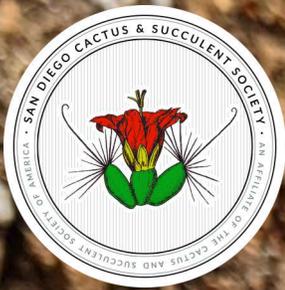


VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 04 • APRIL 2021



ESPINAS Y FLORES

the humble split rock

PLEIOSPILOS NELII

UPCOMING WEBINARS • ALOE KARASBERGENSIS
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

Pleiospilos growing in-ground
Photo by Jen Greene

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

April 10th club webinar:
[12:30 pm on Zoom \(see pg 4\)](#)

April in-person meeting:
CANCELLED

Upcoming meetings:
see President’s Message

HERE TO HELP

In need of assistance
due to COVID?

Contact:

Tina Zucker at
(858) 342-9781

- or -

Al Klein at
(760) 519-9987

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! We welcomed Spring this past weekend with another Plant Gift/ Sale Weekend and it was a great success! As a vendor, I had the opportunity to meet and talk with many new members, some of whom had joined just before the big lockdown last March, as well as some long-time members—hard to believe it has been a year. I realized one of the few things I have really missed is talking with people about the plants we all love. The weather cooperated—not too warm as the sun played hide and seek with the clouds. One of my favorite moments was when two members, both new to the club, struck up a friendship over a couple plants they were both attracted to. As they were leaving, vowing to sit together at a meeting, they lifted their masks for a moment so they would recognize each other when the time comes. This what SDCSS is all about: friends, plants, learning, enjoying. Numerous folks talked about their tours around the County to visit all the vendors and how fun it was to see all the different nurseries and gardens—all so different! I think many plants and pots are enjoying new homes this week! Thanks to all who participated and made this possible, especially May, who makes, sends, and tracks all the vouchers! Great job everyone.



Speaking of meetings, at the board meeting this month, we began to explore when we might be able to, once again, meet in person. Depending on how the vaccine rollout continues, and Balboa Park regulations, we are hoping this Summer will see us together! We also decided that we have to cancel the June Show and Sale this year; this event takes lots of planning to pull off, and there is no certainties that it could be held safely. Our next Show and Sale will be in February 2022—mark your calendars.

As we will not have a June Show, we are planning another sales event for this Summer—keep an eye out for details in the coming months.

The rain we have experienced in the past week has been nice, and it looks like some warmer temps are in store this coming week; great time get out in the garden a see what is taking off.

Stay safe,

Pam Badger
March 25, 2021

2021 MEMBERSHIP EXTENSION

Due to pandemic circumstances, the SDCSS Board voted in 2020 complimentary extend all memberships through February 2021.

This year, the Board voted once again to extend all active memberships free of charge, through February 2022.

We'll have more info about your membership cards when we are closer to resuming normal club meetings. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to email membership@sdcss.net

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF SDCSS!

SDCSS ONLINE

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/sdcss

TWITTER:

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

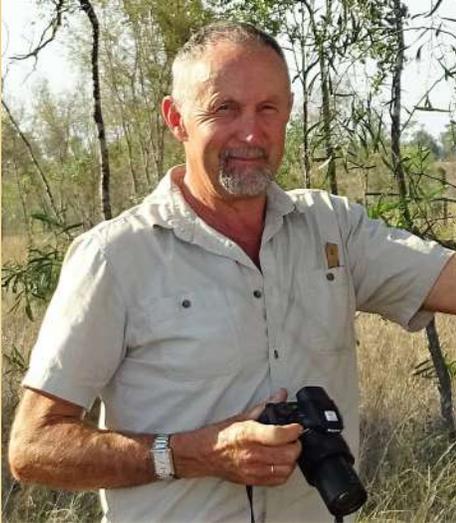
INSTAGRAM:

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

WEBSITE:

www.sdcss.net

SDCSS WEBINARS



Join us on **Saturday, April 10th** at 12:30pm PST for our next club webinar featuring a talk by Attila Kapitany: **"Amazing Australian Xerophytes in Habitat – Some New and Rare."**

Sculptural and stylish plants that will suit any collector of the rare and unusual and almost any garden. But the fact that they need much less water than traditional garden plants makes them even more appealing! Starting from the largest and ending with the smallest, Attila will take you on a tour of a range of Australia's most striking xerophytic plants that can grow well in sunny, dry gardens, especially succulent-themed gardens. The genus *Xanthorrhoea* starts off the tour with at least 6 of the most distinct and most attractive species. Then some rarer genera including *Kingia*, *Dasyopogon*, *Richea*, *Drachophyllum*, *Doryanthes* and *Stylidium*. Attila will show images of a range of spectacular Australian plants in habitat many of which few people have ever seen before. Noteworthy also will be common and not so common Australian wildlife in these habitats!

The webinar begins at 1pm, but join us for our pre-meeting at 12:30 for a presentation on our Plant of the Month, **"In-ground *Pleiospilos nelii*"** by Jennifer Greene (and to catch up with your fellow club members). Please put your club affiliation or state next to your name when you enter the Zoom!

Join SDCSS via Zoom on April 10th [here!](#)

CSSA WEBINARS

Join us **Saturday, April 3rd** at 10:00 a.m. PST for the latest in the CSSA's series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world: **"Steven Brack: Out of the Fire, Into the Pan."**

Southern Africa has a huge amount of exposed rock slabs; in these areas are billions of depressions that fill with grit, sand and other soil types. Many other things also grow in these pans like mosses, other succulents, and other plants. A whole ecosystem develops in these pans and in part each pan becomes its own little world. Often these pans are small, from a few centimeters to a few meters.

You will see in this program many kinds of small succulents growing in these pans, and get an idea of how they survive in nature.



Register for the April 3rd Zoom [here!](#)

APRIL'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

the humble split rock

PLEIOSPILOS NELII

BY JENNIFER GREENE

For many of us, the experience of first spotting a split rock is the same: walking through the nursery or garden center, and you see a bizarre little green lump resembling a stone. Entranced, you check the label, and see the care requirements: "bright light, water when dry."

Sounds easy enough.

Unfortunately, the initial delight over a living, growing, pet rock fades, as the plant either melts or shrivels away into nothing. The grower who waters diligently as soon as the top layer of soil dries out will wonder why their living stones always melt; the grower who is too afraid to water more than a spritz will see theirs desiccate into a crisp. Even those who get the care dialed in on the first try typically find themselves bored of their little green lumps, and quickly move on to more exotic or rare species of succulents. For me, their charm has never faded, and I still keep them years after taking home my first. With the right level of benign neglect, they can be rewarding succulents that reward you with large, showy blooms year after year.

Potted *Pleiospilos nelii* in flower

Jennifer Greene

ORIGINS

Pleiospilos nelii originates in South Africa, in the Little Karoo region, straddling the border between the East and West Cape Provinces. They are members of the family *Aizoaceae*, making them related to *Lithops*, *Aloinopsis*, as well as the common ice plant used for landscaping. Their natural climate is semi-arid and the plants are commonly found in shale or sandstone flats in stony soil. Their shape and color very closely mimic the stones in the environment around them, with sand commonly blown into the crevices between leaf bodies. In situ, they are very challenging to spot, almost impossible if they are not blooming.

