

The African Violet Sheet

The Newsletter of the Toronto African Violet Society



President's Message: Steve Kerr

Hello Everyone!!

We have an exciting program in store for you this month Karyn Cichocki of New Jersey is coming to speak to us about a trip she made collecting, researching and observing Gesneriads in Equador. It will be a real treat I am sure to hear all about her experiences there. As an added bonus she will be speaking at the Lakeshore African Violet Society on Bubble Bowl Floral designs if you are interested Friday evening before our meeting March 9th at 7:30 pm at: St. Philip's Lutheran Church 61 West Deane Park Drive, Toronto. I do hope that you will find the time to attend one or both of these meetings in support of Karyn's trip. In the unfortunate event that we have a late blizzard we will watch a webinar as Karyn will be driving and won't be able to make the trip if the roads will be bad.

We will have a lot of things happening this month in preparation for our spring show. Julie, our show chair will be looking for volunteers to help with our setup day and show day activities. Deanna, Judges chair will be looking for anyone still interested in judging or clerking. As a volunteer society if we all pitch in we will have a great show, but only as far as we go together! There is always room to donate to awards for the show as well. TAVS gives out awards for all of the best in class winners, and larger awards. This awards money comes from generous donations from the club. Bring your money to our next meeting, and let us know if you would like your name published with thanks or if you would like to be making your donation anonymously. Your donation is a huge encouragement to our growing members who spend countless hours grooming and growing their plants for show.

Looking forward to seeing you all together soon

Steve

I hope to see you there!

Don't forget to bring your mini show entries for 1:45

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Notice of Vote

We will be voting in MAY to confirm the merger of the two societies. Any questions can be brought to the floor or sent via email to be addressed. Upon confirmation the executive will begin to write new by-laws to govern the new society. These new bylaws would be approved at the next AGM in October.

Meeting Dates & Program Details

The Combined Meetings of **The Toronto Gesneriad Society** and **The Toronto African Violet Society** take place at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, located at the intersection of Lawrence and Leslie streets in Toronto Ontario At 2PM in the Afternoon until 4PM, Meeting Rooms Vary Please refer to the website of the Toronto African Violet Society: TAVS.ca for full meeting details. Mini-Show entries accepted from 1:45-2PM for judging (all others for display only)

TAV's~TGS Meeting Dates and Programs

February 5 — The Studios (Upstairs)

Container Gardens are a big part of our shows design schedule and are a fun way to incorporate violets into a form that can be enjoyed by many people both in and out of our society. Local members will walk you through creating both natural and container gardens so that you too can compete at our spring show!

February 18—Get the Jump On Spring

Come see us and a lot of other Garden vendors and get the jump on spring (Setup 8AM-9:30AM) Actual Event 10AM-4pm

March 12 — The Studios (Upstairs)

Guest Speaker Karyn Cichoki,

Karyn is a champion grower of Gesneriads and is going to present a trip she spent looking for them in Equador with us. (She will also be speaking at another local club on Friday evening stay tuned!) Weather permitting as Karyn will be travelling 8 hours to reach us!

April 1 — Spring Show—

Set-up and Judging Entries from 9am-Noon, Judging 2pm

April 2—Spring Show—

Open to the Public 9AM -4pm.

Special Lecture by Jim Roberts, Jim is an African Violet and Gesneriad Hoarder who spends thousands of dollars a year on our obsession be sure to mark your calendars for this special talk (Time TBD)

May 7 — Garden Hall

Guest Speaker, Dale Martens. Dale is an avid African Violet and Gesneriad grower and hybridizer. You won't want to miss this so mark your calendars.

May 13 — Garden Hall Spring Sale 10AM-5PM

We are piggy Backing on the TBG Spring sale, Setup from 8:30 AM doors open at 10 AM and last until the last plant is gone. This is sure to be a big sale. Member tables are available sign up today as this will be on a first come first served basis! 20% of all proceeds go to the club.

June 11 — Garden Hall —

Awards banquet Supper Social Potluck and Awards presentation, Ugly Duckling Show and Auction with your help Fall 2017—Sept. 10 Meeting, Sept 24th Annual Sale, Oct 15th Meeting, Dec. 10th Christmas Social.

Our Spring show is our showcase. Presenting to the city just how much fun we have all year long and we need you to help us promote our society and sign up new members. Please consider volunteering for one of the below postions. If you have an idea for another area to help promote the show please let us know!!

