



Newsletter

of the
**Toronto African Violet Society
& Toronto Gesneriad Society**

We're not strangers - only friends you have not met!

Vol. 41 - No. 8

www.tavs.ca / www.torontogesneriadsociety.org

October 2017

"Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house..., there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."
~ William Bradford (1590-1657) Excerpt from the first Thanksgiving Day Proclamation (1623)

President's Message is on Page 4

The Builder

*I saw them tearing a building down
A team of men in my hometown.
With a heave and a ho and a lusty yell,
they swung a beam and a sidewall fell.*

*And I said to the foreman, "Are these men skilled?"
"Like the ones you'd use if you had to build?"*

*And he laughed and said, "Oh no, indeed ...
the most common labor is all I need ...
for I can destroy in a day or two
what takes a builder ten years to do."*

*So I thought to myself as I went on my way ...
Which one of these roles am I willing to play?
Am I one who is tearing down as I carelessly
make my way around?*

*Or am I one who builds with care, in order to
make the world a little better
... because I was there?*

~ Unknown - submitted by Paul Lee



Happy Halloween!



You're invited to attend the next meeting on
Sunday, October 15, 2017
at the
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Avenue East at 2:00 P.M.
Garden Hall Please bring a guest



The program will include
Vote on By-Laws
Plant Clinic
Bring a plant you need help with also
Mini Show, Sales Table
Show & Tell

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Editor's Deadline:

Three weeks prior to the next meeting.

TORONTO GESNERIAD SOCIETY

is an affiliate of the
The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

We publish this newsletter monthly
except July and August.

Annual memberships are available at the
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Playback by The Listener

It was a fine day for our September 10th meeting, which was attended by twenty-seven members.

Steve Kerr attended to the affairs of the societies.

A reminder about the November 18, 2017 AVSA Judging School. The deadline date for registration is October 15, 2017, which is the club meeting.

Show and Tell was interesting and educational. Photos are on Page 3.

We had a small, but nice mini show. The violets were assessed using AVSA rules and the gesneriad was judged by TGS (Gesneriad Society) rules. Photos on Page 5-6.

We started the meeting by discussing the Draft Bylaws. Several sections were challenged and agreed upon by Steve Kerr. The Bylaws will be amended. The Seventh Version of the Bylaws will be mailed out to all and we will have a vote at the October 15th meeting.

The program was an outstanding webinar by Jeff Smith on Species Saintpaulia. We were running a bit late, so it was optional if members wanted to view a separate section on the name changes in Saintpaulia. About half the members stayed for that.

Our program for the October 15th meeting is a "Plant Clinic."

Panel - Paul Lee, Bev Williams and Doris Brownlie

Cover Basics of Plant Care

Members bring a plant you need help with



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Show and Tell

Arthur Jenkins brought these four AV species to supplement our program.



Saintpaulia sp. 'Sigi Falls'



Saintpaulia sp. white ionantha



S. sp. diplotricha 'Parker'



S. sp. diplotricha 'Uppsala'



Streptocarpus hybrid with thick
leaves and stems - Paul Lee



Seedling of *S. 'Senk's Snowy Egret'* x
'Le Chateau Brion' - Karin B.

The seedling above is growing in a self watering mug insert (the white device) which was designed and produced on a 3D Printer by the talented Karin Brockmueller



President's Message

What a whirlwind of a week!! Since I saw many of you at our fall sale, Whitney and I have packed up our home in Thornhill and moved to Chatham, where I have just taken a new job. I can honestly say, I AM TIRED!! Moving alone is a trial, moving with 6-700 plants is a tribulation. I hope to start setting up the plant stands Sunday night. More news, and maybe even an article on my new setup and the plant moving experience to come in a future newsletter.

Our coming meeting Sunday October 15th, we will have our final vote to approve the bylaws which were put together by Past President of TGS Gillian, be sure to thank her for the many hours of hard work she has spent over the past years in helping to prepare us for this journey and especially in writing these bylaws. Once the bylaws are approved at the meeting, we will vote to approve the name Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society, and pending these approvals we will open the floor for nominations for your executive committee of this new organization, which will be the first Executive of the new organization which will come into effect January of 2018.

You will be getting a copy of the amended by-laws which were amended based on your discussion points, from the last meeting and we believe that they put the best foot forward for all of our members and were very happy that despite some minor revisions, everyone seemed happy with the changes.

