



Newsletter

of the Toronto African Violet Society & Toronto Gesneriad Society

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

Vol. 41 - No. 7


www.tavs.ca / www.torontogesneriadsociety.org

September 2017

"Ah, yes, autumn, when the trees blush at the thought of stripping naked in public." ~ Robert Brault


President's Message is on Page 4

Found




*I walked the woodland,
A lonesome man.
To look for nothing
That was my plan.*

*I saw a flower
Deep in the plants:
It gleamed like starlight,
Glowed like a glance.*



*I reached to pluck it
When its dear lilt
Said: Would you snap me
To see me wilt?*



*So up I dug it
With roots and all
And brought it home to
The garden wall.*


*Once more I lay it
Half in the shade
To see it blossom
And never fade!*

**~ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe
28 August 1749 – 22 March 1832**



Saintpaulia sp. diplotricha 'Parker'

**You're invited to attend the next meeting on
Sunday, September 10, 2017
at the
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Avenue East at 2:00 P.M.
Studio 1 & 2 & 3 Please bring a guest**



**The program will include
Draft Bylaws Discussion
AV Species Webinar
also
Mini Show, Sales Table
Show & Tell**

TGS 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT:

Steve Kerr
sakerr@gmail.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Susan Smith
smith.sue2011@gmail.com
416-265-9731

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

(Open)

TREASURER:

Doris Brownlie
jtbrownlie@idirect.com
905-270-6776

PAST PRESIDENT:

Paul Lee
evelyn.lee2@yahoo.ca
519-843-1477

SECRETARY:

Julie Thompson
jmthompson50@xplornet.ca
613-966-1180

DIRECTORS:

Beverley Williams
beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com
905-620-1149

Bruce Williams

beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com
905-620-1149

Brett Flewelling

brettf@cogeco.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Stan Sudol
stan_pat_sudol@rogers.com
19 Brigadoon Crescent
Toronto ON M1T 3C2
416-519-6972

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
following rates: Individual: \$20.00
Inquiries to our:

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Gillian E. Smith
8 High Park Boulevard, Apt. 4
Toronto, ON M6R 1M4
416-536-9759
gillianesmith@rogers.com

Visit our website at:

www.torontogesneriadsociety.org



Playback by The Listener

It was a bright, sunny day for our June 11th Summer Social. There were 31 members that attended the meeting.

President Steve Kerr attended to the affairs of the Societies.

The meeting was held in the Floral Hall, which provided a large space between tables.

We had the Ugly Duckling and Dog Shows, and both groups were well represented. Steve Kerr and Karin Brockmueller were the judges.



Deanna Belli was the winner for TGS, Award presented by Bev Williams. Arthur Jenkins won the trophy for TAVS Dog Show.

It was an occasion to present the Spring Show Awards. Doris Brownlie and Emma Bygott did the presentations for the winners of the TGS Show, and also a thank you to some of the volunteers that were present. Louise Cheung presented certificates to all members of TAVS that had won in the show. Karin is shown receiving her award.



The pot luck dinner was luscious, sweet and savory and appreciated by all. Thanks to all who contributed.

Arthur engaged us all to a Chinese raffle, a lot of fun and lots of nice prizes.

Group photo is on the TGS Photo Gallery at:

<http://torontogesneriadsociety.org/tgsgallery/picture.php?/637/category/17>

Copy and paste into your web browser.

TAVS 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT:

Steve Kerr
sakerr@gmail.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Susan Smith
smith.sue2011@gmail.com
416-265-9731

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

(Open)

TREASURER:

Doris Brownlie
jtbrownlie@idirect.com
905-270-6776

PAST PRESIDENT:

(Open)

SECRETARY:

Karin Brockmueller
k.brockmueller@gmail.com
647-632-0679

DIRECTORS:

Emma Bygott
ebygott@sympatico.ca
416-698-1566

Steve Kerr
sakerr@gmail.com

Julie Thompson
jmthompson50@xplornet.ca
613-966-1180

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Stan Sudol
stan_pat_sudol@rogers.com
19 Brigadoon Crescent
Toronto ON M1T 3C2
416-519-6972

Editor's Deadline:

Three weeks prior to the next meeting.

TORONTO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

is an affiliate of the
African Violet Society of Canada
and *African Violet Society of America*

We publish this newsletter monthly
except July and August.

