

International Clematis Society



Newsletter
September 2009




From your Secretary

We had a fantastic visit to Switzerland this year. When the idea of a visit to Switzerland was first discussed Marianne Fistarol warned us that we would not see many clematis. However we saw *Clematis alpina* in the wild and visited several Clematis Nurseries as well as many fabulous gardens. We also enjoyed various examples of Swiss culture.

With nearly 50 attendees, with weather that ranged from snow, through rain to hot sun, with an itinerary that took us from Zürich to Basel, Grindelwald, Kandersteg, Montreux, Yvoire and back to Zürich, planning, organizing and carrying out this event was quite a challenge, but Marianne and Fisch Fistarol and their team (Gabi Allet, Marianne Conrad, Klaus Gmür, Bix Schmied) ensured the whole event ran with the precision of a Swiss watch. We thank them all.

For those of you with access to the internet you will find a three-part report of the event with photos on the Society's website. It will of course be fully documented in the Switzerland 2009 section of *Clematis International 2010*.

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

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Brother Stefan Franczak - 1917 to 2009

It is with great sadness that I report the death on Monday 6th July 2009 of Brother Stefan Franczak, Jesuit monk, internationally acclaimed clematis breeder and Honorary Fellow of this Society. His health had been gradually deteriorating over the last few years.

Brother Stefan Franczak began collecting clematis in 1960 but didn't start breeding them until the early 1980s. Since that time he has bred and introduced a great many clematis. Victoria Matthews, writing in *Clematis International* 2003, analysed the International Clematis Register and reported that he was the fifth most prolific breeder of clematis with 66 entries in the Register.

He was a gentle and very modest man. A number of members of this Society had the pleasure of meeting him in the garden of the Jesuit College where he lived for the majority of his life, during visits to Poland in 2000 and again in 2002. It was in his garden and the adjoining glasshouse that he produced his marvellous clematis.

In March this year Brother Stefan Franczak was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, one of Poland's highest orders.

Over the years, *Clematis International* has featured a number of articles about Brother Stefan Franczak and his clematis, specifically in the 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2009 issues.

A service, followed by his funeral, was held in Warsaw on Monday 13th July 2009. Szczepan Marczyński, past President of this Society and a friend of Brother Stefan Franczak for many years, represented the International Clematis Society and also laid a wreath to honour him in the name of the Society. It was very appropriate that both the wreath and all the other floral tributes were composed of clematis.

Brother Stefan Franczak brought joy across the world through the many beautiful and garden-worthy clematis that he bred and shared with others. They are his true and lasting legacy.

A full tribute to Brother Stefan Franczak will be published in next year's journal, *Clematis International* 2010.

Membership Fee Revaluation for 2010

As stated in last year's September Newsletter, at the Constitutional General Meeting in Nagoya, Japan in June 2008, Horst Weihrauch, our Treasurer, said that whilst the finances of the Society were healthy at the moment, they were beginning to cause him some concern.

The primary reason for this was 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 was time to correct 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 was agreed that 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 the basic Membership Fee remains unchanged at 30 €.

The rates have now been calculated for 2010 and are shown below. They will apply immediately for both new memberships and membership renewals for 2010.

Currency	Euros	Canadian Dollars	Japanese Yen	UK Pounds Sterling	US Dollars
2009 Membership	30 €	C\$ 45.50	¥ 4600	£23.50	\$ 43.50
2010 Membership	30 €	C\$ 47.00	¥ 4000	£25.50	\$ 42.50
2010 Nursery Membership	50 €	C\$ 78.00	¥ 6700	£42.50	\$ 70.00

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 this becomes very easy for anyone with access to the internet.

Membership Secretary for Japan

The Society is looking for a volunteer from Japan to collect Membership Fees. This is the role that Ms. Masako Yasutake has done for the Society over the last few years and the Society thanks her very much for this.

Country Membership Secretaries overcome the difficulties and significant costs that Members in their Country can experience when trying to pay their membership fees.

The Country Membership Secretary collects membership and other activity fees in the local currency, informing the Society whenever someone pays. In addition, typically once a year the Secretary transfers the money that has been collected to the Society, using a Bankers Draft or International Money Order in the currency the Society specifies. The cost of the Money Order is deducted from the amount sent to the Society. We sometimes also ask the Country Membership Secretary to remind members who are slow to renew their membership.

Although payment is now possible via PayPal, a number of members prefer not to use the internet and appreciate being able to pay locally and in their own currency.

If you would like to help the Society by volunteering, or have any questions about this important role, please contact the Secretary, Fiona Woolfenden.

Future Meetings of the Society

2010 Portland, Oregon - Looking forward to 2010

The 2010 I.C.I.S. annual meeting in Portland (September 6 through 13) will feature new gardens and a few old favorites. Our center of operations will be the University Place, a hotel and conference facility owned and administered by Portland State University, in downtown Portland. The hotel has a lounge (alias for Public House in the US), restaurant, catering staff, multi-function classrooms, a swimming pool, and courteous staff. University Place is one block from Portland's green-line light rail train, which is a fare-less square, so attendees will be able to enjoy the city during their free time.

Events will include a day at Luscher Farm, location of the Rogerson Clematis Collection. While at the farm, I.C.I.S. members will get to help evaluate new clematis, receive a thorough history of the collection, collect clematis seed and see our propagation facilities, tour the entire farm beyond FRCC's domain, and the farm is a quick walk to Oswego Hills Winery!

