

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June, 2023 | Volume 69, Issue IV

## Announcements

### June Meeting:

June 26nd 2023  
6:15pm -9:15pm  
Shepard Garden  
& Art Center

Doors open at 6:15 for  
plant sales and  
fellowship. Program  
begins at 7 PM.

Open to the public.  
No admission fee.  
Free parking.  
Refreshments served.



## June Program

### The Canary Islands, Flora in the Extremes

Across seven Spanish islands off the Moroccan coast that comprise the Canary islands, volcanos have shaped a mountainous landscape in a mild Mediterranean climate that has led to the development of a unique succulent flora. These islands range from nearly barren moonscapes (Fuerteventura, Lanzarote) to lush laurel forests (La Gomera, La Palma). Effects of dramatic changes in elevation, moisture and you've got a recipe for hyper speciation. In short, it's a botanical paradise. In fact, every island features its own endemics, and many species are restricted to just two or three islands in the archipelago.

Russell has made four trips to the Canary Islands. He will share his beautiful photography, humor, and enthusiasm for travel and plants, Spain, its cuisine, architecture, and scenery, as well as giving us a deep-dive look at the islands' rarest succulents. Fuerteventura, for example, has an endemic spiny euphorbia known from just one small valley, while La Gomera hosts at least six species of Aeonium known only to that island, as well as numerous monanthes, giant perennial sow thistles, bronze fennels, tree members of the morning glory family, and many other island oddities.

## June Program

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Russell Wagner



Aichryson — shade-loving succulents found all over The Canaries



Huge Aeonium subplanum on La Gomera

Russell Wagner earned a PhD in chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley. He found his passion for plants as a member of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society, where he's been a member for 25 years. He served for seven years as editor of Cactus and Succulent Journal, and later published a beautiful book on mesembs with Steven Hammer. A second volume is in the works!

Russell has an extensive collection of (mostly seed-grown, mostly winter-rainfall, mostly South African) succulents, bulbs, and other geophytes, with an emphasis on mesembs. He grows plants in the ground and in his 750 sq ft greenhouse in Oakland. His hybrid work involves euphorbia —mainly crosses of *E. symmetrica* and *E. bupleurifolia*, tiny hybrids of *Neohenricia* × *Stomatium* (a game he calls Making Titanopsis From Scratch), and *Adromischus marianae*, where hundreds of new forms have been produced in recent years.

Russell travels extensively to photograph succulent plants in habitat: Mexico four times, South Africa eight, Namibia thrice, Peru, Bolivia, Morocco... and as of 2018, four times to the Canaries, the subject of this month's talk. In addition, at the meeting we're promised a selection of seed grown plants unlikely to be found anywhere else, and maybe a little Canaries-inspired snack!

He will also be bringing a few flats of plants to sell.

## Board and Committee Chairs

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**President:**

*Mariel Dennis*

**Vice-President/Program Chair:**

*Theresa Roberts*

**Secretary:** *Gerhard Bock*

**Treasurer:** *Greg Lang*

**Board of Directors:**

*Penny Newell, Carole Hada, Tina Marie, Steve Goodman, Ex Officio Tina Micheal Ruse*

