



Newsletter

of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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

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<http://tavgs.ca/>

October 2018

"There comes a time when it cannot be put off any longer. The radio warns of a killing frost coming in the night, and you must say good-by to the garden. You dread it, as you dread saying good-by to any good friend; but the garden waits with its last gifts, and you must go with a bushel basket or big buckets to receive them." ~ Rachel Peden

President's Message

This month of October means for me the repatriating of the plants back into the house after they have spent the summer basking in the sun and warmth. The Sinningias's will be allowed to slowly dry out so I can store them easily under a table out of the way. They will stay there until they show signs of growth in the spring. I have always marveled at the way plants seem to sense when the days get longer and spring is approaching, even in a totally dark area.

Here in Fergus we have had a light frost, just enough to turn the pumpkin and squash leaves black, but anything close to the house or is under the trees are still fine.

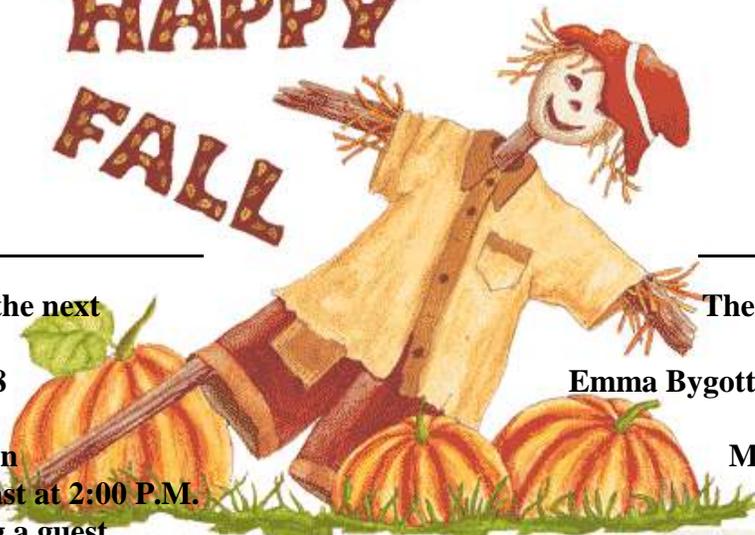
Coming up we have a workshop on African

Violets. This should help to get us into the mindset of tending our plants with more care than we have over the summer (speaking for myself of course).

The part time job of helping with refreshments is still open if someone would like to apply. Please tell one of the executive so they can jump for joy! The job does not entail too much, just putting on the coffee to brew and some water for tea, and a plastic tablecloth to put a few goodies on, plates and cups. Then clean up afterwards. I hope someone comes forward. Maybe two or three people could make up a team.

Paul

**HAPPY
FALL**



You're invited to attend the next meeting on Sunday, October 14, 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 "AV Workshop" Emma Bygott, Karin Brockmueller also Mini Show, Sales Table Show & Tell

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**Playback
by
The Listener**

It was a nice sunny, coolish day for our September 23rd meeting. Thirty-five members and three guests attended.

Paul Lee reminded us that the 2019 Spring Show theme is “Spring Festival”, a tribute to the Spring Season.

Doris Brownlie, our Sunshine Lady told us of the Thank You notes she received from other Society’s members who received TAVGS sponsored awards at the 2018 AVSA-AVSC Convention. Doris recently had hip surgery and seems to be doing quite well. Doris had some cards for members to sign for those that are under the weather or under stress, our thoughts and prayers go out to Sue Smith, Marina and Prip De Souza, Audrey Burry-Plunkett and Nancy Ley.

Show and Tell: Karin Brockmueller showed us a African Violet plant that she had trouble propagating from a leaf, so she used a form of Keiki paste hormone in the axil of a flower stem. Viola!



Ron Myhr had a few plants in the mini show, one was an *Episcia* cultivar from Belize Botanical Gardens. He got a cutting because he was very fond of the colour green. It certainly is a beautiful plant.

Our program was a presentation by Paul Lee on “Hybridizing - Flowers to Seeding”. It was a great presentation and was appreciated by all. Thanks, Paul. Supplementing his Paul’s talk was a GS webinar, on “Hybridizing Saintpaulia”.

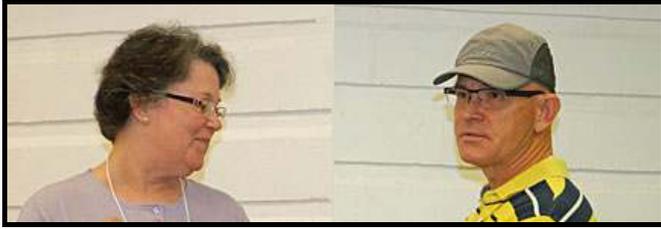
Bruce Williams held a raffle. There were many nice prizes. It was enjoyed by all. Thanks, Bruce.



