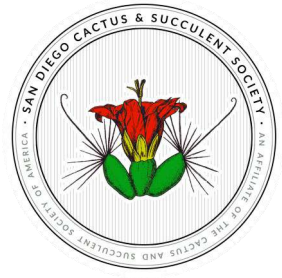


ESPINAS Y FLORES



VOL. 60, No. 10
OCTOBER 2025

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



SDCSS OCTOBER PICNIC // IN MEMORIAM // MEMBER SECTION //
SEPTEMBER BRAG TABLE // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Cochemiea tetrandia blooms shortly after summer monsoons, Anza Borrego Desert State Park
Photo by Olga Batalov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vice-President's message pg 3

October Picnic details pg 4

In Memoriam: Jean O'Daniel pgs 5

Member section pg 6

September Brag table pgs 7 - 17

UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

UPCOMING EVENT: PICNIC AT KATE SESSIONS

October 11th

NEXT UPCOMING MEETING

November 8th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag Table	Rocco Piersanti
Plant of the Month	Denise Huntsman-Griffin
Summer/Winter Show	[open]
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Rita Lunceford
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Rita Lunceford
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	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

MEMBERSHIP, BUSINESS, & PUBLICITY

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

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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you all for such a fantastic meeting in September! And, of course, for bearing with me hosting my first full meeting. Thankfully I've gotten to learn from some stellar past Presidents, and am very lucky to be able to have the most supportive board to give me pointers and beautiful and kind audience in all of you.

Just a recap of said meeting; we had a nice two-part talk from Andrew Hankey, who came in all the way from South Africa to speak to us as well as some other clubs in Southern California. Great photos and sense of plants from that region! He was also generous enough to donate a copy of his recent book, *"South African Indigenous Garden Plants,"* to our club. You'll be able to check it out and take a look for yourself at our next meeting, in November.

Wait, Der-shing, you might be asking, what about the October meeting? Well, if you hadn't already heard the good news, we'll be having our yearly picnic this month on October 11th, at our usual haunt—Kate Sessions Park! Grab your ticket online and come on down for some free plants, delicious food, and fun games, including a plant swap. The swap will be very similar to our Holiday Party swap, with the "best" plant of the group

being chosen first to pick from the swap table, and cascading from there. It should be a really great time. All the details are in this newsletter, but time and space is limited, so please sign up before October and don't forget to bring your chair or blanket for seating. Many thanks to the team of Georgia and Emily W for putting it all together. Looking forward to it, and we'll see you there!

In regards to parking, we have to share the unfortunate news that the initiative has passed, and parking fees are expected to be instated in the park later this year. I'm not too clear on the finer details yet, but it seems there may be annual or quarterly passes made available, potential discounts for some groups, and a discount for residents implemented in 2026. We'll keep you apprised as we get more information. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 8th, so we might see those new fees in effect by then.

Kelly Griffin, our president, returns from his travels early this month, so you'll be able to grill him for stories and photos at the picnic, haha. Until then, I hope you and your plants have a lovely October.

Der-shing Helmer

September 28, 2025



UPCOMING SDCSS PICNIC

Date: Sat, October 11th **Time:** 11am - 3pm (space reserved 9am-4pm)

Address: Kate Sessions Park, 5115 Soledad Rd, San Diego CA

We're meeting at: Area 6



Come for the picnic games, camaraderie, food and--of course--plants!

FOOD: Fiesta Flavors Catering will be cooking up some delicious meals for us, including Pollo Asada (chicken), Soy Chorizo (vegetarian) and Roasted Vegetables, Rice, Beans, Salsas, Churros, and more. The beverages included with your ticket are a choice of Cucumber-Lime Water or Agua de Jamaica (Hibiscus punch). SDCSS is chipping in to cover costs... if you're a member, that's just \$10 for a great lunch that would normally cost \$22. **A terrific value!**

PLANTS: Bring your best plant for a **PLANT SWAP!** This will work the exact same as our Holiday Party swap... if your plant is chosen, you're up to pick a plant next. Label your plant to participate, but we'll also have labels at the picnic. **FREE SUCCULENT** with your ticket? You bet. We can guarantee free plants for every ticket up to the first 50 tickets (and likely more than that), but sign up early to make sure you nab one for yourself.

FUN: In addition to the plant swap, we have a number of games planned for all mobility levels. We can't wait for you to join us!

TICKETS SALES CLOSE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH. PURCHASE HERE!

SEE YOU ON OCTOBER 11TH, 2025!

