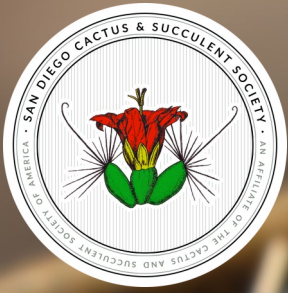


VOLUME 55 • NUMBER 6 • JUNE 2020



ESPINAS Y FLORES

VIVACIOUS VARIEGATES

MEMBER PHOTOS • CLUB HISTORY: BOB TAYLOR
JUNE'S BRAG TABLE RESULTS • MAIL ORDER TIPS

...and much more!

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

**ON THE COVER**Variegated *Haworthia*

Photo by Don Hunt

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SDCSS SCHEDULE UPDATESJune 6-7th SDCSS Summer Show & Sale: **CANCELLED**June 13th 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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all for the submission of your pictures, articles and thoughts for our last newsletter. It was tremendous. We will continue this theme of virtual meetings, presentations, and sharing until we get through this.

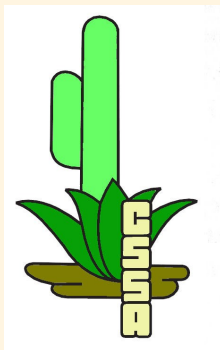


We are taking a two-fold look at this quarantine. On the short term, we are seeing that there is a trend towards more gardening, less pollution, less crime, more online social interaction, and more online purchases. But what about the long term impact on these trends, and how our club will emerge? In the meantime, our cactus are very happy, and happily moving along without a care (and not so much thought) for the future.

We value your input on how we operate long term. Please reach out to us and your board on your thoughts. Also keep the pictures, articles, and notes coming. I want to especially thank Der-shing and May Fong for handling the extra large newsletter and digital aspects of the newsletter, as well as thank our entire board too for handling the other aspects of the club during this odd time.

Jim and Mary

CSSA WEBINARS



Join us Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 a.m. PDT for the second of a series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Noted photographer, Irwin Lightstone, will present a program entitled, "Capture the MAGIC of the Plants You Love in Your Photography". The program will concentrate on the creative use of light and composition. Irwin will assist both the new photographer as well as the expert in giving their plant photography the little extra it needs.

The program will be 45 minutes followed by a short question and answer period.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7OB58miNRUyMKx7Ma1hbrg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar.

For additional information, visit the CSSA website:

<http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>

Best regards
Gunnar Eisel
CSSA Executive Director

FIND US ONLINE

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/sdcss

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

NEW!

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

WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

SUBMIT TO EyF!

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

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are currently accepting submissions for photos, articles, comments, and other materials of interest to the club from current members of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

Submit photos (via Google account):

<https://forms.gle/jZTGimgXHATrYFa67>

Submit articles, questions, or comments:

<https://forms.gle/ZqmKTGfz4UqQjJqE6>

or email the editor directly at:

eyf.editor@gmail.com

JUNE'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

VIVACIOUS VARIEGATES



the
undeniable
charm of
variegated
succulents

Haworthia cymbiformis
f. *variegata*
by Chuck Ramey

*Euphorbia mammillaris f. variegata*

Wendell Perkins

*Agave "Cream Spike"*

Olga Batalov

VARIEGATED SUCCULENTS

As lovers of succulent plants, including cacti, we already tend towards the odd, unusual, and freaky. Variegated succulents are thus highly sought after by many of us collectors.

Variegation simply refers to color changes in leaf, stem, flowers, and even seeds, from the normal. The changes in color indicate a lack, or modification, of the chlorophyll in the plant. The most common variegations are white (a total lack of chlorophyll) and pink/red, as well as shades of green, blue and yellow.

Variegation can be either natural genetics, caused by a virus, or by the manipulation of genetics by humans. Variegated plants tend to be a bit more

sensitive to light, temperature, and water variations. Plants need chlorophyll to live and protects them from sun- so we need to balance getting enough light without burning the plant. Bright, indirect light is what will keep your variegated plants healthy and colorful.

They also tend to grow slower so be cautious with watering. If your beautiful variegated plant starts to go green on you—give it more light and less water. Cut off the green parts as of they will take over the beautiful variegation you want. I hope you enjoy the wide variety of variegated plants shared by our members!

Pam Badger

*Aeonium cv. "Starburst" variegated*

Pam Badger

more on the next page...



