

ESPINAS Y FLORES



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



MONADENIUM // APRIL EVENTS // 2025 CSSA CONVENTION
MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Crested *Mammillaria dioica*, Anza Borrego
Photo by Olga Batalov

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UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

April 13th

UPCOMING CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

April 23rd - 27th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Kelly Griffin
Vice President	Der-shing Helmer
Secretary	Olga Batalov
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Rick Bjorklund, Patricia Bryan, Luis Gonzalez, Tom Knapik, Georgia Kenney, Rita Lunceford, and Jared Petker

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Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Denise Huntsman-Griffin
Summer/Winter Show	Rick Bjorklund
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
Benefit Drawing Table	Chuck Ramey
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner

New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	[open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinator	[open]

LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja, & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

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Show & Sale Publicity	Patricia Bryan & Emily Shuffield

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

G'day! Our March meeting was a success. Thanks to **Luis Gonzalez** for sharing his experiences from Madagascar and to **Rocco** for his insightful talk on the lesser-known Kalanchoe genus. We truly appreciate the effort both of you put into your presentations! A big thank-you also goes out to our fantastic greeting hosts, register team, benefit drawing crew, library staff, and those who coordinated and contributed to our plant giveaway. Your dedication makes a real difference!

We were excited to welcome a few more vendors to our monthly meeting, and we hope to continue this trend. Our goal is to make our regular meetings feel a bit less routine, adding excitement for shopping and attendance while helping cover our operational costs and support worthy projects, including conservation efforts. If you have suggestions for improving our meetings, please don't hesitate to share your ideas and get involved!

Looking ahead, the **CSSA 2025 Convention** is just around the corner, occurring three weeks into this month, only nine days after our April meeting. Our plans for the National CSSA Convention are taking shape, with bi-weekly planning Zoom meetings focused on publicity, sponsorship, and hosting duties. We encourage everyone to sign up as volunteers, as your help is crucial! Don't miss our important in-person meeting on April 12th at noon in Room 101, right before the regular meeting, as the convention approaches quickly. SDCSS is proud to host this event at the Marriott Mission Valley from April 23rd

to 27th, and we invite you to be part of this historic gathering. We've made significant efforts to keep this event affordable for everyone, and with your support, we can continue to do so. Volunteers can work two half-day shifts to earn a day of convention activities, but if volunteering isn't for you, feel free to register online and join us. We would love to see you there!

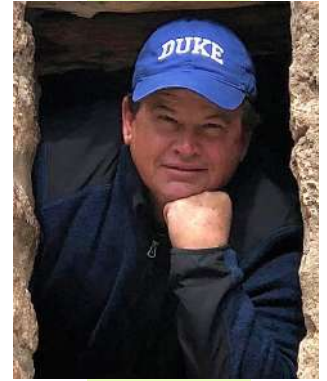
We are currently seeking members to fill a couple of roles. One of these is the **brag table coordinator position**, which Denise has shared with Susan Hopkins who does the set for this, following in the footsteps of Candy Garner, who also served for a similar duration. While we don't expect such a long-term commitment, it would be great to have someone take on this role for at least a term. Denise would be more than happy to share her experiences and insights about the position.

Regarding our upcoming April meeting, I will be sharing highlights from my recent trip to Australia. Additionally, **Wendy Goldman** will present our plant of the month, focusing on the genus *Monadenium*. I'm sure this segment will be both enjoyable and educational. I'm excited to give my talk and to hear Wendy's presentation as well.

Mark your calendars for Saturday afternoon, **April 12th**, and join your friends at SDCSS. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Kelly Griffin

March 22, 2025



UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER



APRIL 12TH SPEAKER

KELLY GRIFFIN

**“AUSTRALIA: A JOURNEY
INTO THE OUTBACK &
CAPE YORK.”**

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER TOPIC

I had the incredible opportunity to speak at the Australian Cactus and Succulent Society's national convention this past October. This event was a fantastic gathering for enthusiasts and experts in the world of cacti and succulents.

During the convention in Australia, I presented five different programs, each focusing on various aspects of succulent plants. Initially, I was scheduled to give just four presentations, but when one of the speakers fell ill, I was asked to step in for an additional talk. Ironically, despite my deep dive into succulents, I did not cover any topics related to cacti, Dudleyas, or even the flora of Madagascar nor Australia. It certainly seems I have embraced a broader role as a generalist when it comes to succulent plants!

My upcoming talk will revolve around a remarkable adventure I embarked on with my close friend and Australian field expert, Attila Kapitany. Together, we traversed the rugged landscapes of northern Queensland, particularly in the Cape York region. Along our journey, we encountered an array of fascinating plants and animals that I am eager to share with you. Among our discoveries: Ant Plants, intriguing carnivorous plants, Cycads, and a host of other strange and wonderful species residing in the northern outback. I was joined by Denise when I arrived back in Sydney and together we were

able to explore some remarkable locals of Xanthorrhoeas, Doryanthes and other strange and interesting Australian plants.

I am excited to convey the thrills and insights gained from our two expeditions. Stay tuned for stories that not only highlight the diversity of succulent flora but also the beauty of Australia's natural environments.



ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

As a function of his work at Altman plants, Kelly Griffin is charged with finding and creating new and different plants. He has become well known for his hybridizing and is responsible for over 100 succulent hybrids now in the trade, including Aloes, Agaves, and Echeverias. Kelly has been a member of the SDCSS since 1992 and currently serves as our club president.

[SEE YOU ON APRIL 12TH, 2025!](#)

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

JULIE'S COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Who: Julie Chimento**Date:** Sunday, April 6, 2025**Time:** 9am - 2pm**Where:** 4506 Gener Street San Diego, CA 92117**Parking:** Plenty on the street

"It's a collector's garden, with many different plants that happily coexist together. I always loved gardening, I find tremendous joy in shopping for the new plants and planting them in my garden. Besides succulents we grow many Mediterranean climate plants and even some tropical plants as well: Orchids, Bromeliads, Aroids. We have a Mid Pride Peach tree, an Anna Apple tree that I grafted myself, and banana plants. My small greenhouse with my prized Begonia collection and exotic plants is my favorite place to be!"



UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

RICK & KEVIN'S COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

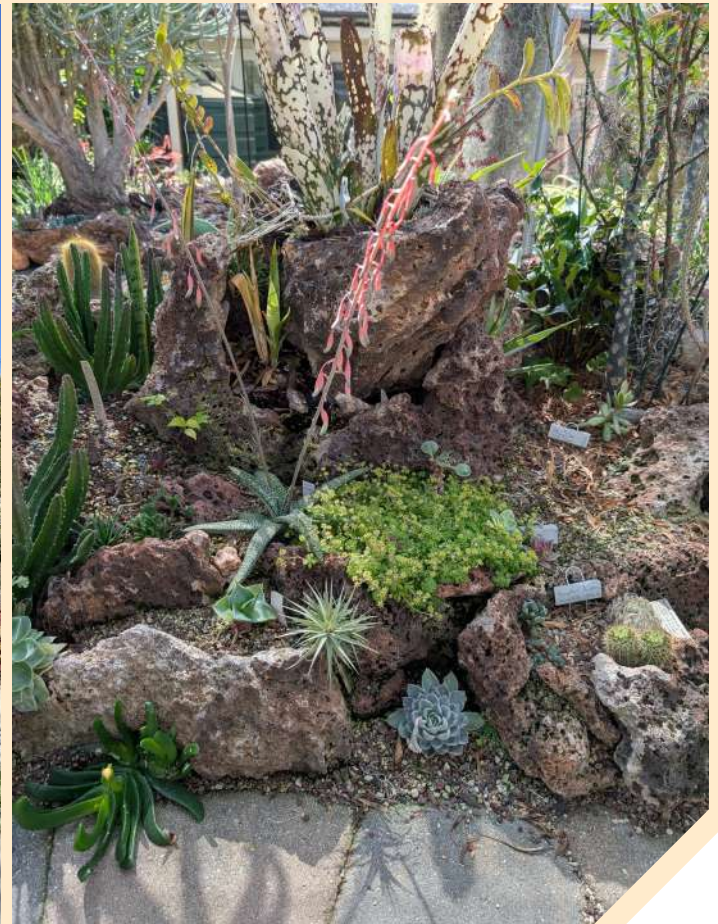
Who: Rick Bjorklund & Kevin Hosmer **Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2025 **Time:** 11am - 2pm

Where: 4728 Allied Rd, San Diego **Phone:** (619) 229-1125

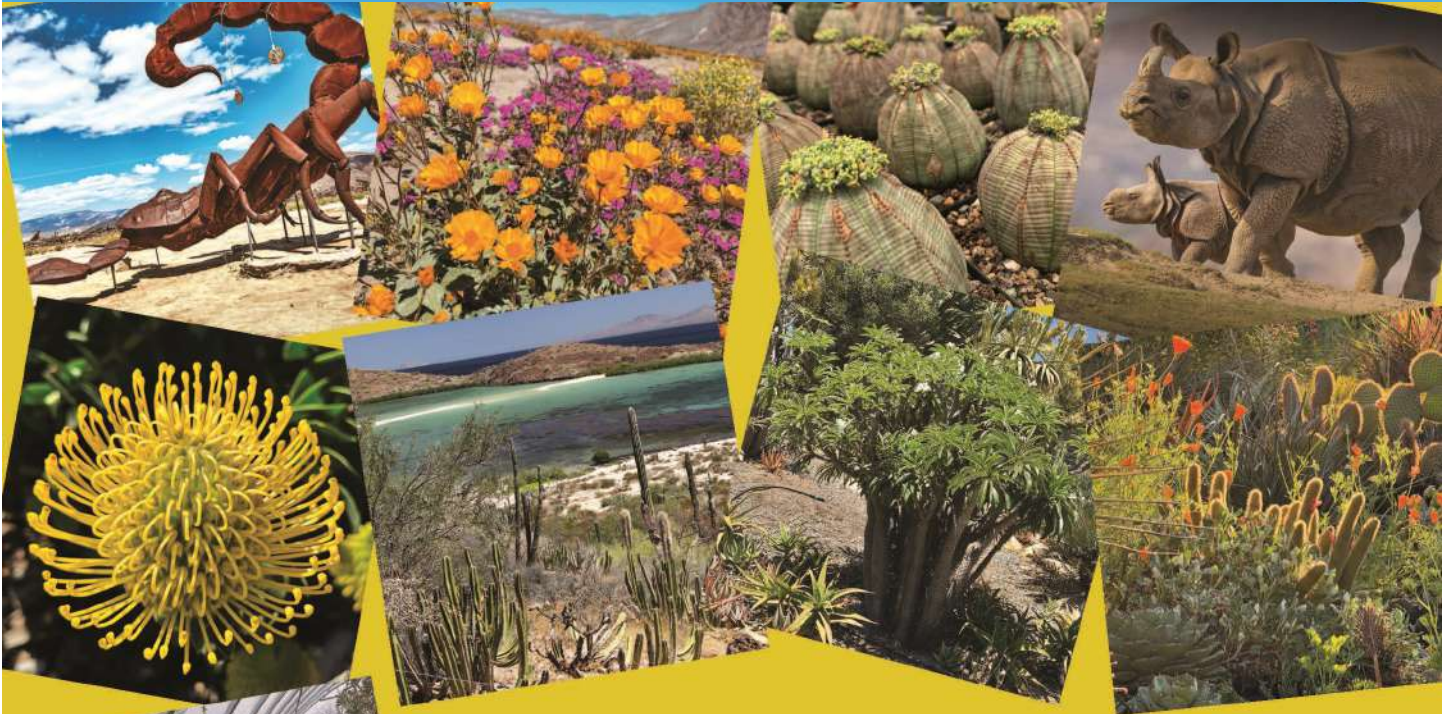
“We will be one of the garden tours during the CSSA convention the morning of April 24. SDCSS members and friends are invited to drop by after that from 11-2pm. We hope you might visit if you are not attending the CSSA convention tours that day.

Our garden continues to evolve as with time it became clear that some plants don't play nicely with their neighbors; some hog the light, some the real estate. Rick continues to add new plants due to nursery shopping trips, visits to friend's gardens, or drooling over a garden catalog or Facebook listing. Kevin continues to grow seeds. This has led to much of the yard being re-landscaped, including a large area of blue agaves mixed with yellow leaved aloes, and an area of *Agave victoriae-reginae* types and close relatives out front. Bulbs have been mixed in, and peek out in places.

We will have homemade desserts and appetizers for visitors. There will be plants and rocks for sale (cash only please), along with some free staging rocks that might be helpful for the upcoming summer show.”



UPCOMING CSSA CONVENTION



Grow Your Passion for Cacti and Succulents at the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Biennial Convention

hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

April 23 – 27, 2025

- Spectacular Plant, Book, and Art Sales
 - Exciting Auctions
- Engaging Networking Opportunities
 - Inspirational Speakers
 - Educational Workshops
- Beautiful Tours and Excursions
- Luxurious Accommodations
 - at San Diego Marriott Mission Valley*

**Celebrate your love of cactus and succulents
with fellow enthusiasts.**

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/convention



UPCOMING CSSA CONVENTION: VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS

Good times (and gifts) await!

Sign up for your favorite volunteer position at the 2025 CSSA Convention today!



Just a few hours of volunteering earns you some **sweet swag**, including a complimentary club volunteer t-shirt designed by SDCSS potter and artist Peter Hagopian, a convention pin, **and even FREE admission to the convention**.

All your favorite cactus and succulent friends will be there...



We hope you'll join us!

*1 credit (equivalent to 8 total hours) can be redeemed for one free day of admission to the CSSA Convention (excludes banquet).

