Monthly Pollen

**April** 



## Mason Bee, Osmia spp.

Description: Dark blue, metallic body
Medium to large body size: 9-11 mm
Round thorax and abdomen with hair on underside

**Nesting Requirements:** Above-ground cavities (i.e. hollow twigs, logs, beetle burrows and man-made

holes)

Flight Period: Spring through early summer

Foraging Habitat: Generalists

Social Habits: Solitary



## Wild Geranium, Geranium maculatum

**Description:** Showy, pink, five-petaled flowers at the top of leafy, 1-3' stems, 5- to 6-parted, deeply cut leaves, colonizes by thick rhizomes

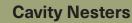
Bloom Time: April - July

Propagation: Root Division, Seeds

Native Habitat: Dry or moist woods; woodland

edges; dappled meadows

*Value:* Recognized by pollination ecologists as attracting large numbers of native bees



Habitat: Cavity nesters like Mason bees use existing tunnels in dead wood or hollow stems of plants to create brooding chambers and hibernate over winter.

Food Source: Mason bees emerge in spring and rely on early blooming plants like wild geranium and red maples as a vital food source.

**Public Lands Spotlight:** White Mound County Park, Hemlock Draw