Annual memberships are available at the
following rates: Individual: \$20.00
Inquiries to our:

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Nasrin Jahed
2 Forest Laneway Apt. 1205
Toronto, ON M2N 5X7
416-898-6261
nasrin.jahed@outlook.com

Visit our website at:
www.tavs.ca

This Newsletter

Since we hold combined meetings, the news is common to both societies. This newsletter is an attempt to provide a combined newsletter for both societies. We hope it will be useful and informative.

Please contribute to our newsletter: Send articles, photos and other submissions to your editor at stan_pat_sudol@rogers.com. Deadline is always three weeks before meeting date. Got cultural questions or any requests for plants or supplies? Send it along as well.

Stan Sudol



Members Update

A warm welcome to
our new member

Kym Redford

811 Sheppard Ave West
Toronto ON, M3M 2T3
416-895- 5515
kymmredford@gmail.com

Dr. Bill Price has a new address.

Dr. Bill Price

#325-1200 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2C7
604-783-2784
billprice@telus.net





President's Message

Well, August is quickly drawing to a close and as the weeks pile up and September looms that can only mean one thing, that we will all see each other soon! This past summer a number of volunteers from the societies worked tirelessly, trying to determine how these two entities might come together to become one. After a lengthy planning meeting with a lot of discussion we your executive board members are ready to present you with an initial slate of bylaws. You would have seen these bylaws as Stan has sent them out already for you to peruse and send in your thoughts and concerns. Thank you for those who did! Here are a couple notes on these bylaws, and what will happen moving forward in the coming months.

First off, these bylaws are how we govern the society and they cover many things, but not everything. So while they cover things like voting, and the new proxy vote procedures they do not cover what day we will meet, or force us to do specific things at meetings all of which are governed based on what you suggest to us, your executive board members.

When we present these bylaws officially to you at the September meeting, we will field questions to answer why certain things were left out and some were put in. After this we will take and try to incorporate major concerns to the benefit of all members. We will also ask the members for suggested names, Stan has worked very hard over the summer to find a name which meets all of our needs and which is available online for us and is the placeholder name we have used in the bylaws, we as board members would like to present this name, but will open the floor to suggestions with the caveat that any name must encapsulate who we are, and be available online to us to use as an online presence.

Finally, we will bring the bylaws for a final approval vote by the members in October. We will also ask the members to approve a name. Once approved, these bylaws will be sent to our parent societies for final approval there, which should be a simple process. If the approval vote is successful in October we will begin to amalgamate our financial accounts, and will begin nominations for a new executive board for our Newly minted organization, voting for executive members would take place at the November meeting. (I recognize that this would show a shorter than normal nominating process than even the new bylaws, but in order to have an executive committee ready and available for the January meeting we will need to accommodate this meeting schedule)

It has been a fun summer seeing all of the volunteer board members, and Gillian our Gesneriad Society membership director pull many countless hours together for this society they love so that it can last well into the future and I hope you will stand in recognition of that in thanks with me come September! I know it has been a lot of voting and meeting and discussing to bring us this far, but I look forward to getting back into the dirt with you once we move to making these final steps together!

See you in September,

Steve

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
April 7 & 8	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

AVSA Judging School - November 18, 2017

There will be a judging school held on November 18, 2017 and is open to all interested in learning how to judge, what the judges look for and those who would like become a judge or need to write their renewal exam. This means you can register to audit or write the exam.

The school will be based on the AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges. You need to have this for the school and it can be purchased from AVSA. It is \$20.00 US.

Those who will be writing need to bring:

AVSA membership number (or membership card),

Judges Card (if a judge) and

proof of three blue ribbons (the show results sheet signed by Judges Chair or Show Chair). Those who do not have their three blue ribbons proof may sit for the exam and submit the ribbons proof when you do get them. Your judges' certificate will be kept on hold until the proof is received.

Paul Kroll will be the teacher.

Details:

AVSA Judging School

When: Saturday November 18, 2017

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Where: Beverley Williams home
102 Darius Harns Dr.
Brooklin, Ont.

Fee: \$10.00 to audit
\$15.00 to write

Lunch: Bring your lunch. Refreshments, coffee, tea and water will be provided.

To register contact Julie Thompson.

Email: jmthompson50@xplornet.ca

Your registration, either audit or writing the exam, **needs to be received by October 31st**, so the host and teacher can prepare.

If anyone out of town needs accommodation, a hotel is 15 minutes away, near the 401. Contact Bev for information.