- ***Sign up to Volunteer for our spring show, April 1 and April 2***
- ***Help out with the Club Sales Table***
- ***Host and assist with plant sales in the showroom (Hospitality)***
- ***Help with pre-setup and post setup***
- ***Assist with Placement and entries***
- ***Room for certified judges and clerks to judge the show***
- ***Always room to support the awards financially***
- ***Assist with our hospitality in the kitchen with Drinks and food for judges and volunteers.***
- ***Greeting and taking admission at the door.***
- ***Assist with advertising***

ReCap February Meeting

Photos Stan Sudol and Nasrin Jahed

We had an excellent meeting which was well attended for a program on putting together container Gardens for our upcoming shows, and for decorating your home for special occasions. Along with a wonderful mini show filled with several well blooming and looking violets and a most excellent show and tell columnnea that has since been identified as *Columnnea Jude* from Bill Simpson. For Container Gardens I do hope that you took away some fun memories and are reminded of the fun with the photos attached below. Remember, read the rules before putting them together for show, in the show schedule which can be found online on our website. Many thanks to Jackie Mills who had a lot of excellent information and brought great experience to the table on teaching us all about how to put these dish gardens together and president Steve Kerr for adding in on natural Gardens and Terrariums. Also at this meeting we awarded our annual award to best in show for the mini show, a new tradition since joining with our Toronto Gesneriad Friends. This years award went to the most Blue Ribbons, which was President Steve Kerr. Bring out your beautiful plants to our club meetings to see how you could fair and so we can see and learn more about judging all year round. The mini show is a great way to learn!! Thanks to Paul Lee and Julie Thompson for helping out with this months judging!!

Many thanks to Bev Williams who keeps track of the mini show all year long, and Stan Sudol for taking all of the photos for posterity. Bev awards Steve Kerr with his Best in Mini

show award for the past year. Top Right. Julie Thompson and Paul Lee add their helpful comments and judgements to our mini-show entries for the month. Bottom Right. There were many great looking entries thanks for bringing them for us to enjoy. Here are some of the entries from the past month including a *microchirita lavendulacea* above left entered by Bev Williams which is an annual Gesneriad from Vietnam I believe, which sets seed readily.



ReCap February Meeting pt. 2

Photos Stan Sudol and Nasrin Jahed

Jackie Mills did an excellent job teaching us all the tips and tricks of container gardens at our February presentation. Thanks Jackie! Below you can see the beautifully put together terrarium, Top right, container garden bottom right and natural garden bottom left. The plant on the top right was grown by Toronto Gesneriad Society member Bill Simpson. While we could not identify this plant at the time of the meeting it has since been identified as *Coumnea* 'Jude' and is in the process of being registered as such. While the original name is no longer known it has been grown by long time TGS member Ron Myhr for years and was procured as the *Coumnea* from Jude as my understanding of the story goes. Well whomever that grower Jude was I am sure glad that you kept this *Coumnea* growing. And thanks to Bill for bringing it out for us to enjoy. Good Growing everyone.



TAVS Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held at the Toronto Botanical Garden, usually on the second Sunday of each month. The Toronto Botanical Garden provides us with a centrally located venue with free parking facilities.

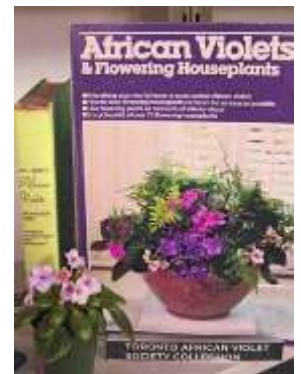
Our meetings are held from September to June in conjuncture with our sister society the Toronto Gesneriad Society. Check our online listing or our postcard for dates and presentation topics.

Meetings start at 2pm till Approximately 4:00pm and include refreshments.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings so if you are interested in attending one of our meetings, please contact info@tavs.ca for more information.

The TAVS Library Collection

If you are looking for information about growing African violets or related plants, take a look at the Toronto African Violet Society Collection in the Westin Family Library at the Toronto Botanical Garden. A list of our holdings can be found on our website.



The TAVS Executive

President	Steve Kerr	sakerr@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Doris Brownlee	jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Secretary	Karin Brockmeuller	
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Directors	Nasrin Jahed (Membership)	
	Julie Thompson (Show Chair)	Stan Sudol (WebMaster)
	Emma Bygott (Member Seat)	
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Webmaster	Stan Sudol	tavs.webmaster@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Steve Kerr	sakerr@gmail.com

Join us!

Anyone wishing to join the Society can obtain a membership form and contact information by visiting our website.

The current membership rates are:

Single Membership - \$20.00

Family Membership - \$30.00 (two people living at the same address)

Commercial Membership - \$30.00

Please email sakerr@gmail.com for information on membership or where to mail in your membership forms

The African Violet Sheet, the newsletter of the Toronto African Violet Society (TAVS), is published on a monthly basis with the exception of July and August. It is provided to all current members of TAVS.

Contributions and ideas are always welcomed.

For more information contact: sakerr@gmail.com

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