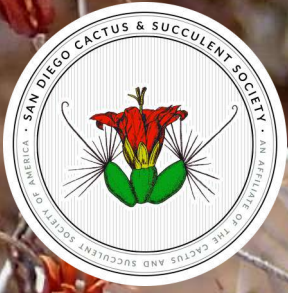


VOLUME 58 • NUMBER 08 • MARCH 2023



ESPINAS Y FLORES

**TYLECODON & COTYLEDON • UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS
WINTER SHOW AND SALE RESULTS RECAP & more!**

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



ON THE COVER

Tylecodon reticulatus ssp. reticulatus

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

Our next event:
March 11th

Next upcoming meeting:
April 8th

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Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
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Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
Benefit Drawing Table	Allen Clark & Chuck Ramey
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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CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Garden	Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
SD Floral Association	Jeanette Dutton
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
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Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
Publicity	Christie Lathrop

CONTACT SDCSS

membership@sdcss.net

CONTACT EyF EDITOR

eyf.editor@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! It has been a week since our Show and Sale, and I continue to feel such wonder and gratitude for the way it came together and went so smoothly. I have the wonderful yet difficult task to express my gratitude to all who participated in making this a very successful event. I apologize in advance for anyone who is not named—we had SO MANY volunteers, and many who helped out in several capacities.

As we don't have an official Show Chair at this time, it all came together with the efforts of many. **Kelly Griffin** made arrangements for the rental of the tent and tables, as well as lining up judges. On Friday, **Susan Hopkins** and **Chris Miller** were there to manage a large team including **Rick Bjorklund**, **Tina Zucker**, **Dean Karras**, **Wendy Goldman**, **Don Jones**, **Donna Roden**, **Reggie Salazar**, and **Jose Ramos** in assembling and covering tables and setting up signage. As members brought show plants in record numbers, the Show team helped with plant identification and placement in the show. Susan also put together a fine team of Clerks to assist the judging of the show—thanks to **Der-shing Helmer**, **Jared Petker**, **Alison Baldwin**, **Mary Stewart**, **Beth Jackson** and **Denise Griffin**.

Another key team is the one at the greeting table curbside. Lead by **Candy Garner** - **Jessica McGee**, **Donna Roden**, **Lien Lieu**, and **Jerry Garner** spent the day greeting our guests, signing in volunteers, signing up new members, and answering innumerable questions.

The sale went flawlessly thanks to the cashiering team lead by **Ken Brown**, **Lynn Elliot**, and **John McCann**, who were there from set-up on Friday to shutting down and cleaning up on Saturday evening. Our bang-up POS team—the folks working the registers for hours without breaks starting Saturday AM—was made up of **Lynn Elliot**, **Melanie Howe**, **Brita Miller**, **Sarah Clayton**, **Linda Stewart**, **Beth Dargan**, **Tricia Bostard**, **Jodi Visosky**, and **Georgia Kenny**. In the afternoon, Lynn, Melanie, Brita, Georgia, Jodi, Linda, and Sarah kept at it and were joined by **Suzy Perkins**, and **Denise Griffin**. What a fantastic job!



Our amazing cashier crew at work

Tina Zucker

Our Plant Sitters, located inside and outside, did a wonderful job tracking all those plants both before and after purchase. Lead by **Chuck Ramey** and **Norb Roden**, all plants were tracked and accounted for. I know there were a few people who helped outside and I talked with them several times, unfortunately I do not remember who they were, and hope they were mentioned elsewhere in this message!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Security is always on our minds as members bring in their valued plants for the Show and Sales areas—we are lucky to have **Brian Shepard** leading this team. Thanks to **Brandi Walker, Ralph Moran, Alan Wilson, Mary Aparicio, Ed Mallar, Sherman Blench, Dennis Hughes, Emily Weaver, Leslie Shelly, Pat Bryan, Margarita Santillan, Luis Gonzalez, Lynn Grant, Brook Fess, Elle Fess, Tamara Lawson, Herb Stern, Reggie Salazar, Tatiana Church, Jen Shaheen, and Susan Foran** for taking shifts working security. Those orange vests are great to see keeping our plants secure.

