

By-Laws of the Toronto Gesneriad Society

Updated: October 15, 2006

ARTICLE I. NAME, AFFILIATION AND PURPOSE.

- Section 1. Name - The Society shall be known as the Toronto Gesneriad Society.
- Section 2. Affiliation - The Society shall be a chapter of The Gesneriad Society, Inc.
- Section 3. Purpose - The purpose of the Society shall be to stimulate a widespread interest in gesneriads; to provide a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads; to gather and publish reliable information relative to the culture, identification and propagation of gesneriads; to provide a forum for the study, exchange and showing of plant material; to support initiatives for the collection and conservation of gesneriads in the wild and encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES.

- Section 1. Eligibility - Any person or organization interested in gesneriads is eligible for membership in this Society upon payment of the required dues. New members of the Toronto Gesneriad Society shall be encouraged to join The Gesneriad Society, Inc. within 1 year.
- Section 2. Annual dues - are to be approved by the membership on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Dues are payable in advance and shall cover the calendar year. New members joining between September and December shall have free membership for the balance of that year and become full members for the following calendar year. Members more than 30 days in arrears shall be dropped from the active membership roll.
- Section 3. Individual membership - An individual member shall be entitled to vote in person at any membership meeting.
- Section 4. Family membership - A family membership shall be entitled to two votes in person at any membership meeting, but shall receive only one copy of the newsletter. Annual Dues shall be \$3.00 more than individual dues.
- Section 5. Honorary members - may be elected by the membership at any general meeting, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- Section 6. Guests - visitors or invited guests interested in gesneriads shall be welcome at Society meetings, but shall have no vote.

ARTICLE III. GOVERNMENT.

- Section 1. Elected Officers - Officers of the Society shall be the Past President, President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary, (each being a different person). All officers shall be members in good standing of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. and they shall serve for two (2) years and thereafter until their successors are elected and take office.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of all the elected officers and up to three (3) directors. The following positions shall be appointed by the Executive to attend all executive meetings - Newsletter Editor, Archivist, Librarian and Publicity Chairman. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the direction of the Society between meetings of the membership and for presentation to the membership of all recommendations relative to the purpose of the Society.
- Section 3. All elected or appointed Executive Committee members shall have voting privileges of that Committee.
- Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Past President and two other members appointed by the membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Past President shall be Chairman.
- Section 5. Standing Committees may be appointed by the President as and when necessary. Chairmen of all such Committees during their appointment shall be expected to attend all Executive meetings.
- Section 6. Vacancies in office shall be filled, for the remainder of that term of office, by appointment of the Executive Committee and presentation to the general membership for approval.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

- Section 1. The President shall be responsible for the general management of the affairs of the Society; shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Executive Committee; in conjunction with other elected members, shall appoint the Chairmen and members of, and prescribe and assign the duties of, Standing and other Committees; shall keep informed of all work of the Society and report thereon to the Executive Committee, and to the membership as may be deemed necessary or as the Executive Committee may require; shall be a signing officer along with the Treasurer and First Vice-President. (President or designate shall, when possible, attend the Annual Convention of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. and prepare a report thereon to the members; Society shall, providing its funds are sufficient, cover the cost of air fare.)

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the latter or whenever the President may be unable to perform the duties of the office; shall keep informed of all the work of the Society; shall be responsible for details of programming for monthly meetings; shall be a signing officer with the President and Treasurer.

Section 3. The Second Vice-President shall perform the duties of the First Vice-President when the First Vice-President is absent or unable to perform duties of the office, and shall keep informed of all the work of the Society and shall be knowledgeable concerning the requirements of the running the Annual Flower Show and assisting if needed..

Section 4. The Secretary shall be responsible for properly recorded minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee and of general membership meetings. Two copies of the minutes are to be made, one for the file, and one for the President. All minutes are to be read and approved at General and Executive meetings. The Secretary shall attend to all necessary correspondence as directed and assume other duties relative to the office.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receipt and deposit of all monies of the Society and make authorized disbursements to cover all expenses of the Society; shall keep an accurate record of all assets of the Society and of all related transactions; shall present financial reports to the Executive Committee and as required at general meetings. All cheques shall be signed by any two (2) of the signing officers, who shall be the Treasurer, President and First Vice-President.

Section 6. The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of an accurate record of membership dues of the Society and shall transfer all monies received to the Treasurer; shall keep an up-to-date membership roll.

Section 7. The Executive Committee shall be the administrative and executive body of the Society and shall make such regulations, not otherwise restricted by these By-Laws, as may be necessary for the good of the Society.

Section 8. The Nominating Committee shall recommend the slate of officers to be presented for election at a general meeting of the membership. The Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

Section 1. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held prior to general membership meetings. Meetings of this Committee may also be held at the request of an Executive Committee member. A quorum shall consist of seven (7) members.

Section 2. Regular meetings of the Society shall be held once each month, except for the months of July and August. The time and place of each general meeting shall be announced at the preceding meeting and by written notice prior to the meeting. A quorum for a membership business meeting shall be one fourth (1/4) of the paid membership.

Section 3. Officers of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the November meeting to take office the following January. A list of candidates shall be submitted by the Nominating Committee. A candidate may be nominated from the floor if the nominee is present. In the event that there is more than one candidate for the same office, a written ballot shall be taken.

Section 4. The newly elected Executive Committee shall be responsible for the continuation of ongoing activities and planning of the ensuing year's activities.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, modified or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in attendance at a properly constituted general meeting of the Society, provided notice of the proposed amendments, modification or repeal was presented at the preceding meeting and contained in the notice of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII. RULES OF ORDER.

Section 1. In the event that there is disagreement as to the proper procedure to be followed in meetings of the Society or of the Executive Committee, reference shall be made to Roberts' Rules of Order, (revised edition), and these shall govern the situation in all cases to which they are applicable, in which they are not inconsistent with the By-Laws of this Society.
