



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 8

August 2013

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes more photos from the 57th Annual Gesneriad Society Convention hosted by the Toronto Gesneriad Society, Flower Show Chair Beverley Williams' thoughts on the show, Jaco Truter's description of *Streptocarpus monophyllus*, and Karen Allen's collage of *Streptocarpus* hybrids.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Beverley Donsworth from Sydney, Australia arrived home from the Gesneriad Society Convention to a lovely little *Petrocosmea cryptica* that had never flowered before. "Maybe I should go away for five weeks more often," she wrote. Beverley also put pollen on several of the flowers hoping that some of them would set seed. Looks like she might have been successful!



Gesneriad Society 2013 Flower Show photos

Some of the special plants exhibited

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



Aeschynanthus humilis
Eileen McGrath



Episcia 'Jim's Hall's Choice'
Beverley Williams



Primulina 'Destiny'
Beverley Williams



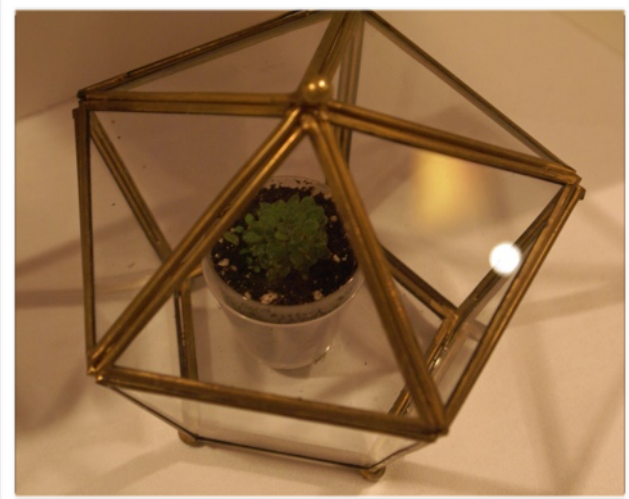
Sinningia iarae hybrid
Robert Hall



Streptocarpus 'Falling Stars' and *Streptocarpus johannis*
 Bob Stewart
 Plants are mounted on tree fern slabs hung from the wire framework.
 Paul Susi photo



Saintpaulia rupicola 'Cha Simba'
 Beverley Williams



Petrocosmea 'Keystone's Tiny Tim'
 Emma Bygott

A mature plant of this Tim Tuttle hybrid is the size of a quarter.

Artistic and the Arts



Gesneriad Society Logo - Sinningia Afgan
Laura Buckner



"Meeting of the Minds"
Marina DeSouza



Natural Garden
Mary Lou Robbins

Convention Flower Show Report

Beverley Williams, Flower Show Chair beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com

Brooklin, Ontario, Canada

I am sitting here at our cottage, watching a mother mallard duck and her clutch of eight ducklings stroll by the deck, thinking it is time to reflect. The Convention is over. Did you have an opportunity to visit Toronto for the first time? Attend a Gesneriad Convention for the



first time? Enter a Convention Show? Sit in on the wonderful lectures and have an opportunity to visit with people who you have only just read their names mentioned in past articles in the journal? If you did not, you missed an extraordinary chance so don't miss next year because we will be in the music capital of North America— Nashville, Tennessee.

This year, the 57th Annual Convention of The Gesneriad Society was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in downtown Toronto, Ontario. Located in the heart of the entertainment district of the city, it offered a unique opportunity to visit many of Toronto's attractions. From the hotel you could see the CN Tower where many of the

registered members and guests had a scrumptious dinner in the 360 Restaurant located on the top of the tower as it rotated over the city. We watched the sun set above the harbor of Lake Ontario and the city. Some of our members visited Parkwood Estates in Oshawa, Ontario where they were able to experience the lavish lifestyle of the home of the founder of GM which is preserved as a Canadian National Historical site. I hope you had a great time while you visited with us.

But, I want to take this occasion to thank the many volunteers who gave of their time willingly to assist me in my capacity as Show Chair and to tell you about the flower show.

Incalculable and heartfelt thanks to Karyn Cichocki, Entries Chair, for the enormous job she did, along with her assistants Emma Bygott and Marilyn Crompton. I have done this task myself many times and I know how much time and commitment it takes. Paul Kroll and Judy Zinni did a fabulous job on the Artistic Schedule. I know of several people who had trouble making up their minds which classes to reserve. Great job and thank you for taking on this job!

