



Newsletter

of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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

Vol. 1 - No. 3

<http://tavgs.ca/>

March 2018



"May the Good Lord take a liking to you... but not too soon!" ~ Irish Blessing



President's Message

I am looking out of the window with snow coming down at a steady pace, something that has been happening a lot. By the time you receive this it should be March, and things should be more spring-like.

This quote from Mahatma Gandhi strikes a chord in me: "To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves". This helps to explain our involvement in the TAVGS, and our enjoyment of working with plants. Now that most of us live in an urban setting, there is still the desire to have contact with the soil. It is in our genes. I know that when I am working with plants in the basement or out in the field, time seems to go by so quickly, having your hands in that damp soft soil with your mind in total harmony with what you are doing. I have noticed that when we have a practical meeting, everyone taking

cuttings and potting up, there is a sense of fun and excitement with people talking and laughing.

With this in mind I hope that we manage to get new members who can get that same sense of belonging to the earth, and the belonging to a group of like-minded people such as ourselves. Welcome.

I hope you, like me, are looking around your collection of plants to see if any might be good enough to go in the flower show; perhaps you are doing a little grooming, tidying up, and hoping the plant does not die before the show. If you have concerns about a plant, bring it for Show and Tell, and maybe your doubts and concerns can be put to rest. Then you can bring it to the flower show in April. Just do it.

Paul

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Streptocarpus 'Gina'

You're invited to attend the next meeting on
Sunday, March 11, 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
Prepare for Show
Going to Convention
How to travel/ pack plants
also
Mini Show, Sales Table
Show & Tell

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**Playback
by
The Listener**

February 4th brought a light snow for much of the day, but Arthur counted twenty-seven members that attended the meeting.

The program was a Gesneriad Society Webinar on Kohlerias.

A highlight was the Sales Tables, a collage of flowers is shown below. Photos were taken by

Elizabeth Stratton.



Bill Simpson & Lyudmyla Kashuba Margaret Taylor & Arthur Jenkins

Our March Meeting is on March 11. The Program will be “Preparing for Show” and will include “Going to Convention” and “How to Pack your Plants”. We also start Daylight Savings Time on that day. “Spring Forward” is the key word. See you then.

**Mini Show
February 4, 2018**

Judges: Doris Brownlie
Julie Thompson

2nd *Saintpaulia* 'Kristi's Spunk' Arthur Jenkins



AVSA Judging Rules

Class 1

2nd *Saintpaulia diplotricha* 'Parker' Arthur Jenkins



Class 2

2nd *Saintpaulia* 'Tommie Lou' Arthur Jenkins



Class 3

1st *Saintpaulia* 'Frisly Dilly' BIS

Beverley Williams



**Best in Show
AVSA Judging Rules
Saintpaulia 'Frisly Dilly'
Beverley Williams**

All these wonderful pictures were taken by new member, Elizabeth Stratton. Elizabeth says "photographing plants and birds is a true passion of mine". We should expect to see a lot more from Elizabeth. Thank you, Elizabeth.

TGS Judging Rules

1st *Smithiantha* 'Golden Leopard' BIS

Beverley Williams



Best in Show
TGS Judging Rules
***Smithiantha* 'Golden Leopard'**
Beverley Williams



In the membership page of our website are other photos of *Smithiantha*, including *Smithiantha* 'Golden Leopard' exhibited at our February 2011 Mini Show by Beverley Williams. Don't forget to click on the picture to get a new picture.

<http://tavgs.ca/membership.html>



Members Update

A warm welcome to
our new member

Susan Bulmer

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Spring is coming!

The spring equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) falls on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 12:15 P.M. EDT. I like to call it Spring!

Enforcing this proclamation is a photo from Pat Smith, who found these Snowdrops blooming in his garden on February 24th.



Spring Show – April 7 & 8, 2018

Volunteers Needed!

We have our Spring Show coming up soon. April 7 & 8, 2018. Saturday is the show set up and judging day and Sunday it's open to the public, both the show room and sales room. To have a successful show we need many hands to help.

Saturday we need helpers first thing in the morning to get the show ready to put the plants on when they're entered, which includes getting the tables draped with the sheets, class numbers out etc. We need people willing to come at 8 am to help as we have just one hour to get all this done. It's not difficult, just needs people due to the one hour of time. Once entries start, we still need a few people willing to help with placement, which is putting the entries into their correct class on the tables, once they've been cleared to go out.

Sunday we need volunteers to do the door admissions and in the show room to 'watch' the plants and designs, to keep them from curious hands, and to answer any questions people may have. We also need people on the show floor willing to handle the show plants sales and the distributing the sold plants at the end of the show to their purchasers.

We also need a couple volunteers to help the photographer to be the 'runners' to get the plants to be photographed.

Remember the sales room has a club sales table and they need some helpers there as well. Also any donations of plants, cuttings etc. are welcomed and appreciated.

I will have a clipboard at the March meeting with the various jobs listed and a space where you can fill in your name to help. Please take a look at the clipboard and help wherever and however you can. Every bit of help makes things move smoother and as the saying goes, many hands makes light work.

Thank you for any help you can give.

Julie
Julie Thompson - Show Chair

Other March Happenings

March 16, 2018 - World Sleep Day is an annual event, intended to be a celebration of sleep. I am going to take advantage of this.

March 20, 2018 - International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness seeks to celebrate and promote world happiness as a fundamental human goal. Don't wait until the 20th, be happy everyday.

Starting March 25th, the Easter Season begins, with Easter Monday being April 2nd.

Happy Easter

Blooming At Last

At our February meeting we enjoyed Paul Susi's webinar Fun with Kohlerias. One of the plants mentioned in his presentation was hybridized by Brandon Erickson from Nebraska, *Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Pig' and the photo is of my plant. Photo by Pat Smith.



I obtained a small rhizome of this plant from Bill Price, our Vancouver member; I bagged the rhizome in barely damp vermiculite and when it showed signs of breaking dormancy I potted it up and looked forward to seeing it in bloom; it grew on under my conditions but refused to bloom and began to decline and go into dormancy. I was able to harvest a single, but slightly larger rhizome. Again, after going through a rest period it showed signs of breaking dormancy and I was soon able to pot it up.

The plant has a compact growth habit with black/green leaves and this time has rewarded me with two of the cutest light pink flowers with dark spots and extra petals which remind me of little ears or horns, a perfect plant for growing under lights. I know it can be more floriferous than this but for now, on these dreary winter days, I smile every time

I go in the plant room and see this cheery plant with those delightful blooms. I have taken some tip cuttings to grow on and will share with members once they are established, so you too can add this plant to your collection.

Sue Smith

Sales Table Reservations for TAVGS Show 2018

Dear Members,

This is an invitation to members who wish to sell plants and/or plant related material at our annual show on Sunday, April 8th.

The studios have been booked and tables will be assigned based on the number of requests we receive. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's wishes. Please note that 20% of all sales will be paid to the society.

Please advise both Nasrin and myself as to how many tables you would like to reserve so we can keep an accurate record.

The TBG has informed us we have early entry to the building at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 7th giving us plenty of time for setup.

Regards,

Nasrin Jahed

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Sue Smith

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