



Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 1 - No. 6

<http://tavgs.ca/>

June 2018

"Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it." ~ Russel Baker

President's Message

This will be the last meeting until September and we will all be busy doing the things of summer. Summer is very short and we all want to save the plants that we gave attention to for nine months. To keep things simple some of us will put plants outside, and others will put their plants in the bathtub, for humidity or use wicking. This will mean they do not dry out as fast and can be abandoned for a longer time while at the cottage. I also find not having the furnace running means moister air and less frequency of watering.

I would like to mention the awarding of a certificate to Stan, in appreciation for all he does for this Chapter. I first met Stan when we were meeting at the board of education building in Etobicoke. He was interested in Gesneriads, one thing we had in common. As time went by he was either asked to volunteer or he volunteered, and little did we know what a wonderful editor he would turn out to be. So we always have this need for volunteers to help the Chapter feel more complete, rather than feeling that it is run by a few, which is never good. So I am appealing to you as members for volunteers for helping to make the coffee and tea for our social time. It does not have to be someone all the time, but could be done by someone different each month. A schedule sheet could be made up for you to sign up for one month or more.

We have the ugly duckling show which is like the dog show except there are classes and is judged!! I know that no one is perfect at growing plants, so I want as many plants that are on life support or less to be brought for the entertainment of all. Last meeting I brought a plant that I thought I could pre-enter, but, no one was accepting entries.

Let's have fun and enjoy the social,

Paul

**Best Novice
S. 'Jolly Wit's End'
Robert Hall**



**You're invited to attend the next
meeting on
Sunday, June 10, 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
Social and Potluck
Annual Awards Banquet
Ugly Duckling Show
also
Chinese Raffle, Sales Table
Show & Tell**

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Playback by The Listener

It was a pleasant day for our May 6th meeting. Twenty-nine members attended.

President Paul Lee attended to the affairs of the society.

Doris Brownlie relayed information to us about the passing of Rita McPhail's mother. Rita was a member of TGS for a number of years, and Rita's Mom was a member of AVSC. Also the passing of John Duncan, a long time member of our society and an Honourable Life Member. See more on last page.

Julie Thompson told us about the Judges Critique of our Spring Show which overall was a good report of the show. The Show Critique Sheet is for them to give comments on various aspects of the show, eg. the exhibits, the show schedule and theme, AVSA collections, education etc. and overall good comments were given. In Summary (last point) "Very good show!"

Karin Brockmueller showed us a couple of items that she found at Canadian Tire. One was a pH testing kit and a bottle of Down, a liquid that reduces the pH.

Paul Lee showed us a pot of *Sinningia sellovii* that he had sitting under a bench for the winter, which still looked dormant, but Paul is confident it will be coming back to life shortly. Paul also had a number of bags of soil and additives that he uses.

An Award of Appreciation was presented to Stan Sudol by Paul Lee in recognition and appreciation for his contribution to the society.

We had a nice mini show and a raffle that Arthur Jenkins arranged. Thanks, Arthur.

Our program was a Webinar on "Meet the Gesneriads", it was enjoyed by all members.

The May issue of this newsletter had a picture of *Primulina* 'Cynthia' that was incorrect. The photo was *P.* 'Cynthia' but was a plant grown by Marina De Souza. Marina got a 1st for the plant. I do not have a picture of Bev's plant which did win Best *Primulina*. Sorry!



This month's meeting is June 10, 2018 and our last meeting until September 23rd. We wish to make this a social event, as well as conducting our normal activities, so bring an item, sweet or savory, we are also suggesting an ethnic theme.

Picture Day!