Ariella Mann, who has assisted me with running booths for kids to make succulent gardens at a couple other events, took this task on by herself. Ariella also displayed some wonderful educational posters she created about succulent plants, adding a valuable educational piece to our show! Thanks to **Al Kline** of **Botanic Wonders** for donating the plants for the kids. What a great way to get children interested in cacti and succulents!

Of course, all of this would never work without fuel, and we had an awesome team in the kitchen to keep everyone going. Lead by **Sandy Wetzel** who keeps the coffee pots full, the team on **Kaija Marcon, Robin Leon, and Donna Fernandes** kept the trays and bowls well stocked with good things to eat. Thanks also to **Pauline Wong, Donna Roden, and Sandy** who all brought hot dishes, and to everyone else who contributed food and snacks.

By the end of the two long days packed with activity, it is sometimes difficult to find volunteers to do the clean-up. Not so this time—we had the best clean-up crew ever! Special thanks to: **Tatiana Church, Jennifer Shaheen, Margarita Santilan, Luis Gonzalez, Don Israel, Britta Miller, May Fong Ho, Lynn Elliot, Ralph Moran, Reggie Salazar, Donna, Norb and Jeanne Roden, and Chris Miller.**

What pleases me most reading back over this list of volunteers is the wonderful sense of community working together and seeing all the new names. It was also great to see so many novice plants entered—I have been showing for over 30 years, and am still thrilled to see people enjoy the plants and the excitement of winning ribbons. THANKS to everyone who volunteered, came to see the show, and those whose encouraged their friends and neighbors to come. **I appreciate you!**

Looking forward to spring—we have a good line up for the upcoming March meeting. The ever-popular **Woody Minnich** will be doing the main presentation, **Jen Greene** will be doing a pre-meeting workshop, and I will be doing a Plant of the Month on the topic of Tylecodon & Cotyledon, great winter-growing species.

We also have two garden events coming up. First is a **Coffee in the Garden** at the home of **Brian Shepard**—a fantastic landscape for colder climates of SD County on March 25—then our first “**Mini Garden Tour**” on April 1 (no joke!). See 3 gardens, all different and fairly close together in East County. More details for both events are included in this issue of *Espinas y Flores*.

See you on the 11th at the meeting!

Pam Badger

February 18, 2022

SDCSS MARCH SPEAKER

Join us **Saturday, March 11th** for our awesome guest speaker: **Woody Minnich**:
“Gymnocalyciums, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.”

Our Speaker Topic: Gymnocalycium is one of the most popular of all of the South American genera. Most everybody during the development of their cactus and succulent collections has eventually ended up with a sizable assortment of this wonderful genus. Most of the species are not really large and thus they make perfect pot culture specimens. Their colors, shapes and unique spine arrangements often make them outstanding geometric treasures. Probably the most desired aspect of the Gymnos is that they almost all make ideal and easy plants for cultivation.



All of the Gymnocalyciums come from South America. Although, the great majority of the species are found in central to northern Argentina. In the surrounding countries of Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay, one can find many of the more subtropical species.

About Our Speaker: Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. To date, this makes 128 major trips. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement.

See you at the meeting!

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP & PLANT OF THE MONTH

Join us at **11am** for the March **pre-meeting workshop** featuring board member **Jerry Garner** with his time-tested tips on getting your plants in shape for the Winter show.

This month's **Plant of the Month** will be **Cacti and Succulents Native to Southern California**, presented by **Olga Batalov**. Read Olga's article

UPCOMING EVENTS: COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN WITH BRIAN SHEPARD

Date and Time: Saturday, March 25th. 9am-2pm

Address: 2837 N. Victoria Dr., Alpine, 91901

Directions: Take exit 8 East at Tavern Rd. Follow up Victoria Park terrace . Turn left at the cemetery onto Victoria Drive . Drive about 1/4 mile, house is on the right.

