an incredible success. Let me just say to start that I could not be prouder than to be working with this amazing group of people. From the set up crew on Friday to the cleanup crew on Sunday, you all worked so well together - always pitching in to help out where and when needed - I appreciate you all very much!

Annie Wolf - Ava Mirales - Beth Dargan - Brandi Walker - Brian Sheperd Brita Miller - Candy Garner - Kristi Steinberg - Chuck Ramey - Denise Griffin Der-shing Helmer - Des Brad - Donna Couchman - Donna Whitaker - Georgia Kenney - Heather Chan - Jared Petker - Jerome Orosz - Jerry Garner - Jim DeForest - Jodi Visosky - Kaija Marcon - Kelly Griffin - Ken Brown - Linda Stewart - Lou Crow - Luis Gonzalez - Lynn Elliot - Mark Lopresti - Mary Aparico - Mike Nelson - William Sheck - Norb Roden - Pauline Wong - Penelope Sacks - Ralph Moran - Rick Bjorklund - Rob Leon - Sandy Wetzels-Smith - Sarah Clayton - Sherman Blench - Sue-Ann Sheck - Susan Hopkins - Suzy Foran - Tatiana Church - Tricia Bostard - Wendy Goldman - Winston Chan - José Ramos - Dennis Hughes - Olga Batalov John McCann - Donna Fernandez - Robin in the kitchen - Edward Mallari - Mary May - Don Israel - Lynn Grant - Herb Stern - Chris Miller - Dean Karras - Donna Roden - May Fong-ho



THAT is an impressive list of Volunteers! Some highlights:

- **Ken Brown** and **Lynn Elliot** managing the cash registers and cashier teams did a fantastic job. The lines were never long, not because of lack of customers, rather due to the team's coordination and ability to get the job done.
- **Brian Sheperd** and his security team were everywhere. I never needed to look far to see an orange vest and get help with whatever was needed.
- **Chris Miller**, Chair of the Sales event, rounded up a fantastic group of vendors, and the layout was comfortable and flowed well, keeping our shoppers happy.
- **Rick Bjorklund** and **Dean Karras** set up a beautiful show—I think they moved each and every plant at least one time to get perfect spacing and balance to create the most beautiful show I've seen. Thanks to all of you who brought in plants, and once more blew everybody's socks off with the variety, maturity, weirdness, rarity and true beauty of plants entered.
- Awards are an exciting part of the show and there would be no trophies without the work of **Jerry Garner**, who makes and procures the trophy pots, and **Kelly Griffin** who gets the judges to award the trophies!
- **Kaija, Sandy, Robin and Donna F.** kept the kitchen humming with a nice variety of food, coffee and water to keep every one fed and moving. Special shout out to **Donna Roden** for procuring the water



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

donation, helping with shopping, bringing in hot food each day as well as picking up many loose ends.

- **Candy Garner** and her hospitality team do a great job out front getting vendors, volunteers and then guests into the event - an amazing job or organization! And, inside, **Susan Hopkins** and her team spent all weekend talking about our organization, the show, and answering question about everything.
- **Chuck Ramey, Norb Roden** and their helpers always amaze me by keeping track of the sales holding area while **Pauline Wong** and her team manage holding our guests' treasures so they can explore the show.
- Many people were helping at the close of the event - things were moving so fast I was not able to note who was doing what—you all did a fantastic job of cleaning, moving stuff and helping out every way possible - the space almost looked like we hadn't been there! My special thanks to Ralph Moran for helping me move all my plants to my van!

Huge thank you to all and I hope you had as much fun as I did putting on this magical event! Don't forget the **Coffee in the Garden** at the home of Alan Wells on July 1. He has many beautiful plants that he needs to find homes for prior to moving away. See details in this newsletter.

July is going to be a fantastic meeting! Plant of the Month talk on "Ferocactus" by **Dean Karras**, expert plantsman and owner of Gnosis Nursery. And then the main presentation by old friend of our organization, former president and so much more - **Tom DeMerritt** sharing a recent trip to Socotra - home of *Dracena cinnabari*!

Sales start 9ish...find a new treasure! Don't forget to bring a **Brag Plant** or two; enter in Novice, Intermediate, or Open class to win Plant Bucks and learn more about your plants! The **plant exchange** will be open as well. Bring a plant or two, get a ticket for the drawing at the end of the meeting, swap your extras! **Benefit Drawing** will be back too. Get your tickets for your chance to win a cool plant!

Looking forward to see you all there on **July 8!**

See you soon!

