



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 2, Number 5

May 2011



Sinningia 'Dream'

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from Beverley and Bruce Williams' growing area, photos from the Toronto Gesneriad Society Flower Show, a sneak peek of convention plant sales by Mary Schaeffer, and Dale Martens chats about potting cuttings and young plants. Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

The beautiful *Sinningia speciosa* hybrids pictured here were created by Larissa Berezina and appeared in *Gesneriastnytt*, the publication of the Gesneriasts of Sweden. Ingrid Lindskog writes, "Larissa Berezina has a gesneriad seed and plant business in Krasnoyarsk*, Russia." Annika Strignert, the one who found her, says "It is quite expensive. Suppose Larissa does not mind more free publicity. I have been to Krasnoyarsk, twice, briefly stretching my legs for a few minutes. It is a stop on the Trans-Siberian railway, north of Mongolia. Looked very bleak, makes Umeå look like lush tropics in comparison."

*[Krasnoyarsk is the administrative center of Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia, located on the Yenisey River. It is the third largest city in Siberia, with a population of 973,900.]



Sinningia 'Sabelle'

A Visit to Beverley and Bruce Williams' Growing Area

Brooklin, Ontario, Canada

Beverley/Bruce Williams <beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com>



Photos courtesy of
Beverley Williams



"My watering is done with a fountain pump, large bucket (as shown), and a long air wand and hose. The wand is designed for use in the auto industry and is used with an air compressor, but it has a shut off valve on the wand which works to shut off the water. They are not very expensive so if my wand has a problem, I just replace it.

I have attached an older picture of one I had before, but the principal is the same. The newer wands are all made of metal instead of plastic."

Bev



Gesneriads at the 2011 Toronto Gesneriad Society Flower Show



Sinningia hatschbachii x glazioviana
exhibited by Beverley Williams



Columnea 'Sunny' exhibited by Doris Brownlie

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



Chirita sclerophylla exhibited by Beverley Williams



See more photos of the show on page 8

Sneak Peek: Plants Coming to the Sale at the Convention in Philadelphia

Mary Schaeffer <schaeffermary@yahoo.com>

Newark, Delaware, USA

There are many good reasons to come to any convention of The Gesneriad Society including of course, the "sale." Plants offered for sale come from a variety of professionals and serious hobbyists all striving to bring their very best. Recently we asked confirmed vendors what they planned to bring. "I found it difficult to respond to your worthy request only because I can't be sure at this time," wrote the very diplomatic and always helpful Ben Paternoster. "We only want to bring very salable plants and that can't be determined at this time" he noted. However, he did stick his neck out and let us know what he hoped to bring – Achimenes, various Kohlerias, *Loxostigma griffithii*, various *Petrocosmeas* including some of Tim Tuttle's hybrids, *Sinningia* 'Paper Moon', *Sinningia leucotricha* and *Sinningia* 'Lisa'.

Sinningias will be well represented. "I am not bringing anything super rare, but will have a few *Sinningia* hybrids using the yellow form of *Sinningia richii*, says Lee Stradley. Gary Hunter, the co-chair for plant sales, plans on bringing a few of the newer varieties including *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' (Jim Steuerlein), *Sinningia* 'Arkansas Bells' (Jon Lindstrom), *Sinningia*



Sinningia 'Kristine'

'Minnesota Nice' (Clay Anderson), *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming' (Dave Zaitlin) as well as Dale Martens' *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Snowbaby'. And, Karyn Cichocki will also have an assortment of *Sinningia* species grown from seed from the Brazil plant group while Judy Becker will bring some species. We're expecting several plants of *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Innocent' and *Sinningia bullata*.

If you coveted the *Sinningia* 'Pristine' shown in April's issue of this publication you'll be pleased to know Charlene Marietti is propagating it along with its sister, *Sinningia* 'Kristine', for the show. But enough about the *Sinningias*; what we've discussed so far is only the tip of the iceberg for gesneriads.

