



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 10

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On the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition to Ecuador, Stephen Maciejewski found a new species of *Columnea*. It has been published in the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 5(1). As John L. Clark describes in the Abstract:

"Recent expeditions to the northwestern slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes and revisionary work of *Columnea* (Gesneriaceae) have resulted in the discovery of a new plant species. The new species, *Columnea lucifer*, is distinguished from other congeners by the presence of dense villous indument on the stems, bright white calyces with red lobes, and elongate tubular yellow corollas with red lobes."

This plant was shown on the cover of GESNERIADS Vol. 60, No. 1, First Quarter 2010 as *Columnea* species JRC11000 discovered on the 2009 Gesneriad Research Expedition to Ecuador (photo by John L. Clark).

Gesneriad Society members may download the entire issue in high resolution PDF from the website and read about the discovery.



Mel Grice, Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society and San Francisco Gesneriad Society flower shows, Dale Martens chats about what to do when your Florist Gloxinia stops blooming, and information on how to order the 2012 Gesneriad Society calendar.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**



Tennessee Gesneriad Society 2011 Flower Show photos



Best in Show — *Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite'
exhibited by Brad Walker



Best in Artistic — Natural Garden
exhibited by Carol Ann Bonner



Carol Ann Bonner (Best in Artistic), Pam Braun (Sweepstakes), Brad Walker (Best in Show) and Julie Mavity-Hudson (Best in Arts). Prizes in addition to ribbons are porcelain mugs hand-painted by Elizabeth Schaeffer from photographs taken by Julie Mavity-Hudson.



Best in Arts was a photograph of parts of a gesneriad, *Columnnea ornata*, exhibited by Julie Mavity-Hudson.

Photos courtesy of Julie Mavity-Hudson

Tennessee Gesneriad Society members left to right, Butch Measells, Myra Measells, Vianne Clements, Julie Mavity-Hudson, J.D. Barton, Carol Ann Bonner, Pam Braun, Peggy Adamson, Brad Walker and Jonathan Ertelt.



San Francisco Gesneriad Society 2011 Flower Show photos...

Best in Show —
Sinningia warmingii
exhibited by Paulo
Castello da Costa





Below — Runner-up to Best in Show and Helen O'Neal Award, *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet' — Paulo Castello da Costa



Sinningia defoliata — Alan LaVergne



Photos courtesy of Tommy Liu

Photos courtesy
of Tommy Liu

Below —
xGloximannia 'She's Dancing'
— Jon Dixon



Lysionotus pauciflorus — Alan LaVergne
photo courtesy of TehShan Lee



Saintpaulia 'Picasso' — Cy P. Yee



Back to Basics: My Florist Gloxinia Finished Blooming, Now What?

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Sherrard, Illinois, USA

The Florist Gloxinia (*Sinningia speciosa*) is a very common gift plant as the dramatic, long-lasting flowers with their velvety texture make quite an impression. What most don't realize is that after the top of the plant looks dead there is a tuber in the pot that can be saved for another cycle of blooming. Tubers easily exist for ten or more years. When there are no more buds to bloom and the leaves on the plant begin turning yellow or brown, it's time to decrease the amount of water the plant receives. Keep the soil barely moist for at least a month after the plant begins to decline.

When the plant looks really bad, it's time to go to work to store the tuber. Remove the plant from the pot and, using scissors, remove the dead leaves. Keep about an inch or two of old stem attached to the tuber as new growth usually sprouts near the base of the old stem. Take off as much soil and roots as possible from the tuber and dunk the tuber repeatedly in a bucket of lukewarm water. I find it easiest to gently wash the tuber using an old, clean paintbrush. Be careful not to remove the outer "skin" off the tuber.

The clean tuber now needs to be stored for a few months, but it should not be allowed to dry out. One method is to store it in a zip-lock, plastic bag with moist sphagnum or vermiculite. Write the name of the plant and the date on the plastic bag. If sphagnum is used, soak the sphagnum, then squeeze out most of the moisture with your hands before putting it in the plastic bag. A medium that is too wet can cause the tuber to rot, so err on the side of the medium being too dry. To surround the tuber with moisture, I put the moist medium in the bottom of the bag, then place the tuber on top with more moist medium on top of the tuber. I then store the tuber in a box in the closet along with other tubers and rhizomes. I suggest having a plant calendar on which you can write reminders or write notes when something bloomed. African violet growers often mark on their calendar dates to increase tube light or change fertilizers for a show. Make a note to check the tuber in 30 days.

