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



NOVEMBER NURSERY CRAWL // OCTOBER BRAG TABLE //
UPCOMING SDCSS HOLIDAY PARTY // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Crested Saguaro

Photo by Olga Batalov

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UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

OUR NEXT MEETING

October 10th

SDCSS NURSERY CRAWL EVENT

November 14th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Kelly Griffin
Vice President	Der-shing Helmer
Secretary	Olga Batalov
Treasurer	Ken Brown

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Rick Bjorklund, Patricia Bryan, Luis Gonzalez, Tom Knapik, Georgia Kenney, Rita Lunceford, and Jared Petker

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Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag Table	Susan Hopkins & Rocco Piersanti
Plant of the Month	Denise Huntsman-Griffin
Summer/Winter Show	Jared Petker
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Rita Lunceford
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Monthly Plant Sales	Rita Lunceford
Benefit Drawing Table	Chuck Ramey & Norb Roden
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins, Lien Lieu, & Candy Garner
New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	Georgia Kenney
Coffee in the Garden Coordinator	Jodi Visosky

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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Membership	Olga Batalov
Business Manager	Donna Roden
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
General Club Publicity	Christie Lathrop
Show & Sale Publicity	Patricia Bryan & Emily Shuffield

CONTACT SDCSS membership@sdcss.net

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Even with grey skies and drizzly weather outside, our last meeting was bursting with sunshine, inspiration, and amazing plant passion! We had two absolute show-stopping presentations:

- **Jared Petker** shared the roots of his motivation and the journey behind his growing new business—all sparked by his love for Euphorbias! His program was so thoughtfully put together and a joy to watch.

- **Dylan Zoller** from Sherman Gardens whisked us away on a virtual journey through Brazil! His spectacular photos of rare Cacti and Bromeliads—paired with lively tales from the field—really brought the expedition to life. Can you believe Dylan is only in his early twenties?! We're keeping our fingers crossed that he stays fueled by his plant passion for many years to come, and we can't wait to have him back to share his next big adventure!

Next, get ready for something fresh and exciting with the **November Nursery Crawl!** Details are in this newsletter. While we navigate missing our Prado room for a few months each year, we're keeping the energy high with fun alternative events. (Fun fact: this challenge isn't just ours! When I gave a talk recently for the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society at the Torrance Municipal Airport, I learned they've had similar hurdles at the South Coast Botanical Garden.) We hope this unique outing is a blast and brings everyone together in a fun new way!

Mark your calendars! Our next big celebration is **our yearly holiday party**!

- **Great news:** We've kept the ticket price the same as last year, with the club happily covering a portion.
- **Bonus:** Every registered club member gets a gift plant!
- **Sign ups are live:** Please jump online and register ASAP! Knowing our headcount early helps us make sure there's plenty of food and enough gift plants for everyone.

As my final term as your president winds down, my heart is full. While I didn't get to check every single goal off my wish list (there's never quite enough time!), I am so proud of and grateful for everything we accomplished together.

I have absolute confidence in our incoming board! They are an unbelievably

capable group, and I can't wait to watch them shine as they take on new goals and exciting projects. Don't worry— I'm not going anywhere! I'll still be right here, ready to pitch in and help out whenever needed.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to every single person who has contributed to our club. Please keep that wonderful momentum going! We have so much fun on the horizon, and it wouldn't be the same without you.

Kelly Griffin
October 18, 2026



Thank you to Chuck for hosting a gorgeous and festive Halloween Coffee in the Garden! **Jared Petker**

November 14th! Save the Date, because it's the...

SDCSS NOVEMBER NURSERY CRAWL

This November, instead of a standard meeting, we'll be throwing a **San Diego-wide Nursery Crawl**! Visit one of the great nurseries on our list or visit all of them... it's up to you! Nurseries will offer plants, pots, special event-only pricing and incentives, guest vendors, and more. It's a perfect time to find a lovely winter-growing plant ahead of the holidays as a gift for a friend...or maybe just for yourself!

The following vendors are confirmed, with more vendors and details to come in the next newsletter!

