



**TORONTO
AFRICAN
VIOLET
SOCIETY**

March 2008

**Toronto African Violet Society (TAVS)
Newsletter**

Newsletter Editors,
Don MacDonald, Sonia Brock

**Our next meeting is on Tuesday,
18th March at 7:30 p.m.**

At the Glebe Road United Church,
20 Glebe Rd. East, Toronto.

(3 blocks north of Davisville,
East of Yonge St.)

There will be a **Raffle Table** with plants and
other items on it.

Our **Plant Sales Table** will be available to all who wish to
sell their extra plants. Remember the club gets 20% of the
sales. All plants must be named and labeled properly. If
you are bringing more than 6 plants we are going to ask
you to assist on the table if asked. Bring a list of your plants
that you are selling for the person in charge.

Supplies Table:

For all of our new members. The supplies table has all the
soil, pots and fertilizers available for sale. The sales table
is operated by the club and all proceeds from sales go to
the club.

Meeting Topic :

Grooming Show Plants and Potting Down Necks



+Leaf Exchange w/ Don MacDonald

**2007 Show Logistics - Submit Application of entries
by Louise Cheung**

President's Message

This month you will find a copy of the revised bylaws. These need to be voted on at the next meeting. Louise Cheung and her committee have spent a lot of work on them as they had not been looked at for a number of years.

If you have any questions please bring your copy with you on Tuesday night.

If you are not attending but have a question then please email one of our executive.

Also we will have copies of the Entry form. If you know which plants you will be entering then please complete it. Early entries make the entries committee life so much easier. We will be discussing this on Tuesday night as well.

The program on Tuesday will be about preparing your plants and yourself for the upcoming show. I hope you are planning on attending and entering a plant.

We will also be having a **leaf exchange**. A great way to increase your collection.

Bring leaves that are well labeled. If you have a description of the plant then that too would be appreciated.

Cuttings of other Gesneriads can also be included in the exchange.

There is no limit to the number of leaves you can exchange. Remember for every leaf or cutting you bring you take home one.

A few of our members have been having problems with their plants. Want to know what is wrong with your plant then wrap it up well to protect it from the cold and bring it along to the meeting. Someone in the club will be able to help you or diagnosis the problem and give you a solution as to how to grow it better. Remember if you thing the plant might have bugs then please place it in a clear plastic bag. We don't want to spread anything to other plants.

I would also like to welcome all of our new members. I hope you enjoy the club and learning more about how to grow your violets along with the rest of us.

Take care




2008 TAVS Show Theme will be **VIOLET DREAMS**



Albert Wan is proud owner of the "**Best Dog**" at our **Dog Show** at the Feb. meeting.



Congratulations Albert.

Albert claims he got the plant from Don many years ago as a bribe to join the club. I think it was in better shape back then.



The **Blossom Show** had a number of great blooms entered.

The winners are:

First was **Ness' Cherry Confection** shown by **Olga**

Second was **EK Modnitsa** shown by **Doris**

Third was **Sonoma Twitterpated** shown by **Louise Cheung**

Congratulations to all the winners and especially to all who entered blossoms.



Dates to Remember

CANADA BLOOMS, March 12-16

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Canada Blooms have several open classes for Horticultural Competitions

Open classes are "open to all interested non-professional exhibitors and all members of horticultural societies and garden club members"

If you are interested in exhibiting , African Violets, Orchids etc., visit the Canada Blooms web site. African Violets are in classes, 1 & 2, Orchids 19, and 20.

<http://www.canadablooms.com/> .

You can download entry forms and register from this site, or go to the Toronto Botanical Gardens to pick up the the Competitors schedule and entry forms.

T.A.V.S.
February 2008 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Don MacDonald at 7:50pm with 21 people in attendance. We had one potential new member who joined the group for the evening, Harriet DeKoven -welcome!

Dave Blakemore made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed in the January newsletter, seconded by Doris Brownlie -carried.

The recent Jump up on Spring event at TBG generated lots of interest, and over all was a great day.

Show Chair Louise Cheung expressed the need for volunteers at the upcoming April show and sale. If anyone is interested in helping out please contact her, any extra hands are definitely appreciated to make this a successful event.

It was brought to the clubs attention by Louise MacPherson that the amended bi-laws still need final approval and to be printed in the newsletter. Don MacDonald will look into this issue and address it at the March meeting.

