



VOLUME 55 • NUMBER 10 • OCTOBER 2020

ESPINAS Y FLORES



APPRECIATING OUR NOVICE AND INTERMEDIATE

BRAG TABLE

PLANT OF THE MONTH: EUPHORBIA

UPCOMING WEBINARS • GARDEN UPDATE

...and more!

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

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ON THE COVER

Echeveria laui
 Photo by Jennifer Greene

SDCSS SCHEDULE

Oct 10th club webinar:
[12:30 pm on Zoom \(see pg 3\)](#)

Oct 10th in-person meeting:
CANCELLED

Upcoming meetings:
DECISION PENDING

HERE TO HELP

In need of assistance
 due to COVID?

Contact:

Tina Zucker at
 (858) 342-9781

- or -

Al Klein at
 (760) 519-9987

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents Jim & Mary Reiser
Secretary Mary Reiser
Vice President [open]
Treasurer Mitch Hubbard

Programs Kelly Griffin
Reception Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner
Monthly Regalement Kathy Clark & Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement [open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinators
 Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey

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Chris Miller, Denise Griffin, Whitney Meier, Tina Zucker,
 Al Klein & Don Hunt

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CSSA Affiliate Rep Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Garden Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation [open]
SD Floral Association Jeanette Dutton
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison Brita Miller

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Brag table Denise Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show Kelly Griffin
Historian Denise Huntsman-Griffin
Grants Jerry Garner
Library Don Hunt
Exchange Plants/Seeds Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Annual Sales Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager [open]
Monthly Plant Sales Jim DeForest & Melanie Howe
Monthly Supply Sales Jerry Plaisted
Benefit Drawing Table Allen Clark & Chuck Ramey

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Newsletter Editor Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster [open]
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



October is typically when our SDCSS board is refreshed as term commitments time out or life changes require change. With a challenging reopening environment on the horizon, we are excited to put forth a new board for your approval. This board has a great mix of returning directors, experienced officers and—most importantly— newcomers with new perspectives.

Please review our new slate of board members in this newsletter. We think we are starting to see “green shoots,” and are very optimistic we will get back to our monthly meetings next year at some point. These are unprecedented times with stay at home orders or otherwise social distancing, and as such, this board will be approved unless we get a “write in campaign” to not approve. Please contact us (Jim & Mary Reiser) if you feel you cannot approve.

Lastly, kudos to :

- **Tina Zucker** on continued expansion of our zoom presentation audience.
- **Kelly Griffin & Denise Huntsman** for sourcing new and exciting speakers from afar, who we would not have had present if not for the virtual format.

Thanks,

Jim and Mary

A WARM WELCOME TO THE SDCSS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS OF 2021

CLUB OFFICERS

President- Pam Badger
 Vice President- Chris Miller
 Treasurer- Mitch Hubbard
 Secretary- Donna Roden

BOARD MEMBERS

Megan Escalona
 May-Fong Ho
 Don Hunt
 Denise Huntsman
 Dean Karras
 Al Kline
 Whitney Meyer

Please contact membership@sdcss.org with your questions or comments

SDCSS WEBINARS



Join us on **Saturday, October 10th** at 12:30pm PST for our next club webinar, "The Cacti of San Luis Potosí México" by speaker Juan Miguel Artigas Azas!

Juan considers himself a naturalist. Although he was trained as a civil engineer, a profession which he loves and on which he has made a living for more than 35 years, he has always been in contact with the natural environment. He has studied and written on cichlid fishes for many years and taken thousands of underwater pictures of them in Africa, South America, Central and North America. He has also studied and photographed many freshwater fishes of Mexico. Additionally, for many years Juan has also studied and written on cacti, managing pictures of blooming plants in habitat of hundreds of species. He has now for several years turned his attention to birds and he is greatly enjoying to learn about their natural history and how to properly identify and photograph them. He is still in the early stages of the process. He also takes pictures of any other animal or plant he comes near by.