BASIC CARE FOR THE *NELII*

Fortunately for us, the natural environment for the *Pleiospilos nelii* is extremely close to our environment here in San Diego. The most notable difference, and what we have to work around to grow our *nelii* into little lumpy clumps, is that our wet season arrives during cold winter and spring months, while in the Little Karoo, the wet season is through the hot summer months. In an appropriately fast-draining soil mix (I like to add about 25 - 50% pumice to a good succulent soil), you can keep your *nelii* outdoors year-round with little to no protection from our cold weather rains. This is dependent on your microclimate, naturally: at the coast, where you may get weeks of gloomy marine layer and higher humidity, you'll probably want to keep your *nelii* sheltered from rainfall. Meanwhile, further inland, more consistent sunny skies allow the plant to dry out and process water more effectively, which prevents rot. In the high desert, the temperature extremes might be a bit much!

*Pleiospilos nelii* in the ground

Jennifer Greene

During the hottest weeks of the year, *Pleiospilos nelii* goes dormant to preserve water, and needs very little (if any) moisture. Kept outdoors, in cold winter months and into spring, our natural rainfall is more than enough water for your *nelii*. Light is also a key aspect of care for *Pleiospilos nelii*: namely, they prefer plenty of it! Your *nelii* should be in an area that gets multiple hours of direct sunlight a day, ideally until around noon or 1 pm, with some shade protecting it for the hottest portion of the day. If bringing a nursery plant home, be sure to slowly move it to areas of increasing sun exposure over the course of several days or even weeks. Immediately placing a shade grown or greenhouse grown *Pleiospilos* into an area with several hours of direct sun will likely scorch the plant and potentially kill it. I keep several *Pleiospilos* in-ground on a west-facing hill, where the ground never develops frost, the soil is rocky and well-draining enough that they don't stay soggy even with days of rain or hail. So far, they have done well for me in-ground here in south Escondido, with all the plants blooming and developing seed pods as of March. I am not alone in having thriving *Pleiospilos* in-ground and encourage you to try it for yourself if you have an appropriate sheltered slope!

WHERE NEW GROWERS MOST OFTEN GO WRONG

The biggest mistake a new enthusiastic makes as they start collecting *Pleiospilos* and/or *Lithops* and other mesembs is to treat them with the same routine as their other succulents. A strict routine of weekly, every other week, or monthly watering is the surest way to kill your mesemb! These little plants are all cyclical growers, with distinct periods of rest. They've adapted well to their small, seasonal amounts of rainfall, and if this type of seasonal, cyclical growth isn't respected, they will slowly die. The sturdy *Pleiospilos nelii* tolerates over and under watering exceptionally well, but even the adaptable split rock will succumb eventually if it is forced to adhere to a watering schedule.



Normal appearance during a dry summer; the outer leaf bodies will be extremely squishy
Jennifer Greene

CYCLICAL GROWTH ROUTINE: NITTY GRITTY DETAILS

In broad strokes, your *nelii* should follow a general yearly cycle of growth and dormancy. In spring (March & April), you should offer little supplemental water unless we are having a severe drought year – our typical spring rains will be plenty. When the weather warms up in May, June and July, your *Pleiospilos* will appreciate the occasional soak if there is no additional rainfall. If we receive normal rainfall quantities, your *Pleiospilos* won't need water again until late June or July, if at all. As summer hits its peak in August, it may feel like you absolutely must water your succulents or our hot weather will kill them, but the opposite is true for the *Pleiospilos*. Ensure they are protected with shade for the hottest part of the day and let them stay dry: they're usually dormant at this time. If you're really worried, use the squish test to see if they need water.



P. nelii "Royal Flush" with some nibbles from local fauna

Jennifer Greene

I typically test if my *Pleiospilos* are thirsty or not by squishing the leaves. The outer-most leaves can get quite squishy without any harm to the plant; in the wild, the *nelii* may have absorbed these leaves long before the summer (and rain) arrived. Instead, I base my decision to water on the inner leaves. If they are firm and resist a finger push or squeeze, the plant is fine and does not need more water. When I feel a bit of give in the inner leaves, it's time for a good soak. When September rolls around and the weather starts to come down from the hottest extremes, your *Pleiospilos* and other mesembs will all be waking and ready to drink up. They can and should be watered regularly, but not necessarily often, during this time, up until the days start getting quite short – usually around late October or early November. It's at this time that many lithops and most of the *Pleiospilos* bloom, and they'll appreciate the moisture up until the blooms are spent and they begin to divide. By December, nearly all the mesembs should be dry again ahead of our coldest months. Only the sturdy *nelii* needs water at this time, and only a little: without it, they won't bloom! When we have our typical warm spell (s) in December, I'll usually take advantage to give my *Pleiospilos* a bit of a drink while there's enough warmth for the soil to dry out again. By January and February, ideally, all of your mesembs should be quite dry. *Pleiospilos* will spend the winter cool months developing new leaf bodies, slowly absorbing the old ones, much like *Lithops* and

Conophytum. While the *nelii* will bloom at the end of winter, its cousins typically bloom at the beginning, making this one way to tell a *Pleiospilos nelii* apart from a spoiled *Pleiospilos bolusii* (they often look nearly identical). Keeping your Split Rocks dry at this time also helps them weather the occasional freezing night: kept dry, they can tolerate night time drops down to below freezing, although you'll want to protect them from actually getting frozen.

THE BEST PART: BLOOMS



Pleiospilos nelii flowering

Jennifer Greene

A happy *Pleiospilos nelii* will send out multiple blooms at once, often staggered somewhat so that they are not all blooming in the same stage at one time. Flowers open in the afternoon with exposure to sunlight, and close by the time the sun goes down. Compared to the size of the plant, the flower can seem absurdly large, which is part of their charm. I've read that the blossoms have a distinctly coconut smell, but have never experienced this myself. Colors range from pale orange-yellow through to deep orange to pink-tipped blooms, while the "royal flush" cultivar can have neon-pink flowers.

LONG TERM GROWTH NOTES

A healthy, well-grown *nelii* will rarely have more than two leaf pairs – this year’s new pair, and last year’s old pair. In cultivation, we commonly ‘spoil’ our plants and they do not need to absorb the nutrients from the outer leaves to create new ones. The result of new leaf bodies developing without the old ones being absorbed will result in a phenomenon known as “stacking”, when there are 3 or more pairs of leaves visible on the plant. In and of itself, “stacking” will not kill your plant, but it is a sign that it is being too well cared for and should have longer dry periods before being watered again.



The right head of this cluster is showing beginning stages of stacking

Jennifer Greene

A *nelii* being watered enough to ‘stack’ is also getting enough water to put it at risk of root rot, and caution should be taken to acclimate the plant to a more appropriate watering regime. Older plants eventually will develop clusters, with multiple heads visible that will also bloom. While you can divide your *nelii* when it reaches this point, leaving them as a cluster will often lead to larger and more profuse quantities of blooms. They seem to prefer the crowding and will thrive this way. As mesemb that grow in near-desert conditions with very little water, fertilization requirements are low to non-existent. If you really feel you must, a dilute cactus/

succulent fertilizer could be applied once a year during the spring, but it is generally unnecessary unless your soil mix is very high in inorganic medium. The “royal flush” cultivar is a pretty, purple variant on the green of *Pleiospilos nelii*, but they can be less robust than their green cousins. For the best color, they should be given afternoon shade, as full afternoon sun and heat tends to turn their purple shade into more of a deep brown.

