ESPINAS Y FLORES

VOL. 60, NO. 02
FEBRUARY 2025

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

2025 SDCSS WINTER SHOW & SALE // WINTER GROWERS REPRISED // PREPARING FOR THE SHOW // JANUARY BRAG TABLE // ...and more

ON THE COVER

Aloe speciosa by Kelly Griffin

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NEXT UPCOMING MEETING
March 8th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Again! We had a great January meeting. Thanks to **Jared Petker** for a great introduction to our Latin plant naming. Thanks so much to **Ernesto Sandoval**, our program Speaker, for driving all the way from Davis and giving the club an enlightening glimpse at Baja.

We have some great SDCSS events on the horizon. Our Winter Show and Sale is just around the corner with set up on February 7th and the Show and Sale on February 8th, One day only.

Please bring your plants and whatever plant is telling you: "share me". Look to our volunteer sign up and help out; **the online winter show and sale volunteer sign-up can be found at** this link here. We still need security, set up and break down help as well as show clerks and food duties. We need you, we appreciate you and love to see you there!

Our National CSSA Convention plans are in full swing. We are having bi weekly planning meetings to work on publicity, sponsorship, and most important Hosting responsibilities. There's still plenty of time to volunteer, and we'd love to have you. **The CSSA Convention volunteer sign-up can be found at** this link. The Convention will be here shortly at the Marriott Mission Valley April 23rd to 27th. If you have ideas that you can back up with participation, we would love it!

We have made huge strides to make this event affordable and will continue to do so The most expensive component of this event is the venue. Most of you won't have to stay at the hotel but if you can, it makes it easier for you to attend all the functions and easier for us to meet our obligation to the hotel.

Last, your SDCSS board is looking into an online system for managing our membership database. More news about that coming soon.

Please plan to spend your Saturday with your friends at SDCSS on February 8th.

See you all soon!

Kelly G

January 25, 2025

Aloe petricola and *Aloe gariepensis* **Kelly Griffin**

PRE-SHOW PLANT PREPARATION GUIDE

An example group of plants staged nicely for the Winter Show — Der-shing Helmer

Let me start off saying that the details of this article would normally be covered in more depth, with visual aids, in a pre-meeting workshop at a regular meeting. As these are not normal times, we are left to do the best we can with what we have.

First, it can't be emphasized enough that this is *your show*. We want you to enter plants and we need you to volunteer. Our shows are the largest social events of the year for the society. We encourage you make new friends, learn new things, talk about your plants, win ribbons, have fun and maybe find a new plant or two.

Let's begin with **prepping** your plants. Start by watering your plants the weekend before the show. This will let your plants be hydrated but dry for the show tables. If you need to use any insecticide, also do this the week before the show. If you have any calcium (salt) build-up on your pots, clean it off with an old tooth brush and vinegar. With a damp cloth wipe any dirt and debris from the pots. Salt and dust/dirt on the plants can removed with water and a soft brush or cloth.

Next, **look** at the plant. Remove any garden debris and/or weeds from the pot. Check for insects and spiders. They can be removed with small brushes, tweezers, fingers, or what ever else works. Succulents may have dead leaves, stems or old flowers, clip or prune to remove. Cactus frequently have old flower remains or garden bits in the spines. Remove with tweezers. The trick is to clean the spines without breaking them. Small Agaves and Aloes often have dried leaves at the base of the plant. These can be removed or left on depending on how distracting it is to the looks of the plant. The drying leaf tips of the same group of plants may also be left or removed.

Now that you have a clean pot and plant we need to think about **top dressing.** Top dressing is the visual equivalent of matting a print or painting. It sets the plant off from the growing medium.

PRE-SHOW PLANT PREPARATION GUIDE

Top dressing is commonly gravel, crushed rock, pea gravel, course sand, etc. While the choice of top dressing is up to your preference, keep in mind that it should enhance, not distract from the plant. Bright colors are often distracting. You can look for top dressing at garden centers, aquarium stores, pet stores, and building supply centers.

Staging by Peter Walkowiak Jared Petker

Now that the plant is all groomed for showing we come to the hardest part of the process (at least according to the show clerks), **filling out the entry cards**. The cards come in four colors: green for novice, yellow for intermediate, blue for open, and white for non-judged. Refer to the show rules for your appropriate category. You will notice that the cards divided into two sections, fill in BOTH sections. Also PLEASE PRINT.

In the exhibitor space: print your name. In the division space there are four options: Division I, one cactus plant or clump. Division II, one succulent plant or clump. Division III, dish gardens, more than one plant or multiple types of plants. And Division IV, anything goes, plants plus nonplants.

In the newsletter, on the web site, and on printed pages at the show, you will find the various class numbers for your plants. These numbers correspond to the species family of the plants. The class number is followed by the size designation, i.e. 23A, 44B, etc. If he inside of the pot measures, height plus width, 10 inches or less it is the A category. If the height plus width is greater than 10 inches it is then in the B category.

In the variety section of the entry card enter the specific species, hybrid, or hybrid cross name of the plant. The class and variety information should match the information on your plants ID tag. After completing the entry cards, take the plant and corresponding card to the class numbered areas on the show tables. Remove the plant ID tag and place the plant on top of the entry card on the table. Repeat for your next plant. Thanks for your support of the show and good luck.

In wrapping this up, if you have any questions there will be fellow society members to help identify plants and answer questions online (see page 7) and in the show room Friday afternoon and Saturday morning,

JERRY GARNER

See you and your enthusiasm soon! Der-shing Helmer

UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

WINTER SHOW & SALE: **FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025**

BALBOA PARK, CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 101 & PATIO

The show is **FREE** and open to the public!

SHOW HOURS

Bring in Plants: Friday 2pm - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 9am
Show open for viewing: Saturday 10am-3pm

SALE HOURS

Members only: Saturday 9am - 11am (please bring proof of membership)
General public: Saturday 11am - 3pm

For more information, go to our web page at **www.sdcss.net**
Become a member online, or fill out the form below!

OUR FANTASTIC VENDORS

// Antonina's Plants and Pots // Bear Dog Pottery //

// Botanic Wonders // Brian Shepherd //

// C/T Plants // Corona Cactus Nursery //

// DR Cactus // Fairview Plants //

// Gerald Richert Ceramics // Granite Hills Pottery //

// Grow Margo // Hula Tropicals // Kobe Clayworks //

// LA Succulents Plants and Pots // Mohawk Pottery //

// Muradian Pottery // Peter Walkowiak Plants

// Phoenix Rising Succulents // Root Down Pots //

// Sea Garden Pots // Succulent Gardening Plants and Pots

// Succulent Plants // Susan's Ceramics // T REX Plants //

// TGZ Ceramics // The Purring Potter //

UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE

SHOW INFO

Ready for another fun and exciting SDCSS show and sale in February 2025? Rita and I are very excited and are very much looking forward to the event and working with all the great volunteers, exhibitors, and vendors that make up such a wonderful event.

With Olga's help, we've created **>> an online volunteer sign-up for show and sale volunteer positions <<**. There will also be the paper volunteer sign-up lists that will be available at the January meeting in case you want to sign up that way. We are also having a volunteer **meeting for the show and sale at 11:00am at the SDCSS January meeting** on Saturday, January 11. We hope you will come and join us, even if you have never volunteered before, to learn about all the volunteer possibilities there are for the winter show and sale. It has been our experience that volunteering can be a lot of fun, and working with the various volunteer teams is a great way to make new friends, have a great time, and help contribute to such a successful show and sale. We could not do it without all the fantastic volunteers!

A few changes this year related to the show: A slight change of times for folks to bring in show plants: Friday, February 7th from 2-6pm (instead of 12-6pm) and Saturday the 8th from 8-9am (instead of 8-10am). **We could use some show volunteers at 10am Friday morning** to help cover tables in case they are set up that early. If not, there will be plenty of other things to help with for the show or sale that morning. Folks can bring their show plants from 2pm to 6pm on Friday. This is a change from last year that indicated plants could arrive at noon on Friday—we likely will not be ready until 2pm as we need to arrange and cover tables and put out classification signs and dividers. Plants can also be entered on Saturday, February 8, from 8-9am, as we need time to arrange the show before judging. Kindly,

RICK BJORKLUND

SALE INFO

Hello San Diego Cactus Club Members, I am Rita Lunceford, your new Sales Chair, stepping into the role after Chris Miller's incredible 20 years of dedicated service. I am excited to continue building on the strong foundation she has created and to serve our amazing community of cactus and succulent enthusiasts.