**Happy
Thanksgiving**

Mini Show - September 23, 2018

Judges: Julie Thompson
Robert Hall



AVSA Judging Rules

Class 1

1st S. 'K's Purple Hogs' Bruce Williams



Class 3

2nd Tray landscape Judy Zinni



Class 2

1st S. 'Basou' **BIS** Karin Brockmueller



Best in Show
S. 'Basou'
exhibited by Karin Brockmueller

TGS Judging Rules

Class 1

1st *Streptocarpus* 'Spiritual Corridor' **BIS**
Bruce Williams



Best in Show
Streptocarpus 'Spiritual Corridor'
exhibited by Bruce Williams

Class 2

1st *Alsobia punctata*

Ron Myhr



Class 4

1st *Episcia* cultivar from Belize Botanical Gardens

Ron Myhr



Class 3

2nd *Kohleria* hybrid from Sweden

Ron Myhr



Wanted

Don MacDonald is looking for Sinningias.

“I would like to add to my collection and would be willing to trade or purchase for others not on my list.

I would provide a list of what I have currently to anyone interested in trading or selling.”

Thanks

Contact: Don MacDonald (maconapc@gmail.com)



Members Update

A warm welcome to our new members



Diana C. Hill

Toronto

Ichtiandras (Andras) Urniezius

ichtiandrasu@yahoo.com

Returning Member

Michelle Edwards

edwards_michelle@yahoo.com

And then there is this



Alla Kotova's Flower Tray at her Sales Table



**Bruce Williams with his BIS
Streptocarpus 'Spiritual Corridor'**



**Judy Zinni with her Tray Landscape, which spent
the summer outdoors**

Judy noted:

This garden was made in March 2018 as a sample for a fairy garden workshop I gave at Canada Blooms. The plants are: Breynia (dwarf snow bush), Pilea microphylla, Pilea glauca 'Aquamarine', Serissa, Chamaedorea (parlour palm), and an small African violet 'Optimara Little Crystal'. It spent the summer outside on my back step which faces northeast, so it got no direct sunlight. I watered it every 1-2 days depending on the temperature and fertilized every Saturday with various fertilizers at ½ tsp. per 5 gallon watering can (20-20-20, fish emulsion and kelp). I was really pleased at how it fared outside.



**Paul Lee preparing to emasculate a *Sinningia sellovii*
flower during his hybridizing presentation**



The Canadian National Exhibition African Violet & Gesneriad Show 2018

By Julie Thompson

One of the horticulture shows held at the CNE each year at the end of August is the African Violet & Gesneriad Show. The shows are held in the Direct Energy building and run for three days each. The CNE is open for about two weeks which means there are several different horticultural shows.



This year's show was the result of seven exhibitors. Those who participated are members from our local clubs. The members who participated were Beverley Williams, Bruce Williams, Brett Flewelling, Alla Kotova, Emma Bygott, Julie Thompson and Julie Forbes. Liz Porquet, from the Lakeshore African Violet Society, came to help us with the set up.

The tables and risers are already in place when we arrive and the rest of the show set up is up to us to do. We confirm which part of the space is allotted to our show as there is another show happening at the same time. Doing all the work ourselves is a bit different than what most of us are used to with our local shows as at the CNE, we take care of our own plant entries and place them in their classes ourselves.

It is a great way to see what is involved in setting up a show and is fun at the same time. We each place our plants in their correct classes then the staging begins. Staging is done to ensure the plants are spaced nicely and evenly and also do any subdividing as needed. Bev and Brett did that very

nicely. It doesn't take all that long to transform empty white tables into a beautiful display. Once it's all done we can take a step back, breathe, and enjoy the wonderful array of plants and colours that greet the eye.

The exhibitors are given a pass that allows us to park for free and enter the show. We are also given entry cards, which we write up ourselves, and do as many as possible before we arrive as there isn't a lot of time to get the show set up and ready for judging.

We pay \$1.00 for each entry but the prizes make it worthwhile. We each email Doris our entries list a few days before the show, noting which entries are to receive large or small flags, so she can write up them up for us and give a nice uniform touch to the display.

After the show is set up and all the boxes stowed under the tables, we can see what a lovely display we have prepared for the public to see. This year we didn't have Doris with us, but in spite of that we still had an impressive show with 108 entries!

There were 117 plants actually on the table, but there were some collections, which is a group of three plants and counts as one entry. There were 67 African Violets, 35 standards, 32 in the semis and minis section, and 41 gesneriad entries. This show is a bit different than our Society shows in that the show schedule has three sections in it, with the standards in



one section, the semis and minis another section and the gesneriads makes the third section. The appearance is the same as our Society shows.