TGS Judging School 2004

Cleaning House



Books for Sale

A long list of books that are AV and Gesneriad related, many are rare and discontinued publications.

Request a list

Contact: **Don MacDonald**
maconapc@gmail.com



Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet'

Mini Show

Time to bring in your prize plants and enter them in our monthly Mini-Show. We always like to see your beautiful plants. Get them critiqued by accredited judges and best of all, you may win an award.

Remember, Mini-Show entries accepted from 1:45 pm - 2 pm for judging (all others for display only)



Gesneriad Photos by Paul Lee



Petrocosmea Vietnam species TT 64



Sinningia 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet'



Primulina *flavimaculata*

Gesneriads Outdoors

Sue Smith

For the past few years I have been growing a few of my gesneriads outdoors for the summer, primarily sinningias with significantly large tubers, 'Apricot Bouquet' and one that remains unknown. The unknown has been shared with a number of people and its identity remains a mystery; it proves to be a winner every summer. This year a *Columnnea schiedeana* joined the sinningias. At the end of the summer I prepare them as follows to come into the house.



Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet'

For the sinningias, I wait until late summer when they begin to show signs of decline and remove all the foliage and add it to the composter. I lift the tubers, cut back the root system and wash them with plain water to remove the remaining soil. I want the tuber to be thoroughly clean and dry to ensure there are not little stowaways that might come in. I give the root system a light brushing, a soft tooth brush will do, to remove any remaining roots, I've found its fine if there is a bit of root stubble remaining. When I'm satisfied they are truly dry and clean I put some newspaper into a shallow box, like the ones you buy strawberries in, place the tubers in and place another piece of newspaper loosely over the top and tuck them away in a cupboard.



Unknown Sinningia - Any ideas?

Come late March, early April, I take a peek and typically see some long white sprouts have emerged. I then bring them out into a low light area and remove the newspaper covering. They slowly begin to green up with more little shoots appearing and when they really begin to show signs of new growth they are potted up and sit to the side of the light stand where they continue to grow on. When the weather begins to warm I acclimatize them to the outdoors and soon enough they are ready to enjoy another summer. For the *columnnea*, I will take tip cuttings, rinse them in water and restart them; the remaining plant will go into the composter.

As you can see they enjoy their summer outdoors. If you have any plants in your collection, putting them outdoors may work for you as well.

Show and Tell

Do you have something unusual or need help with? Show and Tell is the place to show it and discuss a problem. Amongst the membership is an incredible amount of expertise and experience that may help resolve a problem or two.



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.

Keep smiling
and
have a
happy day



Remembering Louise



**Hello, I am Louise McPherson
Judging School 2008**

It is with sorrow and regret that I announce the passing of Louise McPherson who was a former member of both TAVS and TGS.

She passed away alone in her house and was found on July 10, 2017. The coroner was satisfied that she had a natural death so no autopsy was performed. It was her wish to have no funeral. Her body was cremated and she wanted it to be sent to her relatives in Alberta to be placed in the Pacific Ocean.

I first met Louise when she and Roland joined the Toronto African Violet Society. She had an interesting life traveling to Australia and New Zealand as a nurse. She met Roland later in life at the bridge club. Together they had an interest in growing plants. He grew orchids and she grew African violets and streptocarpus. They sold them at shows and conventions and we were so grateful when they set up one of their light stands in the AVSC booth at Successful Gardening.

At the Toronto African violet Society meetings we soon found out that she was an active member. She was the treasurer for some

time and was the show chair for their Golden Anniversary show. She entered the show and won Best in Show in 2004 and Best Under 12" in 2005 and 2006.

She was an extremely creative person, creating table favours and beautifully adorned cards for local conventions. She also knitted dish cloths for one convention and warm toques for the homeless.

In 2012 she and Roland supplied the TGS members with gesneriads to grow on for the sales table for the Toronto Gesneriad Society convention.

After Roland died she was without personal transportation because she had a stroke so her activities with the society were severely curtailed. She still grew plants for her friend, Linda Rowe of Blooming' Jungle and attended conventions with her, the last being to Albuquerque in the Spring of 2016.

This year, in the Spring, she invited Pierre LaForest and Diane Page to stay with her and enter the TAVS show. She came to the show on set up day willing to help where-ever she could.

Goodbye, Louise! We will remember your creative abilities and your helpful ways. R.I.P.

Submitted by Doris Brownlie