Mini Show May 6, 2018

Judges: Sue Smith
Beverley Williams

1st S. 'Ness Cranberry Swirl' Karen Brockmueller

TGS Judging Rules

Class 1

1st *Sinningia* 'HYC's Blue Dolphin' **BIS**

Julie Thompson



Best in Show
Sinningia 'HYC's Blue Dolphin'
Julie Thompson

AVSA Judging Rules

Class 1 - Miniature/Semiminiature African Violets

1st S. 'Ness' Mini Sota' **BIS** Julie Thompson



Best in Show
S. 'Ness' Mini Sota'
Julie Thompson



1st S. 'Mac's Callow Fellow' Karen Brockmueller



1st S. 'Plumberry Glow' Karen Brockmueller



1st S. 'Imp's Billowing Cloak' Karen Brockmueller



Class 3 - Species
2nd S. 5h. cl. Cha Simba

Arthur Jenkins



1st S. 'Shirl's Red Sky' Karen Brockmueller



Class 2 - Standard

1st S. 'Startrick' Nasrin Jahed



Court of Honour



Observation: In the following Show Results listing, Jackie Mills is the only exhibitor from Toronto.

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
"Come Together"
2018 African Violet Show Results



Best In Show Horticulture
Best Trailer
S. 'Baby Brian'
Bill Price



Best In Design
Best Interpretive Flower
Arrangement
"Twist and Shout"
Steven Kerr



TAVS Group of Three
Optimara EverPrecious,
O. EverGlory, O. EverRejoice
Alla Kotova

Special Awards
Horticulture Division

| Special Prize Name | Plant Name | Exhibitor Name |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| TAVS Group of Three | S. 'Optimara EverPrecious' | Alla Kotova |
| | S. 'Optimara EverGlory ' | Alla Kotova |
| | S. 'Optimara EverRejoice' | Alla Kotova |
| Best Mini or Semi Canadian Collection | S. 'Heritage Frolic' | Beverley Williams |
| | S. 'Aca's Merry Mary' | Beverley Williams |
| | S. 'Morgan's Barossa' | Beverley Williams |
| Best AVSA Collection - Standard | S. 'Bob Serbin' | Brett Flewelling |
| | S. 'Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress' | Brett Flewelling |
| | S. 'Smooch Me' | Brett Flewelling |
| 2nd Best AVSA Collection - Standard | S. 'Buckeye Nostalgia' | Bruce Williams |
| | S. 'K's Lilac Infusion' | Bruce Williams |
| | S. 'Buckeye My Oh My' | Bruce Williams |
| Best AVSA Collection - Miniature / Semi-miniature | S. 'Rob's Calypso Beat' | Brett Flewelling |
| | S. 'Ness' Crinkle Blue' | Brett Flewelling |
| | S. 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl' | Brett Flewelling |
| Best AVSA Collection - Species | S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> van Someren | Beverley Williams |
| | S. 5f. cl. <i>orbicularis</i> | Beverley Williams |
| | S. 5h.cl. <i>rupicolus</i> Cha Simba | Beverley Williams |
| Best NYS Registered Origination | S. 'Taffeta Blue' | Bruce Williams |
| NYSAVS Best Hybrid Trailer | S. 'RS Klad' | Beverley Williams |
| Best in Show | S. 'Baby Brian' | Bill Price |
| 2nd Best in Show | S. 'Bob Serbin' | Brett Flewelling |
| Best Standard | S. 'Bob Serbin' | Brett Flewelling |
| Best Standard under 12" | S. 'Lyon's Spectacular' | Bruce Williams |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Best Species | S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> van Someren | Beverley Williams |
| Best Trailer | S. 'Baby Brian' | Bill Price |
| Best Variegate | S. 'Keshu' | Diane Pagé |
| Best Miniature | S. 'Planet Kid' | Diane Pagé |
| Best Semi-Miniature | S. 'Rob's Calypso Beat' | Brett Flewelling |
| Best Novice | S. 'Jolly Wit's End' | Robert Hall |
| Best Canadian Vintage | S. 'Picasso' | Diane Pagé |
| Best Russian Hybrid | S. 'RS Klád' | Beverley Williams |
| Best Brownlie Origination | S. 'Bob Serbin' | Brett Flewelling |
| Best Vintage Violet | S. 'Tommie Lou' | Diane Pagé |
| Best White Standard in Memory of Dorothy Clark | S. 'Jersey Snow Flakes' | Diane Pagé |
| Best Purple, Blue or Lavender Standard in Memory of Dorothy Clark | S. 'Lyon's Spectacular' | Bruce Williams |

