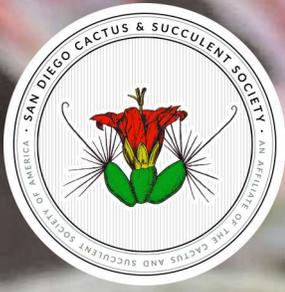


VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 05 • MAY 2021



# ESPINAS Y FLORES



**FEROACTUS** pg 6

**UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS**  
**TREASURER SEARCH • VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE WINNERS & more!**

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

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Flowers of *Sinningia leucotricha*

Photo by Michael Nelson

## SDCSS SCHEDULE

May 8th club webinar:

[12:30 pm on Zoom \(see pg 4\)](#)

May in-person meeting:

**CANCELLED**

Upcoming meetings:

**August 2021!**

## HERE TO HELP

In need of assistance  
due to COVID?

Contact:

Tina Zucker at

(858) 342-9781

- or -

Al Klein at

(760) 519-9987

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
Secretary	Donna Roden
Treasurer	Mitch Hubbard

### DIRECTORS

Jen Greene, Kelly Griffin, Denise Huntsman-Griffin,  
Whitney Meier, Don Hunt, Al Kline, Dean Karras

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Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	Kelly Griffin
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library	Don Hunt
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Jim DeForest & Melanie Howe
Monthly Supply Sales	Gerry Plaisted

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

### LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Garden	Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation	[open]
SD Floral Association	Jeanette Dutton
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

### MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY

Membership	May Fong Ho
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
Publicity	Christie Lathrop

### CONTACT SDCSS

membership@sdcss.net

### CONTACT EyF EDITOR

eyf.editor@gmail.com

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**G**reetings! I hope this finds you enjoying Spring and many exciting changes in your gardens - be they a balcony or a couple of acres; each garden is special and unique because it is yours! I am currently digging holes for some plants in a recently revitalized area of my landscape and loving the new look - a gardeners work is never done - thankfully!

Our April meeting was very interesting. The first presentation, given by Jen Greene, our newest member of the Board, was about planting *Pleiospilos* in the ground. I must admit I had never considered this, thinking they would not make it. It was very inspirational and I went out and planted my one little *nelii* in my new rock garden that afternoon - with plenty of drainage! I don't have any chickens and the rats seemed to find it anywhere I put it on the patio, so I am looking forward to seeing what happens. Thanks Jen for an interesting and fun presentation. The main presentation by Atilla Kapitany, highlighting Australian xerophytes, was just amazing - so many cool plants rarely seen outside of Australia. From the "trigger plants" to the "grass trees," I was mesmerized. Atilla is a wonderful and entertaining presenter with so many great slides. Thanks to Kelly for arranging this fascinating program.

I have been in contact with the Prado and they anticipate the meeting rooms to be available in the middle of June when California is scheduled to reopen. The Board has decided to target **August** for our first 'in person' meeting! We decided to wait until August as our meeting date in July (assigned by park) was to be July 3 - we will need time to figure out adjustments we will be making to new regulations. **SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST 14 to gather again in Balboa Park!**

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we will be having another Voucher/ Sales event in July - 16/17/18! We are cooking up some fun additions this time around, look for details in the June newsletter and be sure to sign up early.

Stay Safe, Pam

*Pam Badger*

April 25, 2021

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP EXTENSION

Due to pandemic circumstances, the SDCSS Board voted in 2020 complimentary extend all memberships through February 2021.

**This year, the Board voted once again to extend all active memberships free of charge, through February 2022.**

We'll have more info about your membership cards when we are closer to resuming normal club meetings. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to email [membership@sdcss.net](mailto:membership@sdcss.net)

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF SDCSS!**

## SDCSS ONLINE

FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/sdcss](http://www.facebook.com/sdcss)

TWITTER:

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

INSTAGRAM:

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

WEBSITE:

[www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

## SDCSS WEBINARS



Join us on **Saturday, May 8th** at 12:30pm PST for our next club webinar featuring Tom Knapik's talk: **"Fascinating Asclepiads."**

**Our Webinar** covers three topics which include a review of the genus *Pseudolithos*, flower anatomy and the evolution of pentamery, and finally Monarch butterflies' relationship with Asclepiads.

**Our Speaker:** Tom was born and raised in Northern New York. He moved to California in 1976. While visiting a college friend in 1982, Tom saw a small succulent collection that changed the trajectory of his life. He moved back to San Diego in 1984 where he started his teaching career and worked part time at David Grigsby's cactus nursery. He became a member of the SDCSS and eventually became involved as program chair, board member, president, and newsletter editor. He was the annual show chair for 12 years. His interest in succulent plants has taken him to countries all around the world. He has photographed succulent collections in England, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. He has photographed succulents in habitats from Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, and the U.S. He also met his wife Carol through the hobby, showing how much these plants have shaped and added to his life.

The webinar begins at 1pm, but join us for our pre-meeting at 12:30 for a presentation from Pam Badger about her ongoing renovation project titled **"Transformation: From Beast to Beauty"** (and to catch up with your fellow club members). Please put your club affiliation or state next to your name when you enter the Zoom!

Join SDCSS via Zoom on May 8th [here!](#)

## CSSA WEBINARS

Join us **Saturday, May 1st** at 10:00 a.m. PST for the latest in the CSSA's series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world: **"Cape Geophytes: Remarkable Bulbs, Tubers and Corms from Southern Africa,"** a talk by Matt Opel, PhD.



Register for the May 1st Zoom [here!](#)

## SDCSS TREASURER POSITION OPEN!

**We're seeking a volunteer for Treasurer position within SDCSS!**

Qualified Treasurer candidate will be organized, financially minded, quickbooks proficient, familiar with Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and have cash management experience.

Tasks during normal operations:

1. Manage bank accounts
2. Cut checks to vendors as needed
3. Record transactions in Quickbooks as incurred
4. Quarterly CA Sales Tax Returns
5. Compile annual financial statements and send to Tax Prep Team.
6. During club sales: manage cash before, during, and after events.
7. Provide monthly bank report to Club Board for Board Review and Approval.
8. Must be available Wednesday after the monthly club meeting for board meetings.



If interested, contact us at [membership@sdcss.net](mailto:membership@sdcss.net)!

