



President's Message

After they let me out of the hospital last month I was told to rest for a couple of weeks. No digging and no lifting until I felt better. Truth to tell, for a while it was all I could do to toddle to the bathroom. This meant I could spend some time reading, and I had *Hardy Geraniums* by Robin Parer, and *Geraniums and Pelargoniums* by John Feltwell. I also had the latest 'Gardener Porn' - the seed and plant catalogues from Heritage Roses, Swan Island Nurseries, Dutch Gardens and many others. And I got all these 20% off, Free Shipping, and other offers in my email. (Google sure knows how to target ads - I looked up the web site for Logees to see if Georgia Peach was available, and ads for other nurseries began appearing on my browser!)

I can recommend reading *Geranium and Pelargoniums* by John Feltwell for basic (and advanced) information on Geraniums. Here are some of the more interesting items from the *Introduction to Pelargoniums: Engravings of the garden of Henry IV of France in 1608* show pelargoniums alongside plants such as crown imperial fritillaries (*fritillia imperialis*).

Another interesting fact - it is thought that the seeds of *P. capitatum* initially arrived in Australia from South Africa clinging to sheeps wool. Left-over pieces of carded wool with debris knotted into them were often cast aside, and this resulted in the dispersal of hundreds of species, not just pelargoniums, in distant lands. Between 1860 and 1900 over 9,000 cultivars (of pelargoniums) were produced and more are being created today.

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February Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

7:00pm



Don't forget to -

Bring Cuttings from your Garden -
Bring a plant for "Show and Tell"

From Jimmy Z

I am often asked what kind of soil I use.....I normally try to skirt the issue some since I use Pro-Mix and not only is it not cheap, it only comes in very large bales and can be difficult to find.....I normally get my bales from Orange County Farm Supply.....big bales.....about 40 bucks.....now that I live back in San Diego I have been picking it up from them when I have business in OC.....

Last week I ran out.....had a big project to do.....didn't want to spend the 50 bucks for gas for just some dirt..... What to do.....

I have this theory that if you need it Walmart has it....and they are cheaper than anyone.....if Walmart doesn't have it, you don't need it.....

After spending half a day trying to find an alternate source down here, I went to the WalMart website and typed in Pro Mix.....imagine my surprise.....they had it.....oh, yea of little faith.....

The size was different.....2 cu ft instead of 3.8 cu ft....but the price was \$13, not the \$40 I have been paying for the larger size....and guess what.....the older I get the less I like lugging heavy bags of anything....the 2 cu ft bale has a handle and is light enough for anyone to hoist.....not awkward at all....

So again.....if you need it Walmart has it....and they are cheaper than anyone.....if Walmart doesn't have it, you don't need it.....

And this stuff is the tops in soil mix....not the Miracle Gro, et al stuff you get at Home Depot....this is professional grade.....



President's message continues...

Sadly, the plethora of new breeds has resulted in the loss of old cultivars. The popularity of cultivars waxes and wanes and suddenly a particular cultivar is no longer available. Feltwell has several tables listing the classifications and series names (as of 2001). The classification entry for Pelargoniums: aromatic shrubs or subshrubs, large upper petals, 24 species known, including the parents of scented leaves, angels, Uniques, and Regals.

I acquired a used copy of Dereck Cliffords classic 1958 book *Pelargoniums*, which was infused with the scents of the stems due to somebody having put cut stems into the book (i.e. - using them as bookmarks). A few leaves of scented pelargoniums on a table at dinner time will effectively repel flies. If you are looking for sheer splendor some of the showy Regals compete with Begonias for their floral magnificence. There are a lot more interesting items, but the real stars of the book are the pictures. You can find amazing pictures online as well. My favorites: Gardeners Joy, Appleblossom Rosebud, Orange Splash, Crimson Fire (Calliope), and Occuld Tangerine. *Patrick Powell - President*



Crimson Fire (Calliope)



Gardener's Joy



Georgia Peach

Kisses
&
Hugs



Crimson Splash



Olivia's Pelargonium

Occuld Tangerine



Appleblossom Rosebud

HAPPY
VALENTINE
WISHES TO YOU!
♡ . ♡ . ♡ . ♡ . ♡ . ♡



Mrs. Cox