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF
JEAN O' DANIEL

Read about Jean and
her impact on SDCSS, below.
Article originally published
in Espinas y Flores
Vol. 49 Issue 2., 2014

"Married 52 years, this duo works well together. Bill and Jean O'Daniel met at the Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Illinois. They were both Corpsman and worked as surgical techs in the operating room. While Jean was in the Navy 4 years, Bill stayed in, still on the medical side, for 30 years. Then, Bill did Civil Service at Balboa Naval Hospital for 20 years and was an analyst and man- power officer (head of staffing), instructor and manager. They lived in Great Lakes for 13 years, Hawaii for 8 years, Concord, CA for 10 years and Poway for the last 19 years. They have 2 sons, one who lives in Folsom, CA and the other one in Kona, HI and they have two grandchildren.

This couple's teamwork moves beyond their family to the world of succulents. The O'Daniel's have been CSSA members for 30 years, Oakland club members for 10 years and Palomar and San Diego club members for the last 19 years. Bill says that Jean is the grower and he is the laborer. Jean is known for her skill at growing Sansevierias and in the Summer Show she has won trophies for the best Sansevieria 10 times. At home, Bill has built several benches and a shade house for their precious plants (the labor).

Their beautiful Aloes and Agaves are growing nicely in their yard in the hills of their lovely Poway home. (There are beautiful African Violets growing in their window too).

"B, B and B" they said as they showed me the rooms in their house. We're not talking Bed and Breakfast, but rather, "baskets, bears and books." These are some of the things that Jean likes to collect, not only plants. (I heard she also has a collection of 100 nativity scenes).

For the club they have both been Clerks for the shows for the last 12 years, have done the Summer Show set up and for the last 7 years have mailed the newsletter. Jean has been on the Board for the Palomar club for 4 years and for the San Diego club for 4 years. Bill has done the cooking with Steve at the club's yearly picnic.

From growing to showing to volunteering, Bill and Jean are always a team and we are very lucky to have this couple as members of our club."

From the article, "*The O'Daniel's Team of Bill and Jean*" By Denise Huntsman-Griffin, originally published in 2014

MEMBER SECTION

October Coffee in the Garden

Who: Mike Fernandes **When:** 27th of October **Time:** 9am - 2pm
Where: 6840 Veronica Ave, San Diego 92115 **Note:** Street parking available.



A huge, crested California Barrel Cactus, *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, spotted at Anza Borrego State Park.

OLGA BATALOV

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!

CLICK TO VISIT US ONLINE!



