

International Clematis Society






Newsletter
September 2008

From your Secretary

The Society welcomes constructive criticism and comments, and volunteers! Please send them to me, Fiona Woolfenden, at:-

Fiona Woolfenden, Secretary
International Clematis Society
3 Cuthberts Close
Waltham Cross
EN7 5RB
GREAT BRITAIN

 +44-(0)1992-636524
 secretary@clematisinternational.com
 www.clematisinternational.com

In this Newsletter

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT	3
CONSTITUTIONAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES	3
MEMBERSHIP FEE REVALUATION FOR 2009	8
PAYPAL	9
FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY	10
GOLDEN CLEMATIS AWARD - WINNERS	10
Hans Ruedi Horn Gfeller, Switzerland	10
Vicki Matthews, Great Britain	11
Werner Stastny, Sweden	12
NOMINATIONS FOR GOLDEN CLEMATIS AWARD FOR 2010	13
RULES OF THE GOLDEN CLEMATIS AWARD	13
CLEMATIS NURSERY CATALOGUE ARCHIVE	14
REGISTRATION OF CLEMATIS	14
CLEMATIS ON THE WEB - SURVEY	14
A CHRISTMAS IDEA	15
SEED EXCHANGE - REQUEST FOR SEEDS	15
The Seed Exchange	15
Identifying Suitable Seeds	15
Packing the Seeds	16
Growing Clematis Seeds	16
For our US members	16

Enclosed with this Newsletter

SWITZERLAND 2009 - INVITATION TO REGISTER
SWITZERLAND 2009 – REGISTRATION FORM
REVISED CONSTITUTION ISSUE 2008
CLEMATIS FOR BEGINNERS LIST ISSUE V2.0
REVISED COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS LIST
GOLDEN CLEMATIS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

From our New President

During our meeting in Japan I was elected as President of the Society. It is an honour to be a President of this very active international society. It is important that we can keep our members, our nurseries, stay financially healthy, organize interesting meetings, every year have a beautiful journal etc. It is a pleasure to work together with such active council members.

I will say thank you very much to our Past President Szczepan Marczyński. He has been President for two periods and has done a lot for our Society during this period. He has produced a lot of beautifully printed materials. He has been a very good President.

This year we visited Japan and this was a very well organized meeting. They had made a program that everyone could enjoy. There were clematis, garden plants, beautiful special gardens, museums, traditional tea ceremony, Japanese dinners, lectures, etc.

To Mr Kozo Sugimoto, Mrs Mikiko Sugimoto and Ms Masako Yasutake thank you very much for the organisation because I will never forget this trip.

Ton Hannink, President, The Netherlands

Constitutional General Meeting - Minutes

Thursday 5th June 2008, Venue: Nagoya, Japan

Szczepan Marczyński, President, chaired the meeting and Fiona Woolfenden, Secretary, took the minutes.

Before the meeting started Szczepan Marczyński asked that the Meeting pay its respect to those members who had passed away since the last C.G.M. He led a minute silence in memory of John Howells and Erich Pranno.

1. Apologies for absence and registration of Proxy votes.

Apologies and good wishes for a successful conference were received from Roy Nunn, Murray Rosen and Mary Toomey.

Proxy votes were recognised for the Chairman from Everett Leeds, Jon Gooch, Jerzy Goniewicz and Bengt and Karin Sundström.

A Proxy vote was recognised for Berit Østby from Jürgen Knickmann.

A Proxy vote was recognised for Werner Stastny from Edith Schmidt.

Proxy votes were recognised for Ken Woolfenden from Peter Keeping, Monika Pretzer and Ralf Schreck.

2. Confirmation of minutes of the last Constitutional General Meeting.

The minutes of the Constitutional General Meeting held in Dublin, Ireland in 2006, as published in *Clematis International 2007*, were adopted as accurate.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

No new had been raised and Fiona Woolfenden stated that she thought that any other matters were covered in the Agenda.

4. President's Report - Szczepan Marczyński.

I want to thank you all once again for the great confidence that you have placed in me.

