



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 7

October 2010

Welcome to the seventh issue of **Gleanings**! This issue of **Gleanings** includes photos from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Exhibit, an article about caring for newly acquired plants from Dale Martens, and an article about growing *Titanotrichum oldhamii* from Ben Paternoster.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor



Ingrid Lindskog proudly displays her *Diastema comiferum* which was judged Best in Show at the recent show in Umeå, Sweden. Her plant scored 99 points.

Photo above courtesy of Lena Klintberg
Photo on right courtesy of Maike Lundberg



Frelinghuysen Arboretum Exhibit



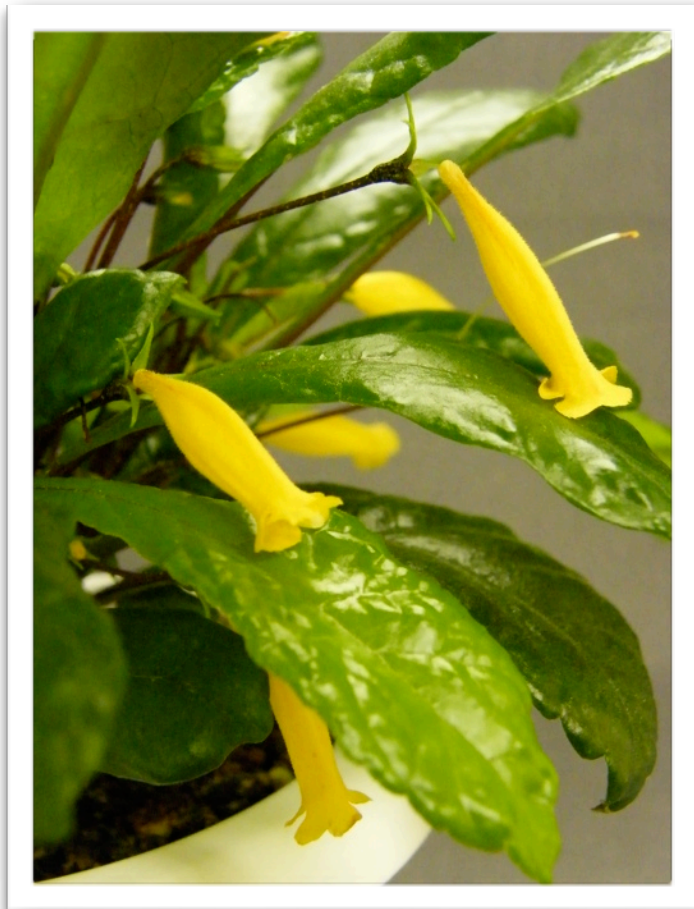


Kohleria 'Peridots Rolo'
exhibited by Gail Gray
was chosen as the
favorite entry by the
public.

Photos courtesy of
Karyn Cichocki

"Having an exhibit instead of a judged show allows us a bit more freedom to try different exhibits within the show. We had a good showing in our flower only class. No foliage is allowed and it gives our members a chance to show off those pretty blooms from a plant that isn't of show quality or doesn't have enough bloom." — Karyn Cichocki





