



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from chapter newsletters, our journal *Gesneriads*, and original sources)

Volume 7, Number 8

August 2016



Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from the Gesneriad Society's 2016 Convention Flower Show, Steve Kerr's article about photographing the show, and Julie Lucht's article on growing *Sinningia speciosa* in Alaska.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

Alcie Maxwell, from Bossier City, Louisiana, USA, sent these photos of *Sinningia richii* 'Robson Lopes'. He says that this species has been more difficult to grow for him. It suffered a lot from blossom blast — probably due to his inconsistent watering.



Gesneriad Society 2016 Convention Flower Show photos

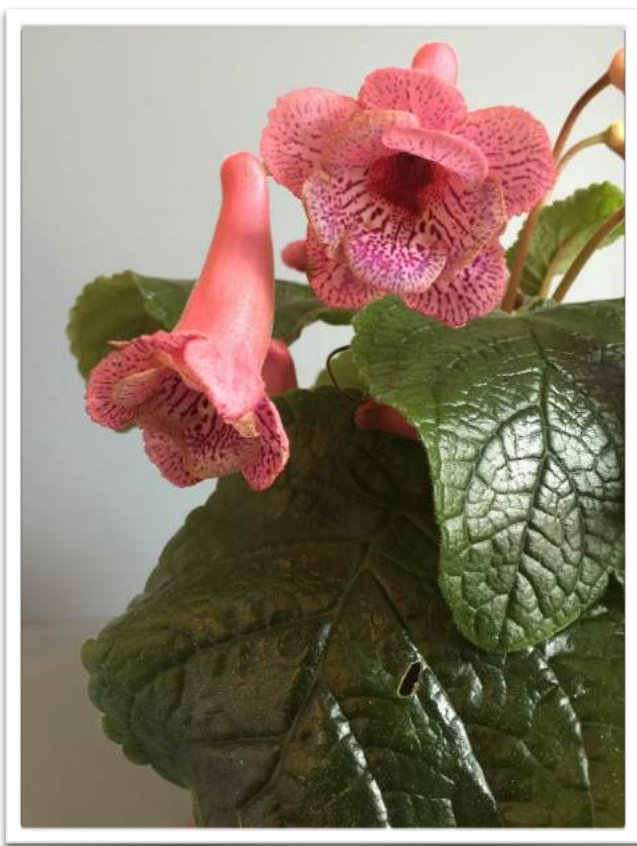
Some of the special plants exhibited

(You will be able to view photos of the award winners in each class, and all the special award winners, on the Gesneriad Society website very soon) <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2016-convention-wilmington-delaware/>

All of Peter Shalit's convention videos can be accessed on [YouTube](#).