## UPCOMING EVENT (NOT CLUB SPONSORED)

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

**Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent are opening their two-acre botanic wonderland for members to tour for the first time in two years!**



Wanda says: "We are so excited to be able to share our garden with all of you. During the stay-at-home restrictions we've all been under, we have been able to spend more time working in the garden and we think it has never looked better. In addition to cleanup and refurbishing we have added some new vignettes featuring Australian natives, which do so well in our Mediterranean climate. We hope you will be inspired to plant more of these as well. Those of you who have been here before know that we have many areas devoted to one type of plant, for visual interest and to show the diversity of that genus. We also have various "rooms" and a greenhouse to showcase collectibles and protect plants that need shade. There's also surprises of garden ornaments and some wild colors. **Hope you can come!**"

**DATE:** Saturday, May 15    **TIME:** 9:00 to 1:00    **ADDRESS:** 3856 Cedar Vale Way, Fallbrook  
We will have some pots and plants for sale. COVID protocols will need to be adhered to.

**Note: This is not a club-sponsored event**

## MAY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

# FERO CACTUS

BY CHRIS MILLER

My favorite parts of cactus are the spines. The colors, shapes and patterns make a green blob infinitely interesting. Blooms come and go but the spines spend the year with you. When I used to volunteer at the Safari Park we had a large collection of *Ferocactus* in the green house and in the morning the sun sliding across the plants made the spines glow. It was part of the inspiration for the planting in my front yard.



*Ferocactus* at the Baja Gardens at Safari Park **Chris Miller**

The genetic name *Ferocactus* comes from “*ferus*,” which means wild or fierce. They mostly start out spherical with some becoming columnar as they grow older. The spines can be straight or curved, and wide or thin. Some plants clump some do not. There are around 30 species and their habitat ranges from California to Oklahoma and Texas in the US and down into several states in Mexico. Which makes them a great plant for us out in East County.



*Ferocactus flavovirens* in bloom

**Chris Miller**

The flowers range from yellow to red and pink to purple. The flowers appear in the crown of the plant. Most species are only grown from seed. Water, soil and light are dependent on your micro climate. Out in Santee I have several in the ground, in full sun. I have had some plant burn during extreme weather, but the plants tend to recover. We haven't had a harsh freeze for a long time and I find the low round stuff does just fine when it does get cold. The best way to grow them is in the ground but they will still do well in pots. For all methods of growing they need well-draining soil.

If I am pot growing them for future transplanting into the ground, I use a pot I can destroy. The spines can be long and it easier to break the pot rather than trying to get it out of the pot. No tears for fancy pots going under the hammer. If you grow in pots they need to be transplanted every two years, with fresh soil to encourage growth. Tomato fertilizer is recommended by more than one person for fertilizing. When you transplant a cactus you should maintain the current soil line. If you plant it deeper you may end up with a rotted cactus which is yucky and doesn't smell so good.

Most species of *Ferocactus* have a gland at the top of each areole which exudes nectar. Washing the plant off regularly when you water will discourage sooty mold. If you see ants on your plants, they are milking the nectar. Unfortunately they can bring along mealy bugs and scale. So if you see material built up on the top of the plant wash it off to discourage the pests.

*Ferocactus viridescens*

The Native Plant Society

*Ferocactus viridescens* is our local *Ferocactus* and you will find them by taking walks in the wilder areas of the county. They have greenish yellow flowers. The Baja Garden at the Safari Park is loaded with *Ferocactus* so I recommend you go visit and get inspired to plant some in your yard.

**CHRIS MILLER***Ferocactus* in bloom

Chris Miller

## SHARE YOUR PASSION WITH US!

Have you ever read the *Espinas Y Flores* Newsletter 'Plant of the Month' and thought - "I could do that!" Well, here is your chance to participate by writing a piece. You do not have to be an expert! You don't have to know much at all! 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. It's a great way to learn more about something you have an interest in and share that interest with others.

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 virtual meetings, or do a photo essay for the Newsletter - or both! We would love to see your plants.

Contact Pam Badger: [pambad1@mac.com](mailto:pambad1@mac.com)

# APRIL 2021 VIRTUAL BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

We asked SDCSS members to submit photos of their best plants to the March Brag Table, judged by guest judge Dean Karras!

Our participants included:

37 specimens: 12 cactus, 23 succulents

17 members

**We are still awarding DOUBLE 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 **May 23rd, 2021**.

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

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



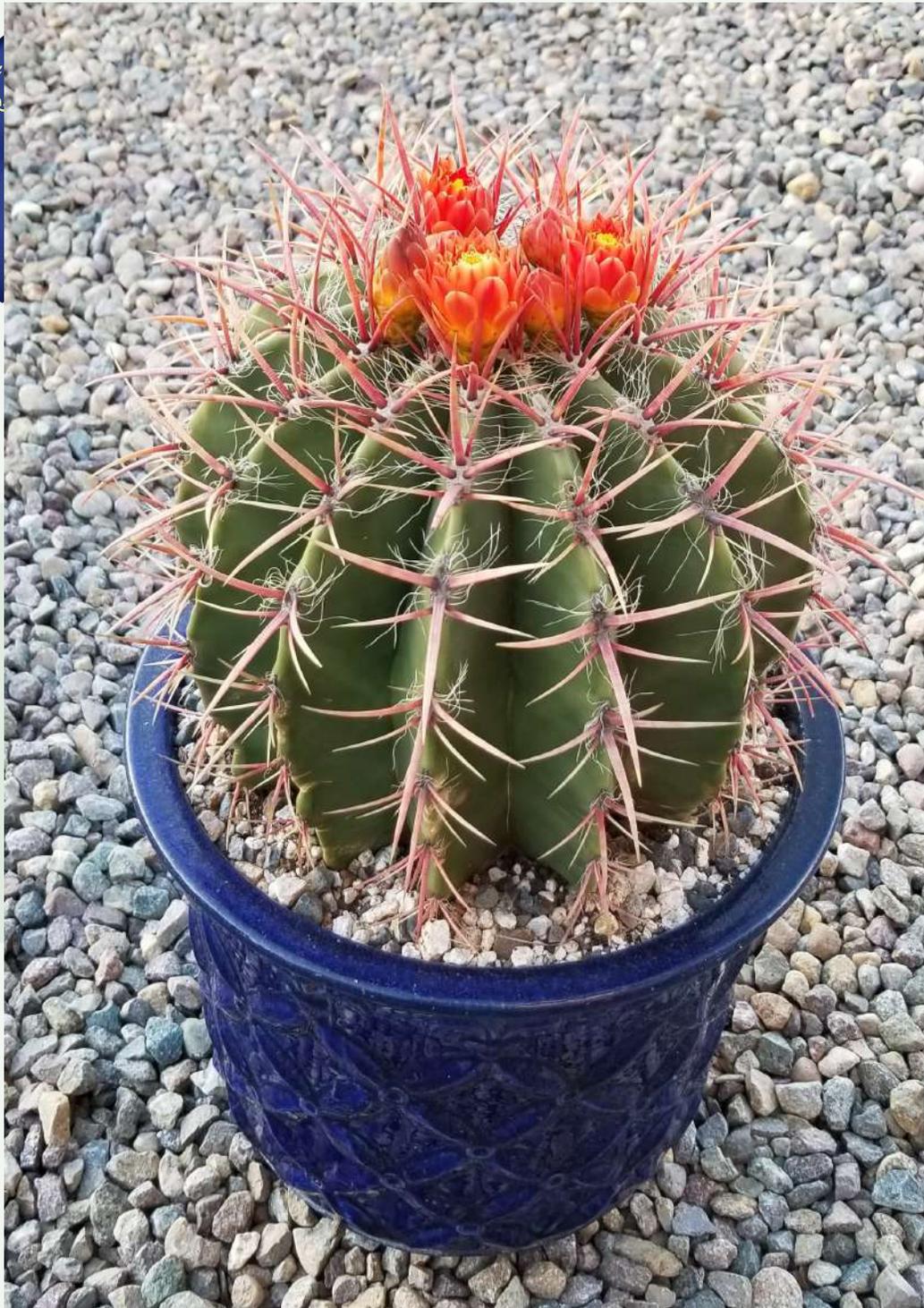
1st: *Mammillaria parkinsonii* Ruth Contino