Another day will be spent in SW Washington state, where we will all visit clematis explorer and breeder Diana Reeck at Collector's Nursery in Battleground (only a few visited in 2001), then ride up the road to Yacolt, Washington to lunch and so end the afternoon with Debbie Fischer of Silver Star Vinery.

I.C.I.S. will enjoy a day in Northwest Portland and Scappoose, Oregon, visiting Old Germantown Garden (private garden) and Joy Creek Nursery, followed by a stop at Cistus Nursery on Sauvie Island, and ending the day at the private garden of George Soule for a tour and picnic.

An evening event will include a digital versus film photography debate, and a performance of the Goddess Flora Chorus and Deadheading Society at the newest location of the Lucky Lab Public House and Brewery.

There will be a day of options, plus lecture sessions and other trips south of Portland into the Willamette Valley for more garden and nursery touring.

We hope to host many of you, and are already looking forward to your arrival.

Sally Geist, President, Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection (FRCC).

2011 Belgium Garden Tour

Ton Hannink and Horst Weihrauch are looking at the possibility of a meeting to be held in Belgium during June 2011. There are many wonderful gardens in Belgium and June is a good time to visit them. The current plan is to stay in one place and make day trips to other locations. Belgium is very central in Europe and a day trip to The Netherlands should be possible to visit some Clematis Nurseries there, although the main focus of the event will be garden visits in Belgium.

Articles for Clematis International 2010

We're always interested in your articles and ideas, be they about individual visits, members gardens, new varieties, growing/pruning techniques, horticultural research, indeed anything and everything clematis related. Chances are, if you've found something interesting or rewarding, so will other members.

Articles don't have to be many sides of writing, even one or two paragraphs is welcome. Nor do you have to be a professional writer to express your thoughts and ideas in an interesting and informative manner. And finally, if you feel your English may not be quite up to standard, do not fear, this can be corrected during editing as well.

Articles can be submitted electronically by email (preferred), on CD, typed on paper or even hand written. To illustrate articles we can accept most image forms. The preference these days is for high resolution digital images, generally in .jpg or .tif format though others may be acceptable. 35mm transparencies (dias) are also welcomed. Finally photos can be used but must be sharp and clear. If in doubt, please contact me. Deadline for Clematis International is the end of December, though the sooner I receive things the better.

Ken Woolfenden, Editor.

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, owned and run by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain and reputedly “the best gardening library in the world”.

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 providing formalised access, it also means the Clematis Nursery Catalogues are securely held.

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 new clematis. Duncan Donald was appointed International Clematis Registrar in 2006, taking over from Victoria Matthews. Vicki was responsible for the publication of the first International Clematis Register, a mammoth task for which the clematis world will be eternally grateful.

Registration forms (English and German language versions) can be downloaded from the RHS website at http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_clematis.asp or from the Registrar.

Completed New Registration forms should 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 to the “Clematis on the Web – International Survey” about how your clematis have performed, to improve the data already gathered about the clematis that we all grow in our gardens.

You can submit information or find out about this survey by visiting <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/survey-login.cfm>.

Clematis International 2007 contained an update on the Clematis on the Web Survey.

NOW is the time to make your contribution to this important survey - please do so.

Seed Exchange - Request for Seeds

The Seed Exchange

The seed exchange, run by Marita Opalka (see address below), 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 it will not come true and no one orders it. You may wish to germinate it yourself, though, and see what the result is – could be a new and garden-worthy clematis!

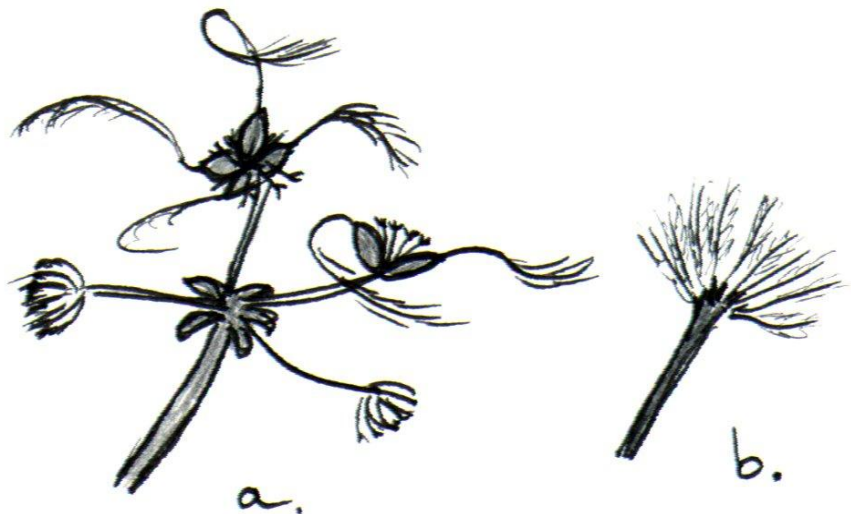
Seed collected in the wild, especially from expeditions, is much appreciated by other members. Varieties common in one country are often difficult to find in another.

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 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 may find only one or two viable seeds. The seeds should be well ripened and dry, this means that the seed head will be brown.



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 help towards the 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!**

A Christmas Gift 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 2009* with their welcome pack.

A One Year Membership costs €30. To include a copy of *Clematis International 2009*, the cost is €45. But I'm sure they are worth it! You can pay via your normal membership route or by PayPal.

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".