



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 4, Number 5

May 2013

This issue includes photos from the North Coast Gesneriad Club show, Paul Kroll's discussion of *Bellonia spinosa*, photos from the Long Island Gesneriad Society show, and Jaco Truter's observations of his new *Streptocarpus* hybrids.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Jean Marie Ross of Auburndale, Florida, USA (above) with her *Primulina* 'Diane Marie' at the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society Show in October 2012. The same plant on the right was shown at the Dixie AVS convention in April 2013. Jean Marie says that the plant has not stopped blooming since Christmas.



North Coast Gesneriad Club (Ohio) Show



Primulina Collection - Best in Show - Linda Neumann
Karyn Cichocki photo



Episcia 'Karlyn' - Pat Berilla
Mel Grice photo



Sinningia 'Amizade' - Martha Bell
Mel Grice photo



*x**Achimenes* 'Northwood's Sunburst' -
Martha Bell
Mel Grice photo



Smithiantha 'Sassy Redhead' -
Martha Bell
Mel Grice photo



Sinningia speciosa 'Eli' -
Linda Neumann
Mel Grice photo



Kohleria 'Manchu' - Mark Occhionero
Mel Grice photo



Bellonia spinosa

Paul Kroll pfkroll@roadrunner.com
East Aurora, New York, USA

Bellonia spinosa is described in our *Flower Show Manual* as the only gesneriad with thorns. It is a woody shrub that blooms periodically throughout the year, having no apparent "season." I was given a cutting by Maryjane Evans at the 2002 Gesneriad Society Convention. My plant bloomed for the first time in 2005.



When exhibited before, one of the judges' comments was, "not a pleasing form." It is my opinion that a plant like this should be allowed to grow without judicious pruning to "make" a form, that may be pleasing to the judges' eye, as the blooms come on the longest branches. There are some thorns or spikes on my plant, but they are usually well hidden and appear on the oldest growth. Cuttings of *Bellonia spinosa* must be taken from the youngest/greenest growths, as anything else just sits there and rarely takes root. These green cuttings do indeed take hold, but are best started in a plastic bag environment with high humidity. Although my plant room is quite humid (sometimes as high as 80%), I keep a loose plastic bag inverted over my plants of this species.



Bellonia spinosa JLC_10573_61

I discovered a few years ago that the blossoms have scent! To my nose, it seems to be a citrus-spicy fragrance. The blooms, usually approximately the size of a nickel, are white, with prominent yellow pollen sacks. They are not long lasting. Leaves turn brown and dry up on the lower stems as the plant grows.

I grow *Bellonia spinosa* in a loose soil mix. It is a heavy drinker and does not take lightly to drying out. Positioned in the middle of a two-tube fixture on the top shelf of a plant stand, it seems happy.



Photos above courtesy of The Clark Lab, Gesneriaceae Image Library, The University of Alabama



Bellonia spinosa - Paul Kroll - 2006 convention photo

The article on the preceding page appeared originally in APPRAISAL, The Newsletter of the Judges Interest Group, Vol. 34, No. 1, January 2013, Mel Grice, editor.

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Long Island Gesneriad Gesneriad Society Show



Sinningia bullata - Best in Show -
Ben Paternoster
Paul Susi photo



Kohleria 'Peridots Salish' - Ray Coyle
Paul Susi photo



Primulina 'Vertigo' - Esperanza Kesler
Paul Susi photo



Sinningia 'Paper Moon' - Ben Paternoster
Paul Susi photo



Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'
Joe Palagonia



Streptocarpus denticulatus
Wallace Wells



Primulina liboensis (white veined)
Ben Paternoster



Watercolor botanical illustration
Randy Baron

Photos courtesy
of Paul Susi



'Rain Forest'
Marilyn Heinrich

Hybrid Streptocarpus In My Collection

Jaco Truter Jaco.Truter@fenner.com

Isando, South Africa

Streptocarpus is such an amazingly plastic genus, where almost any species can be hybridized with any other. This offers tremendous scope for the hybridizer. Micro-miniature to huge hybrids can be made fairly easily as long as a good collection of hybrids and a broad selection of unusual species is available.

Here are some of the results from my 2012/2013 hybridizing efforts. I have not specifically followed any hybridizing trends. I have used species and hybrids that I am partial to, with some really pleasing results.

Hybrid 10074: This hybrid involved *Streptocarpus* 'Joker', *S. actinoflorus* (miniature Goedgeloof form of species), *S. Texas Hot Chili*, *S. 'Winterdream'*, and a double dose of *S. meyeri*. The abundant small flowers are produced on small plants about the size of a small *S. meyeri* with short narrow leaves.