IN CONCLUSION

For the novice grower, *Pleiospilos nelii* is a forgiving mesemb that works well as an introduction to this cryptic and hands-off group of plants. Their adaptability to a relatively large range of growing conditions makes them potential candidates for in-ground rock gardens in the right microclimates, or even for windowsill culture in climates less suitable than those found in San Diego. Nearly every succulent enthusiast has at least one *Pleiospilos* in their collection, and the humble *nelii* has earned a spot (or ten) on my bench for years to come. I hope it has a treasured spot in your collection as well!

JENNIFER GREENE

SHARE YOUR PASSION WITH US!

Have you ever read the *Espinas Y Flores* Newsletter ‘Plant of the Month’ and thought - “I could do that!” Well, here is your chance to participate by writing a piece. You do not have to be an expert! You don’t have to know much at all! Pick a genus or species that interests you, do a little research, find or take a few pictures and, create a brief, or long article. It’s a great way to learn more about something you have an interest in and share that interest with others.

Do you have a large, amazing desert or a small, beautiful succulent garden? or a patio filled with potted plants you love? Share it with us! Create a 5-10 minute slide show to present at one of our virtual 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 MEMBER SECTION

SDCSS Members are making their way through 2021! Find out what fellow members are up to below, or if you have something you'd like to share in a future issue, simply email the editor your photos, articles, or any other material of interest to the club at the email eyf.editor@gmail.com



Member **Olga Batalov** wrote in to show off her new *Echinopsis* 'Flying Saucer' acquired in-bud at Solana Succulents last Saturday during the spring event. "It was in full bloom the following Thursday, with the first of three buds opening on Wednesday. I took it to work to show my coworkers that this is what a cactus can look like – they were blown away."



Ferocactus cylindraceus with open bud **Olga Batalov**



Member **Pat Bryan** has this important info to share with members about the illegal Dudleya poaching trade.

"Stop Illegal Poaching of Dudleya: AB 223 State and federal wildlife agents have identified a surge in Dudleya (also known as "liveforevers") poaching along California coastlines. Asm. Member Christopher Ward of San Diego has introduced **AB 223** that makes Dudleya poaching illegal."

[More about Dudleya poaching at this link](#)

CACTUS and SUCCULENT CHANNELS / LOVE OF PLANTS 🌻

32 videos • 65 views • Last updated on Mar 15, 2021

☰ ✂️ ➦ ⋮

These channels are a tremendous resource for learning about and enjoying the collecting and care of cactus and succulents. My channel has more playlists on gardening and botanical subjects. Please browse and enjoy!

3  12:22

4  9:01

5  8:44

Member **John Obrien** shares a playlist of helpful resource videos he has compiled on Youtube. To browse his succulent playlist, visit [this link!](#)

MEMBER ARTICLE: SPECIES FEATURE

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT **A**LOE **K**KARASBERGENSIS

BY KELLY GRIFFIN

About two decades ago (*I know, I know, you are saying "I better sit down this might be a long story"... well...*) I made a trip with Brian Kemble, the curator of the Ruth Bancroft garden, to search for Aloes in the far away land where they grow naturally as weeds: South Africa. It was an extended month long trip and we saw many incredible plants and habitats.

We started our trip in Cape Town and visited with Ernst van Jaarsveld, then curator at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. We had such a meandering itinerary to see just about every plant related aspect we could, and it included a trip with Ernst and then later another with an Aloe specialist, Sarel Moray. At some point it was just Brian and myself (everyone else gave up on the Aloes after day after day of this). We zig-zagged all over the Western Karoo and the Cape Region, then finally traveling to the far north along the Diamond Coast, and then inland toward the famous Richtersveld. This arid region is the home of some incredible Aloes most notably *Aloe dichotima*, *Aloe pillansii* and *Aloe pearsonii*. The exciting one for me was an Aloe I had grown in my garden, *Aloe karasbergensis*, so named for its occurrence near the Namibian town of Karasberg. We found *Aloe karasbergensis* here in South Africa at a location just south of the Orange River, which divides the now-separate countries of South Africa and Namibia.

MEMBER ARTICLE: SPECIES FEATURE



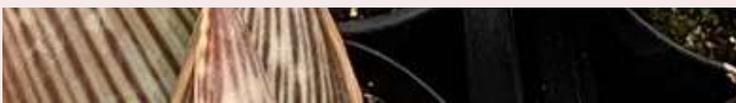
The Monte Vista clone of *Aloe karasbergensis*

Kelly Griffin

They are not easily seen nor are they evident from the road which is very likely a good thing. They are truly beautiful and, in spite of protections, being good-looking and conspicuous is a dangerous precipice to stand upon. We wandered around the boulders and marveled at these beautiful Aloes striped with incredible lines of pink and amber, and their totally smooth leaf edges. They were truly a sight to behold. I was in serious like! A short distance away from these, really just a short walk, grows the giant of Aloes, *Aloe pillansii*. The population of *Aloe karasbergensis* was not large, but it did appear to be healthy, with a number of plants in good growth. It was September (spring in this Southern Hemisphere locale) and this plant typically blooms in January (ie Summer) in habitat, so we were not treated to the flower show—but the plants were still dressed to impress.

This plant is related to another very popular Aloe, *Aloe striata*. At one point *A. karasbergensis* was unceremoniously lumped in as a subspecies of *A. striata*. This was done in error, and has to my knowledge been dispensed with. The flowers of *A. karasbergensis* are very different from *A. striata*; the bloom time is months apart, and they do not grow in the same area (there are hundreds of miles in-between). To further expound on that, if you were to lump *A. karasbergensis* into the species *A. striata*, it would create a mess (not to mention a conundrum), as there are several other species that are at least and perhaps more closely related to *A. striata*: *Aloe reynoldsii*, *Aloe komagassensis*, *Aloe kouebokkeveldensis* and *Aloe buhrii*. If you sink one species under *A. striata*, you would be obliged to do them all. They all stand as good species as they all have consistent floral differences, differing floral times, and disjunct population distributions.

In 2012, I started a new job working for Altman Specialty Plants. In the process of getting acquainted with and walking all the Nursery growing grounds, I came upon what must have been an old collection of this species, a single plant, growing in the ground in Vista. It was bigger and more beautiful than any I had seen in the wild.

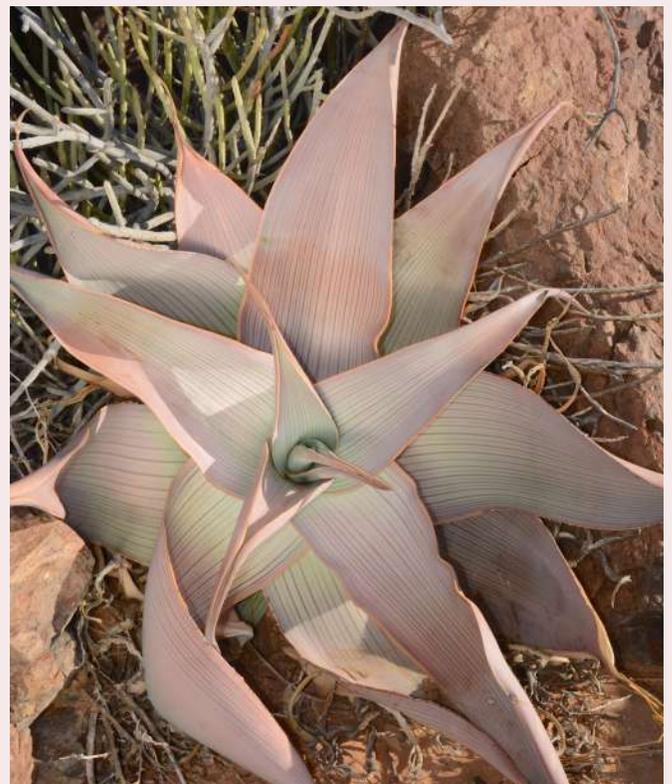


MEMBER ARTICLE: SPECIES FEATURE

It had bolder and bigger stripes and, as it turns out, it is a little more vigorous and less prone to rot and the black spot fungus. It was just one giant rosette with not an offset to be seen. I was in love! I kept an eye on it, and when it bloomed in the summer of 2013, I managed to tissue culture a small bit of the meristem from the flower (or more simply, I cloned it). It has been available from Altmans since 2015, often with the moniker *Aloe karasbergensis* 'Monte Vista.' While the species as a whole is truly terrific, the various seedlings can show from marvelous to just subtle to sometimes almost imperceptible differences. This particular clone screams "look at me!"



