



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 12

December 2011



Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos I took while visiting The Violet Barn, photos from the Swedish chapter of The Gesneriad Society, and Tim Tuttle talks about *Petrocosmeas*.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Above — *Streptocarpus* 'Pegasus' shown by Ray Annabel and right — *Columnea hirta* 'Light Prince' shown by Edward Bradford at the monthly "Little Show" of the Long Island Gesneriad Society

Photos courtesy of Paul Susi

A Visit to The Violet Barn



Pat Hancock and I had a wonderful trip to the Violet Barn this fall. Dr. Ralph (Rob) and Olive Ma Robinson rolled out the red carpet for us. We were treated to behind the scenes access to areas the public does not usually see. I thought you might enjoy a glimpse of how they grow to perfection a wide assortment of gesneriads.

Mel



Rob and Olive live in the barn above their business. They just have to go downstairs to work in the renovated basement and greenhouse addition.







Each employee has their own workstation and a notebook showing how everything should be done the Violet Barn way.





Plants on bottom shelf receive fluorescent light at night while plants on top shelf are grown in natural shaded greenhouse light.



Some new *Streptocarpus* plants being evaluated before being named.



Water is pumped out of these large receptacles that can be moved where needed. Trays are lined with resin so they hold water. Acrylic blankets are placed in the trays to wick the water to the plants. Trays are flooded with a shallow layer of water every 3 or 4 days as necessary. Plants soak up the water they need and then the trays are dry between waterings.



A large tuber of *Sinningia* 'Bewitched'



The Violet Barn sits high atop the Bristol Hills overlooking Canandaigua Lake and the Naples Valley in what is known as the "Finger Lakes" area of upstate New York, USA.

Visit Rob and Olive at www.violetbarn.com if you can't go there in person.

The Gesneriad Society 2011 Annual Appeal

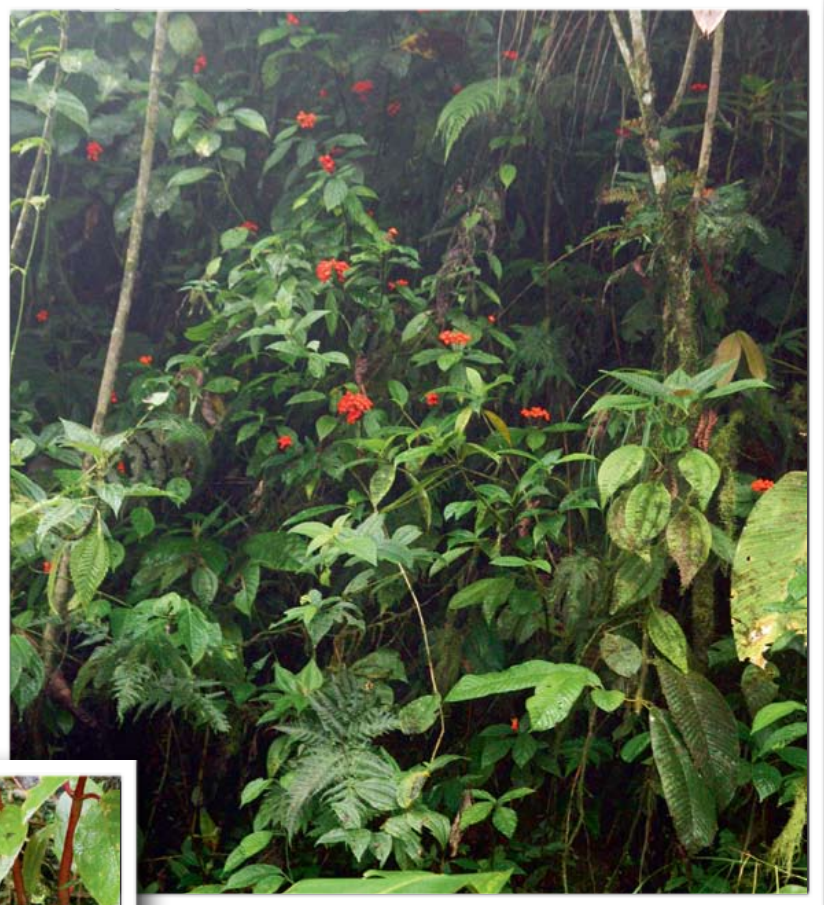
Each year The Gesneriad Society undertakes an annual appeal that helps support gesneriad research and education through two of its endowment funds. We ask you to consider a generous tax-deductible donation to one or both of the following funds at this time: **The Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund (EMREF)** supports gesneriad research and **The Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund (NDSSEF)** supports the education of students interested in the Gesneriaceae. You can easily make a donation online by clicking on this web address: <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/Donate/donatespecial.htm>.