Glottiphyllum longum 'Yellow Fever'

Chuck Ramey



Euphorbia milii hybrid w/variegated flowers

Pat Badger



Euphorbia ammak variegata

Pam Badger



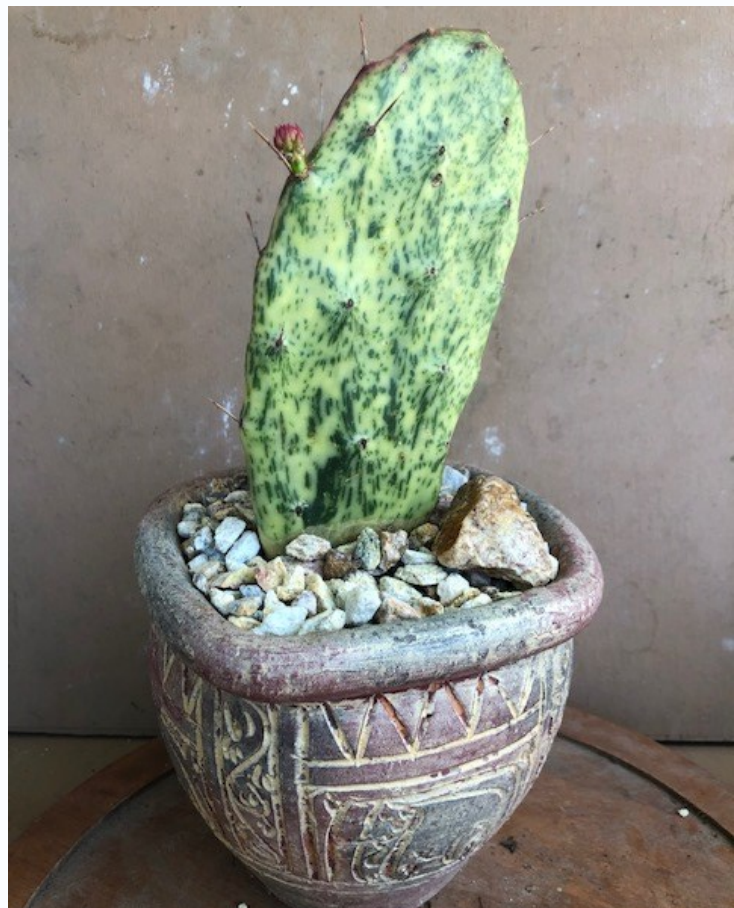
Dorstenia foetida variegata

Der-shing Helmer



Huernia zebrina variegata

Chuck Ramey



Opuntia sp. variegata

Sherman Blench



Yucca sp. variegated

Julie Kort



Ferrocactus sp. variegated

Brian DeGeer



Crassula ovata variegata

Pam Badger



Agave 'Kisshou-Kan'

Megan Escalona & Dean Karras

Next month's Plant of the Month theme: **Monstrose!**

We're looking forward to sharing your photos in July (see page 3 for instructions on how to submit)

DISPATCHES FROM CHRIS MILLER

WHAT'S ON MY POTTING BENCH?

For most of us, we have a table or bench that we pot up our plants on. Your bench should be big enough to meet your needs, but not too big, since you will just fill it up with more stuff. Mine was an old lab table that I got when it was being thrown out of a classroom where my husband worked. It is a metal frame that we put a piece of wood on top of and then tiled so water wasn't an issue. It is the right height so I don't have to bend over to work. I have milk crates on the back edge for storage. This is either good or bad because I am always finding things I forgot I had when I'm looking for something else. The milk crates help keep things within reach but off the flat surface. I also have a three drawer plastic set of drawers under the table. Also I went to Harbor Freight and bought some floor pads so I don't kill my back standing on cement. And always have a bucket for plant waste ready to drop stuff in. The main thing is you need to create a space just for your potting.

In the crates I store top dressing for show plants, staging rocks, small tools, different sized pots, chemicals I use at the bench, and any old weird thing I find (and that's a lot). On the bench top I have a bin of potting soil, a small bucket of rocks I use for top dressing for sale plants, an empty bin that I pull apart plants in as I remove them from the pot, and usually some plants that are bare root or cuttings that I am getting ready to pot up.