Nursery	Address	Hours	Special Offers
Botanic Wonders	2705 Sarver Ln San Marcos, 92069	8:00 AM–2:00 PM	10% off for all club members and a Bargain Bench with highly discounted plants
Desert Theater Nursery	Next door to Botanic Wonders	9:00 AM–2:00 PM	-
PW Plants	404 Lor Lar Ln Ramona, 92065	9:00 AM–2:00 PM	-
Tina Zucker & Pretty Odd Plants	552 Seabright Lane Solana Beach, 92075	8:30 AM–12:30 PM	20% off if paid cash. Discounts on pottery and 15% off with Pretty Odd Plants
Hula Tropicals	31848 Aquaduct Rd Bonsall 92003	9:00 AM–3:00 PM	Free Adenium with purchase
Mike's Plants	6840 Veronica Ave San Diego 92115	9:00 AM–2:00 PM	Free seedling with purchase
DR Cactus Succulents	1850 Warmlands Ave Vista, CA 92084	9:00 AM–2:00 PM	-
Hidden Agave	TBD	TBD	Free plant with purchase
Ace Mega Succulents	8067 Haven Dr Lemon Grove, 91945	9:00 AM–5:00 PM	-
LA Succulents	11226 Christy Ave Lake View Terrace, 91342	9:00 AM–4:00 PM	10% off everything for members of SDCSS
Grow Margo LLC	310 Corte Goleta Chula Vista, 91914	8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Cash, Venmo, Zelle. Street parking. Free plant with purchase.

The SDCSS monthly newsletter welcomes all contributions from its members!

If you have a personal 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

SAN DIEGO Cactus & Succulent Society

GET READY FOR OUR DEC 12TH HOLIDAY PARTY

10:30-11:30: Check-in socializing, talking plants, checking out the gift plants, gift exchange plants, and auction items. We will also have a short meeting to formally elect our officers for 2027.

12:00: Catered lunch served (vegan options available), pot-luck desserts (please bring one to share), and gift exchange.

1:00: Numbers will be called for gift plants.

2:00: Silent and Live auctions

MENU

Standard option: Oven-roasted turkey breast, baked ham, homemade bread dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, traditional green salad with either ranch dressing or balsamic vinaigrette, rolls and butter, plus potluck desserts, wine, coffee, and tea.

Vegan option: Vegan ancient grain bowl (quinoa and farro with roasted vegetables, avocado and balsamic glaze).

MORE INFO

Potluck desserts: Bring your favorite dessert to share! Please bring a serving utensil if needed.

Gift Plants: SDCSS provides a free plant to all members. You will be given a ticket when you check in—save it for the drawing!

Gift Exchange (optional)**:** You are invited to bring a plant to participate in the exchange, just put your name on the plant. A panel of judges will select the "Best Plant", and the owner of that plant then gets first pick of all remaining plants. The owner of the plant they select then picks, and this continues until all plants are gone. Bring only one plant per person.

Silent auction: There will be a variety of items donated, along with centerpieces which will be auctioned off during the party. Items will have cards to enter your bids. The highest bid at the close of the auction buys the item. If you want to donate an interesting cactus-related item you think someone would like, please bring it along.

Live auction: We will have a wonderful selection of donated plants and items for a Live Auction. This event is lots of fun and the proceeds will be contributed towards the conservation of endangered cacti and succulents.

Tickets available until *November 30th
$35 for members and **$40 for non-members**
in-person at the October meeting
or online **at this link on our website**.





2027
Melocactus azureus

2027 CLUB PINS!

Want to show off your love for the SDCSS?
Now you can! Through our collectible club enamel pins, with a brand-new design offered every year!

Our newest pin to celebrate 2027 will be gifted, first-come-first-served, to holiday party goers…
another great reason to pick up your ticket now for the December festivities!

