

Newsletter

Chairman's Comments



You could grow plants like this with your free seed

Inside this issue:

<i>Secretary's report</i>	2
<i>Secretary's Report (continued)</i>	3
<i>A Short Article</i>	4
<i>Rest in Peace my Friend</i>	5
<i>Letters from Members</i>	6
<i>Swap Shop</i>	7
<i>Seed List</i>	8
<i>Swap Shop (continued)</i>	10



Some of the plants on show at Brownhills

The main growing season is upon us once again. Due to the very mild winter and exceptionally kind spring most of you will be well forward with your plants and in some cases quite a few flowers, I do know that Frank is, and the growth his plants have put on is really phenomenal. I certainly wish at this time someone or something would give my plants a boost for despite all the treatment in the world most are still very slow to get moving. As always I still hope for good results later in the season.

I know that out there are a number of members who are now becoming successful at breeding new seedlings and will be awaiting with baited breath the flowering of their current seasons crop, as the first flowers start to open on a new seedling your heart gives a little skip as you see the colour inside the petal especially if it's the colour you were hoping for. Keep up the good work and enjoy it at the same time.

Many of you grow smaller amounts, pure enjoyment of growing them as a flowering houseplant maybe sometimes grouped together with other plants in your home, however you do it have a good season.

A word of apology now, to the lady member who wrote to me about shading on the greenhouse. I have somehow mislaid it and I am very sorry, however I will explain what it was all about. She had suggested members may like to use the cheap tarpaulin sheets that you can buy from markets or some cheap sundries shops. This as an alternative to buying shade netting which is far more costly. My comments are yes as long as you do not take too much light out, and the other thing is to make sure it is well fastened down for if the wind gets under you could end up with lots of damage.

I must now write of the death of our treasurer Don Corfield, this came as a total shock to me and although I only knew Don in the Society years I felt in his presence as if I had known him all his life. What a wonderful little man, our Society has indeed lost a treasure.

At roughly the same time our editor Tom Causer was admitted to hospital with heart problems, detained in there for quite a spell, he is now out and on medication and recovering slowly and we wish him well.

Have a good season.

Ken Jones
Chairman

Secretary's Report

As one of the founders of the society I must tell you a little about Don Corfield, our treasurer who passed away in March very suddenly. I met Don for the first time at the very first meeting we held, to see if we could form a society, at that time Don did not come forward for one of the jobs offered, but did attend as many shows as he could to help out on the society stand. After Margaret Ereaud had to give up the position of treasurer owing to workload, he offered to do the job, and what a good job he did. I understand from the files that he kept he would put a little note at the bottom of the letter he sent out when you renewed, not on them all but quite a few, this was Don. He was always offering to help at shows although he was 80 and suffered with hard of hearing, he had given me a list of days he would help this year, alas although he will not be with us in body I know he will in spirit.

He also had another love Middleton Hall near Tamworth, he was a trustee there and his latest project was a new orchard with all the old type apple trees in it, sadly he will not see it finished.

Those of you who met him at a show or at the society show will know also that he was a gentleman; he would go out of his way to help you.

The family thank all of you for your remarks and condolence's that you sent with your renewals.

April 25. 27.

Two weeks today we will be setting up at the first show, and again this year we will have to get flowers from Dibleys to make up, all in all it has been a better year than last year more light more heat, but the plants from last year are still not as forward as I would of hoped for, while the new plants that Mary potted the first week in March are doing very well, some in flower but not enough to fill the stand.

Owing to not having a very good year with some of my cuttings taken in August last year, the ones I took in June where OK also the ones I took in late September also OK but the August ones grew OK but when they where large enough to pot 50% of them were deformed, they were twisted, thick leaves and just did not look right, so they went on the compost heap.

Out of the remaining 50% that I did pot 70% of them also ended up on the compost heap.

All this deforming of the plantlets I have put down to using leaves that had been subject to all the heat of July, the ones taken in June OK the ones taken in late September OK, we have stress, so plants must have it too and those leaves I must have used in August where stressed. Well that's what I think has anyone any other ideas?

As a lot of you know after a show we sell off the plants from the stand, owing to selling too many Velvet Lady and Mulberry Lady instead of bringing them back home, my stocks were very low and after the August leaf default they became even lower, (I am asking in the swap shop) so we are sorry we could not supply young plants of these, if they are on the stand this year they will be coming back home.

We ask for comments and have had a few back, Don Whitley from North Yorkshire.