Rest assured folks the work has just begun, after we approve merger, we immediately have to work towards preparing for our spring show, we have to begin the task of combining our properties and all of this will take some doing!! Many thanks to everyone who has had a finger in the pot on this journey to be sure this far and for those that will have hours of work to do down the line.

Looking forward to seeing you all October 15th.

Steve



Members Update

A warm welcome to our new members

Wayne Watson and Margaret Todd

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Helen Mokhtarina

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Steve Kerr has a new address:

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**Mini Show
September 10, 2017**

Judges: Julie Thompson
Beverley Williams

Class 2 - Hybrids
1st *Saintpaulia* 'Eskimo Kisses' Arthur Jenkins

AVSA Judging Rules

Class 1- Species

1st *Saintpaulia* sp. *grotei* 'Silvert' **BIS** Arthur Jenkins



Best in Show
Saintpaulia sp. *grotei* 'Silvert'
Arthur Jenkins



In 1986, the (ICUN) International Union for the Conservation of Nature placed *Saintpaulia* on their list of endangered species and listed it as one of the twelve MOST ENDANGERED plant SPECIES on the planet.



A Handy Listing

“Accessions of *Saintpaulia* Known to be Available in North America

<http://gesneriadsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/SaintSpecies.pdf>

Copy and paste to your browser.

TGS Judging Rules

Class 1

1st *Columnnea purpureovittata* **BIS** Steven Kerr



Best in Show
Columnnea purpureovittata
Steven Kerr



These photos and more are posted on the TGS Gallery at:

<http://torontogesneriadsociety.org/tgsgallery/>

You can view them, download a copy, see them as a SlideShow, change the size of the pictures, search for a plant or person, or search by tags, use a magnifier to check a detail, or view a movie.

Check it out!

TAVS/TGS Newsletter

A Few September 24th Sales Pic



Karin Brockmueller



Doris Brownlie and Audrey Burry-Plunkett



Bruce Williams

The Canadian National Exhibition African Violet & Gesneriad Show 2017

By Julie Thompson

Once August comes along it's time for the CNE to open and with that the African Violet & Gesneriad Show that is one of several held in the Direct Energy Building. Each show runs for three days which is why there are several as the CNE is open for about two weeks.

The entries in the show this year were accomplished by 8 exhibitors. The participants who exhibited were members from our local clubs and one from the public. The members who participated were Doris Brownlie, Beverley Williams, Bruce Williams, Alla Kotova, Brett Flewelling, Emma Bygott and Julie Thompson. Liz Porquet and Alison Connor, from our Lakeshore African Violet Society, came to help us with the set up.

This show is a bit different than our local clubs shows in that we do all the work to set it up ourselves. We have an allotted space for our entries to be placed and we each get involved and get our plants placed in their classes. At our local shows we get our plants out, groomed, and ready for entering and those doing the placement take them to the tables for us. So it's different, and interesting, to do it all ourselves. Definitely is a great way to realize what's involved in setting up a show. It is a lot of fun and doesn't take all that long to get it done. It's so nice, and satisfying, to step back once all the plants have been entered and staged to create a pleasing display and see how beautiful the colours are and the variety we always have displayed so nicely against the white risers and tables provided.

Each exhibitor is given a pass that allows us access to free parking and entry for the show. We do have to pay a \$1.00 for each entry, but there are prizes so is worth it. We each give Doris our entries lists before the set up day so she can write the flags for us so we can have a nice uniform display. We receive some entry cards and write what we can before we get there and the rest after we arrive. It is an early start to

get the show set up and a bit tight for time, so any cards pre done is a great help.

Once we arrive we each get going to get our own plants entered, doing any last minute grooming needed, putting in the flags, and getting them into their classes. As we do for our local clubs shows, we do all the grooming at home because of the short amount of time. Only last minute touch ups. Once we get all our plants entered we stage the show. This is to check all entries are in their correct classes, splitting any classes if required, and to space them out to ensure they're nicely presented.



One of the Display Tables

Once it's all done, and the boxes are put away, we can stand back, breathe, and admire the work we've accomplished! This year we had 145 entries. We actually had 161 plants on the tables but we also had several collections, which is three plants together, and therefore counted as one entry. This show is a bit different than our local shows regarding the schedule as they have three sections in it. They have the standards as one section, then the semi's and mini's as a second section, then the other gesneriads as a third section. Its appearance is like our shows, just broken into the three sections in their schedule. We had 59 in

standards, 37 in semi's and mini's, and 49 entries in the other gesneriads.