Gesneria christii
Jay Sespico
Mel Grice photo



Sinningia 'Isa's Starlit Wish'
Wallace Wells
Bob Clark photo



Saintpaulia 'Jolly Frills'
Laura Buckner
Mel Grice photo



Corytoplectus sp.
Paul Kroll
Mel Grice photo



xGlokohleria 'Rosea'
Raymond Ruger
Mel Grice photo



Achimenes mexicana
Dee Stewart
Bob Clark photo



Sinningia bullata
Barb Borleske
Mel Grice photo



Primulina 'Lydia'
Jay Sespico
Bob Clark photo



Streptocarpus 'Dale's Scarlet Macaw'
Dee Stewart
Mel Grice photo



Episcia 'Aloha Mauna Loa'
Brandon Erikson
Mel Grice photo



Gloxinia perennis
Barb Borleske
Mel Grice photo



Alsobia sp. 2010-1
Ron Myhr
Bob Clark photo



Sinningia speciosa 'Buzios'
Dave Zaitlin
Mel Grice photo



Sinningia 'Stone's Yulia'
Raymond Ruger
Mel Grice photo

Artistic and the Arts



"Grand Opera House" - Hansel und Gretel
Paul Kroll
Mel Grice photo



"Grand Opera House" - Phantom of the Opera
Karyn Cichocki
Bob Clark photo



Colored pen drawing of
Columnnea medicinalis
Steve Kerr
Bob Clark photo

When the Dust Clears — Documenting the Convention Flower Show

Steve Kerr sakerr@gmail.com
Markham, ON, Canada

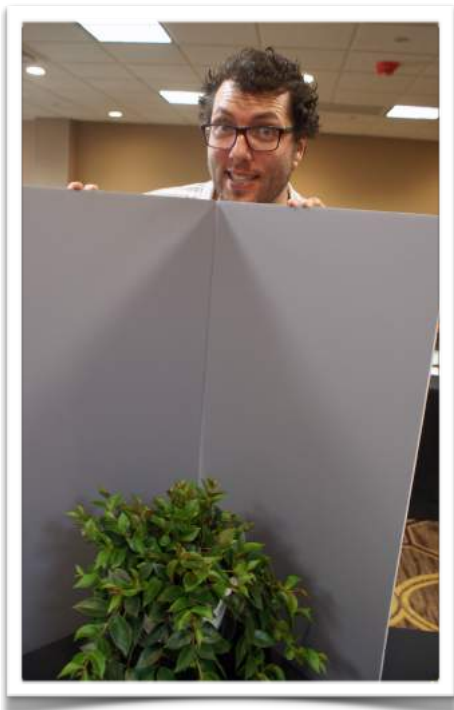
All your entries have been completed. Your designs have been refreshed with new blossoms. Judging has just been completed. For the first time all week, many people at convention have the space to breath. And yet another group, many of which have also entered both the horticulture and artistic portion of the show, is about to hit the ground running in a race to document the best of the best that gesneriad aficionados the world over had to offer. This year was the first year that I was able to fully participate in the convention, having previously attended the local convention here in Toronto where I had a work schedule that allowed very little time to actually be present. This year in Wilmington was different. Mel Grice was looking for assistance in the form of a clerk of sorts to help with the photography after judging. Having nothing more exciting than a nap scheduled, I happily rearranged my schedule to volunteer alongside Mel, Bob Clark, and Jeremy Keene as we were tasked with documenting all of the second, third, and honorable mention winners. This was no small feat since the other team had to document only the blue ribbon winners!



Julie Mavity-Hudson photographing the first place winners
Mel Grice photo

I arrived in the showroom at 12:30. Judging for the top awards had just been completed and the Show, Judges, and Awards Chairs could be seen speaking in hushed tones as final paperwork was completed – all with a great air of secrecy, not wanting to reveal any of the potential winners until the highly anticipated Awards Banquet. Awards Chair Paul Susi left quickly, as he had a mountain of work to complete before the announcing of the winners. Then we were off to the races. As clerk for Mel, it was my job to transport each of the second, third, and honorable mention plants from their positions on the table to Mel's pre-set staging area so that each of these well-grown specimens could be formally documented for posterity. We did not stop moving plants and information cards until the showroom opened later that day. Jeremy and I traversed the showroom time and again carefully moving exhibits. I was happy to be a part of this documenting team since we as a team got to inspect and discuss what amounted to nearly half of the entries, if memory serves, and we had a good time doing it!

Some of the plants were too large to be moved! Many thanks to growers like Eileen McGrath and others for bringing such large exhibits for us to enjoy. In cases like those and



Steve Kerr
Mel Grice photo

the collection classes, Jeremy and I would hold up gray backdrop material behind the plants while photos were snapped.

I hope that each of you purchased a convention DVD. Many of the entries photographed by our team will be available for you to see on the DVD once it's completed and available later this year. Always consider what ways you can contribute to the convention when you arrive. Without hands and feet to complete tasks like photography, we wouldn't have a record to enjoy for years to come. It really is great fun as well! I challenge you to volunteer in some way whenever you get the chance to attend a convention, you won't regret it and will make friends and memories to last a lifetime. I know I can't wait for my next convention and I hope that I can manage my budget enough to make it to Omaha next year!

Jeremy Keene and
Steve Kerr
Bob Clark photo



See more award-winning photos in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 66, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 2016, Peter Shalit, editor. Read interesting articles about gesneriads by becoming a member of The Gesneriad Society and receiving our quarterly 64-page journal.