You should all know what has happened in our society during the last four years, from the reports in our yearly journals *Clematis International*, our Newsletters and the website. So right now, I would like to focus only on the work of the council in that period and innovations:

- The Society has introduced the Golden Clematis Award which will be presented to the first laureates at this meeting.
- We wanted to create an archive devoted to Clematis, and after discussion, with the help of Victoria Matthews, cooperation between our Society and the Library of the Royal Horticultural Society has been established to collect Clematis Nursery Catalogues and make them available to interested people.
- We have started spreading Society duties to a larger number of members. The biggest change is that Heidrun Kläser has agreed to be our Membership Secretary. Thank you Heidrun.
- We are trying to increase the number of members of our Society and therefore we have published the Membership Leaflet that gives information about us and makes the joining procedure easier. As an effect, the number of our members has slightly increased.
- We have made efforts to increase the financial income of the Society without increasing membership fees. These include among other things:
 - We have started publishing commercial advertisements in our journal,
 - We have introduced a new category of membership - Nursery Membership.

Ton Hannink has started preparing the index of all *Clematis International* journals for publishing. Thank you Ton.

The revised version of the Clematis for Beginners List has been prepared and it will be published with colour pictures of listed varieties after it has been ratified by the C.G.M in Nagoya.

I would very much like to thank Fiona and Ken Woolfenden for their tremendous work for the Society.

I would like to thank Horst Weihrauch not only for his excellent work as Honouree Treasurer but also for his activity and good ideas in every field of council work.

Finally, I would also like to thank everyone that has devoted his time and engaged himself in various activities of our society.

5. Secretary's Report – Fiona Woolfenden.

Due to the time constraints of the meeting Fiona Woolfenden explained that she would not be reading her Secretary's report. In anticipation of this time constraint, she had published a detailed report in *Clematis International 2008*.

However, she wanted to take this opportunity to ask the meeting to thank Marita Opalka for her work running the Seed Exchange. Marita asked that more people should send seeds to the Seed Exchange as there were very few sent last year. Please note that we have now the capability to send seeds once again to the USA thanks to Richard Huff.

6. Treasurer's Report – Horst Weihrauch.

Dear plant friends, two years have gone since our last Constitutional Conference in Dublin.

So I present the balances for the years 2006 and 2007. This is a favourable moment, to thank all, who helped collecting membership fees in their countries and sending them to our bank accounts. I thank Richard Huff, Llyn Strelau, Bengt Sundström, Masako Yasutake and Mike Warren. A special thank you goes to Ken Woolfenden, who holds the British account besides all his other jobs in the Society.

We finished the years 2006 and 2007 with Society Statements of:

2006		2007	
5,852	£	5,042	£
8,778	€	6,631	€
11,413	\$ US	9,873	\$ US
1,387,634	¥	1,065,109	¥

Both Reports had been examined by our Auditor, Helga Rick, and published in more details in the Journals 2007 and 2008.

Membership Fee

I think that the finances of the International Clematis Society are still healthy, but at the border of the green to the yellow range. The Council has discussed this matter yesterday evening.

We will not increase the Membership Fee and we will hold it at 30 €. But we will change the membership fees of all countries not using the Euro to be in line with the actual exchange rates.

The meeting voted unanimously in support of this approach.

PayPal

I would like to announce that members can now pay their Membership Fees electronically by PayPal. Our first tests are successful. The procedure we followed is easy to handle and safe. PayPal accepts payments by all Internet browsers (provided that they are up to date).

A first transfer of 30 € from Norway to Germany has cost 1.50 € fee. We will test transfers from other countries. According to the listed rates of PayPal I expect fees of up to 2.50 € for 30 € membership renewal.

More information will be published on the Web Site and in the next newsletter.

We will keep the proven Country collection points for renewals for the next years.

7. Adoption of Accounts for 2006 and 2007.

The accounts for 2006 and 2007, which had been published in *Clematis International 2007* and *2008* respectively, were adopted as accurate records of the Society's finances.

8. Editor's Report – Ken Woolfenden.

The last two issues of *Clematis International* have both returned to a more reasonable size relative to the year before. However I have continued to place photos close to the relevant text wherever it is economic to do so as I believe this aids readability.

