



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 9

September 2012



Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from Gary Hunter, photos from the 56th annual Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle, Jaco Truter's hybrids using *Streptocarpus vanderleurii*, my musings about propagating hybrid gesneriads, and Coming Events

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Sinningia 'Prudence Risley' (top) and x*Sinvana* 'Heartland's Maverick' (right) are examples of plants Gary Hunter gary@garysspecialtyplants.com is growing for Plant Sales at the Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium to be held in Newark, Delaware, USA September 28-29. See Coming Events on page 9 for more information.

Photos courtesy of Dale Martens and Gary Hunter.





Nematanthus 'Dibley's Gold'
Gary Hunter



Sinningia 'Colorado Sunset'
Gary Hunter



Streptocarpus 'Essue'
Gary Hunter

This page contains photos of other gesneriads that will be available at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium. Gary Hunter will also have the "Ladyslipper" streptocarpus from Dibley's. As you may recall, they have been renamed for introduction to the United States market. Check out his blog at <http://garysspecialtyplants.blogspot.com/>



Sinningia 'Gabriel's Horn'
Gary Hunter



Sinningia 'Li'l Georgie'
Jon Lindstrom



Bob Stewart in his greenhouse

Bob Stewart posted the photo above on Gesneriphiles and asked for help in identifying the plant correctly. Dr. John L. Clark from the University of Alabama identified it as *Columnea spathulata*. Additional images of this species can be found via the following link: <http://gesneriads.ua.edu/image-library/columnea/columnea-spathulata/>

The Clark Lab at the University of Alabama has an extensive Gesneriaceae Image Library that you should check out.

Bob and Dee Stewart will give a presentation on "Rare and Unusual Gesneriads and How We Grow Them" and Dr. John L. Clark will give a presentation on "Searching for Gesneriads in Cuba" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium on September 30, 2012.

Go to <http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/files/RegionalShow.pdf> for complete information.

Gesneriad Society 2012 Flower Show photos

Some of the special plants exhibited

(Go to www.gesneriadsociety.org to view photos of the award winners in each class)



Gesneria 'Ako Cardinal Flight'
Bill Price



Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



Sinningia 'Ozark Jumbo Sundae'
Darlane Joshlin



Sinningia lineata
Bill Price



Gesneriad Hybrids Are Not All Created Equal

Mel Grice

Recently several people have asked me for tubers, rhizomes or seeds of specific gesneriad hybrid plants that I have written articles about in various publications. I am always happy to share with others whenever that is possible. So many wonderful "gesneriad enthusiasts" have been quite generous with me. I look around my plant rooms everyday and think of this person or that person who gave me a specific plant. Giving things away is also the best insurance you can have when things go wrong and you lose plants. The more plants you spread around, the more chances you will have to get back a treasured plant that you lost.

Tubers, rhizomes, vegetative cuttings (crowns) are not a problem if I have extras. The problem requests are for seeds of a specific hybrid. Think back to your high school biology class. (It has probably been awhile for many of you.) The term hybrid in genetics refers to the offspring of sexual reproduction. A gesneriad hybrid is the biological offspring of two or more different species or hybrids. The pollen parent plant donates half of the genetic material to the seed pod. The seed parent plant donates the other half of the genetic material. The genetic material of both parents has numerous dominant and recessive genes that may combine in literally thousands of ways. Each seed that is produced may produce a new plant that is similar to the parent plants in some ways and completely different in other ways. Some new plants (hybrids) will be superior to the parents, but many will be much less desirable than the parents and should be relegated to the compost pile.

Even if you self-pollinate a gesneriad hybrid plant (fertilize the plant with it's own pollen) the resulting seeds that are produced will each have genetic material that has been combined in numerous combinations. So the resulting seeds from a hybrid plant will not have the same genetic makeup as the original hybrid parent.

