



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 4

April 2012



This issue includes an article by Jaco Truter on *Streptocarpus actinoflorus*, photos from the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society Show, Toronto Gesneriad Society Show, Philadelphia Flower Show, some photos by Karyn Cichocki of renamed gesneriads, and Coming Events.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Episcia 'Suomi' and *Streptocarpus* 'Silvia' (both grown by Brett Flewelling) were two of the award-winning entries at the Toronto Gesneriad Society Flower Show this year. See more award-winning entries beginning on page 5.

Photos courtesy of Ron Myhr



Puget Sound Gesneriad Society



Sinningia 'Maverick'

Because they are hosting the Convention this summer, the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society did not formally have their annual show this year. They were invited to enter their gesneriads in the Seattle African Violet Society Show, held at Swanson's Nursery.

See Peter Shalit's YouTube videos of the gesneriads in the show by clicking on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLA1108893A31FF4AE&feature=plcp>

photos courtesy of Peter Shalit



Sinningia 'Tomorrow'



Streptocarpus actinoflorus — a new species from the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa

Jaco Truter <Jaco.Truter@fenner.com>

Isando, South Africa

Most rosulate species of *Streptocarpus* occur in Southern Africa, within a single grouping, dominated by *Streptocarpus cyaneus*, and its close allies. The monophyletic (a group that contains all the descendents of the possible hypothetical closest common ancestor) nature of this group is corroborated by palynology (pollen studies), and molecular evidence.

Streptocarpus actinoflorus was originally considered by Hilliard and Burtt to be nothing more than a smaller version of *Streptocarpus parviflorus*. However, *S. parviflorus* occurs in a very specific area of Limpopo Province (i.e. Woodbush, Magoebaskloof area). *S. parviflorus* subsp. *soutpansbergensis* occurs north of that in the Soutpansberg Mountains of northern Limpopo.

Streptocarpus actinoflorus was first collected in the vicinity of Mariepskop (Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve) south of the other two taxa. Further collections were made on Goedgeloof Farm, Mpumalanga. Trevor Edwards and Mark Hughes described this species in 2008.

The leaves can be up to 200 x 40 mm, and the inflorescences 20-plus flowered. The small flowers exhibit white corolla tubes, with a light lemon yellow bar on the floor. The lobes can be all white, or the bottom three can exhibit faint to very dark nectary lines. The hairy capsule can be up to 45 mm long, and the taxon flowers from early December to late January. The specific name "actinoflorus" refers to the flowers which are unusually regular (i.e. actinomorphic = being capable of being divided into equal halves along any diameter, versus zygomorphic = bilaterally symmetrical). The photo below, although not showing the floriferousness of this species, (photo taken early in the season) does show the actinomorphic shape quite clearly.

Streptocarpus actinoflorus is a narrow endemic, confined to a few populations in Mpumalanga. Plants occur in lightly shaded forest margins, although sometimes exposed to the sun. The plants occurring on Goedgeloof Farm are fairly diminutive, and when used in hybridizing produce small progeny, with small flowers. The plants occurring on Erasmushoop Farm are veritable giants with the greatest number of flowers and largest leaves. The flowers are at least double the size of the Goedgeloof population. Interestingly enough, even though *S. actinoflorus* looks very similar to *S. parviflorus*, molecular evidence shows that *S. parviflorus* is closely related to the *S. cyaneus* grouping, whereas *S. actinoflorus* is a considerable genetic distance from the rest.

This species is fairly easy to grow, although (as with so many in the genus) cannot take excessive watering. I have found that plants flourish outside in a protected spot, whereas plants inside my growing tunnel died off from "one watering too many".



Toronto Gesneriad Society



(Top Left) *Columnea hirta* 'Light Prince' — Best in Show — Brett Flewelling

(Top Right) "Titania" — Best in Artistic — Judy Zinni

(Left) *Episcia* 'Pink Smoke' — 2nd Best in Show — Brett Flewelling

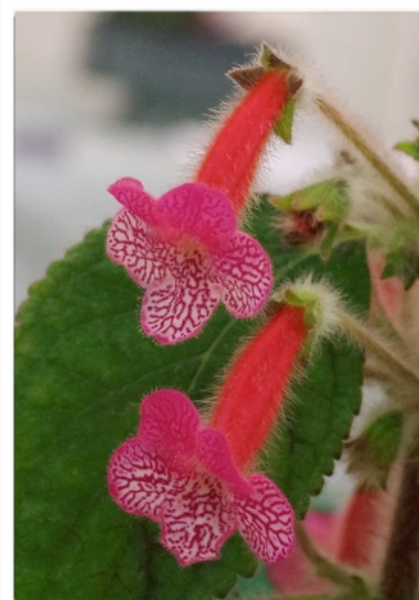
Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



