



VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 02 • FEBRUARY 2021

ESPINAS Y FLORES

COPIAPOA KRAINZIANA

UPCOMING WEBINARS • SPRING EVENT TEASER
VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE: DOUBLE NOVICE WINNERS ...and more!

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



ON THE COVER

Cylindropuntia
Photo by Kelly Griffin

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

Feb 13th club webinar:
[12:30 pm on Zoom \(see pg 4\)](#)

Feb 13th 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

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Picnic Regalement	[open]
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! As I sit here on my deck, enjoying a 75 degree winter afternoon, I am wondering if we will get any more rain. There is a possibility for precipitation next week, we shall see. I actually turned on the irrigation this week as everything was looking a bit stressed from the past week of hot dry weather.

As we head into a second year of this pandemic, I am feeling hopeful; several vaccines have been approved and I was thankful to get my first dose this week due to my part time work mental health practitioner. It was exciting to see the efficient way large numbers of people were being vaccinated at Petco Park. Depending on how the process goes, we may soon be able to meet in person again!



In the meantime, we received so much positive feedback about our plant gifting event in December, we have decided to do it again this Spring! Nothing like some new plants to get us excited about sprucing up our plants for the coming season. Look for details in this Newsletter, and check out for our emails for updates!

If you missed our monthly get together on Zoom in January - you missed a great show. John Stead gave a fascinating overview of his work at Orange Coast College Horticulture Department - what amazing landscapes! And the "virtual garden tour" of Julia and Martin's place in Mexico had me wishing I had more space! Thanks to Tina for making the Zoom presentations work and Kelly for getting great speakers. Though I have been in this hobby for nearly 50 years, I always learn something at these presentations.

We are happy to welcome Jared Petker, husband of our awesome Newsletter editor, Der-shing. Jared is our new web master, so check out our website SDCSS.net and see what is new.

Stay tuned, stay connected, we will all be together soon.

Pam Badger
January 16, 2021

WE WANT YOU! (TO SUBMIT TO SDCSS)

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Have you ever read the *Espinas Y Flores* Newsletter 'Plant of the Month' and thought - "I could do that!" or "I wish they would do one on my favorite plant!"?? Well, here is your chance - we have numerous months open for 2021 for you to participate by writing a piece. You do not have to be an expert! You don't have to know much at all! You get to 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. This is a great way to learn more about something you have an interest in and share that interest with others.



GARDEN TOURS

Do you have a large, amazing desert landscape? or a small, beautiful succulent garden? or a patio filled with potted plants you love? Share them with us! You can choose to 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. Please sign up to share and be more active in your SDCSS!

Contact Pam Badger: pambad1@mac.com

SDCSS WEBINARS: WOODY MINICH



Join us on **Saturday, February 13th** at 12:30pm PST for our next club webinar featuring a talk by Woody Minnich: **"The Cacti and Succulents of New Mexico!"**

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

"New Mexico is an unusual state in comparison to its neighbors. To the west is the warm, often very hot, Arizona which is heavily influenced by the Sonoran, Coloradoan and Mojave deserts. To the east is the giant of our states. Texas can also be very hot and dry to its west, as well as, extremely wet and humid in its south. Texas has probably the greatest number of cactus species of any state due to it being strongly influenced by the Chihuahuan and Tamaulipan deserts. To the north of New Mexico is the generally higher elevation and mostly cooler state of Colorado. With these three distinct adjacent states, New Mexico has a unique combination of all three. It has some Chihuahuan influence in its south and more Coloradoan relationships through its central and northern regions.



Agave neomexicana near Silver City NM

From the warmer and milder southern New Mexico, there are many wonderful genera. These range from: *Agave*, *Coryphantha*, *Dasyliirion*, *Echeveria*, *Echinocactus*, *Echinocereus*, *Echinomastus*, *Epithelantha*, *Escobaria*, *Ferocactus*, *Fouquieria*, *Mammillaria*, *Thelocactus*, and *Yucca*. These genera are usually found growing in low elevations on rugged alluvial hills and smaller mountains. The moisture in these regions is from both western influenced winter rainfall and summer monsoonal flows from the south. Temperatures in these areas can be very cold to very hot, often ranging from 20F to 110F.

In the greater central and northern regions of New Mexico, there are fewer of the cacti and other succulents. These genera range from: *Agave*, *Echinocereus*, *Escobaria*, *Mammillaria*, *Neobesseya*, *Pediocactus*, *Sclerocactus* and *Yucca*. These genera are mostly found in the Pinon, Juniper mountains or higher grasslands from elevations of 4,000 ft. to 10,000 ft. The rains in these areas can also come at any time of the year. Many of these plants are often under snow during the winter months. The temperatures are much cooler and vary from a -20F to a moderate high of 95F.

Some of the prize species found in New Mexico, mostly not endemic, include: *Echinocereus rigidissimus*, *triglochidiatus*, *viridiflorus*, *dasyacanthus* and *coccineus*, *Mammillaria denudata*, *heyderi*, *mieacantha* and *wrightii*, *Escobaria vivipara*, *sneedii*, *organensis*, and *missouriensis*, *Echinomastus intertextus*, *Pediocactus simpsonii* and *knowltonii*, *Sclerocactus wrightii*, *parvaflorus* and *papyracanthus*, *Agave neomexicana* and *parryi*, *Yucca elata*, *baileyi* and *baccata*.