Design Division

| Section & Class | Design Name | Exhibitor Name |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Best in Design | "Twist and Shout" | Steven Kerr |
| 2nd Best in Design | "Penny Lane" | Marina DeSouza |
| Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement | "Twist and Shout" | Steven Kerr |
| Best Container Garden | "Not over 12" | Jackie Mills |
| Best Interpretation of Theme in Design | "Twist and Shout" | Steven Kerr |



Best AVSA Collection - Standard
S. 'Bob Serbin', 'Smooch Me',
'Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress'
Brett Flewelling



Best Semi Canadian Collection
S. 'Aca's Merry Mary',
'Heritage Frolic', 'Morgan's
Barossa'
Beverley Williams



**Class 29 - White, blush, cream,
green and yellow tones**
S. 'Two-w Sandellen'
Karin Brockmueller

Best in Class Awards

Horticulture Division

| Section & Class | Plant Name | Exhibitor Name |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Section I - Collection Classes | | |
| Class 1 - TAVS Group of Three | S. 'Optimara EverPrecious' | Alla Kotova |
| | S. 'Optimara EverGlory' | Alla Kotova |
| | S. 'Optimara EverRejoice' | Alla Kotova |
| Class 3 - Best Mini or Semi Canadian Collection | S. 'Heritage Frolic' | Beverley Williams |
| | S. 'Aca's Merry Mary' | Beverley Williams |
| | S. 'Morgan's Barossa' | Beverley Williams |
| Class 4 - Best AVSA Collection - Standard | S. 'Bob Serbin' | Brett Flewelling |
| | S. 'Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress' | Brett Flewelling |
| | S. 'Smooch Me' | Brett Flewelling |

Class 4 - 2nd Best AVSA Collection - Standard

- S. 'Buckeye Nostalgia'
- S. 'K's Lilac Infusion'
- S. 'Buckeye My Oh My'

Bruce Williams
 Bruce Williams
 Bruce Williams

Class 5 - Best AVSA Collection - Miniature / Semi-miniature

- S. 'Rob's Calypso Beat'
- S. 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'
- S. 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'
- S. 5b. cl. *grotei* van Someren
- S. 5f. cl. *orbicularis*
- S. 5h.cl. *rupicolus* Cha Simba

Brett Flewelling
 Brett Flewelling
 Brett Flewelling
 Beverley Williams
 Beverley Williams
 Beverley Williams

Class 6 - Best AVSA Collection - Species

Section II - New York State AVS Classes

Class 7 - New York State Registered Originations

- S. 'Taffeta Blue'
- S. 'RS Klad'

Bruce Williams
 Beverley Williams

Class 10 - Hybrid trailers

Section III - Standard Plants - Any blossom, green foliage

Class 11 - White, blush, cream, green and yellow tones

Class 12 - Blue, purple, lavender and orchid tones

Class 14 - Multicolored

Class 15a - Edged

Class 15b - Edged

Class 15c - Edged

Class 15d - Edged

Class 16 - Fantasy and chimera

- S. 'Tranquility'
- S. 'Rhapsodie Clementine'
- S. 'Eskimo Kisses'
- S. 'PT-Rozovie Kudri'
- S. 'Ma's Melody Girl'
- S. 'EK-Goluboglaizaia Rossiia'
- S. 'AN-Yablochniy Spas'
- S. 'Ness' Blueberry Puff'

Lyudmyla Kashuba
 Alla Kotova
 Bruce Williams
 Alla Kotova
 Pierre Laforest
 Bruce Williams
 Alla Kotova
 Brett Flewelling

Section IV - Standard Plants - Any blossom, variegated foliage

Class 17 - White, blush, cream, green and yellow tones

Class 18 - Blue, purple, lavender and orchid tones

Class 19 - Red, wine, burgundy, coral and pink tones

Class 20 - Multicolored

Class 21 - Edged

- S. 'Jersey Snow Flakes'
- S. 'Buckeye Nostalgia'
- S. 'Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress'
- S. 'Sugar Plum Dream'
- S. 'RS-Eliksir Krasoti'