My tools are many. There are scoops, tweezers (large and small), and chop sticks for tamping down soil or holding up tall plants. Scissors for cutting screen for the bottom of pots, a knife for cutting apart plants that don't want to come apart, an old screw driver for helping a plant out of a pot, and a hammer for when the pot won't let go. A soft brush for sweeping dirt off of plants. Plant tags and a



Potting bench, featuring those handy milk crates

pencil for labeling. A small brush and dust pan for cleaning up.

There are special tools that help with transplanting cactus like large tweezers. If you are transplanting cactus regularly then you need something to hold the cactus with, like a rag or newspapers or a section of hose. Be ready with things that you can throw away since spines like to stay behind.

Some chemicals to have handy include alcohol and Q-tips, rose fertilizer (3 in1 or 2 in one) a systemic that can be used in small quantities if you suspect a problem, and a contact spray. Be sure to spray away from your bench.

There are many more things in the crates that seemed like a good idea at the time. Enjoy your potting bench. If nothing else, tell me something I missed.

Chris Miller



Parodia magnifica

Chris Miller

NOTES FROM SDCSS HISTORY

LIFE MEMBER: BOB TAYLOR



Bob Taylor

Bob Taylor was a long-time member of our club. He and his wife Suzanne had a nursery called Taylor's Cactus Gardens, located in El Cajon, CA. The Taylors traveled extensively to Mexico, particularly Baja, and became very knowledgeable about cactus

habitats. They had quite a collection of cacti and other succulents. Pam Badger called Bob the "Ambassador of Cacti" for his enthusiasm, knowledge of the plants and for his generosity in sharing his knowledge with others. He had been described as a warm, humble, quiet and generous man who became known for his grafting skills.

At age 22, Bob had worked on a pecan plantation in Florida. Some think that the "bark-bud" work Bob did on the pecan trees was a precursor to his grafting ability later on. In 1934, James Wells, the owner of the plantation, bought 43 acres in El Cajon, CA and Bob and Suzanne moved there with him. The 43 acres of land had orchards of oranges, avocados and lemons. Wells allowed Bob and Suzanne to use one acre for their cactus nursery. And when Wells died in 1958, he deeded to Bob the use of that acre for as long as Bob lived.

The Taylors became active members of the SDCSS and contributed in various ways. They provided many plants for the holiday parties, had the annual picnic at their place and shared their knowledge of the plants. In December 1972, they gathered a truckload of fruit, candy, clothes and other items that were donated by the SDCSS and Palomar clubs. They then brought these items to a school of 280 children ages 6-12 to El Rosario, Baja. These children were in need and these items were much appreciated. For their many contributions, they went on

to become Life Members of the SDCSS and the Palomar club, and were also members of the El Centro club and the California Cactus Grower's Association.

In their travels to Baja in 1950, they rediscovered a cactus hybrid called *Pachgerocereus orcutii* (pictured on the background of this page), which is a natural hybrid between *Bergerocactus emoryi* and *Pachycereus pringlei*. Bob found one of the 6 known hybrids after it had been rediscovered twice before after being "lost" for some number of years. He took cuttings, grew them and gave a plant to the Wild Animal Park for the Baja Garden in 1980.

For Bob's wonderful grafting skills, the SDCSS named one of the trophies at the shows in his honor for the "Best Grafted Plant." Bob also had a plant named after him in 1975 by Charles Glass and Robert Foster, the CSSA journal editors at the time. The plant was a new species and they named it, "*Mammillaria tayloriorum*" and said they did so because Bob was so knowledgeable, good natured and generous.

*Mammillaria tayloriorum*

In closing, here is some advice from the humble man himself on how to grow cactus well:

"Plant it and let it grow."

(Bob Taylor: 1904-2004)

Denise Huntsman

AFFILIATE NEWS: SAN DIEGO SAFARI PARK

BAJA GARDEN & OLD WORLD SUCCULENT GARDEN

The park has started to let us volunteers back in to work in the gardens under strict social distancing rules. What we saw were weeds, weeds, weeds, after 8 weeks of shutdown. We have work cut out for us. Luckily, the weather has been mild. Birds and wildlife have been re-claiming their space, uninhibited by people. Of course, there are plenty of roadrunners, mocking birds, and hummingbirds.



Mourning dove nest in a bowl of euphorbia, about 15' from visitor trail



Mandarin ducks checking out the Under Sea Garden (I thought they come in pairs!)



Barrel cactus in bloom (among weeds ;)

And a freaky creation from Mother Nature:



A variegated sport of *Aloe camperi variegata*



Dudleya decorating every barrel cactus

And, warm welcome to our newest volunteers – Cheryl & Rick Negus.