Hybrid 10074

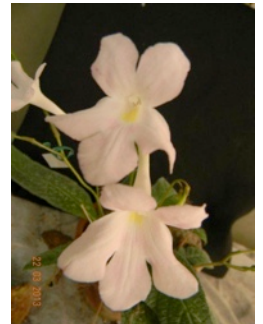


Hybrid 10223

Hybrid 10223 : This complex hybrid involved *Streptocarpus baudertii*, *S. meyeri*, *S. kentaniensis*, and *S. vandeleurii*. The flowers are as large as the *S. vandeleurii* parent on a small plant and are heavily scented. As can be seen, the *S. vandeleurii* parent is very dominant.

Hybrid 8382 : This hybrid involved *Streptocarpus lilliputana* (a double dose), *S. 'Otome'* and an unknown pink *S. johannis*-like hybrid. The medium-sized plant exhibits the typical "starfish" leaf arrangement of all *S. lilliputana* hybrids. The very large flowers have an

interesting *S. lilliputana*-like shape and are a delicate washed-out pink color.



Hybrid 8382



Hybrid 10911

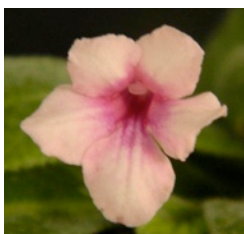
Hybrid 10911 : A complex hybrid involving *Streptocarpus baudertii*, *S. meyeri*, *S. kentaniensis*, and *S. 'Nerys'*. The first flowering has produced a very pleasing flower, heavily influenced by *S. 'Nerys'*. The plant is small and has short narrow leaves.

Hybrid 10182-1: This miniature hybrid has the following ancestry : *Streptocarpus meyeri* (double dose), *S. 'Texas Hot Chili'* (triple dose), *S. lilliputana*, and *S.*

'Winterdream'. The short narrow leaves are carried on really tiny plants. The equally tiny flowers (almost Sinningia-like) are a delicate fuchsia-pink color.



Hybrid 10182-1



Hybrid 10182-2

Hybrid 10182-2 : A sibling of the previous one and even smaller in stature, plant and flower wise.

Hybrid 10026-1: This is an F1 hybrid of *Streptocarpus 'Nerys'* x *S. formosus* (white-flowered form). The medium-sized plant has leaves lying flat on the surface of the mix and long peduncles of extremely pretty small flowers. (see photo on next page)



Hybrid 10026-1

Hybrid 10026-2 : A sibling of the previous hybrid with the top two corolla lobes strongly recurved.

Hybrid 10511: Another really small hybrid with short *Streptocarpus meyeri*-like leaves. Its ancestry contains *S. meyeri* (double dose), *S. 'Texas Hot Chili'*, *S. baudertii*, *S. kentaniensis*, and *S. lilliputana*. The tiny flowers are borne over an extended period.



Hybrid 10026-2



Hybrid 10511

Hybrid 10778: An F2 hybrid involving *Streptocarpus baudertii*, *S. meyeri*, *S. kentaniensis*, and *S. hilburtianus*. The small plant produces extra long multi-flowered peduncles and interesting washed out blue-colored flowers.

Hybrid 5488: Another F2 hybrid involving *Streptocarpus meyeri*, *S. montigena*, and *S. 'Franken Kerry's Gold'*. The medium-sized plant produces 2-3 flowered peduncles with large white flowers that have a really interesting puce-purple throat.



Hybrid 10778



Hybrid 5488

Hybrid 5488-2: A sibling to the previous one. Also bears large flowers on fairly small plants.

Hybrid 5488-3: The third sibling in this group, dominated by the tubular *Streptocarpus montigena*, with very interesting throat markings.



Hybrid 5488-2



Hybrid 5488-3

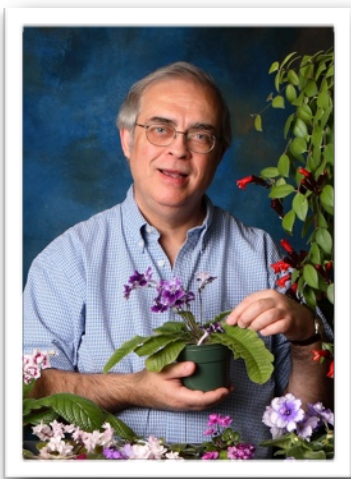


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Open to the Public and FREE
Friday, July 5 – 9 AM to 5 PM (sales)
2 PM to 5 PM (show)
Saturday, July 6 – 8:30 AM to 12 Noon (sales)
8:30 AM to 3 PM (show)

Convention 2013

The Gesneriad Society's
57th Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Toronto
370 King Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 2 - July 6
Hosted by the
Toronto Gesneriad Society



From the editor —

I have enjoyed seeing many of you at the spring shows this year. My plants know that the warmer weather is here and are putting forth lots of new growth. I am certain that yours are too. Take lots of photos!

Please continue sending articles. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at melsgrice@earthlink.net

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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).

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The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
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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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