I am very excited about the upcoming CSSA convention that SDCSS is hosting **April 23-27**. A great group of speakers and tours have been arranged ([click here](#) for more details). We have a wonderful group of volunteers at SDCSS, who have helped put on exciting, successful, and fun shows and sales as well as other events.

We are asking you to volunteer for the CSSA convention to help make it a successful event as well. You can volunteer by [signing up online at this link](#). All volunteer positions and times are listed there, as well as the number of volunteers needed for each one. Many of them need several volunteers during the same day and time period, such as cashiers and security, much like our shows and sales. Some also include a brief job description, based on what we anticipate. Volunteers earn various credits (see sign-up sheet) that can be used for conference attendance. If you need help signing up online, please contact me, Rick Bjorklund, at (619)417-5008 or Plantguyrb@gmail.com and I will assist you.

The list of volunteer positions, dates, and times is listed below (please see the online list for the most current information, including what positions are still available).

The following roles will likely be suitable for those who cannot stand for extended periods of time: Registration check-in, Hospitality Table, Plant Holding and possibly the cashier/scanner roles. The other roles will likely involve standing and/or walking around for most of their duration.

Late evening times are underlined for those that cannot help out during the daytime.

Our final planning meeting will be on April 12th at noon before our 1:00 club meeting.

RICK BJORKLUND

PLANT OF THE MONTH: MONADENIUMS

MONADENIUMS

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY WENDY GOLDMAN



Monadenium ellenbeckii

Monadeniums are an interesting group of plants with something for everyone to like. There are over 70 species, plus varieties, forms and subspecies. Whether you like spiny succulents, no spines, tubercles, succulent leaves and/or stems, geophytic plants (fat roots and/or tubers), Monadenium has them all.

“Monadenium” means “single gland”, referring to the cyathia, or reproductive parts of the plant, which most of us call a flower, whether botanically correct, or not. Monadeniums have a single gland in a cup-shaped container, versus Euphorbias which tend to have four or five glands.

Monadeniums were long considered a separate genus in the Euphorbiaceae family, but were more recently moved into the genus Euphorbia based on DNA research.

They do have the white toxic sap of the Euphorbias, so use caution when handling them, and it’s best to wear gloves when handling any of the Euphorbiaceae.

With the move into the Euphorbia genus, many names have been modified, and sometimes it’s confusing to know if it’s the same plant you knew as a Monadenium just by looking at the name. Many have had the Latin “bis” (again) or “neo” (new) added in front of the species name.

For example, *Monadenium ellenbeckii* is now *Euphorbia bisellenbeckii*, and *Monadenium stapelioides* is now *Euphorbia neostapelioides*.

(cont’d)

PLANT OF THE MONTH: MONADENIUMS

The good news is that most of the nurseries I'm familiar with keep the earlier *Monadenium* genus and species names, so it makes it easier if you're looking for a particular plant.

Monadeniums come mainly from tropical east Africa, many from Kenya and Tanzania. They're not found in the Cape area of South Africa or Madagascar, and some writers believe this indicates that they're a more recent development of *Euphorbias*.

Knowing the location the plants come from gives us clues as to their care. These plants come from more tropical areas that get more rain than many of the other succulent African plants. However, the individual plant type must still be considered.

The plant forms range from small dwarf succulents to bushes and large trees. Even though in habitat they're in a moderate rainfall area, it can still be easy to overwater the more succulent types. Plants with tuberous roots or very succulent stems can be easily overwatered and rot, especially in winter if they're dormant. (This is from experience!)

I grow about a dozen different *Monadenium* species, and most of them go dormant and/or lose all or most of their leaves in winter. A few, like the spiny trees *Monadenium spinescens* and *M. torrei*, don't come out of dormancy until it's hot, often in July for me. If you have a greenhouse, and it's warm enough, they may keep leaves all year.

They're mostly pretty easy to grow, especially the spiny types. As mentioned, some can be easy to overwater. Water sparingly in winter. I've personally found *Monadenium richiei* very finicky and easy to rot, whereas *Monadenium guentheri* which looks very similar and difficult to distinguish from *richiei*, to be much easier to grow.

They're mostly not bothered by pests, although I've had some mealybugs on a few of the soft-bodied types like *M. kimberleyanum* and *M. lugardiae*, which also look very similar to each other. I haven't had any pests on the spiny ones.

One of my favorite *Monadeniums* is the aptly named *M. magnificum*. It has large fleshy lime green leaves with beautiful pinkish markings on the underside, interesting small spines and beautiful cymes (flowering parts) and gets more cymes every year. When it's dormant without leaves, it can have beautiful orange and yellow cymes for a couple of months, so it looks interesting all year.



Monadenium magnificum inflorescence

PLANT OF THE MONTH: MONADENIUMS



Another favorite is *M. montanum* var. *rubellum*, which you may also see named *M. rubellum*. This one forms blobby tubers which can be raised for effect. Stems grow out of the tubers and can be erect or vine-like and hang down. The stems have interesting markings and the cymes are bright pink and can flower a lot of the year.



M. ellenbeckii looks completely different from most of the other Monadeniums. It comes from Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. It makes erect or prostrate green stems with interesting lines on them and has small lime green leaves. The cyathia aren't particularly colorful on this one, but the stems are what makes it interesting.



M. stapeliodes comes from Kenya and Tanzania. The typical plant is green with green leaves, but there's a newer variegated garden cultivar with green and white variegated stems and white, green and pink variegated leaves. It also keeps most of its leaves in winter, which is a nice bonus.

M. schubei comes from Tanzania. It's fast growing and can form a large group of upright stems. It has tubercles left after the leaves drop, so it looks spiky. It's typically green, but has a red variegated form called 'Tanzania Red', which is a gorgeous burgundy red color. It needs good sunlight to keep the red coloring.

For the most part, Monadeniums are easy and rewarding plants to grow. There are lots of interesting forms of plants. They can be hard to find sometimes, especially some of the rarer variegated forms, but the treasure hunt is part of the fun.

Monadenium montanum var. *rubellum* (top), *Monadenium stapelioides* variegated (middle), and *Monadenium schubei* 'Tanzania Red' (bottom)

WENDY GOLDMAN

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Howard Everson

Feb. 23, 1940 – Jan. 9, 2025

We are sad to report that a long time member of SDCSS has passed. Known to all as “Chuck,” he and his partner Jerry, proprietors of Rainbow Gardens Bookshop and Nursery, sold plants and books at all of our Show and Sale events for many years.

Chuck was born and raised in southern California and served in the US Air Force from 1961-1965. Chuck met Jerry Williams in 1967 and they were living in a small apartment in Signal Hill, CA when a neighbor, an avid plant grower, brought a plant, set it on their doorstep, and said in a gruff voice “take care of this plant.”

The rest is history. The plant turned out to be an Epiphyllum, and the large colorful bloom it produced had them hooked. They went on to seek out Epi hybrids and other succulents at nurseries around SoCal and discovered the Epiphyllum Society of America and CSSA where they made more contacts and grew their collection.