M. F. Ho & Sherman Blench

If you want to donate or volunteer, please email mayfongho@yahoo.com or text 760-233-3948. Photos and article by M.F. Ho/Sherman Blench with permission of the San Diego Zoo/Safari Park.

SDCSS MEMBER PHOTO SECTION

It's been another busy month of growing in our member's gardens! Enjoy this virtual stroll through our photo submissions for the month of June.



Andy



Orchid Cactus

Annette



Pat Bryan



Mammillaria spinosissima ssp pilcayensis

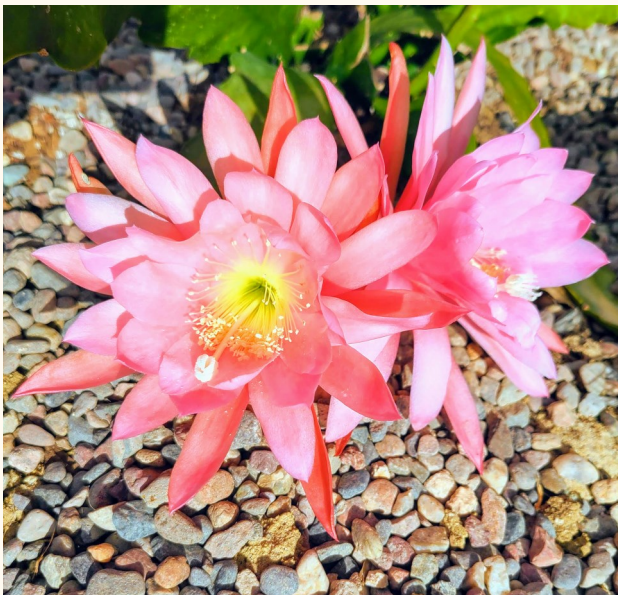
Olga Batalov

SDCSS MEMBER PHOTO SECTION



Echinopsis hybrids

Lee Talner



Epiphyllum flower

Matthew Dart



Rebutia canigueralli

Olga Batalov

SDCSS MEMBER PHOTO SECTION



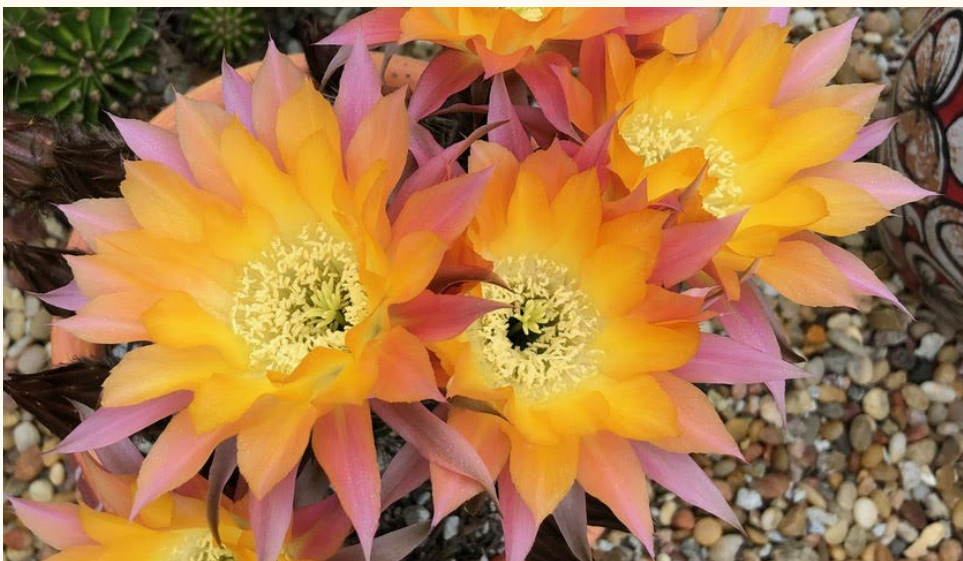
Agave ovatifolia

Christine Vargas



"Plantopia"

Matthew Dart



Echinopsis hybrids

Lee Talner

Would you like to
see your own garden,
flower, cacti and/or
succulent photo in the
next issue of the
newsletter?

