



# Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

October 2023

Volume 8 Number 8

## Mission Statement:

The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

Email: [ConejoCSS@hotmail.com](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com) Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society Web: [ConejoCSS.com](http://ConejoCSS.com)

**Next Meeting Monday October 2nd 7:00 pm Doors open at 6:30**

**California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center  
130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360**

## October Speaker - Roxie Esterle

Roxie Esterle brings a lifelong love for biology to the study of cacti and succulents. During her career as a science educator for all grades from middle school to college, Roxie enriched her lessons by sharing adventures from her fieldwork. Roxie and her husband Jim have traveled the world to explore unique biological habitats including Galapagos Islands, Madagascar, Borneo, Ethiopia, South America, and South Africa. Each of these destinations has elevated her appreciation for the fragility and uniqueness of cacti and succulents.



Roxie has been a member of the board of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) for nearly two decades, including serving as President. For the past six years, she has served as Secretary of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA).

## Program Description: A South African Adventure with Steven Brack

In the early 1970s, Steven Brack founded Mesa Garden, the premier cactus and succulent seed nursery in the country. Steven's many successful pollination and germination techniques have influenced growers around the world. His philosophy of producing seed grown specimens for collectors and retailers aimed to reduce field collection, laying the foundation for current thinking about conservation of wild populations. Steven sold Mesa Garden in 2016, allowing him to travel extensively in South Africa.

In Fall, 2022, Roxie and Jim Esterle were among a small group of fortunate adventurers who explored a narrow strip of South Africa's west coast with Steven Brack and Karel du Toit. Curious about the unusual origins of Steven's impressive knowledge about growing succulents, Roxie interviewed him on several occasions and traveled to New Mexico to visit Mesa Garden see the operation at work. This presentation combines highlights of traveling with a seed fanatic and an insider view of the story of Mesa Garden.



## President's Message October 2023

Hello members.

It's hard to believe this is the 7th anniversary of the first meeting of the CCSS. We've come a long way. We've outgrown two meeting halls, grown to 114 members, and survived COVID-19. There've been fun-filled field trips, garden tours, holiday parties, successful sales events, and many memorable speakers along the way. All made possible by your support. Without you, there would be no CCSS, and I want to thank for your loyalty and support.

But now it's time to embark on the next seven years. October is upon us, and it's time for elections. The positions up for election are:

1. 1st Vice president in charge of Programs
2. 3rd Vice President in charge of Education
3. Director #1 in charge of Membership
4. Treasurer is also up for election, but since Chris Gailey has agreed to take over the position from Julie Myers, we need to vote him in.

We also have to vote for CSSA Directors. I will read the bios of the four candidates, and when I'm finished, members will vote by raising their hands.

It may sound like a lot of business, but we'll have fun also. A great speaker, new vendors, and unique refreshments.

The Volunteer October 8th Sales sign-up sheet will be available for those members who haven't already signed up. I'm sure you'll be interested in knowing there will be 19 vendors at the sale. Five will be new, with wonderfully different plants at great prices.

