



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from Chapter newsletters, our journal GESNERIADS, and original sources)

Volume 1, Number 2

May 2010



Welcome to the second issue of **Gleanings**! This new project of The Gesneriad Society is a monthly e-zine, posted as a free download on our Society Website, www.gesneriadsociety.org. This issue of **Gleanings** includes an article on leaf propagation and photos of the Toronto Gesneriad Society spring show.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**.

Mel Grice, Editor



Chirita liboensis



Chirita sp. 'V-27'

Toshijiro Okuto posted the photo on the right on Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group. Toshijiro said "*Chirita* sp. 'V-27' in full bloom. It really is a heavy bloomer."

Visit the Gesneriphiles website for instructions about joining the list: <http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/gesneriphiles>>



Toronto Gesneriad Society Show

March 2010

Photos courtesy of
Vincent Woo and
Beverley Williams



Streptocarpus dunnii



Chirita liboensis

Both plants grown by
Beverley Williams



Bill Price received Best in Show honors for his spectacularly grown *Sinningia speciosa* 'Cabo Frio'



Streptocarpus 'Brooklin's Purple Lace'
hybridized by Bruce Williams



Streptocarpus 'Orion'



Columnea pulchra 'Orange Crush'



Photos courtesy of Beverley Williams,
Vincent Woo and Mel Grice

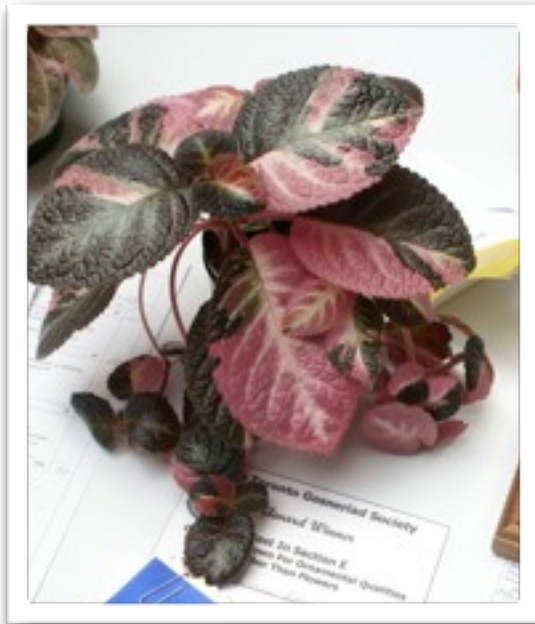
More Toronto Show photos...



Chirita 'First Time' hybridized by Vincent Woo and Monte Water



Streptocarpus thompsonii



Episcia 'Ember Lace'



Streptocarpus 'Calvinia'



Episcia 'Jim's Silver Stone'

Back to Basics: Leaf Propagation

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

Many of us grew up with a grandmother who propagated African violets by putting a leaf in a glass of water so it would make plantlets from the base of the stem. Now we know more robust plantlets are formed if the leaf is rooted in a soilless mix. Several gesneriads such as *Petrocosmeas* propagate well using this method. Bury about an inch of stem to within 1/8 inch of the base of the leaf. Consider removing one third of the leaf tip to encourage plantlet production rather than increased leaf growth.

Leaves can be cut into sections. As long as there are leaf veins in the sections, and you don't plant the sections upside down, you'll likely get plantlets. Don't propagate old leaves. To increase success, pour two cups of room-temperature water into a casserole dish. Using a sharp knife, cut the leaf into sections, under water, and leave them in the water ten minutes. If the leaf is wide enough, you may cut so the midrib is removed and the leaf halves are buried in the mix. Caution: remove an inch or so of the tip of the leaf before cutting out the midrib. The tip usually rots and there's a danger it will continue rotting across the leaf half. Some cut two-inch strips across the leaf left to right or some cut V-shaped wedges. Plant the sections one inch deep in the mix. You should have plantlets emerging in six weeks. Plantlets need to be around an inch tall before removing them from the leaf section. Gently pull the leaf section away from the plantlets which will have their own roots. Next separate the plantlets from each other. If there are plantlets that are very small, plant them as a clump and separate them later. Give fertilizer at the rate of 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of water for young plantlets.



Streptocarpus leaf with emerging plantlets



Plantlets with roots

Leaf propagation for *Sinningias* is not as successful because "blind" tubers are often formed that never sprout. Often rhizomatous plants will form plantlets from leaf sections if propagated in the spring or summer, but will form rhizomes if propagated in late fall or winter.

This article appeared originally in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 60, No. 2, Second Quarter 2010, Jeanne Katzenstein, editor. Read other interesting articles like this about gesneriads by becoming a member of The Gesneriad Society and receiving our quarterly 56-page journal.

More Toronto Show photos...



Artistic design — Judy Zinni used *Nematanthus fluminensis* leaves that had been dried and painted



Saintpaulia 'Aca's Inquisitive George'



Sinningia 'Peridots Darth Vader'



Streptocarpus 'Misty Blue'



Petrocosmea collection shown by Brett Flewelling



Sinningia 'Prudence Risley' shown at Toronto Gesneriad Society Show, 2010

From the editor –

Thanks for the many favorable comments received regarding the first issue of **Gleanings**. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at editor.gleanings@gesneriadsociety.org.

Mel

Consultants Peter Shalit
Jeanne Katzenstein

Internet Julie Mavity-Hudson
Communications Paul Susi

Newsletter Mel Grice
Editor 2019 Crosswind Ct.
Englewood, OH
45322 USA

editor.gleanings@gesneriadsociety.org

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Paul Susi, Development Chairperson
117-01 Park Lane South, Apt. C1A, Kew Gardens, NY 11418
For additional information, contact: <development@gesneriadsociety.org>.

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

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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, Slide Programs and Seed Fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

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