



# 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 10

October 2012



Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from the Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium, Quentin Schlieder writing about *Drymonia chiribogana* and *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina Serra da Vista', and Coming Events.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



*Episcia* 'Showtime', exhibited by Andrew Norris, attracted everyone's attention at the Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium. The striking yellow lower petal on most blossoms really captures your attention. See more photos from the show on the following pages.





*Photos from The Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium*

*Gesneriads Across the Globe:  
An International Family*

The Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium, a collaborative event of the Delaware, Liberty Bell and National Capital Area Chapters of The Gesneriad Society, was held in Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens.



Left — *Cremosperma* sp.

Right — *Napeanthus* sp.

Both exhibited by Nancy Kast





*Sinningia* 'Orange Raindrops'  
Mary Schaeffer



*Sinningia eumorpha* 'Saltao'  
Jill Fischer



*Columnea* 'Broget Stavanger'  
Paul Sorano



*Smithiantha cinnabarina*  
Karyn Cichocki



*Aeschynanthus evrardii*  
Bob Stewart



*Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*  
Dee Stewart

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



*Lysionotus pauciflorus* 'Ikeda'  
Bob Stewart

Left - *Gloxinia* 'Dragonsong'  
Barbara Borleske



*Gasteranthus tenellus*  
Nancy Kast



*Episcia* 'Pink Dreams'  
Jill Fischer

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



*Gloxinella lindeniana*  
Kenneth Moore



*Gesneria* 'Lemon Drop'  
Francisco Correa

Photos courtesy of Kyoko Imai



Judging the show

# Yipes! Stripes!

Quentin Schlieder <[qcsjr@comcast.net](mailto:qcsjr@comcast.net)>  
Smyrna, Delaware, USA

I have to admit I have a penchant for variegated plants, and two gesneriads with decorative leaves are among my favorites.

I received a cutting of *Drymonia chiribogana* at a propagation workshop the National Capital Chapter offered to encourage members to grow plants for the sale at the Silver Springs, MD Gesneriad Society Convention they hosted in July 2009. I divided my cutting into several pieces and rooted them for the sale, but because of the handsome foliage decided to keep one.

*Drymonia chiribogana*, in my experience, defies the logic of growing other plants. In order to encourage it to produce side shoots to fill out the plant, I pinched the tip out. The plant responded unlike other members of the family which, when pinched usually produce several side shoots. It produced only one branch several nodes down. It looked very awkward!

I have accepted that this species has a will of its own, and have decided to just let it grow as it pleases. It is growing in a potting medium comprised of Pro-Mix B amended with coarse perlite to enhance drainage. Since the plant was growing tall and was "a wee bit tipsy", I resorted to growing it in a clay pot to give it extra stability.

The plant is growing under fairly low light conditions under a cool white, two-tube 4-foot T12 fixture, but, in spite of the conditions hasn't shown signs of stretching to the light.



*Drymonia chiribogana*

The plant has been subjected to my rather erratic watering and fertilizer regimen, watered and fertilized when I remember and have time. I generally use Plant Marvel's Nutriculture 12-31-14 soluble fertilizer mixed at about a quarter of the recommended strength, since this formulation is readily available at the Chapter's plant and supply sales table at the meetings, and is urea free.

I was delighted earlier this spring when the plant produced a bud and flowered! The showy flowers protrude from a light green calyx which remains on the plant long after the flower has faded. The flower remained for almost a week in my basement which has a fairly constant temperature of about 70°F.

The late Hans Wiehler of the Gesneriad Research Foundation discovered this Ecuadorean species, which he describes as being closely related to *Drymonia killipii*, in 1988 on the old road from Quito to Santo Domingo, near Chiriboga on the Pacific (western) slope of the Andes Mountains. It was an epiphyte growing in a forest at an altitude of about 4,000 feet.