Parking: Continue past house about 100 yds and turn right on Homeward. Street parking at back of house.

We hope spring will have arrived. Please join us in the beautiful countryside of Alpine. Our garden is 1.25 acres full of cacti and succulents, many of which should be flowering. We have three greenhouses with plants for sale , may also be cacti prints for sale and homemade stoneware pots. Refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions, call me at (619) 743-5130 or call Sally at 6196096579



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?

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:

www.facebook.com/sdcss

TWITTER: [SanDiegoCactus](https://twitter.com/SanDiegoCactus)

INSTAGRAM: [#sdcss](https://www.instagram.com/sdcss)

WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

UPCOMING EVENTS: GARDEN TOUR OF EAST COUNTY

EAST COUNTY GARDEN TOUR

On April 1, 2023 we will be having our first ever **Garden Tour**. The tour will feature three gardens in a line, each less than 15 minutes from the next, and you can visit in any order you wish! We suggest; large, medium, small...or small, medium, large. There will be some plant and/or pottery sales at each location, so please bring cash if you anticipate making purchases. Light refreshments will also be provided. **Please note:** Two locations have some hilly, somewhat rugged paths, so wear suitable shoes for walking—there are places to overlook the gardens if the walking is not for you.

SMALL GARDEN

Michael and Donna
Fernandes

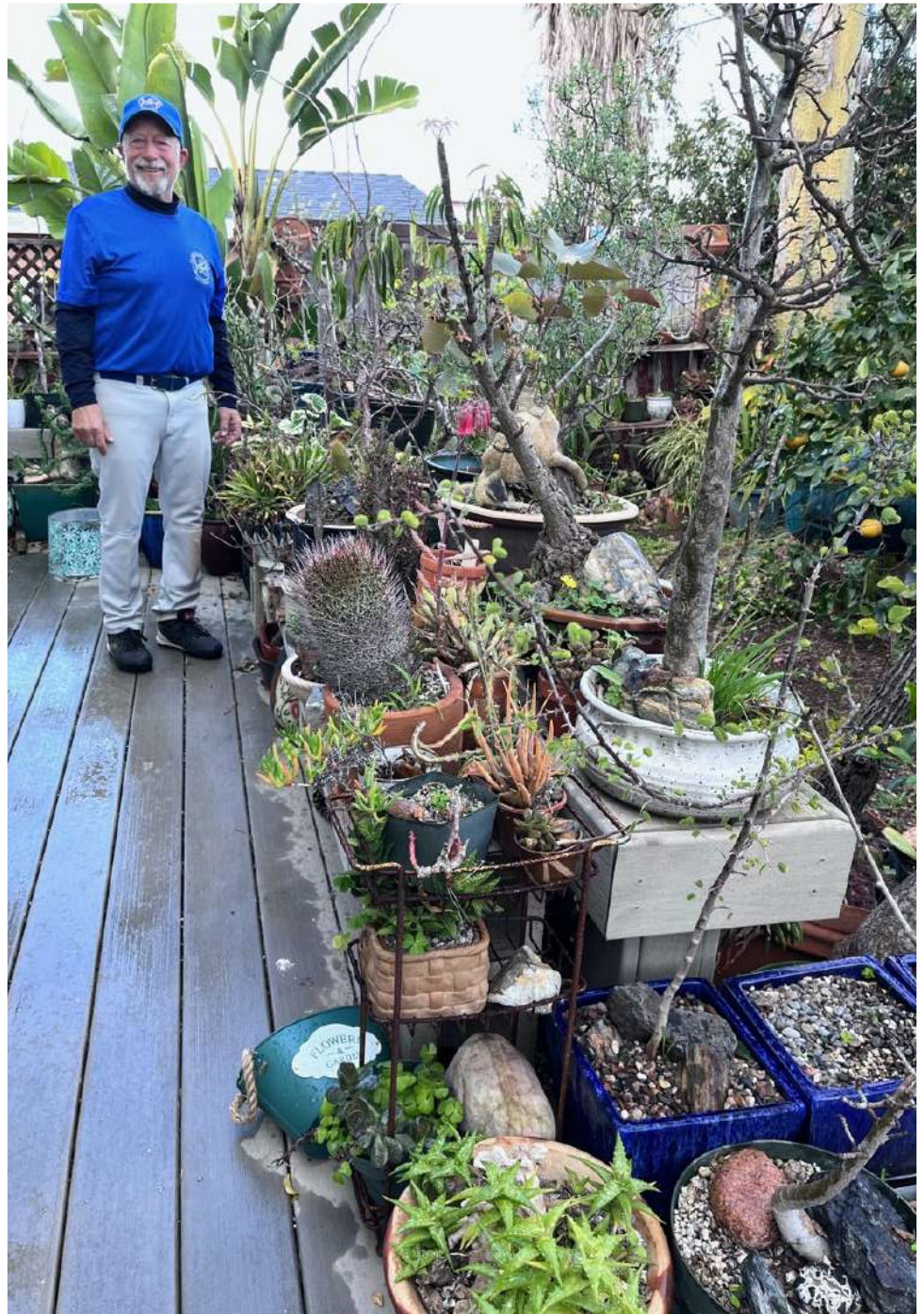
Address: 6840 Veronica Ave
San Diego 92115