Pam Badger

June 23, 2023

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!

Did you enjoy our June Show and Sale? Are you ready to step up and take a more active role? **Chris Miller**, our VP and Chairperson of the Sale, is looking for an assistant / trainee. Chris has been running the sale for 20 years and has it down to a science, which is why our sales go so smoothly. She is looking for someone to train and begin learning this position. Chris is a great mentor and is looking for someone with good organizational and people skills to eventually take over and carry on for a few years.

If interested, please contact

Chris: c.miller@cox.net

SDCSS JULY SPEAKER



Join us **Saturday, July 8th** for our awesome guest speaker: **Tom Demerritt**: “The Island of Socotra.”

Our Speaker Topic: Tom will present on the island of Socotra, which he visited just this last year: the land of dragon trees, *Dracena cinnabari*, and giant bottle trees, *Adenium socotranum*, among many of the other fantastic sights.

The Island of Socotra is a protectorate of the country of Yemen and lies about 380 kilometers off the south coast of that country. It is actually closer to Somalia which lies just 240 kilometers to the west of Socotra. It has some of the most incredible flora in the entire world and many of the plants are endemic. It was named a UNESCO site based entirely upon the unique and unusual flora and fauna. The site is of universal importance because of its biodiversity with rich and distinct flora

and fauna: 37% of Socotra's 825 plant species, 90% of its reptile species and 95% of its land snail species do not occur anywhere else in the world.

About Our Speaker: Tom Demerritt is a former SDCSS president and life member of our club.

**See you at the
July 8th meeting!**



JULY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH

This month's **Plant of the Month** presentation will be on the genus **Ferocactus**, presented by **Dean Karras**. Read Dean's article in this issue!

JULY COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

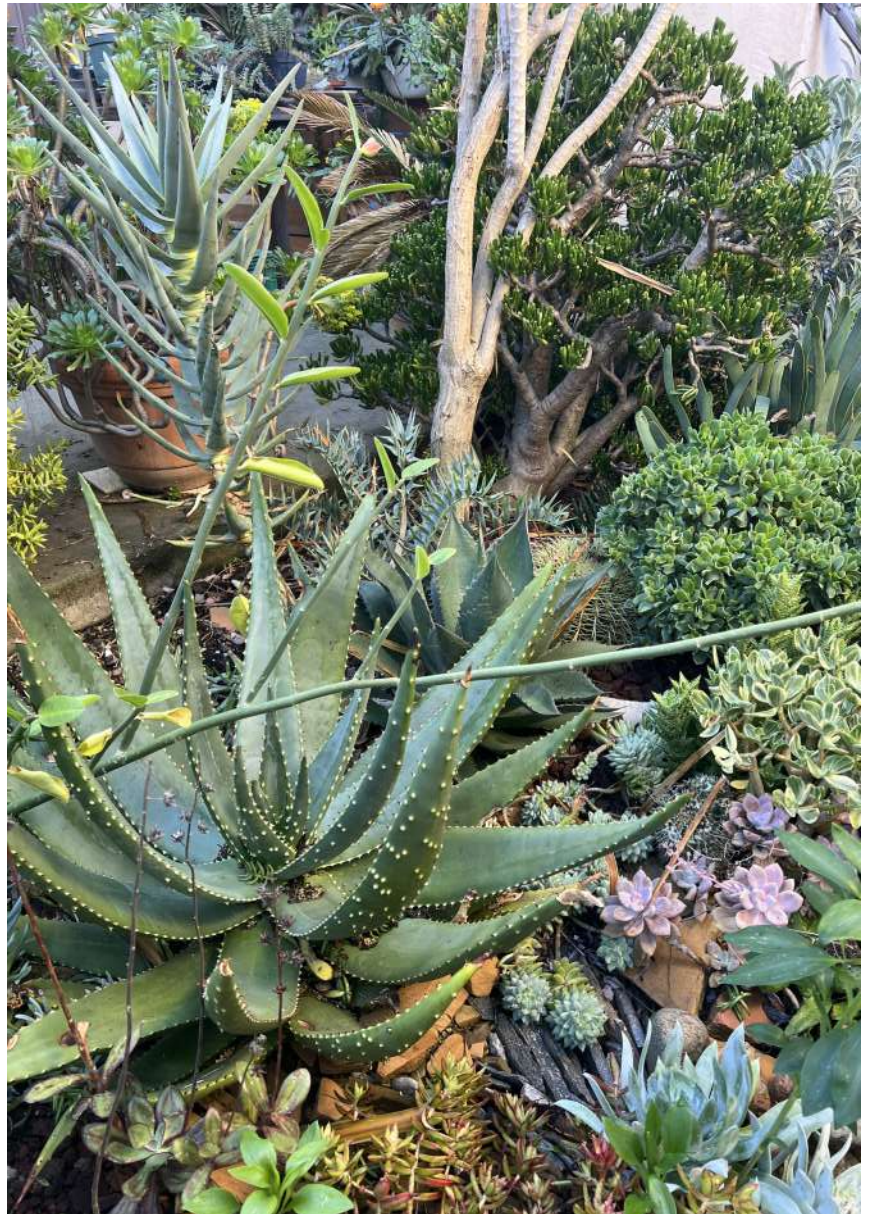
ALAN WELLS' COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Date: July 1st