*Drymonia chiribogana* is a fibrous rooted epiphytic subshrub endemic to Andean Ecuador, in Pichincha province. It is known from three populations including the one along the old Quito-Santo Domingo road (to Chiriboga), as well as the Puerto Quito-Mindo road, 7 km from Los Bancos. An isolated population grows in the Ila Mountains, on the Santo Domingo-Mirador road. Unfortunately it hasn't been reported inside Ecuador's protected areas network, although it might be present in the Reserva Ecológica Los Ilinizas. The plant is considered vulnerable due to its small geographical range, and large-scale deforestation and habitat fragmentation over the last fifty years.

The other plant which has captured my interest is *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina Serra da Vista', which I purchased at the Gesneriad Society's Philadelphia Convention in July 2011. The plant, undoubtedly grown from seed obtained through Mauro Peixoto's Brazil Plants Seed Club, is now in its second growth cycle and remains a compact plant under six inches with handsome foliage which could give any *Primulina* (*Chirita*) a run for its money. However, I should note that Peixoto notes it can attain a diameter of up to 12 inches.

The nodding flowers are a gorgeous rich blue-purple in color, and are a great dividend on an already attractive plant.

This selection is native to Atlantic Forest, in Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil where it grows in humus and among rocks in semi shady places.

It has been growing under approximately the same conditions as my *Drymonia chiribogana*, although I confess that I am a little more attentive to preventing its drying out, which would send this tuberous plant into dormancy. Peixoto notes that the plant needs good drainage to prevent the tuber from rotting.

I have used Betsy Gottshall's method of encouraging the plant to reawaken from dormancy. After the tuber goes dormant, I remove it from the pot and clean it off so that no potting medium is sticking to the tuber. I am certain in removing the old crown of the plant to leave some of the old stem, since this is generally where the new sprouts will begin to grow. If you remove the stem completely, the tuber sometimes will not sprout again. I then enclose the tuber in a clear plastic deli container and put it under the lights. I spray it lightly with water keeping the environment barely moist. Generally, in a few weeks, new root and stem growth resumes, and I repot the tuber to grow through the next cycle. While you can leave the tuber in its pot during its dormancy, I have a tendency to feel sorry for the plant and I water it – a sure way to rot the tuber!

My love for all plants with fancy leaves springs from the fact that they can be attractive even when not in bloom.



*Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina Serra da Vista'



The article on the preceding pages appeared originally in The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society, Vol. 14, No. 9, May 2012, Quentin Schlieder, editor.



## Coming Events

### **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: [sqcut2@aol.com](mailto:sqcut2@aol.com)

### **October 20-21 — Altamonte Springs (Orlando), FL**

#### **African Violet Council of Florida and the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society**

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 230 W. State Road 436, Altamonte Springs (Orlando area), FL 32714

October 20 — Plant sales 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., show 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

October 21 — Show and sales 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

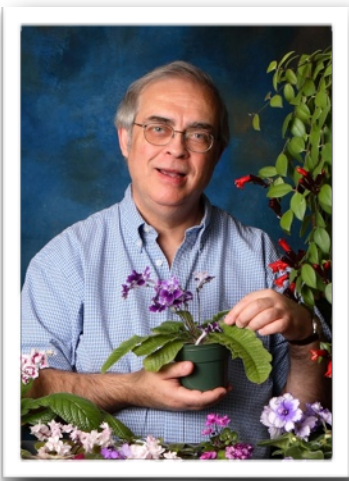
The plant sale will feature African violets and Gesneriads. The Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society will host seminars for the public on different aspects of Gesneriads beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.



*Primulina* sp. USBRG 98-083  
Libby Behnke



*Saintpaulia* 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet'  
Bobbie La Fashia  
October 2012



**From the editor —**

The Mid Atlantic Regional Show, Sale and Symposium was almost like a national convention with people attending from all parts of the USA. I hope it will become an annual event! It was great to see so many 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).

Mel

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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.

**New Member** Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Students and Speakers Convention Fund

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