I'm thrilled to share the fantastic lineup of vendors who will be participating in our **Winter 2025 Show and Sale**, happening on **Saturday, February 8**. This year's event promises to be one of our best yet, featuring a diverse array of vendors offering unique plants, pottery, and accessories. **See the previous page for a list of our incredible vendors!**

Mark your calendars and get ready to support these wonderful vendors while discovering rare plants, handmade pottery, and unique treasures for your collection. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at the show! Warm regards,

RITA LUNCEFORD

UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 2025

BRING IN YOUR SHOW PLANTS from 2pm – 6pm
VENDOR Setup is midafternoon on Friday. Doors close at 6pm.

SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8TH 2025

8:00am to 9:00am	Set up for **OUT-OF-TOWNERS, BRING IN YOUR PLANTS**!
9:00am to 11:00am	Sales area open to members only (please bring proof of membership)
11:00am	Sales area opens to public
10:00am	Show area open for viewing 10am-3pm
10:00am to noon	Judging, open to public
3:00pm	Show and sales area close

AWARDS

A hand-crafted pot and a certificate suitable for framing will be given to BEST CACTUS, BEST SUCCULENT and BEST WINTER-GROWER plants in the NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE and OPEN Levels, and to the BEST OF SHOW plant (NOVICE or INTERMEDIATE or OPEN)

First, Second, and Third Place Ribbons will be awarded in all categories for both Novice, Intermediate, and Open entrants.

RULES

NO field collected specimens

1) Show is open to anyone who grows succulent plants.

2) Entries must be in the possession of exhibitors for at least six months. Plants must be clean, (no weeds or debris), healthy (no insects, disease or pesticide odor) and dry. Plant labels should be removed or hidden. Exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with plants prior to judging. The show committee may remove any entry that detracts from or jeopardizes the health of other entries.

3) Plants must be individually potted specimens except for the category 'Dish Gardens.'

4) Depending on number of entries, prior to judging, the show committee may combine or divide categories and rearrange entries. The show area may be PARTIALLY closed during judging, on a section-by-section basis. Judging will be open to the public. Plants must remain in show area until the end of the show.

5) Entries are judged on:

a) Condition, size, maturity and difficulty of culture: 70%
b) Staging - pot, top dressing, arrangement, cleanliness: 25%s
c) Nomenclature: 5%

Awards are given only if the judges believe they are merited, and all decisions are final.

6) The SDCSS and show committee will take due care to safeguard entries but cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of, plants and property.

WINTER SHOW DIVISION + CLASS LIST FOR 2025

DIVISION I: CACTI (CACTACEAE)	
Name	**Class**
Ariocarpus	1
Astrophytum	2
Aztekium, Epithelantha, Obregonia, Ortegocactus, Pelecyphora, Strombocactus	3
Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neolloydia	4
Turbinicarpus (Gymnocactus), Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus)	5
Echinocereus	6
Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Hamatocactus, Leuchtenbergia, xFerobergia	7
Mammillaria with hooked spines	8
Mammillaria with straight spines	9
Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Thelocactus	10
Melocactus	11
Blossfeldia, Coleocephalocereus (Buiningia), Discocactus, Frailea, Uebelmannia	12
Copiapoa	13
Gymnocalycium	14
Acanthocalycium, Echinopsis, Lobivia	15
Eriosyce (Horridocactus, Neochillenia, Neoporteria, Pyrrhocactus)	16
Parodia (Notocactus)	17
Rebutia (Sulcorebutia, Weingartia)	18
Matucana (Submatucana), Oroya	19
Opuntioids: Austrocylindropuntia, Consolea, Cylindropuntia, Grusonia, Miquelopuntia, Opuntia, Pereskia, Pterocactus, Tephrocactus, Tunilla, etc.	20
Columnar Cacti: Arrojadoa, Bergerocactus, Browningia, Carnegiea, Cephalocereus, Cereus, Cipocereus, Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Micranthocereus, Myrtillocactus, Neobuxbaumia, Oreocereus, Pilosocereus, Pachycereus, Peniocereus, Stenocereus, Stetsoinia, Trichocereus, etc.	21
Epiphytic Cacti: Disocactus, Epiphyllum, Hatiora, Hylocereus, Lepismium, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergia (Zygocactus), Selenicereus, etc.	22
Other Genera - Any Other Cactus	23
Cactus, Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	24
Crested & Monstrose Cacti	25
Variegated Cacti (with 50% or More Variegation)	26

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS	
Name	**Class**
AIZOACEAE (MESEMBRYANTHEMACEAE)	
Lithops	27
Conophytum, Lapidaria, Dinteranthus	28
Other Mesembs without prominent roots or trunks: Faucaria, Pleiospilos, Titanopsis, etc.	29
Other Mesembs with prominent roots or trunks: Aloinopsis, Mestoklema, Trichodiadema, etc.	30
AGAVACEAE	
Agave, Yucca	31
Calibanus, Beaucarnea, Nolina	32
APOCYNACEAE	
Adenia, Pachypodium	33
Adenium	34
Stapeliads with succulent stems: Hoodia, Orbea, Pseudolithos, Stapelia, etc.	35
Caudiciform Stapeliads: Fockea, Gonolobus, Petopentia, Raphionacme, etc.	36
Ceropegia, Hoya, Dischidia	37

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS	
Name	**Class**
ASPHODELACEAE	
Aloe - species	38
Aloe - hybrids	39
Gasteria	40
Haworthia (Haworthiopsis, Tulista), Astroloba	41
ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITACEAE): Leptosyne (Coreopsis), Othonna, Senecio (Kleinia), etc.	42
BROMELIACEAE: Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Hechtia, Tillandsia, etc.	43
CRASSULACEAE	
Adromischus	44
Aeonium, Greenovia	45
Cotyledon, Tylecodon	46
Crassula	47
Dudleya	48
Echeveria	49
Graptopetalum (Tacitus), Pachyphytum, hybrids (xPachyveria, xGraptoveria)	50
Kalanchoe	51
Sedum, Sedum hybrids (xSedeveria)	52
Sempervivum (Jovibarba)	53
CUCURBITACEAE: Cephalopentandra, Corallocarpus, Dendrosicyos, Gerrardanthus, Ibervillea, Kedrostis, Momordica, Xerosicyos, Zygosicyos, etc.	54
DIOSCOREACEAE: Dioscorea	55
Sansevieria (DRACAENACEAE)	56
EUPHORBIACEAE	
Euphorbia medusa types	57
Euphorbias with leaves and spines	58
Euphorbias with leaves and no spines	59
Euphorbias with spines and no leaves	60
Euphorbias with neither leaves nor spines	61
Enadenium, Monadenium, Jatropha, Pedilanthus, Synadenium	62
GERIANACEAE: Monsonia, Sarcocaulon, Pelargonium, etc.	63
PORTULACACEAE (MONTIACEAE, DIDIEREACEAE, ANACAMPSEROTACEAE, TALINACEAE): Anacampseros, Alluadia, Avonia, Ceraria, Didieria, etc.	64
Succulent Bulbs: Albuca, Boophane, Boweia, Bulbine, Haemanthus, Ledebouria, Massonia, Veltheimea, etc.	65
Other Caudiciforms: Boswelia, Bursera, Commiphora, Cyphostemma, Dorstenia, Ficus, Fouquieria, Ipomoea, Moringa, Operculicarya, Pachycormus, Pseudobombax, Pyrenacantha, Sesamothamnus, Sinningia, Uncarina, etc.	66
Other Genera - Any Other Succulent	67
Succulent, Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	68
Crested & Monstrose Succulents	69
Variegated Succulents (with 50% or More Variegation)	70

DIVISION III: OTHER	
Name	**Class**
Dish Gardens (Two or more plants in the same pot)	71

WINTER SHOW ALPHABETIZED CLASS LIST FOR 2025

Name	Class
Acanthocalycium	15
Adenia	33
Adenium	34
Adromischus	44
Aeonium	45
Agave	31
Albuca	65
Alluaudia	64
Aloe - hybrids	39
Aloe - species	38
Anacampseros	64
Ariocarpus	1
Arrojadoa	21
Astroloba	41
Astrophytum	2
Austocylindropuntia	20
Avonia	64
Aztekium	3
Beaucarnea	32
Bergerocactus	21
Blossfeldia	12
Boophane	65
Boswella	66
Boweia	65
Browningia	21
Buiningia	12
Bulbine	65
Bursera	66
Cactus - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	24
Calibanus	32
Carnegiea	21
Cephalocereus	21
Cephalopentandra	54
Ceraria	64
Cereus	21
Ceropegia	37
Cipocereus	21
Cleistocactus	21
Coleocephalocereus	12
Commiphora	66
Conophytum	28
Consolea	20
Copiapoa	13
Corallocarpus	54
Coreopsis	42
Coryphantha	4
Cotyledon	46
Crassula	47
Crested & Monstrose Cacti	25
Crested and Monstrose Succulents	69
Cryptanthus	43
Cycads	67
Cylindropuntia	20
Cyphostemma	66
Dendrosicyos	54
Didieria	64
Dinteranthus	28
Dioscorea	55
Dischidia	37
Discocactus	12
Dish Gardens (two or more plants in the same pot)	71
Disocactus	22
Dorstenia	66
Dudleya	48
Dyckia	43
Echeveria	49
Echinocactus	7
Echinocereus	6
Echinofossulocactus	5
Echinopsis	15
Enadenium	62

