



Toronto Gesneriad Society

Newsletter

*We're not strangers - only friends you have not met!
Growing since 1977*

Volume 34 - Number 2

www.torontogesneriadsociety.org

February 2010

"Probably more pests can be controlled in an armchair in front of a February fire with a garden notebook and a seed catalogue that can ever be knocked out in hand-to-hand combat in the garden." ~ Neely Turner

February

Feb 2 Groundhog Day

I'm a little groundhog, it's my day.
Wake and stretch, go out and play.
Down in my burrow, down so deep,
Time to wake, from my long winter's sleep.

Grumble, grumble, scratch, scratch,
Grunt, grunt, yawn.
I'll eat my breakfast in your front lawn.
I'm a little groundhog, it's my day.
Wake up and stretch, go out and play.
~ Author Unknown

Feb 14 Valentine's Day

Love may not make the world go round, but I must
admit that it makes the ride worthwhile.
~ Sean Connery

Feb 14 Chinese New Year
Year of the Tiger

Feb 15 Family Day (AB, ON, SK)

A Valentine

Frost flowers on the window glass,
Hopping chickadees that pass,
Bare old elms that bend and sway,
Pussy willows soft and gray.
Silver clouds across the sky,
Lacy snow flakes flitting by,
Icicles like fringe in line
That is outdoor's Valentine

Happy Valentine's Day



You're invited to attend the next
TGS meeting on
Sunday, February 7, 2010
at the
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Avenue East at 2:00 P.M.
Studio 1 & 2 Please bring a guest



The program will include
"Hands On Workshop"
also
Mini Show, Sales Table
Show & Tell

Streptocarpus 'Victorian Valentine'

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Editor's Deadline:

Three weeks prior to the next meeting.

TORONTO GESNERIAD SOCIETY

is an affiliate of the
The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

We publish this newsletter monthly
except July and August.

Annual memberships are available at the
following rates: Individual: \$15.00

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Playback by The Listener

The first meeting of 2010 on January 10 was attended by 24 members and guests. The meeting was held in Studios 1 and 2 at the Toronto Botanical Garden, which gave us plenty of room.

President Vincent Woo opened the meeting with two announcements. The first was about the upcoming show on March 27 and 28. We are looking for participants for judging and clerking and of course, bring in your plants and exhibits at show time. The second item encouraged members to consider going to The Gesneriad Society Convention in Vancouver. It will be a great opportunity.



Paul Lee showed us a *Sinningia* hybrid that he grew on a window sill and never rotated it so it grew sideways. It also had multiple tubers on top of each other which may have contributed to this condition. The flowers were quite nice as well.

We had an interesting mini show with only three plants entered, but a neat display of *Saintpaulia* flowers and *Streptocarpus* flowers. Although they were for display only, they were judged.

We had a nice break with ample treats and liquids. Thanks to Rita McPhail for setting it all up. We essentially had no sales table or auction.

Our program was to be The Gesneriad Society Convention Cd, but alas it did not arrive on time, so Vincent Woo had prepared a PowerPoint Presentation that he showed instead. We had a few computer problems as well, but a substitute computer put the show back on. Vincent's presentation was well received and his vocalization of the pictures made it most interesting. Thank you Vincent.

Our February 7 meeting will be a hands on workshop. We can all benefit from the experiences of some of our knowledgeable members. The plan is to have four tables and topics with enough time for everyone to engage at all topics. Vincent will be discussing the handling of seeds; Bev and Bruce Williams are covering the topic of lighting; Paul Lee will be giving us the dirt on propagation and Julie Thompson and Brett Flewelling will have a demo on potting. We ask that you bring *stuff* for these topics.

Gesneriad Mini Show

Judges: Louise Cheung
 Julie Thompson
 Brett Flewelling
 Clerk: Beverley Williams

Class 1

1st *Sinningia* 'Sky High Spot' Beverley Williams



Class 2

1st *Petrocosmea minor* Emma Bygott



Class 3

1st *Saintpaulia* 'Shirl's Hawaiian Lei' **BIS**
 Beverley Williams



For exhibit only and judged:

1st *Saintpaulia* blossom collection Doris Brownlie



2nd *Streptocarpus* large blossom collection
 Beverley & Bruce Williams



1st *Streptocarpus* small blossom collection
 Beverley and Bruce Williams





**TORONTO
GESNERIAD
SOCIETY**

2009 Statement

BALANCE January 10, 2010

\$8,058.19

(\$6,000.00 in Money Market, \$2,027.22 in bank,
\$30.97 in petty cash)