Aloe karasbergensis in the Richtersveld



Kelly Griffin

I was able to get it going in the lab and I planted several of the clones on our demonstration hill alongside some other seedlings. The Monte Vista clone is still very much my favorite. I admire them whenever I stroll past. In 2019 I went back to track down the original plant and, much to my dismay, it had been obliterated and was not only no longer there, it was no longer anywhere. In this sadness I found some solace in the fact that I had taken the time to propagate this lovely one, and that it was not a clone that was lost from cultivation.

It is not a difficult plant to grow, but it does grow naturally in a arid warm place. It appreciates good drainage and mineral soils, so a full sun rocky slope is ideal. While Aloes have some issues that growers need to be aware of, giving it a sunny position and a place with good air movement will keep most of the problems at bay. The Monte Vista clone is not immune to fungus or mite, but it does appear to show better resistance to both. It typically blooms in the summer and has a robust flower panicle producing red flowers with green and white accents.

Whether you grow the special clone or the species from seed or both, it is hard to match *Aloe karasbergensis* in beauty.

KELLY GRIFFIN

MARCH 2021 VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to submit photos of their best plants to the March Brag Table, judged by guest judge Mark Fryer!

Our participants included:

30 specimens: 14 cactus, 16 succulents

14 members

We are still awarding DOUBLE WINNERS in the novice categories to encourage newbies to submit now and in the future!

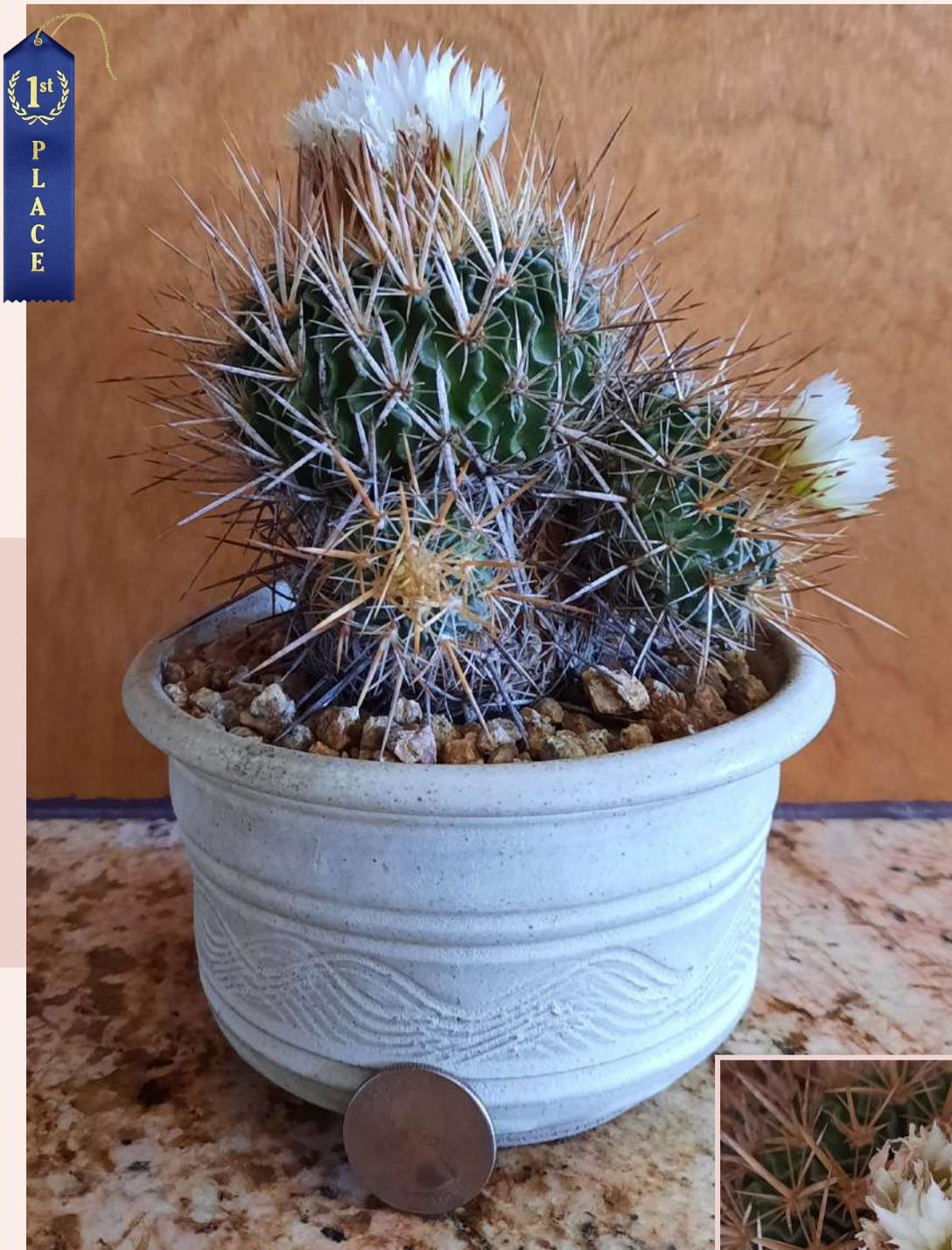
Congrats to the winners, thank you to all of the members who submitted, and we can't wait to see you next month!

Submit to next month's brag table for boasting rights, judge feedback, and club bucks!

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 **April 20th, 2021**.

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

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



1st: *Echinofossulocactus longispinus*

Gale Perez

“Expertly staged, in flower, very well grown.”

-Mark



MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS

1st
P
L
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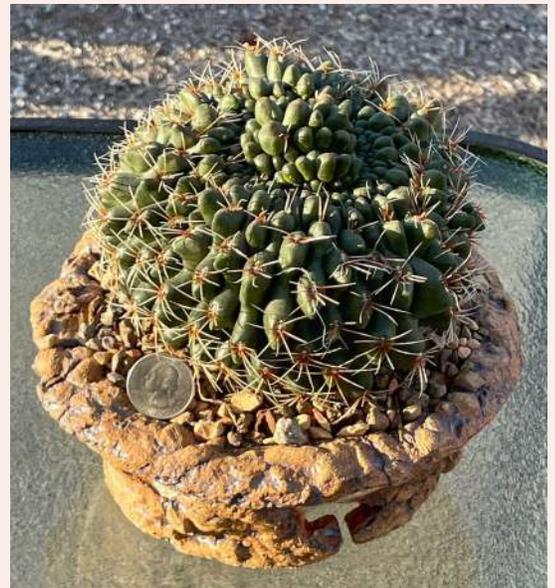


1st: *Gymnocalycium baldianum* crested

Eileen Mandell

“Expertly staged, and very well grown”

-Mark



MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



2nd: *Matucana madisoniorum* var
horridispina

Jennifer Greene

“Nice clean plant, no broken
spines or blemishes on the
plant's body, easier to say than
to do - kudos!”