SAN DIEGO
Cactus & Succulent Society

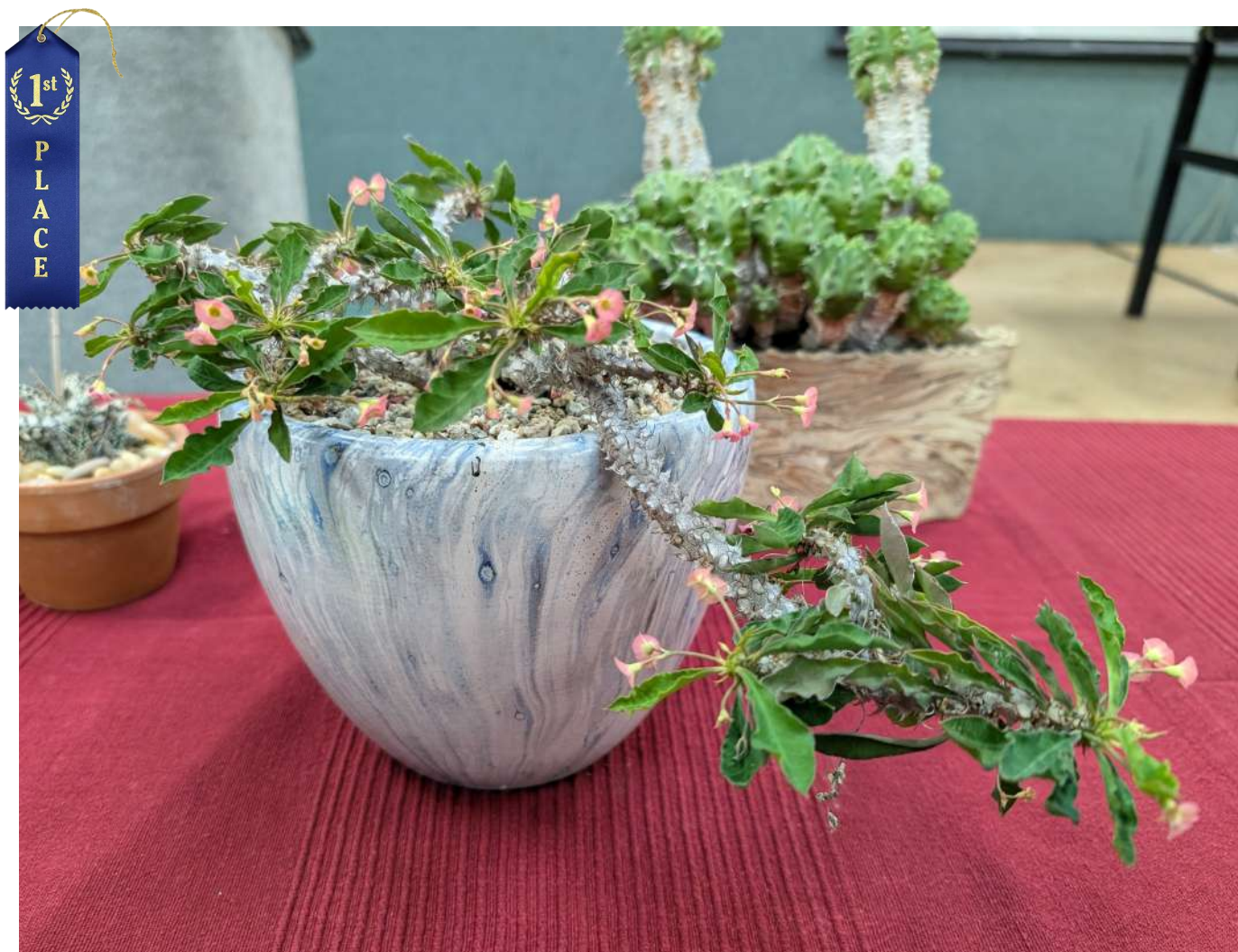
SEPTEMBER BRAG TABLE



SDCSS members shared another gorgeous display at the September Meeting's Brag Table!

Thank you for bringing in your plants, to [Andrew Hankey](#) and [Tom Knapik](#) for judging our table from our members. No brag table in October (we're at the picnic) but we'll see you and your **faux plant creations** at our upcoming November meeting!

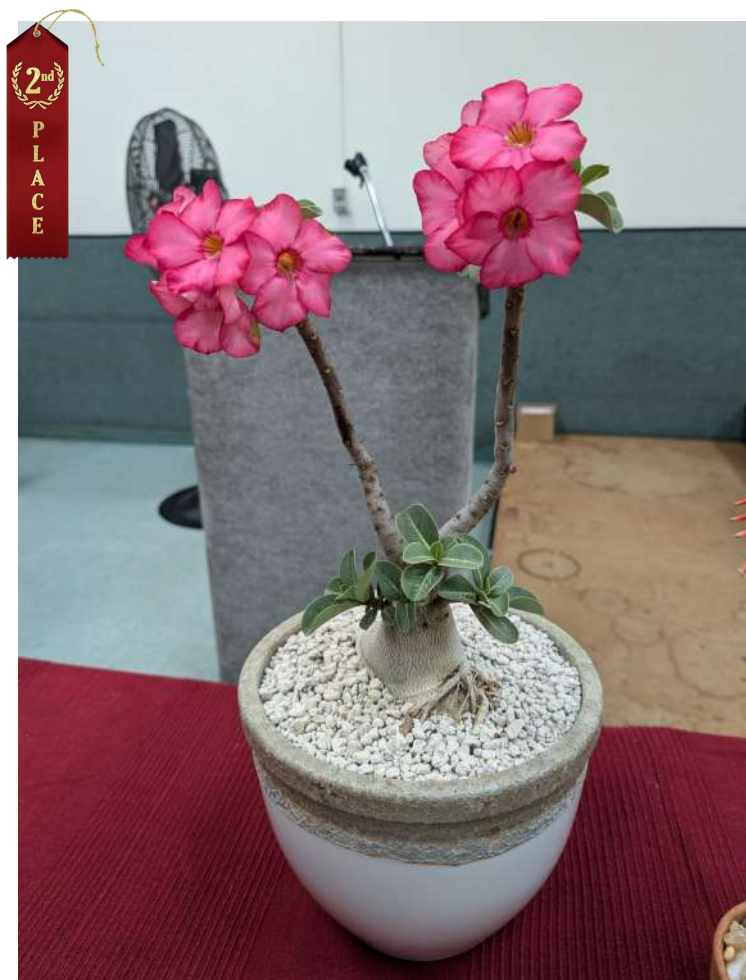
BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



1ST: *EUPHORBIA SP.*

ROCCO PIERSANTI

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



2ND: *ADENIUM OBESUM*

MIKE CLARK



3RD: *EUPHORBIA PULVINATA*

VICKI HOFFMAN



ALOE SP.

