



Newsletter

of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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

Vol. 1 - No. 7

<http://tavgs.ca/>

September 2018

"As the poet said, 'Only God can make a tree,' probably because it's so hard to figure out how to get the bark on." ~ Woody Allen

President's Message

I hope you had a good summer and were able to do the things that you wanted, in spite of the high temperatures. In other ways it seems to be a good season for my Gesneriad plants, both indoors and out. I wonder why I have a prize winning plant with about seventy blooms on it and there are no shows to show it off!



Petrocosmea
Vietnamese species TT 64

For this new session of meetings, the Executive have put time and thought into the balance and variation of topics. We will have hands-on, some discussions, and information webinars, covering topics that will help everyone learn new ways of dealing with Gesneriads and other plants in general. Let the Executive know what you think after you have attended the various meetings. Remember it is your club.

The next meeting will be a topic that was requested by members, so I hope that it will give them all the information they were looking for and more.

If you have any ideas to submit for an article, or even just want to submit informal ramblings, just do it and Stan will be overjoyed. So please let us see Stan overjoyed, write an article and send it in!

Paul

Kohleria 'Peridots Kitlope'
grown by Bev Williams



You're invited to attend the next meeting on
Sunday, September 23, 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
"Hybridizing – Flowers to Seedlings"
Speaker - Paul Lee
also
Mini Show, Sales Table
Show & Tell

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The Ugly Duckling Show had a few entries, and the winner this year was Karin Brockmueller.

Congratulations Karin. The award was presented by Bev Williams, Show Chair.

Arthur Jenkins held the Chinese Raffle. It was well stocked and members were excited at the prospect of their raffle tickets being called. Thanks Arthur.

The pot-luck was interesting with all the ethnic foods presented and a culinary delight. Thanks to all that brought items.



Here is a small copy of our group photo, a better size is available in our web site photo gallery at:

<http://torontogesneriadsociety.org/tgsgallery/picture.php?/813/category/26>
copy and paste into your browser.

I'm Sorry

Dear Olga,

I am writing to tell you how incredibly sorry I am that I identified you by the wrong name! I feel so stupid and I must apologize for making you feel slighted or offended.

You were very kind not to correct me. Please accept my apology for the mistake.

Sincerely,
Stan

TAVS Judging Team 2 - Liz Porquet, Alla Kotova, Sue Smith, Marina De Souza, Olga Vertlib. (not Olga Semova)



Members Update

A warm welcome to our new members

David and Gillian Ferguson
davfer2004@yahoo.ca



Violet and Gesneriad Sale - September 30, 2018

AFRICAN VIOLET & GESNERIAD SALE
Sunday, September 30th. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
The Toronto Botanical Garden Garden Hall

FALL SALE

Toronto *a Gesneriad Meeting Place*

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
<http://tavgs.ca/>

Fall Plant Sale
September 30, 2018
Garden Hall
10:00 am-4:00 pm

A great opportunity to get beautiful African Violet and Gesneriad plants

2018-2019 Meeting Dates & Program Details

Your Executive met at Bev and Bruce William's home in Brooklin on August 5th to plan the programs for the coming year. It was a beautiful day. We had a pot luck lunch before the meeting. Thanks to Bev and Bruce for their hospitality and hosting the meeting. Missing from the pictures is Stan Sudol.



Bill Simpson and Emma Bygott



Karin Brockmueller & Bruce Williams



Julie Thompson



Paul Lee, Sue Smith & Bev Williams

Membership Renewal

It is that time of year when we encourage members to renew your membership for 2019. We are hoping that you will continue as an active member of the society. Your membership fees are due as of January 1. A TAVGS membership form is included in this mailing.

We also accept African Violet Society of Canada, The Gesneriad Society, African Violet Society of America, and New York State African Violet Society, INC membership applications for TAVGS members once a year from September 1 to December 1.

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

Meeting Dates & Program Details

August 6, 2018

The Meetings of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society take place at the Toronto Botanical Garden, located at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue and Leslie Street in Toronto, Ontario, at 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Meeting Rooms vary. Please refer to the website of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society for full meeting details. Mini-Show entries accepted from 1:45 pm - 2:00 pm for judging (all others for display only).

