



# 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 8

August 2011



Pictured below are examples of two of the beautiful plants offered for sale at the Philadelphia Convention. See more photos of Plant Sales on the next page.

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes more photos from the 55th Annual Gesneriad Society Convention in Philadelphia (including Plant Sales), Dale Martens chats about potting cuttings and young plants, and Coming Events for September.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

**Mel Grice**, Editor



*Kohleria* 'Bristol's Possibly Bronze'



*Achimenes* 'Serge Saliba'  
Photo courtesy of Dale Martens

# Plant Sales at Gesneriad Society Convention



Plant Sales Chairs Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer and numerous volunteers organized a successful event that delighted everyone in attendance.

Photos courtesy of Kyoko Imai and Mel Grice



*Sinningia* 'Georgia Peach'



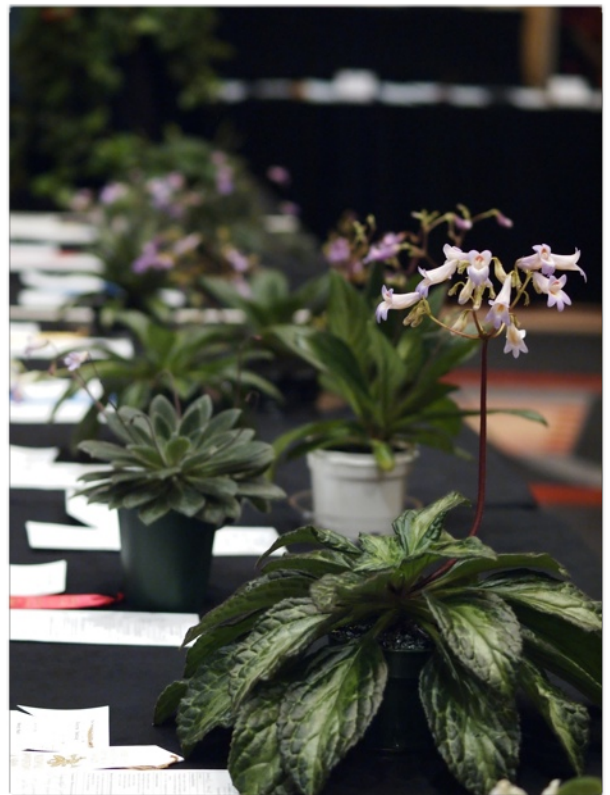
# Gesneriad Society 2011 Flower Show photos

Some of the special plants exhibited but not awarded class or special awards.

(Go to [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org) to view photos of the award winners in each class)



*Reldia* species exhibited by Karyn Cichocki. Plant started from a leaf collected in Ecuador in 2007. It requires low light and humid conditions much like *Gasteranthus*.



Photos courtesy of Kyoko Imai and Mel Grice



*Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet' exhibited by Ben Paternoster



"Reading Terminal Market" created by Barbara Festenstein



See more great photos from Kyoko Imai online at PETAL TONES — the newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society at <http://petaltones.blogspot.com>

Lynn Cook and Troy Ray exhibited both *Drymonia uninerva* on the left and *Nematanthus pycnophyllus* below



*Sinningia tubiflora* (left) exhibited by Betsy Sherwin



*Sinningia* 'Spring Cardinal' exhibited by Nancy Carr

# Coming Events for September..

## **September 10 — San Francisco, CA**

### **SAN FRANCISCO GESNERIAD SOCIETY ANNUAL JUDGED SHOW AND SALE**

"Gesneriads – Indoors, Outdoors, & Everywhere"

San Francisco, California Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco County Fair Building

Judged Show and Sale will be open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Our show will feature a dazzling and delightful variety of gesneriads on display. A choice variety of gesneriads and non-gesneriads will be available for sale. Free admission – Everyone is welcome. [Contact](#) for further information

## **September 16 & 17 — Mansfield, OH**

### **OHIO STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY ANNUAL JUDGED SHOW AND SALE**

Kingwood Center, 900 Park Avenue, Mansfield, OH

Friday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Plants, demonstrations and supplies from national vendors. Contact [melsgrice@earthlink.net](mailto:melsgrice@earthlink.net) for more information.

## **September 17 — Sacramento, CA**

### **DELTA GESNERIAD & AVS ANNUAL JUDGED SHOW AND SALE**

Sacramento Garden & Arts Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816

Sat. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

African violets, Streptocarpus, Chiritas, Episcias, etc. Gorgeous show plants. Hundreds of sale plants, demonstrations and supplies. Everyone's welcome! Free admission. Free parking.

[www.sacviolets.org](http://www.sacviolets.org) or contact [Lynn Lombard](#)

## **September 17 & 18 — Beltsville, MD —**

### **NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER JUDGED SHOW AND SALE**

"Gesneriads on Broadway" at Behnke's Nursery, 11300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. Saturday noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lectures on Saturday: 1:30 p.m. "Basic Potting Mixes"; 3:30 p.m. "Streptocarpus". Lectures on Sunday: 1:30 p.m. "What is a Gesneriad"; 2:30 p.m. "Propagating Gesneriads"; 3:30 p.m. "Dish Gardens". Contact Jim Roberts [jim-roberts@hughes.net](mailto:jim-roberts@hughes.net). or 410-227-2324.