Name	Class
Epiphyllum	22
Epithelantha	3
Eriosyce	16
Escobaria	4
Espostoa	21
Euphorbia medusa types	57
Euphorbias with leaves and spines	58
Euphorbias with leaves no spines	59
Euphorbias with no leaves or spines	61
Euphorbias with spines no leaves	60
Faucaria	29
x Ferobergia	7
Ferocactus	7
Ficus	66
Fockea	36
Fouquieria	66
Frailea	12
Gasteria	40
Gerrardanthus	54
Gonolobus	36
Graptopetalum	50
x Graptoveria	50
Greenovia	45
Grusonia	20
Gymnocactus	5
Gymnocalycium	14
Haemanthus	65
Hamatocactus	7
Hatiora	22
Haworthia	41
Haworthiopsis	41
Hechtia	43
Hoodia	35
Horridocactus	16
Hoya	37
Hylocereus	22
Ibervillea	54
Ipomoea	66
Jatropha	62
Jovibarba	53
Kalanchoe	51
Kedrostis	54
Kleinia	42
Lapidaria	28
Ledebouria	65
Lepismium	22
Leptosyne	42
Leuchtenbergia	7
Lithops	27
Lobivia	15
Mammillaria with hooked spines	8
Mammillaria with straight spines	9
Massonia	65
Matucana	19
Melocactus	11
Mestoklema	30
Miccranthocereus	21
Miquelopuntia	20
Momordica	54
Monadenium	62
Monsonia	63
Moringa	66
Myrtillocactus	21
Neobuxbaumia	21
Neochilenia	16
Neolloydia	4
Neoporteria	16
Nolina	32
Notocactus	17
Obregonia	3
Operculicarya	66
Opuntia	20

Name	Class
Orbea	35
Orchids	67
Oreocereus	21
Oroya	19
Ortegocactus	3
Other Genera - Any Other Cactus	23
Othonna	42
Pachycereus	21
x Pachyveria	50
Pachycormus	66
Pachyphytum	50
Pachypodium	33
Parodia	17
Pedilanthus	62
Pediocactus	10
Pelargonium	63
Pelecyphora	3
Peniocereus	21
Pereskia	20
Petopentia	36
Pilosocereus	21
Pleiospilos	29
Pseudobombax	66
Pseudolithos	35
Pterocactus	20
Pyrenacantha	66
Pyrrhocactus	16
Raphionacme	36
Rebutia	18
Rhipsalis	22
SANSEVIERIA	56
Sarcocaulon	63
Schlumbergia	22
Sclerocactus	10
Sedum	52
Sedum hybrids (xSedeveria)	52
Selenicereus	22
Sempervivum	53
Senecio	42
Sesamothamnus	66
Sinningia	66
Stapelia	35
Stenocactus	5
Stenocereus	21
Stetsoinia	21
Strombocactus	3
Submatucana	19
Succulent - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	68
Sulcorebutia	18
Synadenium	62
Tacitus	50
Tephrocactus	20
Thelocactus	10
Tillandsia	43
Titanopsis	29
Trichocereus	21
Trichodiadema	30
Tulista	41
Tunilla	20
Turbinicarpus	5
Tylecodon	46
Uebelmannia	12
Uncarina	66
Variegated Cacti (50% or more variegation)	26
Variegated Succulents (50% or More variegation)	70
Veltheimea	65
Weingartia	18
Xerosicyos	54
Yucca	31
Zygocactus	22
Zygosicyos	54

Dudleya pulverulenta in the snow

DEMYSTIFYING WINTER GROWERS

BY DEAN KARRAS

"Many years ago my mom, who lived in Minnesota, bought a small cactus while on a vacation to California. She kept the cactus in a small pot in the windowsill of her kitchen. She followed the weather in Phoenix, Arizona, and whenever it rained there she watered it." Thusly someone recounted to me at our club's Show & Sale last June, after asking me for care instructions on a specific cactus I was selling. Evidently, the answer I gave was not concise enough for her liking. I find this anecdote amusing for many reasons. Despite its simplistic and flawed logic on many levels—not least of all the assumption that Phoenix's precipitation patterns somehow represent an optimal watering regimen for all cacti regardless of origin, because, you know, Arizonia=cacti—the endearing naivete of this idea nonetheless speaks to a thoughtful insight on knowing when to water a particular plant. Where does the plant originate from? And when does it experience precipitation or moisture in its habitat of origin?

When I began growing cacti and succulents as a hobby 16 years ago, as with most beginners, my growing protocol was to treat all of the succulent plants in my collection with the same care; pot them all in a well-drained mix, expose them to ample sun (half-day plus), water them weekly when it was hot (or check to see that the soil is mostly dry between waterings), and be relatively stingier with water in the cooler months, with a dry rest in winter. At the time I was living in the East Bay Area, an extremely forgiving climate for growing most plants owing to its moderate temperatures regulated by coastal currents and atmospheric moisture. The plants themselves told me what little more information I needed for their care: the size and rate of growth of each plant would dictate which pot to use and how often to repot.

In the winter I always carefully tucked my succulents under covered patios and eaves or packed them near my windowsill inside to wait out the winter months dry before I would resume watering them in the spring. That's because when I was still a

WINTER GROWERS

neophyte in the cult of succulent growing hobbyists not so many years ago, I was ignorant about the existence of winter-growing succulents. Those (unbeknownst to me at the time) "winter growers," which I managed not to kill by depriving them of water during their seasons of active growth, always failed to grow and perform well for me. It was only after I discovered the relevance of understanding seasonal growth periods for specific groups of succulent plants that I was finally able to have my winter-growers not only survive, but thrive. Since my epiphany that a not-inconsiderable number of succulents grow most actively during the cool winter period, I have continued to study and refine my understanding of which succulents fit this category.


Dudleya edulis

Let's first discuss the easy cases: those that exhibit telltale signs of active winter growth after summer dormancy. Some winter-rainfall plants exhibit fairly dramatic indications that they are waking up and are ready to enter their active cycle of growth, granted adequate moisture. For drought-deciduous pachycauls, like those represented by *Pachycormus discolor* and *Fouquieria columnaris* from the northern portion of the Baja peninsula, or the Tylecodon species from South Africa, these plants will spontaneously produce leaves after sometimes months of sitting leafless. A lot of geophytic bulbs from western South Africa behave similarly, emerging from underground (or above-ground bulbs, often raised for dramatic effect in cultivation): e.g., Boophane, Brunsvigia, and Amaryllis. Some typically summer-deciduous succulents, especially when young, can be kept with leaves and growing year-round when granted judicious but not excessive summer irrigation, a touch of shade, and respite from hot greenhouse conditions; for example, *Dioscorea elephantipes* frequently behaves this way as a seedling, or grown indoors as a houseplant.

However, many other "winter growers" are much more difficult to distinguish than the aforementioned. Perhaps frustratingly, there is no easy-reference list one can consult that I personally consider to be accurate in all or even most instances. As Fred Dortort remarks in *The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World*, "Knowing where a particular succulent plant originates provides two significant insights into its needs: its growing season and its range of acceptable temperatures. This knowledge makes it possible for a grower to decide, for example, whether there is any point in trying to cultivate it outdoors." (p. 23-4, 2011). Although Dortort is elliptically referring to cold hardiness, here he is also speaking about succulent hardiness and adaptability in a broader sense too, taking into consideration which plants will not only tolerate the wet winters of our Mediterranean climate here in coastal California, but actually prefer moisture during the cool season. However, "Simply knowing the country of origin is not

sufficient", since many larger counties have varied climates. For example, "In Eastern South Africa rain generally falls in summer, while in the western part of the country it rains in winter." (ibid.) Therefore, knowing where a plant originates from and cross-referencing that information with the location's seasonal moisture patterns can help you make the determination as to which succulent plants are winter growers even where the "cheat sheet" lists fail. For nearly every rule about which succulent genera are winter vs. summer growers there are exceptions, asterisks, and caveats to these generalizations. I will proceed to share a few personal observations on this matter, although I endear the reader to alternately get some dirt under their fingernails, as well as consult reference books on the habitats their beloved succulents hail from, so as to compile their own observations on the matter.

