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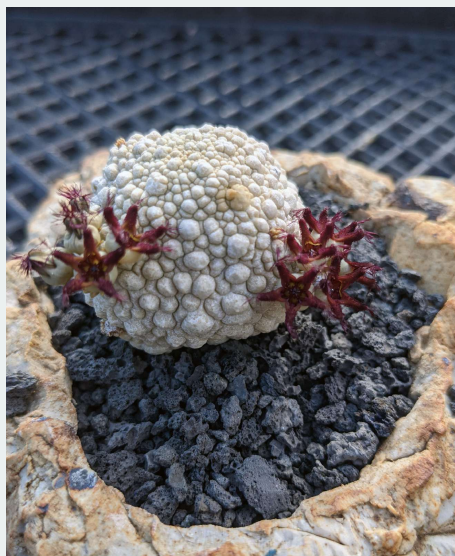
ESPINAS Y FLORES



join us soon for our
**SEPTEMBER PICNIC
IN THE PARK!**

SUCCULENT GARDENING in the GREAT WHITE NORTH
AUGUST'S 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

Pseudolithos harardheranus in flower,
grown by Tina Zucker

Photo by Jared Petker

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

September in-person meeting:

NONE THIS MONTH!

September Picnic in the Park:

SEPTEMBER 11TH

Upcoming events:

October in-person meeting

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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| Monthly Plant Sales | Jim DeForest & Melanie Howe |
| Monthly Supply Sales | Gerry Plaisted |

Benefit Drawing Table

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Programs | Allen Clark & Chuck Ramey |
| Reception | Kelly Griffin |
| Monthly Regalement | Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner |
| Picnic Regalement | Kathy Clark & Sandy Wetzel-Smith [open] |
| Coffee in the Garden Coordinators | Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey |

LIAISONS

| | |
|--|------------------|
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| SD Botanic Garden | Phyllis Flechsig |
| SD Botanic Foundation | [open] |
| SD Floral Association | Jeanette Dutton |
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! What a thrill it was to get together for a “Live” meeting on the 14th! It all went pretty smoothly considering how long it had been since we had met. There is a lot that goes into these meetings, though it was hard to notice as it went so well. Big kudos to Kelly and Denise on their run to the Apple Store to get tool needed for presentations! Our new “cash register guy,” Ken Brown and Lynn Elliot made the sales area work despite a few glitches. Our excellent Newsletter Editor, Der-shing Helmer, proved herself to also be a talented presenter with her talk on Succulent Dorstenias. Allen Clark (who could not attend) and Chuck Ramey put together an awesome Benefit Drawing table—it was fun to see new member Jodi Stygles Visosky, who I met during the shutdown, get the first draw! And all this capped off by the ever popular Brian Kemble and his presentation on “Coahuilla, A Trip to Northern Mexico.” Thanks to all who attended - great to see so many new (and old) members!



Next up is our annual picnic! It will be held at Kate Sessions Park in Pacific Beach. This will be lots of fun with catered food, a plant exchange, and lots of people to talk plants with. See details in this newsletter and sign up NOW!

Check out the Plant of the Month article this month from long time member, and the first to receive a “Life Membership,” Jeff Harris. Jeff moved to Canada many years ago, but still keeps up with us through our Facebook group page, and graciously agreed to write for us. Thanks Jeff!

Best wishes to all! Stay safe, see you soon!

Pam Badger

August 24, 2021

SHARE YOUR PASSION!

Have you ever read the *Espinas Y Flores* Newsletter ‘Plant of the Month’ article and thought - “I could do that!” Why participate by writing a piece for our **Plant of the Month** feature?

You don’t have to be an expert! Pick a genus or species that interests you, do a little research, find or take a few pictures and create an article to share with the club!

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 upcoming 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 ONLINE

FACEBOOK:

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SanDiegoCactus

INSTAGRAM:

#sdcss

WEBSITE:

www.sdcss.net

SDCSS SEPTEMBER PICNIC IN THE PARK!

**This September, join us at Kate Sessions Memorial Park
for the return of our yearly *Picnic in the Park*!**

Time: Saturday, September 11th from 10am-2pm

Place: Kate Sessions Memorial Park

5115 Soledad Rd, San Diego, CA 92109

Food: Leilani's Hawaiian Food Truck

Cost: just \$5 for members, \$15 for guests

Bring: yourself, blankets or other personal seating you prefer,
and up to 3 rooted plants to swap with your fellow members!

Enjoy some time outdoors with us! The club will be set up at 10am at a tabled area in Kate Sessions. We'll have a wonderful food truck lunch available for just \$5 (served from 11-1), and a plant swap starting at 1pm.