Volunteers for the March meeting sweet table are Marjorie and Indra.

Louise Cheung made a motion to close the meeting at 8:10pm, seconded by Mae Wan -carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Deanna Belli, Secretary

PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS by Jim Toms

SUCKING PESTS

General Symptoms:

(Not all pests will cause the same symptoms or all the symptoms.)

1. Wilted appearance
2. Presence of honey dew
3. Yellowing tissues
4. Dead Spots

SOIL MEALYBUG

Species: *Rhizococcus pritchardii* (the Pritchard mealybug) is the species most often found in African violets, but there are many others which are similar.

Location: They are found in the rootball of the plant and may be found sticking to the inside of the pot. Soil mealybugs drop through the drainage holes of the pot and are then also found in the saucer. More rarely they will also be seen on top of the soil and may even be in the lower leaf axils. The latter habitat is a more likely location for their foliar mealybug cousins.

Description: Soil mealybugs are bright white in colour. Their shape is oval, like a grain of white rice only they are smaller, 1-4 mm. Once you have seen a soil mealybug, you will not forget. The resemblance to a grain of rice is remarkable; they are simply smaller, about 1/4 the size of the grain of rice. Unlike a grain of rice, they have six legs on which to move. The legs are not evident except under magnification. They move incredibly slowly, but they definitely move and careful observation will reveal this. Some species are reported to produce males which have wings.

In identifying soil mealybugs, also look for the white, waxy deposits they leave behind. They secrete a white, waxy powder which covers their bodies. They also leave deposits of it behind them, especially on the

sides of a pot which has an infestation.

Life Cycle: Eggs are laid in groups of 10-20 in a small white ball that looks like a miniature cotton ball. Eggs hatch in 1-2 days and the young begin to feed by sucking plant juices through the root hairs. A life cycle is completed in 2-4 months depending on the species and conditions. Some species or some populations within species are reported to give birth to live young.

Symptoms of Infestation: Insects may be seen in the saucer first of all. You may also find them in the root ball or in the interior of the pot before the plant itself shows signs. Plants will become limp due to damaged roots which do not take up moisture fast enough to compensate for loss through leaves. Infested plants are generally duller and weaker looking than other plants. Ultimately, outer leaves will yellow and die. Roots will die or weaken and turn from healthy white or beige to darker brown (dead) tones. The weakened roots may also have become infected with root rot by this time. Infested plants generally have smaller and fewer blossoms. As the infestation worsens, the plant may die. Very vigorous varieties may show few symptoms.

Source and Spread of Infestation:

Soil mealybugs usually are acquired from other growers in just a few or even one plant. They can still spread rapidly through a clean collection. It is not easy to pinpoint the source if you are not watching your own plants constantly. A principal source is the professional greenhouse where they can be rampant, not just in African violets, but in many species. The species which attack our hobby plants are from regions more temperate than ours so transferring from the outdoors is not too likely. Soil mealybugs are slow-moving but they still spread rapidly. One infested plant is all it takes to ruin your collection. They can climb out of saucers and across the shelves. They can also move downwards in your collection from one shelf to the next. They do not appear to be able to climb upwards. They can move laterally from one plant to the next on the foliage if the plants are touching.

Prevention and Control: Isolating new plants for three months is a standard recommendation. (Because some growers are using powerful controls which all but eradicate the problem for longer periods now, I recommend six months. I have had them appear about six months after obtaining them from commercial growers. The problem is that the pests are often only "controlled", not eradicated.) Observe all standard methods of sanitation. Avoid community reservoirs or mat watering if you can. Obviously any infested plant watered this way is going to contaminate the others rapidly.

Chemical controls are suggested elsewhere. Drenches are commonly used in greenhouses. Don't waste time or money on Diazinon, commonly suggested in Canada. It will provide feeble control and will not eradicate. Marathon, available from the United States, is the best control and provides a good chance of eradication. I have used Marathon with 100% success with only one treatment on precious chimeras. On the other hand, I have had instances where Marathon has allowed a few mealybugs to survive and they will resurge after the toxicity of the soil is lessened with time. Also I have obtained plants from commercials that I know use Marathon. The plants are fine -- for six months! Then the fun begins as there are obviously survivors in some pots. In fact, some very successful insecticides are playing havoc with the old suggestions that you isolate new acquisitions for 4 to 8 weeks. Much longer periods are appropriate for plants that have been treated with potent insecticides as it will take a while for any survivors to establish a new population. But, they will!