-Mark



2nd: *Astrophytum myriostigma*

Gale Perez

“Very nicely staged!” **-Mark**

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



3rd: *Copiapoa tenuissima*
Jennifer Greene

“Well grown plant, a bit overpotted as it sits, but *Copiapoa tenuissima* is a very fast growing plant, should fill that pot in no time!”

-Mark



3rd: *Opuntia variegata*
Eileen Mandell

“Great staging!”
-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS

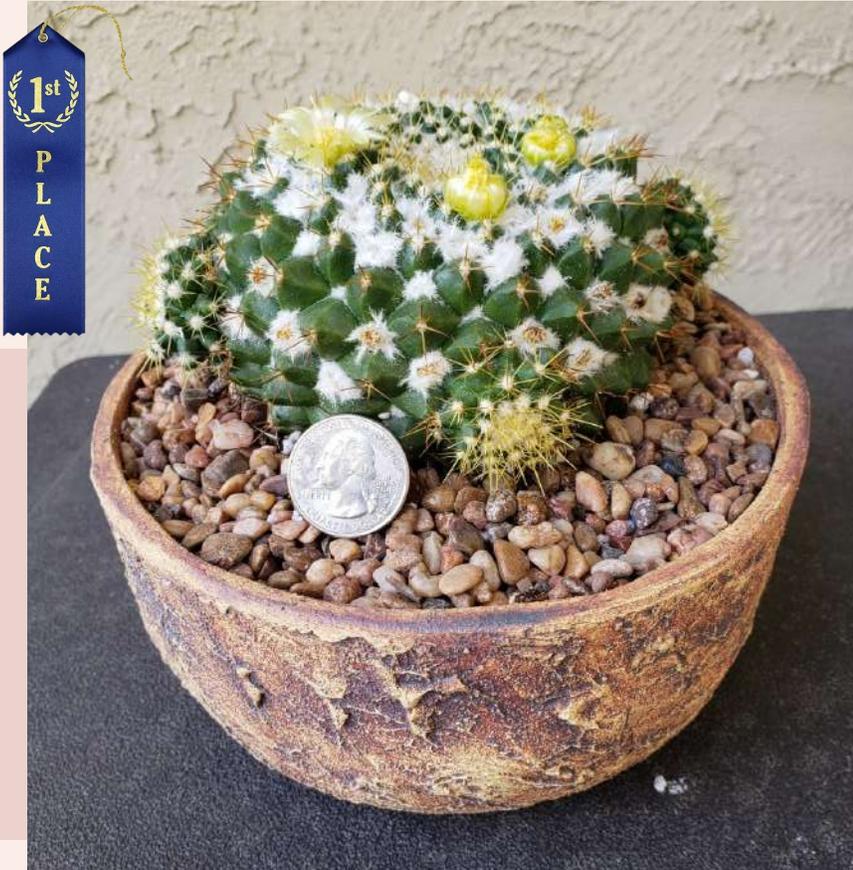


Mammillaria geminispina
Ruth Contino



Notocactus haselbergii
Ted Nelson

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Mammillaria marksiana*
Norb Roden

“Great staging and flowering”

-Mark

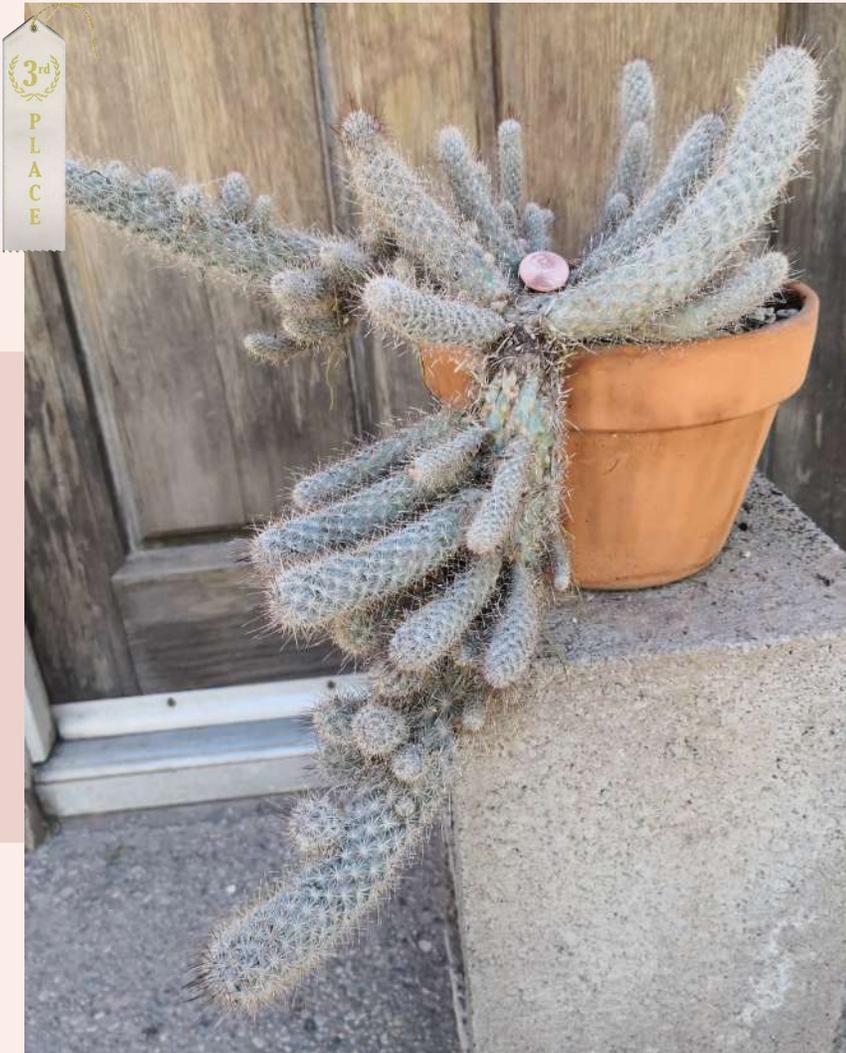


2nd: *Mammillaria elongata*
Norb Roden

“Nicely grown”

-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



3rd: "Unknown" (a Jurgen cactus)

Rich Ryan

"This plant reminds me of *Mammillaria pottsii* ~ which Juergen grew to great effect, and it wouldn't surprise me if this were one of his older specimens. It should be in flower now, diminutive little dark red flowers"