I would especially like to thank the proof readers; members Glenis Dyer and Jon Gooch and this year a friend Vicky Whitehouse. It is a hard and difficult task, requires great concentration and at the end, you've no idea what it is all about.

I must mention Alan Venables who for yet another year helped with the initial mailing of 240 copies. It is a big task and a second pair of hands not only speeds things up, it makes it a more enjoyable task.

Finally thanks to all the contributors – it is you that make the journal what it is this year and every year.

And with my other hat on as Web Master, can I thank Ton Hannink for accepting responsibility for feeding me with a fresh *Clematis of the Month*. Relinquishing this task takes a significant workload off my shoulders and is a further move to sharing the administrative effort required to run the Society.

9. Future Meetings of the Society.

The intention is that the Society should have a Constitutional General Meeting every two years with a 'smaller' meeting in the intervening year. There would also be a Council Meeting held at the same time.

2009 Switzerland – Marianne Fistarol said that planning continues for the visit to Switzerland next year and that registration will be available from September this year in the next newsletter.

2010 Portland, Oregon – Linda Beutler said that planning was underway for a meeting based in Portland, Oregon. Although the Conference would be held for a second time in this area there were still many different gardens to be visited plus the new site for the Brewster Rogerson *Clematis* Collection at Luscher Farm. The meeting is planned for September 2010. With the long season in Oregon, there will still be plenty of *clematis* to see at that time of year. A more detailed program will be available early in 2009.

2011 Belgium – Szczepan Marczyński said that Ton Hannink and Horst Weihrauch were looking at the possibility of a meeting held in Belgium. There are many wonderful gardens in Belgium and it is very central in Europe.

10. Election of President.

Ton Hannink, The Netherlands, had been nominated by the Council for President. No other nominations had been received and he was unanimously elected as President.

11. Election of Vice-Presidents.

Linda Beutler, USA and Roy Nunn, Great Britain had both been nominated by the Council for the two positions of Vice-President. Linda Beutler and Roy Nunn were unanimously elected.

12. Election of Honorary Secretary.

Fiona Woolfenden, Great Britain, was unanimously re-elected.

13. Election of Honorary Treasurer.

Horst Weihrauch, Germany, was unanimously re-elected.

14. Election of Honorary Editor.

Ken Woolfenden, Great Britain, was unanimously re-elected.

15. Election of Members of the Council.

There were 3 Council Members who had served the maximum number of terms allowed under our Constitution:

Peter Keeping, Canada
Jürgen Knickmann, Austria
Monika Pretzer, Belgium.

The C.G.M. thanked all Council Members for their work on behalf of the Society.

The following existing Council Members who were eligible to be re-elected to Council plus Lyndy Broder (nominated by Council) were unanimously elected:

Lyndy Broder, USA,	Murray Rosen, USA,
Marianne Fistarol, Switzerland,	Ralf Martin Schreck, Germany,
Sally Geist, USA,	Kozo Sugimoto, Japan,
Veijo Miettinen, Finland,	Bengt Sundström, Sweden,
Berit Kristine Østby, Norway,	Masako Yasutake, Japan.

The Council wished to fill the several vacancies left and proposed Duncan Donald, International Clematis Registrar and two others, who were also unanimously elected:

Duncan Donald, Great Britain,
Ute Klatt, Germany,
Mathias Münster, Germany.

Szczepan Marczyński, as Past President, is also on the Council and Klaus Körber, our previous Past President, steps down from Council.

16. Election of Honorary Auditor(s).

Helga Rick, Germany, was thanked for performing this role for the last 2 years. Helga had agreed to continue in this role and was unanimously elected as the Society's Auditor.

17. Ratification of proposed changes to the Constitution.

The C.G.M. voted on the proposed changes to the Constitution. The changes were unanimously adopted. The current version of the Constitution is now Issued 2008.

18. Ratification of the proposed changes to the Clematis for Beginners List.

The C.G.M. voted on the proposed changes to the Clematis for Beginners List. The changes were unanimously adopted. The current version is now Issued V2.0.

