



VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 10 • OCTOBER 2021

ESPINAS FLORES

OCTOBER MEETING • PICNIC PHOTOS • PLANT OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE WINNERS & more!

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



ON THE COVER

Oreocereus sp. looking spooky!
photographed at Lotus Land

Photo by Jared Petker

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

October in-person meeting: **October 9TH**

October speaker: **Ed Read**

Upcoming events: **November in-person meeting**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Succulent Friends.

It is with a heavy heart that I report that our Society lost a good friend, talented artist, active member of the Board, librarian, and all round wonderful person this week with the passing of **Don Hunt**. I know many of us have treasured plants in Don Hunt pots as he was an excellent potter and always sold pots at our shows. He will be missed.



If you missed our picnic on the 11th, you missed a great time. While much of SD County sweltered in high heat, we enjoyed a lovely day at Kate Sessions Memorial Park overlooking the bays, with a cool breeze and big shady trees. The food truck served up delicious Hawaiian style food and there were lots of plants and trades going on. Many thanks to **Chuck Ramey** for getting there early to stake out the perfect location and **Christie Lathrop** for arranging the food truck - great work you two! Thanks also to **May**, our Membership Chair, who once again used her organizational skills to make sure everyone had a ticket for lunch - even the new member who joined the club and signed up for the picnic at 1:30 that morning! It was great to meet so many enthusiastic new members, including our new Treasurer **John McCann** who pitched in to bring coolers and ice so we stayed cool with plenty of water. I also want to thank **Donna** and **Norb** for bringing the banner so folks could find us and plenty of water and ice. I had to leave a bit early, so not sure who helped with clean up - please know your efforts are appreciated.

Our next meeting is coming up October 9th—should be a good one—**Ed Read** will be our main speaker. Our CSSA representative **Rick Bjorklund** will be giving a Plant of the Month talk which sounds like fun, from what he has told me. **Mark Fryer** will be bringing plants for the Benefit Drawing—so bring your good luck and join us in person in Balboa Park on the 9th.

Best wishes to all! Stay safe, and see you soon.

Pam Badger

September 22, 2021

SHARE YOUR PASSION!

Have you ever read the *Espinás Y Flores* Newsletter 'Plant of the Month' article and thought - "I could do that!" Why participate by writing a piece for our **Plant of the Month** feature?

You don't have to be an expert! Pick a genus or species that interests you, do a little research, find or take a few pictures and create an article to share with the club!

Alternately, create a **5-10 minute slide show** to present at one of our upcoming meetings, or do a photo essay for the Newsletter—or both! We would love to see your plants.

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

REMEMBERING DON HUNT

On Monday the 20th of September, our long time friend and an ardent supporter of our society sadly passed away. For going on two decades, Don Hunt has been a constant fixture in our club as the club librarian, potter in residence, board member, internet guru, and frankly all around good guy.

Don maintained the library and was constantly finding ways to make it better by finding new acquisitions along with keeping track of and preserving what we have. He was keenly interested in all things plants and plant books were at the top of his list in his constant quest for knowledge.

He was an incredibly gifted potter and not only made beautiful pots for our special plants but sold them through our club at the meetings and at our yearly sales which in turn supported us financially.

For years, he contributed to the making of “trophy pots” for our twice yearly shows as well. His pottery was also featured on the holiday gift table for our end of the year holiday parties.

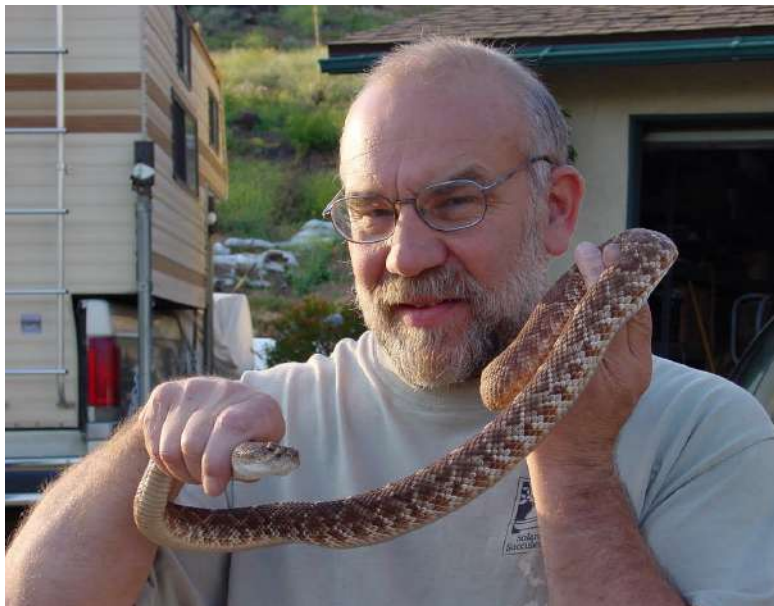


As a board member, he helped guide the club and contributed his knowledge and talents to that end.

For many years, we did not have a wireless connection for our sales functions. Don found a way with his extensive expertise to get us hooked up so we could run credit cards sales. Without him, we would have been stopped in our tracks.

Don was a contributor of a number of articles for our newsletter for plant of the month including a very useful and well researched one on collection of rain water. He was not only very knowledgeable about plants but also had a keen eye and was great grower and shower of plants. He won best of show a number of times and garnered a great many rosettes, I am certain way too many to count!

REMEMBERING DON HUNT



Not long ago, he came to visit me to bring me a potted variegated Agave that had decided to flower as they do at maturity. He wanted me to “make something” with it as he said. We had done this before, he would give me a flowering plant and of course after successful crossing, I would share the good hybrids in return. As we walked my yard during that visit, he admired a large cone on an *Encephalartos transvalensis* and noted how great that would be for texture on the pottery he was making. Without any hesitation, we cut it off and he was able to somehow make a mould of it. It wasn't a long after that, at one of the spring sales, he presented me with a wonderful wall hanging pot that was made using that Cycad cone to create the texture. He saw the art of nature, appreciated it and found a way to incorporate it into his works.

On a personal side, I really liked him. He was truly a great friend to me. I looked over my emails and I must have a hundred over the last twenty years between the two of us. He was often very opinionated and we had many discussions occasionally about things we did not agree on, but at the end of the day we were great friends and that was never lost in those moments.