*note: no cancellations accepted after November 30th

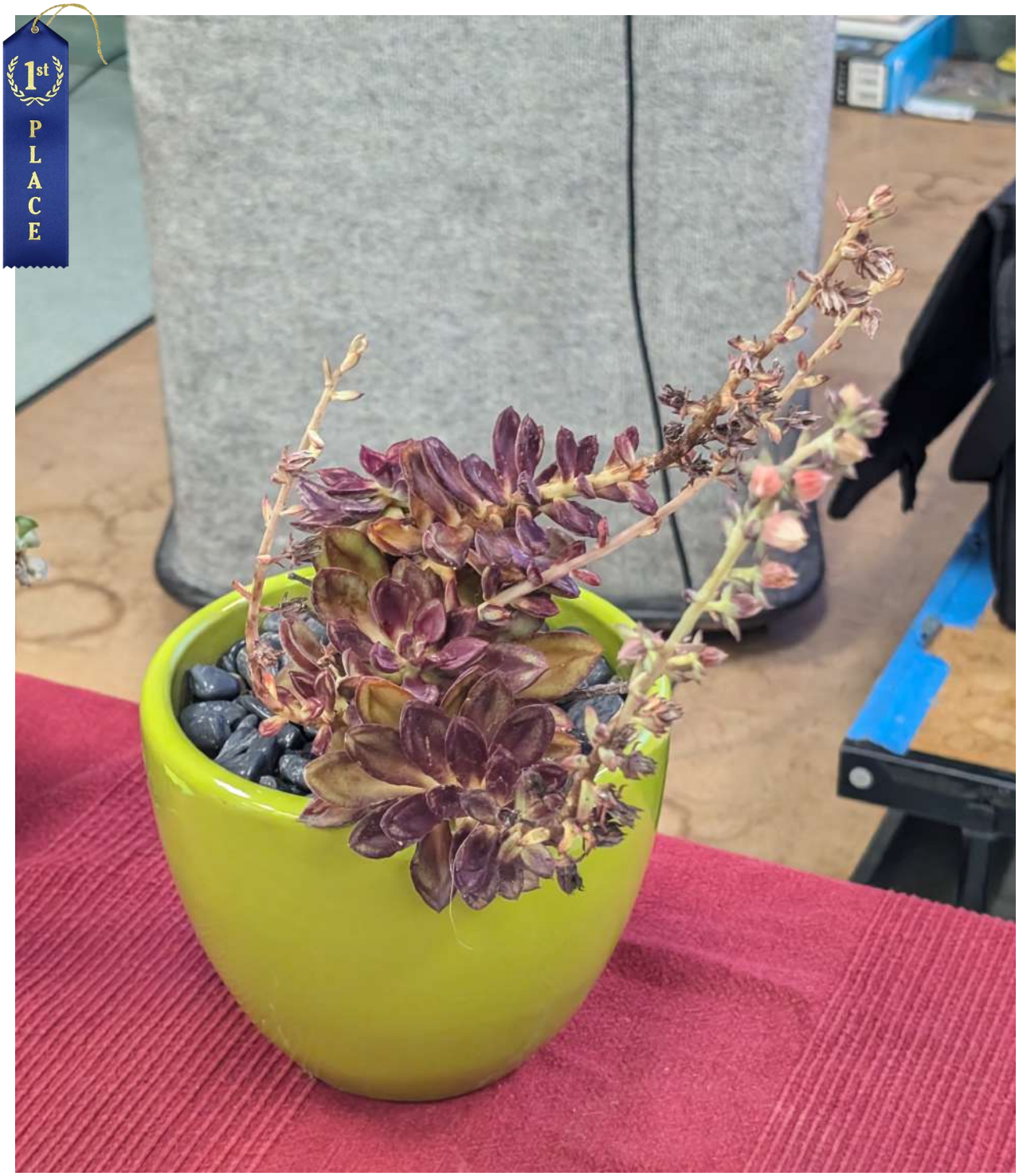


ADENIUM 'X' IN BLOOM

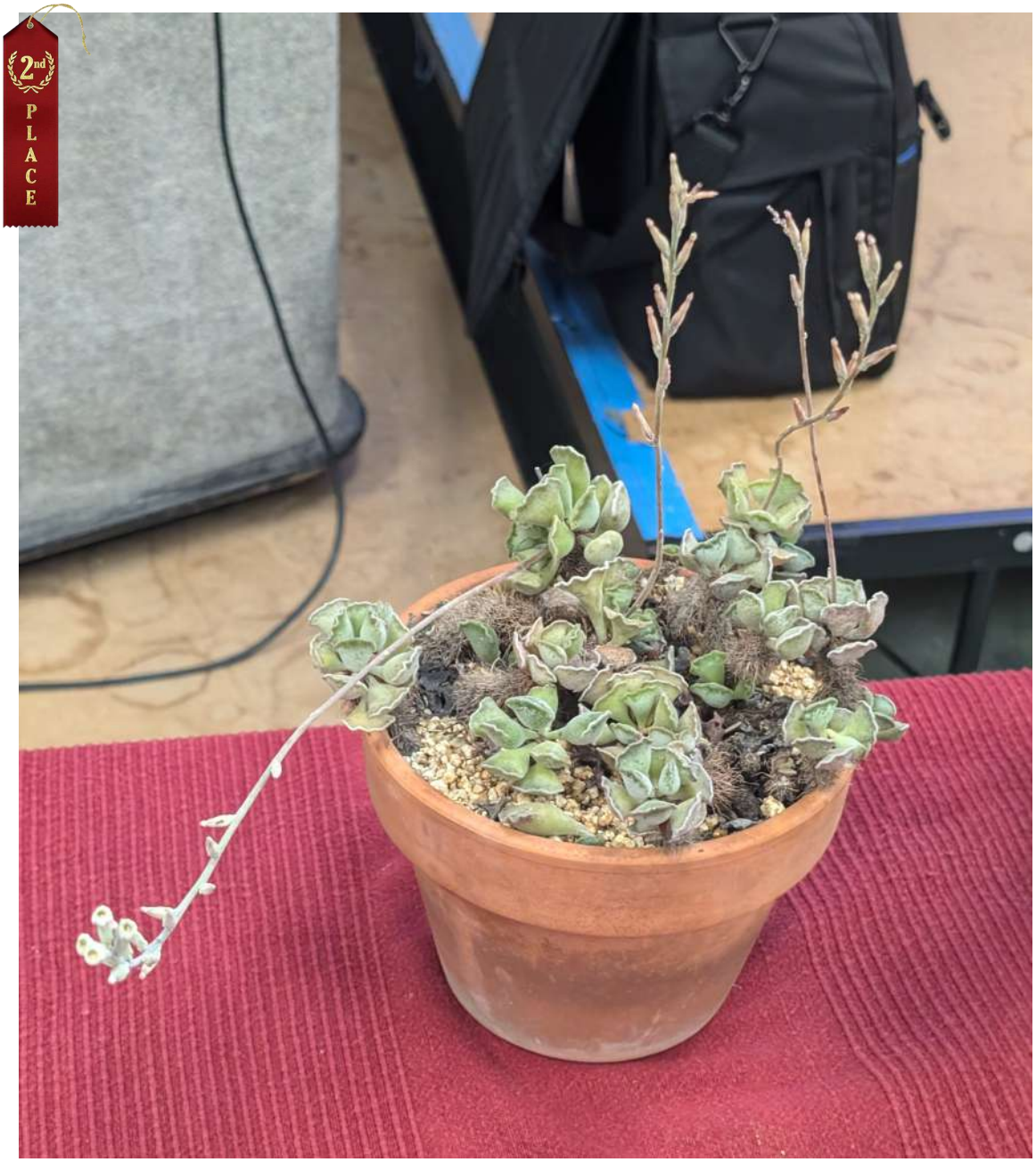
BY DAN MAHR

The last Brag Table of the year… the wonderful October Meeting's Brag Table!

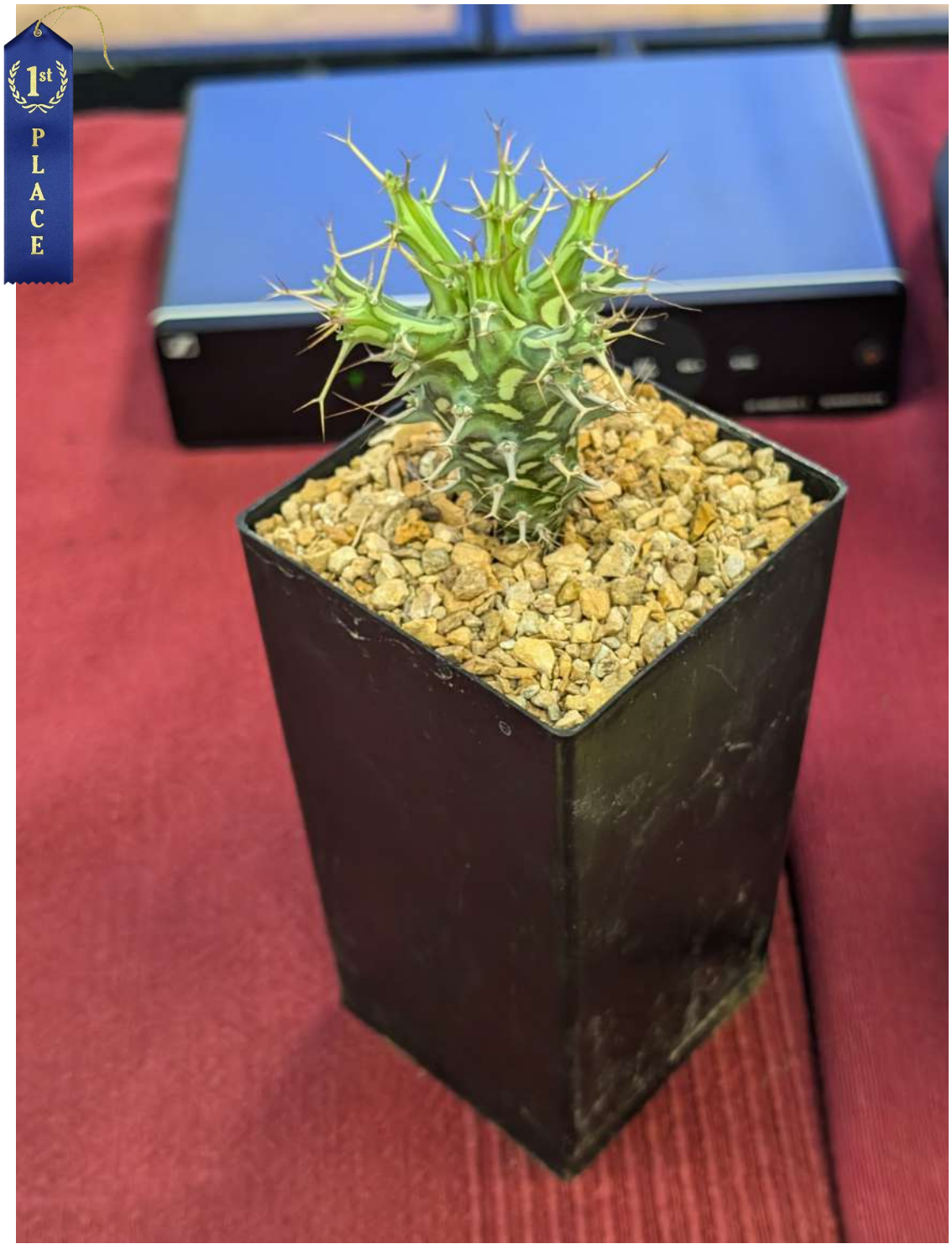
Thank you for bringing in your plants to the Brag Table! We won't have another meeting again this year, so that means you've got plenty of time to pamper your plants all Winter and get them ready for their debut in January's meeting and the upcoming Winter Show & Sale in February 2027!



