



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from chapter newsletters, our journal *Gesneriads*, and original sources)

Volume 6, Number 12

December 2015

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes photos from a visit to Mollie Howell's growing areas, Paul Susi's report of Ray Coyle's talk on *Sinningia*, information about the first webinar, and some new hybrids. Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor

Paul Susi of South Huntington, NY, USA sent these photos of *Petrocosmea parryorum*. Top photo was taken at the Northeast Regional Convention and the photo on the right was taken a few weeks later when the plant was in full bloom at home.



A Visit to Mollie Howell's growing areas

Mollie Howell molliehowell@ij.net
Clearwater, FL, USA



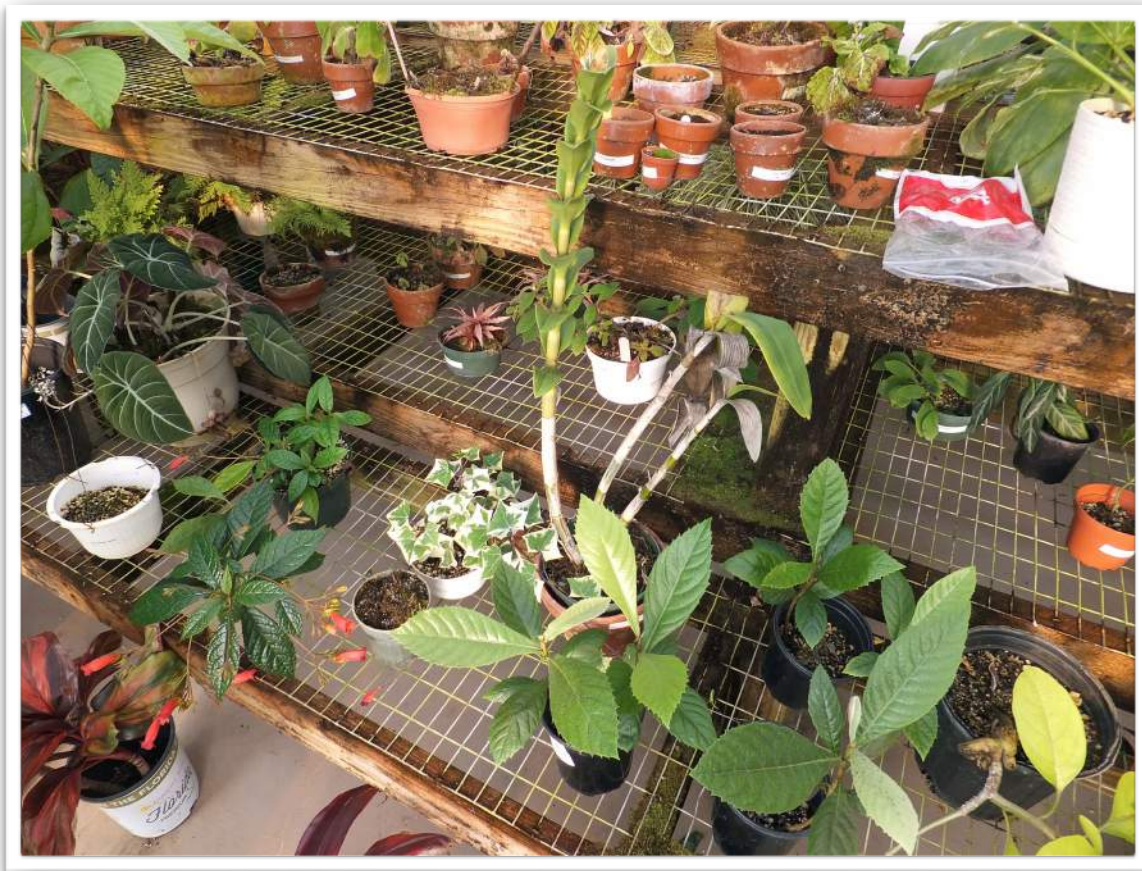
Alsobia punctata

Mollie Howell, Carolyn Ripps, and Mike Horton outside Mollie's lath house.