Juan Azas

You can join the webinar on Oct 10th
[at this link](#)

KELLY GRIFFIN ON PBS



Our renowned plant explorer and succulent breeder Kelly Griffin features in *A Growing Passion*, a 30 min episode of "The Adventures of a Plant Explorer"

- Thu 10/1 8:30pm on KPBS
- Sun 10/4 11am on KPBS
- Mon 10/5 8:30pm KPBS2

[Click here for details of this episode!](#)

FIND US ONLINE

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/sdcss

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

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

WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

SUBMIT TO EyF!

Do **you** have a stunning succulent, a garden in bloom, a topic of interest, or anything else that you'd like to share?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are accepting submissions for photos, articles, comments, and other materials of interest to the club from SDCSS members in good standing. **To submit content, please contact the editor at: eyf.editor@gmail.com**

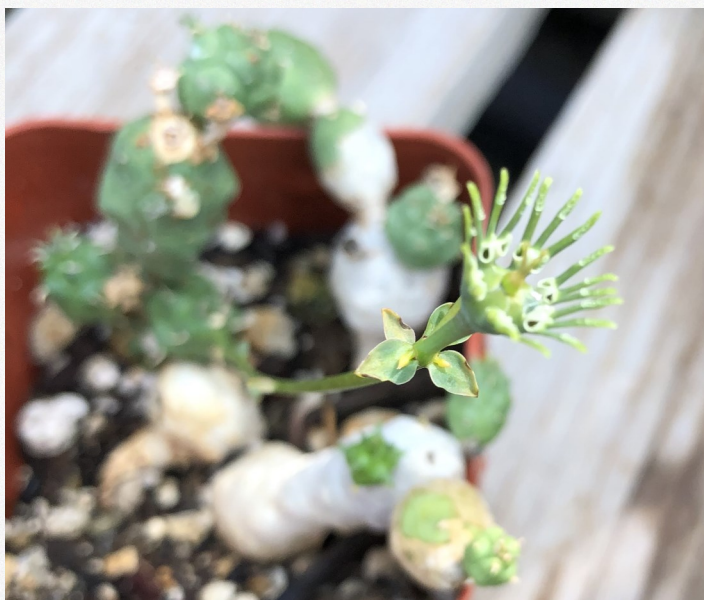
We are currently interested sharing virtual Member Garden Tours! This would be a multi-photo feature, with a brief descriptions of notable plants and landscapes from your cactus and succulent garden! If you are interested in giving your fellow members a tour, write to eyf.editor@gmail.com with the subject: "Member Garden Feature"

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

the
DIMINUTIVE,
the *slow*
the
& WEIRD!

EUPHORBIAS NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE

by Pam Badger



Euphorbia globosa, aptly named, as it consists of these colorless globs linked together, with little green globs growing on it. The blooms are super cute.

Above: *Euphorbia globosa*

Right: *Euphorbia globosa* in flower

Pam Badger

continued on the next page...



Euphorbia platyclada, often called the 'dead plant,' is from Madagascar, as are many other truly strange plants. Its coloring varies from pink and brown to green and brown and sometimes orange. It may grow upright, sprawl parallel to the ground, or both. The flowers are so tiny you can hardly see them. It takes a special person to love them.

Right: *Euphorbia platyclada*
Below: *Euphorbia decaryi*

Pam Badger

Euphorbia decaryi decaryi, another Madagascar native. This plant was growing in a deep 4 inch pot for about 10 years with little change. When removed from the pot, it had a caudex below-ground much bigger than what showed above. Cute little brown flowers.



Euphorbia monacantha

Pam Badger



Euphorbia monacantha aka 'Mrs. Ash.' I don't know who Mrs. Ash is, but this is a cute little plant. It had been sitting at the back of a shelf when I discovered it in my greenhouse a couple years ago. Date on the tag was 2008. I put her in a new pot. She is happy, but remains pretty small.

continued on the next page...



Euphorbia gymnocalycioides has little chins like its namesake cactus. It has been around the collection for about 10 years with very little change - it is 2 inches in diameter. Love the spiral that diminishes beyond sight in the center.