On the 30-day check, make sure the medium is still moist and add drops of water if it is too dry. If the old stem is dried out or rotted, use scissors to remove it. Check to see if there are sprouts and if there are none, mark the calendar to re-check in another 30 days. (Usually it takes only two or three months for the tuber to sprout again.) When the tuber sprouts, find a pot about an inch wider and two inches taller than the tuber. You will be transplanting in four weeks, so it is important to use a small pot at first. If the tuber just barely has a sprout (sprout is less than two inches), put enough soilless mix in the pot so that the tuber's top is one and a half inches below the surface of the soil. Clear the area right above the new sprout so it "sees" light. If the tuber has a long sprout (more than 2-1/2 inches) and there are at least six leaves on the sprout, remove the bottom two leaves. Put enough soilless mix in the pot so that when the tuber is placed in the pot, the soil line goes past where you just removed leaves and up to the base of the lowest set of leaves. Put the pot's top within 10 inches of tube light. This might mean that you have to place something under the pot to raise it to that level. Feed the plant 1/4 teaspoon of balanced fertilizer per gallon of water.

In another 30 days, it's time to re-pot the plant into a four- or five-inch pot, depending on how big the plant is. If it has produced more than one growth stem, remove all but one so that the



Sinningia 'Peridots Darth Vader' hybridized by Iain James

main plant won't have to compete for growing space. Set aside the extra cuttings. At this time remove the bottom two leaves and pot the plant deeper in the larger pot, up to the lowest set of leaves. This will firmly anchor the plant in the pot so it can support a nice head of flowers. Don't disturb the root ball. Because it's easy to overwater and tubers rot in soggy soil, I like to put 1/4 to 1/2 inch of perlite in the bottom of the final pot so that if the pot sits too long with a saucer full of water, the soil is less likely to become too soggy. It's best if the saucer is emptied within an hour of watering the pot. Continue feeding as in the past. You need to turn the pot a quarter turn at least once a week in order for the plant to grow symmetrically. If you grow under fluorescent tube light, put the plant's upper leaves within 12 inches of the tubes. The plant needs 11 to 13 hours of tube light per day.

If the tuber made extra sprouts that you removed, fill a small pot with moist (not soaking) wet sphagnum or vermiculite/perlite mix. Remove the bottom two leaves of the sprout and pot the cutting in the moist medium up to the base of the next set of leaves. You might need to use supports such as thin plastic straws to hold it upright. Place the newly potted cutting into a terrarium environment (or baggie) for at least three weeks to allow it to root. When you later transplant it, try not to remove any roots when you place it in your regular, soilless mix.

Now enjoy your tubers for a decade or more!

This article appeared originally in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 61, No. 3, Third 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.

Just in time for the holidays, this full-color 2012 wall calendar will brighten each month with a photograph of a different prize-winner from the 2010 Convention flower show. Supplies are limited so order now!



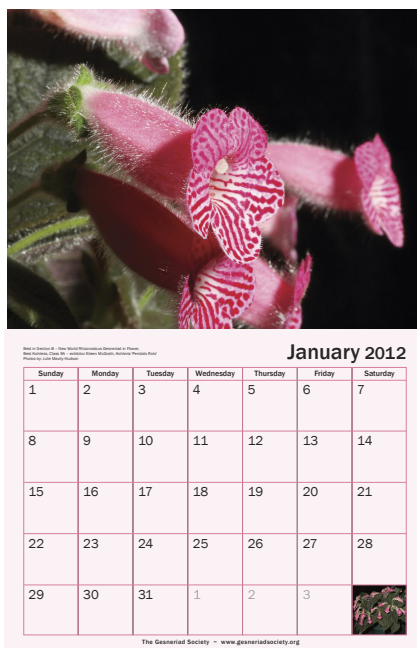
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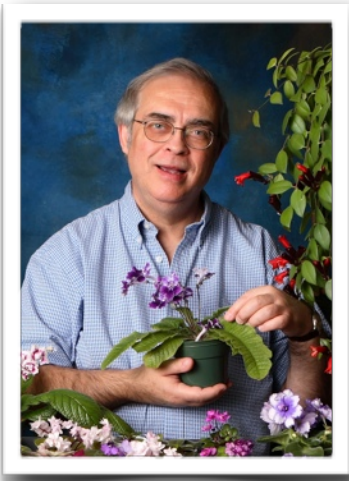
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<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/Shop/shop.htm>

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- US or Canada — 5 for \$55 (including postage)
- Outside US or Canada — 1 for \$14 (including postage)
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Order by mail from [Peter Shalit](#), Gesneriad Society Publications, 1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122





From the editor —

Thanks to those who sent me photos of some of the fall shows!

Please remember to have someone send me photos from your show for inclusion in future issues of GLEANINGS.

Please continue sending 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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Membership and Changes of Address

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

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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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