Echinocereus viridiflorus Cedar Grove NM

Most of the New Mexican cacti and succulents make great garden plants but can also be very handsome potted specimens. Allowing these genera to have a cool to cold winter is advised. They generally flower and grow better after a winter dormancy. We will not see all the New Mexican species of cacti or succulents in this presentation but we will visit the great majority and the most impressive. Come travel me to the succulent territory of the beautiful and scenic state of New Mexico." —Woody

Join us via Zoom on Feb 13th [at this link!](#)

CSSA WEBINAR

Join the CSSA **Saturday, February 6th** at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world: **Elisabeth Sarnes: The Amazing North of Patagonia: A virtual journey through the province of Neuquén**

The province of Neuquén is Patagonia's smallest and northernmost province in Argentina. It is not only the Patagonia of lakes and the steppe of dinosaurs. Neuquén is also the Patagonia of volcanoes and it is the country of the Mapuche people. The variety of cacti is greater here than in the rest of Patagonia. The talk will give a portrait of the cacti of this region – and the genus *Austrocactus* will take the lead. You will see the great scenery, beautiful endemic flowers, and some of the animals too. Get surprised by the beauty of the smallest Patagonian province!



Biographies: Norbert and Elisabeth Sarnes, a German couple, started collecting cacti in 1977. Only in 2004, after a trip to Patagonia, they began to specialize on the genera *Austrocactus*, *Pterocactus* and *Maihueniopsis*. Many travels to Patagonia followed this first one and they made more than 50,000 km in that part of the world in search for cacti. As a result of these travels and their studies they published several articles in different journals, both German and international. Some of these publications were dedicated to first descriptions of new austrocacti and a *Pterocactus*. Their books "*Cactus de Patagonia*" and "*Austrocactus 2015*" were published in 2012 and 2015. At home in western Germany, they cultivate a collection of seed-grown Patagonian cacti on about 50 square meters. Norbert and Elisabeth are fellows of the DKG, BCSS, CSSA, Succulenta and the IOS. Between 2008 and 2017 Norbert was Vice-President of the German Cactus Association DKG, and Elisabeth is member of the ELK committee.

Pre-register for the meeting via Zoom [at this link](#)



Sansevieria kirkii coppertone
Pam Badger

UPCOMING SDCSS SPRING EVENT!

Mark your calendars!

Due to the success of the Winter Holiday Event, SDCSS will be holding the SDCSS SPRING EVENT from March 20-21st. Just like last time, participating members in-good-standing will be provided a complimentary voucher to redeem at a local vendor.

More news coming soon!

FIND US ONLINE

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/sdcss

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

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

WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

MEMBER SALE

RON CHISUM IS MOVING!

Garden Tour & Plant Sale at

11132 Arco Drive, Escondido
92026

February 19, 20, 21

From 8 AM to 4 PM

Please make a reservation:
only 4 cars per hour!

Email rachisum8@gmail.com or

Text 760-274-4154

with your request!

(Payment by cash, Venmo
or PayPal)



Tina Zucker

FEBRUARY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

“When I think back on the adventure filled trips I have made to Chile, three in total thus far, I can’t help but marvel at the unexpected surprises that have befallen me in this lovely South American country. My meandering memories are not unlike the path to see one of my most beloved and admired cactus

COPIAPOA KRAINZIANA

By KELLY GRIFFIN

Copiapoa Krainziana in
habitat

Kelly Griffin

One surprise that is perhaps obvious is that the seasons in Chile are flipped if you live in the northern hemisphere. I remember at the end of the my first Chile trip going skiing in the Andes Mountains above Santiago. It was on July 4th but essentially mid-winter there. It is a strange concept to board a plane and get jet lagged flying half way around the world because of the time change. Although the time change is only two hours from San Diego to Santiago, it is another thing entirely to flop two seasons in a plane ride!

On this first trip to Chile nearly two decades ago, I was fortunate to be a bit of a tag along with two lifetime members of our SDCSS group: Tom Knapik and Woody Minnich. It was a very cactus centric adventure to be certain. I really obtained a wonderful lasting impression of the northern dry coast of this incredibly beautiful country. We saw nearly every known species of *Copiapoa* minus any “new” ones. I say “new” ones in that some are just superfluous names or splitting going on ~ this of course slips the slope of getting into lumpers vs splitter arguments but I digress.



C. krainziana habitat

Kelly Griffin

On the second trip a decade and a half later, I traveled with my wife and often leaned-upon travel companion Denise. We made a well choreographed trip to hit the highs of my previous trip along with some other adventures like Island hopping to see penguins and a visit to the place of the infamous San Jose mine. This is the site of the disastrous collapse that became such fantastic a survival story (and a subsequent Movie) with a good ending as everyone made it out alive.

This trip just by happenstance was made at perhaps the most perfect time. It was in the very first part of November in 2017 which is springtime in the Atacama desert. The Atacama is typically a very, very dry place ~ in fact the driest desert in the world. In most of the areas that plants grow here they are tied closely to the ocean where fogs are frequent yet just a few miles inland nearly all plant life disappears. This particular year there had been some good rains and there were flowers everywhere. Nearly every plant I observed was looking at its best and to find flowers one only had to look in any direction.



Rhodophiala, a Chilean Amaryllis

Kelly Griffin

Most of the species of the cactus genus of *Copiapoa* are fairly easy to see once you are in their general neighborhood. That is to say, they can be readily seen from the road or on dirt tracks that run along the coast of northern Chile. We sometimes refer to this as road kill. You can even play “closest to the car” and the cheat could be that you drive right over one. Hopefully not. The somewhat iconic *Copiapoa dealabata*, *cinerea*, *hasseltianiana* come to mind and you would have to close your eyes for some time not to see them from the car. The exceptions to that are the little ones like *Copiapoa laui* and *tenuissima* that are very cryptic, and then of course *Copiapoa krainziana*.

C. krainziana grows in the not so easily accessible foothills below Mount Paralis and just north of the town of Taltal in northern Chile.



C. krainziana

Kelly Griffin

We wanted to take the road to the San Bartolo mine to get us close to *Copiapoa krainziana* or, as I call them, "cactus snowballs". The plants grow at 1,400 feet and grow in several places in the mountains, but unlike many other nice *copiapoas*, they require some knowledge and effort to get to them. The walk up San Ramón Quebrada to see them starts near sea level. I recall this hike on my first trip was not a terrible one but it did seem quite long, perhaps some five miles up and of course as it goes the same back unless you get lost. This can seem even longer if you don't find what you are looking for! A number of acquaintances have made the San Ramon hike and many of them have come up empty because they either did not go far enough or took the wrong fork up the dry riverbed.