EMILY W

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1ST: *EUPHORBIA* AFF. *KALISANA*

JARED PETKER

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2ND: *DIDIEREA MADAGASCARIENSIS*

JODI VISOSKI



3RD: *PEUPHORBIA FLANGANII*

MIRIAM PARENT

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



EUPHORBIA OBESA

LUIS GONZALEZ



CRASSULA RUPESTRIS 'FANTASY'

NAOMI OROSZ



ALOE 'OIK'

CHUCK RAMEY



EUPHORBIA KALISANA

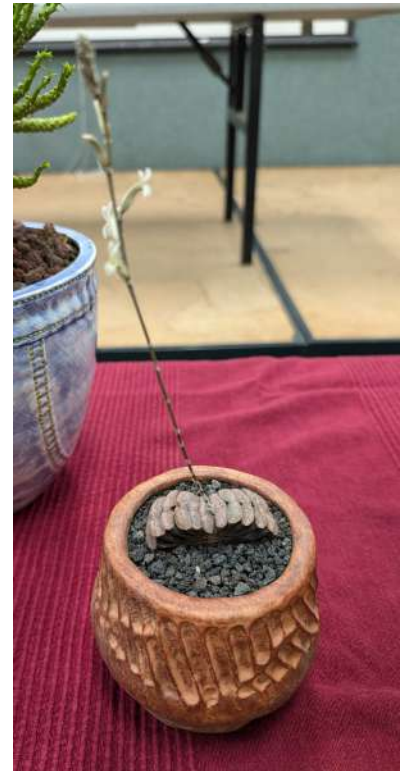
JARED PETKER

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



EUPHORBIA CYLINDRIFOLIA

CHUCK RAMEY



HAWORTHIA TRUNCATA
CHUCK RAMEY