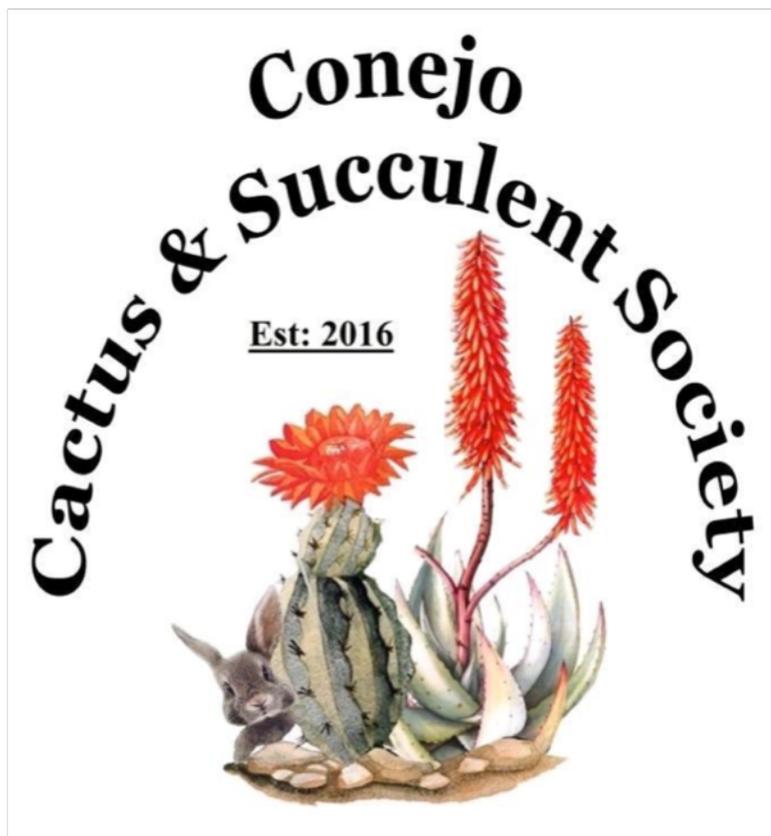
A big THANK-YOU to Lisa Gailey for her work promoting the sale. It's listed in all the local publications, so we should have a successful sale. Let's keep our fingers crossed that it's a nice day with no wind.

Linda Holub  
CCSS President



**Field Trip Saturday November 4th  
Home Tours  
Addresses available at October Meeting**





## **Succulent & Cactus Fall Plant Sale** **Sunday, October 8, 2023**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

558 North Ventu Park Road

Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320

Southeast corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering  
Cactus, Succulents, Bromeliads & Plumerias

Along with Pottery  
and Jewelry

Experts will be available to answer  
questions concerning planting  
and care



For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society  
Web: [ConejoCSS.com](http://ConejoCSS.com) Email: [ConejoCSS@hotmail.com](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com)

**Refreshments** - Thank you!

All who attend appreciate the great refreshments!



**If your last name starts with Q, R, S, T please bring refreshments to the October Meeting**

We are using the A-Z method for bringing refreshments to the meetings. Each month in this newsletter a letter range will be posted. Coffee and water is provided

November Meeting - last names starting with U, V, W, X, Y, Z



## Journal Vol 95-3

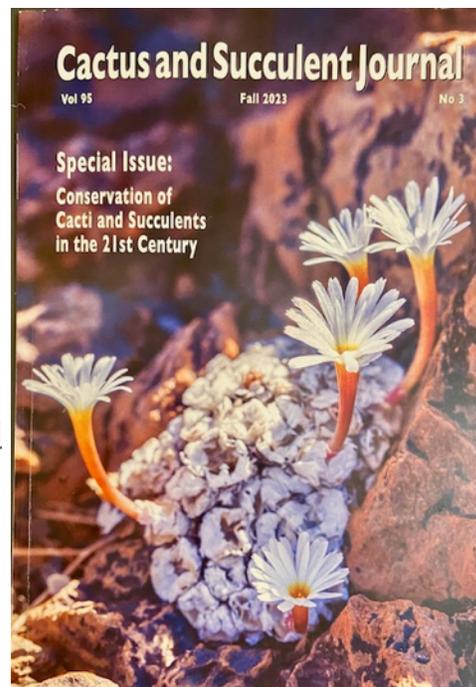
\$12.00

95-3 Cactus and Succulent Journal

Individual journals are available to order on CSSA website

This fall issue is all about conservation and is highly recommended

for anyone interested in conservation of cactus and succulents.



- Peter Breslin: Editorial
- Irwin Lightstone: *Conservation Committee Statement*
- Peter Breslin: *CSI: Namaqualand an Interview with Karel Du Toit*
- Roy A. Earlé: *The Lithops coleorum Colony Restoration Project*
- José Miguel Acuña: *Cuban Cactus Conservation: Challenges and Successes Through More Than Two Decades*
- Lane E. Butler and Raul Puente Martinez: *Restoration Efforts for the Endangered Arizona Hedgehog Cactus (Echinocereus arizonicus subsp. arizonicus) in Central Arizona*
- Lane E. Butler and Raul Puente Martinez: *Rare Plant Project brings community scientists into the field for an endangered cactus.*
- Jennifer Ramp Neale: *More Than pretty Places: Botanic Gardens Take the Lead on -Plant Conservation and Education*
- Jonathan Horst: *Protecting the Achilles Heel of the Mighty Saguaro*
- Tristan J. Davis and Michiel D. Pillet: *Don't Tell Me, Show Me: The Importance of Maintaining Data in Cultivated Plants*
- Stefan Burger: *Copiapoa Ecology: Pollinators, Parasites, Necrosis and a Mutualism with a Recently described Ectinogonia Species*
- Steven Hammer: Conophytum Tribute
- Wilthon Anthony Laurel Yopez: *Arequipa Between the Sea and the*