Euphorbia gymnocalycioides
Pam Badger



Euphorbia francoisii

Pam Badger

Euphorbia francoisii is another species from Madagascar. It also was much bigger below ground than above before I exposed its caudex. Leaves are green and red, long and narrow, or short and round. Flowers are green. Strange and beautiful.



Euphorbia obesa

Pam Badger

Euphorbia obesa is another odd ball, and is commonly called 'golf ball.' They generally grow as a single, round plant which slowly grows taller. This one is quite old- about five inches tall and must have gotten lonely at some point and grew this little appendage.

AFFILIATE NEWS: SAN DIEGO SAFARI PARK

Enjoy these wonderful photos from the Baja and Old World Gardens, courtesy of liaison May Fong Ho.



Urginea maritima flower stalks

May Fong Ho



Above: *Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum*
(Comb Cactus)

Below: *Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum* fruit
May Fong Ho



Euphorbia cooperi flowers and fruits

May Fong Ho

OCTOBER 2020 VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to submit photos of their finest plants to the October Virtual Brag Table, judged by our very own Don Hunt!

This month, to celebrate our wonderful Novice and Intermediate members, those categories received **DOUBLE** the amount of winners!

Our participants included:

42 specimens

18 cactus, 24 succulents

16 members

Congrats to all winners, thank you to all of the members who submitted, and we can't wait to see you next month!

Submit to next month's brag table for boasting rights and club bucks (for when in-person meetings resume)!

Just send in your name, your plant's scientific name, a photo, your category (cacti or succulent, up to 2 plants per category) and your rank (novice= <10 wins, intermediate= 10+ wins, advanced= pro grower) by **Oct 23rd, 2020**.

To enter, email your entries with the subject line "Brag Table" to the editor at: eyf.editor@gmail.com

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



1st
PLACE

1st: *Echinopsis subdenudata*

"If you grow cactus for flowers, this is it." –Don



Shouqin Hou



OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



1st: *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* var. *elephantidens*

