



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

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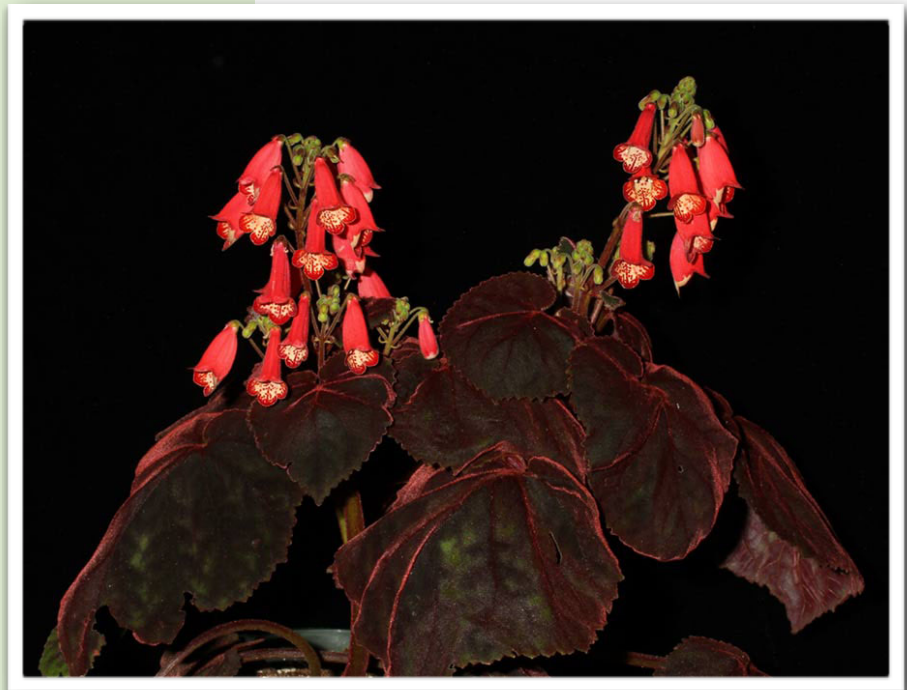


Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society Show and Paul Susi's summary of Wallace Wells' talk on the genus *Drymonia*.

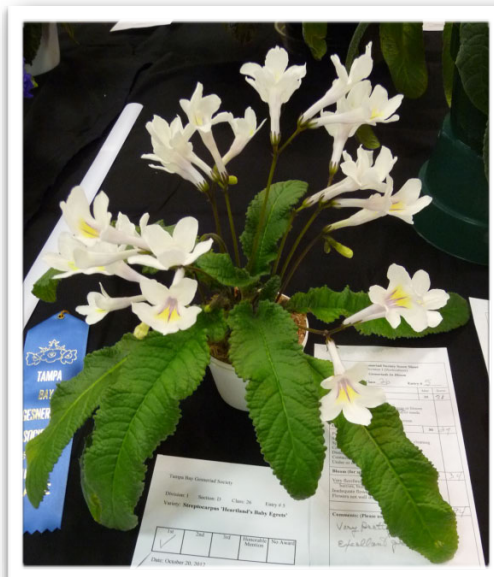
Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**



Julie Mavity-Hudson of Joelton, TN, USA sent these photos of *Smithiantha cinnabarina*. This same plant was runner-up to Best in Show at the recent Tennessee Gesneriad Society show when it was not in bloom.



Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society Show



Streptocarpus 'Heartland's Baby Egrets'
Ann O'Malie

Primulina 'Jade Moon' - Best in Show
Ann O'Malie



Columnnea colombiana
Ann O'Malie

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



Primulina Collection — runner-up to Best in Show
Jay Sespico



Jay grew his collection on plastic plates with a wick inserted through a hole drilled in the plate. The very shallow layer of soil was covered with sphagnum moss for exhibition purposes. The plastic plate left on the table had been placed under the plant Jay is holding to protect the table from moisture.



Kohleria 'Brazil Gem'
Jay Sespico



Sinningia 'Bristol's Good Morning'
Jay Sespico



Left — *Primulina* 'Diane Marie'
Jean Marie Ross



Primulina 'Lydia'
Jay Sespico



Saintpaulia 'Rob's Gundaroo'
Jay Sespico



Gasteranthus atratus
Nancy Kast

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice and Jeanne Katzenstein



Gesneria rupincola
Jay Sespico



Columnea hirta 'Light Prince'
Nancy Kast



Artistic Design
Mary Lou Harden



Natural Garden
Mary Lou Harden



Codonanthe Collection (Left to right)
Codonanthe devosiana 'Zizo', *Codonanthe gracilis* 'Kautsky', *Codonanthe serrulata*
Nancy Kast

Wallace Wells: *Drymonia*, the Old and the New

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Huntington Station, NY, USA

At the September meeting of the Long Island Gesneriad Society one of our own members, Wallace Wells, gave an excellent presentation of the genus *Drymonia*. The presentation was accompanied by a very well done PowerPoint graphic, and was one of the most complete discussions of a genus I have come across. The presentation also took advantage of the technology available to us to keep us "green" by reducing waste, especially paper.