Time: 8am - 2pm

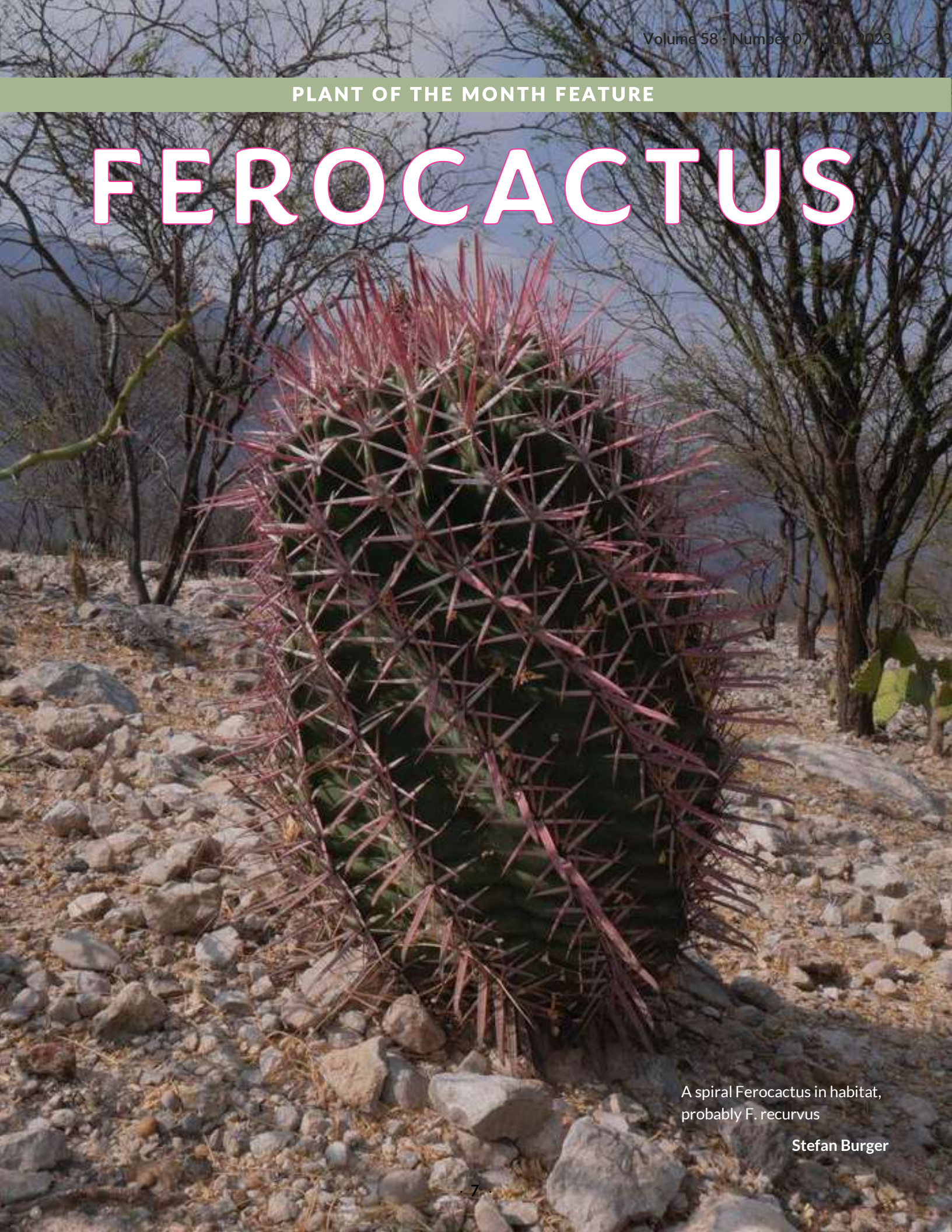
Location: 2622 Covington Road San Diego, CA 92104