Michael Burkhardt

“Just ‘wow’” –Don



OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



2nd: *Thelocactus schwarzii*

Michael Burkhardt

"Clean" –Don

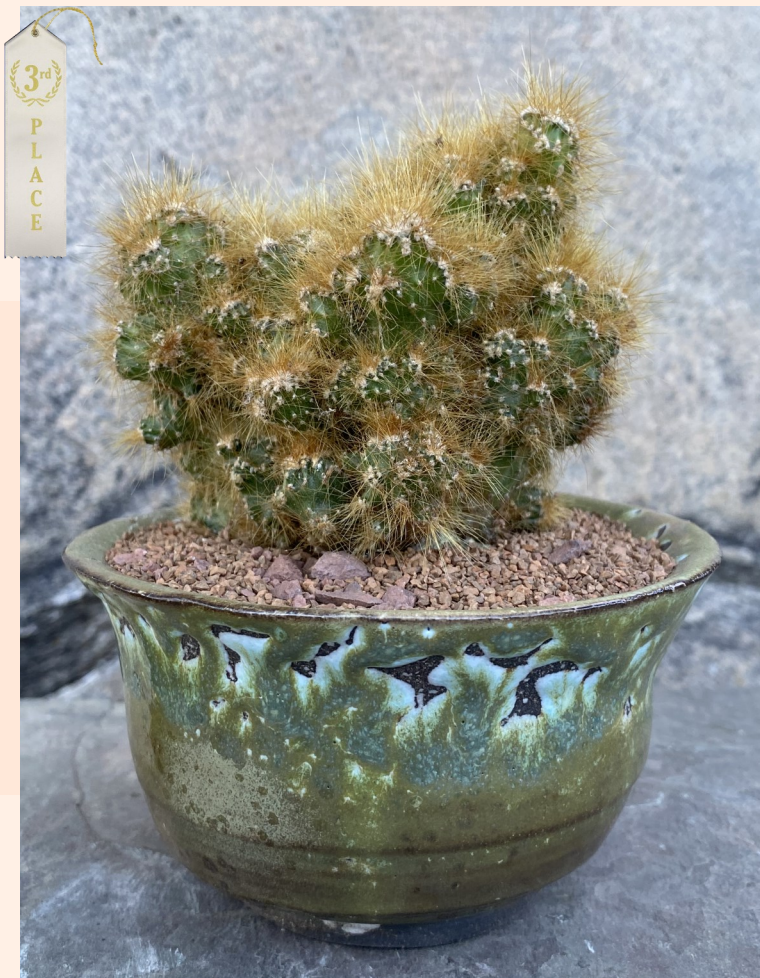


2nd: *Coryphantha andreae*

Jennifer Greene

"Needs staging (IMO)" –Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



3rd: *Cereus sp. cristata*

Patti Nelson

“Looks like a challenge to transplant, but it has room for now.” —Don



3rd: *Oreocereus doelzianus var. sericatus*
Ruth Contino

“Unusual and Cool ” —Don



OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



Cereus comparapanus Jeff Wayland



Copiapoa sp.