Our Club Project and Partner  
Join us in supporting your local botanic garden

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden 400 W Gainsborough Road,  
Thousand Oaks



15 hillside botanical gardens including a desert garden

Contact Linda Holub for more information about volunteering to help with this important club project.

### CCSS 2023 Officers

**President**  
Linda Holub

**Treasurer**  
Julie Meyers

**Director II, Education**  
Terry Wilson

**Website**  
Tim Alvord

**1st VP, Programs**  
Donna Pachorek

**Secretary**  
Ryan Ripley

**Scoop Editor**  
Ann Hopkinson

**Librarian**  
Glen Smith

**2nd VP, POM & Education**  
Kyle Williams

**Director I, Membership**  
Glen Smith

**Hospitality**  
Julie Cox & Liz Gollner

**Propagaton**  
Terry Wilson

**3rd VP. Special Events**  
Lisa Gailey

**Assistant to Director I**  
Pam Smith, Membership

**Drawing Coordinator**  
Gerry Caruso

**Event Publicity**  
Donna Pachorek

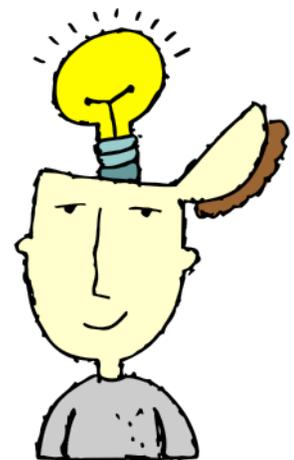


**Volunteering is necessary to the well being of any club or organization.**

Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society needs volunteers to keep the club going since the club is run exclusively through volunteer efforts. Volunteering allows you to connect to the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Community and help make a better club for all.

#### 5 personal benefits of volunteering

- 1) Gaining new skills
- 2) Making new friends
- 3) Mental and physical health and wellbeing
- 4) Giving something back
- 5) Improving your confidence



Please contact Linda Holub [cactuscougar@icloud.com](mailto:cactuscougar@icloud.com)  
or Ann Hopkinson [annh.domd@gmail.com](mailto:annh.domd@gmail.com) to see how fun and easy it is to help.

## Plant of the Month 2023

	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
February	Astrophytum	Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon
March	Parodia (Notocactus)	Aloe
April	Rebutia	Mesembs
May	Miniatures	Miniatures
June	Melocactus & Discocactus	Pachypodium
July	Epiphytic Cacti	Agave
August	Variiegated	Variiegated
September	Opuntia	Euphorbia
<b>October</b>	<b>Mammillaria</b>	<b>Haworthia</b>
November	Gymnocalycium	Echeveria
December	Favorites	Favorites

### **Plant of the Month (POM) What is this all about?**

Each meeting of the CCSS will feature a friendly plant show/competition (POM). The goal of the POM is to introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion of the culture, care and display of these plants. We encourage members to share their plants with the other members of CCSS.

#### **POM Submissions**

Members may submit up to (3) three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulent). Plants entered in the intermediate and Advanced Divisions must have been owned and maintained by the member for a minimum of one year. Plants entered in the Novice Division may be newly acquired plants.

#### **POM Divisions**

**Novice:** 0-25 Total points      **Intermediate:** 26-100 Total Points      **Advanced:** >100 Total points

When a member has accumulated the total number points in their Division, they will be moved up to the next higher Division in the following calendar year.

#### **POM Judging Criteria**

Plants are evaluated according to the following criteria.