Sign up at the link below to reserve your spot.

Great food, great friends, and great plants... See you there!

Register online at this link, with the option
to purchase a lunch voucher online or in-person at the park:
<https://www.sdcss.net/september-2021-picnic-signup>



CSSA WEBINAR

Join the CSSA on Saturday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m. PDT for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Program: Dr Roy Earlé: A New Era of Lithops Information will focus on the important work the Lithops Foundation has done and is doing. This work has culminated in a new book, as well conservation projects intended to preserve and re-establish Lithops colonies in Namibia & South Africa.

Dr Roy Earlé, a professional ornithologist and veterinary surgeon, holds an exceptionally large Lithops collection in the UK, where he is resident. He spends several months every year in Namibia, his country of birth, as well as South Africa to study Lithops in habitat. As a founding member of the Lithops Research & Conservation Foundation, he is interested in the ecology of Lithops plants and, together with the other members of the Foundation, is involved in several research, conservation and resettlement programs of Lithops plants into their natural habitat, both in Namibia and South Africa.



He has published many scientific papers on southern African birds and mammals in addition to papers on Lithops and other succulent plants, mostly of Namibia, as well as a booklet on the Lithops of Namibia, along with Janice Round. Together with Andrew Young, he has recently completed a major study on the seeds of the genus Lithops which greatly contributed to stabilizing the classification of the genus Lithops.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Cutting purchased at club sale several years ago—
in full bloom, August 5 2021 **Michael Cullen**

SEPTEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

*Sedum takashimense* 'Atlantis'

Jeff Harris

SUCCULENT GARDENING IN THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

BY JEFF HARRIS

My word, time flies when you're shoveling snow - it's been nearly fifteen years since I've moved from San Diego to Kamloops, British Columbia Canada, and when *mi Presidente* Pam asked me to write an article on the challenges and joys of succulent gardening in the Great White North, I thought about it and figured 'Hey, I know at least something about that.' So, dear readers, bear with me while I ramble on about succulent in the Southern Interior. Speaking of bear, there was a black bear in the yard yesterday, but that's another story for another time (and almost a daily occurrence these days, as they're fattening up for their hibernation).

I used to think that I could maintain an collection inside and out, but a constant surfeit of cats (and a furnace failure) has gradually put paid to that idea. I still have a few indoor plants (they go outside in the summer) but for the majority, my succulents have been PIG'd (planted in ground). I've yet to discover the secret to wintering plants in pots, but maybe someday that nugget of wisdom will come to me. When I had my cold-sensitive plants outside benched outside, they've be visited and sampled by the aforementioned bear(s), deer, chipmunks, and Northern Flickers (among other birds), so as the decimation continued year after year, it

 SEPTEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

was a fairly easy decision to not have a large indoor collection but to focus on those plants that can not only live, but be fruitful and multiply in our semi-arid climate.

Kamloops generally has warm, sometimes hot summers, rarely above 35C / 95F, winters that can have cold snaps going down to -25C/-13F but usually closer to just plain freezing. This year, however, we had an extraordinary heat dome event in late June that saw temps of 46C / 115F, causing lots of problems (lots of cooked / sunburned plants, to cite a minor one). While we were on evacuation alert in July due to fires near us (seeming to become a normal summer event, especially in this summer of less-than-expected rainfall), we were very fortunate that we didn't actually have to leave, unlike many unfortunate people who did. That darned climate change again.

Anyway, to the plants! What do I grow? Sempervivums (as many as I can get my paws on), Sedums, cold-hardy Opuntias, and a few Yucca. Kamloops does have a native Opuntia (*O. fragilis*); this species and its forms seem to be one of the most wide-spread of Opuntia species in the northwest Canada and the U.S.. Its pretty yellow flowers herald the beginning of summer, but my two clumps of it haven't yet flowered. Still, like the Padres, wait 'til next year. The Yucca in the ground here (*Y. filamentosa*) are an attractive low-growing shrubbery, but I haven't yet been able to find the variegated form of it (I suppose I've been too busy looking for more Sempervivum). Ah, the Sempervivum - with more than 1,600 species / forms / varieities / cultivars / hybrids of them, I've a broad choice to make. They grow extremely well here, in almost any time of soil, though I generally amend the native soil with some Turface MVP and poultry grit for increased drainage. Like all the succulents in the yard, they cannot be planted too high off of the ground, as they need a covering of snow to insulate them from the freezing winds we get sometime (particularly in January, when the normal cold then becomes supplemented). Since we live on a hill, drainage usually isn't a problem, but old habits of 'if a little porosity is good, more is better' die with difficulty.



