



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 9, Number 1

January 2018

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes Johanna Zinn's article on *Trichodrymonia lacera*, photos of *Moussonia elegans* and *Sinningia* 'Solar Flare', Ruth Coulson's article on miniature gesneriads now growing in Australia, coming events, and a new webinar.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor



Jay Sespico from Valrico, Florida, USA, sent these photos of *Sinningia* 'Solstice'. Peter Shalit crossed his hybrid *Sinningia* 'Tomorrow' with *Sinningia conspicua* to create this beautiful hybrid.

Photos: Jay Sespico



Trichodrymonia lacera

[formerly *Paradrymonia lacera*]

Johanna Zinn

At the plant sale at the Wilmington, Delaware convention, I picked up a small plant labeled *Paradrymonia lacera*. I showed it to Jim Roberts and asked him about it. He paused and said it was interesting. Since I like interesting, I bought it.

According to information provided on the IUCN Red List site, *Trichodrymonia lacera* grows as a terrestrial or epiphytic plant at 500m to 1000m in forests in western Ecuador. It has been collected at two sites. The Red List classifies it as endangered.

My plant growing areas have humidity levels that can go as low as 20% to 30%, so I put it in a terrarium. For the first year, because of lack of space, I kept it in a small terrarium. About a year ago, I put it in a larger terrarium to allow it to grow larger. It is growing in chopped, long-fibered, sphagnum moss placed on a small amount of bonsai soil and Azomite, placed over horticultural charcoal, which provides drainage. Azomite is a ground volcanic rock that contains a large number of minerals.

A few weeks ago, my plant started blooming. The blooms are creamy white, and have lasted for weeks. They seem to have narrow linear bracts that sometimes curl around the bloom or each other; I haven't taken any plant material out to look more closely at it. Leaves are narrow, 3 to 4 inches long, symmetrical, medium green, and have a serrated margin. The plant is about 11 inches tall, but I suspect that it would be taller if grown in soil in a humid environment. In 2016 *Paradrymonia lacera* was renamed *Trichodrymonia lacera*. I'm really enjoying growing this 'interesting' plant. The next time I repot it, I'll take cuttings so that others can enjoy growing it.



Johanna Zinn photos



This article appeared in a slightly different form in **Petal Tones**, Vol. 48, No. 7, July 2017, Donna Beverin, Editor. **Petal Tones** is the newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society editor@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org or petaltones@gmail.com

Moussonia elegans

Karyn Cichocki <kdc05@ptd.net>
Lafayette, New Jersey, USA



I dumped the pot with my dormant *Moussonia elegans* looking for rhizomes and was quite surprised to find a tuber like structure with very wood like roots. I then went on the Gesneriad Reference Web and it does mention that this genus is in the rhizomatous section but that it doesn't form rhizomes.

This plant and flower reminds me of a kohleria.



Karyn Cichocki photos

Sinningia 'Solar Flare' — Growing at Paul Susi's house



Paul grows this plant under four t8 tubes, about 10" from the light unit. He's had it for about a year and this is the first heavy flowering. Ray Coyle is a member of the Long Island Gesneriad Society and has created a number of sinningia hybrids over the past several years.

Cindy Sorenson photo

***Sinningia* 'Solar Flare'**, 2016, IR161349, hybridized by Ray Coyle, NY ((*S.* 'Apricot Bouquet' x *S. araneosa*) x *S. amambayensis*). Cross made June 2010, planted Sept. 2010, and first flowered Oct. 2011. Fertile, reproducible only vegetatively. Multi-crowned, non-branching, stem length 25 cm. Leaves medium green, 10 cm long, 6-8 cm wide, with 2 cm petiole, ovate with cuneate base, crenate margin and acute tip. Calyx split, green, 0.5 cm long. Pedicel 2-3 cm with 1 flower per axil. Corolla campanulate 4 cm long x 2.5 cm wide, peach with pale yellow center and wavy petal tips.

Plants and People: a heady mix

Ruth Coulson
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Balcolyn, Australia

On 14 January here in Eastern Australia we held a Combined Gesneriad Meeting at my home. This is at least the 14th Annual Combined Meeting. I don't have any record or photographs before 2005 but I suspect there were one or two meetings earlier.

