

# Club Update

Canadian Geranium &  
Pelargonium Society

July 2010

Next Meeting: Aug. 1 2010

## **Hello everyone !**

So far, so good—the weather that is. Summer has arrived and we can look forward to another 6 or 8 weeks of warm weather.

Many thanks to those who came out for the Summer Social, everyone had a good time. Unfortunately, I didn't take any pictures.

And a special thanks to Ian for bringing cuttings of "Grainger's Antique Rose" and sharing these with us. Everyone who came received two cuttings to grow on.

This variety is a spontaneous mutation of a rosebud pelargonium. This variety was raised by William Grainger and first shown at the Geranium, Pelargonium & Fuchsia Society of Ontario in August 2009.



The bloom on this variety has a ruffled edge. Bill had sent along pictures to us in 2009 and we had viewed his pictures of this plant at one of our meetings.

I am looking forward to seeing the blooms 'live'. Hopefully those who received this cutting will bring it in to show.

And speaking of showing, our August meeting will be our Unusual Container Competition. I wish I could claim to have the winning entry, but my container isn't doing as well as it could. Unfortunately my new plant shed worked too well at keeping the plants from freezing. The shed became way too warm once the warm weather showed up and ended up cooking a lot of my plants. I now have quite a few cutting 'salvaged' from these plants and had to drastically cut back some of the survivors.

Lesson learned and now I will be looking to find a way to offset this problem come this fall. Oh, it only I could have a real greenhouse!

In addition to the unusual container competition we will be have a regular container as well as a bloom competition—so make sure you check your plants on Sunday, August 1, 2010 and bring in your plants to show off.

Don't forget the project plants "Turtle Surprise". Mine had a single blossom to show off at the Summer Social and it is a lovely clear, red colour.

The scheduled topic for the meeting is Dwarfs and Miniatures so bring yours along.

We will have a special guest at the August meeting as my sister will be visiting me again from Ontario.

And an early reminder—our "September" meeting will be held on August 29, 2010. The Floral Hall was booked for the first Sunday in September, so we will be meeting on the last Sunday of August.

I hope to see everyone on August 1, 2010.

- Barbara Puchala

## **Rosebud Zonal Pelargoniums**

The rosebud or rambler pelargonium was one fo the first double pelargoniums appearing by spontaneous mutation around 1850. They were much sought after in Victorian times for buttonholes and posies. It had been written by John E. Cross ("*Pelargoniums for all Purposes*" in 1965 ) that pelargonium fanciers used to wear a single floret of one of the rosebud pelargoniums in their jacket buttonholes to confuse rose-fanciers.

They are most often sterile as their tightly packed petals prevent proper stamens to form as well as limiting accessibility to the stamens so very little if any pollen is produced.

They are best grown in pots that can be sheltered from rain as the blooms damp easily if rained or watered on.

There are not many varieties. The oldest and best known is *Appleblossom Rosebud*.

**Next Meeting:  
Sunday, August 1, 2010**

### Dwarfs and Miniatures

For show purposes, miniatures are 5 inches from the top of the soil in the pot to the top of the foliage in a 3-1/2 inch pot. If a plant grows bigger it is classified as a dwarf.

But as many of us know, if some of these are planted in larger pots, they will grow larger.

They require a careful care to avoid overwhelming their smaller and finer root system. They are vulnerable to damping off. This can be avoided by propagating them in early spring so their root system is fully established by the fall.

And as we all know, they are the perfect size for windowsills!

### Unusual Container Contest



At the August 1st meeting, we will have a judged show of the containers and the winning container will get a trophy!

Can't wait to see what everyone has come up with.

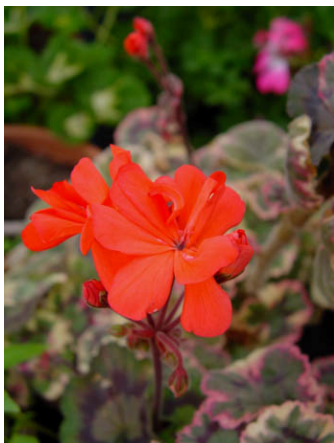
Don't forget, we will also be having a regular container as well as a bloom competition.



Pelargonium "Tattoo"



Pelargonium "Salmon Black Vesuvius"



Pelargonium "Ray Bidwell"

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- August 1, 2010:** Dwarfs and miniatures,
- August 29, 2010:** (September meeting) Overwintering and cutting workshop
- October 3, 2010:** Disease control
- November 7, 2010:** AGM and Centerpieces
- December 5, 2010:** Christmas Social

### Items for August 1, 2010

- Project Plants
- Unusual Containers
- Blooms and containers
- Dwarfs and Miniatures
- Items for the Draw Table



### Goodies List

- August: Jean and Phil
- September: Kathleen
- October: Cathy