

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

March, 2022 | Volume 64, Issue III

## Announcements

### March Meeting:

**Speaker: Ron Nies**

Monday, March 28th, 7pm

For members/guests who wish to attend in person, the Shepard Garden & Arts Center will open at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

### Plant Marketplace

Members may bring succulent cuttings/plants to share/trade; no plant sales are planned this month, but there will be a new feature in the newsletter next month. You may submit a list of plants you intend to bring to the meeting to sell/trade/give away. That way, your fellow-club members will have advance notice of available plants at the meeting. To have a plant listed in the April edition, please send details to Bruce Clarke at [b.clarke5@icloud.com](mailto:b.clarke5@icloud.com)

### Who Wants to be Featured in the Next Newsletter?

If you are interested in being interviewed for the next edition of Thorny Issues, please talk to Shawnee Giles at the meeting or email [spg325@icloud.com](mailto:spg325@icloud.com).

## March Program

### Ron Nies Talks Carnivores

Ron Nies first heard and learned about carnivorous plants while studying Wildlife Management at Humboldt State University. After that, his formal career went in a different direction and he spent 40+ years working in different laboratories. It's only been the last 20 years or so that he has been able to spend more time learning about and growing carnivores as a hobby. Ron and his wife moved to Sacramento about 12 years ago and that's when his collection and knowledge really started to grow.

Ron is the current President of the Sacramento Bromeliad and Carnivorous Plant Society and a member of the Bay Area Carnivorous Plant Society.

Ron's presentation will cover the following topics: what is a carnivorous plant; why carnivores; and a little on how.

Ron will then take us on a high level survey of carnivores from around the world and close to home (yes, close to home!).



## Board and Committee Chairs

President

*Marisol Dennis*

Vice-President/Program Chair

*Theresa Roberts*

Secretary *Gerhard Bock*

Treasurer *Greg Lang*

Board of Directors

*Penny Newell, Carole Hada, Keith Taylor, Steve Goodman, Ex Officio*

CSSA Affiliate

*Marisol Dennis*

Guest Book/Door Prize

*Cassidy Roberts-Yee & Chere Peterson*

Librarian

*George Krigas*

Membership/Roster

*Carole Hada*

Mini Show

*Shawnee Giles*

Newsletter

*Shawnee Giles*

Drawing Tickets

*Cindy Morales*

Refreshments

*Michele Swanberg & Elaine Thomas*

Annual Country Store

*Holly Maxwell*

Sunshine

*Cherry Dulaney*

Webmaster

*Gerhard Bock*

Annual Show & Plant Sale

*Marisol Dennis/Keith Taylor*  
Co-chairs

## 2022 Mini-Show Categories

Month	Cactus	Succulent
March	Notocactus/Parodia	Euphorbia
April	Rebutia/Aylostera/ Sulcorebutia	Bromeliacea
May	No Mini-Show .....	Spring Sale
June	Mammillaria	Agave
July	Gymnocalycium	Haworthia
August	Crests/Monstrose/ Variegates	Crests/Monstrose/ Variegates
September	Auction.....	
October	Ariocarpus	Stapeliads
November	Show us your favorite cactus	Show us your favorite succulent
December	Holiday Party.....	Awards presented to highest scores

## February Mini Show Results

The table below details the results of the February mini-show. As you can see, due to limited participation, there are quite a few missed opportunities for points. Bring those plants in this month before the competition heats up!

Category	Place	Cactus	Succulent
Novice	1st	Shawnee Giles <i>Opuntia basilaris</i>	No entries
	2nd	Carole Hada <i>Opuntia fulgida</i>	
Intermediate	1st	Elaine Thomas <i>Opuntia microdasys</i> <i>Albispinus</i>	Elaine Thomas <i>Aloe rauhii</i>
	2nd	Linda Portmann <i>Opuntia macrocentra</i>	Linda Portmann <i>Aloe vera</i>
Advanced		No entries	No entries

## New Members for February 2022

---

Sydney Anderson  
Thomas Blackmon  
Teri Knight  
Sally Rubio



[Redacted names]

---

[Redacted names]

## Letter of Thanks from Elton Roberts

---

To the Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society  
and Theresa Roberts,

Thank you for the honor and book presented to me for my many years of growing cactus and succulents. The book, Secrets of Namaqualand Succulents has shown me where so many wonderful succulents come from. I did not know so many of the worlds wonderful succulents could come from one area. I am used to our deserts where there may be a half dozen different species of cactus in a large area. This book has taken me for a walk through a wonderful land of strange and wonderful succulents.

