

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 3

March 2018



Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes my photos of a visit to Kartuz Greenhouses, Karyn Cichocki's photos of *Primulina ophiopogoides*, Tim Demmin's gesneriad journey, coming events, and two new webinars.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor



Jay Sespico from Valrico, Florida, USA, sent these photos of his hybrid, *Sinningia speciosa* 'Rock New Covenant'. Jay said, "I know that *sinningia speciosa* hybrids tend to be large, and that is not popular with some growers today. I am very impressed with the spectacular displays of flowers they can make."

Photos: Jay Sespico



A Visit to Kartuz Greenhouses

Vista, California

Mel Grice
melsgrice@earthlink.net
Englewood, Ohio, USA

While attending the Gesneriad Society Board of Directors February Retreat held in San Diego, California, the Board had the opportunity to visit with Michael Kartuz at his greenhouses in nearby Vista, California. We took our lunches and ate them as we visited with Michael and his staff. Then, boxes in hand, we proceeded to explore the greenhouses filled with gesneriads and begonias. Most of us came home with several "treasures."



Michael Kartuz
<https://www.kartuz.com>



Robert showing Board member Leonard Re some begonias.

Michael escorting Board members through one of the greenhouses.



Mel Grice photos



Columnnea 'Golden Spike'

Mel Grice photos

Gesneriad Society President Julie Mavity-Hudson admiring some of the cuttings in the propagation greenhouse.





Board member Irina Nicholson looking at some of the beautiful hanging baskets of gesneriads.



Columnnea 'Diablo'

Mel Grice photos

Codonanthe 'Zizo' in bloom
and with orange fruit.



Board member Anne
Vidaver contemplating
her gesneriad purchases.

Mel Grice photos

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



I received this plant in 2016 from Paul Kroll (thanks Paul) labeled as *Primulina wentsaii*. When I watered my plants on February 6, prior to going to San Diego, there were no buds showing. Two weeks later while watering I noticed stems above the leaves with buds on them. For a primulina, this was virtually overnight.

Once I saw that the flowers were going to be light pink, I realized that this plant was actually *Primulina ophiopogoides* because *P. wentsaii* blooms are a blue/purple color.

This is a slow growing plant for me. I have it growing in stones to mimic the limestone rocks it naturally grows in.



Several years ago, Paul had given me a plant labeled as *P. wentsaii*. Not long after, I noticed that the leaves were covered with a white residue. Without consulting anyone, I assumed this was powdery mildew and commenced to spray it over a period of time with a fungicide. Well, either the fungicide or the spraying killed the plant. This current plant doesn't have as much of the normal white residue on the leaves.

I've gotten leaves before but have been unsuccessful in getting them to root. The first time I kept the soil too wet and they rotted. The second time I kept the soil on the dry side and although the leaves lasted about six months they never rooted and finally dried up.

Adapted and reprinted with permission (original posts on Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group.)

My Gesneriad Journey

Tim Demmin
atdemm@yahoo.com

I have enjoyed my first year's membership in The Gesneriad Society and am looking forward to 2018. I do have a long history of gesneriad involvement, and I think it is a little bit interesting. I will try to keep it to one page.

My mother grew African violets continuously at home from my earliest memories in the early 50s. She was a very good grower, using steaming hot water from the tea kettle carefully added to the saucer used to hold each plant. My only contribution involved an occasional careless knocking over of one of these beauties and feeling really bad at the mess on the floor.

Fast forward 20 years, I'm now in graduate school studying chemistry. I bought a simple African violet at a supermarket as a gift for my wife, Alice. She liked it "okay," but from that day forward I was hooked on all things "gesneriad."

In 1976 my Mother had an "unusual" trailing plant with flashy reddish orange and yellow tubular flowers growing near her kitchen window. I took just a little cutting and 41 years later *Columnea* 'Early Bird' is still growing and blooming profusely in my dining room window. It is of course magnificent and I have started countless divisions and cuttings over the years.

As newlyweds, my wife and I began to vacation each summer in the Adirondack Mountains. In 1973 I discovered Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses in nearby Dolgeville, NY! OMG!!

I talked with Lyndon Lyon on numerous occasions in his extensive greenhouse. He was a very enthusiastic and kindly, gentle man. One time he escorted me to his home basement growing area full of new gesneriad hybrids. I remember he was especially proud of his latest *Kohleria* hybrids. Another year, there were two large newly installed portable greenhouses in his side yard! He was now growing and hybridizing miniature roses! He loved those roses and was very excited about his new hybridizing venture.

Another year (late 70s), I made my annual visit to Lyndon Lyon and I saw a brand new Lincoln Continental parked next to the greenhouse. Pretty fancy, to say the least. I walked into the greenhouse and there was John T. Connor, former Secretary of Commerce and (then) the chief executive officer of Allied Chemical Corp., my employer! His wife, finely dressed and bejeweled, was busy selecting some African violets. I did not have the courage to say to Mr. Connor that I am a research chemist back at "your" corporate headquarters in Morristown, NJ. What a coincidence!

I joined The Gesneriad Society in January 2017 and received a packet with a generous mixture of seeds which I planted on 02-28-17. I was very excited when two seedlings appeared in late March! The identical rhizomatous seedlings bloomed six months later: *Kohleria hirsuta*. I've never grown *Kohlerias* before and they are blooming happily in my basement greenhouse alongside my orchids and tillandsias. My great-great grandfather's surname was Kohler.

While researching *K. hirsuta*, I immediately found the magnificent website for The Clark Lab at the University of Alabama. <http://gesneriads.ua.edu>

My wife and I will attend the convention in Boston if at all possible. See you then!

Coming Events

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

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society

Chicago Botanic Gardens, Nicholas Hall, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022

March 24: noon – 4:30 p.m.

March 25: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Contact: pyramidgardens@yahoo.com

April 7-8, 2018 — Morristown, NJ. Flower Show & Plant Sale

African Violet Club of Morris County

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Education Building, 353 E. Hanover Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960

April 7: 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

April 8: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Contact: kdc05@ptd.net

May 5-6, 2018 — Cleveland, OH. Flower Display & Plant Sale

North Coast Gesneriad and African Violet Society

Cleveland Botanical Gardens, 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH

May 5: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

May 6: noon – 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Penny Johnson kritterfeeder@hotmail.com (440)-286-8235



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


A revised version of "Meet the Gesneriad Family" is available now. You can order this webinar as a free download at

<https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/webinars>




The Gesneriad Society

Meet the Gesneriad Family: A Guide to Easy Growing




Dale Martens Paul Susi Mary Schaeffer



The Gesneriad Society

Growing Gesneriads Outside

- Alcie Maxwell
- Michael Riley
- Mary Schaeffer
- Paul Susi



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The new webinar: "Growing Gesneriads Outside", with Mary Schaeffer, Michael Riley, Paul Susi and Alcie Maxwell is now available for anytime viewing.

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



From the editor —

I have been repotting my plants and they are really beginning to look better.

Have you registered for the Gesneriad Society Convention? I have and it was easy.

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