Growing *Sinningia speciosa* in Alaska

Julie Lucht ajlucht@acsalaska.net
Anchorage, Alaska, USA



I am thrilled to get huge blooms on *Sinningia speciosa* in Alaska with rudimentary knowledge of plant care. It is a dry, unforgiving climate, and I stumbled upon "Florist Gloxinias" by accident while shopping at Lowe's and The Violet Barn. I am not a gardener, but have learned a lot from The Gesneriad Society. What compels me to continue growing these enormously fussy plants is their bloom shape (trumpet-like) [I'm a band director], and their promised beauty in a landscape devoid of real color for more than six months of the year. I have actually started some by seed from Amazon.com.

From March to October, I grow on windowsills if the outside temperatures are not too cold. I have a tea cart next to southern-exposure windows that allow for bright light without the cold or reverse in summer (southern windowsills can actually get too hot for them sometimes). I have NE and E windows also and like to move the plants around in summer just to see what happens. From November to March, they are under 13 watt T5 fluorescents about 4-5" above the leaves. I quit putting them "to sleep" in dry soil/plastic bags during winter because my favorite died. Now I cut them back and let them "rest" under lights – lightly watering when dry. We have about 5-8 hours of twilight when they are under lights. I also move them away from the cold windows. I water with Miracle Gro 7-7-7 African Violet plant food – 16 drops per 1/2 gallon of room-temperature water. I water from the top. They seem to do better

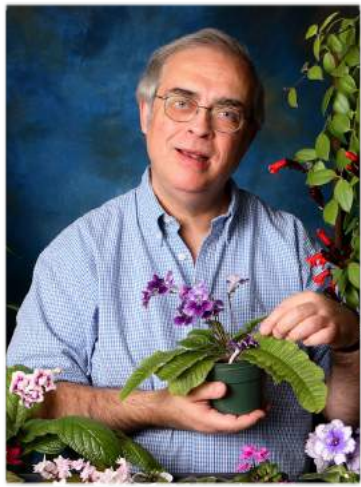
with frequent conservative watering than infrequent generous watering. Some are grown in soil for cactus, others in brand name potting soil with some extra perlite added. I cut off big leaves and stick them in a pot with a healthy plant to propagate new ones. The leaf propagation works best in the summer when light is between 13 and 19 hours long. I do hope folks living in unusual climes find the photos encouraging enough to try growing florist gloxinias. When I retire, I want a houseful of them.

Julie also learned a great deal from this website:

<http://www.senior-gardening.com/features/gloxinias.html>



Julie Lucht photos



From the editor —

Now you have had a glimpse of what goes into producing some of the photos in GLEANINGS. Thanks to Bob Clark, Jeremy Keene, and Steve Kerr for all of their efforts in documenting The Gesneriad Society Convention Flower Show in Wilmington, Delaware this year!

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

Permission to reprint from **Gleanings** is granted, provided that credit is given to the author and the publication.

Donations

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization with an IRS section 501 (c)(3) status for donations. You can make your donations online at www.gesneriadsociety.org. You may also send your donation (check payable to The Gesneriad Society) to:

Betsy Gottshall, Development Chairperson
108 Godshall Road, Collegeville, PA 19426
For additional information, contact: gottshb@verizon.net

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> 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 received with each copy 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, programs and seed fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

New Member Date _____

Renewal Membership # _____

Name _____
FAMILY NAME GIVEN NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

Address _____
STREET

_____ CITY STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Email _____ Telephone _____

(Rates in US\$)	Mailing in US 1 year	Mailing in US 3 years	Mailing outside US 1 year	Mailing outside US 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$26	\$73	\$31	\$88
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Subscription <small>(organizations, chapters, affiliates)</small>	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life	Mailing in USA \$375		Mailing outside USA \$450	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Option	Electronic journal copy (no print copy) for Individual or Household Members \$20 (one year), \$55 (three years) anywhere in the world			

I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund

Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Students and Speakers Convention Fund Conservation Fund

In Honor Memory of _____

Please make checks or money orders payable in US\$ on a USA bank to: **The Gesneriad Society**

Or, charge my VISA, or MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Amount _____

Mail to: **The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,**
1122 East Pike St., PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

For application online: www.gesneriadsociety.org