Jennifer Greene



Trichocereus pachanoi fma. *cristata*

Joan Herskowitz

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



Matucana madisoniorum

David Thurbon



Opuntia rubusta orbiculata

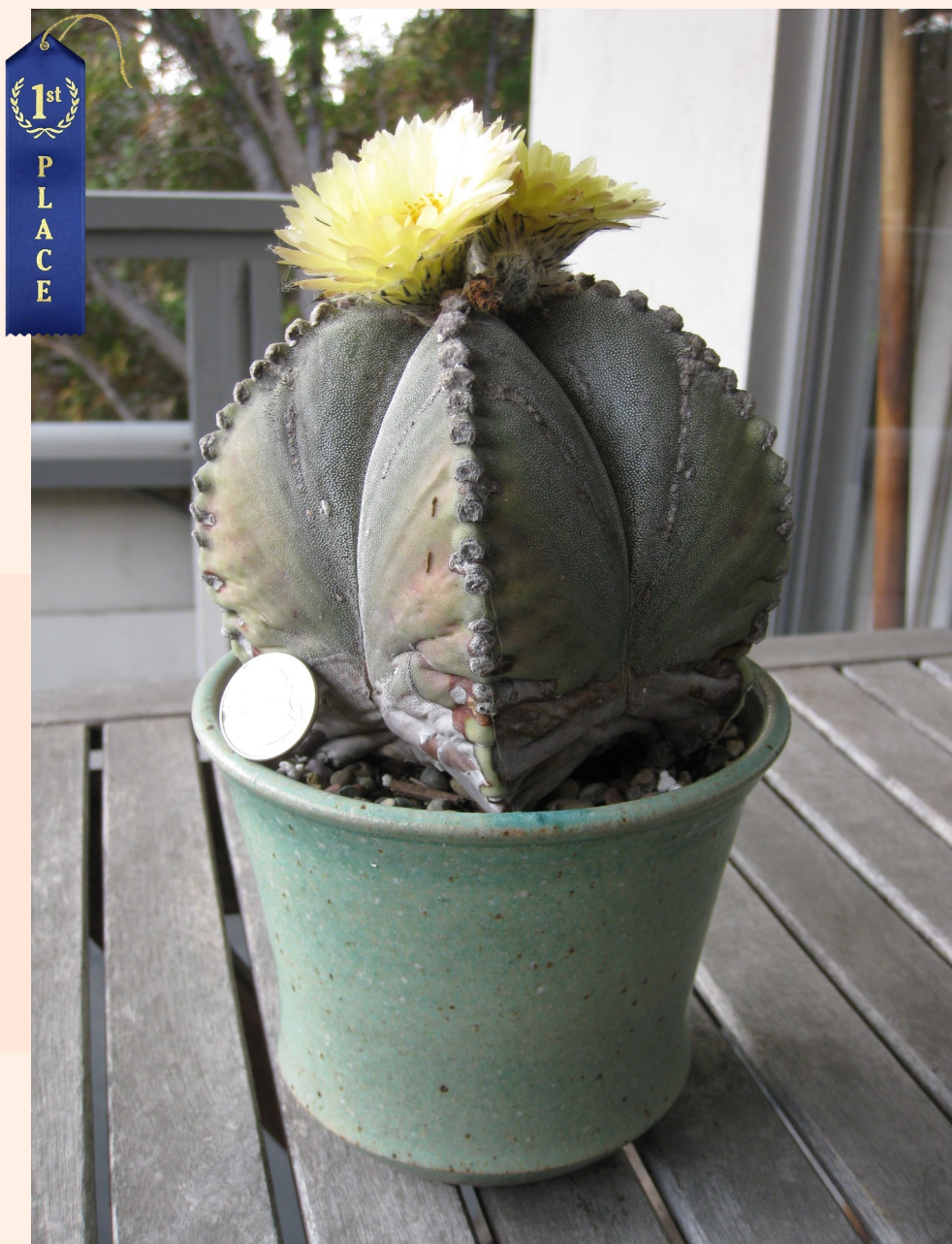
Jeff Wayland



Epiphyllum anguliger "ZigZag Cactus"