I knew Don to be kind, caring, good natured and incredibly artful. I have great admiration for him. Thank you Don for your friendship, thank you for your incredible art that you shared with the world and thank you for all the smiles, jokes and chuckles you shared with me ~ I will never forget you.

**Gone far too soon
Don, you will be greatly missed by all.**

KELLY GRIFFIN

SDCSS OCTOBER SPEAKER



Join us **Saturday, October 9th** for our IN-PERSON meeting and speaker Ed Read, speaking on **the Cultivation of Welwitschia and an introduction to the genus Boswellia**.

Our speaker: Ed has worked personally and professionally with plants for most of his adult life. After studying plant life in college, he worked studying the boreal forest of Manitoba and the tropical forest and rivers of Pará, Brazil. He considers the things that he learned from his work and numerous personal travels throughout Brazil, Mexico, and other countries, to be just as important as his college years. Ed now manages research greenhouses and curates a diverse teaching collection of plants from around the world.

Our POM talk this month will be from Rick Bjorklund giving a talk titled "Cactus and Succulent Addiction: Plant hoarding, collecting, passion, or abundance?" **See you at the meeting!**

Club meetings are free and open to the public.

SDCSS meets at Balboa Park monthly, generally on the second Saturday of each month, from 1 - 4 pm in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado.

The SDCSS abides by the Balboa Park mask policy—masks will be worn indoors at our meeting at all times. A reminder that we will not have a library table this month, but will have an exchange table and brag table.

Thank you so much for staying safe!

CSSA WEBINAR



Join the CSSA on **Saturday, October 2nd at 10:00 a.m.** for the next in their series of webinars featuring **Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.**

Considerable controversy surrounds the genus *Sansevieria*, which some believe should be subsumed into the genus *Dracaena*. Preliminary molecular work suggests that the two genera are separate, and character data reinforces this conclusion. At present, more than 100 taxa are in the genus *Sansevieria* and more are added with each passing year. This talk discusses the systematic of the genus and presents some newly described species as well as some potential species yet to be described in the coming years.

[Click here to register for the Webinar!](#)

SDCSS MEMBER SECTION & SEPTEMBER PICNIC RECAP



Thanks to everyone who came out on the 11th!



Member and frequent brag-table participant Diana McNeill wrote the following email to our club, and we thought it was too nice not to share! We love to hear from members, be they local or far away.

"I hope to come to San Diego again this year when I can. Living up here in Winnipeg carries with it a number of challenges when one's passion is the culture of cacti and succulents. My favourite special area is Caudiciform. I will be passing my collection one day, through my will, to our conservatory here. So I keep them as healthy as I can till then. It is 40 years that I grow these plants. Only one other person in the province that I can communicate meaningfully with about the culture, problems, successes we have. That treasure person for 5 years now. Otherwise, no one I know of around me at all.

Snow for 5 mo. of the year. Carrying plants in and out, up or down to the basement cool white & sills for winter. My dining room has a lovely "forest" in it for half the year. Fans are so important because of central heating in winter.

It's a job! I have outdoor plantings of various winter hardy forms of opuntia fragilis, sedums, sempervivums, mainly. These plants may gain a strong foothold here as summers are getting so hot. In July we had only 3 days where temperature was under 86F. here while many were 100 degrees F. No rain here for almost 2 mo. in summer.

But my plants & I persist. They did not like the heat. Me neither. I appreciate your wonderful organization, the feeling of belonging and help it provides. I love the zoom presentations. They made the isolation of the pandemic much more easy to endure.

Thank you for being."

DIANA MCNEILL



An arrangement of succulents Diana made for her friends

BAJA GARDEN & OLD WORLD SUCCULENT GARDEN UPDATE

A dedicated team of 18 volunteers work hard to keep plants alive through the summer. We even occasionally added plants (when we think we can keep these watered & nurtured).

We want to thank the following for donating plants to the Gardens: Pam Badger, Rick Bjorklund, Ken Blackford, Ron Chisum, Candy & Jerry Garner, Don Jones, Julie Kort, Jean & Bill O'Daniel, Rick & Cheryl Negus, Mike Nelson, Gnosis Nursery, Tom Osborn, Mary & Jim Reiser, Herb Stern, Botanic Wonders, and Tina Zucker.

We have also been buying quite a few specialty aloes from Tom Cole, ISI of Huntington Botanical Gardens, and the Institute of Aloe Studies, to add to our aloe collection. We have more than 250 species of aloes (out of total of >600 species) now in the garden, in the greenhouse, and in the shadehouse.



A few blooms at the OWSG



upper left: Bloom stalks of *Urginea maritima* (sea squill) – a bulb from the Mediterranean

middle left: Fruits from our revived *Cyphostemma juttae*

lower left: *Pachypodium lamerei*

above: *Haemanthus coccineus* (rabbits love these flowers)



If you want to donate or volunteer, please email mayfongho@yahoo.com or text 760-233-3948.

Photos and article by **M. F. Ho** with permission of the San Diego Zoo/Safari Park.

OCTOBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH TOPIC



Cactus and Succulent Addiction

PLANT HOARDING, COLLECTING, PASSION, OR ABUNDANCE?

by passionate cactus and succulent hoarder collector RICK BJORKLUND

A somewhat tongue-in-cheek exploration of the desire, attempt, and process of obtaining more succulents and cacti which other plant geeks like myself may be familiar with. I'll review some of the reasons we love plants via a humorous look at plant addiction vs. passionately collecting them. Included will be many ways they might be a part of our lives such as emotional health, art/crafts, textiles, garden and civic art, plant shopping, making new plant friends, and creative ways of fitting more plants inside and outside our homes.



SEPTEMBER 2021 BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to bring their best plants to the return of our Classic Brag Table, judged by the lovely Tina Zucker!