19. Ratification of nominations for the Golden Clematis Award.

The nominations for the Society's new award were:

- Hans Ruedi Horn Gfeller, Switzerland.
- Victoria Matthews, Great Britain.
- Werner Stastny, Sweden.

The meeting approved of the nominations.

Szczepan Marczyński presented Werner Stastny with his award during the C.G.M.

20. End of the Meeting

Ton Hannink thanked Szczepan Marczyński for his work as President of the Society over the last four years; for his active work to increase the Society's revenue and to promote it; for his innovations and his determination to spread the administration of the Society across more people. Thank you Szczepan.

Membership Fee Revaluation for 2009

At the Constitutional General Meeting in Nagoya, Japan in June 2008, Horst Weihrauch, our Treasurer, said that whilst the finances of the Society are healthy at the moment, they are beginning to cause him some concern.

The primary reason for this is the erosion of the value of the Membership Fee when collected in non-Euro currencies, year on year since the fees were set on 2001. This has reduced the financial contingency of the Society.

Horst proposed, and the membership agreed, that it is time to change this situation. Whilst the basic Membership Fee of 30 € will remain unchanged, the rates in non-Euro currencies will be revised to reflect the present exchange rates.

It is impossible to forecast how currencies rates will move, so the Society will review and revise if necessary the non-Euro Membership Fees at approximately the same time of each year, to run for the next 12 month period. However I stress that the basic Membership Fee remains unchanged at 30 €.

The rates have now been calculated and are shown below. They will apply immediately for new memberships and membership renewals for 2009.

Currency	Euros	Canadian Dollars	Japanese Yen	UK Pounds Sterling	US Dollars
2008 Membership	30 €	C\$ 40.00	¥ 3500	£18.50	\$ 30.00
2009 Membership	30 €	C\$ 45.50	¥ 4600	£23.50	\$ 43.50
2009 Nursery Membership	50 €	C\$ 75.00	¥ 7600	£39.00	\$ 72.50

The Society is aware that for many people this is a very significant increase at a time when most people's finances are stretched. However as you will see from the examples below, the Society has been undercharging some memberships for a number of years and this situation cannot continue. We hope that you will understand the necessity of this action.

Note that any member is at liberty to pay their membership in Euros if they so wish. Indeed now that the Society accepts payment using PayPal (see page 9), this becomes very easy for anyone with access to the internet.

Revaluation

The Society set the membership fee at 30 € on 1st January 2001. At the same time, and to make it easier for members in various countries to pay their fees, equivalent rates were set for the other currencies which the Society accepts, notably UK Pounds Sterling, US Dollars, Canadian Dollars and Japanese Yen, using the exchange rates at that time.

The financial world is now a very different place and the relative values of these currencies has changed almost out of all recognition. Specifically all the currencies mentioned above have fallen in value against the Euro, some very significantly, which means that all members who pay in non-Euro currencies have not been paying their fair share for many years.

Even a simple calculation easily demonstrates the shortfall of the current Membership Fee in these currencies relative to the Membership Fee of 30 €.

Currency	Euros	Canadian Dollars	Japanese Yen	UK Pounds Sterling	US Dollars
2008 Membership	30 €	C\$ 40.00	¥ 3500	£18.50	\$ 30.00
Value in Euros	30 €	26.40 €	22.80 €	23.60 €	20.70 €
Shortfall	0%	14%	31%	27%	45%

This situation has been getting progressively worse ever since the rates were set in 2001. Now the time has come when this issue has to be addressed, to be fair to all members.

PayPal

Membership Renewal for the Cost of a Stamp – from Horst Weihrauch

With the introduction of a PayPal method, the International Clematis Society now provides more comprehensive means for members to pay their membership renewal, often for free but otherwise for no more than the cost of a common postage stamp.

The electronic service, PayPal, enables transfers of small sums of money at low cost from most countries around the world, and specifically including those countries where members have had problems previously. For the Society and members alike, this electronic service is safe and simple.

Nevertheless the Society (and its Treasurer) is glad to continue to use our local Country Membership Secretaries. Their experience and help is of great value and we see members continuing to renew their membership though their local collection points as before, namely:-

- Canada - Llyn Strelau
- Europe - Horst Weihrauch
- Great Britain - Michael Warren
- Japan - Masako Yasutake
- Sweden - Bengt Sundström
- USA - Richard Huff

Similarly, for those members who use online banking, please continue to do so.

