

International Clematis Society



Newsletter
September 2011

From your Secretary

We had a very enjoyable visit to Belgium in June and saw some fabulous gardens. We were also very lucky with the weather which did not prevent the programme going ahead. The Society thanks Horst Weihrauch and Ton Hannink for their organisation of the visit.




All the pre-event planning and work that Horst and Ton did paid off enabling us to have a packed agenda seeing a lot of different types of gardens and visits in both Belgium and Holland.

Ken's last report of Belgium 2011 is up on the Society's Web Site and Part 3 includes a copy of the group photo that he took when we were at van Zoest's Clematis Nursery. I hope that you have enjoyed his reports and are looking forward to next year's *Clematis International* which will have reports from the attendees.

There are also a number of photos taken at both van Zoest Clematis Nursery and on the boat trip afterwards on the van Zoest website at: www.clematisinfo.nl. Select "English" if you wish, then look under "Events".

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

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Enclosed with this Newsletter

CHINA 2012 – INVITATION TO REGISTER
CHINA 2012 – REGISTRATION FORM

New Treasurer Required

Roy Nunn has kindly agreed to be acting Treasurer for now but we still need someone else to be Treasurer on a more permanent basis.

The Society MUST have a Treasurer in order to operate.

An overview of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Treasurer are given below. The majority of the work is in the first half of the year.

Treasurer's Roles and Responsibilities

- Manage the Society's financial position.
- Oversee all Society bank accounts.
- Advise on setting the Membership Fee.
- Agree a budget for the Journal with the Editor.
- Collect receipts for expenses of the Society.
- Prepare the annual accounts for the Auditor.

Country Membership Secretary for Euro-zone

Ton Hannink is in the process of setting up a Euro-currency Bank Account which Members in Europe will be able to pay their Membership Fees for 2012. Full details will be published available in the January 2012 Newsletter and earlier on the Society website. Please do not use the previous account.

Roy Nunn is also investigating creating a PayPal account for Membership payments that he can administer from the UK. Unfortunately this is proving not to be very straightforward. The investigation continues.

An overview of the Roles and Responsibilities of a Country Membership Secretary is given below. Again, the majority of the work is in the first half of the year. The Euro-zone Membership Secretary must be able to own and manage a Euro Bank Account for the Society.

Ideally the new Treasurer will undertake all these tasks, but it is possible they could be split between two people.

Country Membership Secretaries Roles and Responsibilities

- Maintain list of Members in Country.
- Collect Membership Fees and send money to Treasurer or other nominated person.
- Regularly send list of Members to the Membership Secretary.

If you believe you can help with either or both vacancies, please contact Fiona Woolfenden (see page 2 for details).

Future Meetings of the Society

The Council discussed the planned meetings over the next few years and the provisional schedule is given below.

The Council decided it was not suitable to hold a Constitutional General Meeting (C.G.M.) in China in 2012 as numbers may be limited both by the cost of the visit and the number of people able to attend. Although the Society normally holds a C.G.M. every two years the Constitution of the Society allows for the time between the Constitutional General Meetings to “not exceed three years” so the next C.G.M. will be held in Germany in 2013.

2012 China

Details of the programme and registration are enclosed with this Newsletter and available on the Web Site.

2013 Germany – with Constitutional General Meeting

Roy Nunn is leading the planning of this event from the UK which is at an early stage.

2014 Philadelphia, USA

Planning is underway for a meeting in 2014. Although the Society has visited Oregon twice we have not yet visited the east side of the USA. Jeff Jabco is leading a team putting together an agenda based in Philadelphia and there is the possibility of a pre-meeting visit to Lindy Broder in Atlanta.

2015, Great Britain – with Constitutional General Meeting

The Council hopes that a visit to Great Britain can be organised in 2015. The last two visits to Great Britain have been in the Cambridge area but it is hoped that we can arrange a meeting in a different part of England.

Journal Articles and Sponsors

This is the time of year when your editor, Ken Woolfenden, starts to fret about what he has for the next issue of *Clematis International*. So is there something you could write about? It could be a garden (your own or someone else's), growing techniques, some research you've done, indeed anything clematis related.