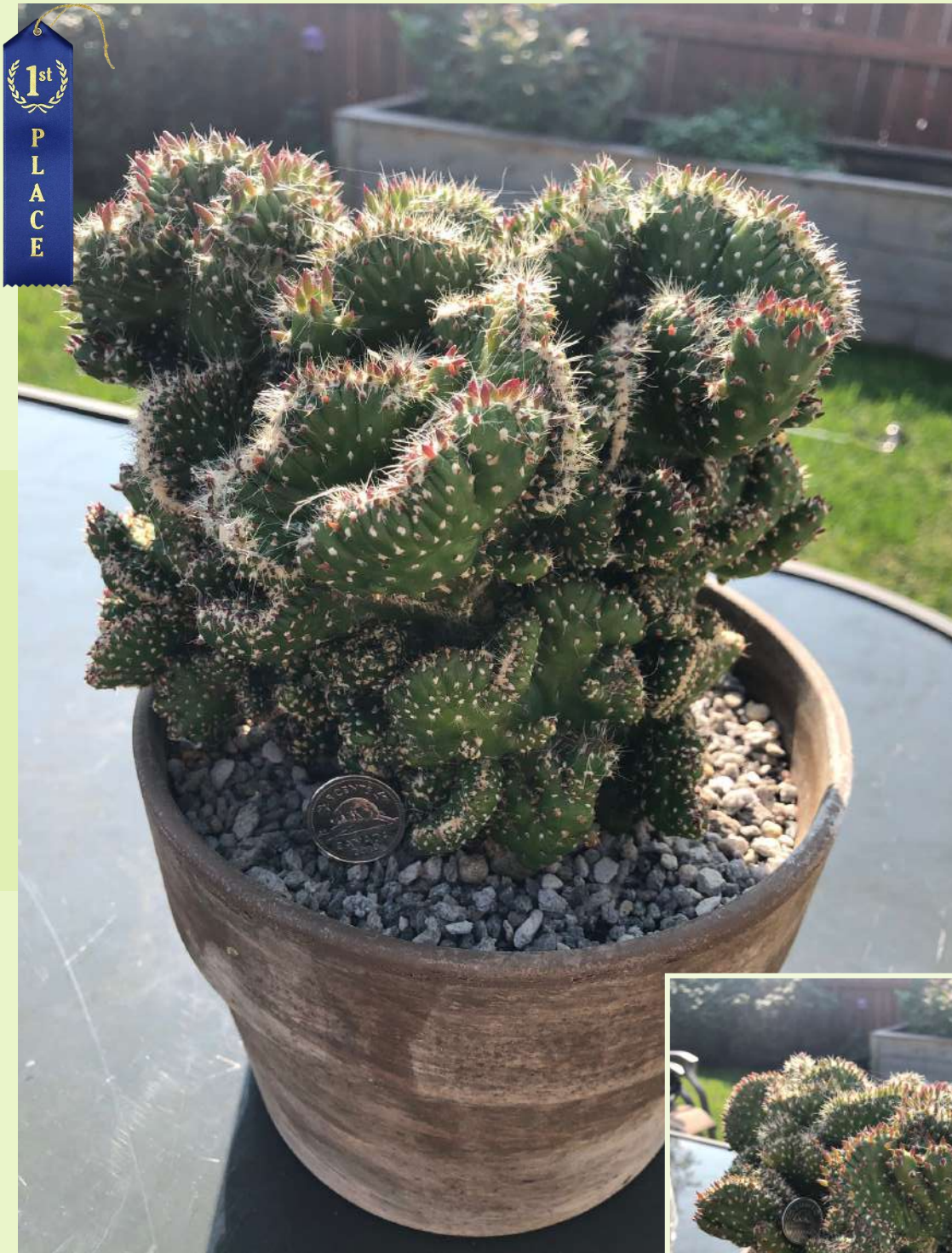
Our participants included:

49 specimens: 16 cactus, 33 succulents

19 members

With a return to meetings in October, please bring your Brag Table plants for our in-person table and judging on **October 11th!**

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS

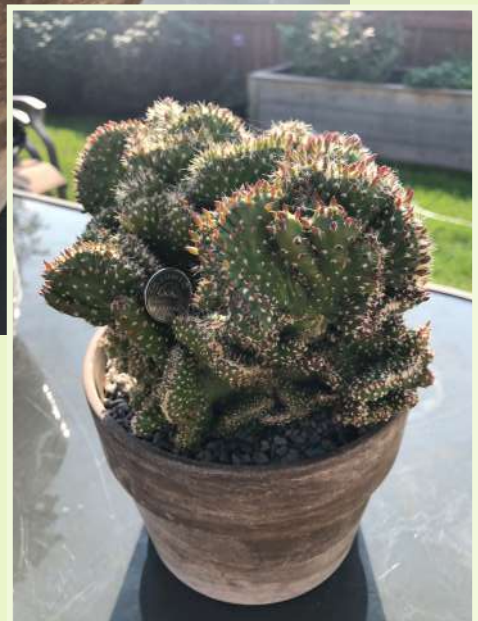


1st: *Austrocylindropuntia vestita* crested

Diana McNeill

"Well grown and well displayed! Attractively done"

-Tina



AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



1st: *Sulcorebutia rauschii* f. *violacidermis*

Dave Thurbon

"It is large and flawless! good for you!"

-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



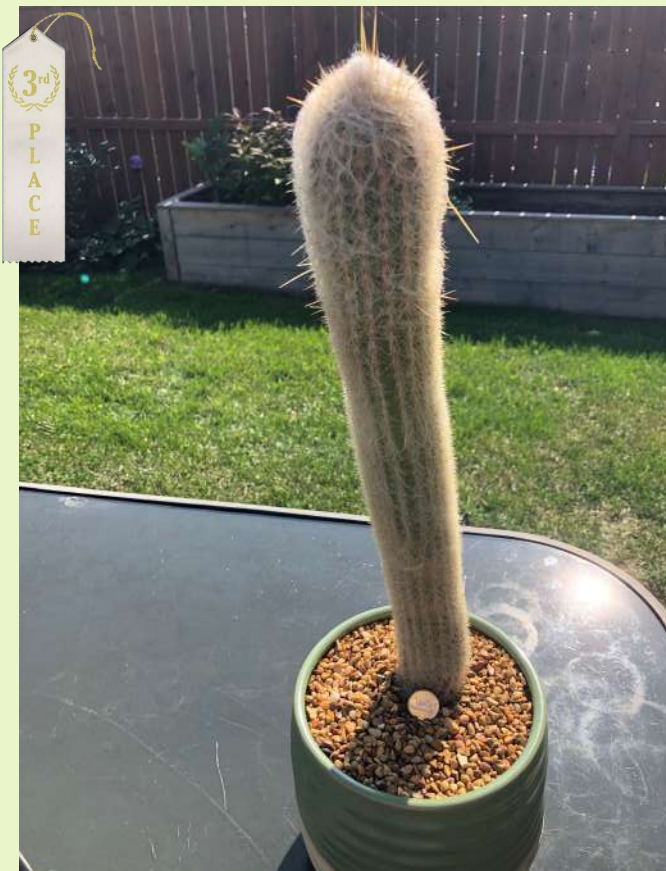
2nd: *Neochilenia (Neopotaria) jussieui* Jen Greene