This time out we were going to try to climb up over the mountain from the mine and thus not only get higher but also see what other plants could be viewed going a different route. We drove up the old abandoned mine road, and when we got to the first sketchy place, we stopped to look at the track ahead and have a look at the

very pretty *Copiapoa cinerea* growing on the black-burgundy volcanic substrate on the downhill side of the road. Denise opted perhaps wisely to walk the sketchy part of the road and I did my best to not get stuck or worse! The road leveled off and was not the best but certainly no worse than any other old abandoned dirt mountain track. We drove all the way to the mine and then backtracked a short distance to the hairpin closest to where I thought we could get to the cacti. We were at close to 1,000 feet elevation. If we could have hiked as the crow flies, it meant we only had to gain another 400 feet, but that reasoning made the assumption that we knew where the plants were and that there were no large mountains or deep valleys between our location and that of the plants.

Of course no such luck, there were both, but as we came to the second saddle, we could see a trail, perhaps man or animal but most likely Guanaco. It was walkable, and we followed it to the north. We had a great view from this vantage point. Denise said, "I hope they aren't down there," and as we looked down, I could see what looked like white blobs in the ravine below. I said, "Pretty sure that's them." I got out the binoculars and confirmed it was large clumps of *C. krainziana*. We decided to scramble down the scree slope, as it seemed the easiest way. Perhaps it was but it was not at all easy. As we neared the bottom, with the struggle mostly behind us and no bones broken, we came upon certainly one of the most beautiful plants I have ever seen: CACTUS SNOWBALLS! There were many plants and they were quite variable in spination, form and size. Some had many spines and some had fewer. The spines were very glassine, which had the effect of making the plants sparkle in the mid afternoon sun. I noticed several different-looking plants that seemed to have characteristics of the other nearby species, *C. cinerea* and *C. tenabrosa* that were clearly hybrids with *C. krainziana*.



Smaller form of *C. krainziana* with thick spines

Kelly Griffin

Kelly and *Copiapoa* in habitat

Kelly Griffin

We absorbed as much of the beauty as we could before saying goodbye. Going back up, we decided to take the ridge. It was more work but much less slippery than the loose scree shale rock we had descended on the way down and for the sure footing we were grateful. On hard hikes, I think that finding the plants you are seeking buoys you up as well. We were photographing *C. krainziana* plants at 1 p.m. and returned to the truck by 2:30, so it was not a terrible hike back considering that I had stopped to photograph many other plants on the return trek.

In total, it took us an hour for an off road/four wheel bouncy drive, a two hour hike, an hour spent with the plants and an hour and half return. That makes for a pretty full day! We finished the day with a stroll on the beach and a Pisco Sour at a little Greek restaurant in Taltal. Chile is a beautiful place and *Copiapoa krainziana* in the wild was a delightful surprise that far exceeded any preconceptions.

Additional reading links to Kelly and Denise's Chilean adventures:

<https://altmanplants.com/chile-copiapoa-cactus-travel/>

<https://altmanplants.com/chile-copiapoa-cactus-travel-part-2/>

KELLY GRIFFIN

*More photos on
the next page!*



In this photo *Copiapoa cinerea* can be seen in the foreground. The *C. krainziana* are at the bottom of the ravine across the dry river bed on the hillside in the center of this photo.

Kelly Griffin



Copiapoa krainziana

Kelly Griffin



Another local resident, *Alstromeria* (Peruvian Lily)

Kelly Griffin



Copiapoa krainziana flower close-up

Kelly Griffin



Tropaeolum tricolor (Chilean Nasturtium)

Kelly Griffin



Another lovely specimen of *C. krainziana*

Kelly Griffin



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



Aloiaampelos striatulata in full glory

Whitney Meier



Member John O'Brien wanted to share "the latest free issue of "The Cactus Explorers." Amongst other things it has links to other cactus and succulent free online journals." Find it [at this link here!](#)



Aloe humilis (Hedgehog Aloe, Krimpvarkieaalwyn)

Although this species is very variable, it is easy to recognize (*Aloe longistyla* is somewhat similar, but usually grows as a single plant). The distribution area stretches from Mossel Bay to Graaff-Reinet and Somerset West, and the plants are most abundant in rocky loamy soils under shrubs. Plants from the Eastern Cape (pics 5-7) are less robust

A website recommendation from John O'Brien! Maybe some of you might like to take a look too.

"Hi, this is a marvelous simple blog from a South African gentleman: <https://enjoysucculents.com/> "

JANUARY 2021 VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to submit photos of their best plants to the February Brag Table, judged by guest judge Don Hunt!

Our participants included:

35 specimens: 12 cactus, 23 succulents

18 members

We are also debuting DOUBLE (or more!) NOVICE WINNERS in the novice categories to encourage newbies to submit now and in the future!

