

# Geraniamania

Planting Since 1972



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!

## Presidents Message

Can you believe it's October already! Fall decorations and Halloween Pumpkins are everywhere. The weather is even cooler!

This is the month we start working on our plants, grooming them and starting cuttings that will develop for our May Show and Sale. Your plants will welcome the grooming and pruning. Mine are all green and lush from the fertilizing and watering from below the pots. They look much better after losing about 1/3 of their height and all those spent blooms.

We also need to start planning the Decorations for the Floral Society December Nights Christmas tree. The Theme is Ruby Red. Please submit your suggestions and plan to come and help decorate the Tree.

I'm looking forward to hearing the October meeting's speaker, Cynthia Pardoe. Her passion for Regal Pelargoniums is contagious. Prepare to purchase some plants for your garden that you will not see at your local nursery! See you at the October 10th meeting!

Marilyn Ketteringham

**SDGS Officers**  
**President - Marilyn Ketteringham**  
 rmkett@sbcglobal.net  
**Vice President - Jack Ohmstede**  
 jackohm@att.net  
**Treasurer - Brenda Archer**  
 leocat25@cox.net  
**Secretary - Cathy Miller**  
 dlmcym@cox.net

## October 2017 Meeting

October 10th @ 7:00pm

Don't forget to -

- Bring Cuttings from your Garden -
- Bring a plant for "Show and Tell"
- Bring something for the goodie table!



## PROGRAM

"Regal Pelargoniums Thru an Artist's Eyes"  
Presented by Cynthia Pardoe

## Farewell to a Lifetime Member



We are sad to report that Elizabeth Glover - a Lifetime Member of the San Diego Geranium Society has passed away at the age of 96. Elizabeth was retired from the Navy, and was a member of several garden clubs, including ours. She loved spending time in her garden - and those who were fortunate enough to see her garden were amazed by the beauty and diversity of what she was able to grow. Elizabeth always brought delightful deviled eggs to our potluck dinners. She and her brother (Wilbur) were dedicated plant sitters at our Shows and Sales.



## Couple gets 12 years in prison for illegal plant possession

CapeNature has welcomed the sentence handed down to two foreign nationals found guilty of contravening the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance, no. 19 of 1974, by being illegally in possession of 2,248 plants, which they collected without the necessary permits or documentation.

The husband and wife team, Jose Maria Aurell Cardona and Maria Jose Gonzalez Puigcarbo, both Spanish citizens, entered into a plea bargain agreement and were sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, which was suspended for five years, and ordered to leave the country and never return – after being found guilty of illegally picking and being in possession of flora in the Vredendal Regional Court.

CapeNature CEO, Dr Razeena Omar, says: “We welcome this sentence and congratulate all the parties involved for their work in protecting the biodiversity of the Western Cape. The success of the teams delivers a major blow against biodiversity criminals who are illegally collecting flora and transporting it out of the province.”

Paul Gildenhuis, the head of CapeNature’s biodiversity crime unit, stated: “This sentence is the highest sentence ever handed down for flora in the Western Cape and it sends a clear message that we will deal harshly with those people who wish to exploit the unique flora and fauna of the Western Cape Province.” He emphasised that this sentence was only achieved as a result of a team effort between departments.

Mr. Gildenhuis singled out the VanRhynsdorp SAPS Detective Branch, the Cape Town Organised Crime Unit and the Organised Crime Office of the Western Cape Directorate of Public Prosecutions for their sterling assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Gildenhuis says: “This is a prime example of the successes one can achieve when law enforcement agencies work together to ensure a successful prosecution.”

On 14 July 2015, the pair were caught by CapeNature officials near the Knersvlakte Nature Reserve with succulents in their possession without the necessary permits allowing them to be in possession of the flora.

After further investigation, CapeNature Biodiversity Crime Unit and the South African Police Services (SAPS) discovered 14 boxes containing more plants at the guest cottage where Cardona and Gonzalez were staying.



Some of these look like pelargoniums!



In total Mr. Cardona and Ms. Gonzalez were found in possession of 2,248 plants, which they collected throughout the Northern Cape, Southern Namibia and the northern parts of the Western Cape. Documentation found in their possession indicated that they planned to travel further through the Western Cape, collecting as they travelled.

Amongst the plants identified by botanists of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) were an endangered *Aloe pillansii*, or Baster-kokerboom, as well as various species that are listed in various threat categories on the Red List of South African Plants. Of particular concern was the fact that Cardona and Gonzalez were found to have collected various species in various protected areas, including a succulent that is found only in the Knersvlakte Nature Reserve.

Cardona and Gonzalez were also linked to a website hosted in Spain that offered a wide range of succulent plants for sale, including South African species.

The pair initially appeared in the VanRhynsdorp magistrate’s court before being handed their sentence in the Vredendal Regional Court. (Source: <https://africageographic.com/blog/couple-gets-12-years-in-prison-for-illegal-plant-possession/>)