1ST: *ECHEVERIA* 'BENITSUKASA' **ROCCO PIERSANTI**



2ND: *ADROMISCHUS SP.* **ROCCO PIERSANTI**



1ST: *EUPHORBIA SCHIZACANTHA* (SEED GROWN) **JARED PETKER**



2ND: *DYCKIA* 'GRAND MARNIER' **SUZY FORAN**



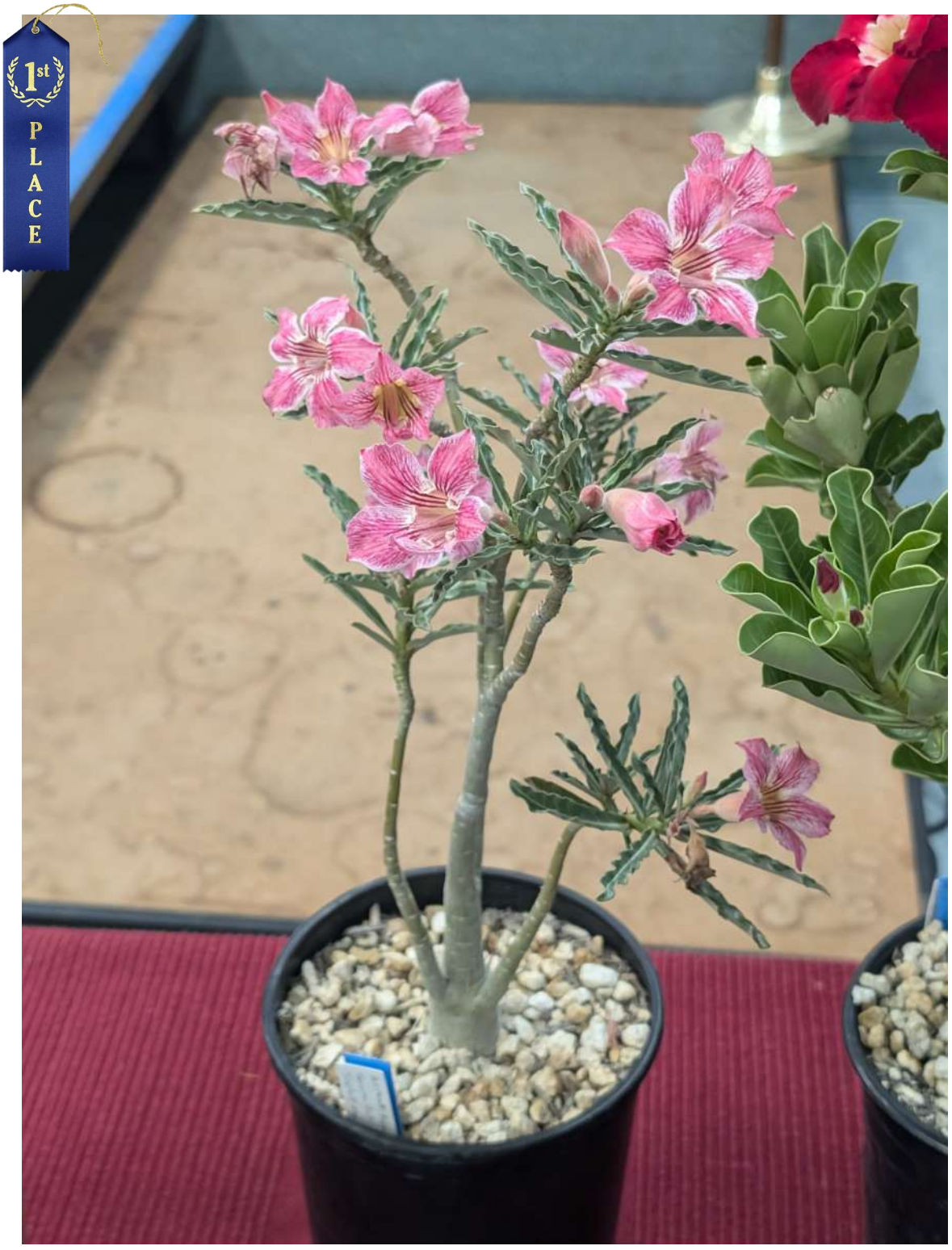
3RD: *DYCKIA* 'SAWBLADE' **VICKI HOFFMAN**



