



# Toronto Gesneriad Society

## Newsletter

*We're not strangers - only friends you have not met!  
Growing since 1977*

**Volume 41 - Number 3**

[www.torontogesneriadsociety.org](http://www.torontogesneriadsociety.org)

**March 2017**

*"May you never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best forgotten." ~ Irish blessing*

### President's Message

Hello Everyone!!

We have an exciting program in store for you this month Karyn Cichocki of New Jersey is coming to speak to us about a trip she made collecting, researching and observing Gesneriads in Equador. It will be a real treat I am sure to hear all about her experiences there. As an added bonus she will be speaking at the Lakeshore African Violet Society on Bubble Bowl Floral designs if you are interested Friday evening before our meeting March 9th at 7:30 pm at:

St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
61 West Deane Park Drive, Toronto.

I do hope that you will find the time to attend one or both of these meetings in support of Karyn's trip. In the unfortunate event that we have a late

blizzard we will watch a webinar as Karyn will be driving and won't be able to make the trip if the roads will be bad.

We will have a lot of things happening this month in preparation for our spring show. Julie, our show chair will be looking for volunteers to help with our setup day and show day activities. Deanna, Judges chair will be looking for anyone still interested in judging or clerking. As a volunteer society if we all pitch in we will have a great show, but only as far as we go together!

Looking forward to seeing you all together soon,

Steve

### Advisement of Membership

We will be voting in MAY to confirm the merger of the two societies. Any questions can be brought to the floor or sent via email to be addressed. Upon confirmation the executive will begin to write new bylaws to govern the new society. These new bylaws would be approved at the next AGM in November.



**You're invited to attend the next  
TGS meeting on  
Sunday, March 12, 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  
"Trip to Ecuador"  
Guest Speaker  
Karen Cichocki  
also  
Mini Show, Sales Table  
Show & Tell**

## TGS 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE

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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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[www.torontogesneriadsociety.org](http://www.torontogesneriadsociety.org)



## Playback by The Listener

It was a cool, snowy day for our February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, but we were pleasantly surprised to see that thirty-four members were not deterred by the weather.

President Steve Kerr attended to the affairs of the societies. Our Spring Shows are coming up fast. Postcard size show posters were available to our members to help spread the word.

Show and Tell: Bill Simpson had a fine specimen of a pink flowered *Columnnea*, Judy Zinni has a story about this on Page 5.

We had a nice mini show, the judges doing a good job with the critique of the plants. Thank you.

The refreshment table was well stocked and enjoyed by all. Thanks to those that brought items and to the volunteers who arranged the tables.

The Program was "Container Gardens" and it was handled aptly by our presenters. Jackie mills demonstrated her techniques and secrets for a dish garden and Steve Kerr did a natural garden and a terrarium. Many thanks to Jackie and Steve for this excellent program, we learned a lot.



### Best in Mini Show for 2016

The award for Best in Mini Show for 2016 was presented to Steve Kerr by Beverley Williams.

This award was started in 2003.

Congratulations to Steve.

# Gesneriad Mini Show

February 5, 2017

Judges: Paul Lee  
Julie Thompson

2<sup>nd</sup> *Saintpaulia* sp. *diplotricha* 'Parker'  
Bev Williams



Class 1  
1<sup>st</sup> *Saintpaulia* sp. Sigi Falls **BIS** Bev Williams

Class 2  
1<sup>st</sup> *Saintpaulia* 'Morgan's Helen Betty Osborne'  
Bev Williams



**Best in Show**  
***Saintpaulia* sp. Sigi Falls**  
**Bev Williams**

*"Winds of March, we welcome you,  
There is work for you to do.  
Work and play and blow all day,  
Blow the Winter wind away."*

*March, when days are getting long,  
Let thy growing hours be strong  
To set right some wintry wrong.  
~Caroline May, 1887*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Saintpaulia* 'H Avatar'

Audrey Burry-Plunkett



Class 3

1<sup>st</sup> *Saintpaulia* 'Mac's Elegant Emerald'

Bev Williams



3<sup>rd</sup> *Saintpaulia* 'Mac's Callow Fellow'

Bev Williams



Class 4

1<sup>st</sup> *Microchirita lavandulacea*

Bev Williams



Gardeners: People who try to keep plants alive in and around their homes. They're divided into the following categories based on their level of expertise:

- \*novice gardener: Someone who hasn't gardened long enough to kill one hundred plants.
- \*experienced gardener: Someone who's gardened long enough to kill one thousand plants.
- \*expert gardener: Someone who's qualified to tell others how to kill ten thousand plants.

## Judy Zinni's Report



1) At Sunday's meeting, (February 5th) Bill Simpson had a beautiful pink blooming *Columnea* that everyone got excited about; and it was loaded with blooms with many more to come. Due to Bill's generosity, several people got cuttings. Bill mentioned that he got it from Ron Myhr, but he didn't know the name. I contacted Ron for additional information. I thought you could print this information in the newsletter so those who got cuttings could label their plants.

Ron mentioned that he got it from a grower in the US who had grown it for many years under another name, which had turned out to be incorrect. The hybrid in question is not yet registered, but will be hopefully soon. The name it is being called is 'Jude' after grower Jude Newman. It has beautiful pink blossoms that seem to glow; I would characterize the colour as a "warm"

pink. Bill grew it under cover, but Ron Myhr notes that he grows it open very successfully. Its obvious floriferous nature would certainly make it a good show plant.

2) The bat cave at the Royal Ontario Museum has been a perennial favourite for years. During a recent visit, I was reading the interpretive signage leading up to the bat cave and noticed a bloom that looked familiar as *Paliavana prasinata*. Upon closer inspection it was indeed *P. prasinata*, which was being used as an example of how bats use echolocation to feed (in this case a blossom). The flower shown was a silk replica at seven times magnification. It's always wonderful to see our favourite plants in unexpected places.



The above is from National Geographic, and shows the long tongue that bats have.