Dudleya pulverulenta

Although I invariably see Sempervivums listed as warm-season-growing succulents, in an inland climate that experiences hot summers like mine, I give them a bit of a break from regular summer water and more shade during the hottest months. This is where considerations of altitude also come into play; not all succulents are desert plants, and even some that are hail from high-elevation deserts where hot days essentially never occur. But most Sempervivums are alpine plants, subsisting off of snow melt in the spring. I have observed certain higher-elevation cacti, such as opuntioids from the South American altiplano (*Maihuenia poeppegii*, e.g.) behave in a similar manner, preferring more shade and less water during the hottest months of the year despite their high-elevation adaptation to intense UV radiation.

Haworthias, which are not infrequently listed as "winter growers", have always performed best for me given moisture predominantly in the spring and fall. I have occasionally heard plants like this, including certain mesembs, referred to as "transitional season growers", performing best with relatively dry rests given in winter and summer alike. Of course, nearly any rule we write will still include outliers: *Haworthiopsis koelmaniorum* (=*Haworthia k.*), hailing from further northeast South Africa than many other Haworthias, keeps splendid company with the heat-loving Astrophytums in my greenhouse, and demands ample watering in the hottest months.

Even some of our beloved warm-season-growing succulents unquestionably look their best during the cooler months of the year. Owing to their fairly harsh and barren habitats, many succulents bloom during or adjacent to their dormant periods to take advantage of increased pollinator activity during cooler months of the year. The vast majority of Aloe species bloom during the cooler months regardless of their active growth season or provenance, as do many species of Mammillaria cacti. Flowering habits alone are therefore insufficient to determine

WINTER GROWERS

active growth phases of a given plant. Although most Aloe species hail from summer rainfall climates, many are opportunistic and relish our winter rainstorms. The converse does not hold true: in hot inland climates especially, some of the aloes from winter rainfall regions suffer from excess summer irrigation, preferring little to no supplemental moisture once established in the ground (including but not limited to *A. pillansii*, *A. comosa*, *A. falcata*, *A. karasbergensis*, *A. dichotoma*, *A. melanacantha*, and *A. erinacea*). Much to my amazement, years into growing many species of Aloe from seed, I have yet to find a comprehensive list of which species ought to be considered winter growers. The inexpensive and superb book *Guide to the Aloes of South Africa* (1996) by Ben-Erik Van Wyk & Gideon Smith, which is actually intended as a field guide, nonetheless offers brief cultivation notes on many species as well as indispensable distribution maps of the species in the wild.

I'm inclined to consider all Dudleya species to be winter growers, even those hailing from the Sonoran and Mohave deserts such as *D. saxosa* and *D. arizonica*, as any species I've cultivated including these will germinate at cool temperatures and tolerate substantial winter moisture. However, I learned a great trick from Nick Basinski, a long-time enthusiast of that genus, when he gave a fantastic presentation to the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society, that nonetheless further splits the genus into two rough categories. He noted that coastal Dudleyas look better year round and are more tolerant of warm-season moisture than their desert-dwelling counterparts, owing, no doubt, to the fact that practically all coastal Dudleya species receive a substantial portion of their annual moisture from coastal fog condensation throughout the year, including the warmer months.

To perhaps state the obvious, winter active succulents—like their warm-season-growing counterparts—should be repotted during their active growth phase (winter), ideally during the first half of their growth cycle, so they are fully rooted into their new medium as warm season dormancy approaches.

To conclude, I encourage you to do yourself (and your plants!) a favor and do more research into the native climates and habitats of your succulent plants. I have found that, much like closely watching the plants in your collection grow and bloom, it will not only help you take better care of your plants, but add another dimension of appreciation for their many diverse forms and adaptations. Warning: side effects may include a desire to go visit amazing xeric plant habitats.

Now, go prepare some of your best winter growers for our upcoming Winter Show & Sale on February 10th. See you there!

DEAN KARRAS

PHOTO SECTION

Agaves in the snow… winter in Nevada. **Kelly Griffin**

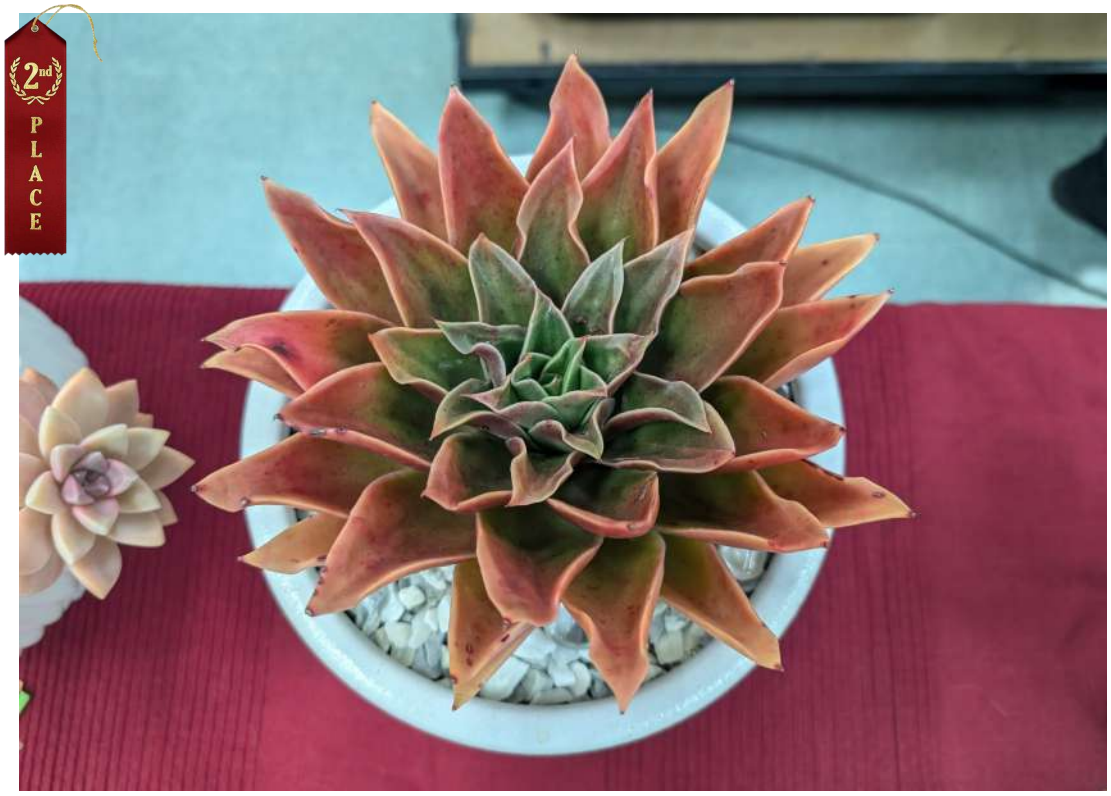
JANUARY BRAG TABLE

SDCSS members shared a full table of plants at the January Meeting's Brag Table!

Thank you for bringing in your incredible plants, and thanks to judge **Kelly Griffin** for reviewing this table from our members. The brag table will be back in March after our February Winter Show & Sale… we'll see your very best plants there!