Diane Pagé
 Alla Kotova
 Doris Brownlie
 Alla Kotova
 Alla Kotova

Section V - Semi-miniature Plants - Any blossom, green foliage

Class 23 - White, blush, cream, green and yellow tones

Class 24 - Blue, purple, lavender and orchid tones

Class 25 - Red, wine, burgundy, coral and pink tones

Class 26 - Multicolored

Class 27 - Edged

Class 28 - Fantasy and chimera

- S. 'Christening Gown'
- S. 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'
- S. 'Jolly Texan'
- S. 'Optimara Little Omaha'
- S. 'N-Thumbelina'
- S. 'Rob's Calypso Beat'

Pierre Laforest
 Brett Flewelling
 Brett Flewelling
 Beverley Williams
 Beverley Williams
 Brett Flewelling



**Class 11 - White, blush, cream,
 green and yellow tones**
 S. 'Tranquility'
 Lyudmyla Kashuba



Best Canadian Vintage
 S. 'Picasso'
 Diane Pagé



**Class 23 - White, blush, cream,
 green and yellow tones**
 S. 'Christening Gown'
 Pierre Laforest

Section VI - Semi-miniature Plants, Any blossom, variegated foliage

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Class 29 - White, blush, cream, green and yellow tones | S. 'Two-w Sandellen' | Karin Brockmueller |
| Class 30 - Blue, purple, lavender and orchid tones | S. 'N-Avatar' | Alla Kotova |
| Class 31 - Red, wine, burgundy, coral and pink tones | S. 'Ness' Frosty Belle' | Brett Flewelling |
| Class 32 - Multicolored | S. 'Shirl's Grape Ice' | Brett Flewelling |
| Class 34 - Fantasy and chimera | S. 'N-Avatar Sport' | Alla Kotova |

Section VII - Miniature Plants - Any blossom, any foliage

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Class 35 - White, blush, cream, green and yellow tones | S. 'Optimara Little Crystal' | Pierre Laforest |
| Class 36 - Blue, purple, lavender and orchid tones | S. 'Rob's Chilly Willy' | Pierre Laforest |
| Class 37 - Red, wine, burgundy, coral and pink tones | S. 'Precious Red' | Brett Flewelling |
| Class 38 - Multicolored | S. 'Optimara Little Aquamarine' | Beverley Williams |
| Class 39 - Edged | S. 'Mac's Elegant Emerald' | Beverley Williams |
| Class 40 - Fantasy and chimera | S. 'Imp's Fortuitous Fancy' | Beverley Williams |

Section VIII - Trailers - Any blossom, any foliage

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Class 41a - Miniature, Semi-miniature or Standard | S. 'Pony Ride' | Brett Flewelling |
| Class 41b - Miniature, Semi-miniature or Standard | S. 'Baby Brian' | Bill Price |
| Class 41c - Miniature, Semi-miniature or Standard | S. 'Cherokee Trail' | Diane Pagé |

Section IX - Canadian Originations - Any blossom, any foliage

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Class 42 - Standards | S. 'Picasso' | Doris Brownlie |
| Class 43 - Miniatures not over 6" & Semi-miniatures, not over 8" | S. 'Morgan's Sophronia' | Beverley Williams |
| Class 44 - Trailers, any type - standards, miniatures, semi-miniatures | S. 'Kesha' | Diane Pagé |

Section X - Special Classes - Specimen Plants - Any blossom, any foliage

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Class 45 - Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids | S. 5b. cl. <i>grotei</i> van Someren | Pierre Laforest |
| Class 46 - Vintage plants - registered prior to 1990 | S. 'Tommie Lou' | Diane Pagé |
| Class 48 - Plants in unusual, novel, or decorative containers (see rule #23) | S. 'Tina's April Fantasy' | Karin Brockmueller |
| Class 49 - Sport or mutants | S. 'Sport of Fundy Fog (White)' | Bruce Williams |
| Class 50 - New Cultivars Seedlings | S. 'Cosmic Explosion (Seedling)' | Brett Flewelling |