Time: Open 9-1

Parking: Street parking
available in the
neighborhood

Though located in a suburban neighborhood, the Fernandes' have packed their place with a wide variety of plants in a lovely garden setting. Mike first became interested in succulents in the early 1980's—he and his father had a shop in Hillcrest when Mike became acquainted with a neighbor, Lee Phelps. Lee had been a long-time member of SDCSS, and Mike offered the older gentleman help in his garden.

They became good friends, and the plants Mike was gifted by this epic collector became the basis of his collection.



UPCOMING EVENTS: GARDEN TOUR OF EAST COUNTY



MEDIUM GARDEN

Pam Badger

Address: 9105 Avocado Street, Spring Valley 91977

Time: Open 10-2

Parking: On Valencia St., Valencia Lane, or Avocado below the hill— lower gate access. Limited parking at drive way, just up the hill for anyone with issue walking up the slope.

Located in an older area of Spring Valley, Pam's 1/4 acre property is on a slope is packed with old specimens in the ground. The house, with decks overlooking the garden, are filled with potted specimens. Pam and her late husband, Lee, had collected, propagated, and sold succulents since the 1970's in San Francisco and Nicaragua before settling in Spring Valley in 1984. The lot—originally bare except a couple trees, a small house, and tumble weeds—is now a paradise .

LARGE GARDEN

Jodi Visosky

Address: 3057 Millar Ranch Road, Spring Valley 91978

Time: Open 9-2

Parking: Narrow private road. **NO PARKING ON THE ROAD.** Parking at neighbors and signs for places to park in an empty lot before arriving at location. Carpooling - recommended - park at Edwards Cinema

We bought our house for the view and for years just maintained a 100 ft defensible space....we only had fruit trees that were already here and roses. Several years ago, a neighbor moved and offered us cactus cuttings before they sold their house. Those cuttings opened the floodgate, and a love affair started. We have very little irrigation, so most plants are on their own after being established. Many plants were rescued from people moving or remodeling, or cuttings from swaps and friends.



PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Cotyledon & Tylecodon

A brief overview

by Pam Badger

Blooms of *Tylecodon paniculatus v. denteri*

Pam Badger

Cotyledon and Tylecodon are two of the five genera of the family *Crassulaceae* that are indigenous to the winter rainfall areas of southern Africa. Many of the species are dormant in the hot summers, coming awake with the winter rains and doing much of their growth. As the rains wind down and local temperatures heat up, these plants begin their blooming phase. This growth habit makes them well suited to our San Diego climate.