Some really interesting *Chiritas* will be making their way to the sales room. These include *Chirita speciosa* and *Chirita sinensis* 'Hyogo' grown from

leaves Kenji sent Karyn Cichocki from Japan as well as a *Chirita* species from Thailand grown from seed collected by Leong Tuck Lock in Malaysia. The leaves have a reddish tinge and the plants are probably the annual type. We don't know what color the flowers are going to be.

What else? How about *Nautilocalyx*, including *Nautilocalyx forgetti*, *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, *Nautilocalyx* sp. 'Gothenberg', and *Nautilocalyx* 'Burle Marx', *Gasteranthus* sp.; *Columneas*, including *Columnea* 'Julia', *Columnea* 'Mary Jane Evans' and *Columnea* 'Aladdin's Lamp'; *Nematanthus corticola*; rhizomes of *Achimenes*, *Ecucodonias*, x*Achimenanthas*, x*Achicodonias*;

some older hybrids of *Nematanthus*, *Columnneas*, and *Aeschynanthus*.

Quentin Schlieder let it slip that he is propagating some of the rarer plants he has in his collection, and he's got some pretty interesting stuff.

And although we haven't mentioned them much, we'll have plenty of *Streptocarpus*, *Petrocosmeas*, *Achimenes*, *Kohlerias*, and a number of other goodies. "We will certainly have some of the newly introduced things, as well as old reliable standards," notes Carolyn Ripps sharing a sentiment from more than a few participants.



Gasteranthus sp. from Ecuador

As most Gesneriad Society members are aware, the plant sales open Thursday night with attendees gaining access to the sales room in the order they registered. Plant sales on Thursday night are quite heavy. The ability to gain early entry to the sales room is just another good reason to register for the convention.



Achimenes 'Aimee Saliba'

For those who haven't registered, we invite you to visit us on Friday or Saturday to see what all the hoopla is about. You'll be able to see the show with all the wonderful entries as our guest. If you are like most gesneriad lovers, the show will inspire you to rush to the sales room to purchase some plants to grow in your own home. By the way, MasterCard® and VISA® will be accepted for plant purchases.

"I believe the Sales Room will have some of Serge Saliba's hybrids at July's convention." — Dale Martens

Convention 2011

The Gesneriad Society's
55th Annual Convention
Loews Philadelphia Hotel
1200 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA, USA
July 5-9, 2011
Hosted by the Liberty Bell Chapter



Back to Basics: Potting Cuttings and Young Plants

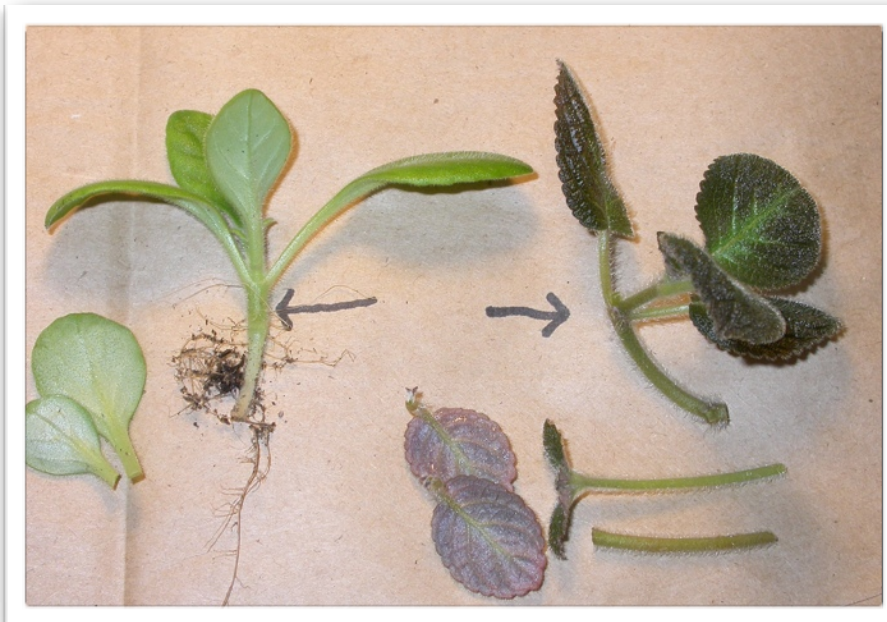
Dale Martens <dalemartens@mchsi.com>
Sherrard, Illinois, USA