Michelle Murphy

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Astrophytum myriostigma*

Allen Clark

“Always some scaring on these, easy to mis-water and rot, so nice plant.” —Don



OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



2nd
PLACE

2nd: *Opuntia sulphurea* May Fong Ho

“Looks good like this, mine went fat and not so nice. Best grown hard.”
—Don



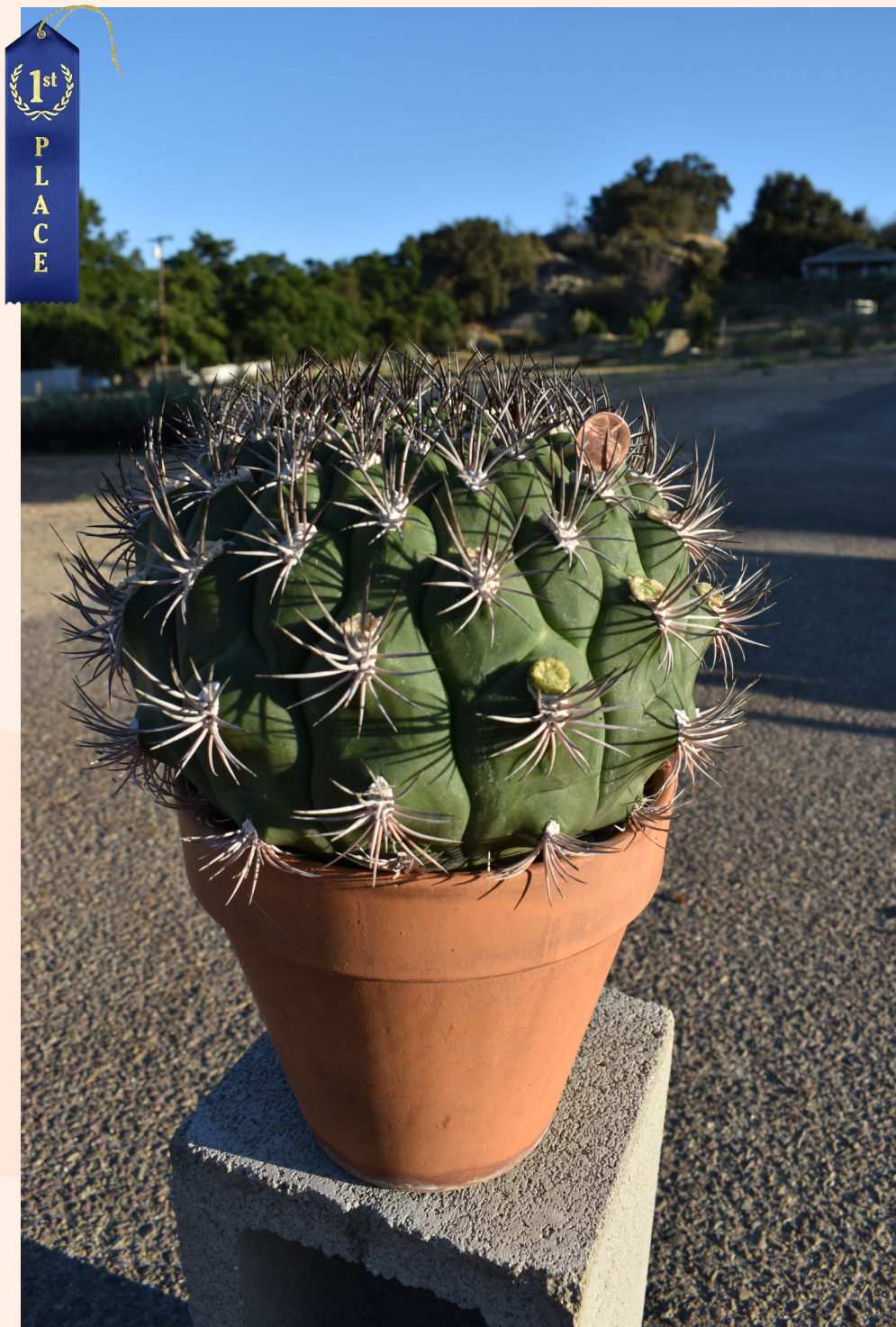
3rd
PLACE

3rd: *Mammillaria spinosissima*

Jennifer Harris

“Needs staging.” —Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS

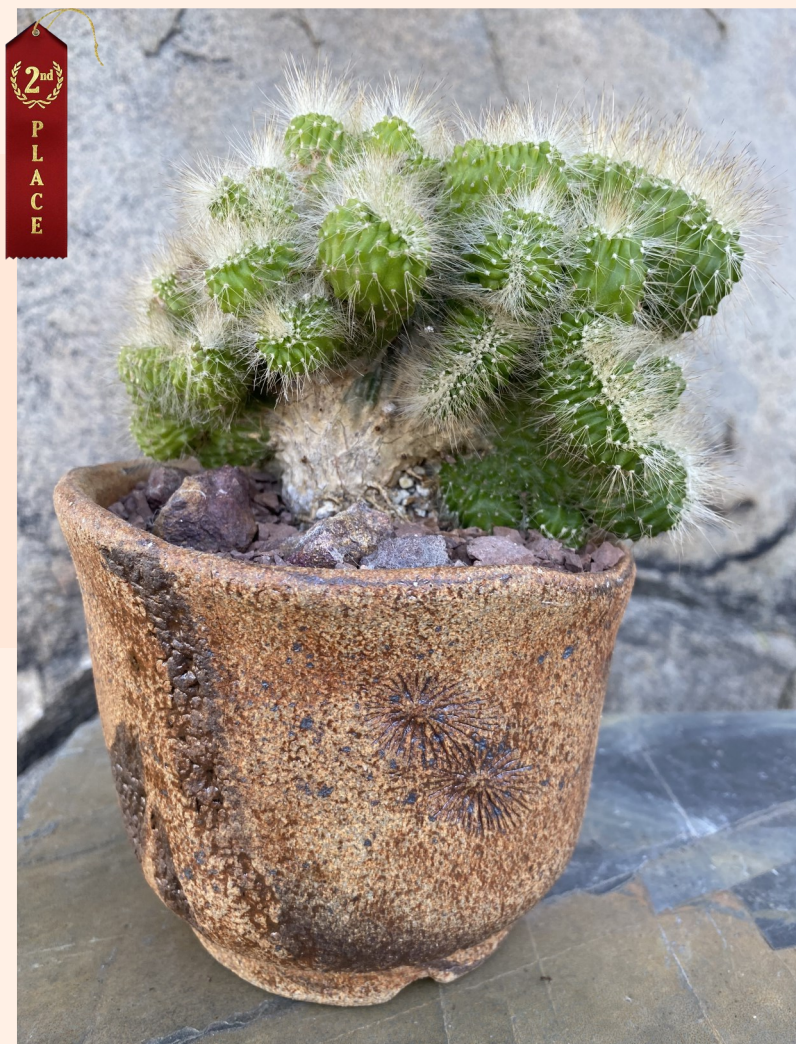


1st: *Gymnocalycium saglionis*

Dean Karras & Megan Escalona

“Super clean, easy to scar, they never recover.” —Don

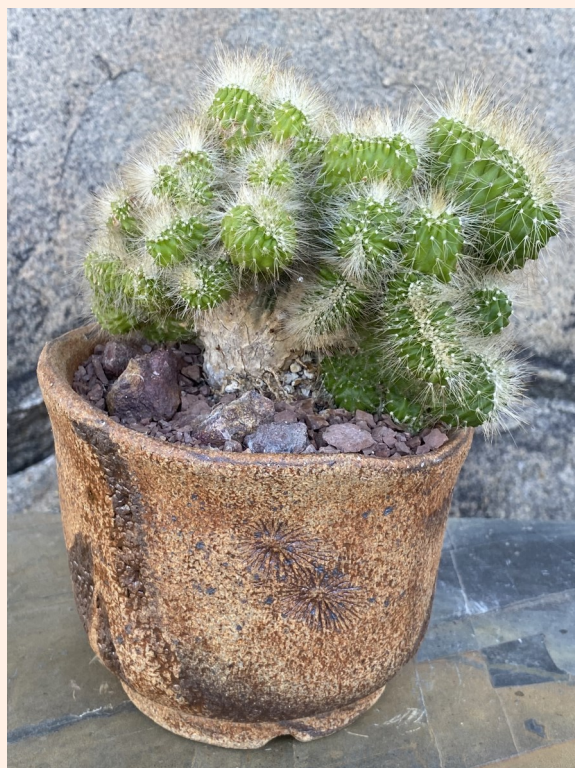
OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



2nd: *Neobuxbaumia euphorbioides* crest

Mike Nelson

“Cool plant, nicely staged ” –Don



3rd: *Mammillaria lenta*

Dean Karras & Megan Escalona

“Old, tight, nice. ” –Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Gerrardanthus macrorhizus*

Diana McNeill

“Love the texture on that caudex.” —Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Conophytum cupreatum*
Michael Burkhardt

"Cono floral blast!" —Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Conophytum fraterum*

Michael Burkhardt

“Old Conos are the best conos.” –Don



2nd: *Euphorbia decaryi*
Joan Herskowitz

“Misabeled. The 5 angled stem is *E. decaryi*.” –Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



3rd: *Huernia zebrina* 'Super Z'

David Thurbon

“Congrats on growing any stapeliad to flower. .” —Don



3rd: *Euphorbia
flanagani cristata*
Diana McNeill

“A weird variation in
a weird family.”
—Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Aeonium 'Mardi Gras'