Condition (health, form, damage) – 50%

Maturity and Size – 25%

Staging (artistic composition – container, stonework, etc) – 20%

Nomenclature (proper plant identification) – 5%

Additional criteria may include rarity, difficulty in growing, and whether the plant is in flower.

#### **POM Judging**

1st Place – 6 points      2nd Place – 3 points      3rd Place – 2 points

All other entries will be awarded 1 point. Entry slips will be collected by the POM Coordinator for tabulation, record keeping and publication in the CCSS Newsletter.

We encourage all members to participate in the POM. This is your opportunity to show off your prized treasures or to possibly learn how to better care for your plants.

## October Cactus of the Month: *Mammillaria*

*Mammillaria* is quite possibly the most popular genus of cacti, and is usually one of the first succulents a person buys. There are several reasons for this. With nearly 200 species, *Mammillaria* is one of the larger genera in the Cactaceae, which means there is an enormous amount of variety to choose from. Some species are fingernail size, others solitary globular plants, some are straight spined, some form sizeable clumps, while others are heavily spined with hooks. The more common species are ubiquitous at any nursery, big box store, or even supermarket that sells plants. Most species are small, easy to grow, and have a "cute" factor that make even non-gardeners want to buy one for their patio or windowsill. The most commonly grown species are also quite tolerant of abuse and neglect.



*Mammillaria carmenae*

One of the most distinctive features of *Mammillaria* are flowers born in the axils of the tubercles that as a group form a ring around the stem. They are usually small, but many can be open at once providing a nice display. Flowers range in color from white and yellow to pink and red. Other species have orange, salmon, or even bicolor flowers.



*Mammillaria theresae*

*Mammillaria* species range from Columbia all the way to Canada. Approximately ten species are found in the south western portion of the United States, including California. However, the true heart of *Mammillaria* diversity is Mexico. Most species occur there and you can see the full range of variation the genus has to offer. While some species are extremely hardy (particularly the North American species), others are more frost sensitive. Almost all *Mammillaria* will do just fine in Southern California, with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely draining potting mix. If you live in areas that get hard frost in the winter (e.g. the Antelope Valley) be sure to check the frost tolerance of your species.

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season (typically from March through October), strong light, intense heat if available, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most *Mammillaria* will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. During the summer heat growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving.

Propagation of *Mammillaria* is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix (pure pumice is even better). Rooting is rapid, with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Show quality plants can often be grown in just 4 or 5 years, and entries can be ready for seedling classes in as little as 6 months. Best results are obtained when the seeds are started in late March to late May.



*Mammillaria plumosa*

## October Succulent of the Month *Haworthia*



*Haworthia nigra*

*Haworthia* are among the most commonly grown succulent plants. There are about 60 species, but the number of varieties, cultivars and hybrids are overwhelming and continually increasing. *Haworthia*, are very closely related to *Aloe* and *Gasteria*. *Haworthia* are endemic (i.e. native exclusively) to South Africa, and most inhabit a Mediterranean environment not too different from Southern California. The plants are primarily winter growers, though growth can occur from early autumn through early summer.

*Haworthia* are easy to grow in our climate and in general are tolerant of varying potting mixes so long as they are well draining. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do.

*Haworthia* can be naturalized as a ground cover, placed under shrub cover in shadier parts of California gardens.

*Haworthia* like bright light and morning sun, which brings out the color of their leaves. If the light is too dim, the leaves will be a pale green and the leaves will stretch. On the other hand, too much sun in the summer can burn the leaves. Well grown plants form a firm, tightly packed rosette, showing the best color possible. Many species will exhibit reds, greens, whites and browns when grown properly. *Haworthia* are fairly free from most insect infestations, although scale and mealybugs can sometimes attack a plant. Slugs and snails are fond of them as well.

Plants are most easily propagated from offsets. Seed is sometimes available, and easily germinates in cool weather, with best results coming in October through January. The trick with *Haworthia* seed is to get enough growth on the seedlings to allow them to survive their first summer dormancy. Most seedling losses are due to heat and dry weather rather than over watering. Fresh seed is needed as most *Haworthia* seed lose their viability after a year or so.

