

Presidents Message

How has everyone in our local area liked the snow we just received? Before this storm it was hard to believe we could get so much more snow. Other than the odd storm in the early eighties I cannot remember a winter like this since the 70's when major roads were closed and we were able to toboggan on city streets. That isn't allowed to happen anymore but we also haven't had the snow to do it.

I hope all have kept well as conditions have been less than safe at times. If our meeting had been this weekend, I'm sure it might have been cancelled yet again. After catching up on various other newsletters from other chapters, I realize we are far from the only ones who have had cancellations this year. Even the TGS had to cancel their meeting this weekend for safety considerations. None of us can tell what the weather will hold in a week but fingers are crossed and I am sure all will be well. We have our guest speaker Carolyn Conlin-Lane visiting us to speak on Chirita. This should be a great talk and I hope many can get out to the meeting as it should be very informative.

As many of you know, our last meeting was cancelled due to freezing rain and subsequent blowing snow on top of the ice. It seemed like a tough decision but we called around to find weather was even worse in other places and a quick tally of members participating due to condition was going to be about 4. The decision became easier to call the cancellation as safety is our biggest concern. It is always better to be able to meet another day than risk it.

The newsletter will be short this month and of course there are no minutes for the last meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone next week!

Bevin Anderson

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2008 Convention Denver, Colorado

**Gesneriads in the Mile High City
July 2-5, 2008**



Denver, nicknamed the Mile High City because its official elevation is exactly one mile (5,280 ft or about 1,609 m above sea level), sits on the high plains in the South Platte River valley about 15 miles (24 km) east of the front range or foothills of the southern Rocky Mountains. The climate is semi-arid, with annual rainfall of only about 15 inches (38 cm) and low humidity. With warm days and cool evenings once the sun dips behind the mountains, dressing in layers and bringing a light jacket or sweater is recommended even in July.

The Doubletree Hotel Denver is conveniently located within easy access to many restaurants and shopping opportunities such as the Cherry Creek or 16th Street malls, numerous cultural venues, and athletic events. The downtown theater district is nearby. There are frequent daily buses that stop at the hotel to go to casinos in the mountain towns of Blackhawk and Central City, and arrangements can be made to take bus tours of the city or to visit Rocky Mountain National Park, a breathtaking all-day trip. We encourage you to arrive several days early to explore Colorado and the Denver area, taking advantage of the extended convention rate at the hotel. You will not be disappointed.

The Doubletree Hotel Denver provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport. If you have a rental car, from Denver International Airport, exit the airport via Pena Boulevard to I-70 West.

For everyone who is driving to the hotel on I-70, take Exit 278 and go south on Quebec Street. The hotel is located at 3203 Quebec Street, about 4 blocks south of I-70, on the northwest corner of Quebec and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Doubletree Hotel Denver
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, Colorado 80207 USA
Telephone: 303-321-3333
FAX: 303-329-5233

Complimentary airport shuttle operates every 30 minutes between 4:30 a.m. and midnight. Van has Doubletree and Red Lion hotels on the side.

Reprinted from Gesneriad Society webpage
www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2008/index.htm



What's Blooming? By John Beaulieu

Perhaps this month I should have used the heading 'What's Leafing', because with the Episcia, the foliage is often seen as more important than the bloom.

All of my latest batch of Episcia seedlings had the same typical orange/red bloom. Good bloom can be striking on an Episcia, but it is the interesting variety of foliage colour and texture that makes them so popular.

The seed parent (mother) of these seedlings was the yellow flowered E. 'Suomi', but red must be dominant as there was no yellow to be seen in any of the seedlings. As mentioned last issue the pollen parent was 'Huron Holiday' which has those typical red flowers.

The best seedlings (shown at the top) are now of an age where their true mature colour is showing. The two left hand plants in the top photo are the two selections shown here to the left. The right hand plant at the top is the one shown last issue ('Huron Tract').

There is quite a variety of colour and leaf form shown among the seedlings. I really like the minty green which has not showed up in my past Episcia efforts. Both of the plants at the left have the same mint base colour, with the lower plant also having nice dark (almost black) edging.

Some seedlings have very round leaves and others have very long narrow leaves. The texture or 'quilting' also varies from plant to plant. I'm sure I will make a few more selections to name from this group.

If the weather ever co-operates for meeting days, I will be able to bring some starter plants to a meeting.

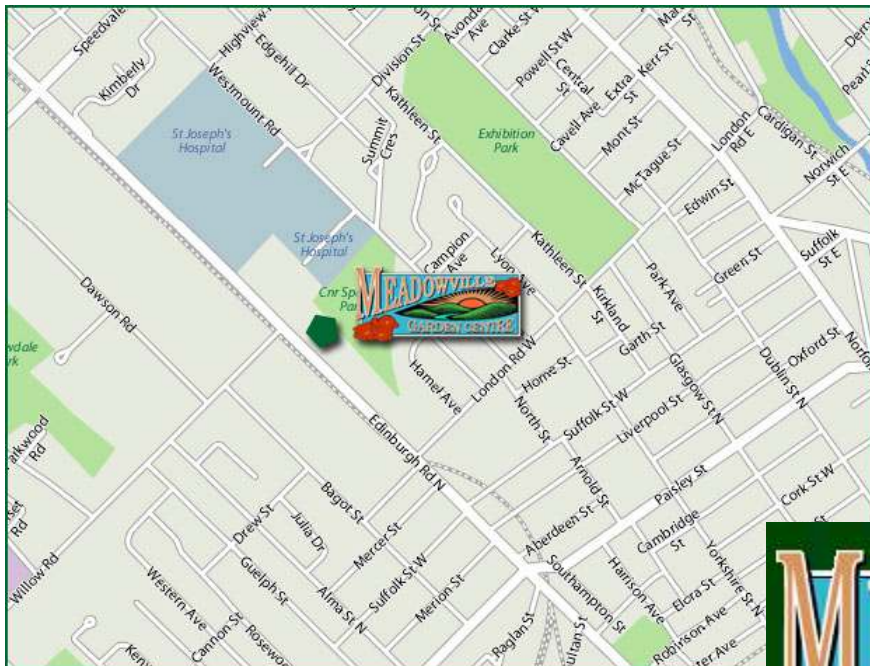


March meeting reminder!

Our next meeting will be on Sunday March 16th. Our topic will be Chirita and we have Carolyn Conlin-Lane coming from Ajax to speak to us.

Remember to bring plants for show and tell and any extra little plantlets you may want to share.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!



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