To get us ready for his talk, Wallace included a URL link to an online outline of his talk in the newsletter. He also included a Quick Response (QR) Code which encapsulated the URL. This enabled those of us with smart phones to capture the code, using free software, which would then lead us to the online outline. With the outline on our smart phones, there was no need to use paper to print out the outline. I used the URL path and downloaded the outline to both my phone and my PC – which helped me a great deal in writing this article! Very cool indeed!



You can also click on this link:

<http://www.gesneriads.com/LIGS/handout1012.html>

Now, for the talk!

Wallace informed us that there are about 100 species of *Drymonia*, found from neotropical Brazil to Mexico, with the highest diversity in northern South America and central Central America. *Drymonia* is classified as a fibrous, New World genus of caulescent gesneriads, many species of which have leaf-shaped calyces, calyces of decorative appearance and decorative leaves. They are primarily trailers or climbers, often growing quite tall. Another very important morphological characteristic (that is, a characteristic based on appearance), and indeed one that is common to all gesneriads is the presence of unilocular ovaries. These ovaries are not segmented and seeds develop at the sides and move inwards as they mature.

The name *Drymonia* refers to the Greek "oak" or Latin "sylvestris" – of the woods – and the plants are usually found growing in the rain forest understory. (Wallace informed us that there is also a genus of moth called *drymonia* and it has wing markings like the bark of a tree.) Some species of *Drymonia* (the plant) do cling to the bark of trees as they develop. Common pollinators are euglossine bees and other insects, hummingbirds, and bats. The primary agent of seed dispersal are birds, which pick at the seeds that are held in the seed capsule as a gelatinous mass in that does not dry out as do the seed capsules of many other gesneriads.

The person responsible for the creating the genus *Drymonia* was Carl Friedrich Philipp von Martius. He had studied medicine but then decided to go into botany. In 1829 he reclassified *Besleria serrulata* (which had been grown in Austria since 1793) as *Drymonia calcarata*. This was eventually renamed as *Drymonia serrulata* and became the type species for the genus.

Hans Wiehler (1930-2003) was instrumental for much of the classification work completed in the late 1900's in the genus *Drymonia*. Over one-third of the species known at the time were named by him. He also identified some of the morphological features characteristic of the genus. Wiehler noted that a "salt shaker" anthers were characteristic of the plants then called *Drymonia*, and some other species that he eventually moved into the genus. Another characteristic is that the display fruits dehisce through a small portal hole (poricidal

dehiscence) rather than along a lateral line (splitting open). Another characteristic, not necessarily confirmed by others, is that *Drymonia* pollen is loose and non-sticky.

After Wiehler's death in 2003, work on the genus was continued by John L. Clark of the University of Alabama, with a good deal of research being performed by his student Laura Clavijo. (Both Clark and Clavijo benefitted from grants from the Elvin McDonald Research and the Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment funds of The Gesneriad Society.) In 2005 Clark transferred 21 species from *Allopectus* (which he characterized as a "trash bag" genus) to *Drymonia*. As a result, the expanded genus of *Drymonia* (with over 100 species) now has many plants with flowers that do not have salt-shaker anthers! Reclassification continues today, with DNA being used rather than morphological characteristics. Although morphology is prone to creating polyphyletic genera (i.e., a group that consists of individuals that do not share a common ancestor) due to convergent evolution, DNA classification may introduce groupings that do not share any obvious external similarities.

Cultivation of *Drymonia* species is fairly straightforward. They require low to medium light, high humidity, warm to temperate temperatures, constant soil moisture, a feeding schedule similar to that used for Saintpaulias, and a standard potting mix (although some are suitable for hydroponic culture, such as *Drymonia killipii* and *Drymonia chiribogana*). The high-humidity requirement can best be met in a greenhouse or, for the smaller growing plants, a terrarium. Propagation of non-woody growth is easier, as woody growth may need a rooting powder to ensure rooting.

There are only two known hybrids: *Drymonia* 'First Peach' was made by Hans Wiehler and *Drymonia* 'Francisco Pizarro' was hybridized by Bob and Dee Stewart. For images and information on *Drymonia*, be sure to visit:

<https://sites.google.com/site/gesdrymonia/>

Make sure you click on "species list" for some great photos. And, do click on "more images" to see flower close-ups from Laura Clavijo's Flickr pages. You won't regret it!

Thank you, Wallace, for an informative and interesting talk on *Drymonia*!



Drymonia chiribogana

This article appeared originally in Gesneriad News - The Newsletter of the Long Island Gesneriad Society, Vol. 44, No. 3, November 2012, Mel Grice, editor.

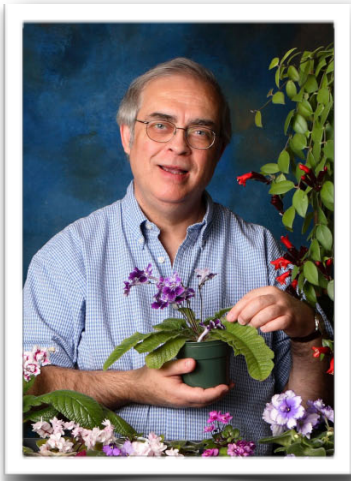


Drymonia macrantha
Photo courtesy of Mel Grice



Drymonia punctulata
Bob Stewart
Photo courtesy of Kyoko Imai





From the editor —

I recently attended the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society Show held in conjunction with The African Violet Council of Florida Show. Many well-grown plants and beautiful artistic designs were exhibited. 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.

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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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