



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 12

December 2017



Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes Dale Martens' photos of gesneriads at the Illinois African Violet Show and Jay Sespico's photos of his new *Sinningia speciosa* hybrids.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor

Hung Nguyen from Santa Rosa, California, USA, sent these photos of *Microchirita* sp. 02 from Vietnam. He got the seeds from Wallace Wells at the 2017 Gesneriad Society Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The leaves have dark markings in his growing conditions.

Photos: Hung Nguyen



Dale Martens' Visit to Illinois African Violet Society

Dale Martens dalemartens@mchsi.com
Sherrard, Illinois, USA

The Illinois African Violet Society's Fall Meet and Show/Sale was held at Starved Rock State Park Lodge on November 18, 2017.



Photo: Dale Martens

Lana and Rich Gernady, who are also members of the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society, provided many gesneriads on the sales tables. In addition, they entered several very mature gesneriads in the show. Lana was quite busy in that she also got the Second Best Design award.

Left – *Nematanthus wettsteinii*, center – *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', right – *Streptocarpus* 'Dancing Doves'.



Left – *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Blizzard', center – *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Snowflakes', right – *Streptocarpus* 'Dancing Doves'.



Sinningia 'Dale's Violet Pearls'
Best Other Gesneriad
Dale Martens

Photos: Dale Martens



Left – *Primulina yungfuensis* exhibited by Dale Martens, center – *Petrocosmea kerrii* exhibited by Adrienne Rieck, right – *Primulina 'Rachel'* exhibited by Tomi Grisenauer.

Photos: Dale Martens



This photo was labeled as *Cyrtandra erectiloba* in last month's issue of **GLEANINGS**. It is probably a member of the genus *Columnea*.

New *Sinningia speciosa* hybrids

Jay Sespico
jaysesp@gmail.com
Valrico, Florida, USA

This is one of my earliest hybrids, but after all this time, I still like it. Just like an antique car, the slipper-shaped flower gives the plant a retro effect, while the *Sinningia* 'Bristol's Good Morning' parent has added extra petals beyond the usual five it should normally have. What the plant lacks in number of flowers, it more than makes up for in size. These features cause the plant to make a strong statement. The deep purple color makes



me think of royalty and thus the name, *Sinningia* 'Rock Royalty'.

Photos by Jay Sespico



Photos by Jay Sespico

This is one of my latest hybrids *Sinningia* 'Rock Futures'. It has white flowers that are marked with pink shading and dots. The petals have smaller dots towards the outside of the flower surrounded by a pencil thin white edge. This plant is growing in a five inch pot and the flowers are almost as wide. The foliage is not as tidy, and the venation is not as pronounced as I would like. I'm thinking with a little more work, I might have something really nice.



This hybrid is named after my late niece, Maria Hart-Crow. Her favorite color was red. She had a favorite dress she used to wear that was almost as dark and vibrant as this flower. The peloric flowers are over three and a half inches and very dark red. I took this picture in the sunlight so people could see that the plant is really as dark as it shows in the photo. I wish that I had a car



painted this color. It is one of my latest registrations and its name is *Sinningia* 'Rock Loves Maria'.