Alan has planted multiple gardens at his house, mostly succulents but also some natives and annuals intermixed. He has many different species of cultivars of aloes and agaves in his garden. His backyard is a canyon, and in addition to his gardens, he has multiple mature avocado trees that have been in the family for generations, and a full vegetable garden that should be in full growth during the event. He will be selling some plants from his collection, and also some handmade pots by me. Please bring cash to buy plants and pots. Snacks and coffee will be provided. I live on a cul-de-sac and parking is limited in front of my house, so I ask that visitors park near Boundary and Covington and walk down to his house. Please let me know if there is any other information I can provide or if you have any questions.



PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

FEROCACTUS



A spiral Ferocactus in habitat,
probably *F. recurvus*

Stefan Burger

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

Ferocactus is a genus of North American cacti notable for their barrel-like growth habit and colorful, flattened and hooked spines. Their large, colorful, recurved spines are their most distinct attribute, and author Scott Calhoun remarks that they are generally more appreciated by cactiphiles for their spines than their flowers (*The Gardener's Guide to Cactus*, 2012). In fact, the generic epithet “Ferocactus” derives from *ferox*, meaning “ferocious” in Latin, a reference to their heavily spine-armored stems. *Ferocactus glaucescens* and *F. emoryi* ssp. *rectispinus* have much more gently curved spines than many whose hooks curl down sharply towards the end much like a fishing hook. Calhoun calls *F. rectispinus* the “Baja Punk Rock Barrel Cactus”, owing to its spines that can measure up to 10” long! (*ibid.*). New spines show more color than old ones but some keep the color better than others. Duller spines on many species turn vibrantly colorful again when wet by rain, condensation, or irrigation.

*Ferocactus glaucescens*

Stefan Burger

Taxonomically the genus *Ferocactus* is considered to be fairly distinct and well-defined based on both macroscopic morphological features as well as phylogenetically according to the latest DNA sequencing. That said, intergeneric hybrids in cultivation with other cacti closely akin is possible, notably with the oddball monotypic genus *Leuchtenbergia*, whose offspring are referred to as xFerobergia. The recent trend has been to “lump” rather than “split” many taxa previously recognized as distinct species as subspecies of larger species concepts.

The natural distribution of the ferocacti in the United States is from southern California eastward and as far north as southern Utah and Nevada, with a high concentration in Arizona, then southeast through New Mexico down into the Rio Grande Valley of Texas—representing a total of only 5 of the roughly 30 recognized species, none of which are endemic to the country as all 5 of these species also occur further south in Mexico. The Baja (*cont'd*)

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Ferocactus gracilis, an intermediate form between *ssp. gracilis* and *ssp. coloratu*

Dean Karras



Ferocactus viridescens flowering with *Dudleya brevifolia* in Del Mar, CA

Dean Karras

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Giant *Ferocactus diguetii* with Cardón for scale on Isla Catalana in the Sea of Cortez

Kevin Kreucher

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Ferocactus cylindraceus ssp. *tortulispinus*

Dean Karras



F. peninsulae & *F. emoryi* ssp. *rectispinus* growing side by side in the foothills of the Sierra de San Francisco, Baja Sur

Dean Karras

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

peninsula is rich with diversity of these plants, and reports that “Depending on taxonomy, Baja California is represented with 11 species (19 taxa), of which all but 3 taxa are endemic, an 84% rate of endemism.” (*Baja California Plant Field Guide*, 2012, Rebman et. al.). Some ferocactus species in this region are exclusive island endemics.

Due to their large size and colorful spines, ferocacti are often one of the more conspicuous plants in the natural landscapes they dominate. In comparison to many of the larger columnar cacti, their somewhat more modest size at maturity and slower rate of growth make them great focal points in a cactus garden. Also owing to their robust size, several species are noted for serving as indicator plants for certain smaller globular and geophytic cacti that are inherently more difficult to spot in the field.

Flowers are born from the crown. In cultivation, ferocacti are almost exclusively grown from seed as they do not propagate well from cuttings, although clustering types are seldomly propagated from basal divisions (stems with roots already attached). I have personally found all species I’ve cultivated to date, even the ones that have a more southerly or coastal distribution, will tolerate moderate frost for brief periods of time even at a fairly young age and even in somewhat damp soil and provided drainage is good.