Toronto Gesneriad Society 2012



Sinningia 'Spellbound' — Bev Williams



Kohleria 'Connecticut Belle'
— John Hopkins

Photos courtesy of Ron Myhr



Petrocosmea 'Keystone's Angora'
— Bev Williams





Kohleria 'Keystone's Morning Frost' — Brett Flewelling



Saintpaulia ionantha — Bev Williams



Sinningia 'Paper Moon' — Brett Flewelling

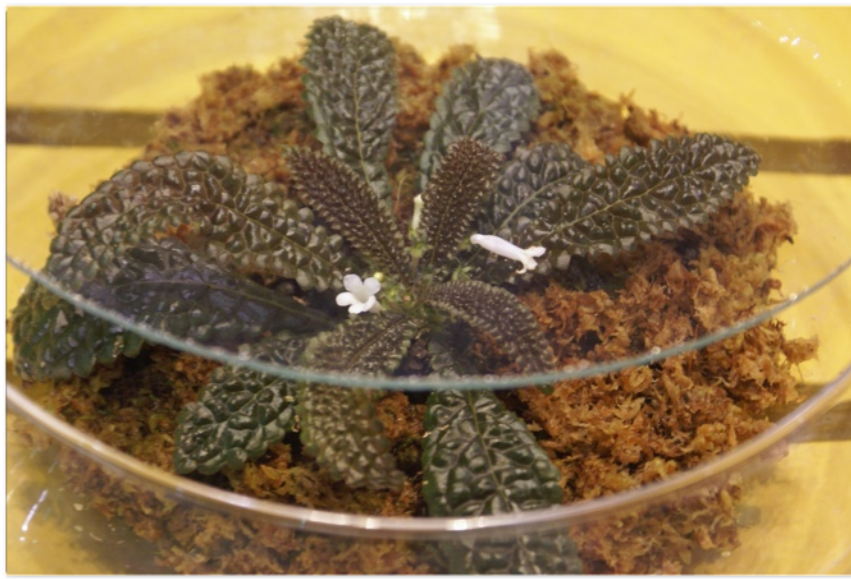


Primulina 'Aiko' (Red)
— Bev Williams

Photos courtesy of
Ron Myhr



Philadelphia Flower Show 2012



Nautilocalyx pemphidius - Charlene Marietti



Codonanthe devosiana 'Paula' — Lynn Cook & Troy Ray



Paliavana prasinata - Stephen Maciejewski



Streptocarpus 'Russ' Blue' — Russell Strover

Coming Events

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](#).

May 5 — Windsor, CT

Windsor African Violet Society Annual Show and Plant Sale

Grace Episcopal Church, 311 Broad Street, on the Green in Windsor, CT 06095

May 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

African violets and other gesneriads will be on display. New hybrids from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses will be for sale, as well as cut and rooted leaves. Free admission.

Contact: <http://instafax.com/wavs>

May 5-6 — Cheektowaga, NY

African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Western New York Annual Show and Plant Sale

Galleria Mall, Galleria Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

May 5 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact: [Paul Kroll](#)

June 9 — San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Gesneriad Society Plant Sale

San Francisco County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way,
San Francisco, CA

June 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sale of potted plants and cuttings.

Contact: [David Waugh](#)

What is it called now?



Primulina linearifolia, formerly *Chirita linearifolia*
(grown and photographed by Karyn Cichocki)



Microchirita hamosa, formerly *Chirita hamosa*
(grown and photographed by Karyn Cichocki)



Henckelia speciosa, formerly *Chirita speciosa*
(photo by Ron Myhr, exhibited by Gary Gordon)

These photos appeared in a slightly different form in **Gesneriad Tips 'n Trivia**, Vol. 36, No. 3, April 2012, Karyn Cichocki, Editor. **Gesneriad Tips 'n Trivia** is the newsletter of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter of The Gesneriad Society.

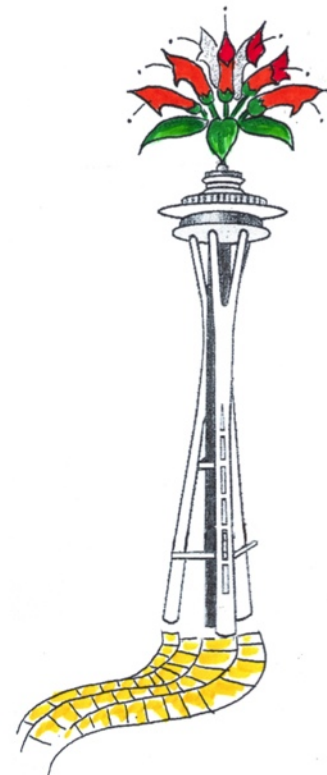
2012 Convention, Seattle, Washington

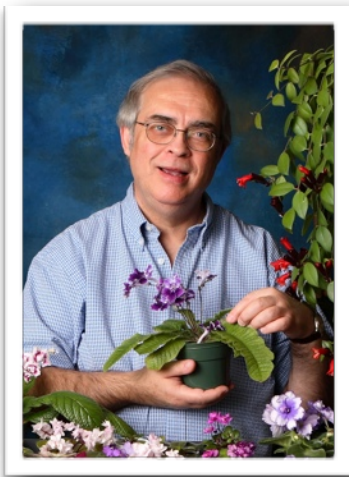
July 2 - July 7, 2012

"Gesneriads in the Emerald City"

Register today at:

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





From the editor —

Judging gesneriads at the Toronto Gesneriad Society Flower Show was lots of fun! I even did two artistic designs. More 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.

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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.

New Member Date _____

Renewal Membership # _____

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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
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<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: \$20 per year anywhere in the world			

I wish to make a 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