Opuntia fragilis, Cinnamon Ridge

Jason Foster

Cold-hardy Sedums are also a particular favourite of mine, and more and more of them are being introduced each year by nurseries which are specifically breeding them for the xeric, cold-hardy market. The deciduous ones are a particular happiness for me, as you can see their bare twiggy stems in March, poking out of the last remnants of snow, only to turn around in April and see the promise of spring demonstrated by the emerging leaves on those stems. Leaf form and growth habit, just like their non-cold-hardy relatives, are fun to observe, along with the flowers, of course. As well, their growth here seems unimpeded by benign neglect, although I do fertilize them from time to time. The 'Sunsparkler' line of Sedums do particularly well here.

SEPTEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

I try to keep my succulents together in beds/low-sitting rockeries, separate from the 15-year obsessions I've developed for lilacs and hawthorn trees, but I've pretty well run out of space (unless I want to take a chance and plant down slope, on Crown land. Maybe guerilla gardening is calling...). These are generally small plants to begin with, and many won't get large for many years (if at all), so while spacing isn't that much of a consideration, if I do get all of the *Sempervivums* (the tortures of a collector!), I shall have to consider inopportuning my neighbours into becoming a xeriscaping fanatic like myself.

Thank you so much, my Society friends, for allowing me this opportunity to yap about C&S gardening up here. I hope to see you soon, when the pandemic and time allows.

JEFF HARRIS

jharrisv2e113@gmail.com



Rhodiola (Sedum) pachyclados

Jeff Harris

AUGUST 2021 BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to bring their best plants to the return of our Classic Brag Table, judged by guest speaker Brian Kemble!

Our participants included:

26 specimens: 5 cactus, 21 succulents

9 members

Since we'll be skipping the September meeting for our a Picnic in the Park event, we will temporarily revert to the Virtual Brag Table for the month of September, with guest judge Tina Zucker!

Please submit your Virtual Brag Table plants by September 19th to the email eyf.editor@gmail.com with your plant info!

Info to include: your rank (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced), is plant Cactus or Succulent, scientific name of the plant, and up to 3 photos per plant. Maximum 2 plants per category.

Brag Table Classic will return for our normal October meeting!

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



1st: *Leuchtenbergia principis*

Jose Ramos



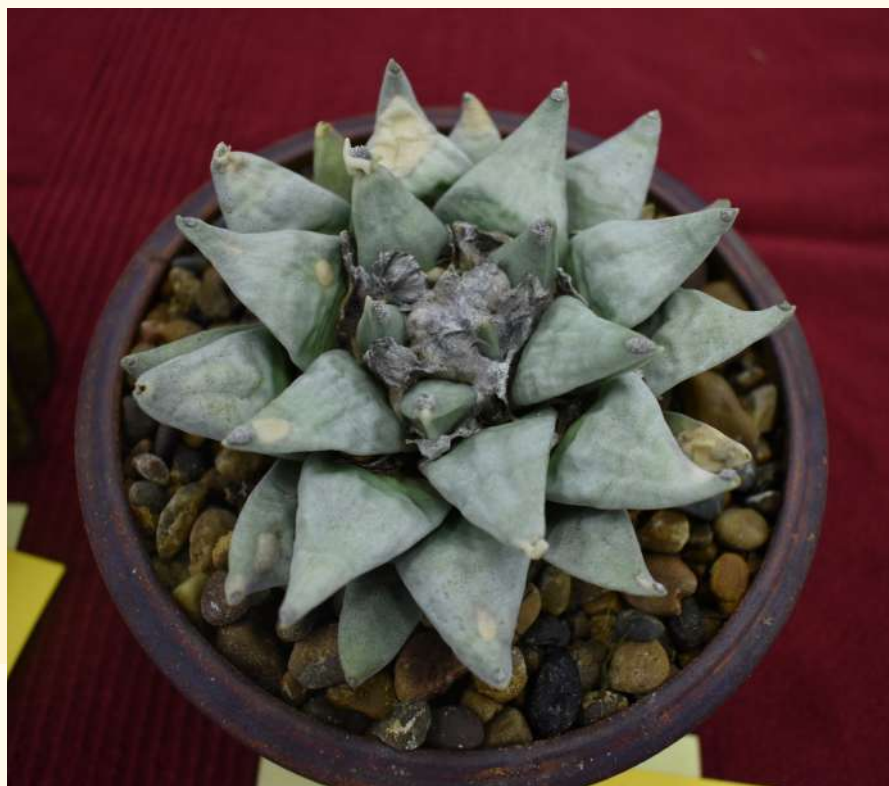
AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