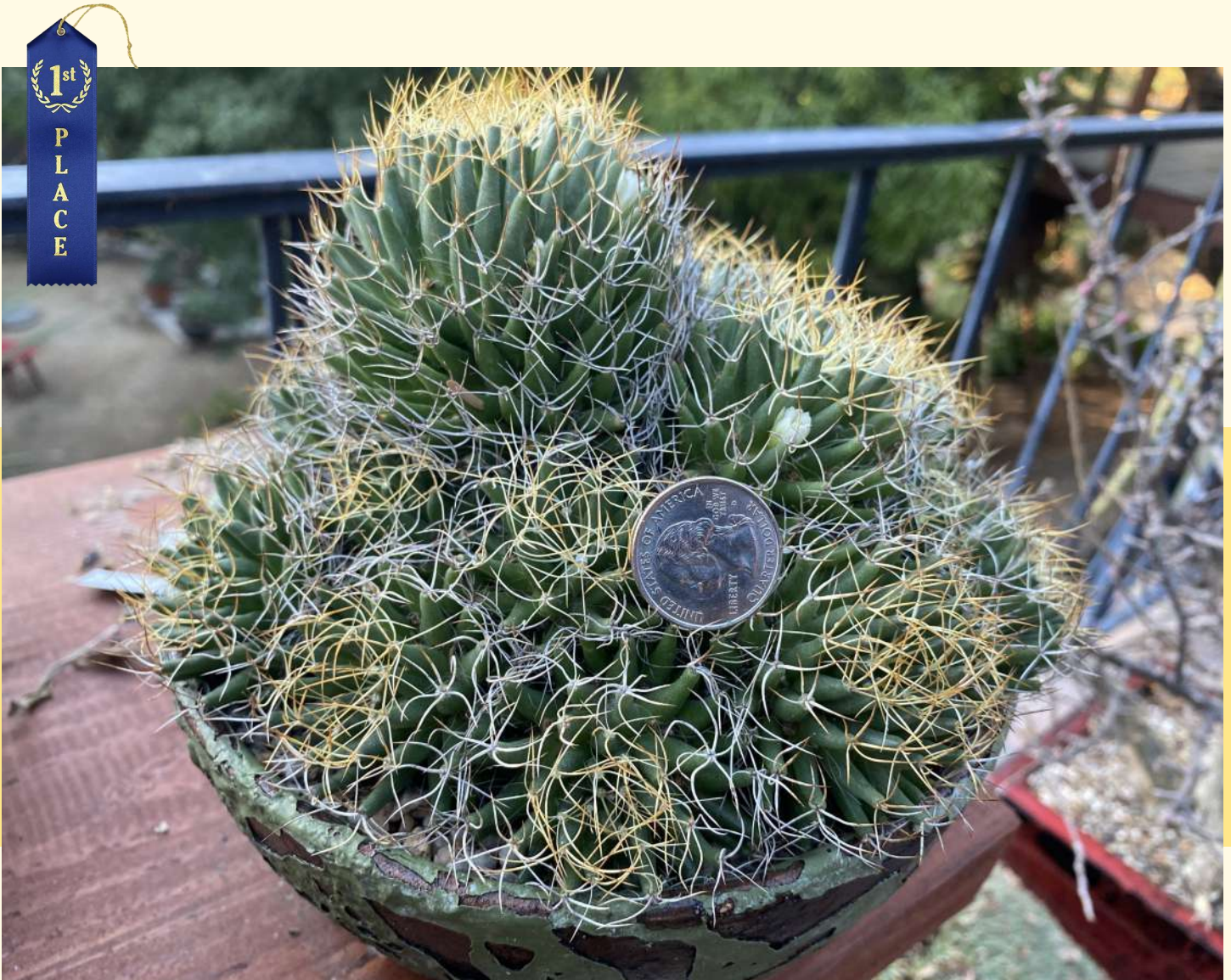
Congrats to the winners, thank you to all of the members who submitted, and we can't wait to see you next month!

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 **Feb 20th, 2021**.

