



# 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 3

June 2010

Welcome to the third 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](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org). This issue of **Gleanings** includes two articles on alpine gesneriads and photos of the Long Island New York Gesneriad Society spring show.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**.

Mel Grice, Editor



*Haberlea rhodopensis* shown by Margaret Bowditch at the Philadelphia International Flower Show, 2010.



Bob Stewart posted the photo on the right on Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group. Bob said "Here is a plant labeled as *Ramonda myconi* blooming in one of our beds. It is in a gravel-compost mixture, in a spot that gets morning sun but has some shade in the afternoon."  
Bob Stewart, Stow, Massachusetts, USA

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



# Long Island New York Gesneriad Society Show

April 2010

Best in Show and Best New World Gesneriad in Flower  
(tuberous) — *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Redcoat' — Ben Paternoster



Runner-up to Best in Show and Best Gesneriad Grown  
for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers —  
*Chirita longgangensis* (crested) — Joe Palagonia

Best in Artistic and Best Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or  
Growing Gesneriad Material — "The Tempest" — Marilyn Heinrich



*Kohleria* 'Peridots Nellie Sleeth'



Photos courtesy of Paul Susi





*Nautilocalyx* sp. "Gothenberg"



*Sinningia araneosa*

**More LIGS show photos from Paul Susi...**



*Sinningia concinna*



*Streptocarpus* 'Blueberry Butterfly'



## More LIGS Show photos...



*Saintpaulia* 'Harbor Blue'



*Streptocarpus thompsonii*



*Chirita* 'Rachel'



*Kohleria* 'Manchu'

# Growing Alpine Gesneriads in the Garden

Karyn Cichocki <[kdc05@ptd.net](mailto:kdc05@ptd.net)>  
Lafayette, New Jersey, USA

About four years ago I decided to get some alpine gesneriads, Ramondas and Haberleas, and give them a try in the rock wall that runs along the front of my house. Jeanne Katzenstein, who lives about 20 miles southeast of me, has them in her garden and Bob and Dee Stewart, who live in Stow, Massachusetts have them growing in their garden. I thought that I should be able to grow them in my garden as well.



Our house faces east and the garden on the left side of the front stoop gets full sun until around 1:00 p.m. Although the rock wall is great, this garden is best suited for plants that love the sun, so it is planted with Mountain Laurel, Azalea, Dwarf Crepe Myrtle, Sedum, several perennials and annuals. I have some rock garden plants that I have planted among the rocks in this garden, and I plant Sinningias and Kohlerias during the summer.

The garden on the right side of the front stoop is shaded by a large Dogwood. The left side of this garden gets about an hour or two of sunlight in the summer. The right side of the garden gets some filtered sun for about an hour in the early morning, otherwise it gets bright light. It is in this garden that I have the Ramondas and Haberleas planted. I have several plants that I have planted among the rocks along the top of the rock wall. I lifted some of the top rocks up, planted the alpines, and then returned the rocks so that they were covering the roots of the plants. The rest of the plants I



have nestled in between the rocks in the wall. I had to look for places that had a space large enough that I could dig out some of the soil between the rocks. I then carefully jammed each plant into the space, put some soil around it and watered it. The first year the plants are in the garden, I make sure that they don't dry out. After that I don't worry too much about watering them. Because this garden is shaded, it doesn't dry as much as the garden that is in full sun and therefore needs very little supplemental watering. Some of the plants are shaded by the Hostas and Azaleas that are also growing in the garden.

I also started plants by seed that I got from the Rock Garden Society. These took about six months to germinate. After growing indoors for about 3-4 years, they were almost 2" in diameter and I thought they were big enough to go out into the garden. Because of their small size, it was much easier to tuck them into the nooks and crannies of the rock wall.



*Ramonda myconi* 'Alba'



Unfortunately, the summer that I put them out turned out to be one of the hottest and driest that we had since we moved here. I think the move from the basement to the garden that summer was just too stressful for them. They were all gone in a month.

I have been patiently waiting for the original plants to bloom, and this year I thought that surely the two largest plants of *Ramonda myconi* 'Alba' would bloom. These are on the left side of the shade garden and are the ones that get some strong sun in mid-morning. Well, they haven't bloomed but a small plant of *Ramonda myconi* 'Pink' did.