If you get an infestation, the simplest and safest method of handling it is to throw out the infested plants and, preferably, their neighbours. If you save any neighbouring plants keep them isolated and under observation for several months. As the bugs do not seem to climb, it may be sufficient to isolate the neighbours on a bottom shelf from which the critters cannot climb. Obtain new, clean plants or leaves from a reliable grower.

The alternative method is to grow new plants from leaves of the infested plant or by cutting out and re-rooting the crown of the infested plant. It can be done successfully if you treat the leaves or crowns with a powerful chemical insecticide when you do. Be sure all surfaces are sprayed. Try acephate (Orthene), diazinon or malathion. Malathion may cause leaf damage. Of these, acephate is the most likely to succeed. (This is not a job for wannabes such as "insecticidal" soap, resmethrin, pyrethrins or other "naturals". They do not kill eggs and seldom kill adults.)

**Toronto African Violet Society
Financial Statement - February 2008**

PREVIOUS BALANCE 6,329.30

INCOME

L. Cheung - Awards 30.00
Raffle 18.00
Supplies-Jump on Spring 42.00
Membership Fees 55.00

EXPENSES

D. Brownlie-supplies 34.50
L. Cheung - speaker's fee 30.00
AVSC - Yvonne Lambert 25.00
Gesneriad Soc.-projector rental 25.00
Rent - Glebe Road United 69.35
D.MacDonald-show schedule & stamps 14.46
D.MacDonald-newsletter & stamps 15.46
L. Yip - Refreshment Supplies 2.59
Miscellaneous 7.50

TOTAL 145.00

TOTAL 223.96

FLOAT

Plant Sales 30.00
Growing Supplies 25.00
Petty Cash 75.00

AWARDS \$70.00

BALANCE 6250.34



BY-LAWS – TORONTO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Submitted September 20, 1960
Adopted September 20, 1960

Amended May 15, 1962
Amended June 17, 1969
Amended May 15, 1979
Amended March 16, 1982
Amended February 17, 2003
Amended May 20, 2003
Amended Oct 18, 2007

Section 1

This Society shall be known as the **TORONTO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**.

The Society shall be and exist as a non-profit organization.

The objects of the Society shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the African violet and to stimulate widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets.

All persons who are sincerely interested in the growing of African violets shall be eligible to membership in the Society. The Officers and Directors may revoke the membership of any member of the Society for just cause.

Types of Membership: A member shall be deemed at all times as one whose membership and privileges have neither lapsed nor been revoked.

Individual: Shall be any one (1) person.

Family: Shall be any two (2) related persons living in the same residence.

Commercial: Shall be any persons or firms who advertise consistently, manufacture, sell or offer for sale any of the following:

One thousand (1000) or more plants and/or parts of plants annually and/or growing mediums and/or soil enrichers of any description: all powder, compounds, solutions or derivatives used for the prevention or control of diseases or insects and/or merchandise or equipment applicable in any way to the culture of African violets and gesneriads.

(As defined in the 1998 African Violet Society of Canada By-laws.)

Honorary: One year membership accompanied by appropriate membership card and certificate will be awarded by the Executive Board for one (1) year for outstanding service to the Society

Honorary Life Membership: Accompanied by appropriate membership card and certificate may be conferred by the Executive Board for outstanding service to the Society.

Life Membership: Shall be one (1) person (as opposed to a club or affiliate) who upon paying the Life Membership fee shall be exempt from further membership dues.

Membership dues in this Society are payable in advance, and shall cover the period September 1st to August 31st. Each member, commercial or individual of the Society whose dues are paid in full for the current year shall be entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the Society. The dues are to be decided by a majority vote of the members and reviewed at the discretion of the membership from time to time.

Section 2

The elected Officers of the Society are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of elected Officers is two years. No office is to be held for more than three consecutive terms, however if there is no new nominations for an officer's position after the three consecutive terms, then the current officer can be re-nominated with the agreement of the membership.

There shall also be a Board of Directors which shall consist of no less than four and no more than seven members of the Society at large, to be selected by the Officers. Directors shall serve for a term of one year. The immediate past President should be encouraged to serve as a Director. The elected Officers of this Society shall also serve as members of the Board of Directors, also known as the Executive.