Thanks also to Bill Price and Vincent Woo for doing Classification. All the entries were received and in the Show Room by the allotted time. Our lovely ladies who greeted our exhibitors and gave instructions, as well as travelled from one coast to almost another, M.J. Tyler and Sally Robinson, I thank you. To the tireless Placement team, Bruce Williams, Bob Clark, Leonard Re, and Jeremy Keene, great job and thank you. Thank you also to Jeanne Katzenstein, who in Seattle last year did not hesitate to say yes when I asked her to do Staging for the show in Toronto.

Jacquie Eisenhut, Judges and Clerks Chair, did a wonderful job of organizing the teams and getting the show judged in good time. The show was judged by noon. Ben Paternoster, I

appreciate your taking on the assignment to make sure that all the Artistic Entries conformed to the schedule – thank you.

To the volunteers who offered their time to plant sit and answer questions, Jerry O’Keefe, Marina De Souza, Maureen Mark, Marilyn Crompton, Mary Schaeffer, Audrey Burry-Plunkett, Ruth Schram, Marion Kerr, Vincent Woo and Eileen McGrath – thank you.

Thank you to all the exhibitors who grew plants, groomed plants, packed plants and travelled short and long distances to bring their "babies" for our benefit, as well as all who entered in the Artistic, Arts, and Commercial Divisions.

We had a magnificent show with 305 total entries from 49 exhibitors. There were 215 exhibits in Horticulture, 53 exhibits in Artistic, 36 exhibits in the Arts and 1 Commercial exhibit. The judges awarded 56 first place awards, 49 second place awards, 40 third place awards and 9 honorable mentions in Horticulture. Artistic exhibits were awarded 15 firsts, 16 seconds, and 12 thirds. The Arts exhibits received 10 first place awards, 10 second place awards, and 6 third place awards in all. The Commercial display received a first-place award.

Best in Show was awarded to Paul Lee for his exhibit of *Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet', a selfing of his hybrid *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet.' A well-deserved award! You can view Paul talking about his exhibit on the convention blog <http://gescon13.tumblr.com/> along with other award winners. Runner-up to Best in Show was received by Robert Hall for his exhibit *Columnea* 'Indian Feather', which was cleverly displayed on an upright log, more representative of its natural growth habit. Barbara Festenstein received Best Artistic for her entry "Close Encounters", along with Julie Mavity-Hudson for her Best in Arts exhibit of a picture quilt of *Codonanthe digna*.

There were many other awards given, but I am only going to touch on a few. The rest you will have to review in the journal or on the website. Sweepstakes in Horticulture was awarded to Beverley Williams, with 10 first-place, 9 second-place and 4 third-place ribbons. Thank you to my husband for his help moving and carrying all those plants! Sweepstakes runner-up in Horticulture went to Paul Kroll, with 5 first-place ribbons, 3 second-place ribbons, and 1 third-place ribbon. The Sweepstakes award in Artistic went to Deanna Belli, with 3 first-place ribbons. The Sweepstakes award in The Arts went to Ruth Coulson, from Australia with 3 first-place ribbons. Great job everyone!

Last, but definitely not the least, a huge big Thank You to Doris Brownlie and Paul Lee, our local Convention Chairpersons who did a tremendous job and were extremely supportive, and to all the other members of the convention team. Thank you.

See all 22 YouTube videos of Flower Show entries created by Peter Shalit by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/16YHSc1>