Our tests with PayPal have shown that a transfer from Norway or Japan to our German account incurs a fee of approximately €1.60. Thus, you can renew your membership for €31.60 from virtually anywhere in the world.

There are two ways to do this. If you already have an account with PayPal (having a PayPal account costs nothing) you can simply transfer your renewal fee to the Treasurer's email address; pelkum.gdn@web.de.

If you do not have - and do not wish to create - an account with PayPal, you may still use this method. Contact the Treasurer (see email address above) and you will be sent a simple form by email. This can be filled in with two or three simple steps and submitted. PayPal will report the transaction to both parties by email, though it is good practice to email the Treasurer and say what you have done.

PayPal is a sibling of eBay, which is available in 190 markets and 17 currencies worldwide. The service accepts payments by all current Internet browsers.

Note that users of the Internet should always run recognized security software and have the latest security updates installed on their computers, be the system Linux, Mac or Microsoft.

Future Meetings of the Society

2009 Switzerland

The Invitation to Register for this event, containing the programme and descriptions of the various activities, is enclosed with this newsletter. For those of you with internet access or receiving this newsletter electronically, you will find a very comprehensive version with many colour illustrations on our website, please follow the link on our homepage.

The preferred method of registration is using the simple online form on our website. However a paper Registration Form has been provided where appropriate. Whichever method you use, registration must be completed and the deposit received by 30th November 2008.

We look forward to seeing many of you for an exciting visit to this beautiful country.

2010 Portland, Oregon

At our meeting in Ireland in 2006, Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection (FRCC) President, Sally Geist, urged and supported by I.C.I.S. Council member Linda Beutler, invited the I.C.I.S. to return to Oregon, USA for our 2010 Conference and Constitutional General Meeting. It will then be 9 years since our previous (and first) visit to the USA, that one hosted by the Pacific Northwest Clematis Society (PNCS).

The focus of the event will be an extended visit to the new site of the Rogerson Clematis Collection at Luscher Farm in Lake Oswego, Oregon, USA (south of Portland), which will have been in development over four years by then. It is probable that this will be a late summer or early autumn event, as the Pacific Northwest enjoys an extended blooming season, and numerous clematis present their best efforts in August and September, even if they initially flowered earlier.

Golden Clematis Award - Winners

The first Golden Clematis Awards were announced in Nagoya, Japan during the Constitutional General Meeting. The citations are below which will also be published in *Clematis International 2009*. Congratulations to all three winners.

A reminder that the purpose of this award is to recognise excellence in clematis matters, or to recognise specific achievements by both Members and non-Members of the Society. It is an alternative award to the Honorary Fellow, which is for Members only, who have rendered distinguished service to the study and culture of clematis or rendered notable service to the Society. The full rules are published after the citations.

Hans Ruedi Horn Gfeller, Switzerland

Nominated by Walter Hörsch, Germany, seconded by Manfred Herian, Germany.

Hans Ruedi's love and knowledge of nature began when his father, a farmer in Merligen, a picturesque village bordering lake Thun, used to take him for walks in the Swiss mountains. His interest developed as he approached adulthood, but financial pressures forced Hans Ruedi into a career in banking.

His first recorded acquaintance with clematis was when, on a climbing holiday in the Engadin Mountains, he chanced upon a plant with pretty blue hanging flowers. Asking a local, he was told it was the local endemic clematis, *Clematis alpina*.

Hans Ruedi already had an interest in clematis when he met with Magnus Johnson in the mid sixties, having been told about this "Swedish Clematis Specialist" by his friend, Mrs. Dr. von Stein-Zeppelin of the Zeppelin Nursery. After some investigation Magnus and Hans Ruedi met up at the Gothenburg Botanic Gardens and there started a lifelong friendship.