“Perfectly grown and large in its pot. The unglazed/matte red-on-red pot/top-dressing combo picks up the petal stripes on the flowers nicely while allowing the spines to glisten for textural contrast.”

-Dean



## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



1st: *Ferocactus wislizeni*

Jodi Visosky

“The plant fills the pot nicely, and the blue pot really makes the red spines and flowers pop. A touch of top-dressing would go a long way in turning this into a perfect show plant.”

-Dean

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS

2<sup>nd</sup>  
P  
L  
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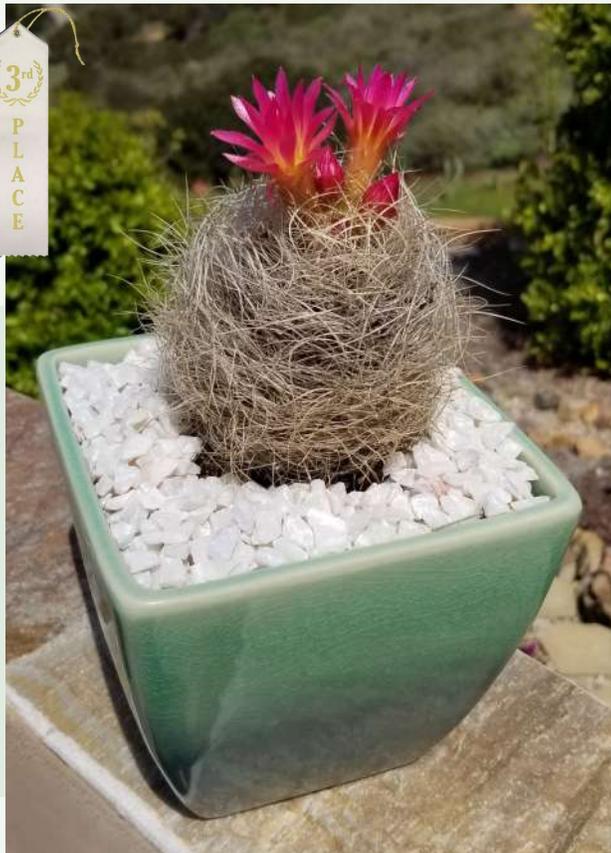
2nd: *Astrophytum myriostigma*

**Karl Almryde**

“It's not easy to get so many flowers popping open at once on an *Astrophytum*.”

-Dean

3<sup>rd</sup>  
P  
L  
A  
C  
E



3rd: *Eriosyce senilis*

**Jodi Visosky**

“The uniquely feathery, bi-color flowers make this plant a worthwhile addition to any well-rounded cactus collection.”

-Dean

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Echinocereus fendleri*  
**Norb Roden**

"Nice bloom(s), well staged."

-Dean



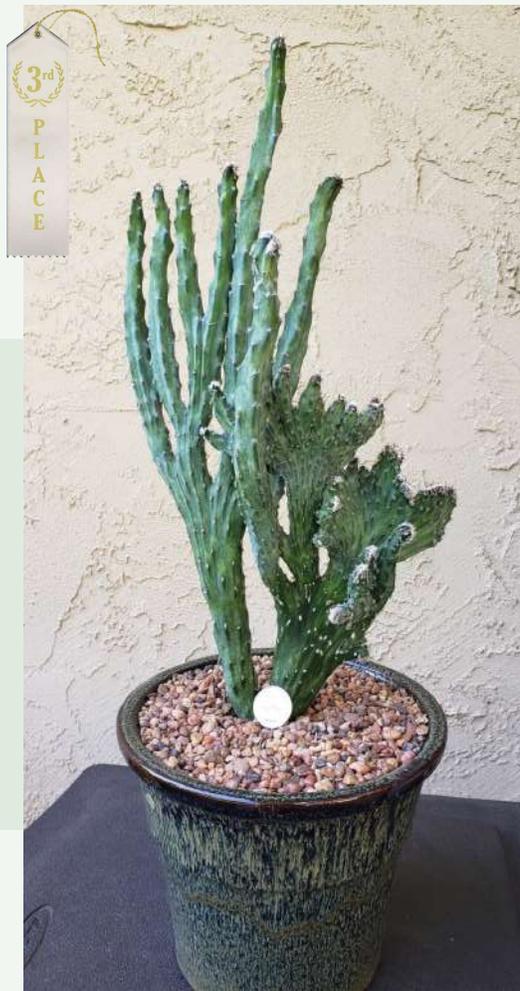
2nd: *Thelocactus hexaedrophorus* var. *hexaedrophorus*

**Allen Clark**

"Looks great with some of the longer spines extending past the pot. Some minor scarring on the old growth, but all in all a nicely grown specimen given it's relative size/age."