TYLECODON BUCHHOLZIANUS **CHUCK RAMEY**



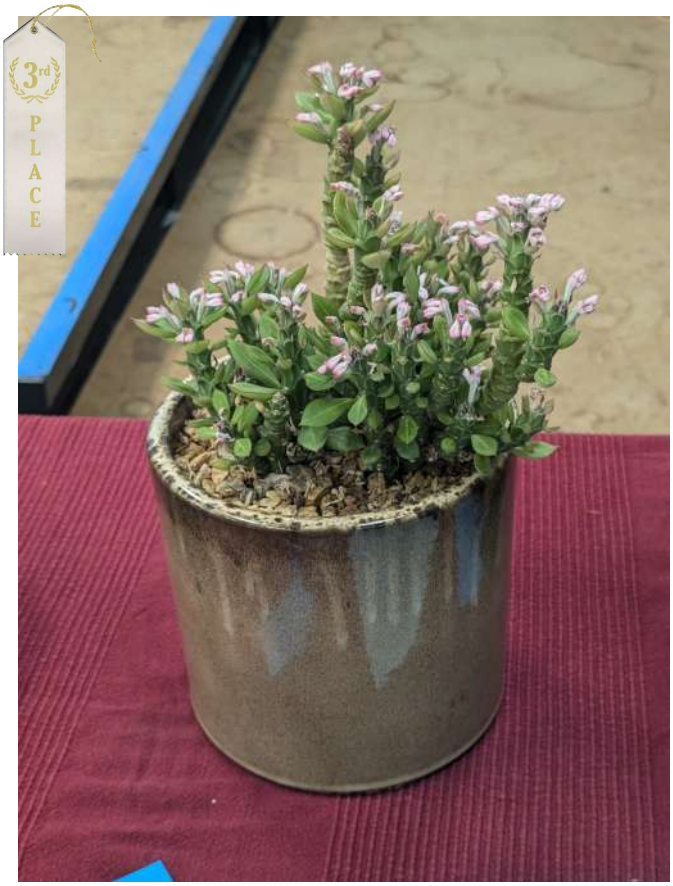
DIOSCOREA MEXICANA (SEED GROWN) **CHUCK RAMEY**



1ST: *ADENIUM* 'X' **DAN MAHR**



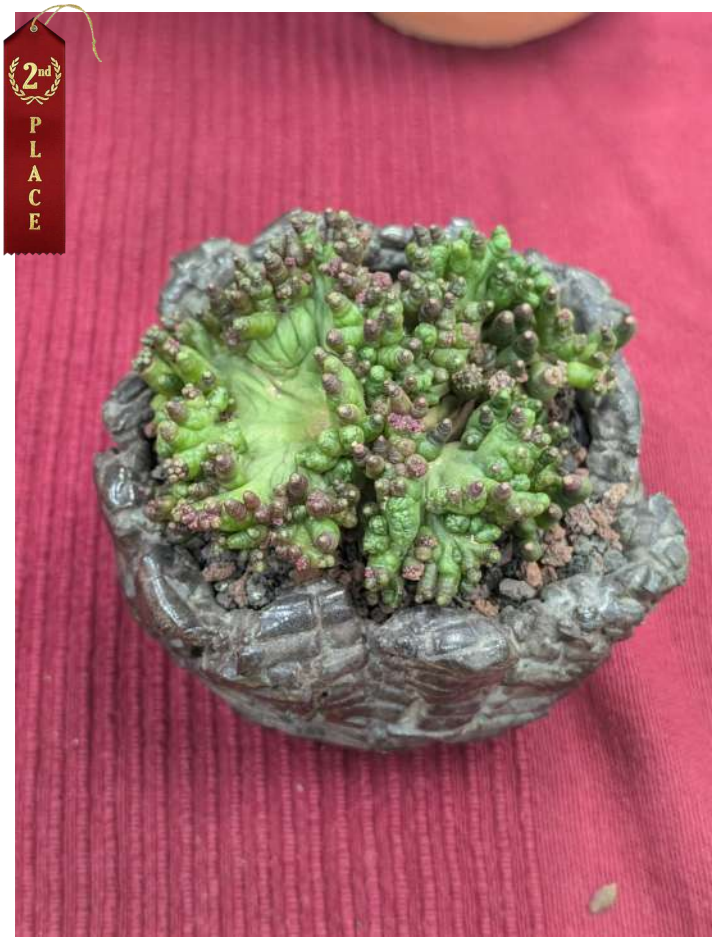
2ND: *EUPHORBIA STELLASPINA* **PAM BADGER**