HAWORTHIA COOPERI VARIEGATA

NAOMI OROSZ



ADENIUM OBESUM

LUIS GONZALEZ

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE CACTI



1ST: *PARODIA SCOPA*

VICKI HOFFMAN



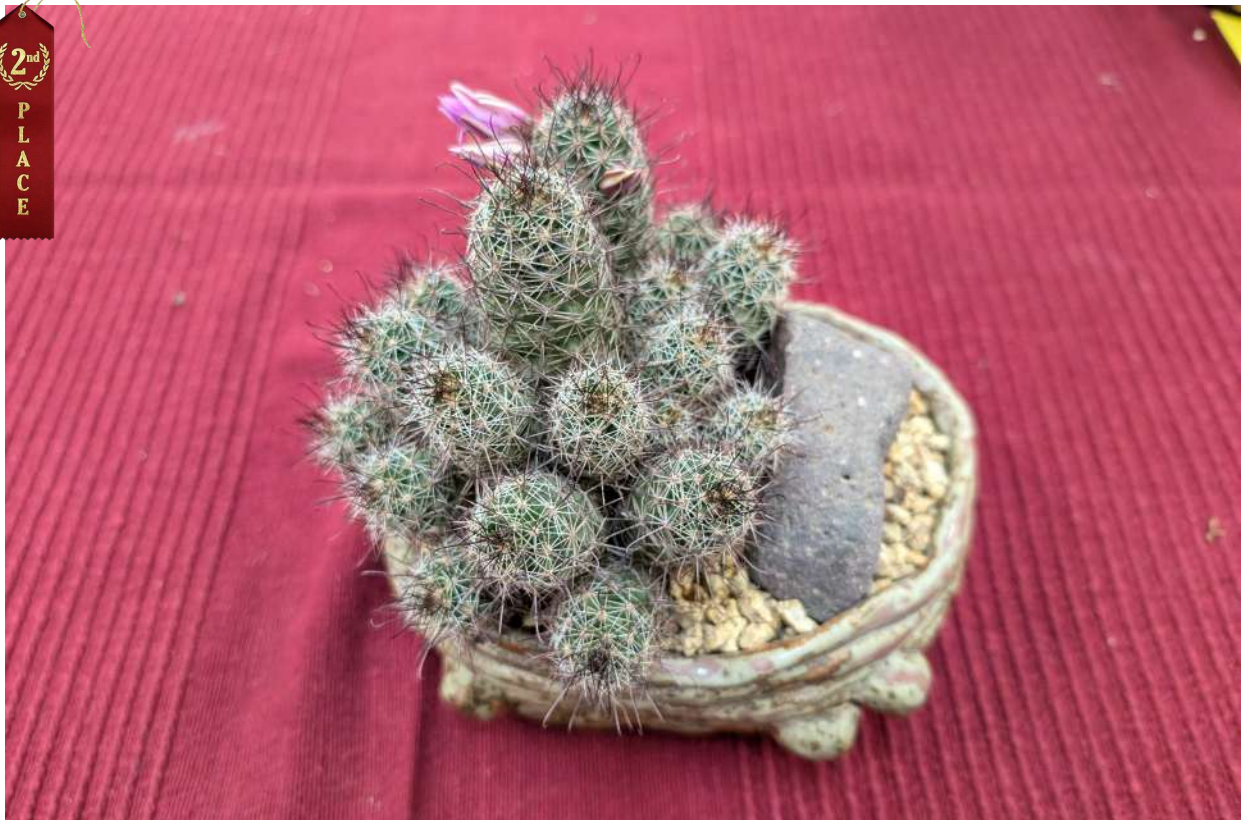
2ND: *TEPHROCACTUS ARTICULATUS*

MIKE CLARK



BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTI

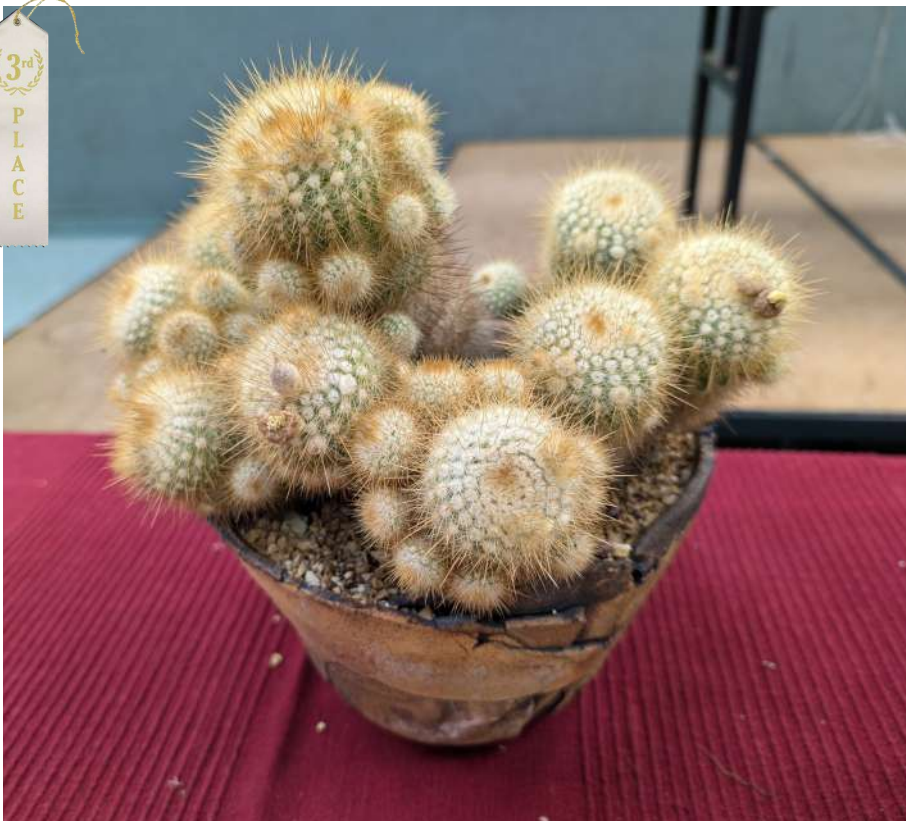
2nd
PLACE



2ND: *MAMMILLARIA THORNERI YAQUENSIS*

CHUCK RAMEY

3rd
PLACE



3RD: *PARODIA LENINGHAUSII*

NORB RODEN



OREOCEREUS CELSIANUS
MIRIAM PARENT

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTI



1ST: MAMMILLARIA GUELZOWIANA

BRIAN SHEPHERD