Those of you who have back newsletters volume 1 issue 15 I listed the N-P-K of Phostrogen, Tomorite, Chempak formula 8 and Vitax Vitafeed 214.

I stated that the N was for nitrogen, the P was for potassium this is incorrect it is in fact for Phosphorus (Phosphate) and the K is for Potassium (Potash).

So for those of you that have not a clue what I am on about I will recap.

When you buy a plant feed for your streps you need one that is high in K, potash (Potassium)

Secretary's Report

On the packet you will find the N-P-K. the N wants to be a low number the P does not matter very much as it is for root growth, but the K does it wants to be 3 or 4 times what the N is otherwise you will get very large leaves and not a lot of flower. Thank for putting me right Don.

A lot of you have told me how good your plants are this year it's nice to here that the newsletters are being of help to you and the advice given in them reaps reward.

Michael from Oxfordshire put a line in with his membership fee. Quote the cuttings I took last summer suffered from the heat but I now have a large number in flower much earlier than in previous years- perhaps the excessive heat had something to do with it – or was it the mild winter.

This was dated 2nd April.

I think it may be a combination of both, your cuttings could not have been too hot where you had them otherwise they would have scorched.

So if Michael did his cuttings in June it would be 10 months to flower from putting the leaf in, very good seeing that you have the winter in-between, so try some yourself this month, just remember to keep them out of full sun and if it gets very hot as it did last year put them in the coolest place you have, greenhouse or house. While we are on the subject of cuttings I put some leaves in on March 1st and so far they are looking very good, will cover more about this in the February newsletter then you can try it for yourself, if it works!

We have a new Treasurer/Membership gentleman his name is Peter, those of you who have been to the society show may have met him, and he volunteered. No, what happened he phoned me regarding plants and I told him about Don, then I said do you fancy the job? His reply was, give me a week to think about it, he phoned back 4 days later saying he would give it a go. Then we had to have a committee meeting, well a postal one, you can't expect committee members to travel 40 to 140 miles for a 10-minute meeting. All agreed to Peter becoming treasurer.

The society show schedule may be enclosed with this newsletter (if I can print them in time) it will include two new classes for beginners one class for 1 plant and the other for 3 plants both any size pot, also will you far away people who can't make it to the show please participate in the photograph classes, we are interested in your plants and you might as well show them off in this way.

Last but by no means least both Bob Counsell and myself would like to thank all of you who ordered young plants from us.
Frank.

Malvern Autumn Show is on SEPTEMBER 29 and 30th and not the date shown in the last newsletter.

A Short Article in response to a letter by Dr A K Woodward

I am writing in response to the letter from Brenda Wright in the last newsletter. I started off with 2 or 3 plants purchased from Dibleys at a flower show. I now have a greenhouse which is heated with an electric fan heater with a minimum setting all year round of 5°C (41°F). With the warmer winters, it is on relatively little in the winter and has fan only for air circulation in the summer. This doesn't seem to cost much. With this set up, all my smaller plants in 3 1/2" pots look desperate by March, so one or two of each variety (I have about 40 now, many from Frank and Ken) go on north facing windowsills in the house from the end of October to the end of March. Leaves are trimmed so that they fit close together. They are watered sparingly about once a week. The house is centrally heated and double glazed. Two of these windowsills are about 16" deep and will take 2 long shallow trays. Narrower sills have a sheet of plywood 16" or so deep, painted white, and a reflector 9" high behind. With luck, the weight of pots will keep it all from falling on the floor. They grow very little in the winter and go back in the greenhouse at the end of March when I replot them. I start to feed in late February. Larger plants in 5" pots stay in the greenhouse in an old homemade propagator set at 50° f. These survive but are a bit sluggish to start with in April. All of these take a bit longer to get into flower, and are at their best in September, and therefore not good enough to exhibit at the Show in July. This year I had 2 large plants of Dibley's Crystal Ice in 6" pots in full flower at the end of October and decided to leave them on the staging with just the background heat. Amazingly, both have flowered their socks off all winter and are still going strong now (Feb 8th). I have had fair success with leaf cuttings taken on the 1st of August. 3 transverse cuttings 1" deep go into a 3 1/2" pot of just moist, sandy compost. The base of each is brushed with hormone rooting powder or gel and inserted a quarter of an inch deep. They are then sprayed with a copper fungicide, then put in a polythene bag with a twistit tie. They rarely rot; they are cut with a scalpel or other very sharp blade to avoid tissue damage. They sit on the north windowsill until mid to late January when most will be well sprouted. They are checked monthly for moisture, but rarely need any water. Tiny plantlets are separated and potted in 1" pots and kept on the windowsill until growth is well under way then to the greenhouse at the end of March depending on the weather, and potting on as necessary. I have found that the cuttings need light, but not direct sunshine, or nothing happens and 5-6 months may be necessary to get decent plantlets. Extra heat and growlites will give much quicker results, but are a lot more trouble and expense, so I leave these to Frank and Ken.