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

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



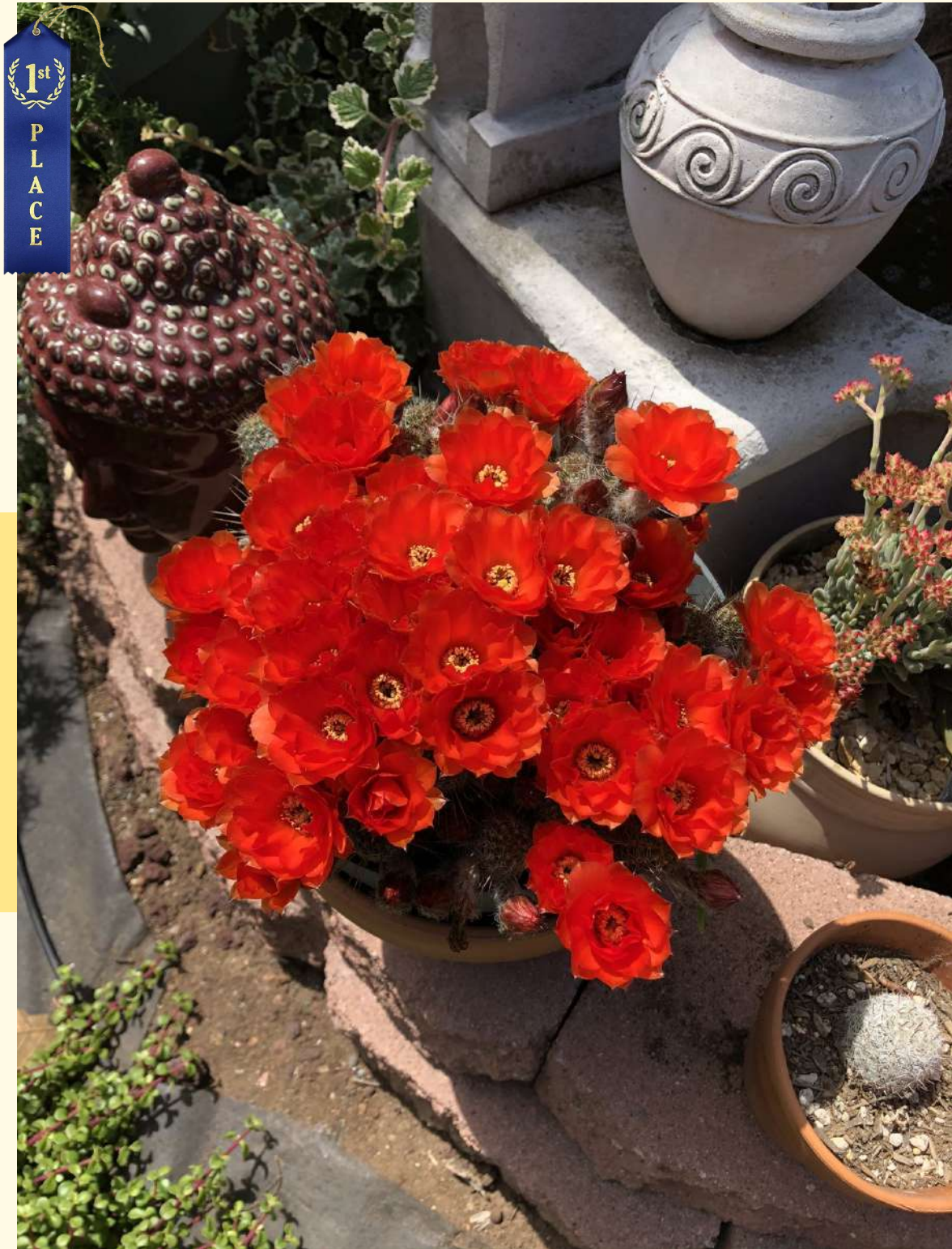
1st: *Mammillaria camptotricha*

Allan Kosup

"Beautiful happy plant."

-Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



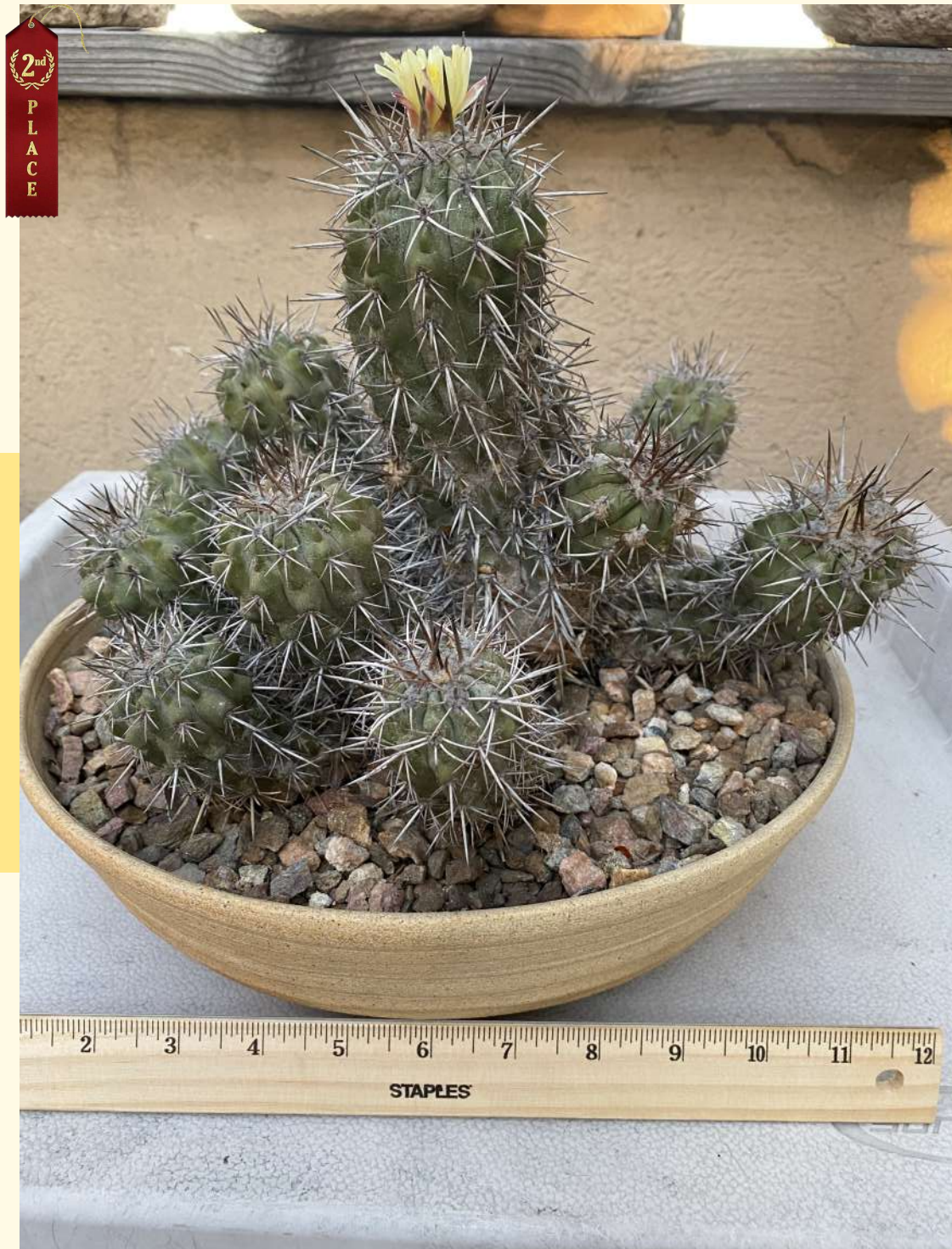
1st: *Mammillaria* sp

Lila Wagar

"I like Echinocereus for the spines, but the flowers are good too." -Don

(note: plant ID was corrected to Mammillaria after judging) -ed.