Patti Nelson



Crassula ovata 'Ogre Ears'

Jeff Wayland



Aloe castilloniae (smooth form)

Jennifer Greene



Echeveria laui

Jennifer Greene

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Cyphostemma juttae

Jeff Wayland



Cyphostemma juttae seedlings

David Thurbon



Sansevieria singularis

Michelle Murphy



Sansevieria cylindrica patens

Michelle Murphy

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Bowiea volubilis*

Antonina Lansangan

“Lady Godiva in a pot. Where’s the body?” –Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Sarcocaulon vanderietiae*

Allen Clark

“Nice pot. Seriously, these are hard to grow, easy to mis-water.” —Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Adromischus schuldianus*

Allen Clark

“An excellent presentation.” —Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Euphorbia susannae*

Jennifer Harris

“A good clumping clone, I’d up-pot this. Can get big.” —Don



3rd: *Euphorbia enopla*
Jennifer Harris

“A happy plant.
Watch the latex!”
—Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



3rd: *Euphorbia mammillaris*

Antonina Lansangan

“As with most variegates, slow growing, so an old plant.
Clean.” –Don



Euphorbia ammak variegata
May Fong Ho

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Trichodiadema densum*

Dean Karras & Megan Escalona

“Very nice bonsai effect ” –Don

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd
P
L
A
C
E

2nd: *Aloe simii* Dean Karras & Megan Escalona
"Severely root bound, I think" –Don



OCTOBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



3rd: *Agave 'Snow Glow'* Mike Nelson

“If you’re going to up pot this, you might want to do it sooner than later.” —Don