"Nice combination of rock color and pot.
Good looking plant" -Tina



2nd: *Discocactus chrysallophilus* Jen Greene

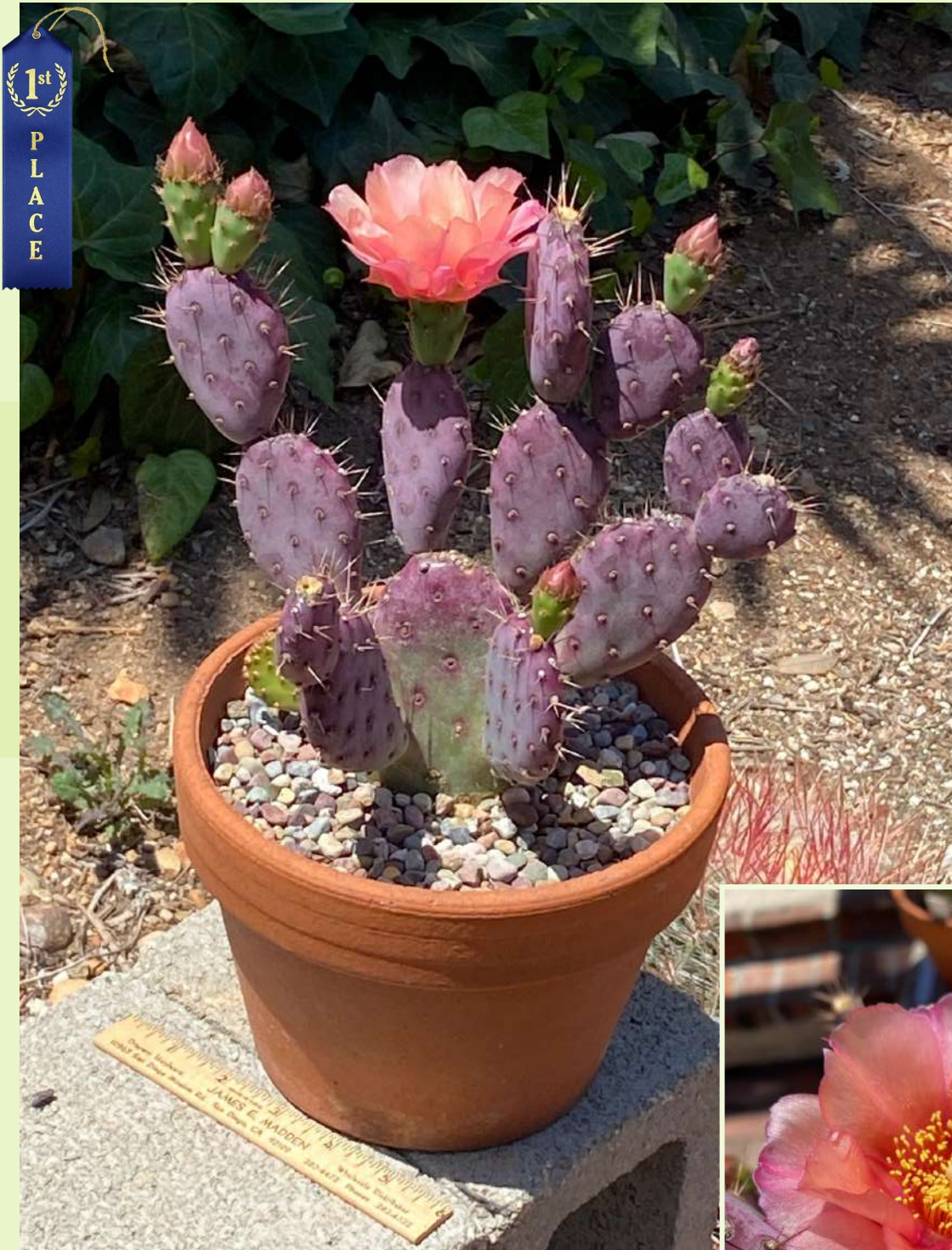
"Nicely potted, well thought out"
-Tina



3rd: *Espostoa lanata*
Diana McNeill

"Tall plant! you've must have grown for a
while. Looks very healthy"
-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Opuntia basilaris* 'Baby Rita'

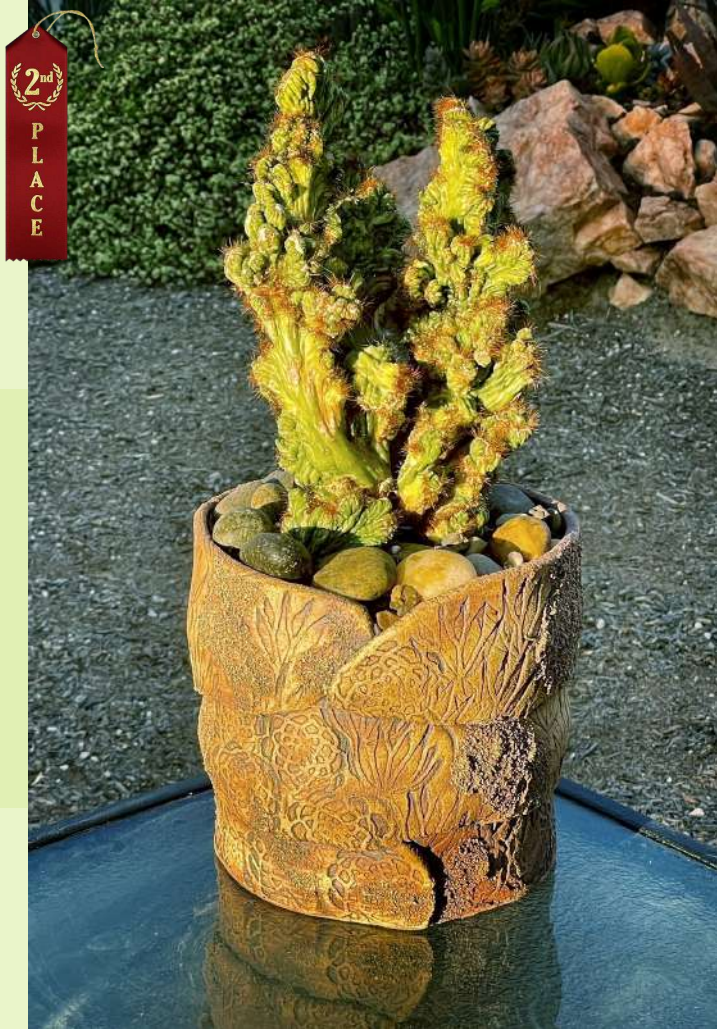
Ruth Contino

"Wonderful display of plant & flowers. You got me with the wonderful color"