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT

1ST: *CRASSULA RUPESTRIS* **MONI WAIBLINGER**



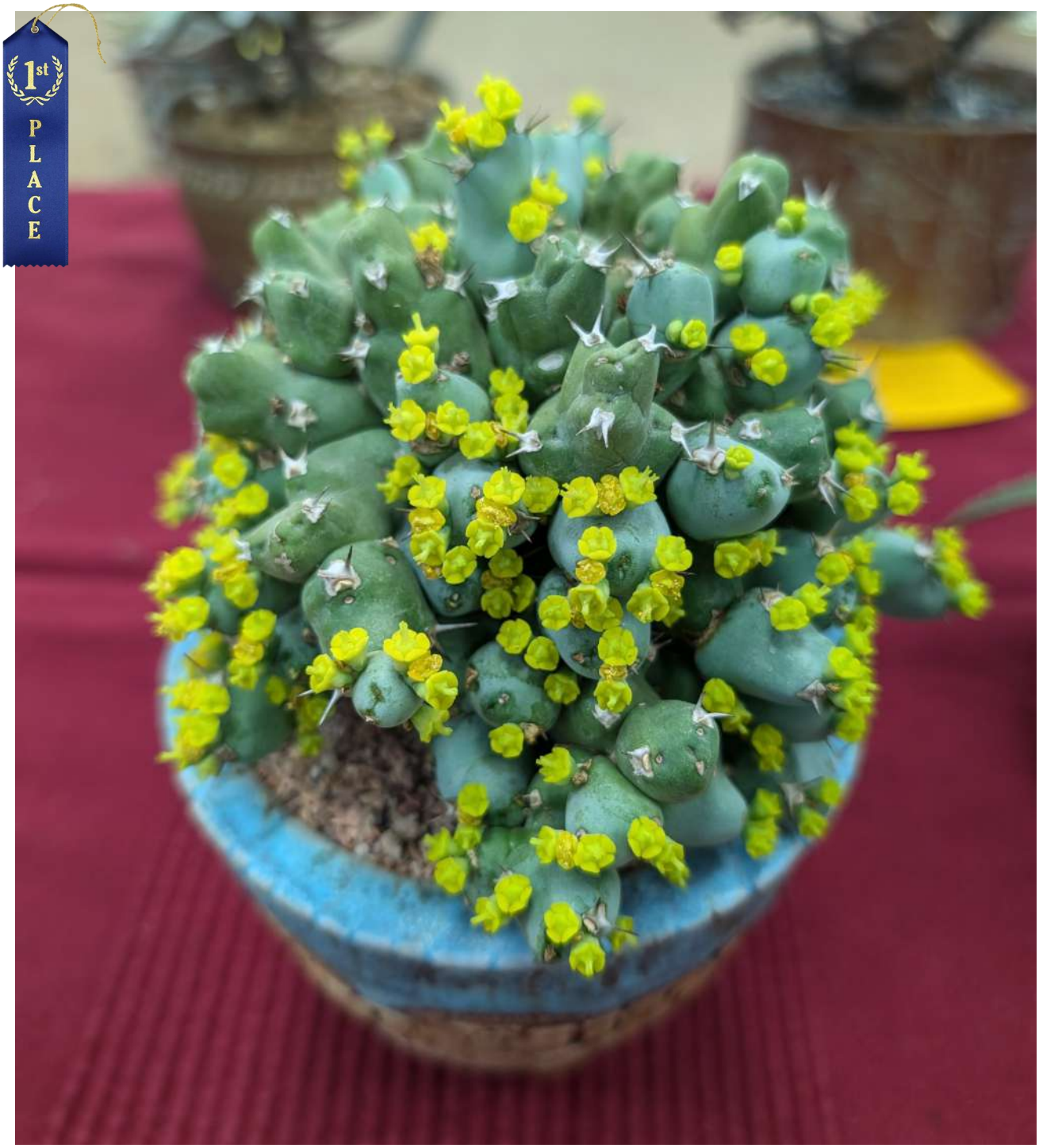
2ND: *ECHEVERIA* **'LIME N' CHILE'** **EMILY WEAVER**

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT

3RD: *GRAPTOPETALUM PARAGUAYENSE* **EMILY WEAVER**

DRIMIOPSIS DOLOMITICUS **MONI WAIBLINGER**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

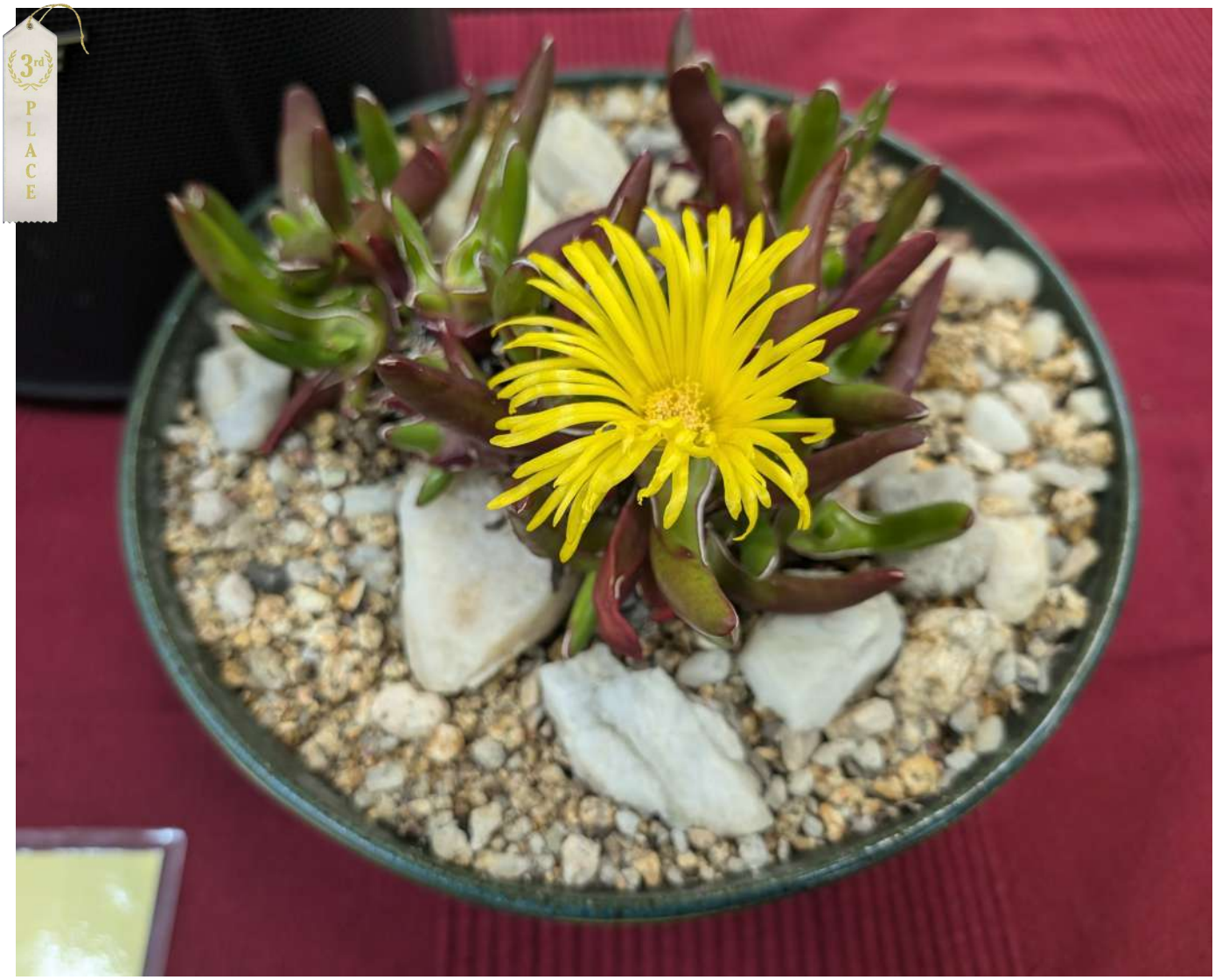


1ST: *EUPHORBIA CLIVICOLA* GRAFTED **JARED PETKER**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

2ND: *DUDLEYA BRITTONI* **LUIS GONZALEZ**

(photo not available... my many apologies :{ -the editor)



3RD: *GLOTTIPHYLLUM PEERSII* **SUE THOMAS**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

HAWORTHIA RETUSA **MIRIAM PARENT**

ARGYRODERMA FISSUM **PETER HAGOPIAN**

AEONIUM ARBOREUM **MIRIAM PARENT**

CHEIRIDOPSIS PECULIARIS **JEN GREENE**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