The judging can be done as soon as we've got the show set up. Doris organizes who will judge and this year Paul Kroll and Judy Niemira judged the show for us and they handled the task very well and in good time.

Because it is a horticulture show, the judging is done by the competitive method. This method of judging has one first, one second, and one third ribbon in each class. Honourable mentions can also be awarded at the judges' discretion. Honourable mentions are typically awarded to an exhibit that was outstanding but didn't win one of the three top ribbons in its class. There are 5 rosettes that are also awarded. There are three Best in Show, one for the standards section, one for the semis and minis section, and one for the gesneriads section. The other two rosettes are Judges Choice with one being awarded to an exhibit in the African Violets overall and the other is awarded to an exhibit in the other gesneriads section.

We aren't allowed to be in the show area while the judging is going on, so we wait off to the side, anxious to learn who and what won the top awards. It's always exciting to see who won the rosettes.



S. 'Wild Irish Rose' exhibited by Alla Kotova

This year the top awards were won by four exhibitors. The Best in Show in standards was S.'Wild Irish Rose' by Alla Kotova. The semis and minis Best in Show was S. 'Rob's Sticky Wicket' exhibited by Brett Flewelling.



S. 'Rob's Sticky Wicket' exhibited by Brett Flewelling

The other gesneriads Best in Show was won by *Primulina linearifolia* that was entered by Brett Flewelling.



***Primulina linearifolia* exhibited by Brett Flewelling**



Emma Bygott, Bruce and Bev Williams and Brett Flewelling at the Educational and Sales table.

The Judges Choice in the African Violets overall was given to S. 'Morgan's Chutney Popcorn' exhibited by Bev Williams.



S. 'Morgan's Chutney Popcorn' exhibited by Bev Williams.

The Judges Choice in the other gesneriads was awarded to *Aeschynanthus lobbianus* exhibited by Julie Forbes.



***Aeschynanthus lobbianus* exhibited by Julie Forbes**

We are privileged to have permission every year to set up an educational and sales table during the three days of the show. We greatly appreciate the opportunity and make sure we let them know. We get the table set up while the judging is going on with literature about plant care, our local clubs, our spring shows, and the parent societies. It's truly a great feeling to be able to answer questions and share our knowledge on how to grow these wonderful plants.

Many were just admiring the plants but in spite of that we made \$180.75, which is about 20%, that will be given to AVSC.

The CNE is a wonderful venue for a show that allows us to educate the public about African Violets and Other Gesneriads, the diversity they have, and share our love and passion for this wonderfully diverse family of plants!

Ed: Photos by Julie Thompson

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)



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.



Membership renewal forms for all are available on our Membership page at <http://tavgs.ca/membership.html>

Remembering Russ

It is with great sadness that I try to put into words the occasion of the passing of Russ Ley. Yet, I feel honoured to have known this gentle and mild natured man who left an impression of quiet positivity on everyone he met.

Russ and Nancy joined the Lakeshore African Violet Society in 2002 when they lived in Mississauga. They were very helpful members. Nancy became the president and Russ was constantly at her side. They joined me by volunteering at the nursing home to help the ladies there to grow African violets on a light stand. The ladies loved Russ. They had special smiles on their faces when he was present. He had such a positive and gentle approach with them. At Lakeshore he used his training in catering to provide a meal for the judges and helpers at the annual show. He provided meat at a whole sale price from his son's store. When he and Nancy moved to Pointe au Baril, we did not see them so often but they made a special journey south for the Christmas party because Russ really enjoyed Emma's trifle.

Russ had retired from working for Air Canada so they could take stand by seats on any flight. Russ always insisted on wearing a suit because he was chosen first and treated with respect while waiting.

Russ and Nancy were proud of their family and were very supportive when they had one grandchild born with a defective heart and another born very prematurely. Both girls have survived and Russ and Nancy had many family get togethers with them at their cottage in Pointe au Baril.

Nancy was the grower of African violets and Russ helped her in many ways. He erected stands for her and soon she had so many violets that they began to sell them at shows and sales, also becoming active members of the Toronto African Violet Society and the Gesneriad Society and the Toronto Gesneriad Society. Nancy Ley was Secretary of TGS from 2004 to 2008 and Russ was our Social Director from 2004 to 2006.

We were fortunate to accompany them on a cruise to Alaska. At dinnertime every night they told us of their adventures including a helicopter ride over the snowy mountains.

During the whole time we knew Russ he never complained about his physical problems which were many. These recently required constant attention in a nursing home and finally took his life.

All who had the privilege of knowing this gentle man will be forever impressed by his quiet, positive and helpful manner. We will miss him, but are glad that he is finally relieved of the suffering and pain that he endured with patience at the end of his life. Rest in Peace, dear friend!

Doris Brownlie