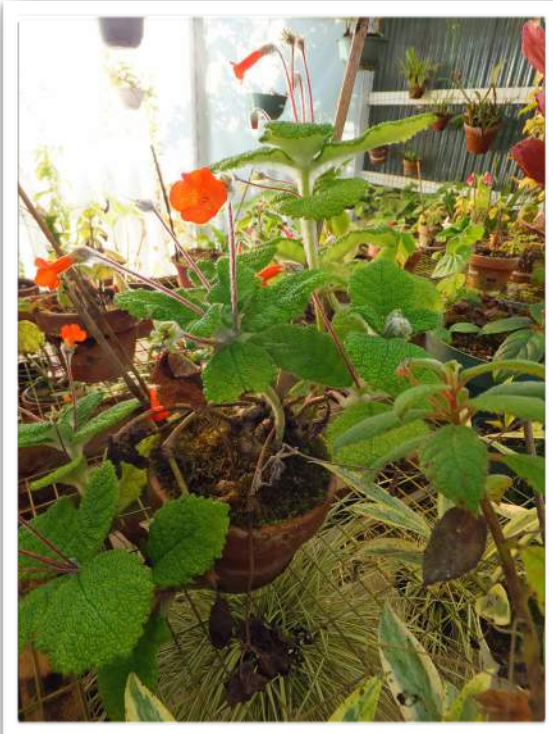
Mel Grice photos

Inside the lath house



xRhytidoneria 'Ako
Cardinal Flight'

Mel Grice photos



Sinningia bullata



Smithiantha 'An's Rich Girl'



Lath house is behind the pool on the right

Mel Grice photos

Sinningia a report on the September program

Paul Susi psusi11@gmail.com
South Huntington, NY, USA

Ray Coyle spoke to us at the September meeting about one of his gesneriad passions, the genus *Sinningia*. Ray is a member of The Gesneriad Society and the Long Island Gesneriad Society, where he is a director and handles plant sales. Ray has done quite a bit of hybridizing with sinningias and other genera.

Sinningias are found in Brazil, primarily along the southeast coast. There are several exceptions to this distribution, including *Sinningia tubiflora*, which is found in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, and *Sinningia incarnata*, which is widely found in South and Central America. Sinningias are terrestrial herbs or subshrubs and most have fleshy underground tubers as part of the root system. Again, there are exceptions to this, and *Sinningia schiffneri* is one sinningia that does not have a tuber. The flower colors are white, yellow, blue, orange, red, red/purple or bicolor. In the wild, sinningias grow in a variety of conditions and may or may not have their tubers exposed or buried. Sinningias also come in several sizes, from the large *speciosa* types to the minis and micro-minis. *Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie' is a relatively new, easy-to-grow micro-mini which does not need to be grown enclosed. The type species (the species on which the genus is based) is *Sinningia helleri*, which was thought to be extinct, but has since been rediscovered and is now being grown from seed by several members of The Gesneriad Society.

Ray gave us some tips on growing sinningias. They basically like to be kept root bound, as many of the species grow in rock crevices or locations with very little actual soil. He keeps his lights on for twelve hours a day, using mostly two T8 tubes. His light units have space between the tubes, resulting in a better spread of light. Ray's growing area is warm, with temperatures ranging from 70° to 80° F with a ten-degree drop at night, and of average humidity (40-50%). His sinningias sit on capillary matting in trays and he waters each plant individually. The matting is made of any synthetic material and Ray washes the matting every three months with ordinary detergent. His mix consists of peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite in equal amounts, with a bit of dolomitic lime added to each pot.

Propagation can be done from stem or leaf cuttings and seeds. Stem cuttings and leaf cuttings are placed in slightly moistened mix, enclosed and placed under lights. Stem cuttings will root in four to six weeks, while leaf cuttings may take several months to root and are ready to pot up when they produce a dime-sized tuber. When planting seeds, Ray reminded us to have labels ready to put on the pots in which the seeds are sown. He uses slightly moist mix on which he sprinkles the seed. He advises against using all the seed at once. The pots are then enclosed. When four leaves appear, he agitates the soil to encourage growth but waits one month before transplanting.