For further reading, especially detailed information on the various taxa, the best and most user-friendly book on the subject is *Ferocactus* (2005) by John Pilbeam and Derek Bowdery. A special thanks to Kevin Kreucher (IG: @crazy4cactus) and Stefan Burger (IG: @cactusexplorer_) for both enthusiastically contributing habitat pictures for this article.

DEAN KARRAS

*Ferocactus robustus*

Stefan Burger



**A huge thank-you to everyone who entered their plants into the 2023 Summer Show!
Please enjoy this gallery of our show winners.**

**We'd also like to thank our gracious show judges
Rick Bjorklund, Mark Fryer, Kelly Griffin, Phuc
Huynh, Al Klein, and Terry Parr.**

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST NOVICE SUCCULENT

Euphorbia meloformis

Chase Bahne

BEST NOVICE CACTUS

Astrophytum myriostigma

Jackie Karras



JMP SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

Euphorbia milii

Pauline Wong



BEST INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

Espostoa lanata

Christine Vargas

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST CACTUS

Ariocarpus 'Cauliflower'

Thorn Oasis

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST SUCCULENT

Ceraria namaquensis

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST EUPHORBIA

Euphorbia monteiroi

Peter Walkowiak



BEST MINIATURE

Crassula susannae riethis No.1

Sphaeroid Institute

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST ECHEVERIA

Echeveria 'Mauna Loa'

Pauline Wong



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

Astrophytum asterias

Dean Karras



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

BEST OPUNTIEAE

Micropuntia tuberculosirhopalica

Brian Shepherd



BEST BURSERA

Bursera simplicifolia

Candy & Jerry Garner

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



**BEST PELARGONIUM
OR SARCOCAULON**

Sarcocaulon vanderietiae

Peter Walkowiak



BEST MAMMILLARIA

Mammilloidia candidae

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Hoodia gordonii

Dean Karras

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



RAREST PLANT IN SHOW

Aloe delicatifolia

Matt M.



BEST GRAFT IN SHOW

Obregonia denegrii variegata

Anime Wolf

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST SANSEVIERIA

Sansevieria kirkii cv. *Silver Blue*

Jared Petker



BEST ALOE

Aloe dhufarensis

Matt M.

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST SUCCULENT BONSAI

Operculicarya decaryi

Al Klein

**BEST CAUDICIFORM OR
PACHYCAUL SUCCULENT**

Operculicarya decaryi

Al Klein



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST AGAVE

Agave 'Raptor'

LA Succulents



**BEST
MESEMBRYANTHEMUM
IN SHOW**

Argyroderma ringens

Brian Shepherd

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST MEXICAN PLANT

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus

LA Succulents



BEST BAJA PLANT

Dudleya brittonii

Jen Greene

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



**BEST SAN DIEGO COUNTY
NATIVE SUCCULENT**

Ferocactus viridescens

Dean Karras

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



BEST EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY

“Euphorbias”

Pam Badger

MOST ARTISTIC EXHIBIT

“Euphorbia meloformis”

Der-shing Helmer



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



JUDGE'S CHOICE: AL KLEIN

Pachypodium rosulatum var. *gracilius*

Luis Gonzalez



JUDGE'S CHOICE: AL KLEIN

Mammillaria magnimamma *priessnitzii*

Suzy Foran

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

JUDGE'S CHOICE: TERRY PARR

Euphorbia triaculeata

Peter Walkowiak

JUDGE'S CHOICE: TERRY PARR

Aloe 'Flash Gordon' (KG)

Tina Zucker



SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

JUDGE'S CHOICE: MARK FRYER

Cleistocactus jujuyensis monstrose

Chuck Ramey



JUDGE'S CHOICE: MARK FRYER

Coryphantha elephantidens cv. inermis

Thorn Oasis

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



JUDGE'S CHOICE: PHUC HUYNH

Ariocarpus 'Godzilla'

Thorn Oasis



JUDGE'S CHOICE: PHUC HUYNH

x Ferostenos 'Narrow Minded'

Miles to Go

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



JUDGE'S CHOICE: KELLY GRIFFIN

Yucca endlicheriana

Dean Karras



JUDGE'S CHOICE: KELLY GRIFFIN

Aloe erinacea

Christine Vargas

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

JUDGE'S CHOICE: RICK BJORKLUND

Alluaudia procera crest

Arnold Chaney



JUDGE'S CHOICE: RICK BJORKLUND

Othonna herrei

Peter Walkowiak

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Dorstenia lavrani crest

Der-shing Helmer



PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Gymnocalycium friedrichii

Chris Miller

SUMMER SHOW WINNERS RECAP



SHOW CHAIR'S CHOICE

Adenium arabicum

Fernando Diaz

FINAL SUMMER SHOW SCORES (NOVICE & INTERMEDIATE)