**We'd love to
hear from you!**

See page 3 for
instructions on how to
submit your photos

PLANT TIPS FROM DON HUNT

BUYING PLANTS ON eBay

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society annual June extravaganza is canceled and you're despondent about not buying plants. Fear not, if you haven't ventured into the interwebs for your purchases, I have some advice. Buying on eBay is relatively painless and I'll show you what I know. First thing you need is a PayPal account. All the vendors prefer that form of payment.

Most of the offers on eBay are for that exact plant. This is the advantage over buying from most vendors on line. On a grower's website, he'll show an example of the plant, but not the exact plant you will get. An experienced grower will be able to draw a lot of information from the pictures. Usually, you will see at least 3 pictures.

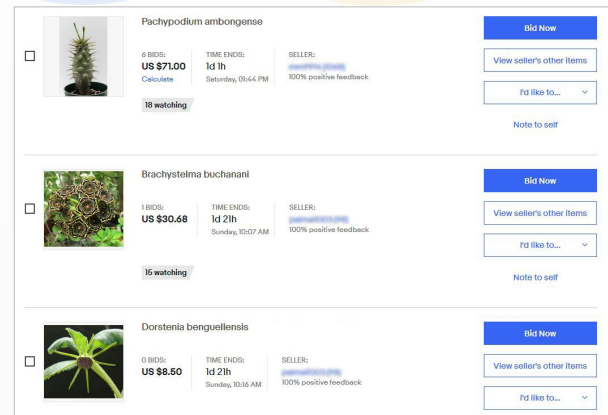


A typical listing with multiple photo angles of the plant

The best way to approach eBay, in my opinion, is to have a want list. You really can't scroll through every single offering. I find the search option to be very useful. Scroll down on the left hand side and select USA only to eliminate plants from Asia and Europe. Buying international is not for first timers. It could be the subject of another article, but not by me, as I have never done it. Super Buyer Beware.

When you find something of interest, make note of who the seller is, and what his positive rating is. This is really the key to buying on eBay. Every purchaser has the opportunity to rate the seller. Anything less than 5 stars will detract from the rating. Regular vendors will do most anything to avoid a negative rating. A vendor with over 1000 ratings is a serious vendor. eBay itself offers

remediation with vendors who don't live up to their promises. I find buying on eBay to be dependable.



A screenshot from your editor's watch list (ha ha)

When you find a plant that is really interesting, look at the vendor's other offerings. If you are impressed overall, save the vendor to your Saved Sellers list in My eBay. This makes it really easy to do a quick check once you have built a nice list of vendors.

The 2 big differences in sales offerings are buy it now and actual auctions. Buy it now is just that. Click and pay and you are done. Auctions on the other hand call for a strategy. In my experience, if you REALLY want the plant, you need to be on line in the last minutes. Decide the ultimate price you will pay and post it up in the last 30 seconds. If the bidding gets away, then just let it go.

The thing about on line and eBay is that you are competing with a huge market. A person in Kansas doesn't have the sources for plants that we do in So Cal. Face it, we are the heart of the cactus and succulent market. Some plants will sell for more on eBay than they would locally. I have scored some very hard to find plants from eBay and still check it regularly.

Shipping can be a major part of the cost. Vendors will save you some money on shipping if you buy multiple plants from them at the same time. I always try to get a second plant to cut the expense if I can.

Don Hunt

JUNE 2020 VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to submit
photos of their finest plants to the June
Virtual Brag Table for June, judged by
Kelly Griffin!

Our final tally:

