



Cacticon 2024 – International Speakers Panel.

Elisabeth Sarnes (Germany)



Elisabeth started collecting cacti together with her husband Norbert in 1977.

Only in 2004, after the first trip to Patagonia, both began to specialize on the genera *Austrocactus*, *Pterocactus* and *Maihueniopsis*. Many travels to Patagonia followed this first one and they made more than 50,000 km in that part of the world in search for cacti. Nearly all trips to Patagonia started and ended in Chile which offered the opportunity to visit the habitats of Copiapoas and other Chilean cacti.

As a result of these travels and their studies they published several articles in different journals, both German

and international. Some of these publications were dedicated to first descriptions of new austrocacti and a *Pterocactus*. Their books “Cactus de Patagonia”, “Austrocactus 2015” and “Pterocactus – Jewels of the Cono Sur” were published in 2012, 2015 and 2021.

At home in western Germany, they cultivate a collection of seed-grown Patagonian and Chilean cacti on about 50 square meters. Elisabeth and Norbert are fellows of the DKG, BCSS, CSSA, Succulenta and the IOS. Elisabeth is committee member of the ELK, Europe`s greatest cactus event.

