



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 8, Number 7

July 2017



Welcome to the latest issue of *Gleanings*! This issue includes photos from the Gesneriad Society's 2017 Convention Flower Show, Jay Sespico's thoughts on the people part of the convention, and my article on saving the gesneriad hybrids.

Hope you enjoy *Gleanings*!

Mel Grice, Editor

Peter Shalit has produced eighteen videos of the Convention Flower Show in Omaha. Meet the growers, hybridizers and arrangers from this wonderful show.

[Gescon17 Videos](#)
(collection)



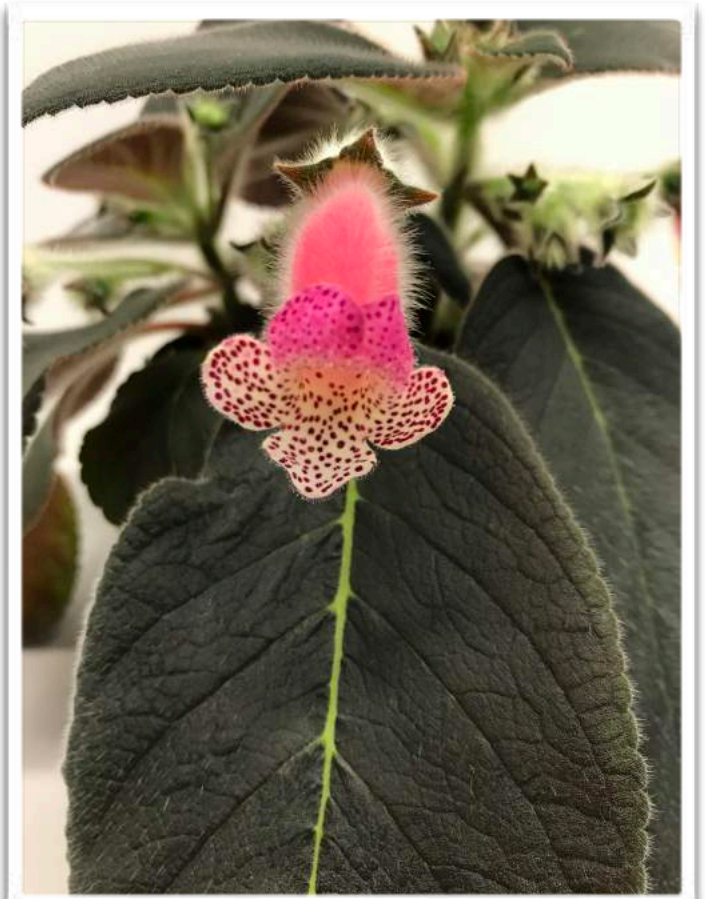
Gesneriad Society 2017 Convention Flower Show photos

Some of the special plants exhibited

(You will be able to view photos of the award winners in each class on the Gesneriad Society website soon)



Kohleria 'Bud's Stacy Lynn'
Brandon Erikson

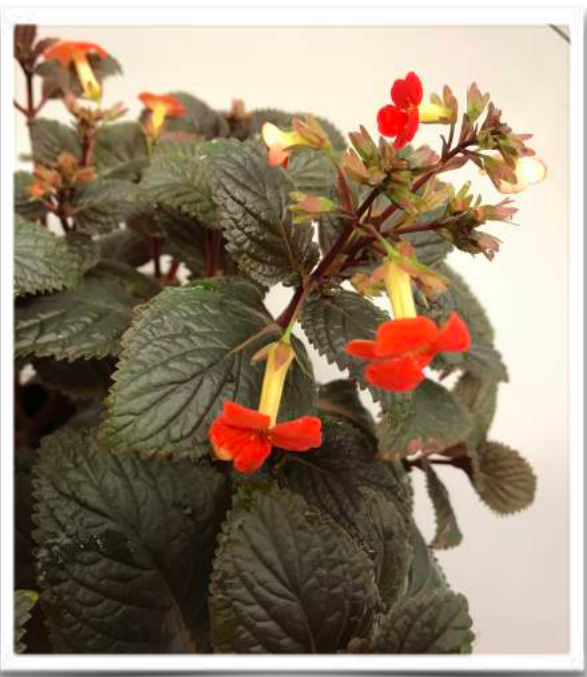


Kohleria 'Dale's Furry Fox'
Dale Martens



Aeschynanthus sp. "Thailand"
Bill Price

Mel Grice photos



Diastema comiferum
Nancy Kast



Primulina guilinensis
Irina Nicholson

Mel Grice photos



Streptocarpus 'Dale's Polar Blizzard'
Dale Martens



Primulina 'Curly Loki'
Linda Hall



Sinningia 'Dale's Pink Cockatoo'
Dale Martens

Sinningia (*guttata* × *helleri*) × self
Hung Nguyen



Episcia 'Noel'
Scott Evans



Mel Grice photos

Sinningia 'Country Pink'
Margery Anderson-Clive



Achimenes 'Petite Marquis'
Brandon Erikson

Mel Grice photos

Sinningia 'An's Nyx'
Tom Bruning



See more award-winning photos in *GESNERIADS* Vol. 67, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 2017, Peter Shalit, editor. Read interesting articles about gesneriads by becoming a member of The Gesneriad Society and receiving our quarterly 64-page journal.