The ONLY way a hybrid gesneriad plant can be propagated and still produce the exact same plant is by vegetative propagation. Putting down a leaf or rooting a crown cutting will result in a plant that has the exact same genetic material because you began with a piece of original plant tissue. Steven McCulloch did a presentation at The Gesneriad Society convention this July about growing gesneriads via tissue



Streptocarpus seedlings resulting from the "selfing" of a hybrid streptocarpus.

culture. He gave everyone in attendance plastic test tubes with gesneriad hybrids that had all been produced from the same hybrid plant tissue. The resulting plants should all be identical to the hybrid parent plant. I can't wait to see how they develop. I have seen named gesneriad hybrid plants offered for sale on Ebay that have probably been grown from seeds that were the result of self-pollinations. This is a quick way to produce a lot of plants, but they will usually be of poorer quality and not really be the named variety that you were hoping to receive. The person who originally hybridized the named variety probably discarded numerous seedlings before selecting one seedling that exhibited outstanding characteristics and was thought worthy enough to be given a name. I always try to obtain gesneriad hybrids from the original hybridizer or from someone else who obtained them from the original hybridizer. Commercial members of AVSA and/or The Gesneriad Society are the best sources for gesneriad hybrids.

Remember — not all gesneriad hybrids are created equal!



Hybrids grown by tissue culture



This article appeared originally in *The Violet Connection*, Vol. 60, No. 4, September 2012, Mel Grice, editor.

Sinningia 'Kristobel'
Ruth Coulson

Gary Hunter will have plants of this for sale at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Show, Sale and Symposium.

Hybridizing Adventures in *Streptocarpus vanderleurii*-land

Jaco Truter <Jaco.Truter@fenner.com>

Isando, South Africa

Streptocarpus vanderleurii, a large, xerophytic, monocarpic, unifoliate species endemic to South Africa, bearing masses of large white flowers with yellow flashes in the corolla throat (some forms have brown, and even purple bars present, too) has only recently begun to be utilized in serious *Streptocarpus* hybridizing. A number of excellent hybrids have recently emerged from the USA, i.e. *Streptocarpus* 'Cape Essence', *Streptocarpus* 'It Makes Scents' and *Streptocarpus* 'Cape Baby'. Some excellent Russian and Dibley's material has also recently been released.

I have tried a few hybrids myself, some successful, some not quite as good as hoped for. I would like to share some of those results.

No. 1: This was the result of a complex mix containing *Streptocarpus cyaneus*, *Streptocarpus vanderleurii*, *Streptocarpus caeruleus*, *Streptocarpus* 'Winterdream', *Streptocarpus meyeri*, and *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili'. I think this one is quite good. It is a small plant inherited from the *S. meyeri* and *S.* 'Texas Hot Chili' parents, with huge flowers in comparison to the plant size. The darker throat markings are also more reminiscent of *S. meyeri*. This is an F₃ selfing which is strongly scented.



No. 1

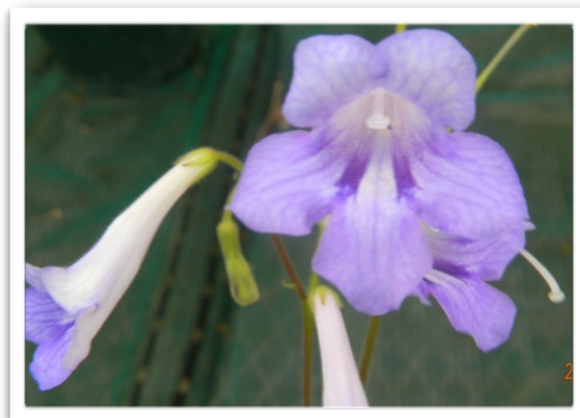
No. 2: This represents the result of a complex mix, containing *Streptocarpus* 'Kimi', *Streptocarpus* 'Franken Kerry's Gold', *S. cyaneus*, *S. vanderleurii*, and *S. caeruleus*. The flower is stunning, the very deep yellow coloring well offset by the plum-mauve base color of the corolla.

Unfortunately, a single leaf, although fairly short. This is an F₃ selfing with no detectable scent.