Articles don't have to be many pages, even a paragraph or two 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.

Ideally please submit articles electronically by email, though other means are acceptable. If in doubt, please contact the Society. And don't forget some pictures, digital if possible.

Deadline for *Clematis International 2012* is 1st January 2012, but why wait, why not get writing now.

The Society would also love to hear from anyone who would like to support us by advertising in the Journal, please contact us directly for further information.

Clematis on the Web

Created and maintained by Richard Green and Ian Lang and operated on a platform provided by the University of Hull, Great Britain, Clematis on the Web is a very informative clematis database. If you haven't visited the site before I strongly recommend you do. You will find them at www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/.

The database contains a wealth of information on nearly 3500 clematis cultivars, with almost half of them illustrated.

Registration of Clematis

With evening nights drawing in, it is a good time to register any new clematis. The current International Clematis Registrar is Duncan Donald.

Registration Forms can be downloaded from the RHS website, just visit <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/Plant-science/Plant-registration/Clematis>. The form also includes instructions as to where to send a completed form.

Viticella Group Trial at RHS Wisley

Last year I reported that Ken and I had visited the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) gardens at Wisley, Surrey, Great Britain and discovered that the RHS were growing a number of Clematis viticella varieties or viticella type clematis as part of a Clematis Viticella Group Trial. There are about 65 different varieties growing in 4 rows which makes a very impressive display as you can see in the picture below.

The objectives are threefold:-

- to compare and assess entries and recommend the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) to those considered outstanding for garden decoration,
- to determine the correct nomenclature,
- to prepare herbarium specimens, take photographs and write descriptions as a permanent record to be held in the RHS Herbarium at Wisley.



Clematis viticella Trial, Wisley, July 2011

This year was to be the final year of the Trial. However the RHS have now decided to leave the plants for another year. This means that you have a final opportunity to see the plants next year.

If you are anywhere near Wisley, near Woking in Surrey, Southern England next year then I would recommend that you visit as the opportunity to see so many clematis plants growing together so that you can compare them is unrivalled.

I hope to publish an article about our visit to the Trial, together with pictures, in *Clematis International 2012*.

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 2011* with their welcome pack.

A One Year Membership costs €30. To include a copy of *Clematis International 2011*, the cost is €45. But I'm sure your garden friend is 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 7), 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.

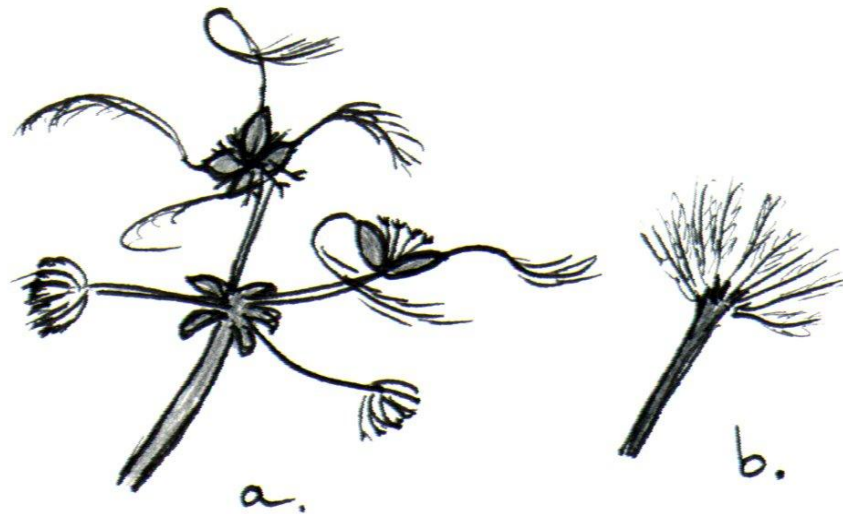


Figure a. above shows *Clematis heracleifolia* with some seeds that have 'set' and others that have not. Figure b. shows a seed head that is not viable; the feathery tails are often yellowish.

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!**