Numerous hybrids and cultivars of *Haworthia* exist, and nowhere have the breeding efforts been more intensive than in Japan. The shapes, colors, and markings are amazing. Also amazing is their price. Renny Hosogai of Simi Valley is the main seller of these cultivars in the United States. Her plants regularly sell for hundreds of dollars on Ebay, with some plants commonly exceeding \$1000. Few plants outside of orchids and bonsai can match the value of a rare *Haworthia* cultivar.



Hybrid *Haworthia* from Korea

While delving into the minutiae of plant taxonomy is not the top concern of most growers, club members should be aware that DNA based research on *Haworthia* is revealing that the genus may need to be partially split up. Fortunately the "fleshy leaved" species, which make up the bulk of the genus, will remain *Haworthia*. However, the species such as *H. reinwardtii*, *H. attenuata*, and *H. limifolia* which have less fleshy leaves and a more "Aloe-like" appearance are more closely related to *Gasteria* and some *Aloe* than to the rest of *Haworthia*. No official changes have yet been made, but don't be surprised if some of your *Haworthia* become *Gasteria* (or another genus) in the future. -**Kyle Williams**

**Photo Credits: Kyle Williams**



*Haworthia limifolia* var. *striata*

Congratulations to all our winners and participants from September!  
Please keep bringing you plants coming every month.



## CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM) September 2023

### Cactus - Opuntia

#### Novice:

1st *Tephrocactus articulatus*  
var. *papyracanthus* Cheryl Norris

2nd *Opuntia violacea* Divina Grover  
3rd *Opuntia santa-rita* Susan Krevitt

#### Intermediate:

1st *Puna bonnieae* Ryan Ripley  
2nd *Puna Incahuasi* Ryan Ripley  
3rd *Opuntia quimilo* Tom Horan

#### Advanced:

1st *Opuntia sp. (etedolata?)* Glen & Pam Smith  
2nd *Opuntia zebrina* Glen & Pam Smith  
f. *reticulata*  
3rd *Tephrocactus articulatus* Ann Hopkinson

### Succulents - Euphorbia

#### Novice:

1st *Euphorbia decaryi* Lisa Gailey  
2nd *Euphorbia neriifolia* ' Lisa Gailey  
3rd *Euphorbia meloformis* Debbie Doolittle  
ssp. *valida*

#### Intermediate:

1st *Euphorbia tirucalli* crest Ryan Ripley  
2nd *Euphorbia enopla* Ryan Ripley  
3rd *Euphorbia pachypodioides* Ryan Ripley

#### Advanced:

1st *Euphorbia leucodendron*  
*crinata* Linda Holub  
2nd *Euphorbia millii* Ann Hopkinson  
x *E. decaryi*  
3rd *Euphorbia blupleurifolia* Ann Hopkinson  
3rd *Euphorbia greenwayi* Glen & Pam Smith  
Blue Form  
HM *Euphorbia blupleurifolia* Glen & Pam Smith

We had a good showing for the September POM. The Novice class is really stepping it up. There were 24 Novice, 6 Intermediate, and 9 Advance entries for a total of 39.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated.



POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM mini show allows the membership to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and stage them. Get involved and enter your plants

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

September Cactus Opuntia



Cheryl Norris  
1st Place Novice  
*Tephrocactus articulatus* var.  
*papyracanthus*



Susan Krevitt  
3rd Place Novice  
*Opuntia santa-rita*



Divina Grover  
2nd Place Novice  
*Opuntia violacea*



Ryan Ripley  
1st Place Intermediate  
*Puna bonnieae*



Ryan Ripley  
2nd Place Intermediate  
*Puna incahuasi*



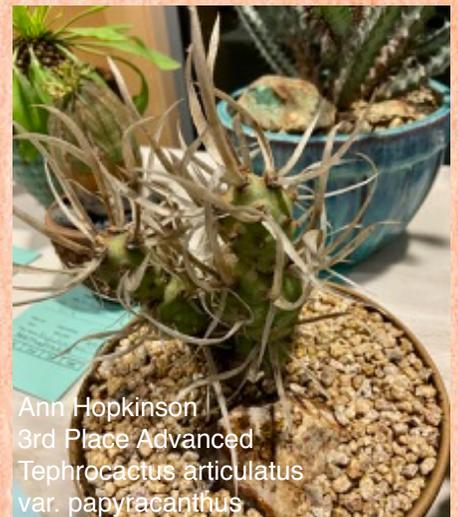
Tom Horan  
3rd Place Intermediate  
*Opuntia quimilo*