In Australia, although there are a reasonable number of people interested in growing gesneriads, societies are few and far between. In all cases they are principally African violet groups with an interest in the other gesneriad plants. Both the Sydney based African Violet Association of Australia and the Hunter Valley African Violet Society have separate extra meetings for their members who wish to pursue their interest in gesneriads in a more intense way. What could be more natural than to have a combined meeting in my home as I am situated somewhere between the two? This combined meeting has always been open to all other African violet groups and anyone that we can encourage who is not a member (yet!) who has an interest in gesneriads. We regularly have people attend from Queensland and have had visitors from other states in the past. It is always great to meet with growers whom we may see only rarely. Attendance is usually around 30; a good friendly number.

Most of our meetings have two or three topics of interest with a person appointed for each to give a lead to the discussion. But occasionally it is different. At one meeting a couple of years ago we had Dale Martens present by Skype to join in our discussion, and last year we viewed the Gesneriad Society webinar on *Achimenes*. This time we took as our theme "Everything Miniature in Gesneriads". Naturally the main thrust was miniature sinningias as they are the most common and arguably the most loved. Sue Hodges did a sterling job in talking on that subject showing us both some old favourites as well as some new hybrids. Discussion on other miniature gesneriads was more general. Gesneriads we considered included the numerous *Diastema*, *Phinaea*, *Petrocosmea*, *Gesneria*, as well as *Kohleria* 'Flirt', *Episcia* 'Silver Dust', *E.* 'Silver Skies' and *E.* 'Toy Silver', *Deinostigma tamiana*, *Streptocarpus muscosus* and others, as well as the really knotty question: What makes a gesneriad a miniature?



Sinningia 'Stone's Gabriel'



Sue Hodges



Sinningia 'An's Bom Dia'



Sinningia 'Leo'



Cuttings and small plants of many of these were shared among those present. That is an important part of our meetings. We have a plant swap. It used to be just a table. These days it takes the whole of my rather large laundry room. Those who have spare gesneriad plants, rhizomes, tubers, cuttings or associated plant stuff donate them and all are welcome to help themselves to whatever is available. There is never very much left over and I can almost guarantee that everyone goes home with something to try. It was certainly the case this year.

We also allow plenty of time to talk and view plants over lunch – one of the best times of all.

I believe it was a success this time as it has been in the past. I always enjoy myself and find it rekindles my love of these plants.



Sinningia speciosa dwarf

Ruth Coulson photos



Episcia 'Silver Dust'



Sinningia 'Amizade'

Ruth Coulson photos



Sinningia 'Ballerina'

Coming Events

February 17, 2018 — Phoenix, AZ. Flower Show & Plant Sale

Desert Sun African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007
Show hours: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Plant sale hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact: anncie@cox.net or 623-398-8133

March 24 -25, 2018 — Glencoe, IL. Flower Show & Plant Sale

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
Chicago Botanic Gardens, Nichols Hall, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022
March 24: noon – 4:30 p.m.
March 25: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Contact: pyramidgardens@yahoo.com or <http://prairiegesneriads.org/>

May 5 - 6, 2018 — Oyster Bay, NY. Flower Show & Plant Sale

Long Island Gesneriad Society
Planting Fields Arboretum Conference Center, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771
May 5: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
May 6: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact: psusi11@gmail.com or <https://www.longislandgesneriads.org/>



July 3 - 8, 2018 — Framingham, MA. The Gesneriad Society's 62 Annual Convention

hosted by the New England Gesneriad Society
Sheraton Framingham Hotel
1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA
01701

Contact: [http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/
2018-convention-registration-now-open/](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/2018-convention-registration-now-open/)

[http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/
2018-convention-framingham-massachusetts/](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2018-convention-framingham-massachusetts/)



Gesneriad Society Webinars

Order Paul Susi's new webinar on *Primulina* where he shows lots of fantastic in situ photos of *Primulina* and then discusses how we can adapt our conditions to grow them well. Paul gives a review of the changes from *Chirita* to *Primulina*.

<https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage/products/primulina-from-c-to-p>

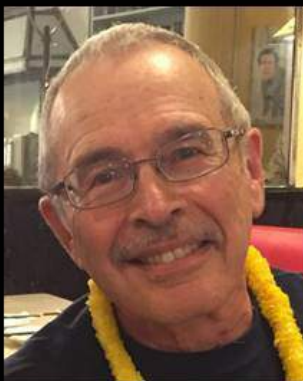
The Webinar Team (Mary Schaeffer, Paul Susi, Alcie Maxwell and Dale Martens)



The Gesneriad Society

Primulina

from C to P



Paul Susi



(c) 2018 Paul Susi and The Gesneriad Society



From the editor —

I registered for the Gesneriad Society convention and can't wait to see all of my old friends and meet new ones. Should be a wonderful show with lots of seldom seen plants on display.

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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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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