SDCSS SUMMER SHOW 2023 NOVICE CATEGORY	Divisions I, II and IV				Div III Collections 7 Pt / 5 Pt / 3 Pt	Div V Exhibits 12 Pt / 10 Pt / 8 Pt	Trophy Points 10 Ptea	Total Points
	Blue 3 Pts	Red 2 Pts	White 1 Pts	Sub-Total				
Chase Bahne	9	2	2	33			1	43
Suzy Foran	7	5		31			1	41
Der-Shing Helmer	4	1		14			2	34
Robin Street-Morns	4	3	3	21				21
Zeta Green	4	4	1	21				21
Jared Petker	5	1	1	18			1	28
Luis Gonzales	4	1	2	16			1	26
Jackie Karras	2			6			1	16
Fernando Diaz	1	1		5			1	15
Joshua Mendida	4			12				12
Alex Kiss	1	3	2	11				11
Alex Gaertan	2	1		8				8
Tricia Bostard		3	1	7				7
John McCann	1	1	1	6				6
Rhoda Sabatchi	2			6				6
Russell Ramsey	1	1		5				5
Omar Hiraes	1		1	4				4
Ryan Pak	1			3				3

SDCSS SUMMER SHOW 2023 INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY	Divisions I, II and IV				Div III Collections 7 Pt / 5 Pt / 3 Pt	Div V Exhibits 12 Pt / 10 Pt / 8 Pt	Trophy Points 10 Ptea	Total Points
	Blue 3 Pts	Red 2 Pts	White 1 Pts	Sub-Total				
Pauline Wong	6	3	4	28			2	48
Chuck Ramey	6	4		26	7		1	43
Chris Miller	5	6	5	32			1	42
Julia Chimento	5	8	8	39				39
Christine Vargas	3	3	1	16			2	36
Wendy Goldman	5	6	2	29				29
Mike Fernandez	6	1		20	5			25
Peter Hagopian	5	2	3	22				22
Alison Baldwin	6		2	20				20
Norbert Roden	2		1	7				17
Jose Munoz	4	2		16				16
Jen Greene	4	2		16				16
M. Aparicio	2	4	1	15				15
Lisa Brosseau	2	3						12
Susan Aach	2	2	1	11				11
Herb Stein		1	4	6				6
Susan Hopkins		2		4				4
Dee Morgan		1		2				2

FINAL SUMMER SHOW SCORES (ADVANCED)

SDCSS SUMMER SHOW 2023 ADVANCED CATEGORY	Divisions I, II and IV				Div III Collections	Div V Exhibits	Trophy Points	Total Points
	Blue 3 Pts	Red 2 Pts	White 1 Pts	Sub-Total	7 Pt/ 5 Pt/ 3 Pt	12 Pt/ 10 Pt/ 8 Pt	10 Pts ea	
Peter Walkowiak	18	13	5	85			6	145
Dean Karras	8	4	3	35			4	75
Brian Shepherd	6	4	1	27			2	47
C & G Garner	7	6	4	37			1	47
Thorn Oasis	3	2	2	15			3	45
Tina Zucker	5	5	6	31			1	41
Pam Badger	4	3		18		12	1	40
Botanic Wonder	4	1	2	16			2	36
Matt M.	3	2	3	16			2	36
Arnold Chaney	5	1	2	19			1	29
Jen Greene	1	5	2	15			1	25
LA Succulent	1	1		5			2	25
Miles to Go	3	1	3	14			1	24
Annie Wolf	3	1	1	12			1	22
Sphaeroid Institue	2	1	3	11			1	22
Rick Bjorklund.	1	1	3	8		10		18
C & T Plants	3	3	1	16				16
Doug Hopkins		5	2	12				12
Jen Craig		4	3	11				11
M & A Flammang	1	2	3	10				10
Naomi Orosz		2	1	5	5			10
Thorn Oasis		4	1	9				9
Tom Biggart		3	2	8				8
Steve Hammer	1	1	2	7				7
Don Palmer		2	3	7				7
Steve Hammer	1	1	2	7				7
Steve Salley	1		3	6				6
Mike Nelson		1		2				2