Thank you again Theresa Roberts and the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society.

Elton Roberts

## Member's Corner: Elton Roberts



### Are you mostly a cactus or a succulent person?

I am mainly a cactus person. It is too hot here for most succulents in the summer-time and they burn. So I have gotten rid of most succulents and have stayed with cactus.

### Do you have a favorite cactus?

Over the years, I've tried to come up with a favorite many times. I simply do not have a favorite.

### What piqued your interest in these plants?

When I was all of about 4 years old, my granddad would take us out to the desert for a nice long day. I learned to love the desert and its plants. The plants were so different and strange looking, I had to fall in love with them. I saw the desert before it was ruined with all the dune buggies and so many camp grounds. I saw Palm Canyon when it was wild and free and maybe only one

other person was seen for the whole day. The last time I was there I did not go for they had a wide paved path and hundreds of people marching up and down the path. I decided to remember it like it was in the 1940s.

### Have you traveled out of the country to see plants in habitat?

I have not traveled to other countries to see cactus, but I have traveled extensively in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and Colorado looking at plants. When in Kentucky many



*Coryphantha greenwoodii*  
by Elton Roberts

years ago I climbed the steep hill behind my Granny's house and about half-way up beside a rock was a cactus growing. Many years later I described the location to my brother and he found the plant still there and he brought me several pieces of it.

### Where do you live and garden?

I live in Ripon California. I do not garden any more but I still



*Echinocereus coccineus blood red*  
by Elton Roberts

have 6 hothouses of cactus. I am 80 years old and so I had contemplated the fate of the plants if I died or could not care for them any longer so I have sold my collection.... but make sure that I have some new ones growing from seed or propagated plants for sale in my sales house. That helps my mind and body to stay feeling young.

### Where do you purchase new plants?

Most recently I have gotten mail order plants from Miles to Go or other online sources.



*Echinocereus melanocentrus*  
by Elton Roberts



*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* by Elton Roberts



*Ariocarpus trigonus* by Elton Roberts



*Ariocarpus hintonii* by Elton Roberts



*Cleistocactus samaipatanus* by Elton Roberts



*Echinocereus apachensis* by Elton Roberts



*Echinocereus dasyacanthus* by Elton Roberts

## Show Calendar

This list of California shows is provided by the national and local clubs and is subject to change. Before planning a trip, please verify details.

### March 18-19

*Orange County Cactus & Succulent Sale*  
Anaheim United Methodist Church  
1000 S. State College Blvd, Anaheim

### April 23-24

*Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale*  
Portuguese Community Hall  
124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville

### April 23-24

*South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale*  
Palos Verdes Art Center,  
5504 Crestridge Road,  
Rancho Palos Verdes  
Info: 310-346-6206

### May 2-3

*Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale*  
Veterans Memorial Center  
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City  
Info. 310-822-1783

### May 6-8

*Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale*  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

### May 21-22

*Carmichael Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale*  
Carmichael Park Clubhouse  
5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael

### May 28-29

*Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society*  
Nipomo High School  
525 N Thompson Ave., Nipomo

### June 16-19

*San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society*  
County Fair Bldg, Golden Gate Park  
1199 9th Ave., San Francisco

## SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS THE 62ND ANNUAL

# *Cactus & Succulent 2022 Plant Sale & Exhibition*

Free Admission

**MAY 6, FRIDAY  
1PM-6PM**

**MAY 7 SATURDAY  
9AM-6PM**

**MAY 8, SUNDAY  
9AM-4PM**

**SHEPARD GARDEN  
& ARTS CENTER**  
3330 McKinley Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95816



[www.sacramentocss.com](http://www.sacramentocss.com)  
Masks and social distancing encouraged