Chuck and Jerry formed Rainbow Gardens Nursery and Bookshop in the early 1980s. They started out as a mail order nursery selling Epiphytic cacti- Epiphyllum hybrids and Species, Rhipsalis, and Schlumbergera. The bookshop was formed a year or so later, to generate revenue during the winter months, when plants could not be shipped during the winter due to freezing weather across the country. In 1987 they purchased California Epi Center, owned by Bob and Lois Burks in Vista, California.

Chuck was well known around the cactus and succulent societies of Southern California - he was always at the local club events with his selection of Cactus and Succulent books. His traveling book show took him to about six shows and sales in southern California every year, as well as the biannual conventions of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

Chuck was diagnosed with Parkinsons disease in 2019 and succumbed to it in January, 2025. He will be missed.

Thanks to Jerry Williams for providing the information here.



PAM BADGER

MEMBER SECTION



“My brother had extreme cabin fever so the two of us went to Anza Borrego. We found seven unique crests!! I am sure there are more than that.” Above photos and cover from late January, 2025 Olga Batalov

SDCSS is proud to announce that [the Scholarship program](#) for graduating high school seniors and any college students is taking applications starting April 1.st
If you know of anyone who is a San Diego County resident and going to be obtaining a horticulture degree, please refer them to the SDCSS webpage for the application. Closing date for all applications is May 31.
For questions, contact Donna at SDCSSbusinessmanager@gmail.com
DONNA RODEN

The SDCSS monthly newsletter welcomes and appreciates essays, photography, artwork, and similar contributions from its members.
If you have a contribution related to cacti and succulents that you'd like to share with the club, please let us know, and you could see your work in a future issue.
We'd love to hear from you!
Contact the editor: eyf.editor@gmail.com

CLICK TO VISIT US ONLINE!



JANUARY BRAG TABLE



ECHINOCEREUS TRIGLOCHIDIATUS
PETER WALKOWIAK

SDCSS members shared a stunning table of plants at the March Meeting's Brag Table!

Thank you for bringing in your incredible plants, and thanks to new judges **Josh Allen** and **Jared Petker** for reviewing this table from our members. The brag table will be back in April, so we'll see you and your plants there!

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



1ST: *PELARGONIUM* SP.

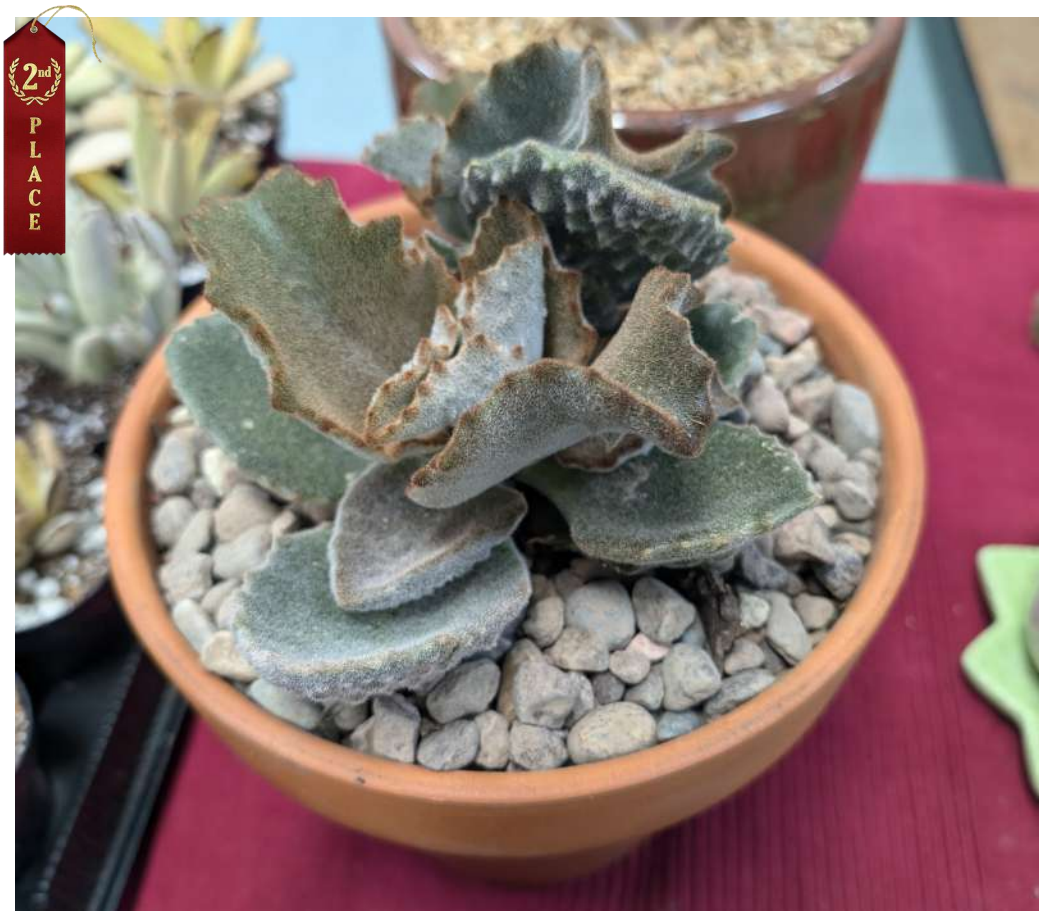
JODI VISOSKY

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



2ND: *CRASSULA* "MORGAN'S BEAUTY"

TRICIA BOSTARD



2ND: *KALANCHOE BEHARENSIS* 'FANG'

ROCCO PIERSANTI

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



3RD: *HAWORTHIA SP.*

EMILY SHUFFIELD



3RD: *ALOE VARIEGATA*

ROCCO PIERSANTI

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



3RD: *HAWORTHIA SP.*

EMILY SHUFFIELD



3RD: *ALOE VARIEGATA*

ROCCO PIERSANTI



EUPHORBIA SP.

EMILY W.

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



SSTOMATIUM SP.

TRICIA BOSTARD



HAWORTHIA SP.