Nominations for elected Officers of the Society shall be held at the first (September) meeting of the club year. Elections shall be held at the second (October) meeting of the club year. The new Officers shall take over at the conclusion of the vote and may select the Directors at this time.

Vacancy of any elected Officer's or Director's position shall be filled by appointment, by the Board of Directors and approved by the Membership.

Section 3

President - The President shall have general superintendence of the affairs of the Society, and The Board of Directors. The President shall keep informed of all work of the Society and shall make

reports to the Membership and Board of Directors as may be deemed necessary. The President will preside at all meetings of the Membership, and of the Board of Directors in conjunction with other elected Officials and the Directors. The President shall appoint the Chairmen and members of, and prescribe and assign the duties of: Standing, Show, Program and other Committees. The President shall have cheque signing authority.

Vice-President - The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of or, in conjunction with the latter or whenever the President may be unable or unwilling to perform all the duties of this office. The Vice-President shall have cheque signing authority.

Secretary - The Secretary will be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and monthly meetings of the Membership, and also such correspondence of the Society as the Board of Directors and / or the President may authorize. All minutes are to be read or published and approved at General and Executive meetings. The Secretary shall have cheque signing authority.

Treasurer - The Treasurer will be responsible for the receipt and deposit of all monies of the Society. Large expenses shall be paid by cheque only. All cheques shall require two signatures. All cheques shall be signed by any two of the four signing officers, who are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Expenses will be paid when a receipt or invoice is provided to the Treasurer including pre-approved purchases. In the absence of an invoice or receipt, payment must be authorized by the Board of Directors, or more than half of the general Membership. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monetary assets of the Society and of all related transactions. The Treasurer will be required to periodically prepare a monetary float to be used at Society sponsored Shows and Sales. The Treasurer may assign Society Members to be responsible for the care and return of the float. The Treasurer will provide a financial statement at year end. The Treasurer shall have cheque signing authority.

Section 4

The Board of Directors shall meet at the request and discretion of the President to discuss business on behalf of the Society as deemed necessary. The Board of Directors shall meet when a role is required as in the election of Officers or Directors, and other business matters as the need arises. Business items are to be presented to the membership of the Society through publication in the bulletin or newsletter. The Board of Directors must meet at least once in each calendar year.

Section 5

Committees as may be required shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Ongoing Committees may include Sunshine, Membership, Library, Hospitality, Program, Show, Sale and By-Laws. Other Committees may be added as deemed necessary.

Section 6

These Bylaws 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 a meeting.

Section 7

In the event that there is a disagreement as to the proper procedure, the rules contained in the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order", newly revised, will govern the Society in all cases where applicable and not in conflict with the By-laws of the Society.

New Executive/Committee Chairs etc. 2007/2008 year

Committee Chairs etc.

Executive	Plant sales	Olga Vertlib
President – Don MacDonald	Sunshine/Liason	Doris Brownlie
Vice - Louise Cheung	Library	Anne Barber
Secretary – Deana Belli	Welcome	Michael Bunbury
Treasurer – Jackie Mills	Plant Supplies	Frank DeTurse
	Social	Maria Yip
Directors	Programs	Steven Warenycia
Emma Bygott	Membership	Marilyn Compton
Doris Brownlie	Publicity & Awards	Dave Blakemore
Marilyn Compton	Newsletter Co-Editor	Sonia Brock
Steven Warenycia	Show Chairs	Louise Cheung and Steven Warenycia
Sonia Brock		
Dave Blakemore		



2008 Event Calendar

Date	Agenda Items	Speaker
Mar 18	Grooming Show Plants and Potting Down Necks+leaf exchange	Don MacDonald
and	2007 Show Logistics - Submit Application of entries	Louise Cheung
Apr 15	Getting ready for show, clipboard , gesneriads propagation	Show Chair,
Apr 19	TAVS Show Entry and Judging	
Apr 20	TAVS Show opened to the public	
May 20	Gesneriads Propagation	Vincent Woo
Jun 17	Awards Dinner	
	Silent Auction	

The Adobe PDF file for this Newsletter is located here
<http://www.soniabrock.com/TAVS/PDF/2008-TAVS-03.pdf>