



Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 1 - No. 10

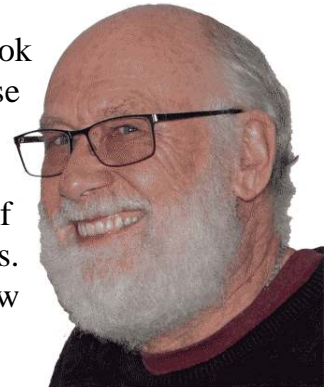
<http://tavgs.ca/>

December 2018

"May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!" ~ Author Unknown

President's Message

Our next meeting will be our Christmas social and pot luck. I always look forward to this because our members, who come from so many diverse backgrounds, bring their home cooked dishes. It is like going to their homes and sitting down with the family to eat. Please bring something to contribute to the Chinese auction, which is either plant or people oriented. I am thinking of the time I won a travel mug, which I take with me when I am working on plants. As you know you get absorbed with what you are doing, and before you know it your coffee is cold. Not so anymore.



Looking out the window and seeing all the snow you know it will be a long time before you can see green out there. I think our monthly meetings help us to get through this time by seeing green plants at the show and tell, mini shows and any plant demonstrations we have. Finally comes our spring show which delights all that see it, because there is so much life, colour and energy there.

I am looking forward to our next meeting as it involves food and good company.

See you there,

Paul



**You're invited to attend the next meeting on
Sunday, December 9, 2018
at the
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Avenue East at 2:00 P.M.
Garden Hall Please bring a guest**



**The program will include
Holiday Pot Luck Social
also
Auction,
Chinese Raffle, Pot Luck
If you help!
Leaf Exchange**

**TAVGS 2018-2019
EXECUTIVE**

PRESIDENT:

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

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

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

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

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

TREASURER:

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

PAST PRESIDENT:

Steve Kerr
sakerr@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

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

DIRECTORS:

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

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

Bill Simpson
w50gsn@gmail.com
905-621-2007

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

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

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

Visit our website at:
<http://tavgs.ca/>



**Playback
by
The Listener**

The weather was calm and not too cool and parking was good for our November 11th meeting. Thirty six members attended.

Paul Lee attended to the affairs of the society.

Doris Brownlie, our “Sunshine Girl”, reported that Olga Vertlib and Nasrin Jahed had personal issues and were unable to attend the meeting. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty Tapping and to Prip De Souza, Marina’s husband who have serious health issues.

Paul Lee had 2 plants of *Sinningia tubiflora*, one of them looked and smelled different, and he was hoping someone could identify it.

We had a nice mini show, and it was well critiqued by Julie Thompson and Paul Lee.

While we were enjoying all of the above, our Membership Secretary was busy, busy, busy as she usually is during our meetings. A big thank you to Gillian Smith.

During the break, our Arthur Jenkins, sold \$75 of raffle tickets and many people collected nice prizes. Thanks to Arthur and to those who donated items for the raffle.



The program was a “Streptocarpus Workshop” presented by Irina Firer. It was well done and covered everything, including some hands on potting. We did not have microphone access, which would have enhanced the presentation, but we did the best we could. Many thanks to Irina

and her crew. (Husband Dimitri and Elena Yevtushenko).

Mini Show
November 11, 2018

Judges: Paul Lee
Julie Thompson.

Class 2
1st S. 'Shirl's Cranberry Smoothie'
Karin Brockmueller

AVSA Judging Rules

Class 1
1st S. 'Rocky Mountain Trail' **BIS**
Karin Brockmueller



Best in Show
S. 'Rocky Mountain Trail'
Karin Brockmueller



1st S. 'Rob's Dodo Bird' Karin Brockmueller



We will have a Leaf Exchange, bring one, get one!



TGS Judging Rules

Class 1

1st *Primulina petrocsmoides* **BIS**

Beverley Williams



Best in Show
Primulina petrocsmoides
Beverley Williams



New species from Guangxi, China 2014. Leaf blade ovate to elliptical, leaf base broadly cuneate. Flowers: bracts narrowly lanceolate, calyx lobes lanceolate, corolla bluish purple.

Bev got it from Bill Price. He also exhibited it in Framingham, MA 2018 at The Gesneriad Convention as part of his Best In Show exhibit. Bev saw it exhibited in Texas at the Lone State African Violet Council Convention.

Class 2

1st *Petrocosmea flaccida*

Beverley Williams



*A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;
It makes no noise at all,
But softly gives itself away.*
~Eva Logue



Members Update

A warm welcome to our new members



Shauna Brown

duke.shauna.brown@gmail.com

Ulrich Schulz

UJHS@shaw.ca



BRIAN CONNOR'S GROWING TO SHOW UPDATE

Schedule as published in our November '18 Newsletter

I need to update the 2012 chart for Streptocarpus because there is one big change. I no longer encourage extensive use of high phosphorous fertilizers. Yes, you will get lots of blooms but you also can get lots of yellow leaves.

The article on Streptocarpus correctly states my current thoughts that Bloom Boosters of 12-36-14 should not be used more than twice and the plants should be leached and re-potted after show. Using High P Super Bloom Boosters of P=50 can really lock up soil pH and cause yellow leaves (but you do get lots of flowers).

Good growing!
Thanks,
Brian Connor

Holiday Social

Sue Smith

1st Vice President

A perfect notice reprinted from last year's December newsletter

It's hard to believe Christmas is just a few short weeks away; although it is a busy time it is also a wonderful time to celebrate the spirit and joy of the season.

On December 9th, we will meet and enjoy our annual holiday pot luck and as such invite you to bring your favourite dish to share at the occasion. A sign-up sheet has been emailed to members where you can indicate what you would like to bring. Your contribution can be sweet, savoury, a traditional dish representing your heritage or a family favourite. Remember to bring a plate and your cutlery for all those delicious dishes.

We will hold an Auction and the ever popular Chinese Raffle, these two events add to the fun of the afternoon. Please bring items for the auction and the raffle, preferably plant related. Perhaps you have extra plants, or a container you are no longer using that could be transformed into a dish garden or a terrarium or glass bowl, taking up space in the basement or garage which would be a welcome addition to the raffle and if it is planted up then it would be great for the auction.

The executive looks forward to seeing you at the December festivities and wishes you a joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sue



Streptocarpus Workshop

We had an unique table setup, a U shaped arrangement that worked out quite well.



Here are Irina's notes about streps from her presentation

1. Streptocarpaceae don't have central rosette.
They are not symmetrical. New rosette will be formed on the side of the previous one.
2. To stimulate growth of the new rosette cut the edges of leaves.
3. Repot them 2-4 times a year.
4. Always look at the root system and find a pot proportional to it.
5. Repot consistently - each time select pot 1-2 sizes bigger.
6. Use light Soil.
7. Provide a lot of light, but ensure that dark time is not less than 8 hours. Streps grow well under the full spectrum lights.
8. Water regularly. Don't over-water - let them dry out a bit between watering.
9. Warm water is preferable
10. Temperature: 18-27 C (65-80 F)
11. Humidity - approx. 50%
12. Fertilizer: All-purpose fertilizer: NPK = 24-8-16
13. Remove suckers (maybe not all, but at least some of them) to avoid thickening.
Otherwise your plant may stop blooming.
14. If you are re-potting your plant, remove old leaves with their root system.
15. If you are not re-potting your plant, leave at least one old leaf. It will be used by plant as a "washroom".
16. If you pot a leaf or weak baby into the soil, make a "greenhouse".
17. If leaf has roots or baby is strong enough, "greenhouse" is not needed.
18. Enjoy and Good Luck!