Some of Ray's hybrids are *Sinningia* 'Rosemary' (his first, about fifteen years ago), *Sinningia* 'Royal Robe' (*S. ibitioca* x *S. 'Flair'*) and *Sinningia* 'Saga' (with *S. aggregata* in its background).

Three excellent websites for information and photos are <http://www.brazilplants.com/> (Mauro Peixoto's site), <http://www.burwur.net/sinns/sinns.htm> (Alan LaVergne's site) and <http://www.gesneriads.ca/> (Ron Myhr's Gesneriad Reference Web).

Tuber Placement of Commonly Grown Species Sinningias
(adapted from Mauro Peixoto's 2009 Convention Talk)

True Terrestrial Species -
Full Sun - Tuber deeply buried
Sinningia tubiflora

Sun/Shade - Tuber might be semi exposed
Sinningia reitzii
Sinningia sellovii
Sinningia sulcata
Sinningia warmingii
Sinningia mauroana

Shade - Grows in humus and/or dead leaves
Sinningia schiffneri
Sinningia sp. "Gertiana"
 now *S. gerdiana*
Sinningia barbata
Sinningia sp. "Canastra"
 now *S. canastrensis*
Sinningia villosa
Sinningia guttata
Sinningia speciosa
Sinningia richii 'Clayberg'
 also cv. 'Robson Lopes'
Sinningia sp. "Bahia"
Sinningia eumorpha
Sinningia macrophylla

Epiphytes - Grow mainly on trees
Sinningia douglasii

Rock Dwelling Species - Tubers usually buried in rock crevices
Sinningia amambayensis
Sinningia araneosa
Sinningia aggregata
Sinningia carangolensis
Sinningia canescens
Sinningia harleyi
Sinningia rupicola
Sinningia piresiana
Sinningia nivalis
Sinningia brasiliensis



Sinningia sulcata
Ruth Coulson photo



Sinningia amambayensis
Bob Clark photo

Sinningia bulbosa
Sinningia cardinalis
Sinningia hatschbachii
Sinningia sp. "Globulosa"
 now *S. globulosa*
Sinningia insularis
Sinningia tuberosa
Sinningia defoliata
Sinningia sp. "Santa Teresa"
 now *S. helioana*
Sinningia sp. "Pancas"
Sinningia calcaria
Sinningia leopoldii
Sinningia micans
Sinningia lineata
Sinningia macropoda
Sinningia macrostachya
Sinningia aghensis
Sinningia sp. "Ibitioca"
Sinningia sp. "Itaguassu"
Sinningia glaziouviana
Sinningia sp. "Florianopolis"
 now *S. bullata*
Sinningia hirsuta
Sinningia kautskyi
Sinningia pusilla .
Sinningia sp. "Rio das Pedres"
 now *S. muscicola*



Sinningia globulosa
 Ruth Coulson photo



Sinningia hirsuta
 Dennis Kramb photo



Sinningia warmingii
 Ruth Coulson photo

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First Gesneriad Webinar

Dale Martens dalemartens@mchsi.com
Sherrard, Illinois, USA



I'm thrilled to announce that The Gesneriad Society listened to those who said they were unable to watch the Streptocarpus Webinar with me live in October. It is now being offered for the month of December, any time you wish to view it through December 31. It is a recorded viewing, same photos, but you can't ask live questions.

Those that paid and watched it live should have received an email saying you may watch it again for free and given a code in order to do so.

For those who have not seen the Webinar, this is the link to order it:

<http://shop.gesneriadsociety.org/collections/frontpage/products/webinar-growing-and-hybridizing-streptocarpus>

In addition, future webinars will be available live and then for a month afterwards. This means if your chapter/club's meeting place has Internet, you can use the webinar for your program. In the works are webinars on Episcias, Miniature Sinningias, Primulina, and a "Meet the Gesneriad Family" program.



January 26, 2016, Thad Scaggs will be live in the Episcia Webinar and it is available online for "any-time" viewing January 27 - February 27. Be sure to look for the Episcia Webinar promotion in January's issue of **Gleanings**.