Gesneria 'Lemon Drop' exhibited by Ginny Heatter



Seemannia purpurascens 'Purple Prince' exhibited by Karyn Cichocki



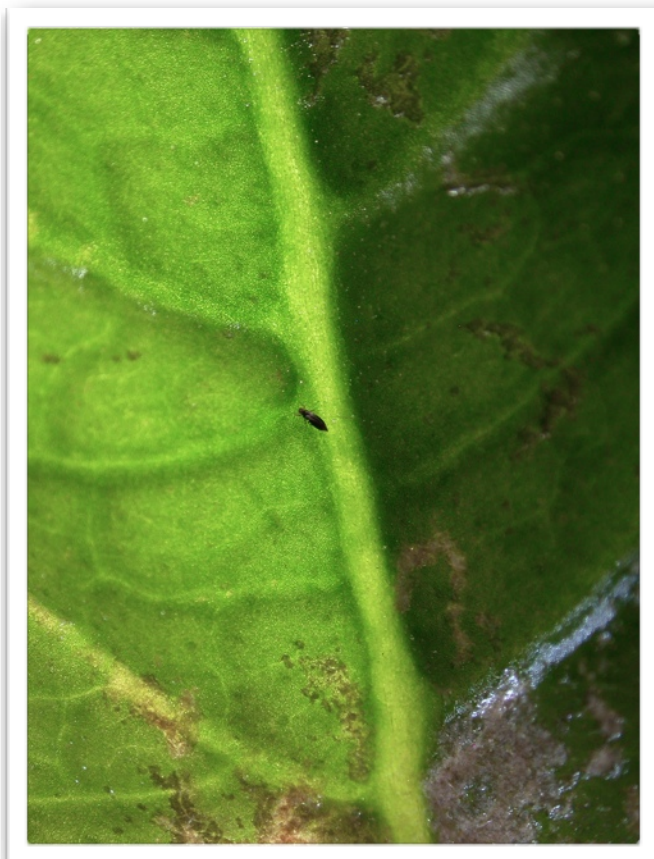
Judy Houcke's educational display on Alpine Gesneriads

Back to Basics: Newly Acquired Plants

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

You bought a gesneriad, now what? Often a newly acquired plant that comes through the postal system wilts when removed from the packing material. If there is plastic wrap around it, or it's wrapped in moist newspaper, then it has had high humidity for a couple of days. The same is true for a plant purchased in a humid greenhouse. The plant needs to acclimate to room air for a couple of days. Put it in a plastic baggie, but don't close the baggie. If the plant comes from a noncommercial source, ask under what conditions the plant has been living such as natural window light, light stand, or outdoors. Ask about their fertilizer routine. If it's been on a light stand, ask what types of tubes were used and how many hours a day the lights were on. It's interesting that many expect a plant to adjust without knowing the previous environmental conditions.

My recommendations include getting rid of most of the soil surrounding the plant's roots and transplanting it into the mix you prefer. Check the root area with a magnifying glass for anything crawling or wiggling. Look closely where the stem meets the soil. If a small, white, rice-shaped thing moves, it's probably a soil mealy bug. Suspect the top of the plant as having insects, too. Look at the leaf node areas where cottony-looking foliage mealy likes to hide. Look at the backs of the leaves for larvae and/or eggs. If the leaf blade has silvery or yellowed scratched areas, they may have been caused by thrips. If the flowers have scratched areas, especially with dark



Look for thrips and silvery colored leaf damage



Thrips damage on an *Achimenes* flower

dots, that's another sign of thrips. Thrips have different life cycle shapes/colors, so don't just look for the adult which also varies in color. I remove all the flowers and buds because thrips may be in the anthers. Is the center of the plant grayish? That could be mites. If it's a *Streptocarpus*, mites seem to cause grayish areas on the tips of the leaves rather than the center of the plant. If you find anything moving, then decide whether to throw out the plant, keep a leaf or plant tip, and/or use an insecticide. Many use a systemic insecticide on a new plant. Ask your chapter members what products they use or contact the commercial vendors on the Society's web site. If you receive a tuber or rhizome, use a magnifying glass to look it over. Until it sprouts, place it in a sealed plastic bag with moist vermiculite or sphagnum, but not perlite because that's white and you won't be able to see soil mealy.

A new plant should be isolated for about three months. If you can put it in another room and away from your plant collection, that's best. This might mean placing it in a terrarium setting if you don't have an isolation area. One should not place a new plant on a community mat-watering system. Wash your hands after you touch the isolated plant. Don't use the same tools without a thorough washing or disinfecting.

This article appeared originally in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 60, No. 3, Third 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.

How I grow *Titanotrichum oldhamii*

Ben Paternoster <ben9@optonline.net>
Huntington, New York, USA



Titanotrichum oldhamii is an interesting and unusual plant, native primarily to Taiwan and adjacent areas of mainland China. It is one of the few gesneriads not native to the Americas that have rhizomes along with its fibrous roots. The rhizomes are smooth.

