

## President's Message

I attended the 2019 Pelargonium Conference on Feb 16, 2019 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. A whole table full of San Diego Geranium Society members were there also.

As Monica and I came into the meeting area we rushed to the tables of geraniums and staked our claims. Robin Parer (Geraniaceae) and one of the speakers brought a whole set of really unusual (for me) plants and we stocked up on some that I had never seen before. In her talk Robin casually described how she is growing 5,000 species and 10,000 other plants per year. I hope to visit her facility this summer and see how she does this. Just keeping track of the different species must be a major task.

David Taylor from the Pelargonium and Geranium Society (PAGS) of the UK gave a talk focused on how PAGS members prepare geraniums for exhibition and competitions. The detail work and preparation of these plants is amazing. He showed how they cut back the plants in the fall, remove all the soil, trim the root ball, and then replot the plant. After all this the plant takes on a whole new life, throwing out a huge amount of green shoots. And then, not satisfied with that, they cut and pinch back the plant until all of the branches and blooms are the same length. Finally, they time all of this work so that the plant is fully in bloom for exhibit at a specific time. Apparently there is magic done with the day light as well to retard or advance a plants blooming. And they do this not just for one plant, but some exhibitors may have six or seven different varieties at different stages.

Ummm... I think I will stick to trying to grow good looking Regals and some zonals, some of the neat plants I bought from Robin, and help Monica with propagating her scented geranium collection.

Patrick Powell/President



A Publication of the San Diego Geranium Society  
The San Diego Geranium Society meets the Second  
Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., in Room 101 of the  
Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.  
Meetings are Free! All Welcome!



Our next meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019  
@ 7:00pm

Don't forget to -  
Bring Cuttings from your Garden -  
Bring a plant for "Show and Tell"

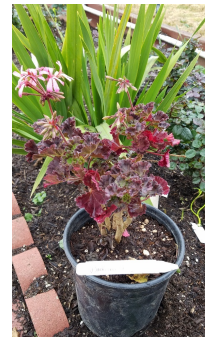
## From our Members' Gardens



P. crispum variegated



G. Tiny Monster



P. Grossersorten-Pink

## Valentine's Day Fun!