-Dean

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



3rd: *Monvillea spegazzinii*  
crest

**Norb Roden**

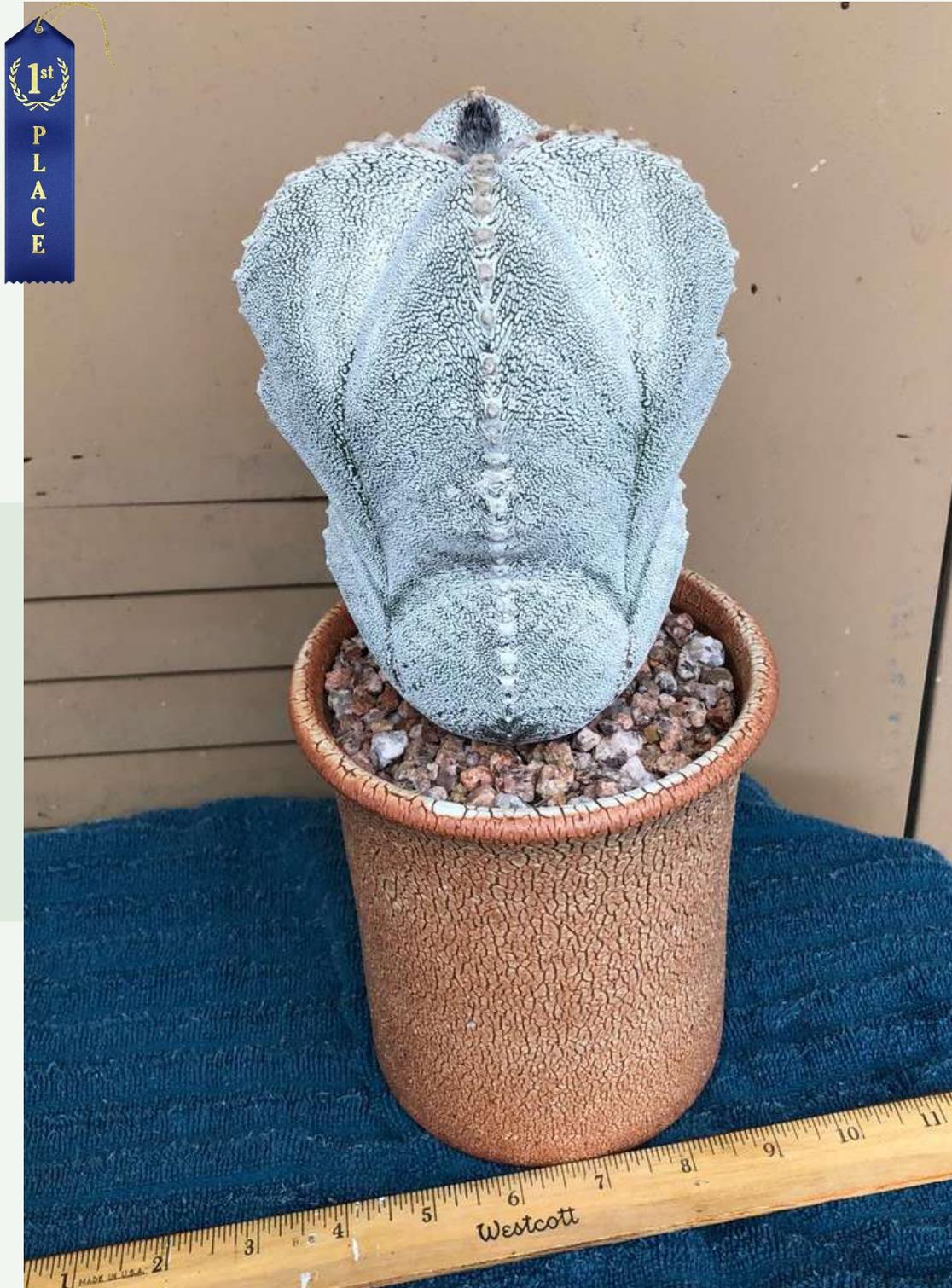
“Some of the darker blue tones in the pot's glaze really make the glaucous-teal of the cactus stand out nicely. I love this plant for its tendency to alternate between crested and reverted growth. A bit of sun or cold stress could add some nice purple hues to this plant.”

**-Dean**



*Weingartia trollii*  
**Allen Clark**

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Astrophytum myriostigma* fm. *quadricostatum*

Pam Badger

“Clean and full. These quadricostatum times can be tough to grow as they are prone to splitting if pushed too hard. Well done!” -Dean

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



2nd: *Echinocereus richenbachii*

**Mike Burkhardt**

“Gorgeous plant. It's time for a slightly bigger (and nicer) pot for this beauty.”

**-Dean**



## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



3rd: *Turbinicarpus pseudomacrochele*  
**Mike Burkhardt**

“This must be quite an old plant given the species' diminutive size. I think I spot some cactus propagation "gold" hiding on the head/stem not in bloom.”

-Dean



*Opuntia microdasys albata*  
**Pam Badger**

“Many years ago at the SDCSS June Show and Sale. I ran a table in the sales area with a service - “buy a plant, buy a pot and I will repot for you - Free.” A lady with a French accent came up with an *Opuntia microdasys*, not a small one like this, a large one in a 6” pot. She also had purchased a very beautiful pot and wanted it transplanted. As I went about this job, very carefully, we talked - she was in love with this plant, so much so that she was planning on carrying it home on an airplane that very evening. I inquired where she lived - Paris France! I warned her to be cautious as the tiny spines can be treacherous. She insisted that she loved the plant so much she would not mind. I often wonder how her 10 hour flight was.”

-Pam

APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Agave victoriae-reginae* in Susan Aach pot

**Regan Harvey**

“Flawless, great plant:pot size ratio, nicely staged in a complimentary pot. I recommend removing the pups soon to let the central rosette grow bigger and faster for best effect.”