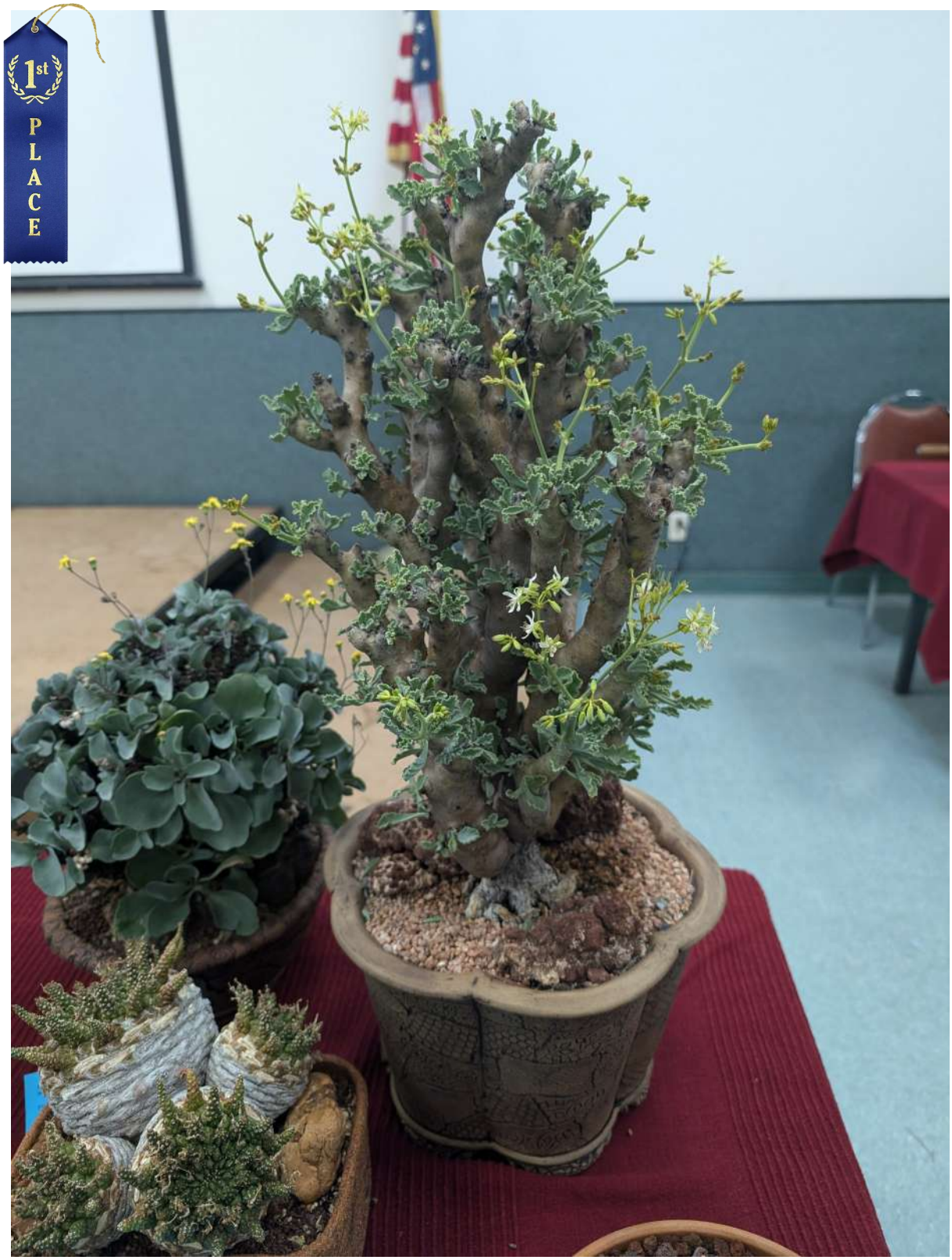
EUPHORBIA CLIVICOLA **JEN GREENE**

SENECIO MEDLEY-WOODII **MELANIE HOWE**

OTHONNA QUERCIFOLIA **MELANIE HOWE**

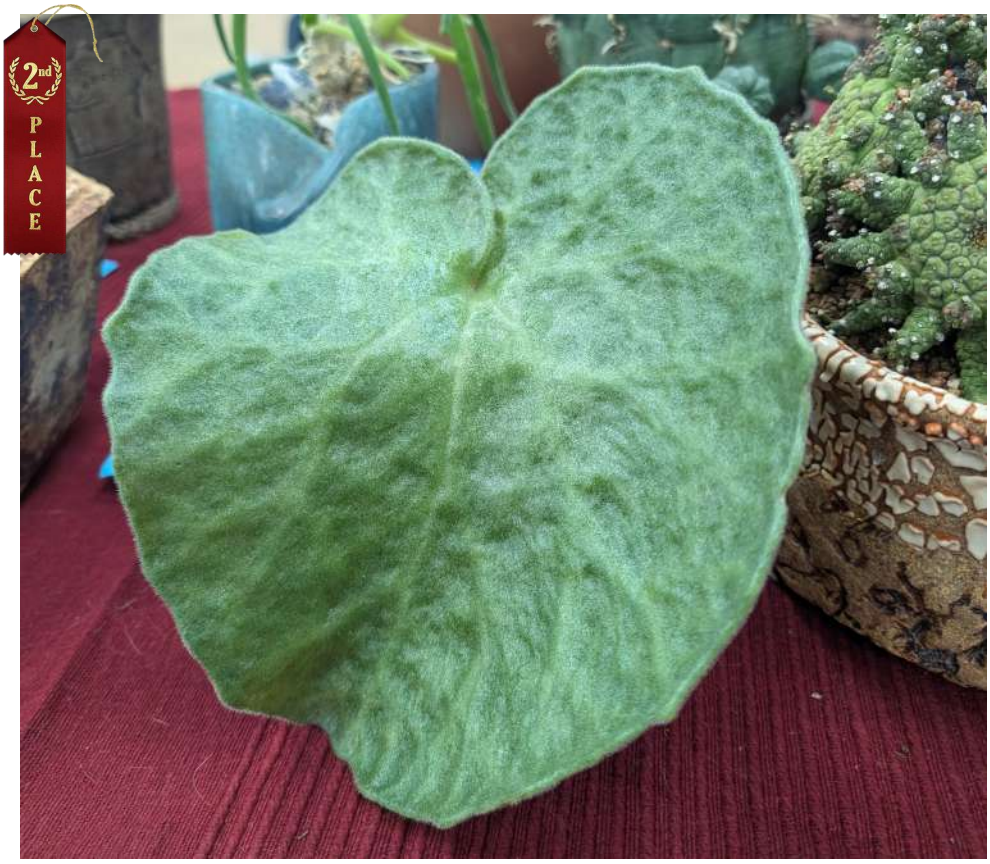
X MANGAVE 'MY DOG SPOT' **CHUCK RAMEY**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1ST: *PELARGONIUM KLINGHARDTENSE* **PETER WALKOWIAK**

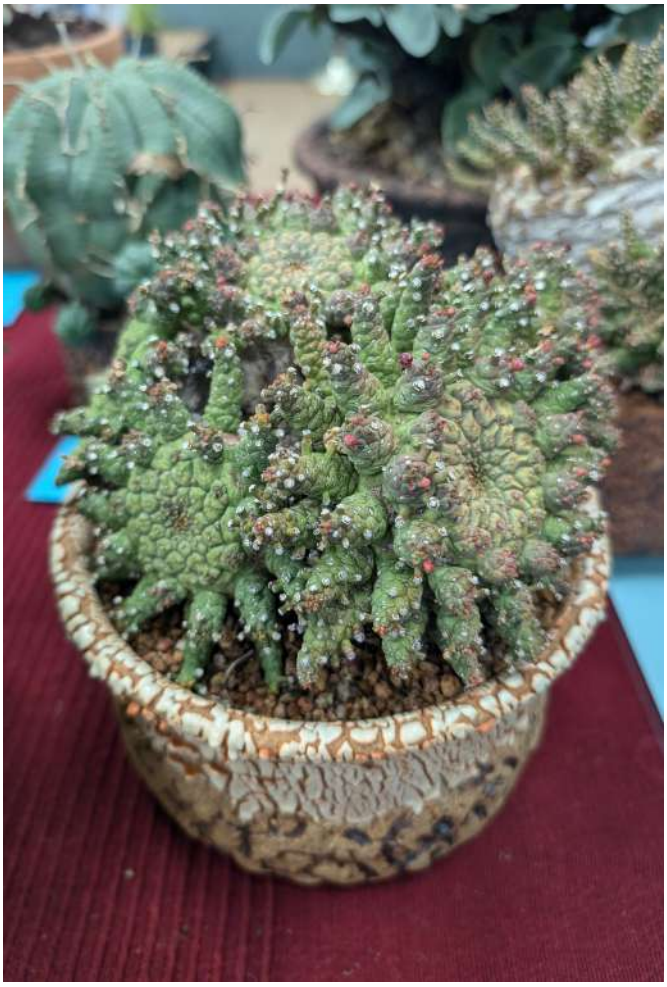
BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