Sinningia 'Kevin Garnett'
Louise Cheung



Saintpaulia 'Viennese Lace'
Olga Semova

Streptocarpus monophyllus — A Forgotten Gem from the Angolan Highlands

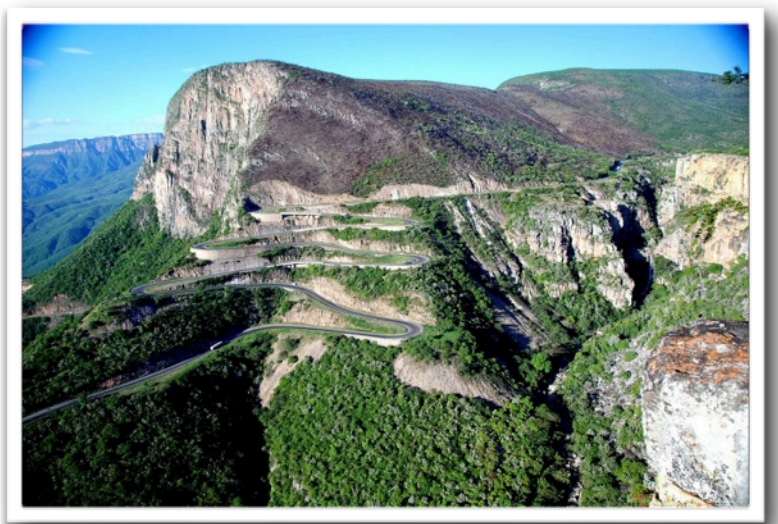
Jaco Truter Jaco.Truter@fenner.com
Isando, South Africa

Angola is an almost forgotten country situated in west Central Africa, just north of Namibia. The bulk of *Streptocarpus* species (in fact all African gesneriads) are found in a wide swathe from South Africa through to Ethiopia in the north (including Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands) as well as West Africa.

Angola is therefore not blessed with a high gesneriad species count. In fact there are three, two of which are endemic, and found nowhere else. These two are *Streptocarpus monophyllus* and *Streptocarpus huamboensis*. The third one is *Streptocarpus rhodesianus* ssp. *rhodesianus* which also occurs in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This species may also have the honor of being the first formally described member of its genus from tropical Africa. Together with *Streptocarpus saundersii* from South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, coincidentally described, and published during the same year. It was also have been the first unifoliate to be described.

The south-western corner of Angola has an extensive mountain range — the Serra de Leba in the Huila Province. There is a very dramatic mountain pass that traverses this — the Leba Mountain Pass, leading up to the provincial capital Lubango. In the forests covering the slopes the rare *Streptocarpus monophyllus* can be found growing in the soil and loose humus layer, at an altitude of approximately 2000 meters.

The big, light green, single leaves are approximately 300 mm x 280 mm, but can flower when as small as 120 mm x 100 mm. Usually there are one to six inflorescences, of which two to four are fully developed, with actual peduncles about 60 mm long. The corolla is 40-45 mm long with the tube slightly curved, cylindric to 17 mm, and approximately 5 mm in diameter, widening above this to around 10 mm diameter at the mouth. The dark mauve flowers exhibit a slightly darker patch on the floor of the lower lip. The seed capsules can be 45-60 mm long.



Leba Mountain pass

As far as I am aware, these are the first published photos of this species and the habitat where it is found.

My thanks to Andrew Hankey of the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) for permission to use these photos.



Streptocarpus monophyllus



Photos courtesy of Andrew Hankey

Karen Allen of Fredericksburg, Virginia, USA sent this collage of Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian *Streptocarpus* hybrids for your enjoyment.



Some of her favorites in the collage are:

DS-Little Furry Arctic Fox (Pavel Enikeeva - Ukraine)

DS-Mysticism (Pavel Enikeeva - Ukraine)

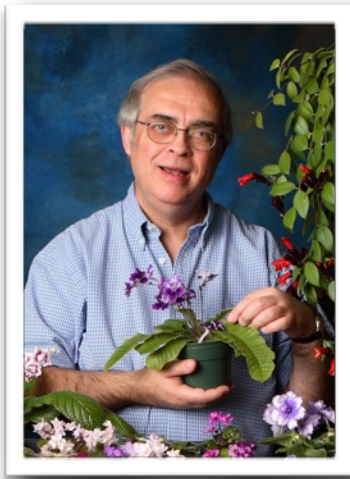
Gina (Piotr Kleszczynski - Poland)

Wow (Piotr Kleszczynski - Poland)

Sashen'ka (N. Pavliuk - Russia)

TsF-Zhizel (Tsentralni Fialki na VVTs - Russia)

Streptocarpus 'Gina'



From the editor —

The photos in this issue represent just a fraction of the outstanding flower show entries exhibited at the Gesneriad Society Convention. Make plans now to attend next year's convention in Nashville!

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

Mel

Consultants Peter Shalit
Jeanne Katzenstein

Internet Julie Mavity-Hudson
Communications Paul Susi

Newsletter Mel Grice
Editor 2019 Crosswind Ct.
Englewood, OH
45322 USA

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,
1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

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