



# Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 3, Number 2

February 2012



This issue includes photos I took while visiting Bob and Dee Stewart, Jaco Truter's discovery of a natural *Streptocarpus* hybrid, *Sinningia bulbosa* culture by Lynn Cook and Troy Ray, and Coming Events.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Michael Kartuz sent these photos of *Nematanthus albus* 'Serra Bonita'. He grew these from seed obtained from Mauro Peixoto — [www.brazilplants.com](http://www.brazilplants.com). The flowers are over 1½ inches and the corolla measures 2 inches. Michael reports that the flowers have an unusual musty fragrance. The leaves are dark green and less than 2 inches long. He will have plants available this spring for anyone interested — [www.kartuz.com](http://www.kartuz.com).





# A Visit with Bob and Dee Stewart

Bob Stewart [aeschynanthus@verizon.net](mailto:aeschynanthus@verizon.net)

Stow, Massachusetts, USA



I had a wonderful visit this fall with Bob and Dee Stewart (shown here with Michael Kartuz). They were in the process of adding a new greenhouse attached to their home growing area. Some of their extensive collection of plants had already made the move into the new greenhouse when I was there. I thought you might enjoy a glimpse of how they grow a wide assortment of gesneriads and orchids.

Mel



*Crantzia tigrina*







*Nematanthus crassifolius* 'Carangola'







Bob Stewart posted the photo on the right on Gesneriphiles. "We have to move our *Drymonia* sp. nov. from Veracruz 11676 to a new location, so we took a couple cuttings..."





The greenhouse is heated by a high-efficiency gas furnace that runs four zones of forced hot water heat — two for the greenhouse and two for the house.



Plastic bags and containers are used for propagating and germinating seeds.

# A New Rare Natural Hybrid in the Genus *Streptocarpus*

Jaco Truter <[Jaco.Truter@fenner.com](mailto:Jaco.Truter@fenner.com)>

Isando, South Africa

In December 2011, while botanizing in the general Gods Window area of Graskop, in our Mpumalanga Province, looking for rosulate *Streptocarpus* (new forms, new populations of existing species, and new taxa), I was walking through a patch of Afro-montane forest looking for plants of *Streptocarpus fenestra-dei*.

The forest had a fairly open understory, with many huge plants of the South African Amaryllidaceae, *Clivia caulescens* especially common. The only other *Streptocarpus* to be seen were *Streptocarpus micranthus*, a small tubular white flowered monocarpic unifoliate carpeting the rocks, and *Streptocarpus wilmsii*, a very beautiful perennating (in this locality) unifoliate, with long umbels of large tubular white flowers, characterized by a yellow bar in the throat with dense spotting superimposed over this. These were mainly to be found on the tree trunks as mid-level epiphytes. In this particular locality, the rosulate *S. fenestra-dei* was

very rare, confined to a few trees, also as a mid-level epiphyte. This species is characterized by having huge, hirsute leaves, and multi-flowered peduncles. The flowers are white (can be tinged dark blue) with variable nectary markings, and look like what you might suspect a hybrid between *Streptocarpus parviflorus* and *Streptocarpus cyaneus* to be, if they both grew in that area.

While looking at some plants of *S. wilmsii*, I noticed what appeared to be a "rosulate-looking" plant growing next to a particularly luxuriant specimen of *S. wilmsii*. Upon closer inspection, I saw that the plant exhibited a loose plurifoliate growth habit, with leaves mid-way between *S. fenestra-dei* and *S. wilmsii*. The flowers were the real giveaway, tending more to the shape of the first parent, but with heavy spotting in the throat.

A second plant exhibited the same set of characteristics, although in this one, the flower shape and spotting tended more towards the second parent, but exhibiting the nectary lines of the first parent. This second plant also had a medium blue wash over the exterior of the corolla tube, this also more than likely from the *S. fenestra-dei* parent.



*Streptocarpus fenestra-dei*



*Streptocarpus wilmsii*



Two other young, unflowered specimens were also spotted, but identity not confirmed. This is the first reporting of a natural hybrid involving these two species. Hilliard and Burtt reported the natural hybrid between *S. wilmsii* and *Streptocarpus cyaneus* ssp. *cyaneus* in Swaziland, and when the photos above are compared to the line drawings in their famous book, look remarkably similar.

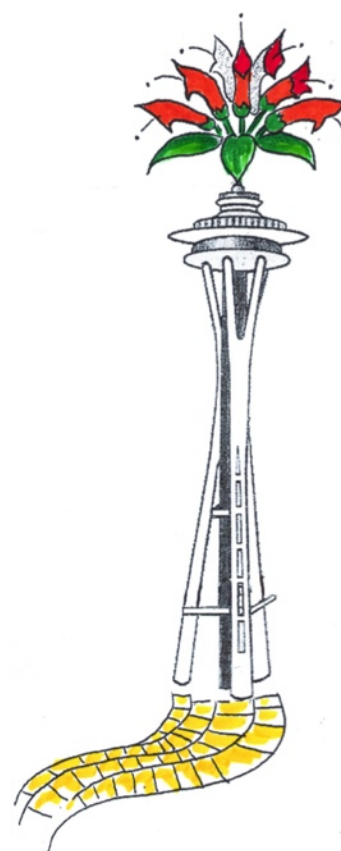


*Streptocarpus fenestra-dei* x *Streptocarpus wilmsii*

*Streptocarpus wilmsii* occurs in the same localities as a number of Mpumalanga rosulates, including *S. cyaneus* ssp. *polackii*, *S. cyaneus* ssp. *nigridens*, and *S. cyaneus* ssp. *longi-tommii*, so other natural hybrids are sure to be reported in the future.