-Tina



AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



2nd: *Cereus peruvianus variegata montrose* crested

Eileen Mandell

“Greatly displayed with plant & pot match.
Beautiful plant”

-Tina



3rd: *Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto' Ruth Contino

“Well grown! nicely potted. wonderful and healthy”
-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



Cereus forbesii fma. monstrosus 'Ming Thing' Norb Roden



Hildewintera aureispina cristata

Eileen Mandell



Mammillaria schiedeana

Norb Roden

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Ariocarpus retusus* v. *furfuraceus*

Michael Burkhardt

"Well grown, well potted"

-Tina



AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



2nd: *Turbincarpus saueri* ssp. *septentrionalis* crested

Dean Karras

"Great Crest, Beautiful plant"

-Tina



3rd: *Obregonia denegrii*

Michael Burkhardt

"Healthy & Happy plant,
Looking good!"

-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



Ariocarpus retusus

Dean Karras



Echinocereus nicholii

Pam Badger

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT

1st
P
L
A
C
E



1st: *Gasteria batesiana*

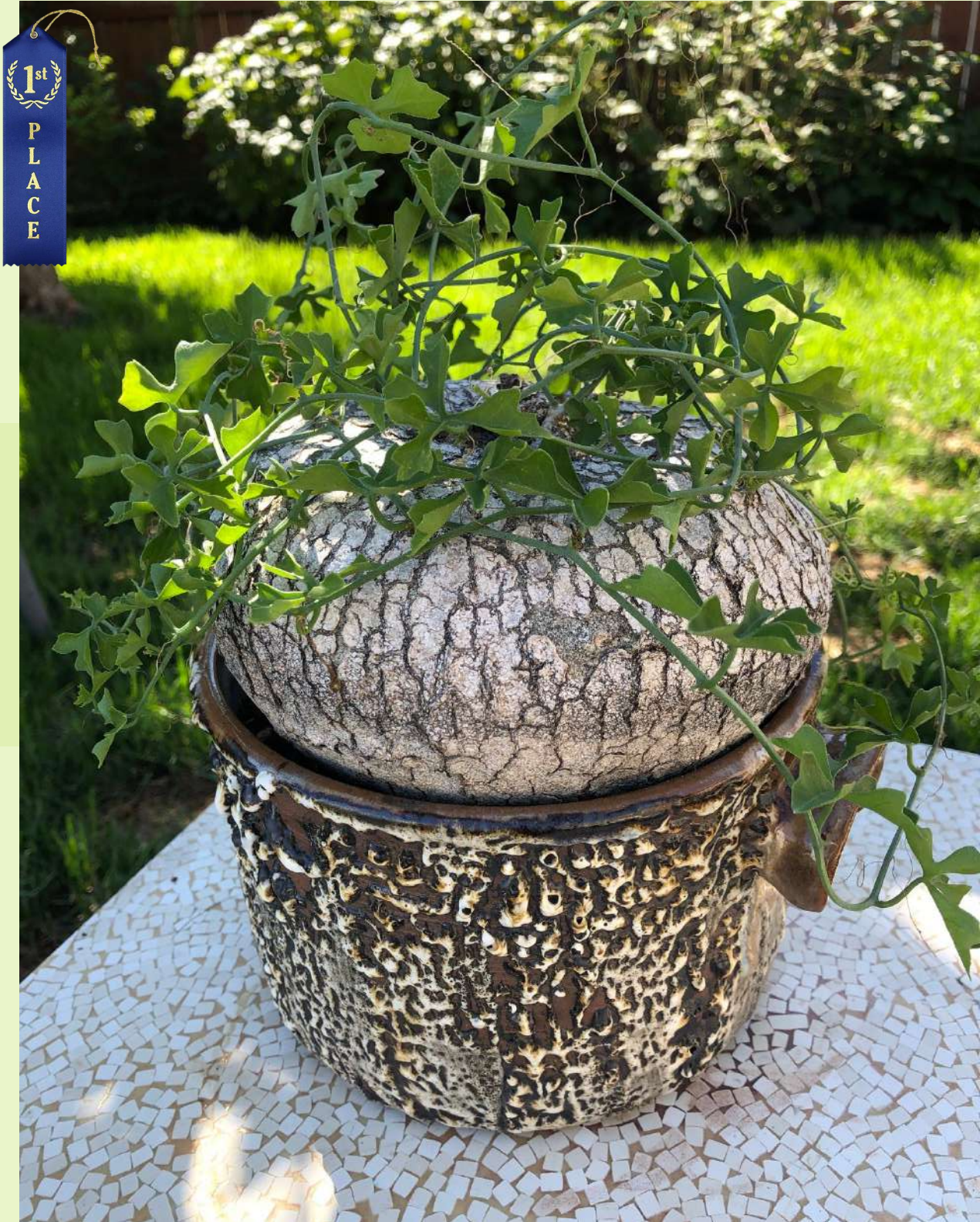
Sylvia Hatcher

"Well grown! wonderful condition
and well displayed"

-Tina



AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Ibervillea lindheimeri*

Diana McNeill

"Nicely displayed! beautiful plant! fits well in the pot"

-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Euphorbia squarrosa*

Diana McNeill

"Wonderful caudex and good looking plant.
Amazing 35 years old!" -Tina



2nd: *Monadenium rubellum*

Michael Loesch

"Wonderful caudex!
Not an easy plant to grow.
I liked the long pot with
the vines."