Respectfully submitted

Doris Brownlie

Doris Brownlie
Treasurer

Balance December 31, 2008 **\$8,009.02**

Income

Plant Sales + auction	947.00
Refreshments	196.00
Memberships	2590.37
Money Market	20.43
Show Sales	1324.14
Judging School	305.00
Projector Rental	175.00
Basics Booklets	15.00
Phytos	177.00
Commercial Commission	195.00
Show CD	32.12

Total **5,977.06**

Disbursements

Rent until March 2010	2920.50
50% paid for remainder of 2010	
Newsletters	126.99
Refreshment supplies	46.91
Judging School	305.00
Subscriptions & Affiliations	68.00
Show expenses	654.11
Convention Awards	72.00
US memberships	964.74
Insurance	66.00
Speakers	481.00
Brazil Club	73.60
Bank	69.38
Lasik Pointer	57.00
Episcia Register	8.00
Frame	14.66

Total **5,927.89**

Members Update



A warm welcome to our new members

Rosemary Dobson

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Please note

If you have not renewed your membership,
this will be your last newsletter.

catalogue your collection of Saintpaulia along with colour pictures that you can print with a description of each as described by the hybridizer. But, wait, not all of them have pictures, especially those African violets that are not registered or listed. I now had to make another list of those plants that I did not have pictures of. First Class allows you to add your own pictures. Now, I have to go downstairs and take pictures of all of the African violets that don't have pictures...but wait... I cut back all my plants recently and a lot of them have not bloomed yet. As each of the African violets bloom that I don't have pictures for, I take a picture and add it to First Class to give me a complete description for myself and anyone else that needs it.

But, that was just the African violets. I started to look for pictures on the Internet and in my own digital picture collection trying to match each type of gesneriad, species or hybrid with a picture. Some were not difficult to find, but others posed a challenge. I was surprised at what was on the Internet and added the pictures to the now increasing pages of my own book. I discovered as I worked away at each genus of gesneriad that I was gaining information about them that I did not know. Especially that new plant that I had recently purchased at a show because it looked interesting, but I did not know anything about it. "That's what it looks like as a mature plant in bloom. Going to need more room... maybe a greenhouse?" I found it to be an educational exercise as well and well worth the effort.

After many days and hours on my computer and Internet, I had finished. I decided to print all of my pages and put them into plastic pages protectors and a binder for quick and easy reference. They looked really good and I amazed myself with the results. As plants bloom in my plant room I am adding their pictures to my computer files and updating the information for the future. But, this again is a challenge because there are additions made to my collection on an ongoing basis.

So, inspired by Emma I will now have to make sure that I update my records every time something dies. Yes, plants die in my plant room. Or I purchase something new; have to find a picture of that one. But, it is a superb resource and very useful. I can look up a plant, and don't have to rely on my memory, or climb two flights of stairs. When I take plants to the

club sales or for the annual show I will have a picture to show that individual who asks, "What does it look like?"



Ed: "First Class" is software that is available through AVSA. Please check the following site:

<http://firstclass2.com/index.htm>

The Back Page

Best of the Year 2009 in Mini Show

TGS started a tradition in 2004: an award for Best of the Year in Mini Show to honour the members who get the Best in Mini Show distinction most often in one year.

This new award fills a gap in the way we treat the people who go to sometimes great effort to bring their plants to the mini show. Neither hail nor sleet nor snow, nor a cold bad enough to break stones, can stop them sharing with us their successes in growing their gesneriads. This is the way we will say a special thanks to you.

The 2009 award goes to Beverley Williams. Congratulations Bev.



Beverley Williams accepting the Award from President Vincent Woo

Previous Winners:
2003 Doris Brownlie
2004 Robert Hall
2005 Robert Hall
2006 Beverley Williams
2007 Beverley Williams
2008 Doris Brownlie

Now is the time to start grooming and finding special carrying boxes if you want to see your name engraved on that trophy along with Beverley.

Streptocarpus thompsonii Seedlings

Ed: Dale Martens posted this on Gesneriphiles January 13, 2010



Streptocarpus thompsonii is one of my favorites. I try to grow them so the base is not buried and people can see the maroon dots. I put a blooming plant in a zip lock baggie because I just didn't have the time to repot it. Life has been particularly hectic, and months later I opened the baggie and found little seedlings sprouting in the pod. You'll see those in the next photo.



Note the brown seeds on the left side plus little sprouts. After I took the photo I put the seedlings in a covered container so they'll continue to grow. The whole thing is about 3/4 inch in length.

In the past I have tried to cross the streptocarpellas with the "regular" streps. No success. I've also tried crossing *S. thompsonii* with species violets. Nothing came from those attempts.

Dale in Illinois