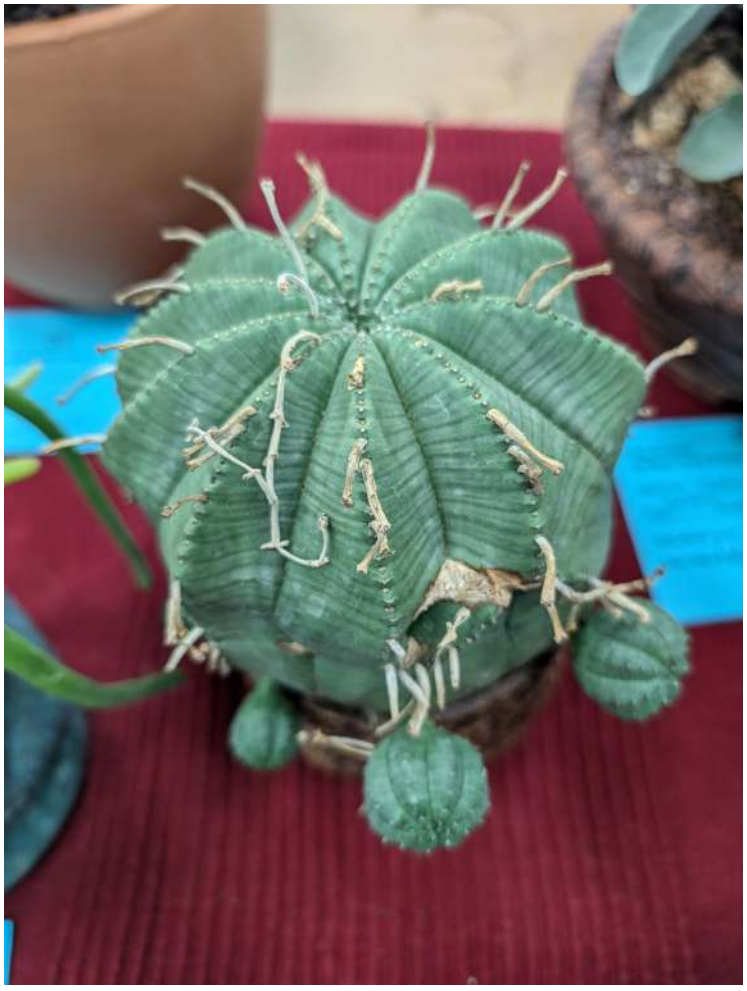
2ND: ***TYLECODON SINGULARIS*** **CANDY AND JERRY GARNER**

3RD: ***OTHONNA HERREI*** **PETER WALKOWIAK**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



EUPHORBIA MINI MEDUSA HYBRID **PETER WALKOWIAK**



EUPHORBIA MELOFORMIS X VALIDA **JEN GREENE**

EUPHORBIA MINI MEDUSA HYBRID **PETER WALKOWIAK**

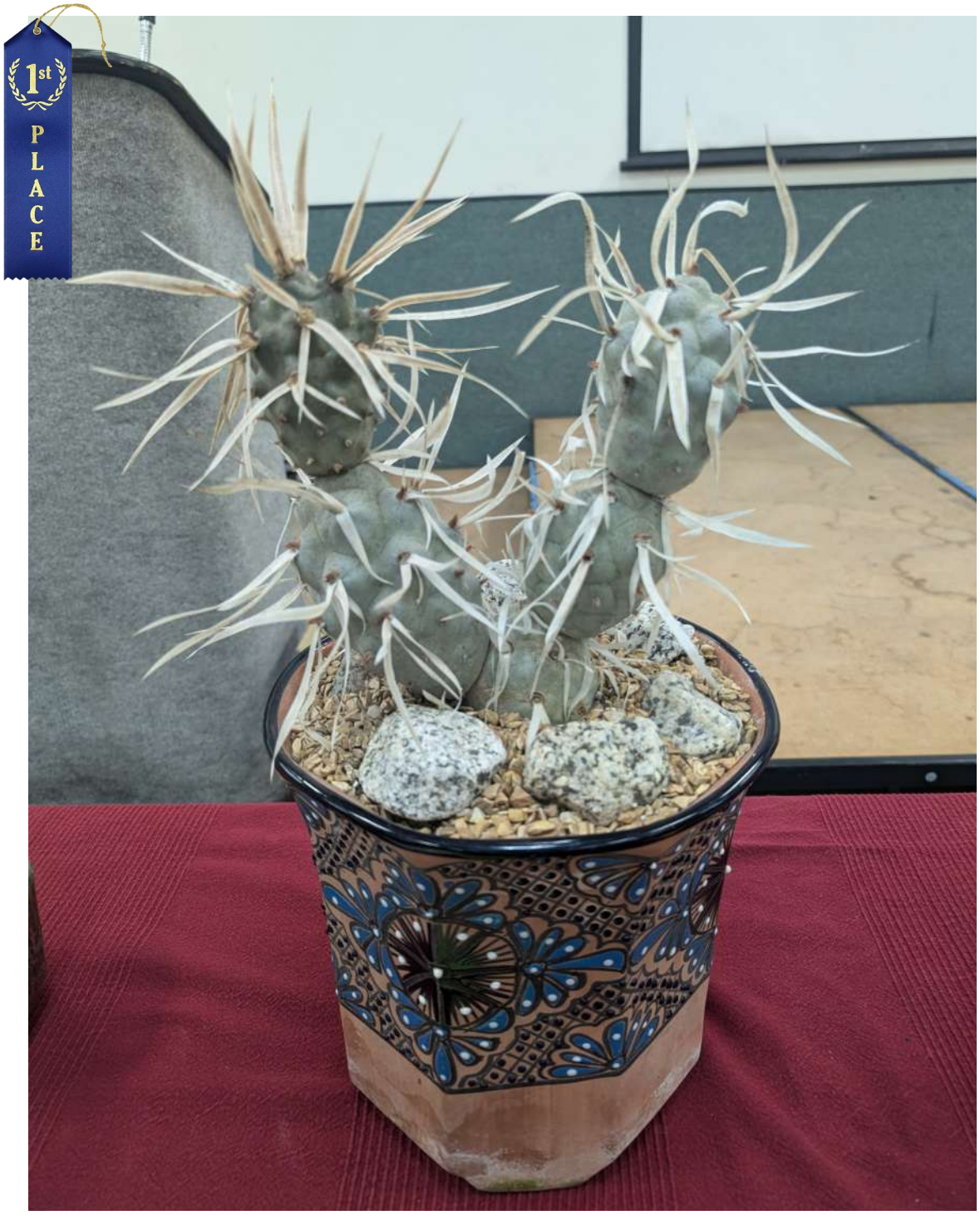
AEONIUM SEDIFOLIUM VARIEGATED **RITA LUNCEFORD**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT