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS

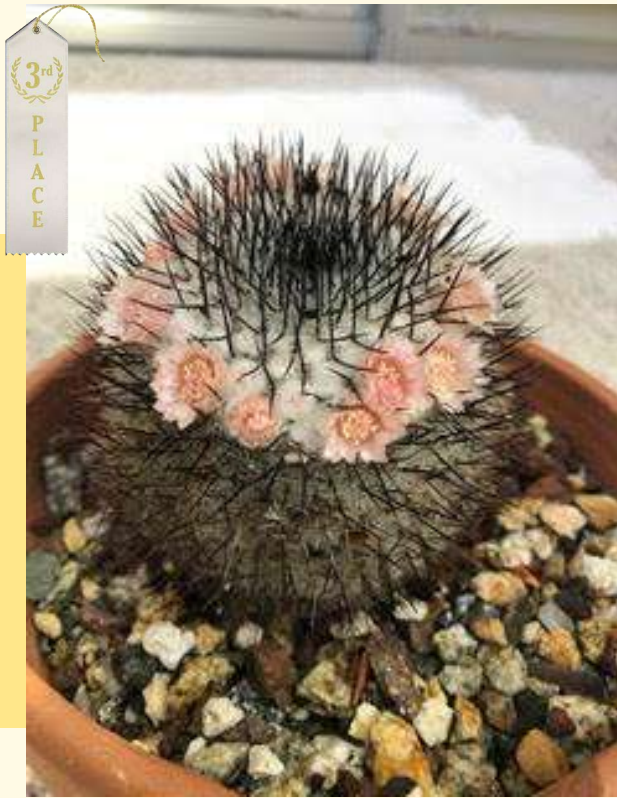


2nd: *Cylindropuntia solaris*

Ruth Contino

"Excellent plant, so slow. Nice form." -Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



3rd: *Mammillaria* spp

Linda Stewart

"I really like this cactus with the black straight spines and the ring of pink flowers. If I knew for sure what it was, I'd look to add it to my collection."

-Don



3rd: *Mammillaria longimamma*

Eileen Mandell

"Really like the total presentation. arrangement."

-Don

Nice



3rd: *Melocactus matanzanus*

Eileen Mandell

"Just starting the cephalum."

-Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Cephalocereus senilis*

"Very nice plant. Not a fan of the pot, would be great with staging."

-Don



Antonina Langansan



2nd: *Cereus peruvianus monstrose*

Norb Roden

"What nice form.
This plant will look better and better." -Don



3rd: *Cereus forbesii monstrose*

Norb Roden

"Good specimen, give it some time." -Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Ariocarpus confusus*

Mike Burkhardt

"Maybe a novice grower,
but not a novice plant. Time
to move up."

-Don



FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



2nd: *Gymnocalycium saglionis*

Pam Badger

"Clean Gymnos are not normal."

-Don



3rd: *Opuntia sulfurea*

Pam Badger

"Grow this plant hard or it will get crazy fat for an opuntia."

-Don



Turbinicarpus schwarzii v. *rubriflorus*

Mike Burkhardt

"Large clean flowering example of a great small cactus."

-Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Dioscorea elephantipes*

Allan Kosup

"Such a strange plant, love it."

-Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT

2nd
PLACE



2nd: *Dioscorea elephantipes*
Eileen Mandell

"Good presentation of the vine." -Don

2nd
PLACE



2nd: *Aloe 'Pink Blush'*

Patti Nelson

"I like the aloe hybrids when presented like this." -Don

2nd
PLACE



2nd: *Epiphyllum anguliger*

Joan Herskowitz

"Almost in bloom, interesting foliage." -Don

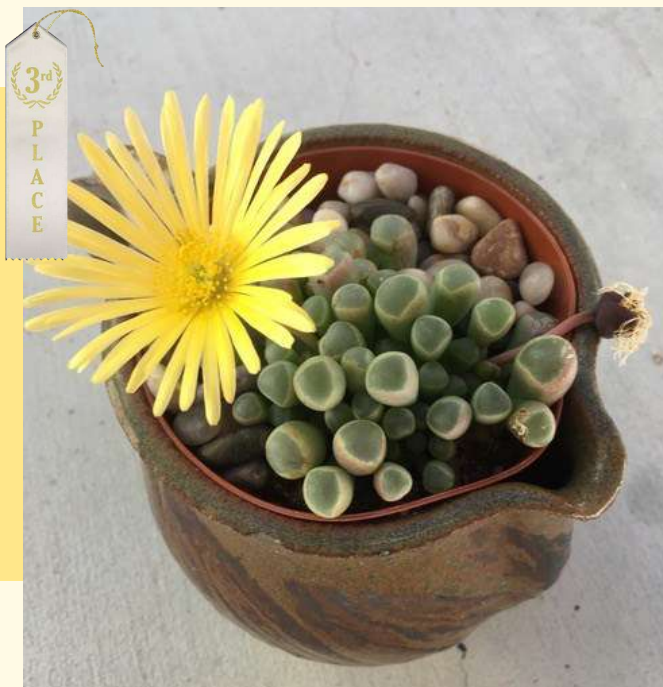
FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