## **September 24 — Boylston, MA**

### **ANNUAL COMBINED PLANT SOCIETIES' JUDGED SHOW AND SALE**

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, Massachusetts

Saturday, September 24: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 25: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Participating: Buxton Branch, American Begonia Society and New England Chapter, The Gesneriad Society.

Admission: \$10.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors and \$5.00 youths (6-18)

[Contact](#) for further information

## **September 24 — Centennial, CO**

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL ANNUAL AFRICAN VIOLET AND GESNERIAD SALE**

Tagawa Garden Center, 7711 S. Parker Rd., Centennial, CO

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: [Nelly Levine](#)

# Back to Basics: Potting Cuttings and Young Plants

Dale Martens [dalemartens@mchsi.com](mailto: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.



Photo 1

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.

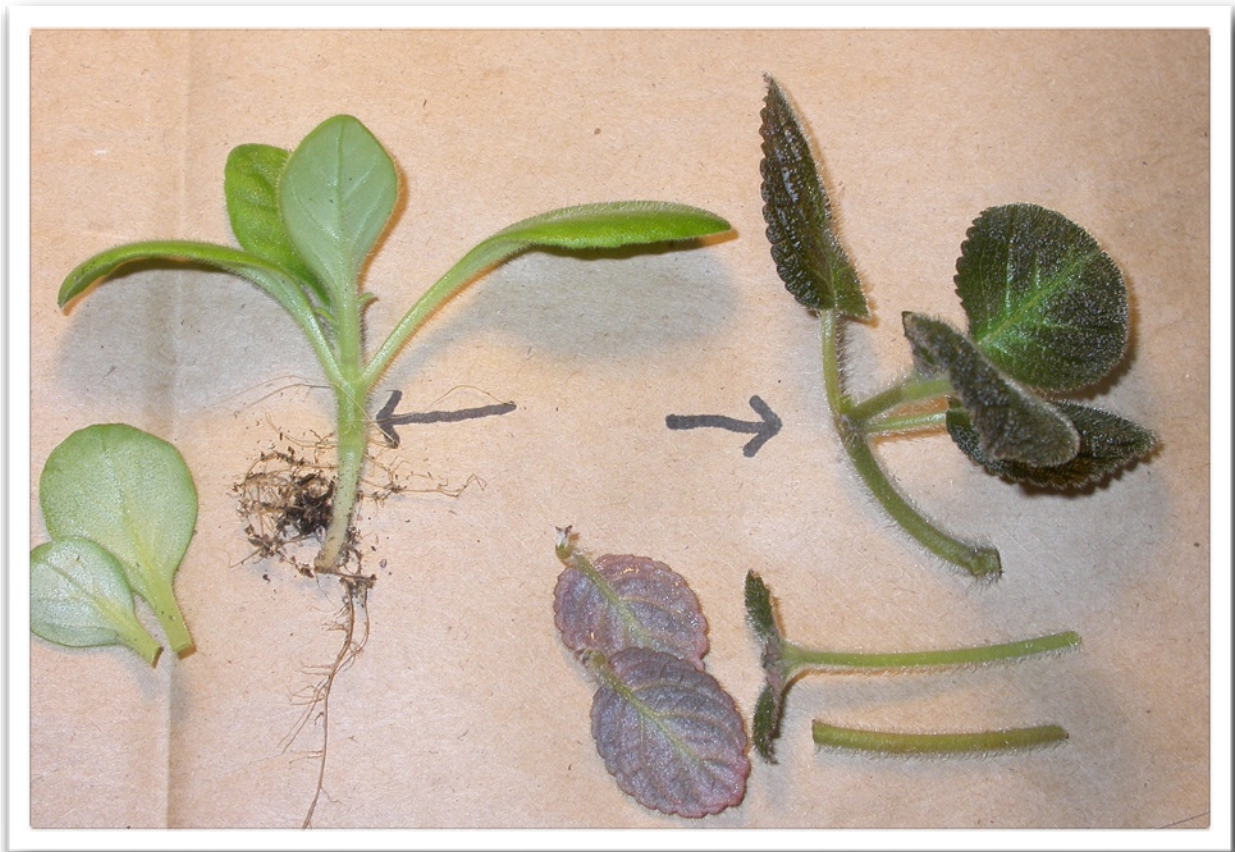


Photo 2

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.





**From the editor —**

I can't believe that it is almost time for the Fall shows to begin. Hope to see some of you at one or more of them!

See more Convention photos on the Society's website — [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://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](mailto: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>](mailto: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>](mailto: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.

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**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     Gesneriad Research Center Fund  
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