2nd: *Mammillaria eichlamii*

Jose Ramos

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Ariocarpus retusus*

Bev Grant

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



2nd: *Copiopoia hypogaea*

Bev Grant

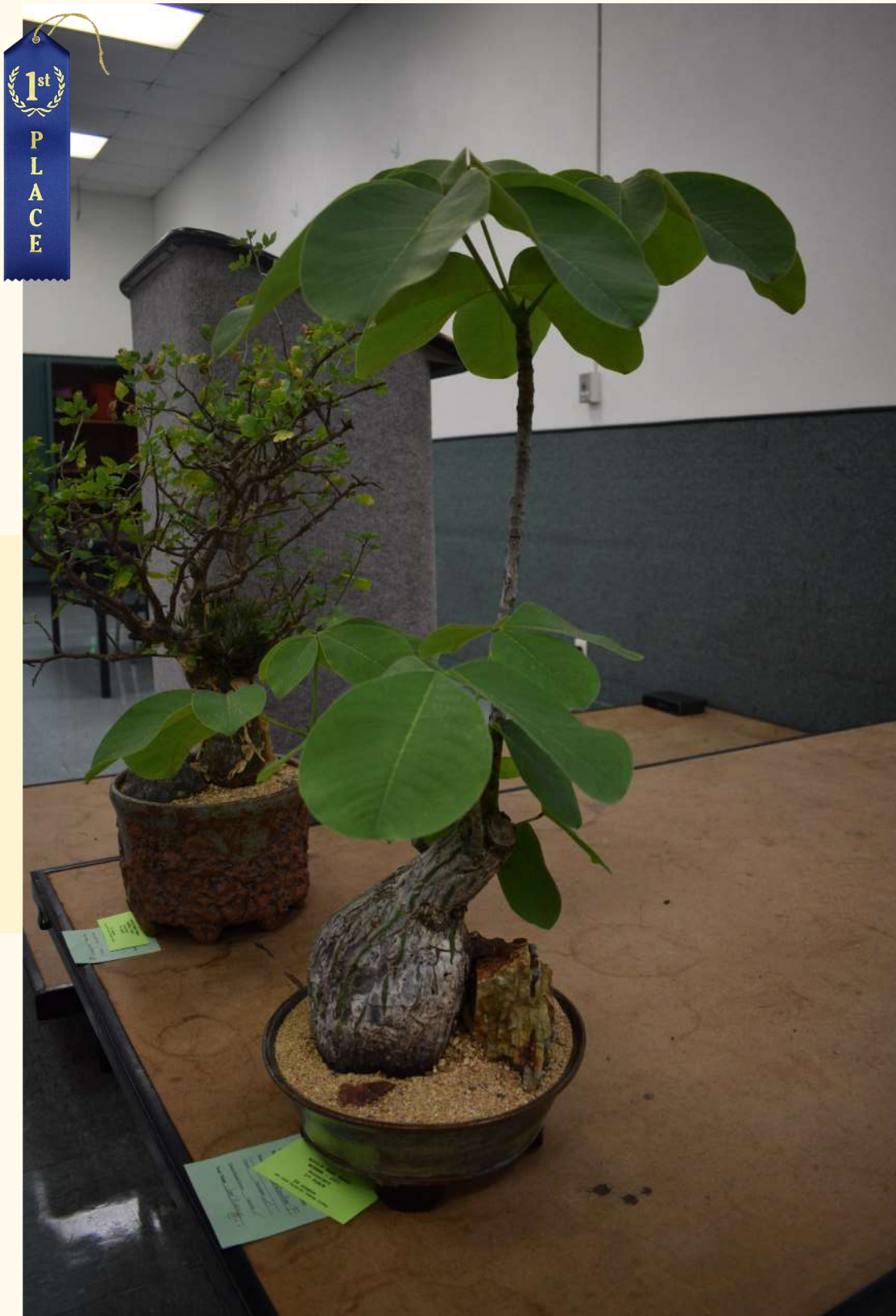
AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Astrophytum asterias*

Dean Karras

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Pseudobombax ellipticum*

Jose Ramos

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Fouquieria columnaris*

Jose Ramos

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



3rd: *Dorstenia gigas*
Jose Ramos



3rd: *Busera fagaroides*
Jose Ramos

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Euphorbia cylindrifolia var. *tuberifera*

Jose Ramos



Agave montana

Olga Batalov



Agave macroacantha 'Blue Ribbon'

Olga Batalov

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Cyphostemma juttae

Jose Ramos



Huernia schneideriana

Jodi Visosky



Haworthia regina

Ginger Steketee



Hoya multiflora

Ginger Steketee

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Crassula* 'Baby's Necklace'