No. 2

No. 3: This is the result of a complex mix containing an unidentified Kunhardt hybrid, *Streptocarpus cooperi*, and *S. vanderleurii*. The plurifoliate leaves are fairly small and the individual flowers are large, with fine lilac veining over all flower parts, very reminiscent of complex *Streptocarpus fasciatus* hybrids. This is an F₂ selfing with no detectable scent.



No. 3

No. 4: This represents the result of a complex mix containing *S. cyaneus*, *S. vanderleurii*, *S. caeruleus*, *Streptocarpus roseo-albus*,



Streptocarpus 'Black Panther' and *Streptocarpus* 'Esau'. This is an F₂ selfing also with no detectable scent. The lovely peach-pink flowers are fairly small, and as with hybrid no. 2, also carries single leaves.

In all cases the *Streptocarpus vanderleirii* parent dominates the hybrids quite strongly. Please feel free to comment on these hybrids and give your reasons.

No. 4



Coming Events

September 15-16 — Sacramento, CA Delta Gesneriad & AVS Show and Plant Sale

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

September 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free admission and parking.

Contact: www.sacviolets.org or Lynn Lombard 530-637-9000.

September 22-23 — Boylston, MA Annual Combined Plant Societies' Judged Show and Plant Sale

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

September 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 23 from 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 youth aged 6-18

[Contact](#)

September 22-23 — Nashville, TN Tennessee Gesneriad Society Show and Plant Sale

Cheekwood Botanic Gardens, Botanic Hall, 1200 Forrest Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37205

September 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

September 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There will be many rare and unusual plants for sale.

Contact: julie.mavity@gmail.com or 615-364-8459.

September 28-29 — Kansas City, MO
Heart of America Annual Show and Plant Sale

Loose Park Garden Center Building, 5200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, MO

September 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Flower show entries open to all.

September 28 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Plant Sale only open.

September 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale open.

The Heart of America Gesneriad Society will be joined by the Mid-America Begonia Society for both the Flower Show and Plant Sale.

contact: [Susan Grose](#)

September 29 — Centennial, CO
Rocky Mountain Annual Fall Sale

Tagawa Garden Center, 7711 S. Parker Road, Centennial, CO 80016

Saturday only sale from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: [Nelly Levine](#)

September 29-30 — Newark, DE
Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium

Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, 531 South College Ave., Newark, DE

September 29 — show set up and evening banquet.

September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale open.

The show and sale are free and open to the public. Complete information can be accessed on line at <http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/files/RegionalShow.pdf> or hard copies of the brochure, registration information and flower show schedule can be requested by email at qcsjr@comcast.net.

October 7 — Morris Township, NJ
Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter Exhibit and Sale

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morris Township, NJ.

October 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Karyn Cichocki kdc05@ptd.net

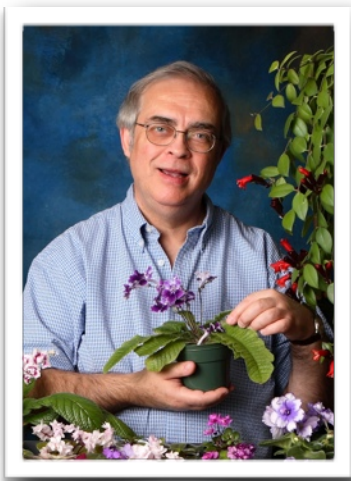
October 13 — Philadelphia, PA
African Violet Society of Philadelphia Annual Show and Plant Sale

Cathedral Village Retirement Community, 600 E. Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128-1933

October 13 from noon. to 6:00 p.m.

The plant sale will feature Violets and Gesneriads from Fancy Bloomers and other commercial growers plus a variety of growing supplies and materials.

contact: [Carol](#)



From the editor —

The fall shows will soon be here. I hope to see some of you at one or more of them! I am looking forward to seeing gesneriads that I have not seen before and sharing them with you.

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.

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

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Paul Susi, Development Chairperson
2 Rushmore Street, Huntington Station, NY 11746

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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Or, charge my VISA, or MasterCard

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Mail to: **The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
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