Photos from the Swedish Chapter of The Gesneriad Society

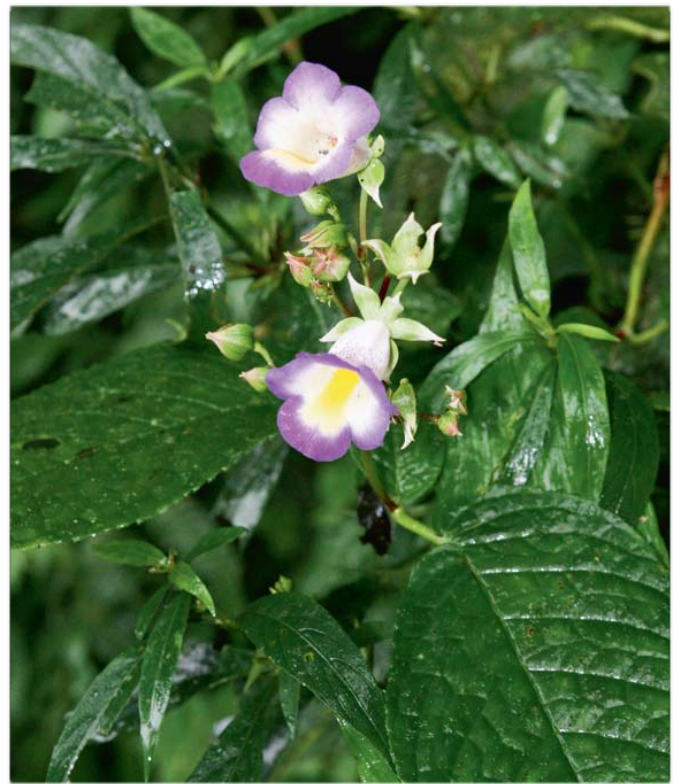
Thanks to Ingrid Lindskog for providing the English translations

Gasteranthus sp. in flower

Photographs taken by Lena Klintberg in Ecuador, May 2011.



Columnea minor. This plant likes it on a moist, mossy tree trunk. Photographed in Ecuador by Lena Klintberg (May 2011).



Monopyle grandiflora



This new Kohleria hybridized by Gunilla Svensson, was grown by Anita and Uno Boström. Buds started as white with dark green tips. As the buds grew, the tube color changed to a very faint lemon yellow and the brim to lime green. Then the buds opened up a bit, and a couple of small brown dots could be seen inside on the lobes. Photo by Sven Lindskog.



This year's plant sale in the park of Sofiero Castle in NW Skåne, Sweden. If you go to the front of the castle you can see Denmark! From left to right Martin Almroth, Mia Hermansson, Yvonne Francois, and Annika Strignert. In the background Lena Svensson. Photo by Lydia Jeppsson.

These photos appeared in a slightly different form in **GESNERIASTNYTT**, Nr 3, 2011, Ingrid Lindskog, Editor. **GESNERIASTNYTT** is the newsletter of the Gesneriasts of Sweden Chapter of The Gesneriad Society.