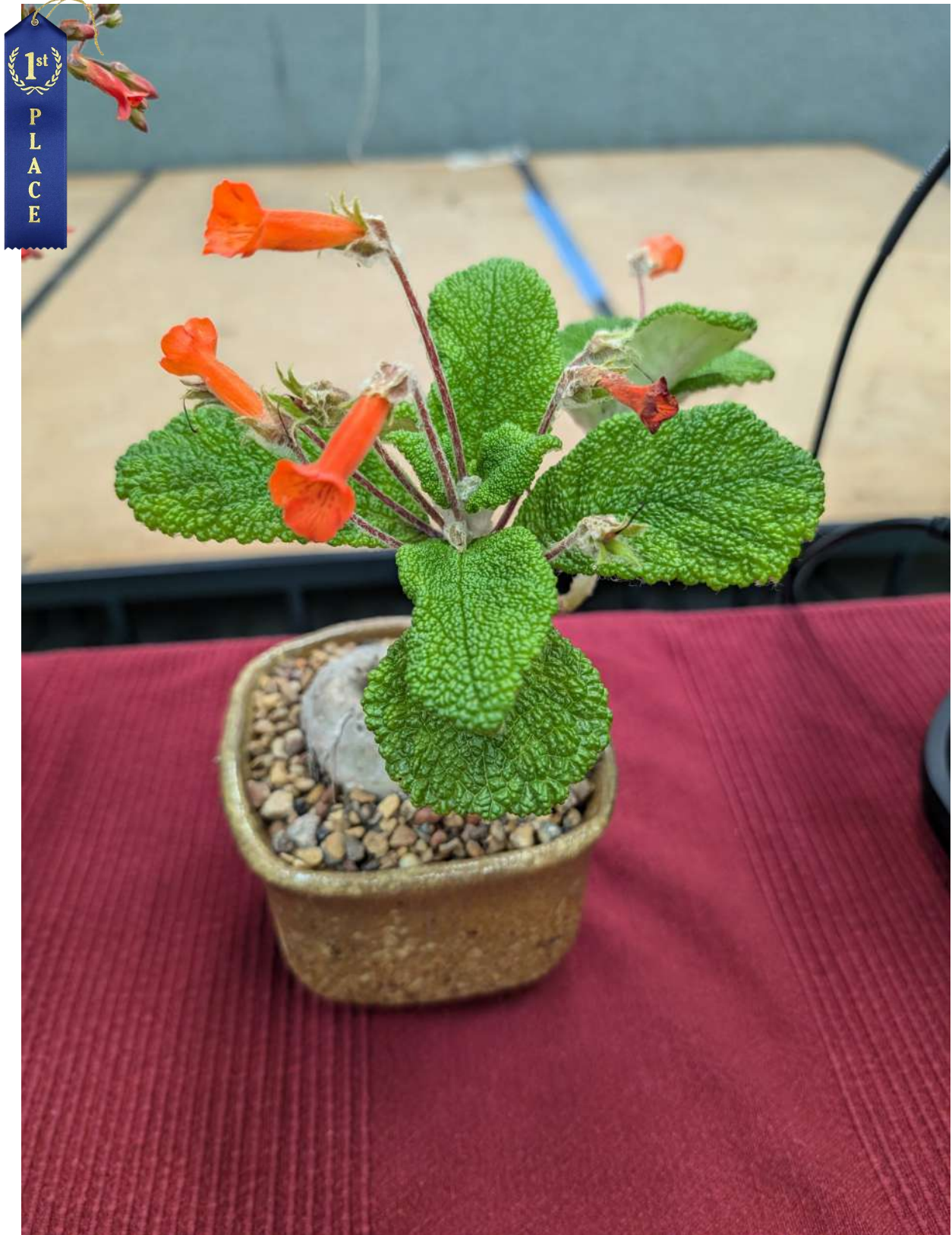
EMILY W.



SANSEVIERIA BALLYI

DONNA RODEN

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st
P
L
A
C
E

1ST: *SINNINGIA BULLATA*

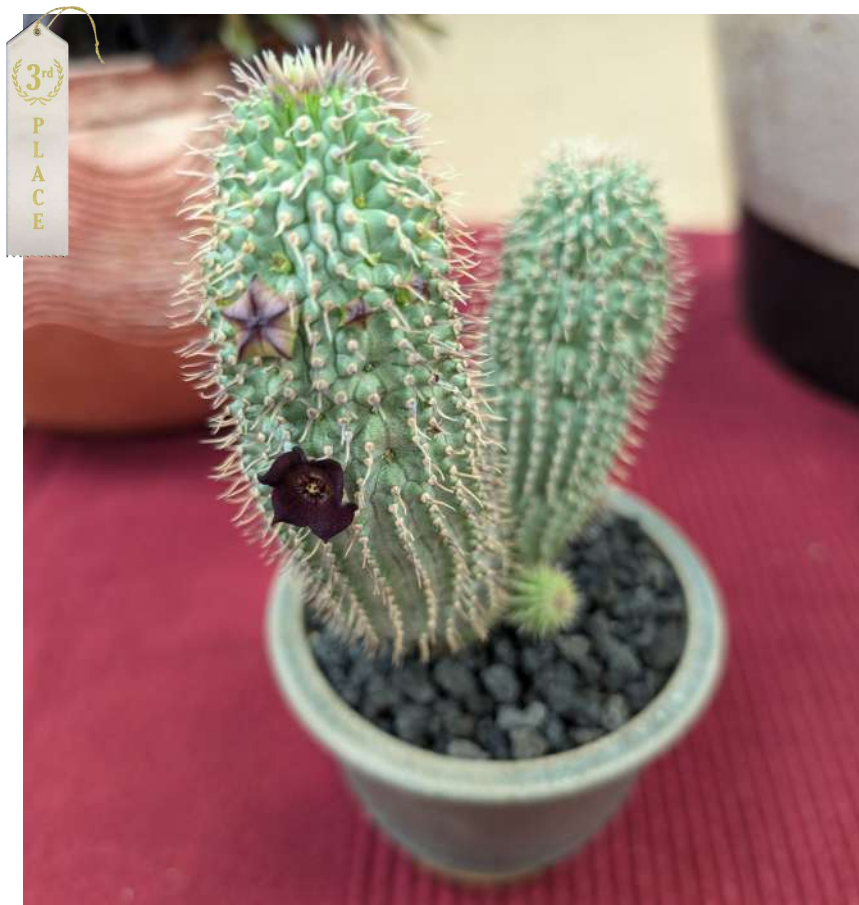
MELANIE HOWE

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2ND: *KALANCHOE MANGINII* 'BEACH BELLS'

MIRIAM PARENT



3RD: *HOODIA PILIFERA*

JARED PETKER

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



MONANTHES PALLENS

MELANIE HOWE



*AEONIUM ARBOREUM**HOODIA PILIFERA*

MIRIAM PARENT

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st
P
L
A
C
E

1ST: *EUPHORBIA DECARYI* V. *SPIROSTICHA*

PETER WALKOWIAK

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2ND: *ADROMISCHUS MARIANAE* F. *HERREI*