**Class 59a
Natural Garden
"Not over 12" in any direction"
Jackie Mills**



**2nd Best in Design
"Penny Lane"
Marina DeSouza**



**Best Purple, Blue or Lavender
Standard in Memory of
Dorothy Clark
S. 'Lyon's Spectacular'
Bruce Williams**

Design Division

| Section & Class | Design Name | Exhibitor Name |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Section XIII - Interpretive Flower Arrangements | | |
| Class 53 - "Penny Lane" (small flower arrangement) Niche – 5"H X 5"W X 5"D | "Penny Lane" | Marina De Souza |
| Class 54 - "Twist and Shout" Niche – 18"H X 18"W x 18"D | "Twist and Shout" | Steven Kerr |
| Section XV - Container Gardens | | |
| Class 57b - Dish Garden "Container over 12" but not over 24" in width" | Dish Garden | Jackie Mills |
| Class 59a - Natural Garden "Not over 12" in any direction" | Natural Garden | Jackie Mills |

Sweepstakes

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Horticulture Sweepstakes | 34 blue ribbons | Alla Kotova |
| Second in Horticulture Sweepstakes | 29 blue ribbons | Beverley Williams |
| Design Sweepstakes | 2 blue ribbons | Jackie Mills |
| Second in Design Sweepstakes | 2 blue ribbons | Steven Kerr |

Thank you to Karin Brockmueller for all the Show photos!



A warm welcome to our new member

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Violet and Gesneriad Sale - May 12, 2018

Doris Brownlie

Thank you so much for taking the time and energy to come and sell your plants on May 12. You will be happy to know that the society's 20% was \$345.00 in spite of the myriads of people who passed through looking for the restrooms. This was a profit because the rent for the room was about \$250.00.

It takes a lot of planning to bring out the number of plants that were for sale. We were glad that so many husbands were on hand. Please thank them for their unwavering support.

We also signed up a new member who is looking forward to joining us in June and had one more member signed up for the AVSC. Time well spent. Thank you!

A Tribute to John Duncan

By Doris Brownlie



John Duncan 2001

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you all of the passing of a long time and valuable member of the Toronto Gesneriad Society, John Duncan.

On February 3rd, 2018 he fell in his home and broke a bone in his neck and never came home from hospital where he died.

John was one of the most gregarious and generous people I have ever known. He always had a joke to tell us and being in his presence was always a pleasure.

John and his wife, Veronica, with their 2 children and his mother immigrated from England in 1964. He insisted on bringing his mother with him because he wanted to care for her. She lived for 2 years in Canada. When he died he left behind Veronica, his 2 children, 5 grand children and 3 great grand children.

John was known at the society for his growing and hybridizing of streptocarpus. He grew them in a greenhouse in the back yard and also on a rented bench in a greenhouse in Etobicoke. He grew them, showed them and gave talks about them. Josi Stefaniak, a friend of his, persuaded him to attend the 42nd Annual Gesneriad Convention in Chicago, IL on July 1st – 4th, 1998.

John was 1st Vice President - 1995 - 1996 and was involved with Plant Sales - 1995 - 2000. Veronica contributed to the Social Committee - 1999 - 2003. They were very generous with plant donations for the sales tables, both at our meetings and at the Spring Shows. In 2010, they were awarded an Honorable Life Membership for their many years of contribution to the Toronto Gesneriad Society.

Unfortunately, in recent years macular degeneration took his eyesight and Veronica accompanied him everywhere. Every morning she drove him to the shared greenhouse where his many friends watched him while she was able to do errands. The positive way in which he handled this disability was amazing. The last time I saw him he was playing a machine in the Niagara Falls casino. He said that he knew he had won something when the machine made a noise. As always, Veronica was nearby.

John will live long in the memory of the people who had the honour of calling him a friend. Our sincere condolences go out to Veronica and the family.