Bev Grant

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Agave isthmensis* selection

Kelly Griffin

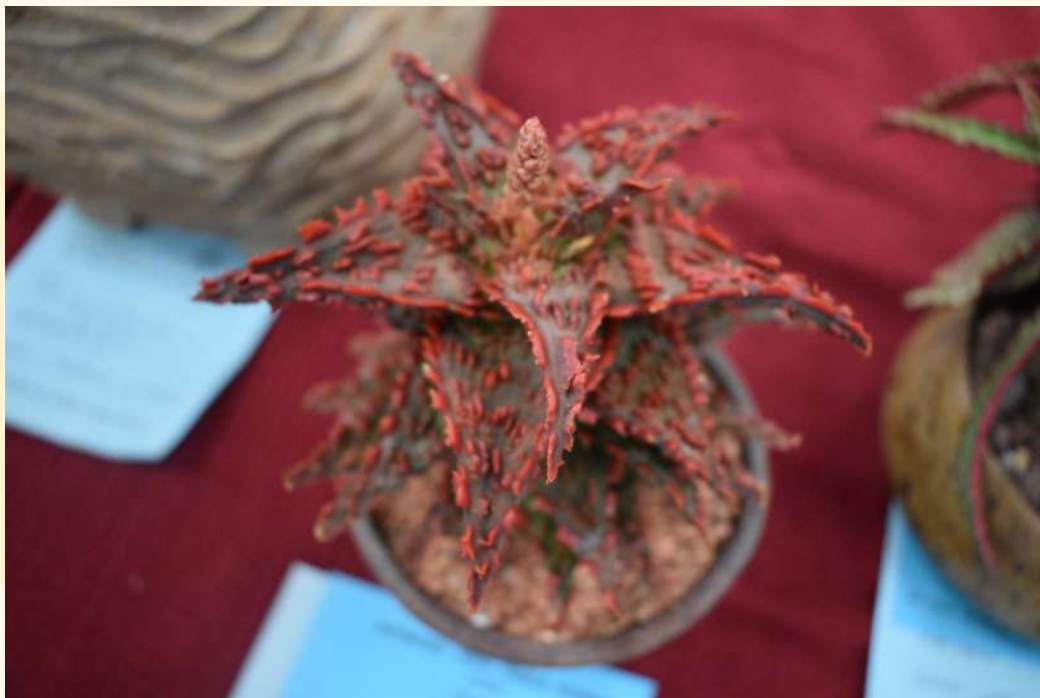
AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd: *Aloe castilloniae* sp.

Tom DeMerritt

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd: *Aloe castilloniae* cross -KJG

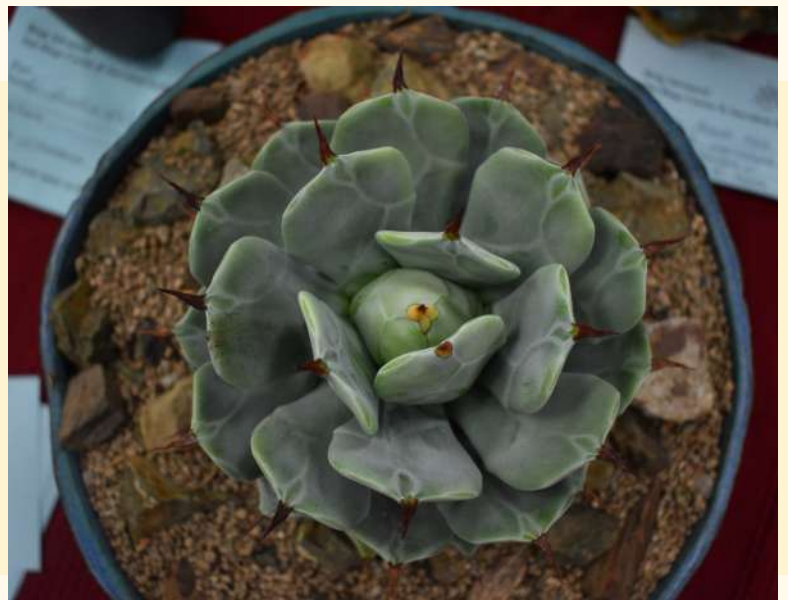
Kelly Griffin

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



3rd: *Euphorbia francoisii*

Pam Badger



3rd: *Agave hybrid cerulata subcerulata x Blue Glow*

Kelly Griffin

AUGUST BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



Euphorbia platyclada

Pam Badger



Gasteria cv. 'UFO'

Kelly Griffin



Hechtia lepidophylla

Dean Karras



Dorstenia gigas

Tom DeMerritt