Yours sincerely

Dr A K Woodward

e-mail: kandjwoodward@waitrose.com

Rest in Peace my Friend



Don Corfield our treasurer for a number of years and one of the founder members of the British Streptocarpus Society who sadly passed away. He will be missed by a good many people and members of the Society.

Good Bye my Friend.

Tom Causer

The Editor

Letters from Members

Dear Frank Davies.

I was interested in your paragraph headed 'Livestock'. I also suffered severely from bright green caterpillars during late July and early August.

No plants suffered in the previous 5 years all grown in the same position, indoors under Velux windows.

The damage was severe, because I went on holiday from July 22nd-August 6th and left all the plants on capillary matting for a kind neighbour to water. Unfortunately she thought the damage was slugs, so I arrived back to find plenty of blue metaldehyde pellets, a few nearly 2cms long caterpillars, and very many eaten leaves. Nearly all leaves on the worst damaged plants were damaged, badly, with over 50% of the leaf area eaten. The Best leaves were retained and all others removed. For any small-undetected caterpillars, an insurance spray was given using 'Big Gun' (bifenthrin). Sorry there is no photograph of the damage. Needless to say it was not a pretty site!

The photograph of plants on the table was taken in early September, and the plants under the Velux window about the third week in September. One can only admire the powers of recovery, and all round qualities of streptocarpus.

I wonder if members have tried a heavy deleaf, in order to stagger or delay flowering 'flush' for a show in August or September.

Yours sincerely,

Clifford Christopherson.

Franks comment.

I think we will get moths again this year, so caterpillars will again be a problem, so be on the look out for them, you can, if you spot them, take them into the garden and place them on other plants if you do not want to kill them. You can also put a fine net up to the windows that are open this will stop most of the moths getting in.

From a new member in the USA.

Hi Frank;

I just received my membership info from you & was thrilled. I have never seen so much info on these wonderful plants. I can't begin to tell you how thrilled i am to have been able to join this society. This is better than the book from Dibleys. Also i am so thrilled to be able to get seed also, there are so many to choose from, having a hard tme trying to decide. I see there is also a swap shop? Where might this be found? I have been growing streps now for about 3 years. I grow them inside of my apartment under lights but do have several that grow on my windowsill. I find them normally pretty easy to grow except for the summertme when the temps get pretty warm, then I lose a few. I have grown from leaves & seed with success with both, but have had some leaves rot. I have even hybridized a few & am looking forward to doing more hybridizatton again. I have 3 plant stands with 2 tube fixtures on each shelf & run lights about 14 to 16 hrs per day right now, less during the summer. I have seen some of the plants you have produced & must say they are really beauttful. I hope to some day do as well. I just thought you should know what a great society you have & am so glad to belong to it.

Since rely.

Bonnie Formella

Letters from Members

John Owen sent me these with a warning to all of you who have greenhouses to check your insurance policies re greenhouses, and to be sure to read the small print. Not only did John lose the greenhouse he lost all his plants as well. I think I will ask him to build me one it looks better than one you can buy.

Frank.



Spring 2006 after winter storms insurance wouldn't pay for renewal so it will have to be a D.I.Y.



July 2006 nearly finished rebuilding going to cover with bronze polycarbonate to provide more

Members Open to Visits by appointment only.

Ron & Dulcie Clarke, have some new home bred and registered named streps, including spotted and netted ones, well worth a look. **Yeovil Somerset.**

Please ring before on 01935841278.

Bob & Valerie Counsell, have a wonderful collection of American streps plus a few others well worth a look. **Weston Super Mare.**

Please ring before on 01934415795.

Frank & Mary Davies, we have most of the Franken ones, all welcome.

Please ring before on 01543672938. Staffordshire.

SWAP SHOP

Has anyone got Constant Nymph?

Mr Wilson would like a leaf or small plant please.

Mr Dennis Wilson, 5 Bentwell Avenue, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 7EY 0115 9208135.

Franks in trouble. Has anyone a leaf of NITA---BLUE ICE---PURPLE HAZE please as I am down to a small plant of each and they are not very good.