Glen & Pam Smith  
1st Place Advanced  
*Opuntia etedolata*



Glen & Pam Smith  
2nd Place Advanced  
*Opuntia zebrina*  
f. *reticulata*

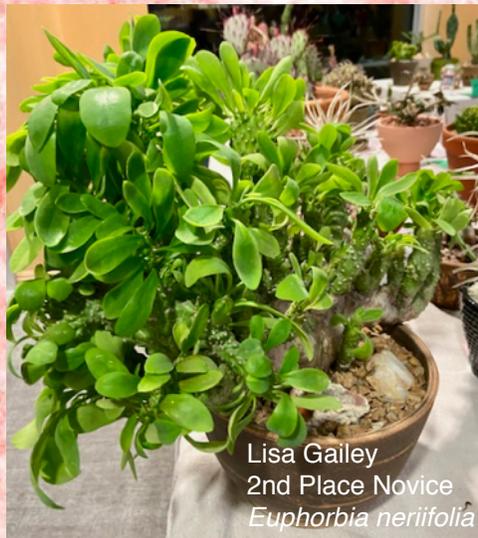


Ann Hopkinson  
3rd Place Advanced  
*Tephrocactus articulatus*  
var. *papyracanthus*

# Novice, Intermediate, Advanced September Succulents Euphorbia



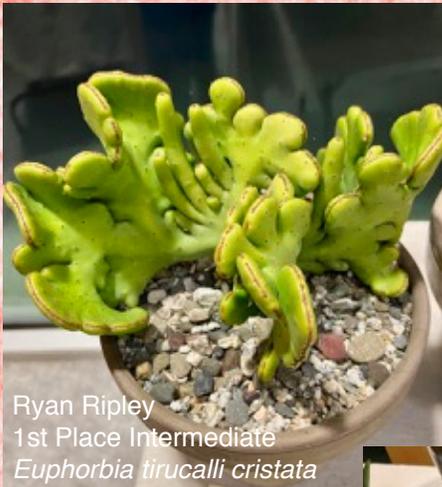
Lisa Gailey  
1st Place Novice  
*Euphorbia decaryi*



Lisa Gailey  
2nd Place Novice  
*Euphorbia neriifolia*



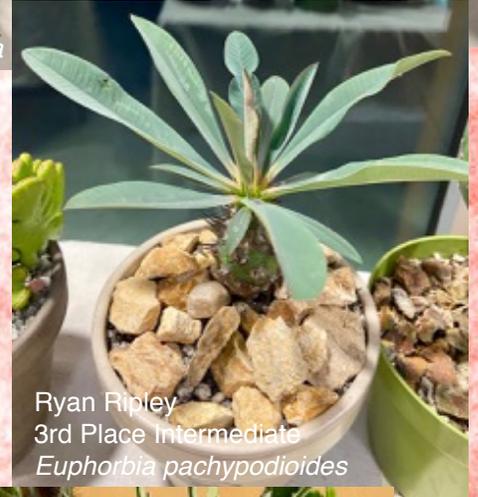
Debbie Doolittle  
3rd Place Novice  
*Euphorbia meloformis ssp. valida*



Ryan Ripley  
1st Place Intermediate  
*Euphorbia tirucalli cristata*



Ryan Ripley  
2nd Place Intermediate  
*Euphorbia enopla*



Ryan Ripley  
3rd Place Intermediate  
*Euphorbia pachypodioides*



Ann Hopkinson  
2nd Place Advanced  
*Euphorbia milii x E. decaryi*



Ann Hopkinson  
2nd Place Advanced  
*Euphorbia blupleurifolia*



Linda Holub  
1st Place Advanced  
*Euphorbia leucodendron cristata*



Glen & Pam Smith  
3rd Place Advanced  
*Euphorbia greenwayi Blue Form*



Glen & Pam Smith  
Honorable Mention  
*Euphorbia blupleurifolia*