-Tina

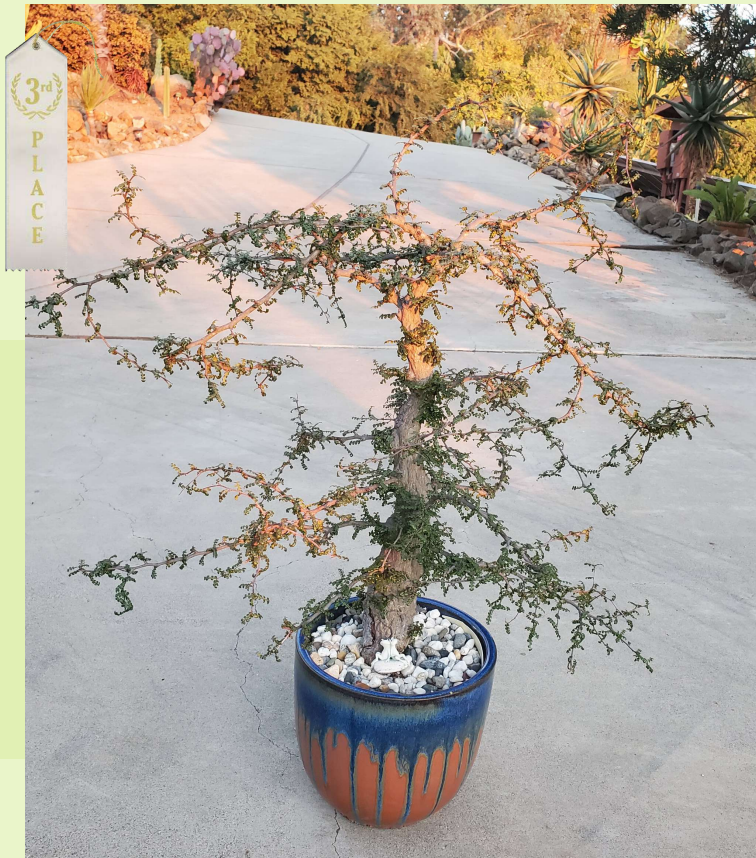
AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



3rd: *Echeveria agavoides* 'Ebony'
Zeta Greene

"Nice, large ebony with great dark margins on the leaves"

-Tina



3rd: *Operculicarya decaryi*
Norm Swanberg

"Nicely displayed! Great background. How did you get the frog to stand still for the photo?"

-Tina

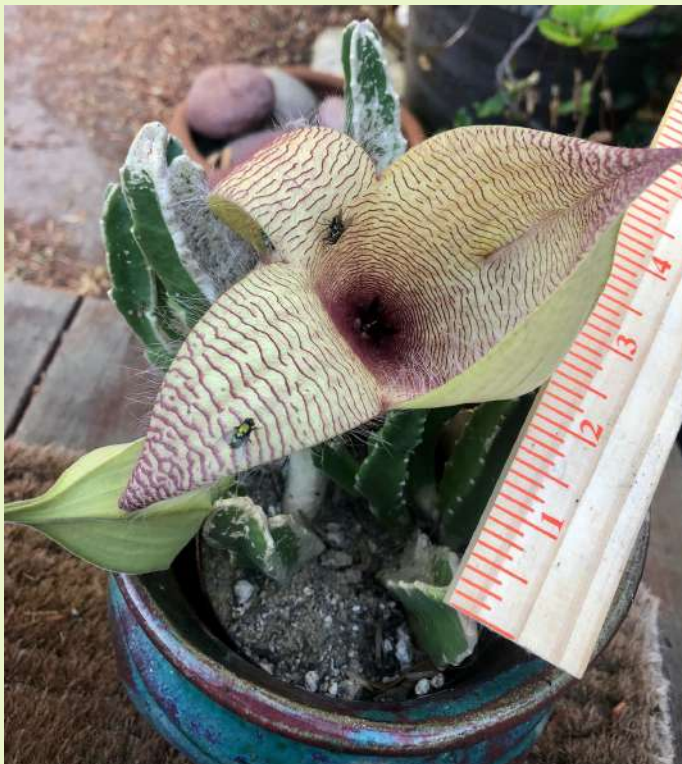


AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Lapidaria margaretae

Dave Thurbon



Stapelia gigantea

Patricia Bryan



Dracaena (Sansevieria) sp.