AEONIUM 'PINK WITCH' **RITA LUNCEFORD**

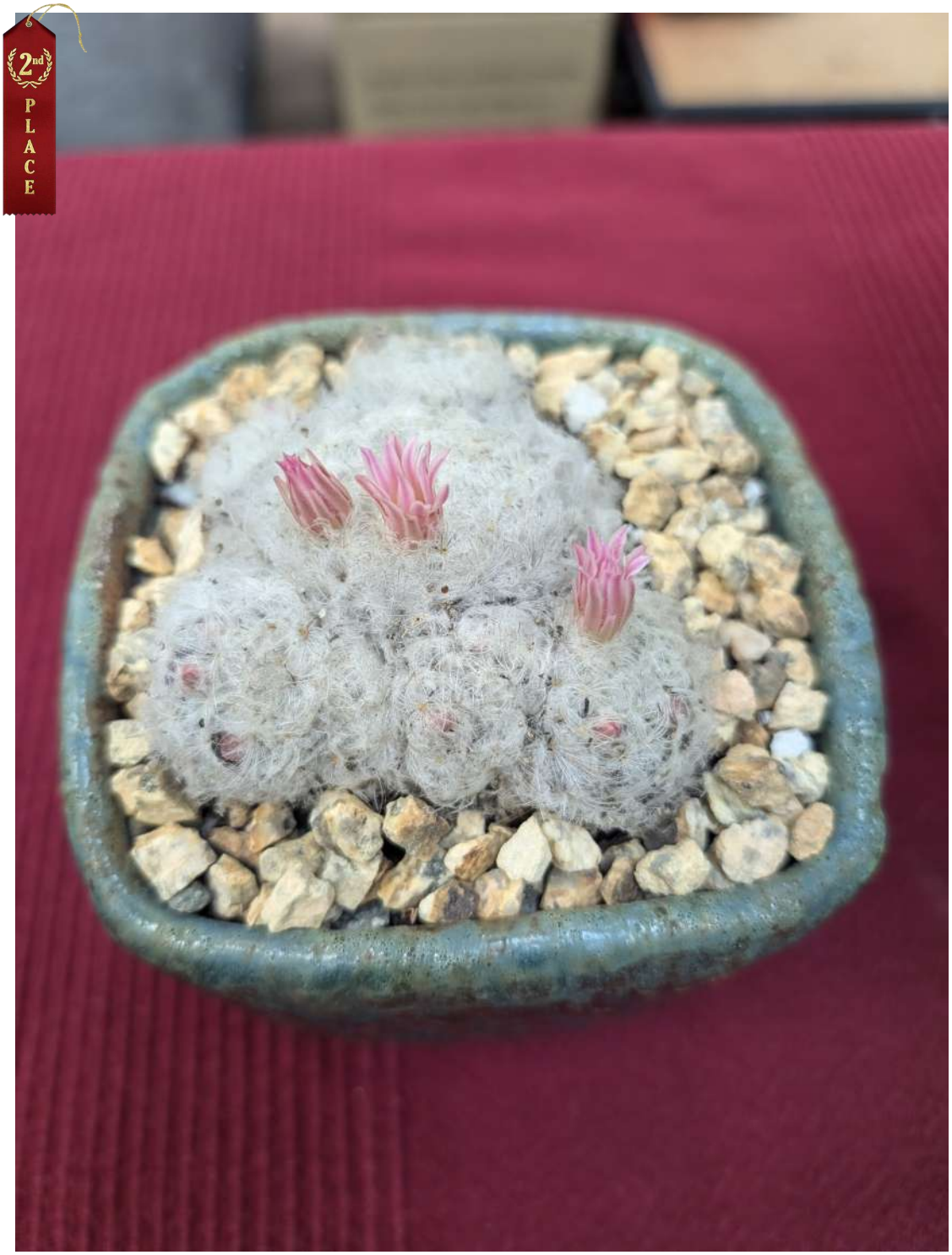
MONILARIA PISIFORMIS **JEN GREENE**

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE CACTUS



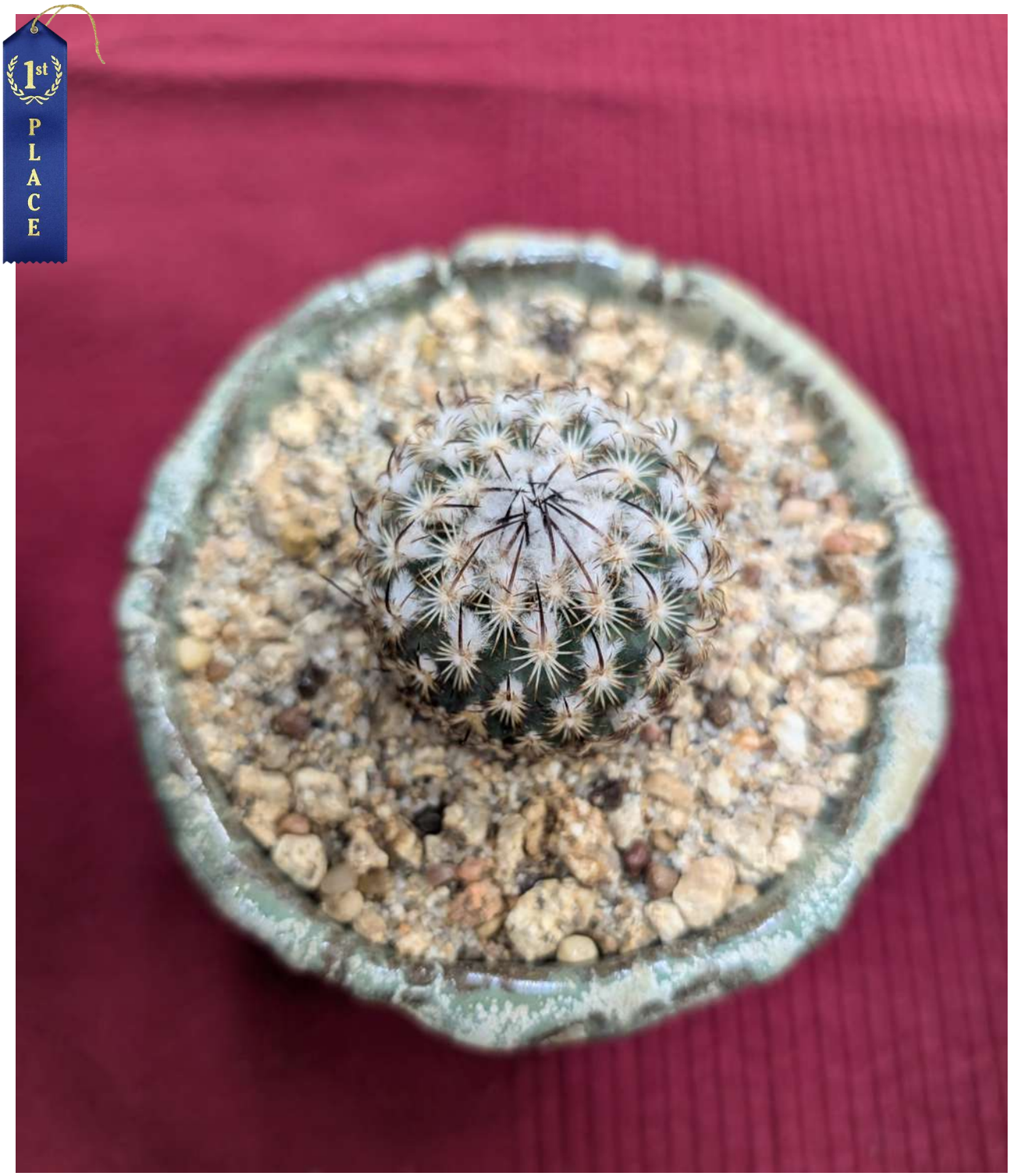
1ST: *TEPHROCACTUS ARTICULATUS* **EMILY SHUFFIELD**

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE CACTUS



2ND: *MAMMILLARIA PLUMOSA* **OLGA BATALOV**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1ST: ***TURBINICARPUS SP.*** **PETER HAGOPIAN**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

2ND: *ECHINOFOSSULOCACTUS ZACATECASEENSIS* **NORB RODEN**

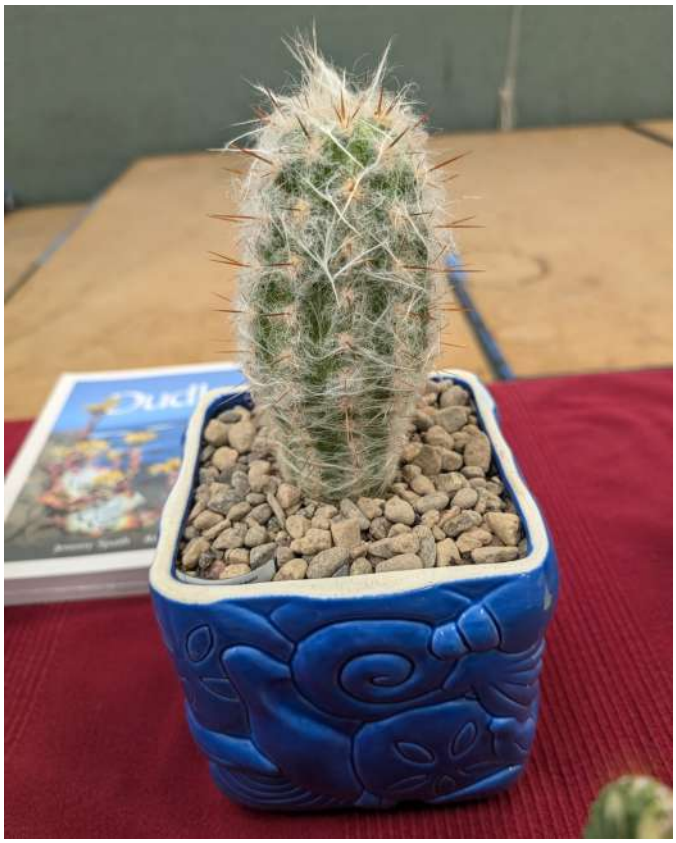
3RD: *MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA* **CHUCK RAMEY**

MAMMILLARIA HERNANDEZII **PETER HAGOPIAN**

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

MAMMILLARIA HAHNIANA **MIRIAM PARENT**

GYMNOCALYCIUM SAGLIONIS VARIEGATED **JEN GREENE**



OREOCEREUS TROLLII **MIRIAM PARENT**

CEREUS PERUVIANUS MONSTROSE **SUZY FORAN**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS

1ST: *MAMMILLARIA PILCAYENSIS* **PETER WALKOWIAK**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS

2ND: *MAMMILLARIA SP.* **PETER WALKOWIAK**

3RD: *SULCOREBUTIA ARENACEA* **JEN GREENE**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS

TURBINICARPUS KNUTHIANUS **CANDY AND JERRY GARNER**

EULYCHNIA CASTANEA SPIRALIS **RITA LUNCEFORD**

ASTROPHYTUM ASTERIAS **JEN GREENE**

TURBINICARPUS SCHMIEDICKEANUS **PETER WALKOWIAK**

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS

PILOSOCEREUS PACHYCLADUS VARIEGATED

RITA LUNCEFORD

CINTIA KUNDALINI

PETER WALKOWIAK