COTYLEDON

The genera Cotyledon has only 11 species, though it also contains many variants, and they are popular in gardens around the world in sub-tropical regions. The majority of species are endemic to the winter rain

areas of southern Africa with one species ranging all the way to the Arabian peninsula. Their ability to grow in some of the wettest and driest places—from sandy coastal regions to rocky mountains—combined with their striking flowers, make them gardener favorites. Cotyledons are easy to propagate from cuttings, which is best done during their growing season. Cotyledons store water in their leaves, which are often powdery white or gray to reflect the sun, or waxy to retain water during the hot, dry times. Their roots are shallow to make the most of light rains. Their bell shaped flowers which range from red to yellow, come at the end of the rainy season and can last for months into the summer.

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Cotyledon orbiculata plant in bloom, and flower detail

Pam Badger



Cotyledon orbiculata

Pam Badger



Tylecodon pearsonii

Pam Badger

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

TYLECODON

Tylecodon—all formerly grouped in the genera *Cotyledon*—are also endemic to winter rainfall areas in the subtropical regions of Africa. The major difference between the two genera is that *Tylecodon* store water in their swollen, caudiciform stems, and are drought deciduous. Though leafless in the summer, this time of year is when they flower and make seed in preparation for the winter rains, making them interesting plants to appreciate throughout the seasons. There are at least 46 species of *Tylecodon*, 25 of which occur in Namaqualand and are adapted to diverse habitats. They grow best in mineral-rich, well drained soils. They are generally free from pests due to their natural toxicity, though I have found the fleshy green leaves of *T. paniculatus* v. *dinteri* attractive to aphids. The widest spread species are *T. wallachii*, *T. paniculatus*, and *T. reticulatus*.

ECOLOGY

Both genera have high levels of toxicity that make them a danger to livestock, which makes them unpopular with farmers and puts them at risk due to habitat loss.

LOCAL USES

Cotyledon orbiculata has been used by local populations for a variety of medicinal purposes including the treatment of corns and warts by applying the cut leaves to affected areas, as a sore throat remedy by gargling the astringent sap combined with water, and even a treatment for epilepsy.

In summary, these two genera are well suited to climates all around San Diego County due to the wide range of their native habitats and their winter rainfall habit. *Cotyledon*, with their colorful flowers and variety of leaf forms are beautiful additions to any drought tolerant garden. *Tylecodon* make great potted plants, are natural bonsais, and interesting year-round.

Note: I will be presenting the Plant of the Month the “old fashioned way”—not a slide show but with live plants—so if you have an interesting specimen, please bring it to enrich the talk.

Thank you!

PAM BADGER



Tylecodon paniculatus at the African Rocks exhibit at the San Diego Zoo

Pam Badger

A huge thank-you to everyone who participated in the 2022 Winter Show!
Special thanks to our guest judges **Tom Knapik** and **Woody Minnich**.

Please enjoy this gallery of plants that took home the biggest show ribbons
in the the Winter Grower categories, our Judge, Show Chair and President
picks, and our Best In Show.

Our fabulous judges: Peter Walkowiak, Woody Minnich, and Kelly Griffin

Jared Petker

WINTER SHOW RECAP: RIBBON WINNERS

Our Judges took a look at every plant submitted and assigned ribbons to the best plants in each category!

See the lists below for winners of 1st (blue ribbon), 2nd (red ribbon) and 3rd (white ribbon) places.



Our judges, Tom Knapik and Woody Minnich

Jared Petker

SDCSS Winter Show: Judging Record for February 11, 2023

Name	NOVICE Divisions I and II			Total # of Entries
	Blue	Red	White	
Reggie Salazar	1	2	-	5
Zachery Fishel	2	2	-	5
Jackie Karras	1	-	1	4
Miriam Parent	4	1	-	6
Jose Ramos	8	1	3	12
Susan Foran	3	4	-	8
Jose Munoz	4	2	1	12
Morgan Humbergen	2	-	2	4
Zeta Greene	3	2	-	7
Don Jones	4	1	1	7
Der-shing Helmer	1	1	-	2
Jared Petker	3	1	2	7
Luis Gonzalez	1	-	-	1
Fernando Diaz	1	-	-	1
Michael Loesch	1	3	2	8
Russell Ramsay	2	1	-	3