Let's chat first about potting young gesneriads. The two accompanying photos show a young *Chirita* 'First Time' on the left and a stolon from *Episcia lilacina* 'Blue Nile' on the right. I got a leaf of *Chirita* 'First Time' through a collaborative hybridizing effort by Canadians Vincent Woo and Monte Watler. I put the leaf in soilless mix with extra vermiculite and within a couple of months I had several plantlets. I pulled the plantlets away from the main leaf and prepared to plant each into its own 2-1/2 inch pot. I removed the two bottom leaves from each plant before potting each one in the soil deeper than where those bottom leaves used to be, making sure the soil line was just below the lowest set of leaves.



I put the leaf in soilless mix with extra vermiculite and within a couple of months I had several plantlets. I pulled the plantlets away from the main leaf and prepared to plant each into its own 2-1/2 inch pot. I removed the two bottom leaves from each plant before potting each one in the soil deeper than where those bottom leaves used to be, making sure the soil line was just below the lowest set of leaves.

The second photo shows arrows where the soil line should be when I pot. This is for two reasons. One, roots easily sprout from where the lowest leaves used to be and, two, when the plantlet is buried deeper, it stabilizes the plant. Usually plantlets removed from a leaf don't wilt if the root system is plentiful, but I like to put the newly potted plant in an enclosed environment with extra humidity for a couple of weeks. For young plants with roots I water using 1/8 teaspoon of balanced fertilizer per gallon of water. See in the second photo of *Episcia lilacina* 'Blue Nile' that I removed the bottom two leaves from the stolon. In addition, the stem area just beyond those leaves was



removed. Also, I removed the young stolon that this stolon produced as I wanted all the plant's energy going into the formation of roots and the growth of new leaves.

This method of removing bottom leaves is done to all gesneriad tip cuttings. I make sure when I take a tip cutting to have at least six leaves on the tip, then I remove the bottom two leaves before potting it. Often newly potted cuttings wilt since there are no roots. Therefore, either I put the newly potted tip cutting in a clear plastic container with a lid, or I place it in a plastic baggie. Since there are no roots, I water without added fertilizer to make the soil moist, but not soaking wet.

The cuttings stay in the humid environment for about three weeks, then I acclimate them to room air and begin using 1/8 teaspoon of balanced fertilizer per gallon of water. That tiniest stolon removed from the larger stolon can be potted. Remove all but one inch of stem before planting it up to the base of the little leaves. After initially putting plants in the smallest pots possible, the next step, about six to eight weeks later, would be to transplant them into larger pots, again removing the bottom two leaves and burying the plants deeper. This is particularly necessary for the tall-growing rhizomatous gesneriads, but is never done for *Streptocarpus* because their plant crowns should never be buried. At this time, the amount of balanced fertilizer increases to 1/4 teaspoon of balanced fertilizer per gallon of water.



This article appeared originally in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 61, No. 2, Second Quarter 2011, 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 Photos from the Toronto Gesneriad Society Show 2011

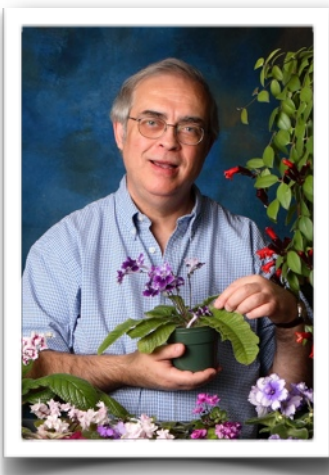
Streptocarpus 'Moonlit Velvet'
exhibited by Deanna Belli



Challenge class winner Karyn Cichocki



Streptocarpus candidus "Wahroonga" exhibited by Paul Kroll



From the editor —

May is a busy month for me with three shows to attend. Look for photos in the next issue.

See more Coming Events on the Society's website www.gesneriadsociety.org. 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.

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

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