46 specimens

17 cactus, 29 succulents

22 members

12 novice, 8 intermediate, 2 advanced

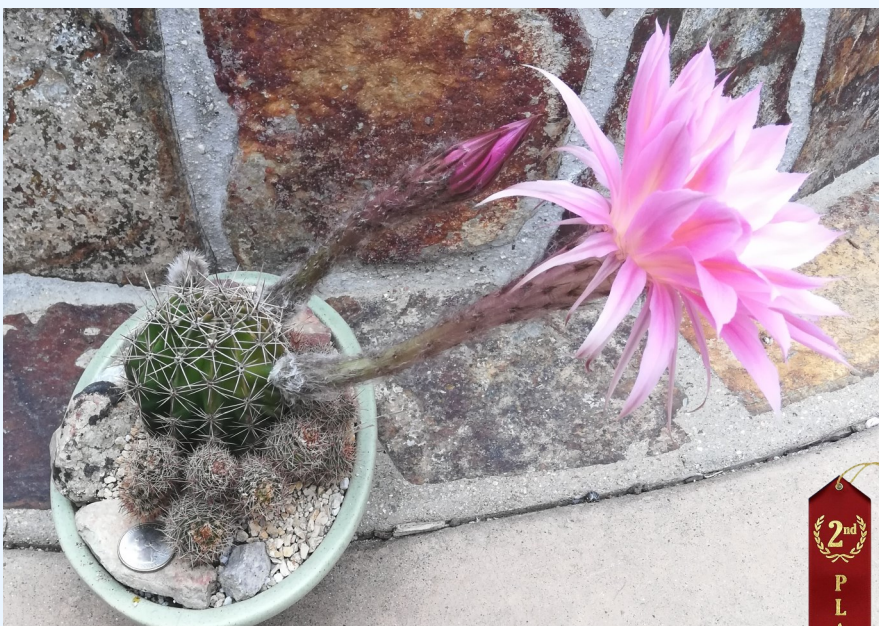
Congrats to the winners, thank you to all
of the members who submitted, and see
you next month!

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



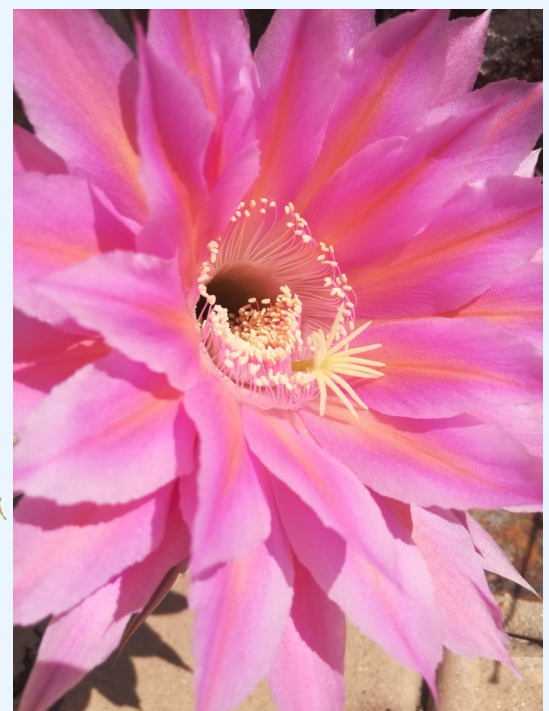
1st: *Schlumbergera gaertneri* (Easter Cactus)

Karl Almryde



2nd: *Echinobivia* x cv. 'Rainbow Bursts'

Olga Batalov



JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



3rd: Pinch pot *Gymnocactus*

Mary (Judi) Walden



Astrophytum capricorne var. *minor*

Whitney Meier



Echinopsis subdenudata 'Dominos'

Olga Batalov

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st
PLACE

1st: *Astrophytum ornatum*

Allen Clark



2nd
PLACE

2nd: Pipe Planter

Norb Roden



2nd
PLACE

2nd: *Parodia scopia*

Jennifer Harris

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



3rd: *Mammillaria spinosissima*

Chuck Ramey



3rd: *Oreocereus trollii*

Jennifer Harris



Gymnocalycium baldianum

Allen Clark

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



Mammillaria bocasana roseiflora

Chuck Ramey



Trichocereus hybrid 'Flying Saucer'