3rd: *Fenestraria rhopalophylla*

Eileen Mandell

"Happy plant :)" -Don



3rd: *Fenestraria rhopalophylla*

Joan Herskowitz

"I see that plastic pot.
Acceptable presentation." -Don

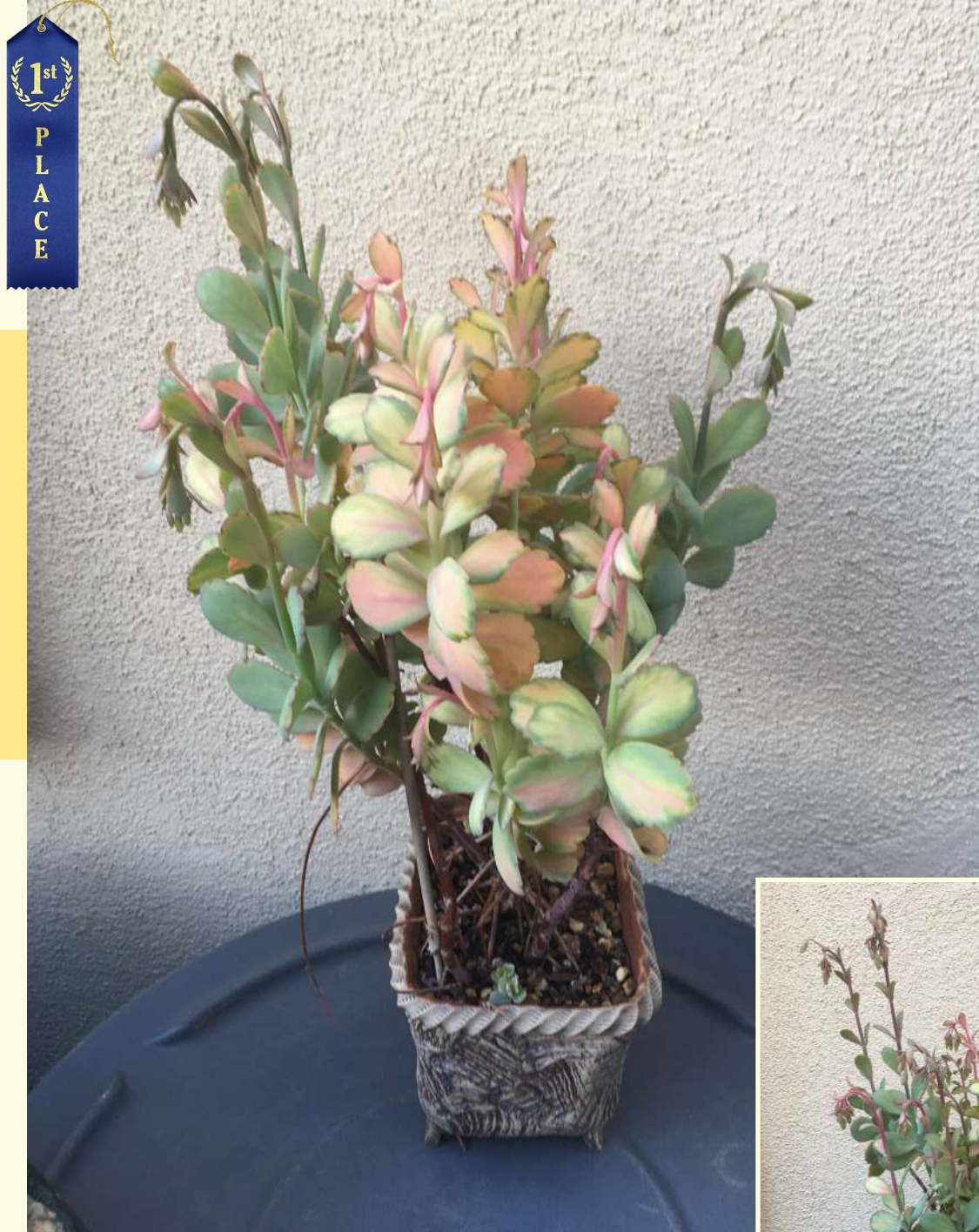


3rd: *Lithops marmorata*

athy Moser & Hector Perez

"This cono needs a new pot. Growing well
where it is though." -Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

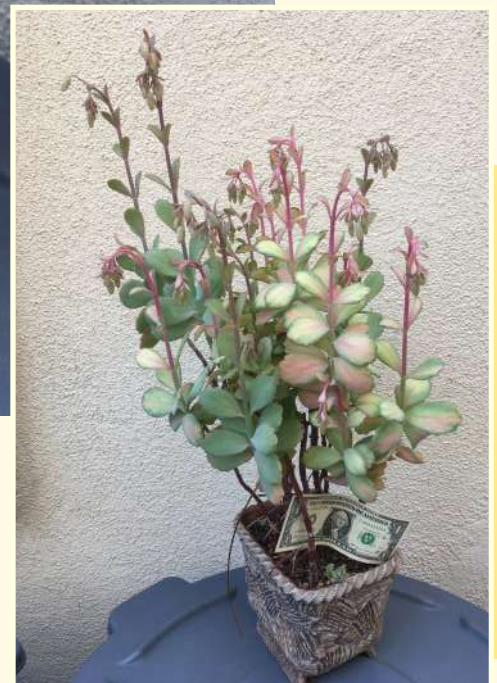


1st: *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* reverse variegation

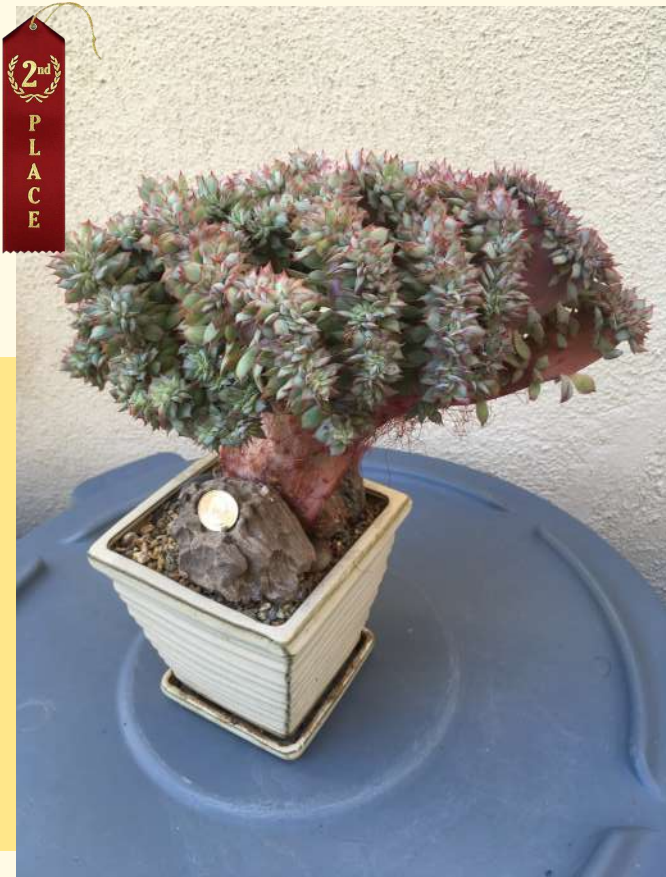
Pauline Wong

"Very pretty plant."