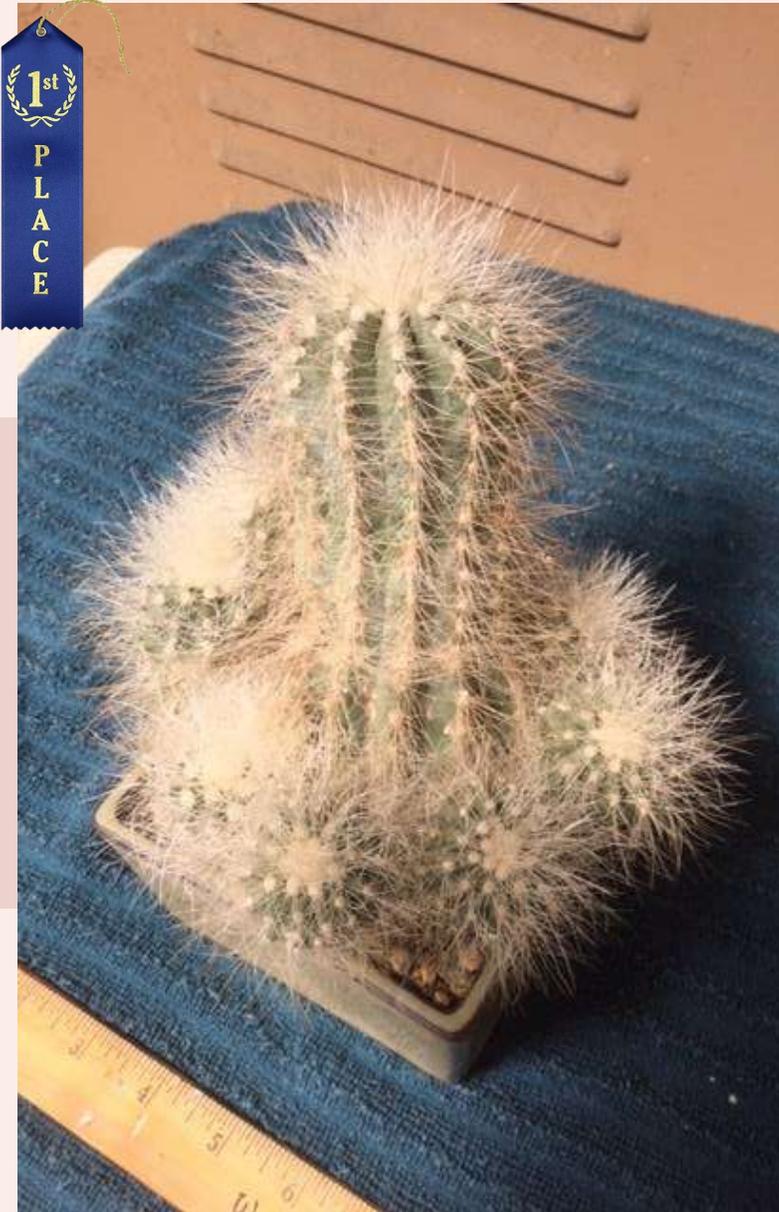
-Mark



Cereus peruvianus monstrose

Rich Ryan

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Cylindropuntia krameriana*

Pam Badger

"Perfectly grown, kudos"

-Mark



2nd: *Tephrocactus articulatus*

Pam Badger

"Very nicely grown and staged"

-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: Echeveria 'Cubic Frost' crested

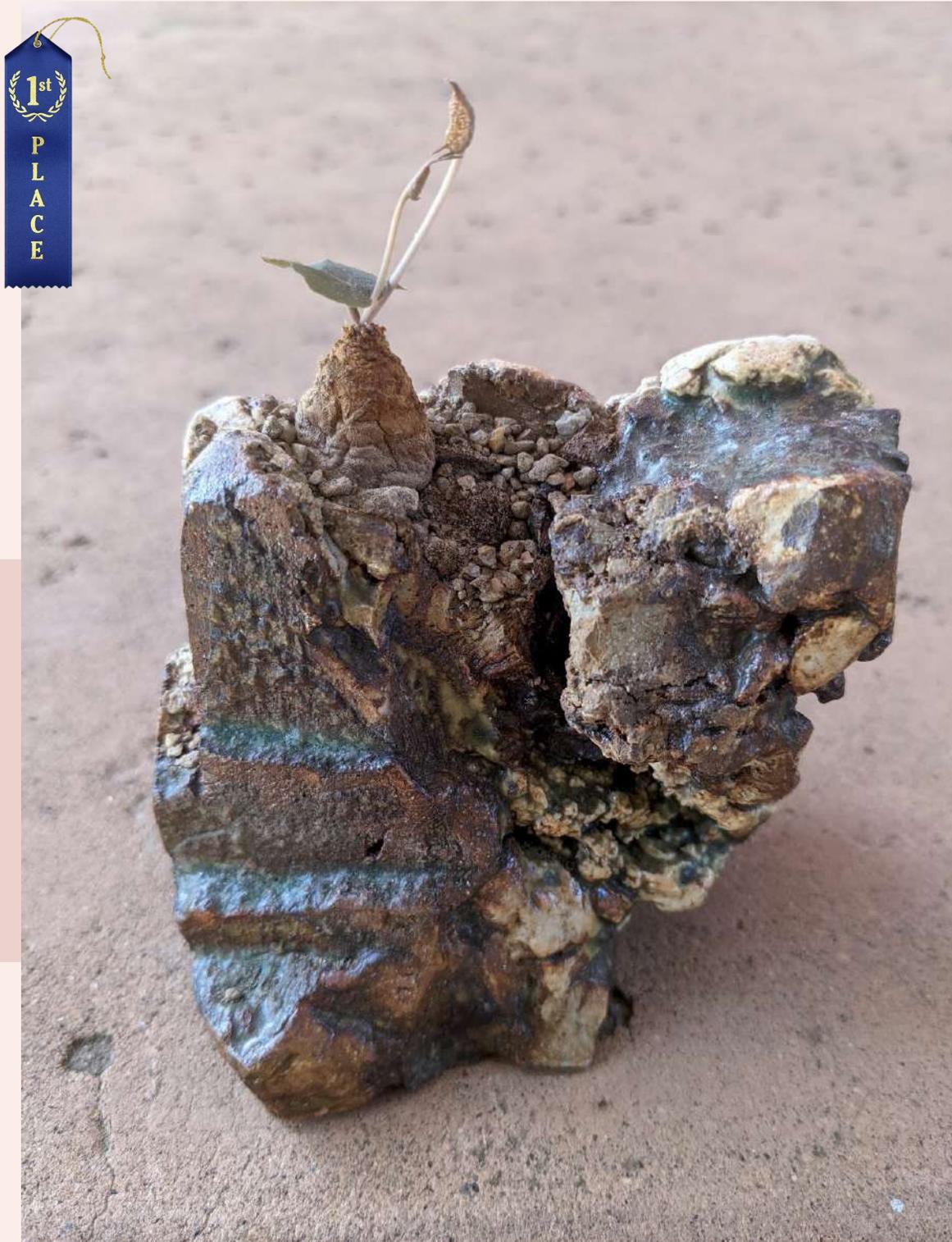
Eileen Mandell

“Well executed!! ”

-Mark



MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Dorstenia barnimiana*

Der-shing Helmer

“Challenging plant in this sort of staging, provided the grower can offer it proper culture like this, it could be an outstanding specimen in short order!” **-Mark**

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd
PLACE

2nd: *Euphorbia anoplia*
Anna Brunetto James

“Actually like the choice of pot, but the handle will be useless as the clump grows, and grow this will! Good feeding and watering during the hotter months will yield a monster of a specimen!”

-Mark



2nd
PLACE

2nd: *Gasteria carinata*
Gale Perez

“In my experience with this taxon, it is tricky to keep these looking so clean, the grower here has obviously got good plant sense and isn't pushing it too hard or too soft but rather just right!”