Also any of you who had VELVET LADY any leaves you can spare please, I let too many plants go out in 2006 so I am now very short of stock. Please give me a bell or drop me an E-mail.

Seed List 2007

STREPTOCARPUS SEED HYBRID LIST 2007

Constant Nymph
 Bristol's Siren Song (v.s.a.)
 Bethan.
 Beryl (s.a.)
 Australian Hybrids No 2
 Concorde.
 Blue Ice.
 C.S.W. x Winter Dream (v.s.a)
 Bristol's Popsicle (s.a.)
 Ruby River.
 Elegance.
 Crystal Beauty
 Garnet.
 Mary.
 Charlotte
 Izzy.
 Maiden's Blush.
 Texas Heat Wave
 Fricker Frack (s.a.)
 Athena x Lynn's Ruby
 Georgette
 Hannah Ellis.
 Texas Sunset
 Jennifer
 Susan x self.
 Laura. {s.a.}
 Heide x Lynette
 Judith.
 Lynn's Ruby Red
 Melanie.
 Midnight Flame.
 Sue's Min's
 Moonlight.
 Nerys.
 Patricia.
 Tartan Blue.
 Samantha.
 Gower Daybreak
 Sheila Emily.
 Sensatton x Unknown
 Sandra x Festival of Wales
 Brimstone.
 Terracotta.
 Tanga (s.a.)
 Vanessa.
 Maassens White.
 Mxd Seed from Renaud Demers
 Kerry's Gold
 Lemon Ice
 Susie
 Gower Summerttme
 Pink Panther
 Dainty Sprite (small flowered)
 Stella
 Orchid Lace

STREPTOCARPUS SEED HYBRID LIST 2007

Amanda
 Athena x Marie
 Beverley Ruth.
 Blue Skies.
 Bluebird (s.a.)
 Bristol's Hobgoblin (s.a.)
 Bristol's Pett coat. (s a)
 Cynthia
 White Pink Lines
 Ella Mae.
 Ella.
 Elsie
 Emily
 Falling Stars.
 Franken Charlotte
 Gillian.
 Gloria.
 Heide x Daphne
 Heidi.
 Ice Castle.
 Ice Iced Baby
 Ida. {s.a.}
 Jane Elizabeth.
 Joanne
 Joshi
 Kens Yellow Centre Mxd.
 Laura x Nicola
 Magpie.
 Marie
 Megan.
 Midnight.
 Mixed Seed.
 Modbury Lady. (v.s.a.)
 Passion Pink.
 Paula.
 Purple Haze.
 Raspberry Dream.
 Ruby Anniversary.
 Ruffles.
 Sandra
 Something Special x Cynthia
 Spectacular Velvet Midnight
 Stacey.
 Texas Sunrise.
 Wendy.
 White Wings.
 Kim
 Kissie
 Paper Moon (s.a.)
 Unknown different varieties R Demers
 Pink Sprite (small flowered)
 Phoebe (u.s.a.)
 Blue Sprite (small flowered)
 Bristols Tye Dyed
 Something Special

Seed List 2007

STREPTOCARPUS SPECIES SEED LIST 2007

Cyaneus. {s.a.}
 Rexii blue form
 Caeruleus. {v.s.a.}
 Cyanandrus. Small pale purple veined
 Cooperi.
 Daviesii. Violet bell shaped flower.
 Dracomontanus.
 Trabeculatus
 Formosus. {s.a.}
 Gardenii Rosette, flowers whitish with an unusual green in the tube.
 Grandis. Single leaf, white to pale violet.
 Primulifolius white form (s. a.)
 Mixed Species.
 Meyeri Lt. Flowered. {s.a.}
 Polyanthus x Dracomontanus.
 Pentherianus. Rosette, one to three leaves, flowers white/violet, pale yellow in the throat
 Pusillus (v.s.a.) Monocarpic. White. flowers.
 Rexii Grassland form. Mauve, purple stripes.
 Thompsonii.
 Vandeleurii {v.s.a.} Large leaf, scented white.
 PolyanthusxDracomontanusxProlixus
 Rexii
 Cyanus
 Grandis ssp Grandis
 s.a. small amount of seed
 Bauderti.
 Caulescens. {s.a.}
 Cyaneus ssp Polackii {v.s.a.}
 Cyaneus. Rosette Blue form long flowers.
 Confusus x Polyanthus x Verlandus.
 Dunnii. Large single leaf, tubular red flowers.
 Eylesii.
 Fasciatus. Rosette whitish with violet lines. {s.a.}
 Galpinii.
 Goetzeii. Single leaf or two, flower violet-ish narrow tube one for the enthusiast.
 Fanniniae.
 Kirkii.
 Meyeri Dk flowered {s.a.}
 Primifolius.
 Polyanthus.
 Porphyrostachys. Single leaf these are beetroot purple on the underside, flowers violet.
 Rexii x Gardenii Rosette.
 Roseo-Albus {v.s.a.} Rosette, rose pink flowers
 Variabilis. {s.a.}
 Wilmsii.
 Haygarteii
 Unnamed Monocarpic
 Rimicola