-Don



FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

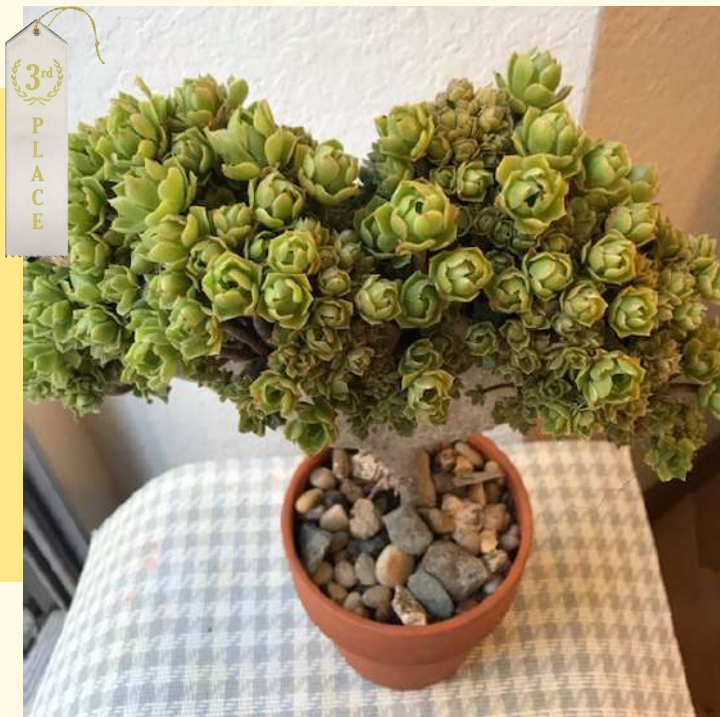


2nd: *Echeveria pulodonis* crested

Pauline Wong

"Nice form, very tight."

-Don



3rd: *Aeonium* with green flowers, crested

Antonina Lansangan

"So weird, so great."

-Don



FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



Aloe barbadensis 'Safari Rose'

Tom Biggart

"Kew book says barbadensis is *A. vera*, but this doesn't look right to me." -Don



Mestoklema tuberosum

Allen Clark

"Natural bonsai, always looks good." -Don



Euphorbia francoisii

Norb Roden

"Young plant, good start." -Don

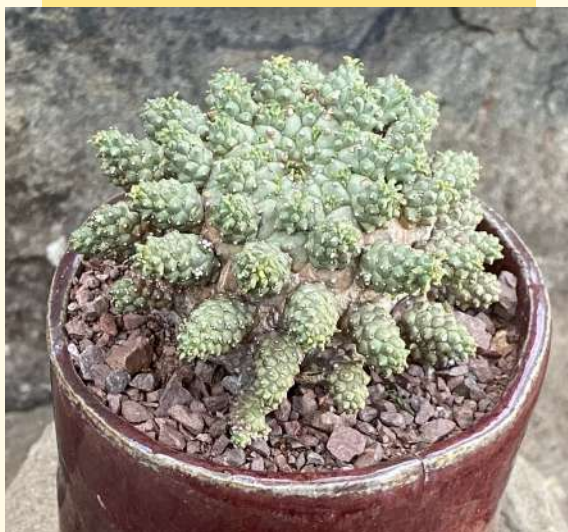


Tylecodon cactioides

Allen Clark

"Leaning into the sun." -Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Euphorbia atroviridis*

Mike Nelson



**"Always a big fan of medusas.
Excellent species form." -Don**

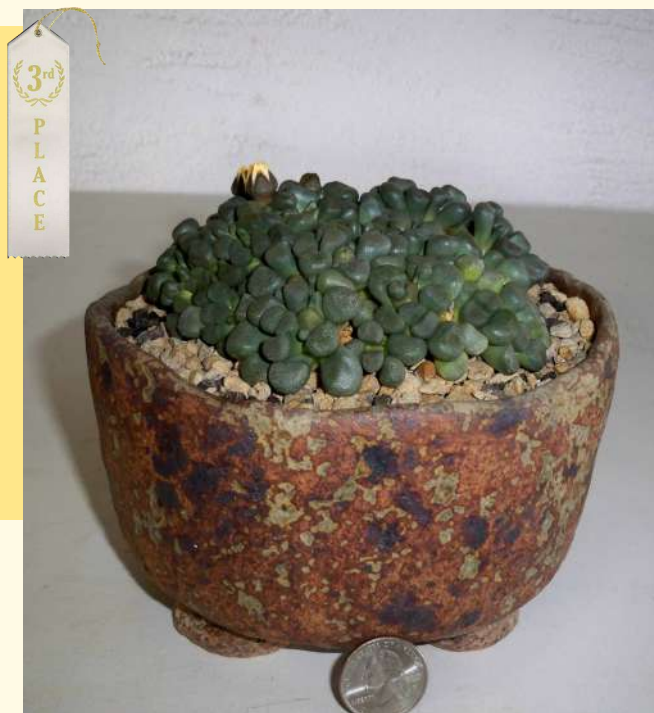
FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd: *Massonia depressa*

Candy Garner

"I like the genera,
I need one I think." -Don



3rd: *Aloinopsis schooneesii*

Mike Burkhardt

"Perfect presentation. I need one now." -Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



Caralluma russeliana (not judged)

Don Hunt

"Dishonorable mention for stinking up my grow for 2 weeks. Floral ball a full 3 inches in diameter."

-Don



Sansevieria patens

Pam Badger

"From the immortal Sansevieria group. Green swords and spears." -Don

FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



Marlothistella uniondelensis

Candy Garner

"Nicely grown, needs full sun and has a large underground rootstock." -Don



Euphorbia francoisii

Pam Badger

"So variable. Every collection needs a francoisii or several." -Don



Euphorbia clavigera

Mike Burkhardt

"Nice caudex. Presentation?"

-Don