**-Dean**

APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Euphorbia x japonica*

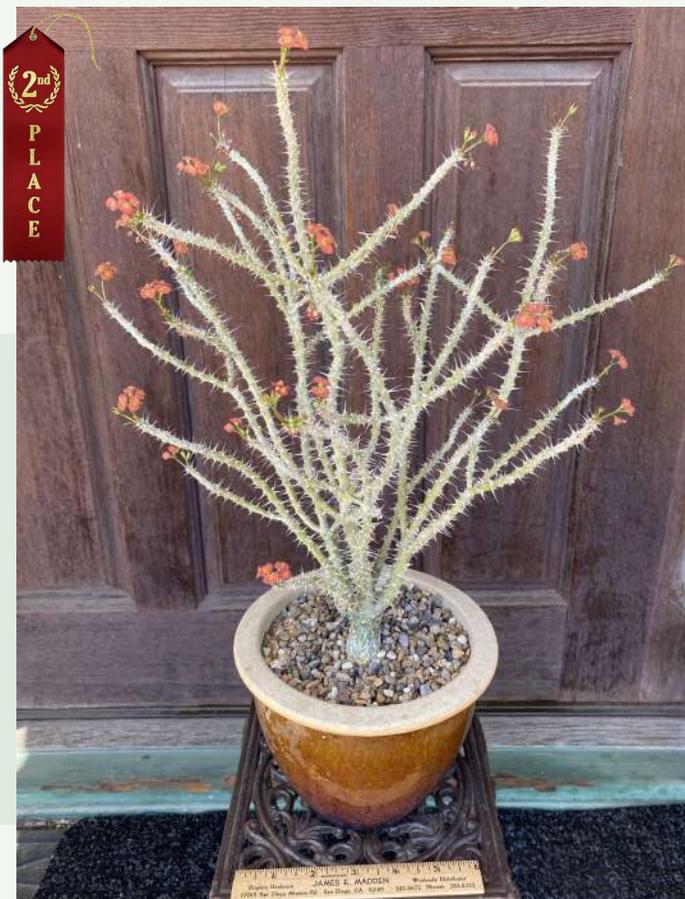
Jared Petker

“Perfectly grown – just hydrated enough for a nice flush of leaves, lots of green stem growth despite corking on the old growth which is typical for this type of Euphorbia.”

-Dean



APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



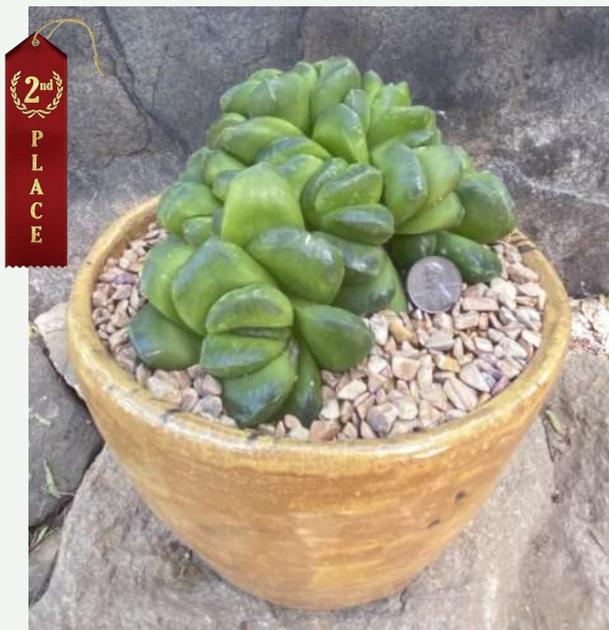
2nd: *Euphorbia gottlebei*



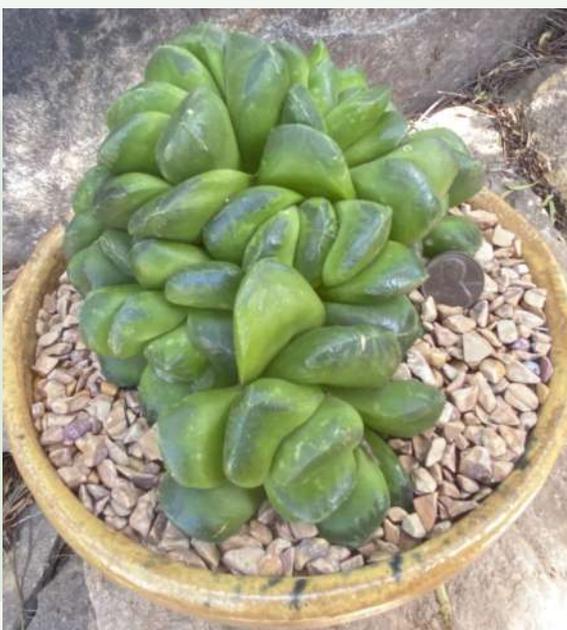
Ruth Contino

"This Euphorbia appears to be aspiring to become an Ocotillo. I prefer it leafless, as shown here. This one will only keep getting getting better with age as you get more of a peeling trunk/caudex."

-Dean



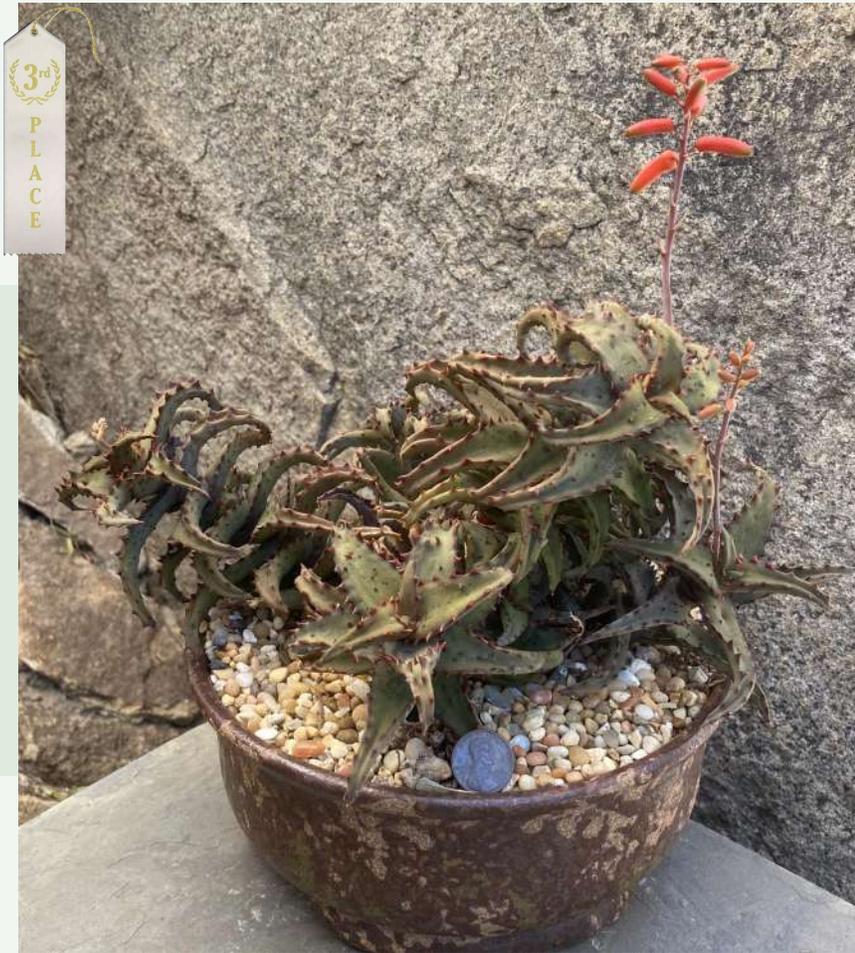
2nd: *Haworthia truncata* hybrid  
Patti Nelson



"Nice and chunky. The only thing that would make this plant more attractive is a touch of sun stress/bronze coloration."