Once we've got the setup done the judging can be done. Doris takes care of who will judge the show for us and this year we had Paul Kroll and Judy Niemira judging. They did an amazing job and in no time had it all done. They met the challenge with no problem.

The judging in this show is done by the competitive method as it is a horticulture show. This type of judging has one first, one second, and one third ribbon awarded in each class. They can award some honourable mentions as well at the judge's discretion. The honourable ribbons are typically awarded to something that was noteworthy and didn't win one of the top three awards. There are 5 rosettes that the judges award in this show. They are three Best in Show, one for each section, and two Judges Choice rosettes. One Judges Choice for an exhibit from the entire African Violets section and the other is for an exhibit in the other gesneriads.



Best in Show - Standards Section
Saintpaulia sp. *diplotricha* 'Parker', sp. *shumensis*,
and sp. *white ionantha*
Exhibited by Beverley Williams

We wait off to the side during the judging as we aren't allowed to be near them while they work. We wait, with bated breath, to find out who won the top awards. The CNE has their own clerk who takes care of putting the ribbons on the cards, but this year the clerk wasn't available that particular day, so Dave

Money, who is in charge, asked Alison and Liz if they would do the task.



Best in Show in the semi's and mini's
Saintpaulia 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'
Exhibited by Brett Flewelling

The top awards this year were: Best in Show in the standards section, classes 1 – 11, was a species collection that was entered by Bev Williams. The three plants were sp. *diplotricha* 'Parker', sp. *shumensis*, and sp. *white ionantha*. The Best in Show in the semi's and mini's, classes 12 – 16, was Ness' Crinkle Blue exhibited by Brett Flewelling. The Best in Show in the other gesneriads section, classes 17 – 27, was *Primulina* 'Cynthia' that was exhibited by Bev Williams.

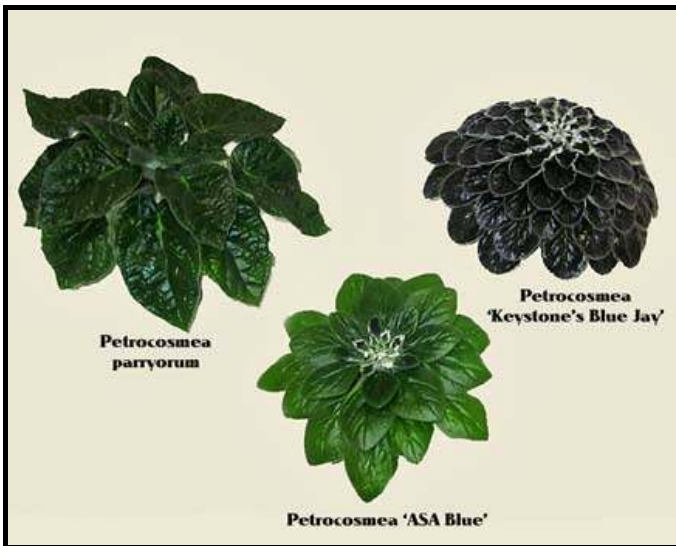


Best in Show - Gesneriads
Primulina 'Cynthia'
Exhibited by Beverley Williams.

There were two Judges Choice rosettes given out and the entry in the African Violets overall that won it was Rob's Vanilla Trail and was Bev Williams's entry. The Judges Choice in the other gesneriads was awarded to a Petrocosmea collection exhibited by Bev Williams. The plants were *Petrocosmea parryorum*, *Petrocosmea* 'Keystone's Blue Jay', *Petrocosmea* 'Asa Blue'.



**Judges Choice - African Violet
Saintpaulia 'Rob's Vanilla Trail'
Exhibited by Beverley Williams.**



**Judges Choice - Gesneriad
Petrocosmea Collection
Exhibited by Beverley Williams.**

We are given permission every year to have an educational and sales table during the three days of the show. While the judging is going on we set up the table with literature to promote our local clubs, parent societies and spring shows, information on plant culture and some plants for sale.

It's always great to be at a show, meet the public, and answer questions on growing these plants and to see people's reactions to all the different blossoms on the African Violets that they've never seen before. The CNE is a great location for a show that allows us to do just that and share our love of the wonderfully diverse plant family of Gesneriads!