TINA ZUCKER



3RD: *EUPHORBIA CYLINDRIFOLIA* X *GOTTLEBEI*

PETER WALKOWIAK

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



SARCOCAULON CRASSICAULE
TINA ZUCKER



SINNINGIA BULLATA **TINA ZUCKER**



EUPHORBIA PEDILANTHOIDES
PETER WALKOWIAK

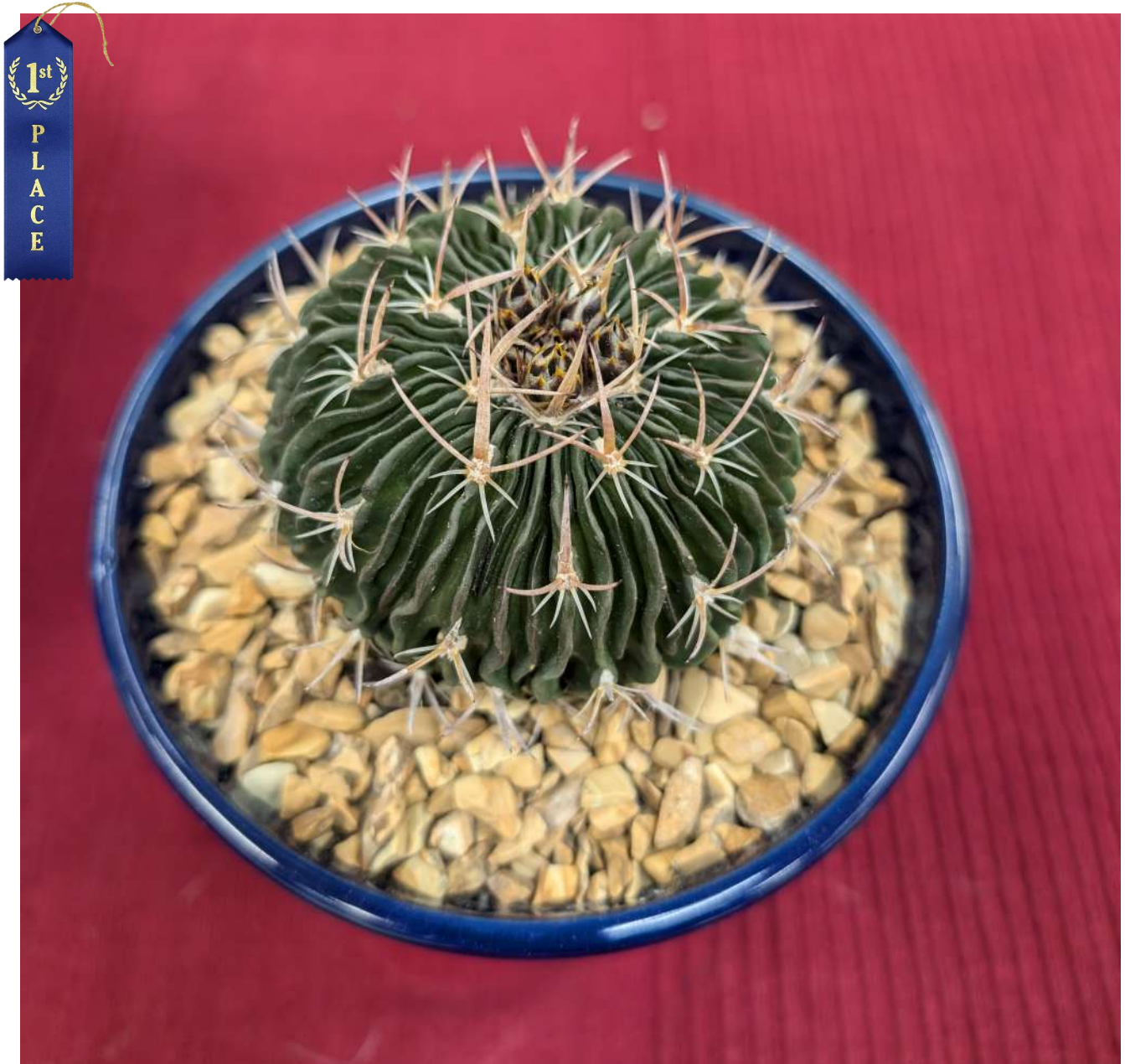


KALANCHOE TOMENTOSA **KELLY GRIFFIN**



PSEUDOLITHOS CUBIFORMIS **RITA LUNCEFORD**

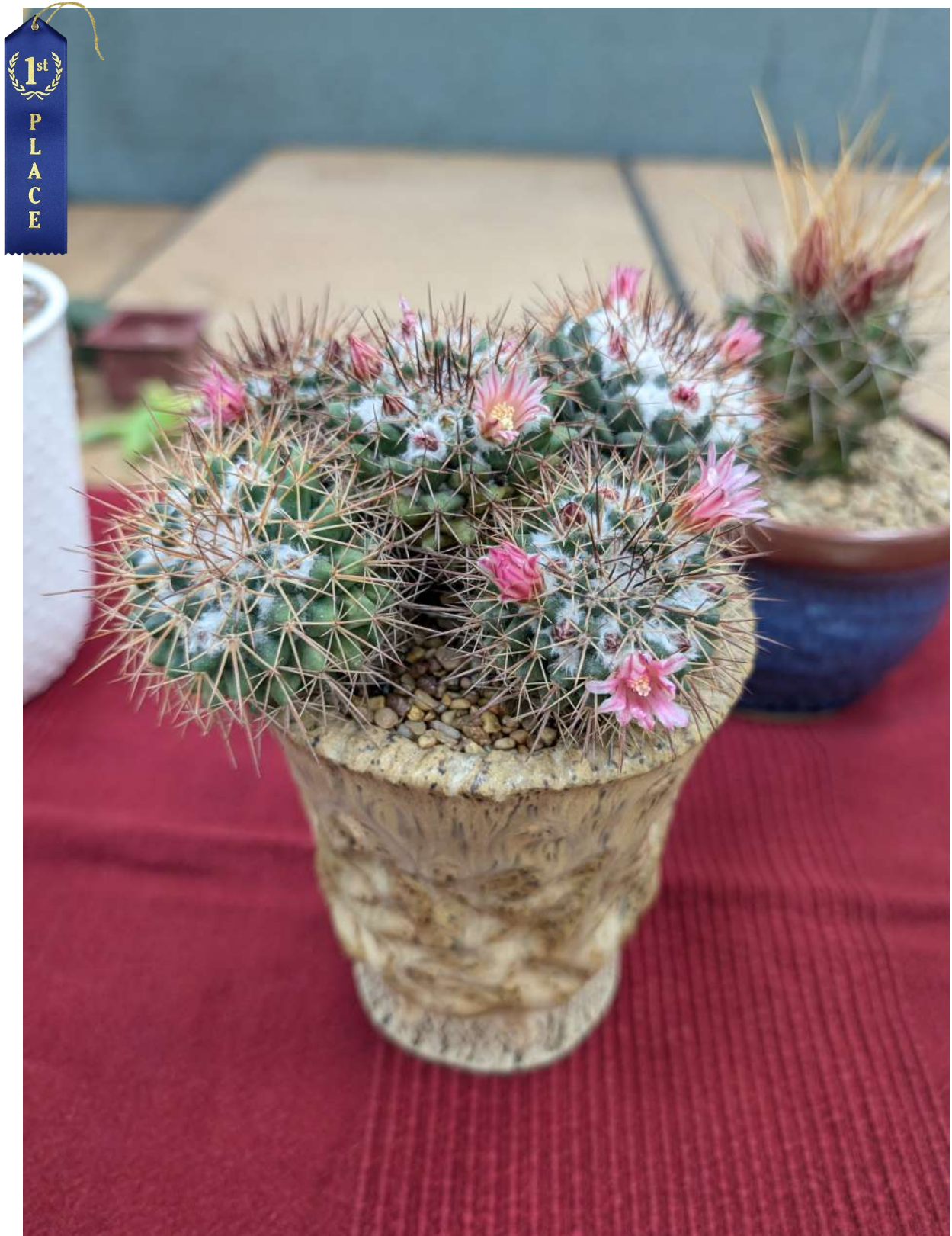
BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1ST: *STENOCACTUS SP.*