**CSSA Affiliate:**

*Mariel Dennis*

**Librarian:**

*George Krigas*

**Membership/Roster:**

*Carole Hada*

**Mini Show:**

*Linda Partmann*

**Newsletter:**

*Eve Milan*

**Drawing Tickets:**

*Cindy Morales*

**Refreshments:**

*Michele Swanberg & Elaine Thomas*

**Annual Country Store:**

*Bill McCabe*

**Sunshine Corner:**

*Cherry Dulaney*

**Webmaster:**

*Gerhard Bock*

**Annual Show & Plant Sale:**

*Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor Co-chairs*

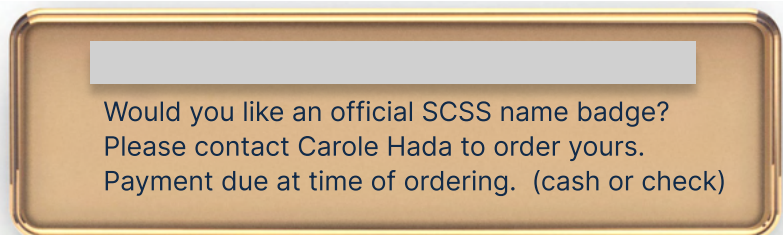
## June Birthdays

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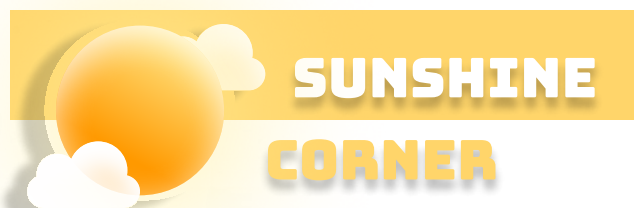
## SCSS Name Badges

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## Sunshine Corner

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Please contact Cherry if you know of anyone needing a little sunshine to brighten their day.  
Cherry Dulaney, cdaf182@gmail.com.

## 2023 Mini Show Schedule

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Month	Cactus	Succulent
June	Ferocactus + Tephrocactus	Senecio + Othonna
July	Any Monstrose Cactus	Any Monstrose Succulent
August	Notocactus, Parodia or Matucana	Echeveria
September	Country Store	No Mini-show
October	Echinopsis + Neoporteria	Tylecodon + Cotyledon
November	Columnar Cactus	Dudleya
December	Holiday Party	No Mini-show



*Othonna euphorbioides*

### June Mini Show

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I will be in Hawaii for the June meeting, but Elaine Thomas has graciously agreed to handle the Mini Show for me! I will be on the Big Island of Hawaii and will visit their public cactus/succulent garden by the Old Airport. It is a really fabulous collection, and if you are ever on the Big Island you must stop by. I will share a few pictures next newsletter.

Here is some basic information about this month's featured cactus and succulents and a few pictures.

Ferocactus is a barrel-shaped cactus that has tiny flowers and large spines. They have shallow roots and flowers that are multicolored. They are used widely as houseplants because they are incredibly gorgeous to look at. They are also known as the 'traveler's friend' and in fact, a lot of desert art has been inspired by their shape and form.

Tephrocactus is a small genus in the subfamily Opuntioideae which is endemic to Argentina. Like other members of this group, Tephrocactus does have glochids, however, they are uniquely sunken into the areoles in this genus. Spines may be long, dense and needle-like or thin and papery or absent. The stems grow in very distinct segments, but unlike the flat-pads found on the genus Opuntia, the segments of Tephrocactus are round. This can be either in short cylinders, egg shaped, or even spherical. These segments typically grow in a slightly zig-zagged stack. Flowers are white in most species or pinkish, sometimes yellow, and in one case red.

Senecio is a genus of flowering plants in the daisy family that includes ragworts and groundsels. Various circumscribed taxonomically, the genus Senecio is one of the largest genera of flowering plants.

Othonna is a genus of approximately 90 species of succulent or subsucculent perennial herbs or shrubs, with its center of diversity in the Greater Cape Floristic Region (GCFR) of South Africa but some species' ranges include southern Namibia, Angola, and Zimbabwe.

Aloha, Linda Partmann

June Mini Show Examples

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**CACTUS: FEROCACTUS & TEPHROCACTUS**



*Tephrocactus*



*Ferocactus*



*Ferocactus Alamosacus*



*Tephrocactus Weberi*

**SUCCULENTS: SENECIO & OTHONNA**



*Senecio Tropaeolifolius*



*Othonna Clavifoliai*



*Senecio Cuneatus*

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GARDEN EXPANSION: THANK YOU!!**

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To all the volunteers, those making donations and the Board of SCSS for your part in making the new extension to our cactus and succulent demonstration garden at Shephard Garden and Arts Center a success. After two changes to our original schedule due to wet weather, it is now substantially complete. Next time you come to a meeting or are just walking the dog nearby, come by and take a look. Also a special thanks to the governing Board of the Shephard G&A Center for their encouragement and Chris Berry, McKinley Park Supervisor, for his help coordinating park operations with our project.

Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the garden. We hope to involve a few volunteers in some clean up and maintenance activities. A bit of weeding, raking out leaves and flowers keeps our garden looking very attractive and inviting to the public.

Thank you all,  
The SCSS Garden Committee  
George Krigas  
Bill McCabe  
Dave Roberts

Open House Announcement:

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# OPEN HOUSE

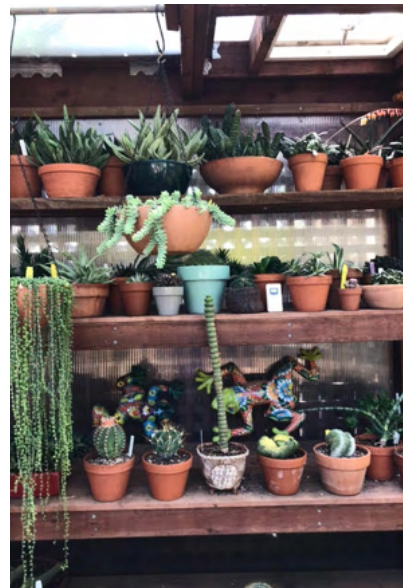
MARIEL DENNIS  
SCSS PRESIDENT

**JULY 9, 10AM - 2PM**  
11842 Sandy Knoll Ct.  
Rancho Cordova,  
CA 95742

Dave Roberts' Open House:

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Thank you Dave for sharing your garden with us!



Tri-County Home & Garden Show



## The 2023 Tri-County Home & Garden Show

August 18, 19, & 20 | The Roebelen Center | Roseville, CA

### Garden pavilion

Garden Seminars, Garden Market, Flower Societies

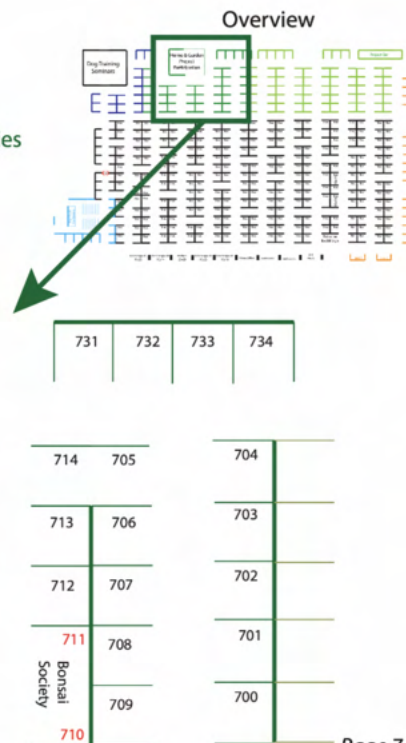
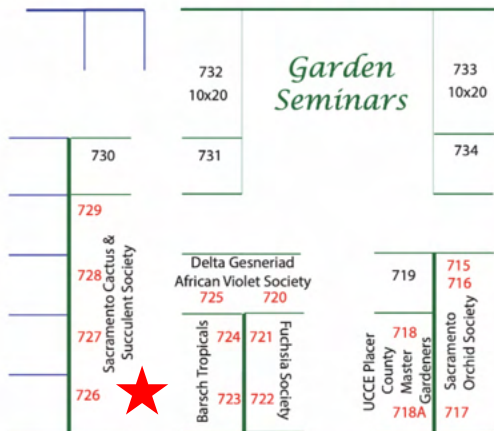
Garden Market: 10x10 Inlines \$275, Corners \$375

Garden Societies: Complimentary Space

Booths include one electrical outlet

The show is growing!

The Floor plan will grow and change with it!



We will have a booth at this show with several of our local C&S vendors selling plants and pots. We will have space in the garden center as shown on the floor plans. (#726 - #729)