Long thought to be sterile, it turns out that it is essentially self-sterile – almost all of the material in cultivation has been a single clone, hence no seed could be produced. However, additional clones have come into cultivation through a research project conducted in part at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. There currently are a few different forms of [this species](#) in cultivation.

As a young plant, mine was grown in the

greenhouse that I only visited 2 or 3 times a week. In order to provide for the constant need for moisture, a shallow saucer was placed under its four inch azalea pot where excess water could remain for later use. The key is that the saucer is shallow, half to three-quarters of an inch deep. This strategy provided sufficient water for the three days without rotting the roots.

When spring came, it was moved outdoors and placed in this large pot. The larger pot was necessary because the fleshy rhizomes were protruding from every drainage hole. The pot was full of roots and rhizomes. The plant had to be acclimated to the stronger light. In about a week, it was moved to full sun on my deck. Despite my attempt to acclimate it to the stronger light, it suffered some leaf damage. It was fed sporadically and watered every day in dry weather.

It grew vigorously all summer as I kept looking for signs of flower buds. *Titanotrichum oldhamii* often produces propagules instead of flowers. I anxiously counted the weeks waiting to see what would be produced. Finally, in late August, spikes began to appear and they had flower buds on them. Success!

The only changes that I would make are slightly less light intensity and protection from slugs. Slugs love this plant as much as I do.

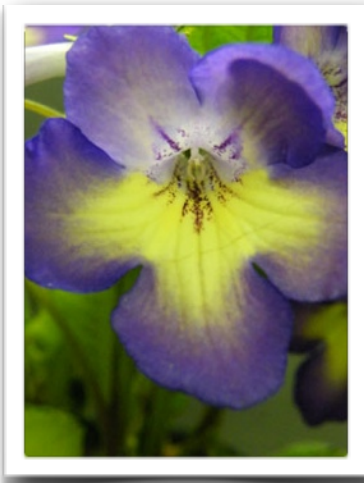


Photos courtesy of Wallace Wells



This article appeared in a slightly different form in **Gesneriad News**, Vol. 41, No. 3, November 2009, Mel Grice, editor.

Titanotrichum oldhamii propagules and seeds of other gesneriad species as well as hybrids are available from our Seed Fund — one of the benefits of membership in the Society.



Streptocarpus 'Heartland's Midnight Sun'

From the editor —

Next month there should be lots of photos from the World Gesneriad Research Conference 2010 at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. Please continue sending photos and articles. 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

Permission to reprint from **Gleanings** is granted, provided that credit is given to the author and the publication.

Donations

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization with an IRS section 501 (c)(3) status for donations. You can make your donations online at www.gesneriadsociety.org. You may also send your donation (check payable to The Gesneriad Society) to:

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

Membership and Changes of Address

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

Changes of Address — Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary <membership@gesneriadsociety.org> 90 days prior to moving to avoid missing an issue. The Society is not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late notification of address changes. Back issues may be ordered from The Gesneriad Society Publications.

Renewals — Send dues to the Membership Secretary. A Renewal Notice is sent two months prior to the expiration date of your membership. (The expiration date is printed on your mailing label/membership card on the back cover of GESNERIADS.) Please remit your dues prior to the expiration date to avoid missing an issue as we are not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late payment of dues. Back issues may be ordered from Publications.

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

New Member Date _____

Renewal Membership # _____

Name _____
FAMILY NAME GIVEN NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

Address _____
STREET

_____ CITY STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Email _____ Telephone _____

(Rates in US\$)	Mailing in US 1 year	Mailing in US 3 years	Mailing outside US 1 year	Mailing outside US 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$26	\$73	\$31	\$88
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (minimum)	\$35	\$105	\$40	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Research (minimum)	\$50	\$150	\$55	\$165
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	Mailing in US \$375		Mailing outside US \$450	

GESNERIADS is mailed first-class to members outside the US and bulk-rate within the US.

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund

Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Convention Speakers Fund Gesneriad Research Center Fund

In Honor Memory of _____

Please make checks or money orders payable in US\$ on a US bank to: **The Gesneriad Society**

Or, charge my VISA, or MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Amount _____

Mail to: **The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
1122 East Pike St., PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA**

For application online: www.gesneriadsociety.org