With his wife, Elizabeth, Hans Ruedi liked to holiday in Norway, particularly to study the local alpine plants and it was here that he first came across *Clematis sibirica*, growing in the wild. And even better, one with double flowers. His friend, Magnus Johnson, had told him about this plant and that it was reputed to flower double, now Hans Ruedi had seen one.

Over the years Hans Ruedi's knowledge of clematis increased until he became Switzerland's clematis specialist. He gained some of this knowledge through a plant hunting expedition to the Himalayas, visiting Nepal, North India and Kashmir where he saw and collected a number of native species.

All the time he was building up his clematis collection, with plants collected on various expeditions, with plants from the many contacts he made in France, Germany, Holland, the Baltic states. He said he had most success with *alpinas*, *macropetalas*, *montanas*, *viticellas*, *viticella* hybrids and the Baltic and Russian hybrids.

In 2001, Hans Ruedi received the Schulthess Prize, awarded to honour people who have an aptitude for the botanical, architectural, innovation and ecological in their garden, for his clematis garden in Merligen, Switzerland. The Society has visited this garden, situated on a hillside overlooking lake Thun, at least twice, and looked with amazement both at the collection of clematis and the obvious hard work it must be gardening on such a slope.

Whilst I understand the planting has been reduced somewhat in recent years to make it a little more manageable, though I think it would challenge someone half the age of Hans Ruedi.

Have I already mentioned, Hans Ruedi was born On April 29th 1920, so he is currently in his 88th year. And he still gardens on the side of a mountain!

I give you the Clematis King of Switzerland!

Vicki Matthews, Great Britain



Nominated by Szczepan Marczyński, Poland, seconded by Jon Gooch, Great Britain.

Victoria Matthews helped organize and clarify Clematis nomenclature, which had been confused and debated worldwide for many years.

She compiled and edited "*The International Clematis Register and Checklist 2002*" and its two supplements in which she proposed Clematis classification and nomenclature in agreement with ICNCP and put together basic available information about 3000

Clematis cultivars.

She was very exact and inquisitive in her work, endeavouring to reach all available references and information.

She tried to resolve all doubts and worked willingly, with very many people, using diplomacy and tact to achieve acceptable conclusions.

It is worth emphasizing her benevolence and kind assistance to breeders and all people wishing to receive information or explanations of Clematis nomenclature.

She cooperated greatly with the International Clematis Society, frequently publishing articles, notes and information about new cultivars in "Clematis International" and advising the I.C.I.S. Council.

In her activities she established the highest standards.

"The International Clematis Register and Checklist 2002" by Victoria Matthews, immediately became the principle reference book on Clematis nomenclature.

This is an invaluable publication, of help to all professional Clematis growers and amateur enthusiasts throughout the world.

We wish to propose Victoria Matthews for the Golden Clematis Award in recognition of her professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication to provide the Clematis world with this excellent publication.

The picture of Vicki receiving her Golden Clematis Award from our Vice-President, Roy Nunn, was taken a couple of weeks after the Society visit to Japan, at a lunch hosted by Roy and Angela Nunn.

Werner Stastny, Sweden

Nominated by Edith Schmidt, Germany, seconded by Jürgen Knickmann, Austria.

This nomination of Werner Stastny for the newly created Golden Clematis Award was spontaneous and down to conviction of his qualities.

From the very early days of the I.C.I.S., Werner Stastny has worked very hard for the Society, not only as President between 1991 - 1996, but as an efficient organizer with extensive horticultural knowledge.

Werner's career has been in landscaping, working with many plants, especially woody plants, as well as being concerned with living spaces and the environmental conditions of the world.

Werner was one of the founders in 1989 of the Swedish Clematis Society, one of the first national Clematis Societies. It was also around this time that Werner made connections with the Baltic countries, forming relationships with breeders and growers, discovering lovely gardens and talking with their owners, thus providing a service to clematis as well as to our Society.

You may say that this is what one might expect of a good president, and there is some truth in this. But you should note that in 1991 the Society had to deal with severe internal issues. Our more senior members may remember these very difficult times of crisis, with the splitting off



and formation of the British Clematis Society. Werner Stastny and Ulf Svensson visited England for a number of long and difficult discussions to try to find a compromise and ensure the continuation of the Society. They were successful and the Society has survived and in fact flourished. It was also during this period that Werner struck up a rapport with the late John Maskelyne and largely down to their joint efforts, over time relations between the two Societies improved to the present amicable position.