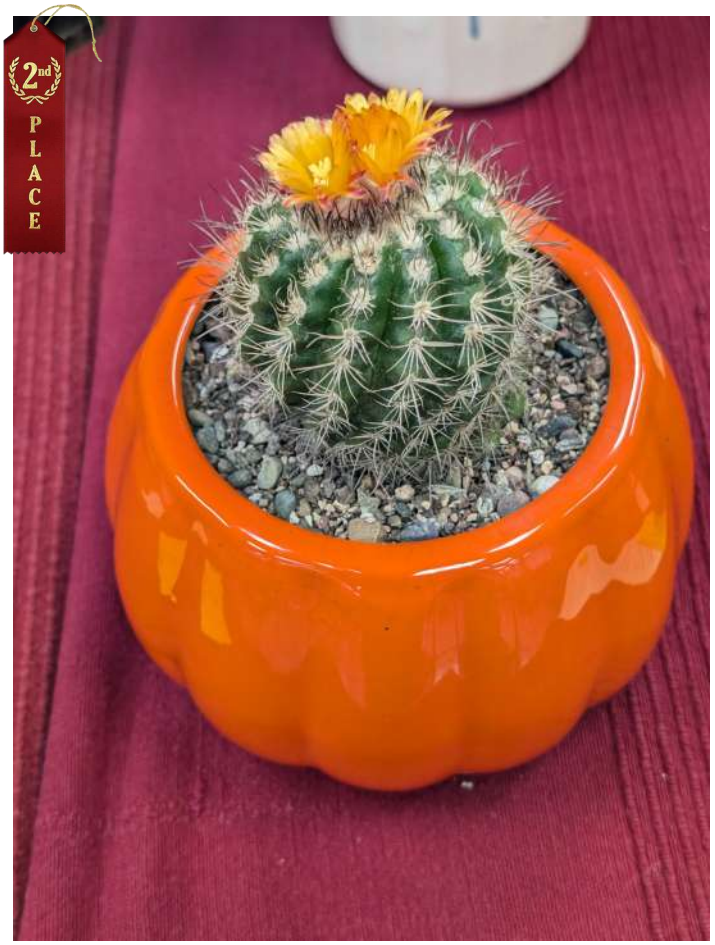
3RD: *MONDADENIUM* 'PINK ICE' **DAN MAHR**



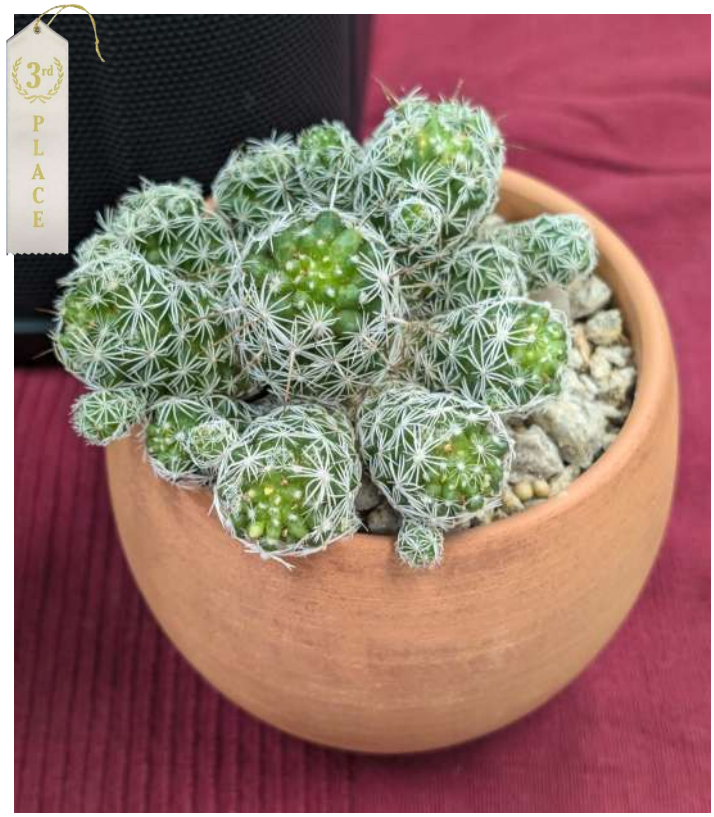
ADENIUM 'X' **DAN MAHR**



2ND: *MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA* 'FRED' **CHUCK RAMEY**