Prolixus

v.s.a. very small amount of seed

STREPTOCARPUS SEED HYBRID LIST 2006

'Royal' Red Strain
 Strawberry Red
 Blue Beryl
 Carys
 Misty Pink
 Red Seedling SG6
 Crystal Ice
 Phaser Blaster (v.s.a.)
 Olwen
 Lynette
 Isabella
 Fernwood Cherries Jubilee
 Fine Wine
 (s.a.) small amount of seed available
 'Royal' White Strain
 Ruby
 Carolyn Ann
 Purple Ripples
 Misty Blue
 Pink N'Stripey
 Plum Crazy
 Ontario Wild Rose
 New Zealand Hybrids
 Kaye
 Inky Fingers (v.s.a.)
 Fancy Pants (s.a)

(v.s.a) very small amount of seed may supply just a few seeds.

Address on back page.
on page 10

Continued

Addresses for mail or articles for
publication in next issue

Dear Frank,

I let you know that we will be able to send streptocarpus leaves to other members of the British Streptocarpus Society in Canada from June this year. (2007)

Here is the list of available varieties:

Kelly, Isabella, Alison, Copper Knob, Tartan Blue, Border Line, Texas Sunset, Lilac Lace. (ALL Franken.)

Thanks for your collaboration.

Truly yours,

Renaud Demers 4150 Boul. Sainte-Adele. Quebec. Canada.
J8B 2N7.

E-mail <Renaud.demers@cqocable.ca>

Ken Jones
23 North Street
Boney Hay
Burntwood
Staffs
WS7 2PB
Tel:- 01543 318554

Frank Davies
9 Wharf Lane
Chasetown
Burntwood
Staffs
WS7 4QY
Tel:- 01543 672938
e-mail FKSTREPS@aol.com

Dear Tom,

Changing the subject, the reason for sending this letter, is to see if you could put a request in the next newsletter for me please. I have been trying, without success, to obtain a plant of Streptocarpus Mandy, even Dibley's don't have one anymore. So if possible, I wonder if any of the members has a leaf or two to spare or perhaps a few seeds. I will gladly pay postage. Thank you, Member no. 500.

My full address is. **Alison Bilverstone, 22, King Street, Swatt am Norfolk, PE37 7BU.**

Tom Causer
24 North street
Boney hay
Burntwood
Staffs
WS7 2PB
e-mail tom.causer@ntlworld.com
Deadline for articles,
questions or letters is
31/08/2007

SEED FUND

Sue Long
26 Killan Road,
Dunvant,
Swansea.
SA2 7TD
Tel:- 01792 207898
e-mail gowerstreps@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Peter Pinches
72 Coopers Road
Handsworth Wood
Birmingham
B20 2JX
Tel:- 0121 5540428

If you have pictures you want printed in the Newsletter please send photos, 35mm negs or slides to Tom Causer or Ken Jones these will be returned after publication.

Many thanks
Tom
The editor

Miss D Taylor is looking for a small plant of each of the following.

CAITLIN, WATERMELLON WINE and PARTY DOLL. If you have got a plant you may have a leaf to spare. Thank you, **Miss D Taylor, 163 Northfield Road, Poulner, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 0SS.**

Ron Aldous has a growlight for sale, it is excess to requirements, bought two and one will do. Interested ring Ron on **01492584204.**

Mr Turner informs me that **WESTHOLM NURSERIES, London Road, Woore, CW3 9RQ.**

Have plenty of Bullrush Compost.

I also understand that some of the Morrisons supermarkets also sell Bullrush Compost.

Dear Frank,

Sorry, but I usually think of more to write after I have sent my E-mail. **I will be unable to have visitors to my home, but on the last Wed, + Thurs. June (I think it is the 27 + 28) I will be selling plants in the WI. Stall, at the Norfolk show, at Norwich showground.** I will also be at the Plant Lovers Day, at the West Acre gardens, near Kings Lynn, on the 7 July. It would be nice if any nearby members could come and say Hello. If it is