Werner Stastny has great focus and perseverance, as we found out in various Council Meetings. However to bring together the differing and sometimes diverging views of Clematis lovers and achieve a harmonious conclusion needs patience, perseverance and skilful tactics. So maybe we wouldn't be here now, happy to be meeting again and still in love with our darling Clematis if it were not for people such as Werner Stastny.

We wish to propose Werner Stastny for the Golden Clematis Award in recognition of his long years of successful work for the International Clematis Society.

The picture shows Werner Stastny receiving his Golden Clematis Award at the C.G.M. in Nagoya, Japan in June 2008.

Nominations for Golden Clematis Award for 2010

If you think that someone deserves a Golden Clematis Award, which will be awarded at the Constitutional General Meeting in Portland, Oregon, USA in 2010, then you should complete a Nomination Form enclosed with this newsletter and sent it to the Secretary by 31st May 2009 for discussion by the Council during the Conference to be held in Switzerland next year.

Rules of the Golden Clematis Award

1. Each nomination for the award should have a Proposer and a Secunder.
2. The Golden Clematis Award is for meritorious service to the Society or the genus Clematis, such service being in keeping with the aims of the Society.
3. Any Society Member can submit a nomination. The Award is open to Members and non-Members.
4. The Proposer should give a detailed justification as part of their nomination and the Secunder should sign it. If the nomination is accepted, this justification will be read aloud at the Constitutional General Meeting and published in the journal of the International Clematis Society. Without a detailed justification, a nomination will be rejected.
5. All nominations should be submitted to the Council during non-Constitutional General Meeting years and the Council will select one or more nominees, to be recommended to the Membership at the next C.G.M.
6. Nominations shall be confidential; the nomination should be made without the knowledge of the nominee.
7. The Award will be an agenda item of every C.G.M., provided the Council have selected at least one nominee for recommendation. The attending Members will vote by simple majority.
8. In non-C.G.M. years Members should be regularly reminded in newsletters of the Award, so that the Award does not fall into oblivion.
9. The introduction of this award does not preclude future induction as an Honorary Fellow of the Society.

10. Whilst there is no fixed limit, there is an expectation that there will be no more than two awards each year and no more than 5% of the total membership. However it is recognized that there may be a backlog of nominees and so the Society may wish to relax the annual limit target during the first year or so of operation.

Clematis Nursery Catalogue Archive

A reminder that we are asking you to send in old Clematis Nursery Catalogues. The intention is that the Society will collect Clematis Nursery Catalogues from members (or anyone else who may have some) and will forward them to the Lindley Library. Once these Clematis Nursery Catalogues have been incorporated in the Lindley Library, they will be available for retrieval by members of the Society with prior notice. As well as a formalised method of access, it also means the Clematis Nursery Catalogues are held in a secure place and not in the house of one of our members.

Two collection points have been established; one in Great Britain and another in Germany. If you live in Great Britain, please send catalogues to Vicki Matthews, if you live elsewhere in the world please send them to Ralf Martin Schreck in Germany. Vicky will collate index information on the catalogues, both those sent to her and those sent to Ralf, and this index will then be made available on our website.

So please send your old Clematis Nursery Catalogues to:

Victoria Matthews
13 Chatsworth Close
Market Deeping, Peterborough
PE6 8AZ
GREAT BRITAIN
Tel No:01778 380256

Ralf Martin and Doris Schreck
Heidelberger Str. 5a
D-76344 Egg.-Leopoldshafen
GERMANY
Tel No:07247-2763

Registration of Clematis

With evening nights drawing in, it is a good time to register any new clematis. The Royal Horticultural Society has appointed a new International Clematis Registrar, Duncan Donald, to take over from Victoria Matthews, who retired from this post in 2006. Vicki was responsible for the publication of the first International Clematis Register and subsequent supplements, a mammoth task for which the clematis world will be eternally grateful.