2018	Program	Location
September 23	Hybridizing – Flowers to Seedings - Paul Lee Any crosses you are thinking of making generally start with one particular plant you like. This could be a flower type, a colour, the type of habit (the plant is very low, or really floriferous, anything that takes your fancy). I find that some of the best results happen when you say “I wonder what if”, or “I wonder if I can.” A simplified demonstration of all the steps to producing a new hybrid of your own.	Garden Hall
September 30	Fall Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Garden Hall
October 14	AV Workshop – Emma Bygott, Karin Brockmueller Be prepared to get your hands dirty as Karin and Emma show you all the basic skills you need to grow beautiful violets including: propagation, dividing clumps, potting up, dealing with a neck and basic grooming. Each member can bring one problem plant.	Garden Hall
November 11	Streptocarpus Workshop - Irina Firer Irina, as we know is an outstanding grower of this plant family, and she will do a talk/workshop on streptocarpus and, as she said, "to make everybody's hands dirty."	Garden Hall
December 9	Holiday Social , Auction, Raffle, Pot Luck	Garden Hall
2019	Program	Location
January 13	2018 Spring Show PP Presentation – Stan Sudol A presentation of our First Show as a new society. “Come Together” gave us a beautiful collection of African Violets and Gesneriads shown by our members.	Garden Hall
February 3	A Potful of Questions - everyone As you arrive at this meeting, write a question and put it into the Pot. These will be discussed during the meeting.	Garden Hall
March 10	Uncomplicated Hands-on Design – Karin Brockmueller, Julie Thompson, Judy Zinni A workshop where you create a design with supplied material. Results will be reviewed by presenters.	Garden Hall

April 13 & 14	2019 Spring Show - Theme “Spring Festival” Saturday April 13 – Setup and Judging Sunday April 14 – Show 9:00am - 4:00 pm	Floral Hall Studio 1 & 2 & 3
May 5	Rare and Unusual Gesneriads Webinar – Bill Price Have you ever wondered how some growers have success with those fabulous rare gesneriads? They must know something you don’t know. Now, you can get into the mind of one of The Gesneriad Society’s best growers, Bill Price, and find out just exactly how he manages to overcome many of the challenges these rare gesneriads present.	Studio 1 & 2 & 3
May 11	Spring Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Garden Hall
June 9	Social, Awards & Ugly Duckling Show	Garden Hall
43350	Alpine Gesneriads - To Be Confirmed	Studio 1 & 2 & 3
September 22	Fall Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Garden Hall
October 6	Gesneriads in South Africa - To Be Confirmed	Studio 1 & 2 & 3
November 10	Propagation Workshop - To Be Confirmed	Garden Hall
December 8	Holiday Social, Auction, Raffle, Pot Luck	Garden Hall

The above is available on our web site <http://tavgs.ca/index.html> at any time.

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)