WINTER SHOW RECAP: RIBBON WINNERS

SDCSS Winter Show: Judging Record for February 11, 2023

Name	INTERMEDIATE Divisions I and II			
	Blue	Red	White	Total # of Entries
Jen Greene	3	3	2	10
Susan Aach	-	3	1	6
Lissa Brosseau	2	3	-	6
Peter Hagopian	1	2	1	7
Chuck Ramey	3	3	5	12
Norb Roden	1	-	1	4
Sherman Blench	2	1	-	4
Melanie Howe	9	4	1	16
Alison Baldwin	4	2	1	7
Herb Stern	1	-	1	3
Pauline Wong	3	7	3	22
Dee Morgan	1	-	1	2
Mary Aparacio	3	-	-	3
Hidden Agave	3	1	2	6
Antonina Lansangan	3	2	-	6

SDCSS Winter Show: Judging Record for February 11, 2023

Name	ADVANCED Divisions I and II			
	Blue	Red	White	Total # of Entries
Brian Shepard	3	2	5	12
Dean Karras	2	2	4	13
Peter Walkowiak	15	5	5	32
Jen Greene	2	1	1	7
Doug Hobson	1	-	2	7
Terry Parr	3	2	1	7
Tom Biggart	-	-	1	5
C & G Garner	4	3	2	12
John Matthews	3	1	1	6
Matt Maggio	2	2	3	14
Corona Cactus	-	2	-	6
Steve Salley	2	2	1	6
Pam Badger	-	4	3	9
Botanic Wonders	4	-	2	6
Tina Zucker	8	10	3	28
Naomi Orosz	-	-	1	5
Mike Fernandes	-	-	1	5
C+T Plants	1	1	1	6
Arnold Chaney	1	1	2	7
Gerry Williams	-	3	1	6
Kelly Griffin	1	-	-	1
DR Cactus	-	1	2	5
Steven Hammer	2	2	1	7

WINTER SHOW RECAP: BEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT



BEST SUCCULENT

Aloe dhufarensis

Matt Maggio



BEST CACTUS

Gymnocactus gielsdorfianus

Peter Walkowiak

WINTER SHOW RECAP: BEST WINTER GROWERS

**BEST WINTER GROWER
NOVICE**

Dudleya brittonii

Jose Ramos



**BEST WINTER GROWER
INTERMEDIATE**

Dudleya rubens

Hidden Agave

WINTER SHOW RECAP: BEST WINTER GROWERS



BEST WINTER GROWER
ADVANCED

Sarcocaulon patersonii

Peter Walkowiak

WINTER SHOW RECAP: BEST IN SHOW



BEST IN SHOW

Agave hybrid *A. victoriae-reginae* x *guadalajarana*

Hidden Agave

WINTER SHOW RECAP: JUDGE'S AWARD—TOM KNAPIK



JUDGE'S AWARD

Astrophytum coahuilense

Peter Walkowiak



JUDGE'S AWARD

Dorstenia gigas

Luis Gonzalez

WINTER SHOW RECAP: JUDGE'S AWARD—WOODY MINNICH



JUDGE'S AWARD

Adenium arabicum

Fernando Diaz



JUDGE'S AWARD

Mammillaria lenta

Peter Walkowiak

WINTER SHOW RECAP: PRESIDENT'S AWARD



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Sansevieria kirkii cv 'Silver Blue'

Jared Petker

WINTER SHOW RECAP: SHOW CHAIRMAN'S AWARD



SHOW CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Dudleya 'lanceolata'

Pam Badger

WINTER SHOW RECAP: GOOD TIMES!

Did you have a good time at the show? So did we! Enjoy this gallery of moments from our Show displays, Sale vendors, volunteers and winners!



Some views of the Show tables



Jared Petker



Bustling crowds at the vendor tables

Tina Zucker

WINTER SHOW RECAP: GOOD TIMES!



The crowds were hungry for pots and plants

Tina Zucker



Volunteer cheer!

Tina Zucker



Winner smiles :]

Jared Petker