Lori Cardoza

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Gerrardanthus macrorrhizus

Norm Swanberg



Operculicarya decaryi

Jared Petker



Ficus brandegeei

Patricia Bryan



Fockea edulis

Zeta Greene

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Dioscorea elephantipes

Dave Thurbon



Trichodiadema bulbosum

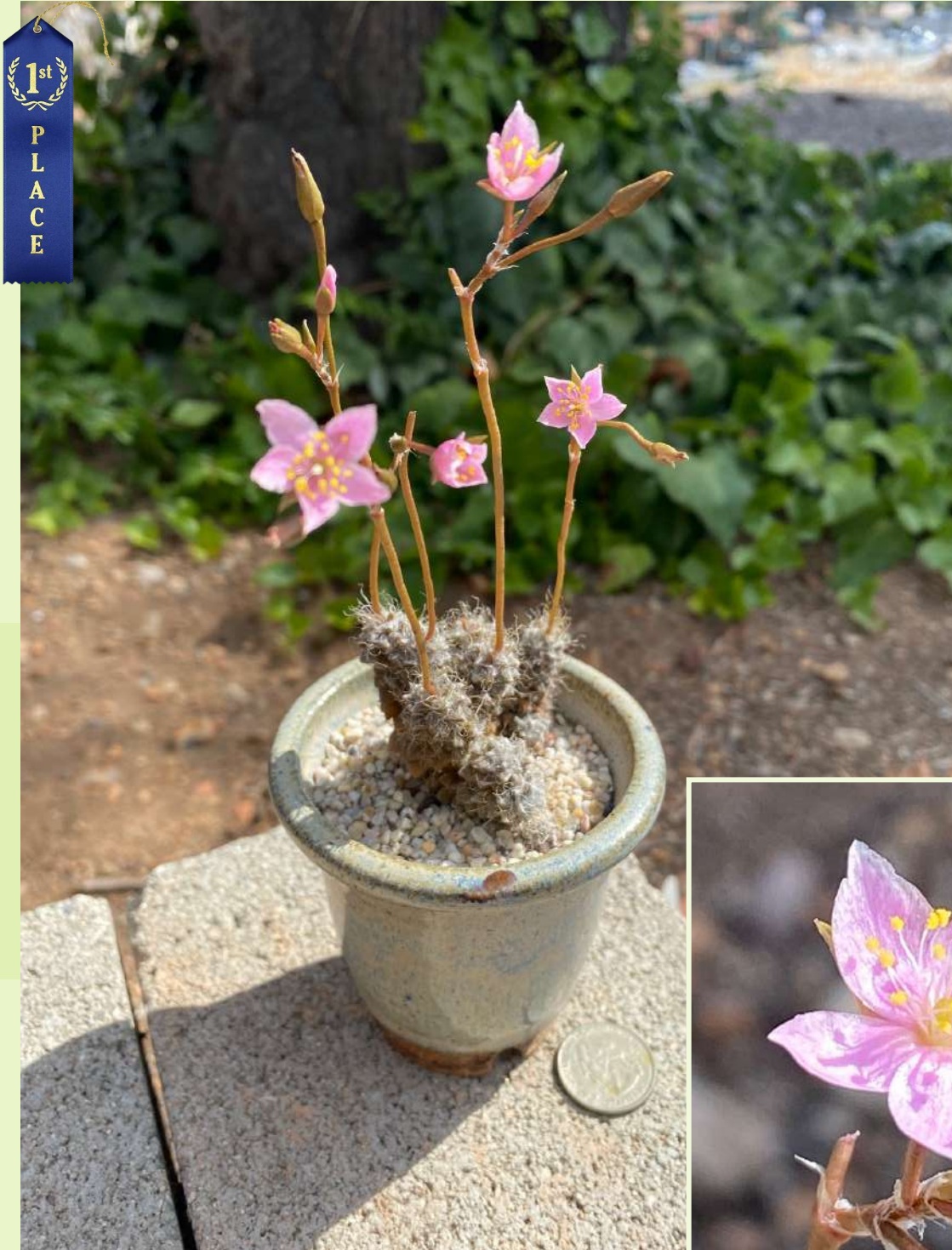
Jen Greene



Euphorbia bongolavensis

Jared Petker

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Anacampseros namaquensis*

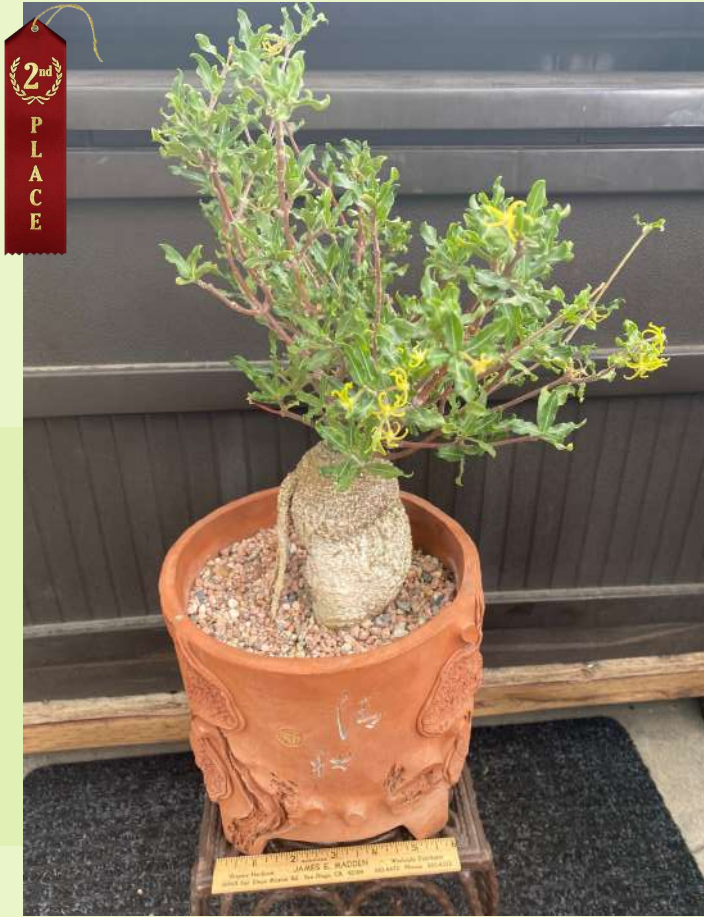
Ruth Contino

"Sweet plant with pretty pink flowers.
I don't see many of this variety. You've done well!"

-Tina



AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Fockea crista*
Ruth Contino

"Nicely grown & displayed.
Thank you for the flower closeup"

-Tina



3rd: *Sarcocaulon vanderietiae*

Allen Clark

"Wonderful flowers! I have older plants not as large as yours. Good job!" -Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



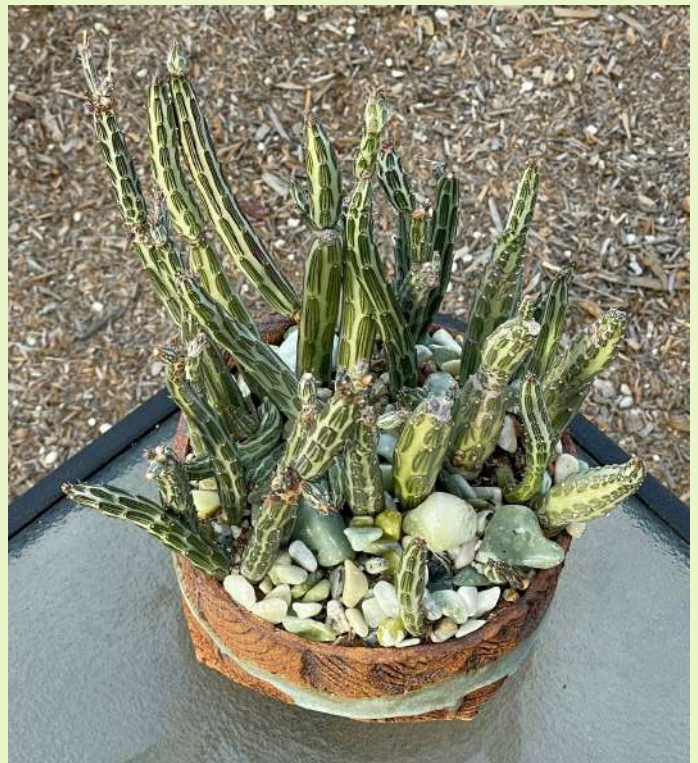
Senecio jacobsenii aka "Trailing Jade"

Eileen Mandell



Euphorbia esculenta

Norb Roden



Senecio stapeliiformis

Eileen Mandell

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



Euphorbia lactea variegata crest (grafted)