-Dean

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT

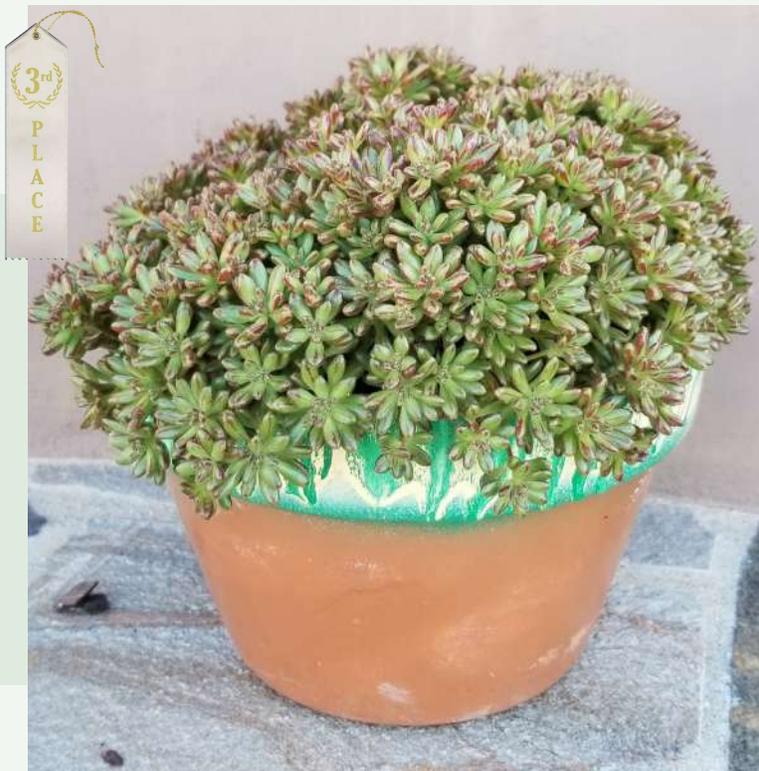


3rd: *Aloe castilloniae*

**Patti Nelson**

“Well on it's way to becoming a show-stopper - just give it some time to finish filling out.”

-Dean



3rd: *Aeonium x loartei*

**Jodi Visosky**

“Full and lush - well done! This is a plant that looks best not hard grown, as it can get spindly with typical succulent-culture ‘neglect.’”

-Dean

APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



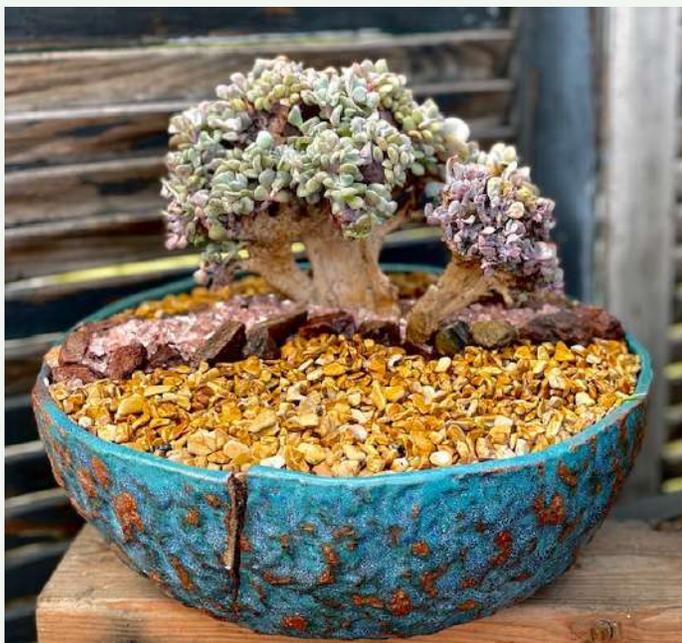
*Euphorbia mammillaris*

**Joan Herskowitz**



*Aeonium 'Sunbust' crested*

**Lila Wagar**



*Echeveria 'Cubic Frost'*

**Regan Harvey**



*Dudleya pachyphytum*

**Lisa Rini**

**APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT**

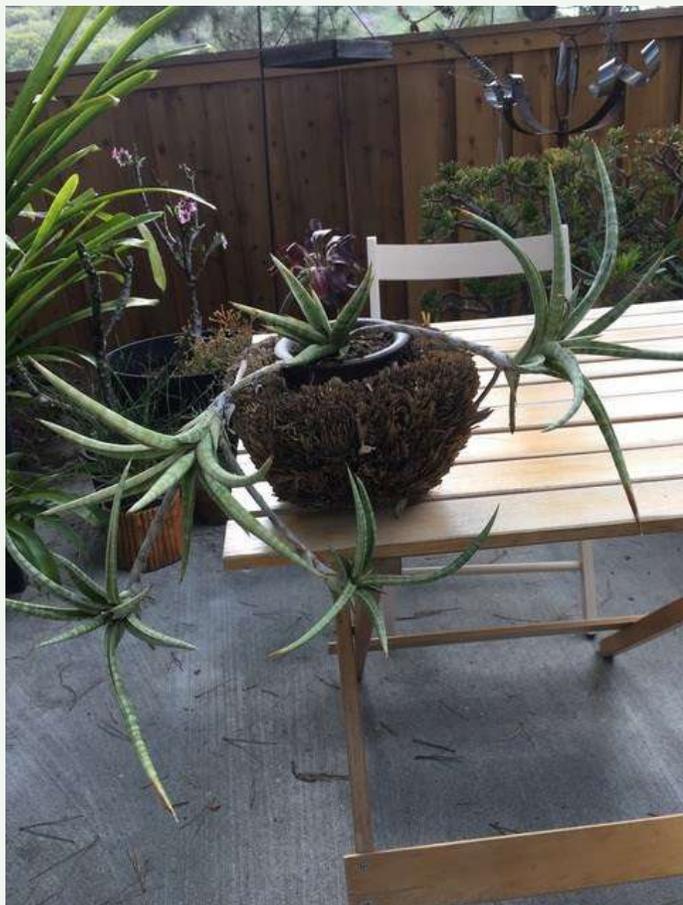
*Euphorbia* sp. "Medusa"