-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT

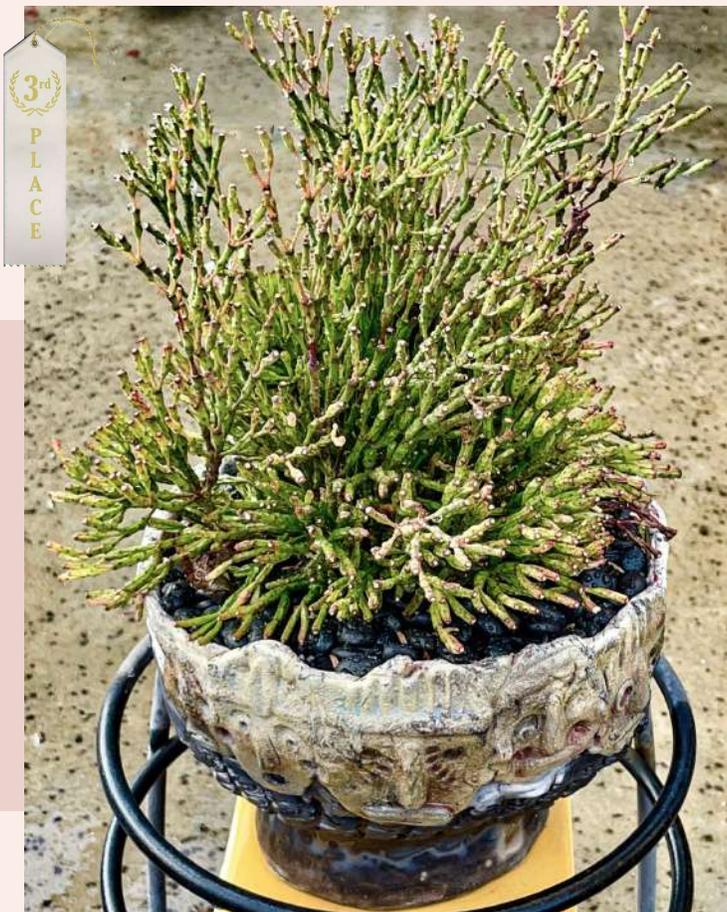


3rd: *Astroloba foliolosa*

Patti Nelson

“I love Astrolobas, my only objection to this plant is the staging ~ which as the plant fills the pot a little better it will only increase it's overall attractiveness”

-Mark



3rd: *Rhipsalis hatoria salicornioides*

Eileen Mandell

“Nice big specimen, probably flowers like mad, this is the proper ration of plant to pot we like to see, and while it's a little messy, it's OK, it's a Rhipsalis!”

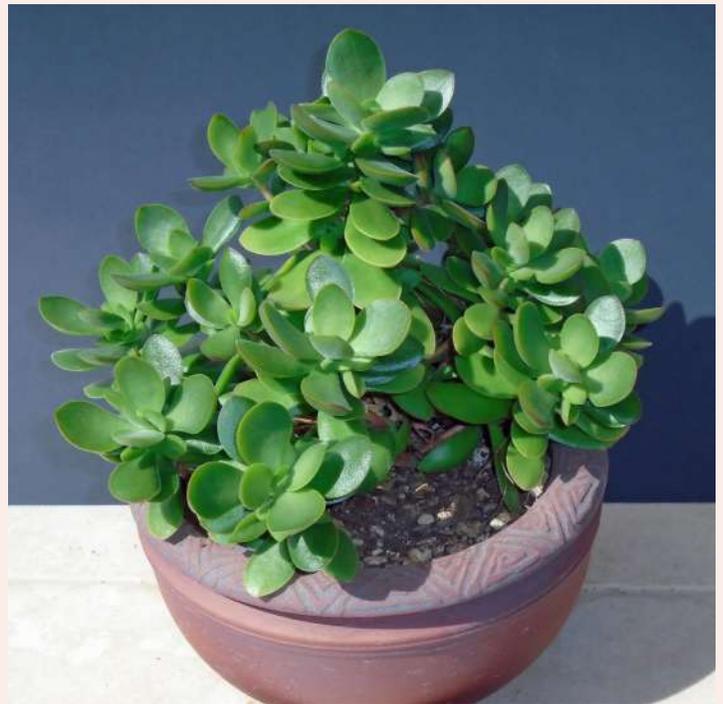
-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Echeveria "Fred Ives" crested

Jennifer Greene



Crassula swaziensis

Ted Nelson



Haworthia angustifolia var *baylissii*

Jennifer Greene

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Senecio tropaeolifolius

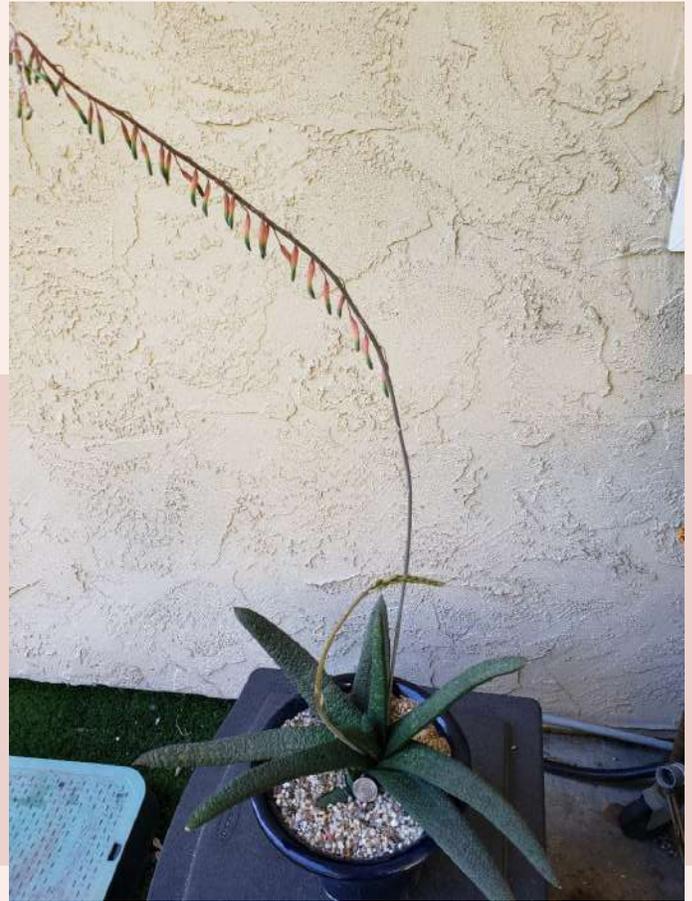
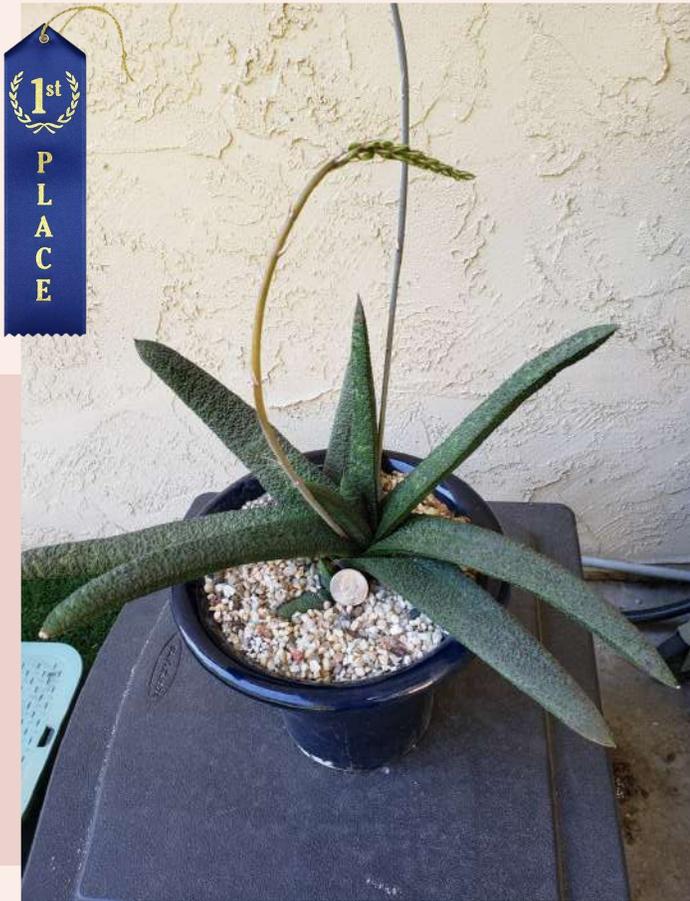
Pat Bryan



Greenovia dodrantalis

Anna Brunetto James

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Gasteria* sp.