EMILY SHUFFIELD

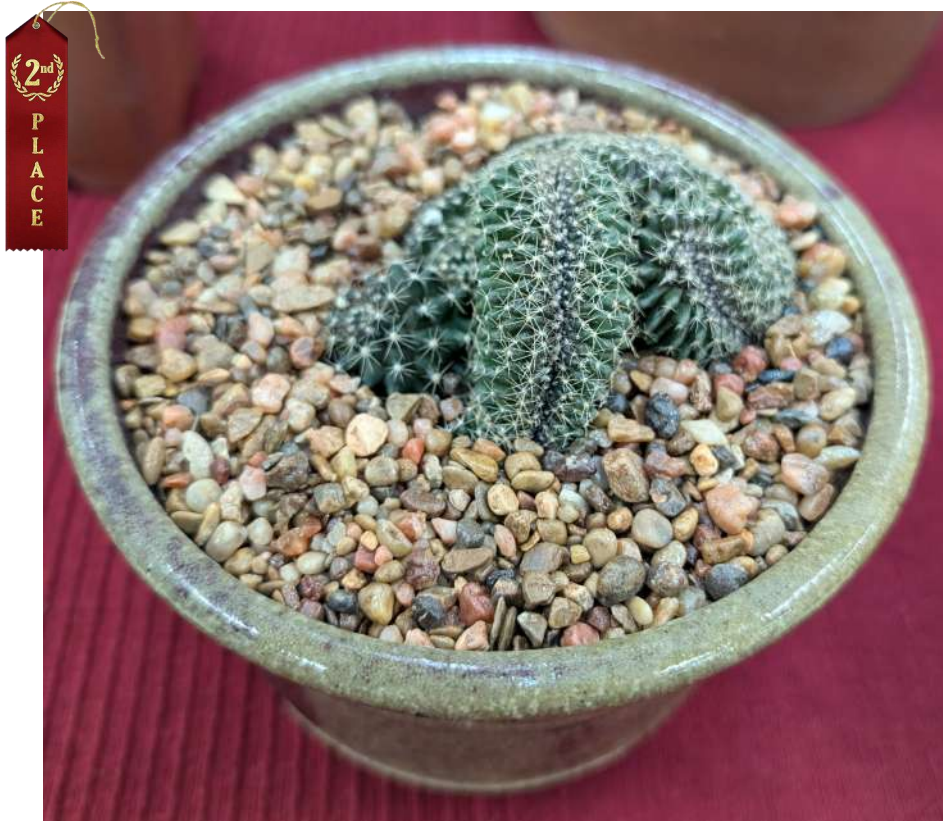
BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1ST: *MAMMILLARIA SCRIPPSIANA*

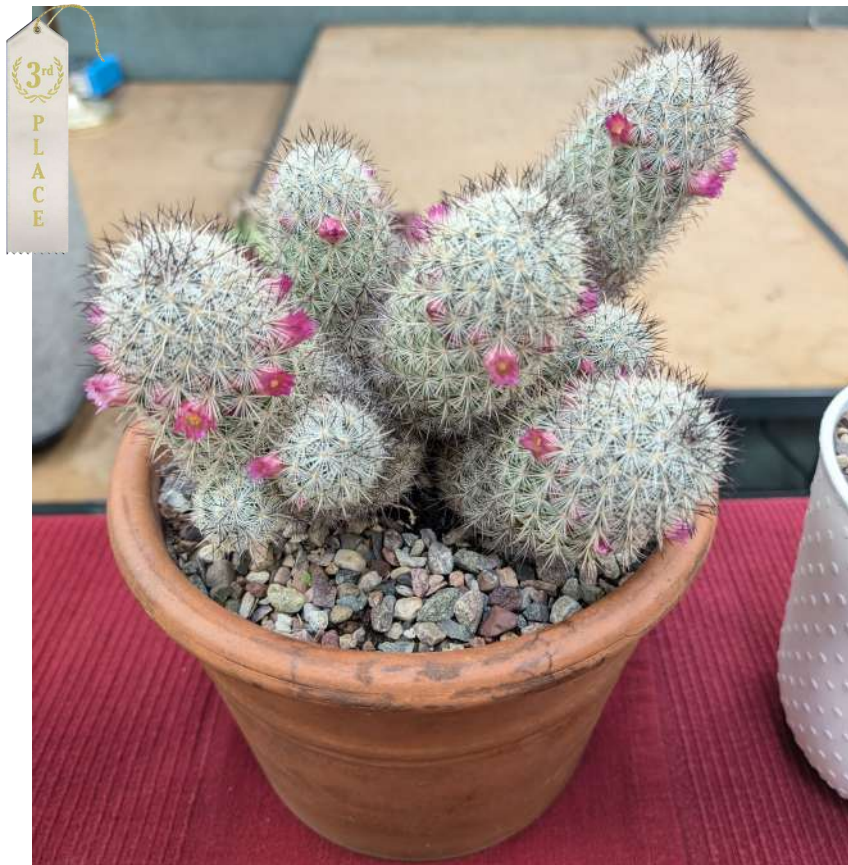
PETER HAGOPIAN

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



2ND: *COPIAPOA TENUSSIMA* CRESTED

NORB RODEN



3RD: *MAMMILLARIA ELONGATA*

MIRIAM PARENT

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



MAMMILLARIA BOMBYCINA

[NAME NOT PROVIDED]



MAMMILLARIA MAGNIMAMMA

MIRIAM PARENT



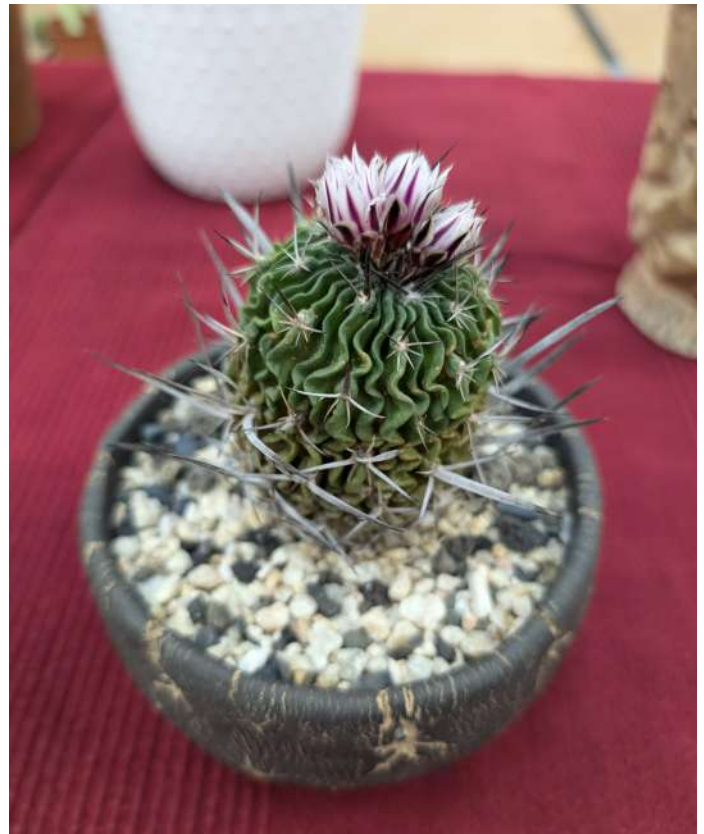
ASTROPHYTUM 'SUPER KABUTO' MIRIAM PARENT