Education and Sales Table - Brett Flewelling, Doris Brownlie, Emma Bygott, and Mila Medina



Meetings and Programs

The Combined Meetings of the Toronto Gesneriad Society and the Toronto African Violet Society take place at the Toronto Botanical Garden, located at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue and Leslie Street in Toronto, Ontario, at 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Meeting Rooms vary. Please refer to the website of the Toronto African Violet Society or Toronto Gesneriad Society for full meeting details. Mini-Show entries accepted from 1:45 pm - 2:00 pm for judging (all others for display only).

2017	Program	Location
September 10	Bylaws and Webinar on Saintpaulia species (if time permits)	Studio 1 & 2 & 3
September 24	Fall Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Garden Hall
October 15	Plant Clinic (Panel - Paul, Bev and Doris) - cover basics - have members bring a plant they need help with	Garden Hall
November 12	Propagation - members hands on - start cuttings to take home for the sales table	Garden Hall
December 10	Holiday Social. Auction, Raffle, Pot Luck	Garden Hall
2018	Program	Location
January 4	AV's - mini's and semi-mini's (Brett Flewelling)	Garden Hall
February 4	Design webinar	Garden Hall
March 11	Prepare for Show - going to convention - how to travel/ pack plants	Garden Hall
April 7 & 8	Spring show (still two shows side by side once merged) - NO meeting	Floral Hall Studio 1 & 2 & 3
May 6	Primulina & Sinningia - how to start, culture etc.	Studio 1 & 2 & 3
May 12	Spring plant sale	Garden Hall
June 10	Social, Awards & Ugly Duckling/Dog Show	Garden Hall
September 9	TBA	Studio 1 & 2 & 3
September 30	Fall Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Garden Hall
October 14	TBA	Garden Hall
November 11	TBA	Garden Hall
December 9	Holiday Social. Auction, Raffle, Pot Luck	Garden Hall

When We Merge

A list of items that have concerned members of both Societies. This document will remain in the newsletter and be updated as required.

What will be the same:

1. We will still have a Sunday afternoon of fun, comradery, and education and entertainment and at least nine meetings a year. Our April Spring Show affects an April meeting, sometimes.
2. We will still have an annual Spring Show, separated into two shows, one for African Violets, judged by AVSA standards and one for Gesneriads, judged by TGS standards. The details of the Show are in the Show Schedules.
3. Our monthly programs have been thoroughly thought out by the executive during the Summer. We try to evenly divide the programs so that African Violet interests and gesneriad interests are equally provided. Some programs are suitable for both groups. We encourage members to suggest program ideas to the Executive.
4. We will still have two Pot-Luck Banquets. The June meeting is the last meeting before the Summer break, where we will have the Spring Show Awards and Ugly Duckling/Dog Shows. In December we celebrate the holidays and the end of the current year and the coming of a new year. A Chinese raffle is popular during these events, as well as auctions. The most popular is the food, which we all love.
5. Our year is the calendar year, from January through December, with no meetings in July and August.
6. We love our Mini-Shows, held each month except in June when we have the Ugly Duckling/Dog Shows. So bring in your plants. Don't forget our Show and Tell, a great venue to show something unusual or something that you need help with.
7. If you had a Life membership in either society it will continue with a merged society and new Life Memberships will be accepted.

What will be different:

1. The name of our Society will change to better reflect what we have become.
2. We need to create new Bylaws. We wish these new Bylaws to be wise and encompassing, to provide the best interests of the society, yet not so strong in detail that they bog us down in our day to day activities. This statement is not meant to simplify the importance of the Bylaws, but to ensure they are complete and satisfying to all. A lot of effort has been expended in getting them up to this point.
3. The Executive Board will be streamlined as we will need to eliminate duplicate positions that we had with two societies.
4. We chose to eliminate commercial memberships as it did not benefit or affect us in any way. We have moved to allow all members to sell healthy plants and give a percentage. Outlining a commercial membership with no benefits to them or to the society appeared extraneous.
5. Presently, in October, each society must pay Toronto Botanical Garden membership of \$250.00 in order to have the storage and the reduced rent. If we merge, we will have to make one payment, a saving of \$250.00.
6. Presently the membership for TAVS includes \$5.00 for insurance which must be paid to AVSA each calendar year. This insurance is complimentary for all chapters of the Gesneriad Society, a saving of about \$100.00 each year.