Norb Roden

“Amazingly clean plant”

-Mark



2nd: *Echeveria runyonii* 'Topsy Turvy'

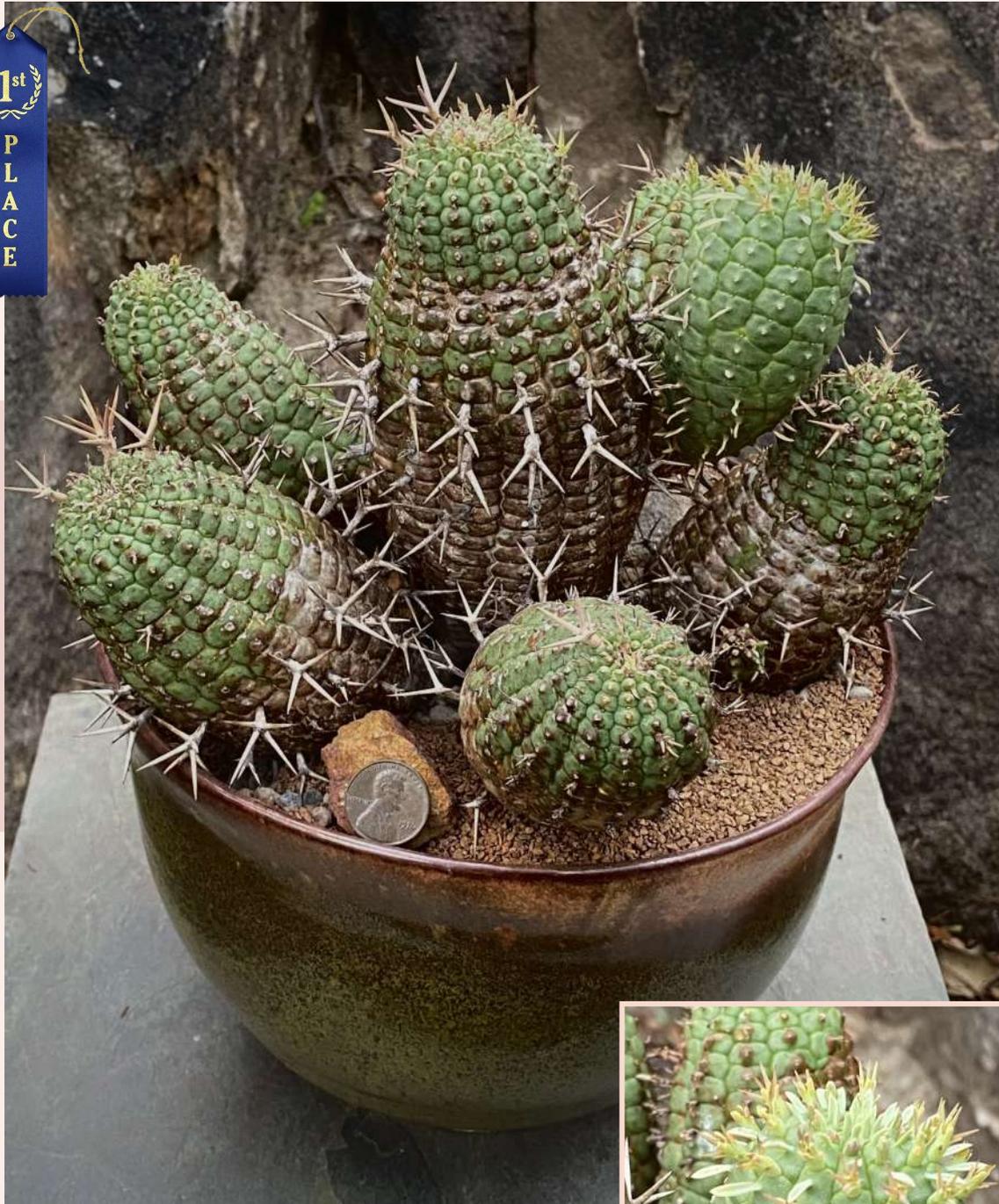
Tom Biggart

“Topsy Turvy can be grown harder to a better looking specimen (less water, more sun)”

-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT

1st
P
L
A
C
E



1st: *Euphorbia stellispina*

Michael Nelson

“The minor scarring and rough look of this plant in cultivation mirrors the "war-dog" look these plants exhibit in habitat. This specimen looks about perfect to me”

-Mark



MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd: *Euphorbia tortilis*

Pam Badger

“Challenging to keep these this clean, the grower is clearly attentive and skilled!”

-Mark



3rd: *Euphorbia cooperii*

Pam Badger

“Somewhat confused by the name here, typical *E. cooperii* tends to be bluer and with a pronounced margin on the edge of the stems/clades. At first I thought this was the *inermis* form of *E. grandicornis*? In any event, it is expertly well-grown and attractive, kudos!”

-Mark

MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS: CORRECTIONS

Alas, it seems your faithful editor made a few mistakes last month (for the first time ever, assuredly). Please accept the following corrections (and many apologies) to these entrants published in February's Brag Table.

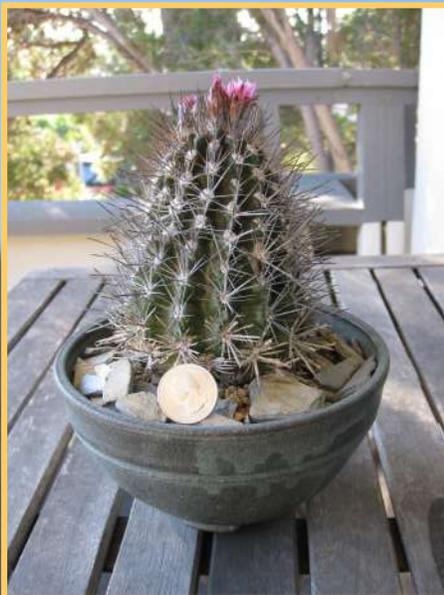
Novice Cactus 2nd place winner: *Trichocereus bridgesii monstrose*
with mistaken identification and attribution: this lovely specimen belongs to member **Gale Perez**

Intermediate Cactus 3rd place winner: *Neoporteria (Eriosyce) taltalensis v. violaciflora*
with mistaken attribution: this beautiful cactus belongs to member **Allen Clark**



Trichocereus bridgesii monstrose

Gale Perez



Neoporteria taltalensis v. violaciflora
Allen Clark



Background photo: *Fouquieria splendens*
in flower at Anza-Borrego State Park

Olga Batalov