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



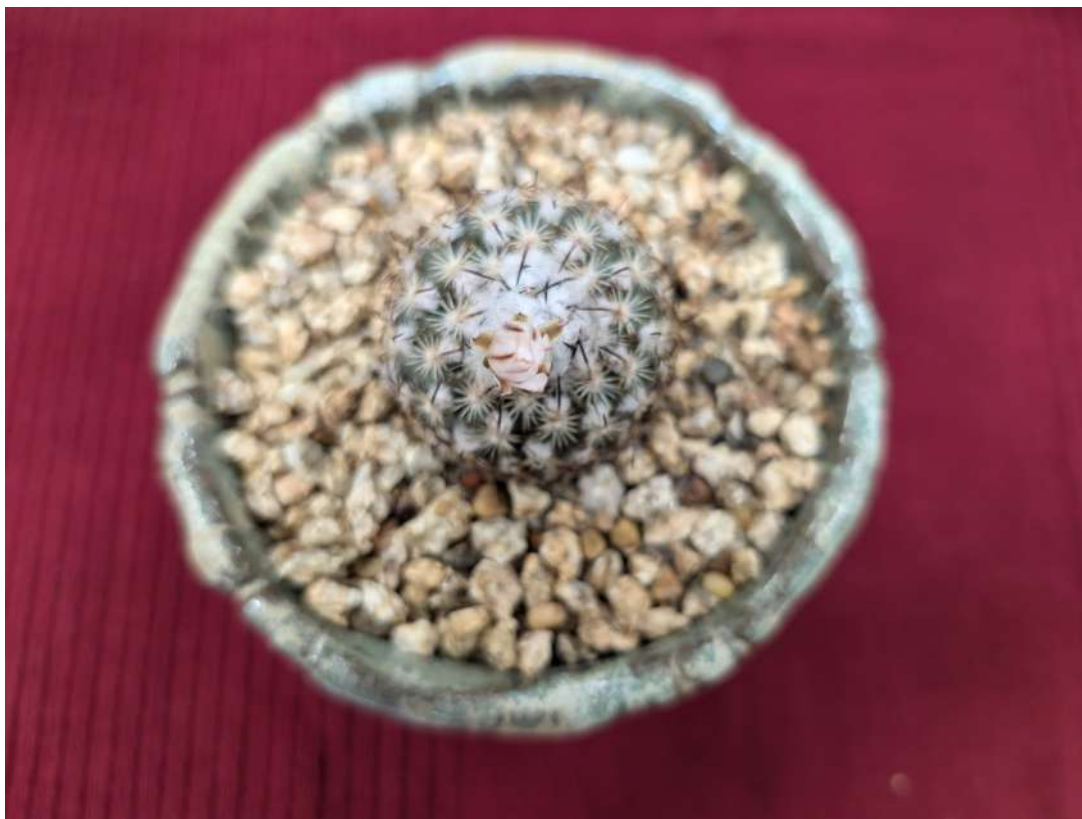
THELOCACTUS PANAROTTOANUS

NORB RODEN



STENOCACTUS SP.

[NAME NOT PROVIDED]



TURBINICARPUS YSABELAE

[NAME NOT PROVIDED]

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS



1ST: *ECHINOCEREUS TRIGLOCHIDIATUS*

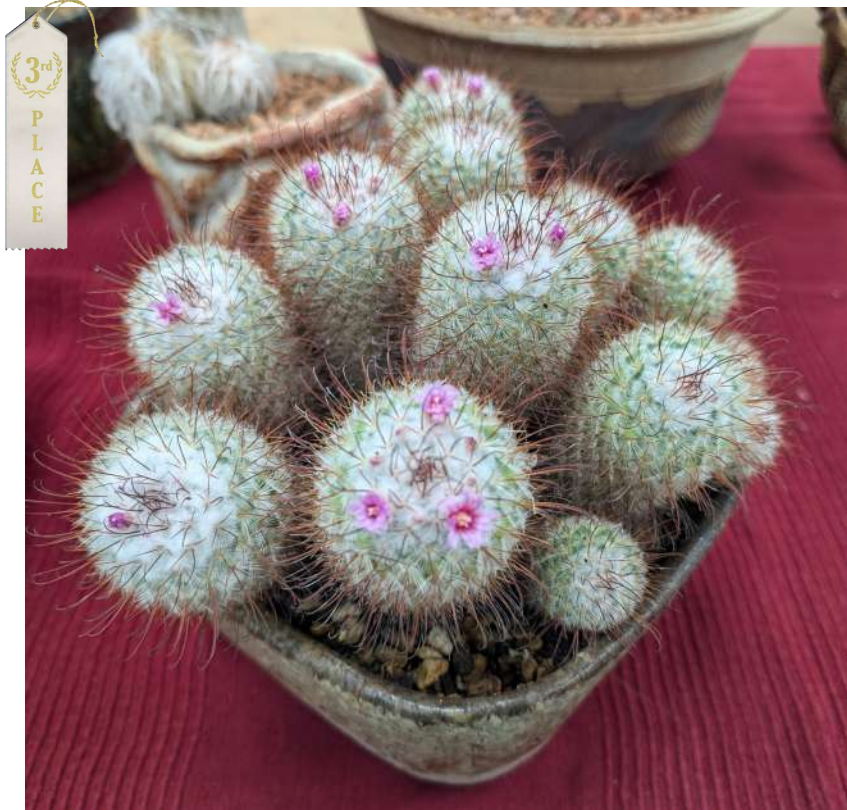
PETER WALKOWIAK

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS



2ND: *ECHINOCEREUS REICHENBACHII* V. *ALBISPINUS*

PETER WALKOWIAK



3RD: *MAMMILLARIA BOMBYCINA*

JERRY AND CANDY GARNER

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS



MAMMILLARIA SENILIS

PETER WALKOWIAK



ESPOSTOA SP.

TINA ZUCKER

BRAG TABLE // UNJUDGED DISPLAY



HYBRID HAWORTHIAS

KEVIN HOSMER