*Streptocarpus fenestra-dei* x *Streptocarpus wilmsii*



**2012 Convention, Seattle, Washington**

July 2 - July 7, 2012

Gesneriads in the Emerald City

Register today at:

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2012/index.htm>

# Sinningia bulbosa Culture

Lynn Cook and Troy Ray <[lynncook225@gmail.com](mailto:lynncook225@gmail.com)>  
Landenberg, Pennsylvania, USA

The *Sinningia bulbosa* exhibited at the 2011 Gesneriad Society Convention in Philadelphia was grown from a leaf cutting. In 2008 we received three leaves from a fellow Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society member. Initially one was coated with powdered rooting compound and put into a pot containing a soil mix. That leaf slowly disappeared. The other two leaves were put into water, where they stayed for about six months. At that point, with no sign of roots or tuber formation, we sought guidance from *Gloxinias and How to Grow Them*, by Peggy Shultz, which advised splitting the petiole and putting the split petiole and leaf into water. We did not tent the leaf as it was in our greenhouse which has relatively high humidity year round. In about four months' time from first splitting the petiole, a tuber the size of a corn kernel had formed and fine roots could be seen. With that, we split the petiole of the second leaf, which then developed tuber formation along the same timeline as the first leaf. We potted each tuber when acorn size was reached, with leaf still attached, into a mix of 2/3 potting soil (without perlite) and 1/3 sand so that 2/3 of the tuber was in the soil mix and 1/3 was exposed. The tubers began to grow, with their tops emerging further and further from the soil of their respective pots. We continued to water the tubers to keep them growing and have never given the plants a dry rest period. Stems would die back and others would emerge, but neither plant had blooms for about one year after being potted. In the second year both plants bloomed, with the best blooms being those in the third year, the ones shown in the exhibited plant.



*Sinningia bulbosa*



We did nothing to cause the inflorescences to exit the tuber at a 30° angle, shown in the photograph. We have no direct experience but are told that this is the way plants in the wild often grow. We have never withheld water, but the tubers grew so large that the soil surface is limited for water absorption. Plants were watered once a week and fertilized with 20-20-20 full strength once a month. Tubers were re-potted in their second and third years of growth. The plants were grown in the high-light section of our greenhouse, which has a polycarbonate roof that lets in 81% of available light. Light is overhead and limited only by the sun or clouds of a day, so the inflorescences are not leaning to seek more light.



This article appeared originally in GESNERIADS Vol. 61, No. 4, Fourth 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.

*Sinningia bulbosa*

# Coming Events

## **February 18 — Phoenix, AZ**

### **Desert Sun African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Phoenix**

"VIOLETS CELEBRATE ARIZONA'S CENTENNIAL"

Valley Garden Center, 1809 North 15th Avenue (1 block north of McDowell Rd.)  
Phoenix, AZ

Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (sale); 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (show)

Free admission and free parking

Contact: [Ann Stoetzer](#)

## **March 2-3 — Orlando, FL**

### **Central Florida African Violet Society**

"VIOLETS — A LOVE STORY"

Beardall Senior Center, 800 Delaney Ave., Orlando, FL 32801

March 2, Friday from noon to 4:00 p.m.

March 3, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free admission and free parking. An AVSA judged show of African violets and gesneriads. Raffle and extensive sale room including expanded selection of gesneriads.

Contact: [Elvie Blakely](#)



### **March 17-18 — Glencoe, IL**

#### **The Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Display and Sale**

Chicago Botanical Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022

March 17, Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m.

March 18, Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Bonnie Formella at 815-434-0545 or [fornel8@aol.com](mailto:fornel8@aol.com)

### **March 31 — Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

#### **Toronto Gesneriad Society Annual Show and Plant Sale**

"GESNERIADS: KINGS AND QUEENS OF THE PLANT WORLD"

Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1P2  
(Lawrence Avenue East and Leslie Street formerly known as Edward Gardens).

March 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the upstairs Studios.

Admission is \$2.00 per person and parking is free.

Includes a plant sale of many rare and sought after gesneriads.

Contact: [Doris Brownlie](#).

### **April 14-15 — Long Island, NY**

#### **The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged Show and Plant Sale**

on the occasion of the chapter's 50th Anniversary, "GOLDEN OLDIES", in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island.

Planting Fields Arboretum, Conference Center, Oyster Bay, NY.

April 14, Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

April 15, Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact: [Ben Paternoster](#).

### **April 21 — Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada**

#### **Lakeshore African Violet Society Annual Show and Plant Sale**

"VIOLETS ROCK"

St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 2S1  
(the East Mall and Rathburn Road).

April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Free parking.

Some supplies will be available at the sales tables along with some unusual African violets and gesneriads.

Contact: [Beverley Williams](#).

### **April 28-29 — Columbus, OH**

#### **Columbus African Violet Society Annual Show and Plant Sale**

"THE PRIDE OF COLUMBUS"

Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH, 43203

April 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (sales): noon to 5:00 p.m. (show)

April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Free admission and parking.

Plants, cuttings, leaves, gesneriads and other related items will be available.

Attendees will also be able to participate in educational workshops.

Contact: [Karen Jesko](#).





**From the editor —**

My plants are already showing signs that the days are getting longer. The spring shows will soon be here. Hope to see some of you there!

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](mailto:editor.gleanings@gesneriadsociety.org).

Happy New Year to all!

Mel

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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>.

**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.

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