*Ramonda myconi* 'Pink'



The other plants I have are *Haberlea rhodopensis* 'Virginalis', *Haberlea* sp. 'Case' (which may be *H. ferdinandi-cobourgii* or a hybrid according to the Wrightman Alpine catalog), *Jancaemonda x vandedemii* (an intergeneric cross between *Jancaea* and *Ramonda*). Besides the different variations of *Ramonda myconi*, I also have *Ramonda nathaliae* 'alba' and *Ramonda serbica*. I did try a *Jancaea heldreichii* as well but I was not successful with that plant either. I have had trouble with some of the Haberleas, but the ones that have survived are doing much better this spring.

I find it satisfying to grow gesneriads outside during the summer months and to see how well the plants do in natural light. But it is even more satisfying to be able to grow the alpine plants year round.



*Haberlea*

I have gotten all my plants from Wrightman's Alpines who offer a great selection of rock garden plants. Their website is: <http://www.wrightmanalpines.com>.



*Haberlea rhodopensis* 'Virginalis'

This article appeared in a slightly different form in **Gesneriad Tips 'n Trivia**, Vol. XXXIV, No. 5, June 2010, Karyn Cichocki, editor.

# How I Grow *Conandron ramondioides*

Bill Price <[billprice@shaw.ca](mailto:billprice@shaw.ca)>  
North Vancouver, BC, Canada

I obtained this plant as a leaf cutting from Kenji Hirose at The Gesneriad Society Convention in 2006. I placed the leaf in a small pot of vermiculite which I kept covered and at the end of a two-tube shelf. After several months in the propagator, I waited for it to send up new plantlets. Instead, at the surface of the pot it developed small dormant leaf buds which over-wintered and grew the following spring.

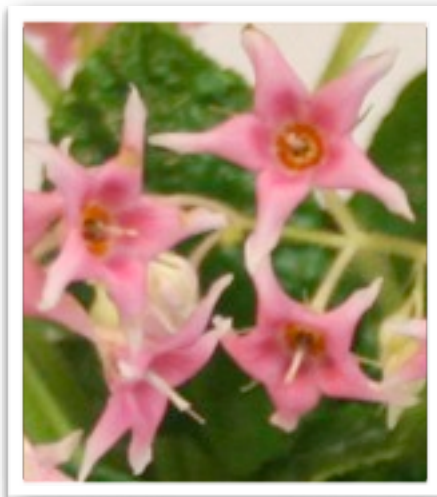
Each fall, the current year's foliage was shed and the plant developed thick corrugated buds at the crown. These dark-green nodules were the only sign the plant was still alive. In the spring, these leaf buds unfurled to produce the next season's foliage.

As I had never grown *Conandron* before, I researched via the Internet and learned that it is native to Eastern Asia, Taiwan and Japan where it grows at elevations of 600-1300 feet. It is usually found on rocky cliffs or on streamside rocks covered with moss, constantly moist during the growing season and dry during the dormant phase in winter. While dormant, plants can survive light frosts if sheltered or covered by snow. Flowers are produced in the summer. The most common color is purple, but white and pink variants occur and are prized by Japanese growers.



Regarding cultivation, I used a very open soil mix (1/3 each by volume of coarse New Zealand sphagnum moss, perlite and vermiculite) which I kept constantly moist, except from November to February when it was kept quite dry. From March to September, dilute fertilizer was applied weekly.

My plant required medium light levels and grew well on the lower shelves of a light stand or in a cool, east-facing window. (In mild climates, it would probably grow well outdoors in a cool shady area.) At night from November to February, to mimic its natural cycle, the plant was placed in a cool area with temperatures around 10°C (50°F).



Although our outdoor climate in Vancouver is too wet in the winter and occasionally too cold, I am going to try find a sheltered site where I can attempt to grow *Conandron* outdoors all the time.

I would encourage others to grow this interesting species as its challenges are well rewarded by the great show of beautiful flowers! Good growing.

This article appeared originally in GESNERIADS Vol. 59, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 2009, 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.



*Episcia 'Pink Dreams'* shown at Long Island NY Gesneriad Society Show, 2010

**From the editor —**

The next two issues of **Gleanings** should have lots of photos from the Vancouver convention — prize winners as well as interesting and unusual plants that you don't see very often. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at [editor.gleanings@gesneriadsociety.org](mailto:editor.gleanings@gesneriadsociety.org).

*Mel*

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