

Geraniomania

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

At our March meeting we plan to catch up on choosing a theme for this year's Show and Sale. "All-a-Buzz about Geraniums" has been proposed. Please bring your other suggestions and/or ideas about how we can display pollinators with our blooming plants. We will vote on the theme at this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing the progress your plants have made since Jim Z instructed us on pruning and caring for them. Don't forget to bring them to the meeting. They should be green and lush thanks to the rains.

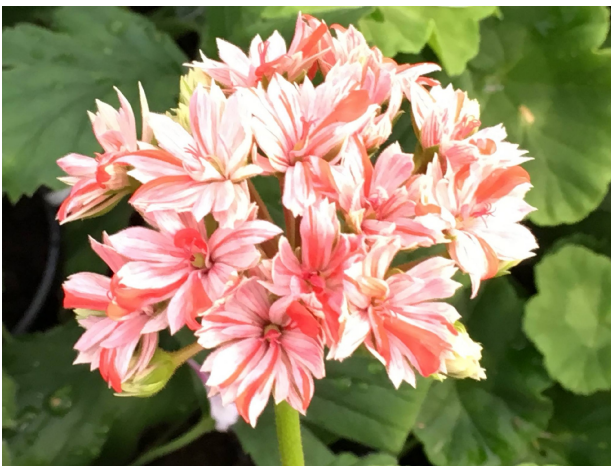
Please check with Cathy if your name and picture have not been included in our Roster. Jack is working on this year's roster now. See you on the 14th!

Marilyn Ketteringham

From Jim Z -

This month the focus will be on de-flowering, de-blooming and shaping. So bring in the plants you have been working with or new plants for the demonstration and discussion.

We only have 2 months to go before show time so don't be bashful. Bring in your plants....



Pelargonium "Swiss Star" (Conk Swz.), a stunning Pelargonium with stellar/staph like flowers and normal zonal leaves.

March Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

7:00



Don't forget to -

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

Ring Those Bells!

We thoroughly enjoyed the Bell Ringers that came to our Valentine's Day meeting! They entertained us with a variety of music, and taught us some of the history of bell ringing. They also let us participate with them - many members enjoyed trying their hand at ringing a bell - it's harder than it looks! It was a very enjoyable evening, and we hope to have this group visit us again!



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Pelargonium 'Deacon Minuet'
Stringer UK. 1972
Compact/Dwarf.
The Rev. Stanley P. Stringer
originated the 'Deacon' Group.



Is it a Geranium? Is it an Erodium? No it's a Pelargonium!

One of the most confusing generic names to any gardener is Geranium. Anyone familiar with temporary planting schemes will know the popular Bedding Geraniums. This is the rather misleading common name for hybrids of the genus *Pelargonium* (mainly derived from *Pelargonium zonale*). To distinguish them, true Geranium are often called Hardy Geraniums. Most species and hybrids of true Geraniums are able to tolerate several degrees of frost, and therefore can live outside all year round, even in cold climates. So you cannot talk just about a geranium, you have to clarify whether you mean a Bedding Geranium or a Hardy Geranium, ie. *Pelargonium* or *Geranium* respectively.



Pelargonium longifolium (Geraniaceae)

Pelargonium longifolium grows at Phillipskop and clearly shows the zygomorphic flowers with the two larger upper petals and three thin lower petals

Fortunately, the two genera are quite easy to tell apart. Geraniums have flowers with 5 more or less identical petals, usually arranged in a flat or bowl shaped. Pelargoniums also have 5 petals but they are arranged 2 above and 3 below. The 2 upper petals are usually larger and broader than the lower 3 (indeed in some species the lower 3 are even missing). So Geranium flowers have radially symmetric flowers (actinomorphic), whereas Pelargonium flowers have a single plane of symmetry (zygomorphic).



Geranium sanguineum 'Elke' (Geraniaceae)

Geranium sanguineum shows a typical Geranium flower with 5 similar petals arranged in a bowl and 10 stamens



This brings us onto *Pelargonium incarnatum*, which grows here at Phillipskop Mountain Reserve (Phillipskop Mountain Reserve is 246ha (608 acres) in size and occupies the southerly slopes of the Klein River Mountains just to the east of Stanford, on the Western Cape of South Africa). In almost every genus there is one species that refuses to obey the rules. This species of *Pelargonium* has perfectly radially symmetric flower. So how do we know this is a *Pelargonium* and not a *Geranium* (for there are a number of true *Geranium* species that grow in South Africa)? One way is to count the stamens. A true *Geranium* will have 10 fertile stamens (have anthers with pollen) whereas *Pelargoniums* will always have 7 or fewer. The remaining stamens in *Pelargonium* are modified in some way but always lack an anther. In *Pelargonium incarnatum* one can clearly see just 5 fertile stamens.

Source: <https://www.phillipskop.co.za/flora/pelargonium-incarnatum>