Petrocosmeas

Tim Tuttle plantman87@hotmail.com
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

I had a rare day off today and decided to spend it with my Pets and other gesneriads. I went down to the basement plant room this morning to find three plants of *Petrocosmea sericea* in flower. These all came from two leaves that Paul Kroll shared with me about ten years ago. They are some of the most senior Pets in my collection.

Even with all the time I've spent with these plants, I continue to be amazed at what they can do when they are happy. The plant in the photo is the best of the three as the other two are past their prime in flower, but this one still looked pretty good. I took a photo to document the potential for flower count when the plants are happy. I believe they are happiest when they are dried out a bit prior to bloom/bud production. These plants all were allowed to get quite dry, and they have bloomed best this year when they got the driest. This plant has 68 flowers open now, and I removed 17 spent flowers just before taking the photo. This plant has been untouched in the same pot/soil for four years now. It is in a 5 inch pan pot with a 1:1:1 mix of peat/perlite and vermiculite. I have only fertilized these plants a couple of times in the past year which was when they were producing new growth for the season.

I thought I would share my experience, so that you can see the potential for flowers. Incidentally, these plants of *Petrocosmea sericea* have never produced a single offset, never zippered/buttoned and are very trouble-free for disease/pests in my experience. Oh yes, and they have fragrance! All three plants smelled wonderful this morning, but the fragrance dwindled later in the day.



Paul, thanks for sharing those leaves with me a decade ago. Whenever a gesneriad flowers that was shared with me by a friend, I always think of the friend! That's a wonderful benefit to growing a family of plants that is so easy to share.

Petrocosmea sericea

Visit Tim's beautiful website for extensive *Petrocosmea* information <http://petrocosmea.blogspot.com/>

Petrocosmea 'Paul Kroll' (*Petrocosmea forrestii* x *Petrocosmea minor* smooth leaf form)

What a difference a year makes with this plant. The flowers this year are quite large. They are double the size they were as a first bloom seedling last year. The rosette has gotten to be around seven inches in diameter and has maintained the nice flat leaves and glossiness that I

had hoped for. The cymes also branched this year making it more floriferous. It is still just coming into a cycle of bloom, but I have already removed seven bloom spikes that were spent. Each spike had three blooms or twenty-one flowers so far, not counting what is has now and what are yet to come. The largest of four plants growing next to one another, this one is blooming much earlier than its siblings. The blooms have a very prominent white face, which is "different." The flowers are larger than either parent.

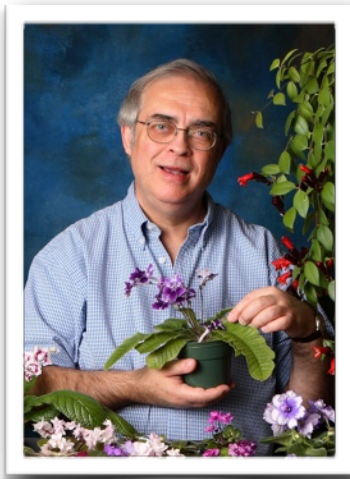


I am very happy with this one. It represents one of only three crosses I've ever been able to make using *Petrocosmea minor*, a species that has proven next to impossible to hybridize with. I am hoping to get a better photo of the whole plant with more

flowers to use for registration. This one, as I said, is missing several flowers that were spent. I should have photographed it a week or so ago, but, of course, time did not permit.



Adapted and reprinted with permission.



From the editor —

I must apologize to Jill Fischer for not crediting her for taking the photos of the Freylinghuysen Arboretum Show in the last issue. Sorry Jill.

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.

Happy holidays to all!

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"/> Joint	\$26	\$73	\$31	\$88
<input type="checkbox"/> Life/Joint Life	Mailing in US \$375/\$390		Mailing outside US \$450/\$465	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Option	Electronic copy of the journal, no print copy: \$25 per year anywhere in the world			

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

Students and Speakers Convention 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