**Rudy Reyes**



*Euphorbia flanaganii*  
**Jared Petker**

**APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT**



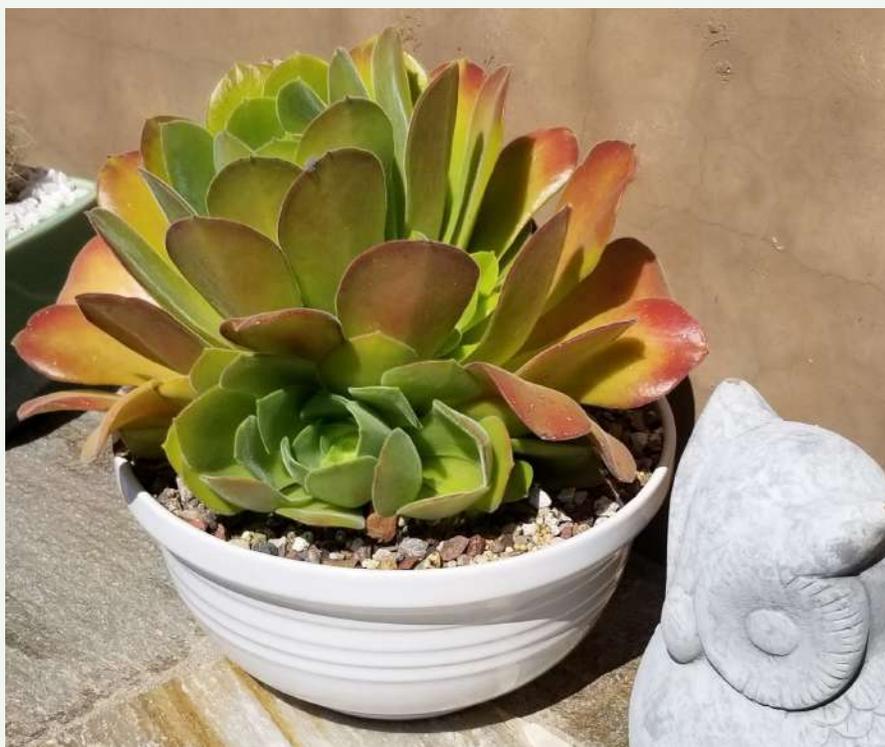
*Sansevieria ballyi*

**Joan Herskowitz**



*Kalanchoe tomentosa*

**Rudy Reyes**



*Aeonium canariense virgineum*

**Jodi Visosky**

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Euphorbia submammillaris* var. *pfersdorfii*

**Antonina Lansangan**

“Nice and full - might be time to re-pot or propagate soon.”

-Dean



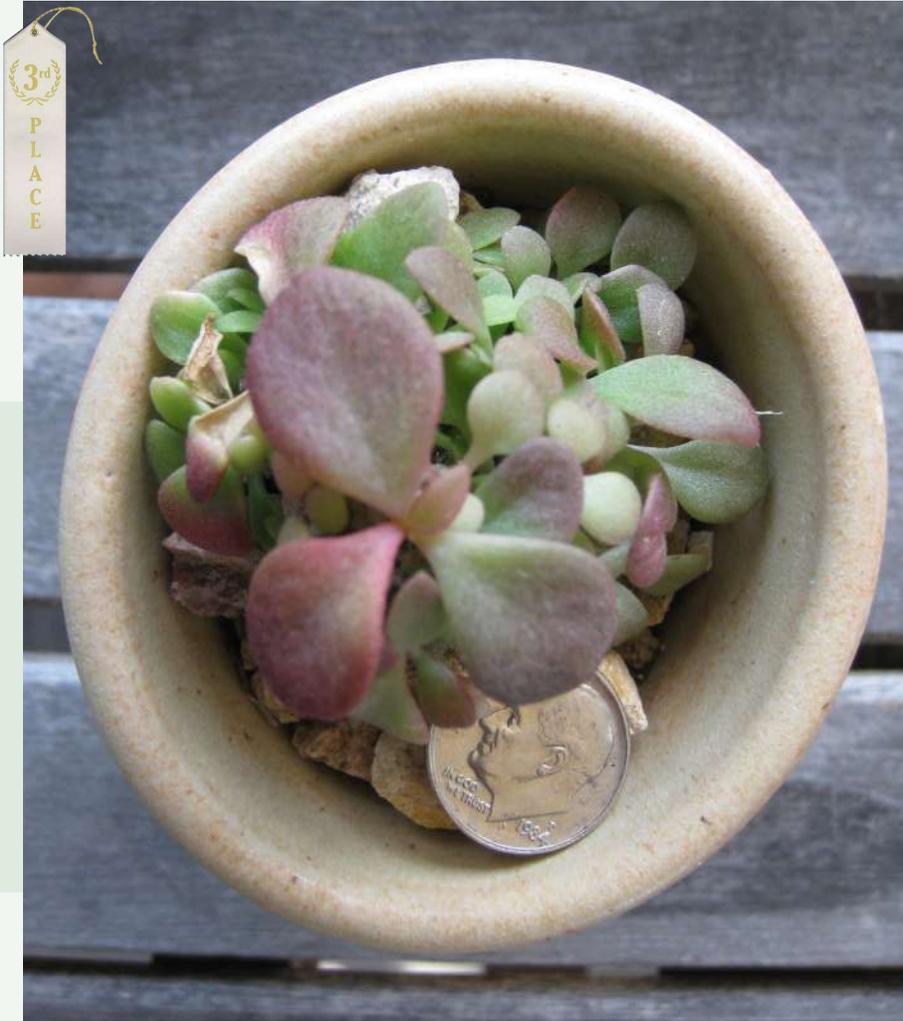
2nd: *Sempervivum arachnoideum*

**Norb Roden**

“While the choice of pot creates a neat cascade effect for the *Sempervivum*, I think the bright Talavera colors ultimately distract from your plant’s full beauty.”