Norb Roden



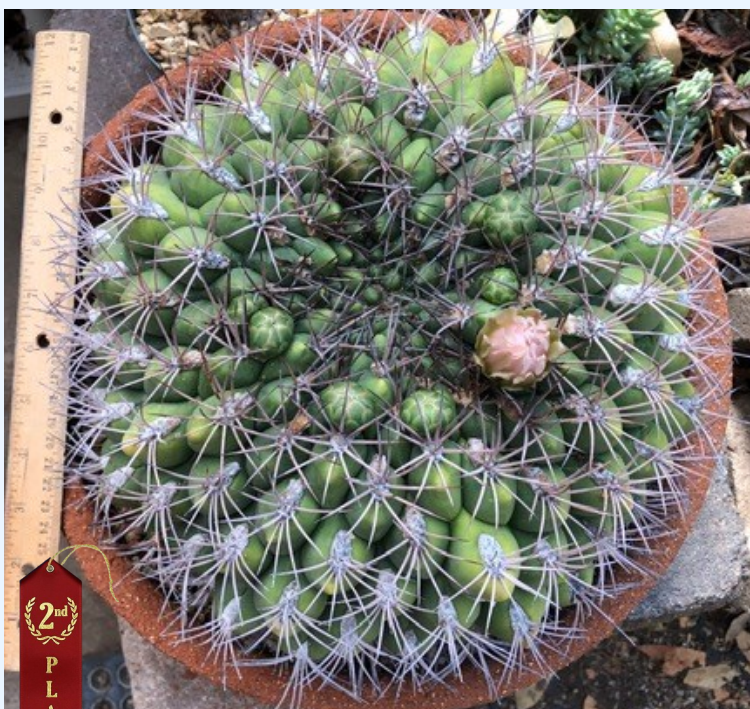
Gymnocalycium spegazzinii

Richard Ryan

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Astrophytum capricorne* Dean Karras & Megan Escalona



2nd: *Gymnocalycium saglionis*

Pam Badger



3rd: *Opuntia sulphurea*

Pam Badger

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Plectranthus Ernestii*

Joan Herskowitz



2nd: *Sansevieria ballyi* Anne-Marie (Nancy) Groves



3rd: *Fockea edulis*

Joan Herskowitz

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Sedum adolphii 'Firestorm'

Mary Tackett



Haworthia arachnoidea var. *setata*

Olga Batalov



Agave parviflora

Olga Batalov



Portulacaria afra f. *variegata*

Wendell Perkins



Aeonium arboreum 'Zwartkop'

Wendell Perkins

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



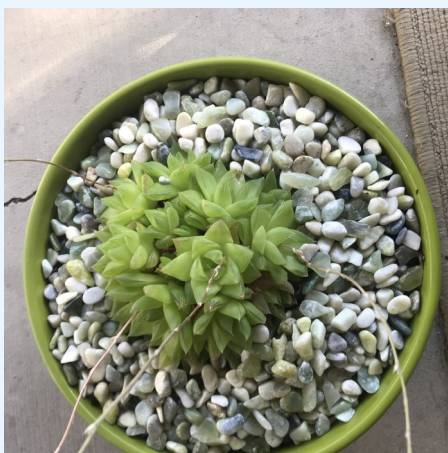
Haworthia fasciata

Mary (Judi) Walden



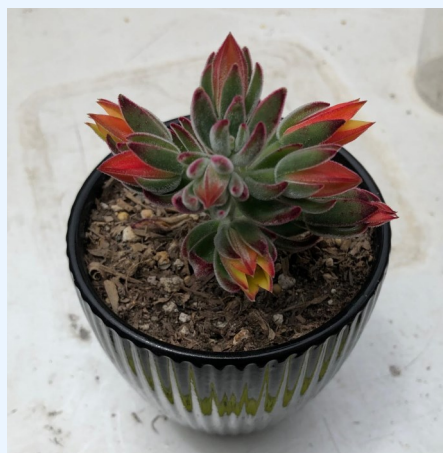
Andromischus triflorus & *Senecio stapeliformis*

Lee Talner



Haworthia cooperi

Karl Almryde



Echeveria pulvinata 'Ruby Blush'

Mike Perkins



Agave attenuata variegated

Norm & Linda Swanberg

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Stapelia asterias lucida

Whitney Meier



Haworthia fasciata

Anne-Marie (Nancy) Groves



Haworthia hybrid

Mary May



Gasteria hybrid

Mary May

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st
PLACE

1st: *Agave victoriae-reginae*



Christine Vargas



2nd
PLACE

2nd: *Parodia scopa*



3rd
PLACE

3rd: *Gasteria variegata*

Jennifer Harris

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



Agave victoriae-reginae

May Fong Ho



Ledebouria socialis variegata

Chuck Ramey



"Cemnosedum"

Chuck Ramey



Euphorbia mammillaris

Jennifer Harris



Aloe verde

Antonina Lansangan

JUNE BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Euphorbia milii* hybrid

Pam Badger



2nd: *Echeveria minima*

Dean Karras & Megan Escalona



3rd: *Dudleya greenei*

Dean Karras & Megan Escalona



Alluadia montagnacii

Pam Badger

Thank you for supporting your local nursery owners
during these unprecedented times!



Succulent Gardening by Tina

I hope you are all healthy and safe!

In lieu of our monthly meetings, I meet at
my home, one person at a time, with a mask.

We still have lots of plants for sale!
It's spring & everything is beautiful, so....

Please call me for an appointment
(858) 342-9781

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