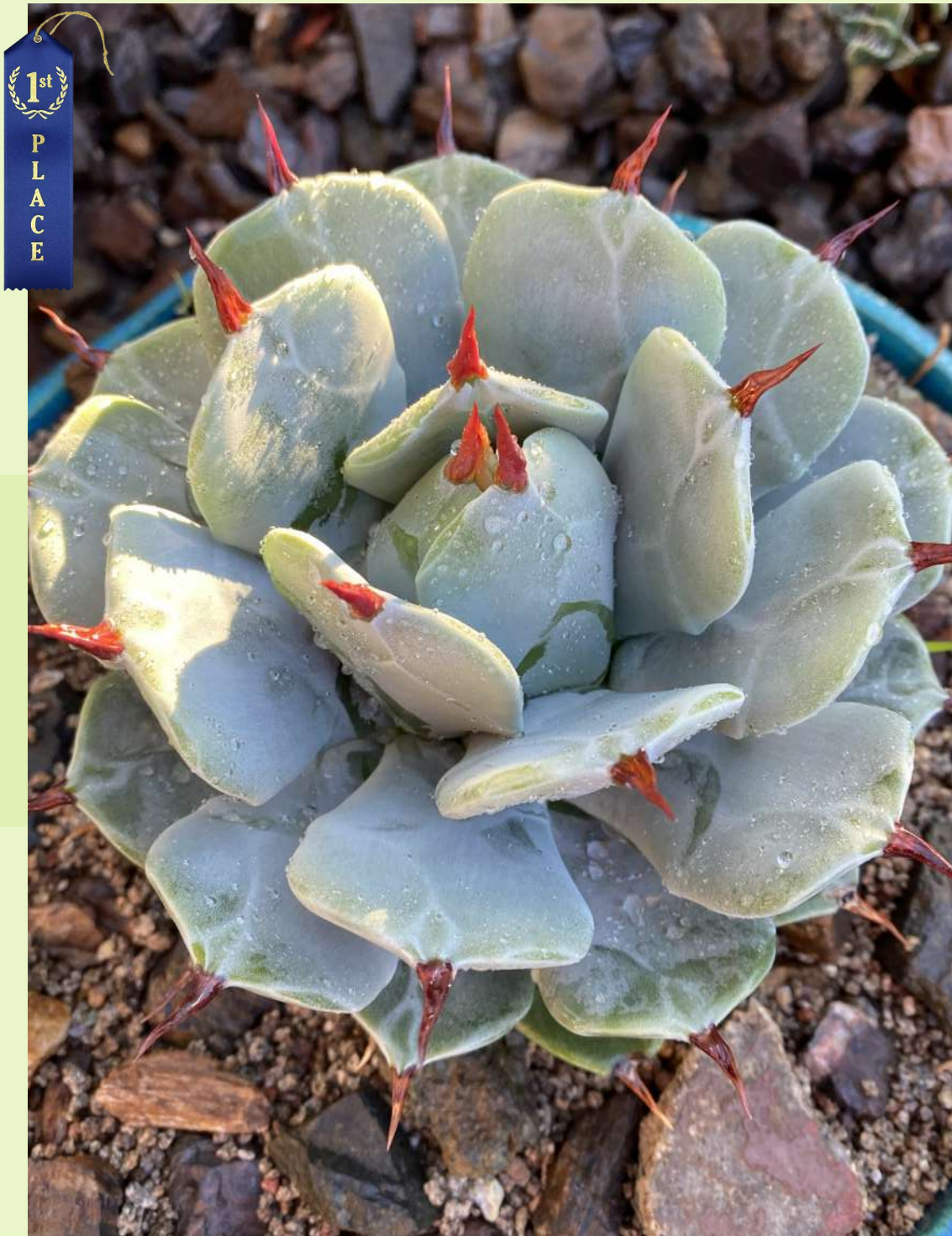
Norb Roden



Adenium hybrid

Allen Clark

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Agave isthmensis* thornless clone

Kelly Griffin

“This plant is beautiful & perfect. I fell in love with it!”

-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd: *Euphorbia poissonii*
Pam Badger

"Beautiful plant."
-Tina



2nd: *Uncarina roeoesliana*
Michael Nelson

"Well thought out
background! Nicely
grown." -Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



3rd: *Euphorbia persistens* Michael Burkhardt

"Very thorny plant and you have done well growing it!"

-Tina



3rd: *Sansevieria pingicula*
Dean Karras

"Very healthy looking Walking plant.
well grown."

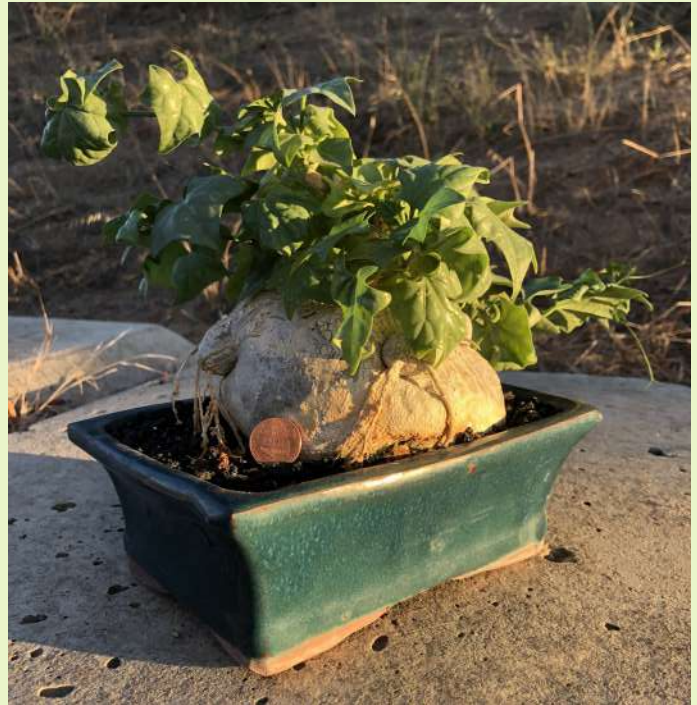
-Tina

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



Conophytum smorenskaduense

Michael Burkhardt



Gerrardanthus macrorhizus

Dean Karras



Agave titanota

Kelly Griffin



Euphorbia cylindrifolia ssp. *tuberifera*

Pam Badger