-Dean

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



3rd: *Tylecodon hybrid 'Sunblush'*  
Allen Clark

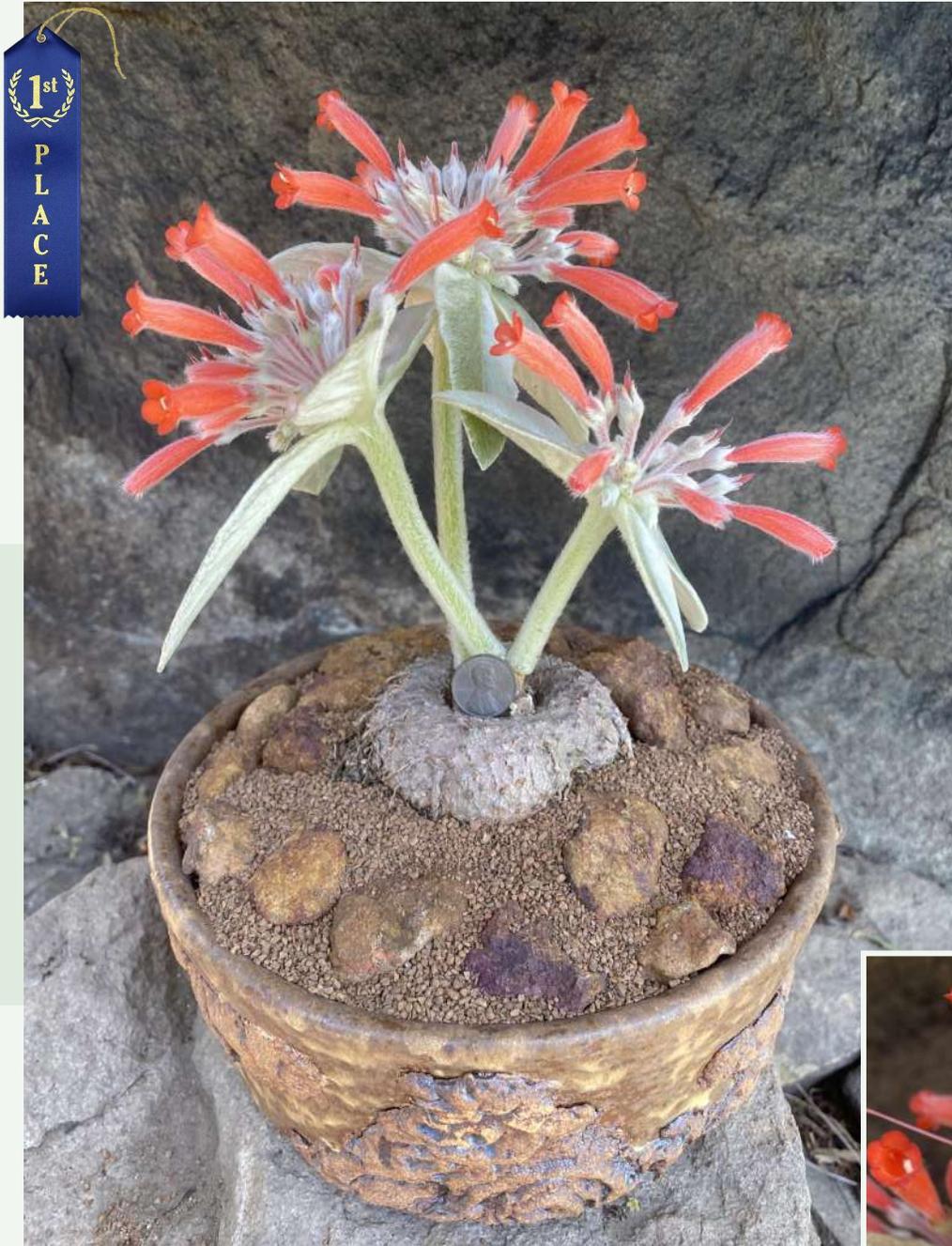
“Looks healthy, but this plant needs some time growing before it becomes truly show-worthy.”

-Dean



*Neoregelia 'Harpo'*  
Antonina Lansangan

## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Sinningia leucotricha*

Michael Nelson

“Stunning!”

-Dean



## APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT

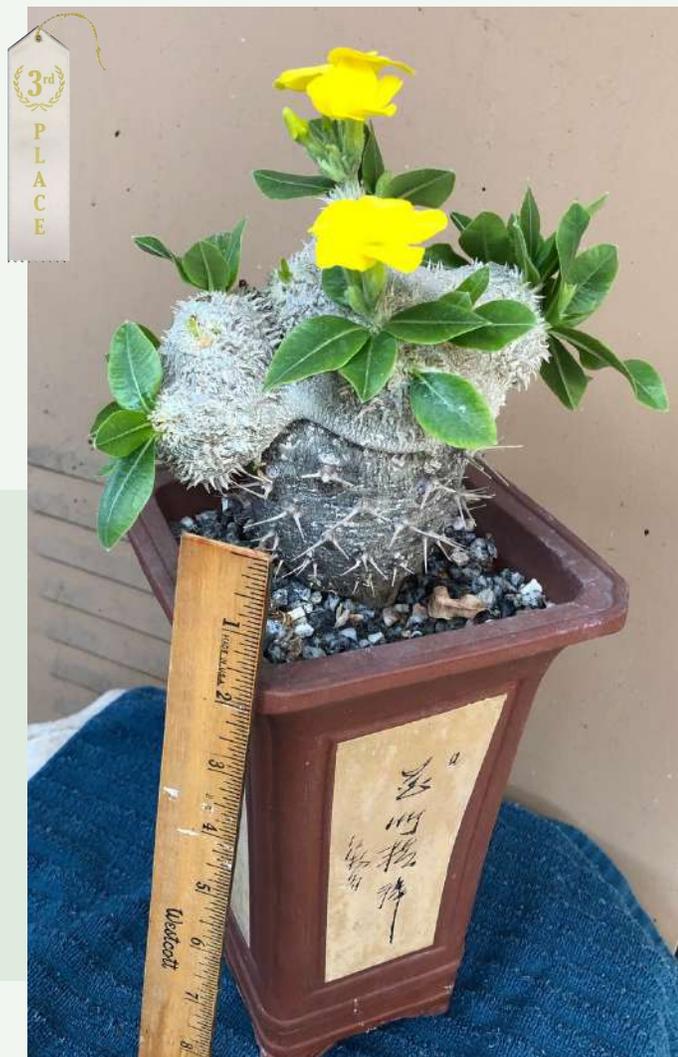


2nd: *Gasteria rawlinsonii*

**Don Hunt**

“Something tells me you have a lot of hummingbirds in your yard. I love the dark colors on this *Gasteria* with the coral pink flowers for contrast.”

-Dean



3rd: *Pachypodium brevicaule*

**Pam Badger**

“Nicely grown, however this is really two plants in one pot because it is grafted. Acceptable for brag table, as I was not given any strict judging rules, but it might be disqualified from shows unless entered in a category that explicitly allows grafted plants or more than two plants per pot.”

-Dean

**APRIL BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT**



*Euphorbia platyclada*

**Pam Badger**



*Conophytum fraternum*

**Mike Burkhardt**



*Euphorbia suppressa* hybrid

**Mike Burkhardt**