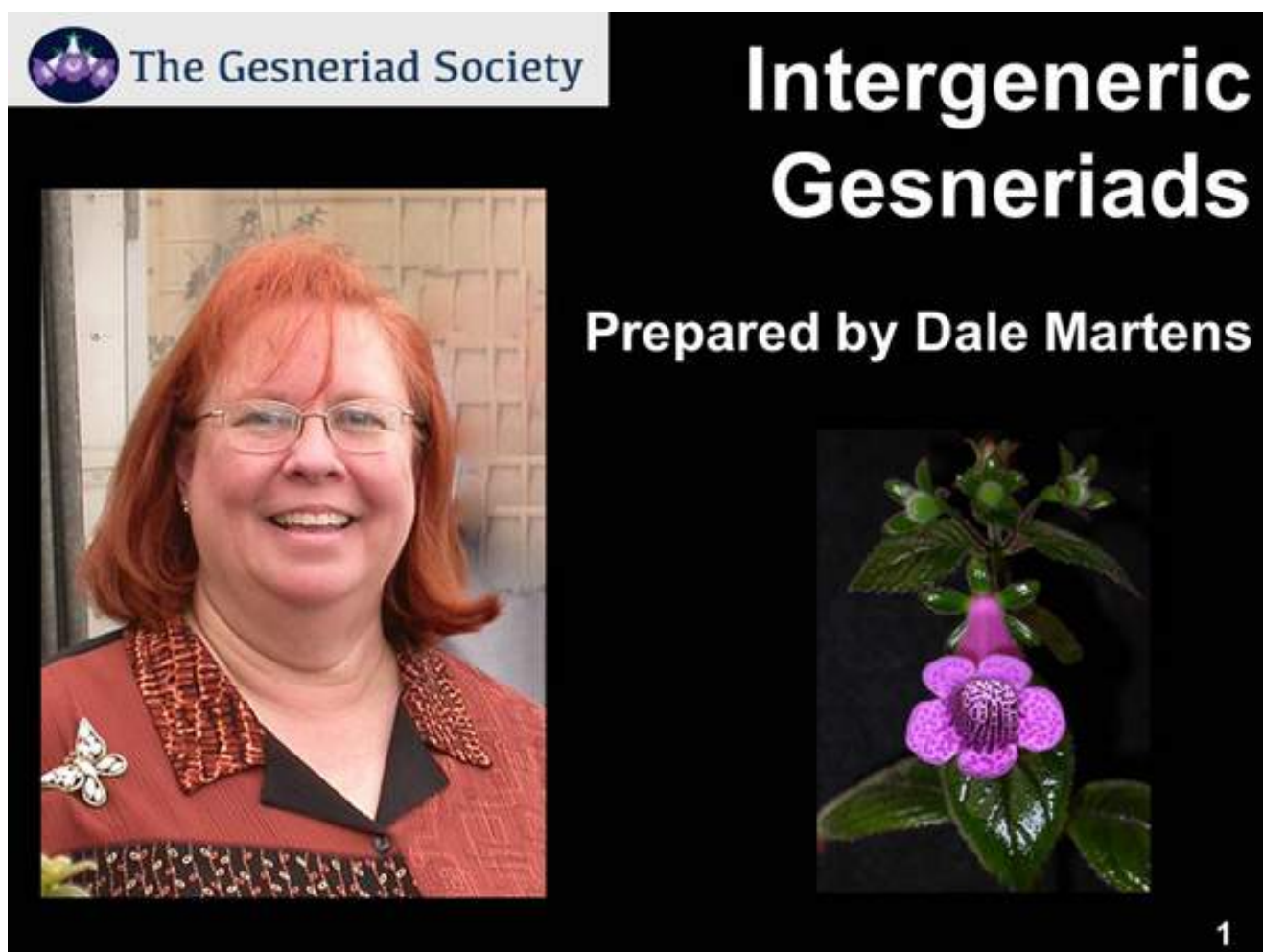
Photos by Jay Sespico

Gesneriad Society Webinars

×*Gloximannia* ‘She’s Dancing’, ×*Smithicodonia* ‘Heartland’s Joy’, ×*Achimena* ‘MM’s Kozlik’ are all intergeneric hybrids, crosses between two different genera. The Gesneriad Society recently premiered “Intergeneric Gesneriads with Dale Martens”. It is available as an “anytime” streaming link for \$9.95, so watch at your own convenience. For about an hour you will see many beautiful photos and learn which gesneriads have the potential to cross with each other and learn how to do it! See informative charts by Frances Batcheller and William Saylor!

<https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage/products/intergenerics-with-dale-martens>



The Webinar Team (Mary Schaeffer, Paul Susi, Alcie Maxwell and Dale Martens)



The Gesneriad Society

Intergeneric Gesneriads

Prepared by Dale Martens



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The Gesneriad Society Annual Appeal

The [Annual Appeal](#) helps support gesneriad research, education, and conservation by ensuring that grant money is available for eligible applicants. The target fund for 2017 is The Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund (EMREF). This fund is the Gesneriad Society's Research Fund and was established in 1986. It is used to underwrite research grants for gesneriad researchers who seek a better understanding of the anatomy, physiology, relationships, distribution, growth and development, or the pests and diseases of gesneriads. Grants may be used for a variety of specific purposes, such as travel during fieldwork to gather specimens or observe pollinators, or travel to examine specimens in herbaria or botanical gardens. [Donate now!](#) You may make a donation online – using the existing donation link in the Gesneriad Society store and indicating that it is for the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund (EMREF) Annual Appeal.

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The URL for the hyperlink is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6059828>

Betsy Gottshall
Development Chairperson
The Gesneriad Society, Inc.
gottshb@verizon.net

Happy Holidays!

John Beaulieu created this holiday tree originally in black and white and Stan Sudol added the color a few years later.

Thanks to both for sharing!





From the editor –

For those of you keeping track – my van is now residing in the garage on these cold winter nights. Working with my plants just got a little bit more complicated.

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
 Alcie Maxwell
 Judy Zinni
 Vicki Ferguson

Internet Communications
 Julie Mavity-Hudson
 Paul Susi

Newsletter Editor
 Mel Grice
 2019 Crosswind Ct.
 Englewood, OH
 45322 USA
melsgrice@earthlink.net

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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.

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