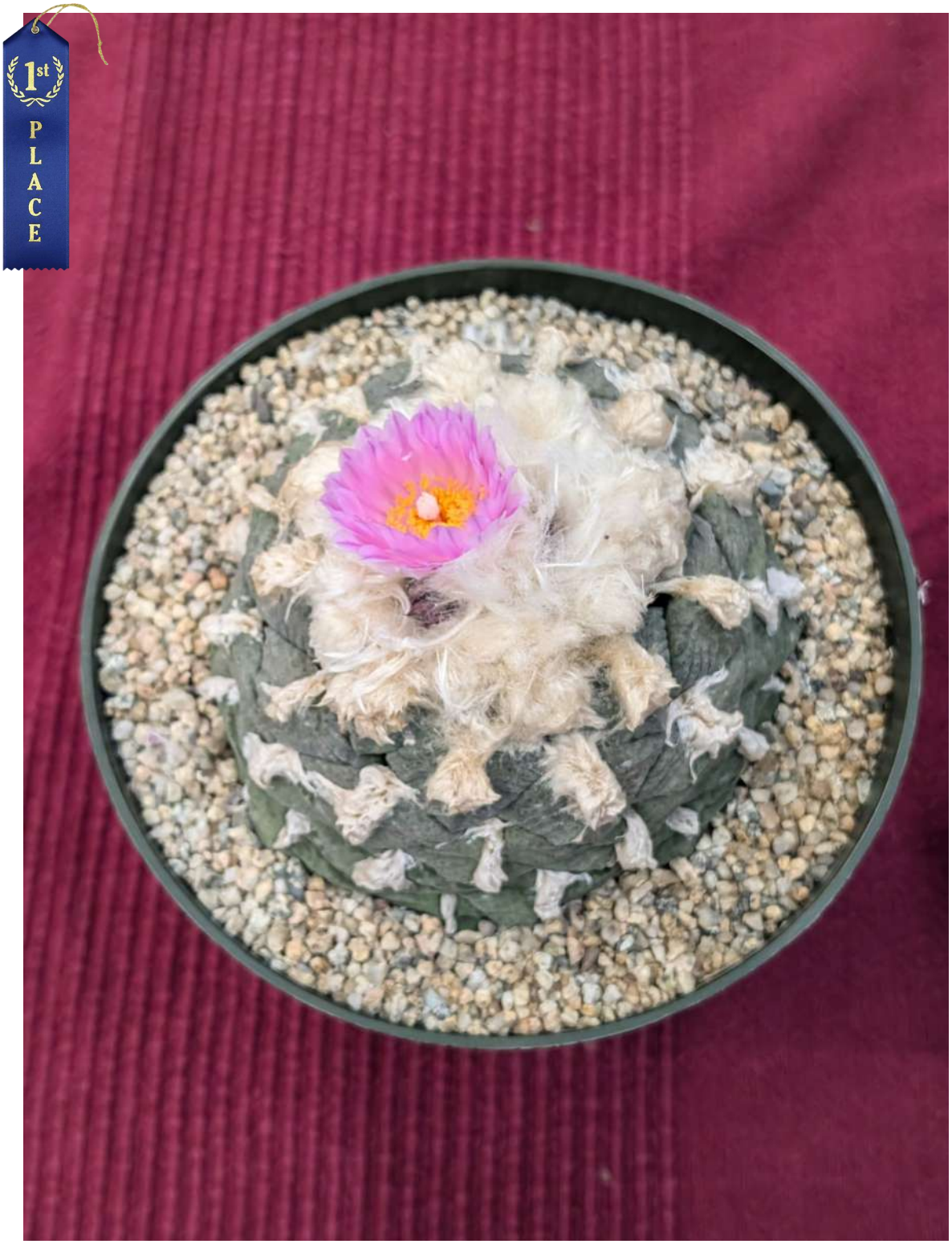
2ND: *PARODIA SUBTILIHAMATA* **CHUCK RAMEY**



3RD: *MAMMILLARIA GRACILIS 'FRAGILIS'* **VICKI HOFFMAN**



TEPHROCACTUS WEBERI **CHUCK RAMEY**



1ST: *ARIOCARPUS FISSURATUS LLOYDII* **BRIAN SHEPHERD**



2ND: *MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA MULTILANATA* **BRIAN SHEPHERD**