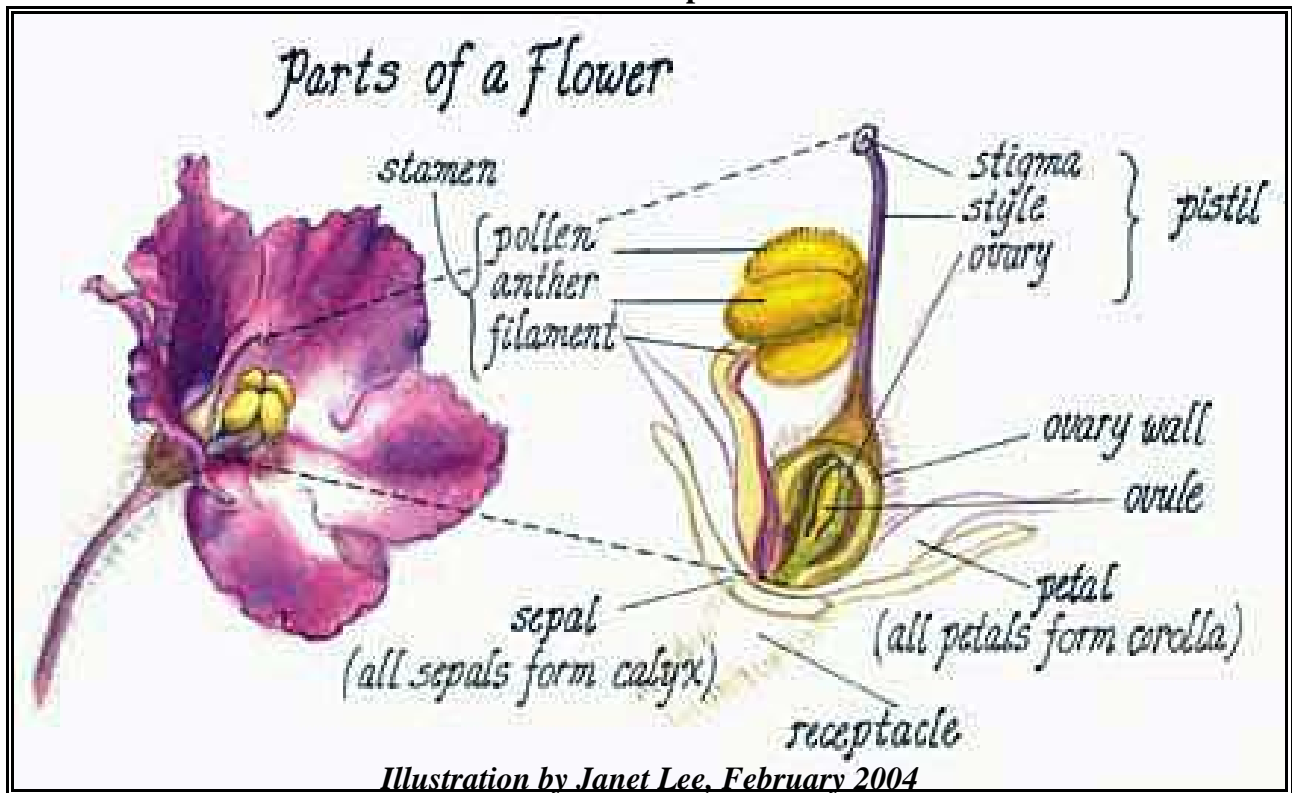


Show and Tell

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.



A Preview of Paul Lee's September Presentation



Helpful Hints on Pollinating and Seeding by Paul Lee

Reprinted from the March 2004 newsletter of the
Toronto Gesneriad Society

Robert Hall asked me to write a short article for our newsletter as he did last month. He had the advantage of just returning from Brazil so it gave him lots to write about.



There have been some requests for information on hybridizing and what to do after you are successful. I will attempt to help by writing what I know about it.

To start with, any crosses you are thinking of making generally start with one particular plant you like. This could be a flower type, a colour, the type of habit (the plant is very low, or really floriferous, anything that takes your fancy). I find that some of the best results happen when you say "I wonder what if", or "I wonder if I can".

Once this has been decided, you wait for the plant to flower if it is not already flowering. I then select the flower which is just about to open. At that time I carefully cut off or pull with tweezers, the petals so you can see the stigma and the immature anthers. I then remove the anthers. My reasoning for this is I do not want the pollen to contaminate my cross. At this stage the flower is not mature enough to have viable pollen or a receptive stigma. After this process has been completed the remainder of the flower has to be covered with a bag. This will allow the style to mature, and it will prevent some insect from putting pollen on your selection without you knowing it. This is very important to ensure that you are getting the right results from your crosses.

After a couple of days the stigma should be ready for pollination. One way to check that the flower is ready for pollination is to have a flower at the same



s t a g e o f development for comparison. This is a quick way to tell if the stigma in the bag is likely r e a d y f o r pollination without opening the bag. If the flower is fully open it is likely r e a d y f o r

pollination. You can usually tell when to pollinate when the stigma curves around in a half circle.

To pollinate I take an anther from the male parent, with a pair of tweezers, and rub it on the stigma. Some people like to use a little brush to complete this task. There are a couple of considerations to be noted. First of all, the tweezers or brush should be dipped into alcohol to clean off the pollen so you don't get contaminated crosses. Next I take an anther and rub it onto my finger nail to see if there is any pollen in the anther, since sometimes they are sterile. Cover the style with a bag again and mark



the cross with either a numbered tag or colour the stem with a dot of paint. Then record the number or the dot of paint colour in a book so you know what cross it was.

In a few days the ovaries will start to grow larger and the bag can be removed. If you have been successful the seed pod will grow. If not, it will wither and dry up.

Keep an eye on it for the next while. It will start to dry up and become brittle. At this stage I like to take the seed pod and put it on a piece of paper, or if you have cats, kids or wind around put it in an envelope to finish drying. This will ensure you get all the seed. If left on the plant it might start to drop its seed before you notice. Some gesneriads have fruit. It is ready to harvest when it shrivels and dries.

When you feel the fruit or seed pod is dry, rub

it between your fingers over a piece of white paper to extract all the seeds you can. At this point you have a choice of seeding now or saving it for another time. If you decide to save it, this is how I recommend you do it. Take the seed and put it into a paper envelope. Write the number of the cross on the envelope and place it in a sealable jar and put it in the fridge.

If you sow it right away as I do, get a clean pot filled nearly to the top with soilless mix, put the pot into a bowl of water and let it soak. Then add a shallow layer of fine vermiculite. Thinly spread the seed on the surface and lightly water with a solution of No Damp. Label and place in a plastic bag, seal and place under the lights.



Wait for little green spots to appear. When they do, open the top of the bag, and if they need water, water from the bottom. As they grow, lower the sides of the bag until they are ready to transplant.

Transplant when they are big enough to handle.

Editor's comment:

The photographs are of an *Aeschynanthus*, I had at the time, and show some of the steps that Paul suggested. I was not successful, but I understand that this plant makes a long thin pod with hairy seeds.

Many thanks to Janet Lee for the beautiful illustration.



Aeschynanthus fruit and seed, these can be quite long. The seed is hairy to allow it to fly with the wind to a new location to germinate.