The Gesneriad Society Annual Appeal

The [Annual Appeal](#) helps support gesneriad research, education, and conservation by ensuring that grant money is available for eligible applicants. The target fund for 2015 is The Conservation Fund, which supports conservation efforts in different localities where gesneriads are endangered. Recent grant recipients include the Gesneriad Conservation Center (China), Brazil Plants (Brazil) and The Universidad Estatal Amazónica (Ecuador). Your donation will ensure that this fund remains healthy and growing to enable The Gesneriad Society to award grants for conservation efforts around the world. [Donate now!](#)

In time for the holidays, use Amazon and donate to The Gesneriad Society.

When you use [Amazon Smile](#), Amazon will donate .5% of each purchase to The Gesneriad Society. There is no extra cost to you, and you will be supporting the work of The Gesneriad Society in research, education, and conservation. Give it a try!

The URL for the hyperlink is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6059828>

Paul Susi
Development Chairperson
The Gesneriad Society, Inc.
gesneriaddevelopment@gmail.com

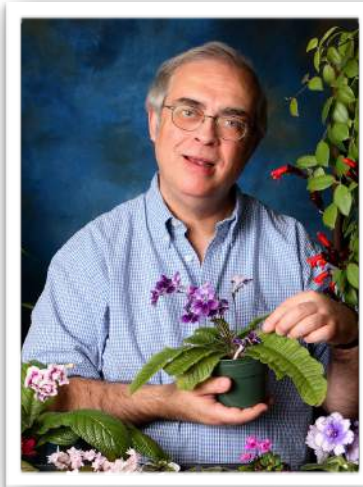
New Hybrids

Streptocarpus 'Embossed', 2014, IR141257, Barbara Clark, CO, USA. (S. 'Mary Sakamoto' × S. 'Jeannette'). Cross made in 2007, planted in 2007, and first flowered in 2008. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves bright green, 10 in. long × 3 in. wide, petiole 2 in. elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, split, 1/8 in. long. Pedicel 1 in. Number of flowers per axil 1-2. Corolla salverform, 3 in. long × 4 in. wide, mauve with white pattern. Deep veining and unique patterning of corolla resembles the look of fine leather. This hybrid has large blossoms and is very floriferous.



Primulina 'Chiaki', 2014, IR141251, Toshijiro Okuto, Kakogawa, Japan. (*P. dryas* 'Angustifolia' × *P. lutea*). Cross made Oct. 29, 2008, planted Mar. 3, 2009, and first flowered Oct. 10, 2012. Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves yellowish green with silver veins, 130 mm long × 65 mm wide, 70 mm petiole, elliptic with serrate margin, cuneate base, and acute tip. Calyx split, red-purple (RHS 70C), 10 mm. Pedicel 22 mm, number of flowers per axil 3-4. Corolla salverform, 50 mm long × 13 mm wide, yellow (RHS 9C). Distinguishing characteristics: The big bract is red-purple and waved. This is quite different from the pale-green and smooth one of *Primulina lutea* or the other hybrids with it.

See more newly registered hybrids in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 65, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 2015, Peter Shalit, editor. Read interesting articles about gesneriads by becoming a member of The Gesneriad Society and receiving our quarterly 64-page journal.



From the editor —

I finally got my van in the garage for the winter about two weeks ago. Those who have heard my talk on how I grow and propagate will understand the significance of this achievement. My plants have been neglected due to the extra things that call for my attention at this busy time of year.

If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at melsgrice@earthlink.net

Happy Holidays!

Mel

Consultants Peter Shalit
Jeanne Katzenstein

Internet Julie Mavity-Hudson
Communications Paul Susi

Newsletter Mel Grice
Editor 2019 Crosswind Ct.
Englewood, OH
45322 USA
melsgrice@earthlink.net

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Paul Susi, Development Chairperson
2 Rushmore Street, South Huntington, NY 11746
For additional information, contact: gesneriaddevelopment@gmail.com

Membership and Changes of Address

The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

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Application for Membership — The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

WELCOME — membership in our international society includes quarterly issues of *Gesneriads* — *The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*, a copy of *How to Know and Grow Gesneriads*, a packet of gesneriad seeds and a wealth of information about our chapters, flower shows, publications, research, programs and seed fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

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