Completed New Registration forms should now be sent to:- Duncan Donald, Clematis Registrar, 16 Midtown of Inverasdale, Poolewe, Ross-shire, IV22 2LW, GREAT BRITAIN. Tel: +44 (0) 1445 781717. Email: clematis@rhs.org.uk

Clematis on the Web - Survey

Another job to do in the winter evenings is to submit information about how your clematis have performed, to improve the data already gathered about the clematis that we all grow in our gardens.

Clematis International 2007 contained an update on the University of Hull, Clematis on the Web Survey. **NOW** is the time to update the survey - so please do so.

A Christmas Idea

Christmas will soon be upon us all and if you're stuck for present for a gardening friend, why not give them a One Year Subscription to the Society? Better still, include a copy of *Clematis International 2008* with their welcome pack.

A One Year Membership costs €30 (see page 9 for how to pay using PayPal, which will also charge a small administration fee). To include a copy of *Clematis International 2008*, the cost is €45. But I'm sure they are worth it!

Please contact the Secretary, giving full details of the person to whom you wish to make this gift, and whether you want the Welcome Membership Pack sent to yourself or direct to the person. At the same time please make the appropriate payment in the normal way, ideally with a reference that includes their name and the word, "GIFT".

Seed Exchange - Request for Seeds

The Seed Exchange

The seed exchange, run by Marita Opalka (see address on page 16), is a vital part of our Society and a key benefit to Members all over the world. In previous years the seed exchange has enabled Members to obtain Clematis seed which would normally be difficult if not impossible to find in their own countries.

NOW is the time to start thinking about collecting seed and sending it to Marita. The best seed to donate is from species as these are most likely to germinate true to type. Please do **NOT** send seed from large flowered hybrids as no one orders it.

Seed collected in the wild, especially from expeditions, is much appreciated by other members. Varieties common in one country are often difficult to find in another.

Identifying Suitable Seeds

The seeds that you donate to the Seed Exchange should be 'viable', generally the seed in the head will be visible, particularly with species. If it is not then the seed has probably not 'set' and will not germinate.



Figure a., above, shows *Clematis heracleifolia* with some seeds that have 'set' and others that have not. Figure b. shows a seed head that is not viable; the feathery tails are often yellowish. On a number of varieties you will find only one or two seeds are viable and the rest are not. The seeds should be well ripened and dry, this means that the seed head will be brown.

With large flowered hybrids it is easy to identify seeds as the Clematis plants set with large 'heads'. However, seed from hybrids is not the best seed to donate, as every seedling will be different and not the same as the parents.

Packing the Seeds

We would appreciate if you can put the dry seeds in a paper envelope and mark the outside with the name of the Clematis hybrid or species that you picked them from. If you collected them in the wild please add the name of the place that they were collected from. Send the seeds in a parcel marked 'Flower Seed: No Commercial Value' to:

Marita Opalka
Wagnerstr. 7
OT Schwarze Pumpe
D-03130 Spremberg
GERMANY
Tel. No: +49 (0) 356 422 181

If you believe that you will be able to donate some seed but that it is not yet ripe, please write to Marita and let her know. The seeds are collected this year and early next year the Society will send you a list of the seeds available.

The Society's Seed Exchange is non-profit making. Two years ago we decided not to make an administration charge as we were concerned that the difficulties of paying small amounts of money was stopping members from ordering seeds. The result was successful in that more members asked for seeds. This year we will not be asking for a administration fee but ask that when you renew your membership in January that you consider making a small donation at that time to cover administration costs for seeds that you ordered last year.

Growing Clematis Seeds

Growing Clematis from seed is an interesting experience, seeds often do not come true to the parent varieties, especially seed from the large-flowered hybrids. Species are most likely to be successful and reasonably true to the parent plant, however experimentation can provide experts and beginners alike with hours of interest, fun and the possibility of a new variety!

For our US members

With the relaxation of seed import regulations in May 2006 via the "Small Lots of Seeds" rule, we would like to remind our US members that they can benefit from the Seed Exchange as they used to do. However our experience from last year is that the process can take a variable, and occasionally what seems an unusually long time, so patience is necessary.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR
CLEMATIS SEED NOW!**