Gesneriad Society Conventions: The People Part

Jay Sespico
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Valrico, Florida, USA

People who love plants are some of the best people in the world, and gesneriad people are the best of the best. Half of the incentive for coming to convention is the chance to associate with the many individuals who will be there. There are old friends that you have missed seeing for a whole year and many new ones just waiting to make your acquaintance. The Gesneriad Society conventions are just full of wonderful, quirky over achievers who can't wait to share their love of plants and unabashed enthusiasm for their chosen plant family.

There are many kinds of gesneriad enthusiasts who populate a typical convention. There are those who prefer only to grow rare and unusual species that are newly discovered in the wild and who like to celebrate and delight in the diversities of the natural world. Others prefer to grow the many showy, floriferous hybrids that have been created over the years. The event is populated with photographers who travel the world to capture images of gesneriads growing in the wild, in domestication, and in their light gardens. You are apt to find floral designers who, through feats of sheer genius and complete mastery of the plant material, create exquisite designs that defy the imagination. Also, there are skilled crafts people who use gesneriads as an inspiration to make decorative objects, and, every now and then, you'll find a pastry chef will join in the fun.



Mary Jo Modica & Mary Helen Maran
Paul Susi photo



Claude & Carol Ann Smith

It is the gesneriad people who ultimately make the event so worthwhile. They tend to be a light-hearted and gregarious group, who just love to talk about plants to their like-minded peers. Gesneriad people are almost always smiling, happy, and industrious. In an act of unparalleled generosity by the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association, all 160 people in attendance at the meeting got to choose from the offerings the hybridizers brought to the event. Each person got a single raffle ticket and was told to hang on to it. As the numbers were called each person got to return to the table, not once, not twice, but three times each. At the end, quite a few things



Kathy Spissman, Johnny Berry



Brent & Steven Scheuerman

All photos by Jay Sespico
except where noted

remained on the table when there was an open call for anyone to return a fourth time to scoop up the leftovers. Gesneriad people are the only group of people who get such joy out of sharing with each other and hold fast to the notion that the best gift one can share with another is not just plant material, but themselves. Even the best of people who have the best of intentions can be very jarring to us at times. But in the end, it is swimming in the waters of friendship, tolerance, and generosity that makes the most vivid memories live in our minds long after the event is over. That my friends, is the people part!



First time convention attendees



Help preserve the gesneriad hybrids!

I spoke briefly at the Conservation Committee meeting at convention about the need we have to preserve the great older gesneriad hybrids from the past. I have heard the same basic story from many of you about some life event that caused you to not take care of your plants for awhile and consequently you lost some cherished older hybrids. You want to replace them, but the few commercial vendors we have left are no longer growing them either. They want to sell the newer hybrids. So where do you go to replace your lost hybrids? One place is Plant Sales at the Gesneriad Society convention. Look through your collection and propagate some hybrid from the past. Then bring it to Plant Sales at the next convention to share with others. Another way of preserving the gesneriad hybrids will be offered in each issue of **GLEANINGS**. Tell me the name of the hybrid that you are looking for and I will publish it. Let me know if you still grow one of the sought after hybrids and are willing to propagate it to share with another grower. I will attempt to put the two growers in contact with each other privately.

Currently seeking to find:

Sinningia 'Georgia Sunset'

Kohleria 'Monte's Friendship'

Any Buell *Sinningia speciosa* (Florist Gloxinia)

Thanks! Mel



The 2018 Gesneriad Calendar is now available. Check it out in the [shop](#).

Coming Events

September 29 - 30, 2017 — Kansas City, MO.

Heart of America Gesneriad Society Judged Flower Show & Plant Sale

Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri (corner of Wornall Road and 52nd Street) Phone: 816-513-8590

September 29, Entries 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Judging 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Early Plant Sale for public 1:00 – 4 p.m. (show not open)

September 30, Flower Show and plant sale open to public 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Susan Grose sagrose@mac.com

Webinars

Live webinars will return in August, after the Gesneriad Society Convention, but downloads and anytime (streaming) webinars are always available. Visit <https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/webinars> for more information and to order your webinar!



From the editor —

The Gesneriad Society convention in Omaha, Nebraska was a huge success. Thanks to all those involved who contributed to the successful show and convention!

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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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