

President's Message

The Corona Virus Pandemic has brought us chaos, confusion, and uncertainty. The traditional activities of Floral Societies, Parks, and Botanical Gardens have largely ceased. Our Conference was cancelled, our Show and Sale at Balboa Park has been cancelled, and everybody is sitting around in a state of confusion.

I have bonded with the Tiger at the Wild Animal Park. He paces from the front of his enclosure, around to the back, and then to the viewing window. A quick pause - then he does it again. I pace from the front yard, to the back yard, to my desk, take a couple of calls, then go out to the front yard. Like the Tiger, I even have an audience in the morning as the Dog Walkers come by.

But there is good news. Our gardens have never looked so good! And we should show them off. So I suggest that we set up a WebPage on www.sdgeranium.org that we can use to show them off. Details about this will be sent in an email message to members and also published on the web site.

The monthly meeting has been cancelled, but we can still talk on the phone. As an experiment, we will be setting up an online Zoom meeting and will send out invitations to join the meeting.

Finally, one of the highlights of the monthly meeting is the plants and cuttings raffle. I suggest that we hold a Plant Swap. People would donate plants, and somebody would pick them up and take them to a central location. People who wanted to participate would then be told the address and a time to come. You would come and pick out the plants you wanted, and either leave a plant in exchange or make a small donation, which could be sent to one of the COVID-19 Relief funds (to be determined by the Board - but we're open to suggestions!).

Be Safe! Be Well! I have added some pictures of Monica's Geraniums for your enjoyment!

Patrick Powell/President



Memories of George

Jean and I met George when he was president of the Exotic Plant Club. In those days we met at Wells Park in El Cajon. The year was 1984. Jean was taking a landscaping class from Betty Newton and Betty introduced her to the Exotic Garden Club. George ran very informative meetings. The membership also contributed to the meetings. The definition of the club was "if it doesn't grow on the hill side, it is exotic." Club members shared lots of cuttings and plants. Jean joined SDGS in 1982 but George was not a member then.
Jack and Jean Ohmstede

I remember George as an interesting and informative man with a lot of character! I could ask him pretty much anything about dirt, fertilizer, pests - and he always had an answer. He spent a lot of time preparing supplies for all of us to buy at rock bottom prices, too.
Sharon Pearce

Remembering Chuck

Shortly after the last newsletter went out, we were told that Chuck Barber passed away on Good Friday. Chuck was an avid photographer, and owned a camera store in Lakeside. You would often see him at our meetings with a camera in hand or around his neck.

Chuck was very enthusiastic about everything he was involved with - including our Show/Sale where he used his bullhorn to bring people in to see our Show and to buy tickets for the plant raffles!

We're going to miss this longtime member, too.



Chuck Barber

Wildflower of the Year 2020 - Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum)

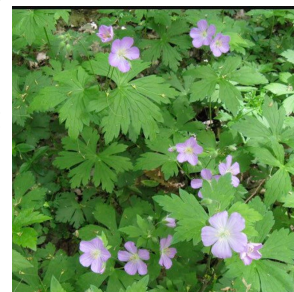
Wild Geranium is a woodland perennial herb. *Geranium maculatum* is widespread in eastern North America from Maine to Minnesota and is widespread in eastern south to Georgia and Arkansas; it is uncommon to absent in the Atlantic or Gulf coastal plain regions of coastal states from Virginia to Mississippi. Wild Geranium favors upland forests and well-drained portions of flood plain forests.

Name and Relationships

Geranium maculatum was named by Linnaeus in his monumental *Species Plantarum*, published in 1753. Geranium has long served as the type genus of Geraniaceae. The genus and family name are derived from the Greek word *geranos*, crane, in reference to the elongate fruiting styles common throughout the family. English common names like Cranesbill and Storksbill for relatives of Wild Geranium similarly refer to their elongate fruiting-stage styles. The species portion of the binomial, *maculatum*, means spotted, perhaps a reference to slight irregularities in petal pigmentation sometimes observed in this species.

In the Garden

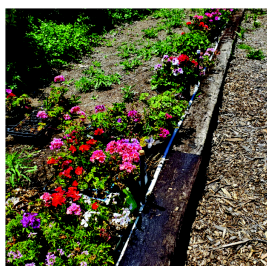
Wild Geranium is an excellent garden plant, fitting well with mixed perennials in light shade or naturalistic woodland settings. It is tolerant of a wide variety of soil types and soil pH. Cultivated plants benefit from supplemental water in dry spells, without which aerial stems may senesce and die to the ground. Propagation can be accomplished by division and by seed. Divide rhizomes in spring or fall by severing its segments and planting the pieces about one inch deep. Diligence will be required to collect mature seeds before they are ballistically dispersed. Seeds may be sown outdoors as soon as they are collected or in seed flats for controlled cold stratification. Germination may be erratic; some seeds may not sprout until after a second winter or cold treatment. Wild Geranium flowers are visited by diverse native bees, including *Adrena distans*, a dedicated, specialist, pollinator.



Human Uses

Native Americans used Wild Geranium to treat a variety of disorders and commercial preparations of the plant, usually derived from roots and/or rhizomes, are available today as herbal or alternative medicines. Medicinal qualities can be attributed to presence of gallic acid and tannins that provide astringent and bacteriostatic effects. Root and rhizome preparations have been taken internally to treat gastrointestinal distress, applied topically as an eyewash, or as an ingredient in compression dressings for wounds. (SDGS does not endorse the use of Wild Geranium for medicinal purposes.)

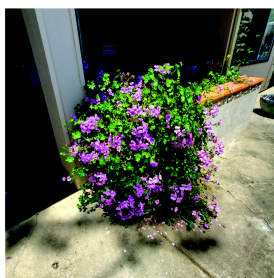
Flowers from Patrick and Monica Powell's Garden



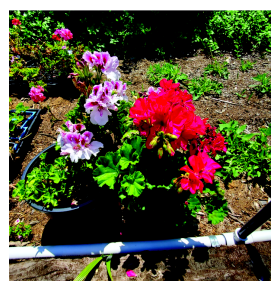
The Nursery



The Babies



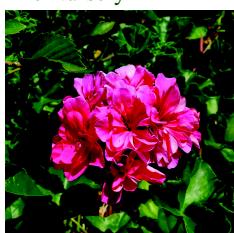
The Front Door



Juliet and Romeo



Friends - Ivy,
Nasturtiums and
Hibiscus



Ivy - Star of the Show



Purple Wall Flower

