



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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



Welcome to the latest issue of *Gleanings*! This issue includes Jay Sespico's photos of how he propagates *Sinningia speciosa*, my photos of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society show, and information about a webinar Master Class on hybridizing gesneriads.

Hope you enjoy *Gleanings*!

Mel Grice, Editor



Photos: Dale Martens

Dale Martens sent these photos of *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Flames'. "For those who know *S.* 'Dale's Scarlet Macaw', this new hybrid is bigger and has variegated leaves. Plus the flowers are nearly black-red. I'm growing it on a quart-sized reservoir which the leaves dwarf."

The cross is *S.* 'Dale's Polar Lava' x *S. dunnii* JT 10303.



Sinningia Speciosa Propagation

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

If you would like to propagate a favored *Sinningia speciosa*, first select some relatively new leaves. Using old leaves past their prime won't yield good results. New fresh leaves are the best.



I usually dispose of the leaf tips. Some people say that the best plants come from the leaf tips, but I haven't found this to be true in my experience.



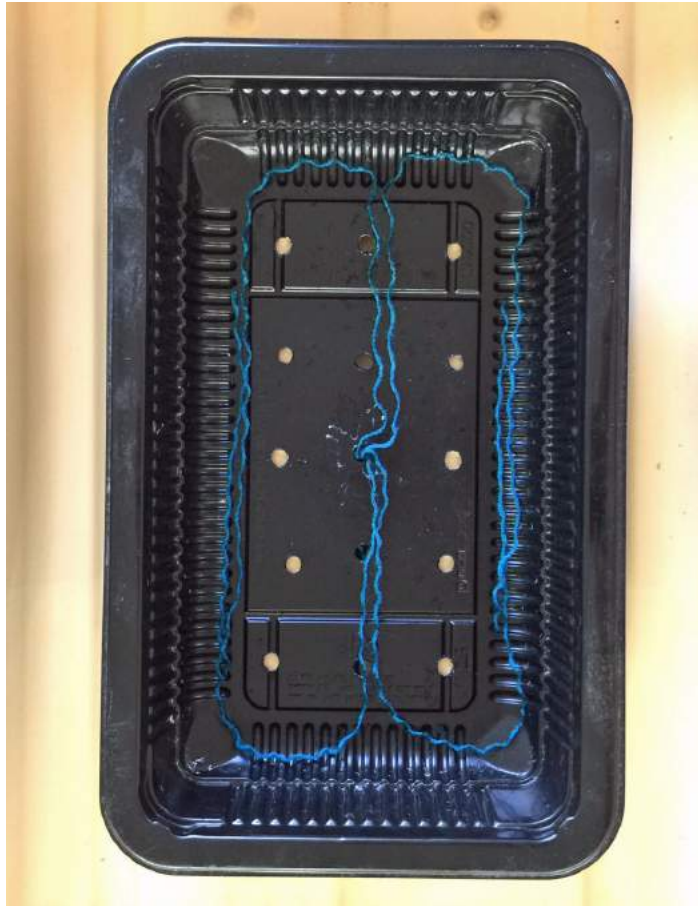
Sinningia leaves can be very long, and the veins near the base of the stem are the strongest. I usually cut off the tips of the leaves so that the base veins will fit into the propagation container.



After I cut off the leaf tips, I proceed to cut the mid-vein out of the leaf and then work with the two remaining halves.

Then I prepare the container to receive the leaf cuttings. Because the leaves of *Sinningia speciosa* tend to be so large and I usually want to produce the largest number of cuttings, I use large

containers. It might be interesting to note that I wick everything. So I'm careful to arrange the wick in such a way as to have the best moisture distribution. Also, I have discovered that you just can't have enough aeration holes for air circulation in the propagation container.



Then I fill the container with perlite. I used to use perlite exclusively. Lately, I have found that if you have a well draining soil mix, that will work just as well. After I water the container and pre-moisten the medium I make deep furrows to receive the leaves. I find that a spare discount card from a food store works really well for this purpose. I suppose your VISA card would work just as well.



Jay Sespico photos

The trickiest part of the whole process is to apply Clonex® to each leaf rib. I find that this method of propagation is hard on the parent propagation material, so the leaf needs a little encouragement to produce roots as soon as it possibly can. I use an artist's paint brush to apply the Clonex® to each rib. Then I give the Clonex® a few minutes to dry.



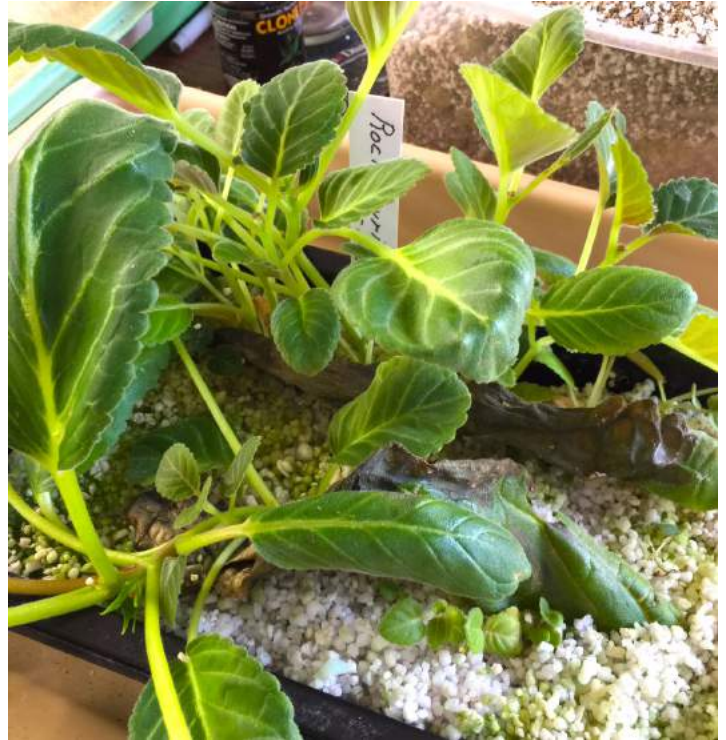
Jay Sespico photos

I'm careful to place the leaves as deeply and evenly into the furrows as possible. It is important to get this part right the first time, so I fuss with this part a bit and try not to be in a hurry. This is the way it should look when you're finished.



I cover the container with plastic wrap to keep the humidity as high as possible around the rooting leaves. Yes, it's the same food wrap I would use to wrap a sandwich up in! Have you ever noticed how similar cooking and good plant culture are related? Oh yes, don't forget to put the label inside!

Set the covered propagation container on the growing shelf right under the lights. The propagating leaves need good light to stimulate them into a rapid growth cycle. You've already insured that the leaf will root with Clonex® and covered the container with plastic to insure that the leaves won't dry out. Also, I feed the leaves right from the beginning with 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer to one gallon of water. The rooting leaves and growing plantlets need good nutrition to produce healthy baby plants. In about eight weeks, this is what happens.



See how the parent leaf has completely spent itself to produce new little plants?

Now they are ready to pot into individual pots.

Jay Sespico photos

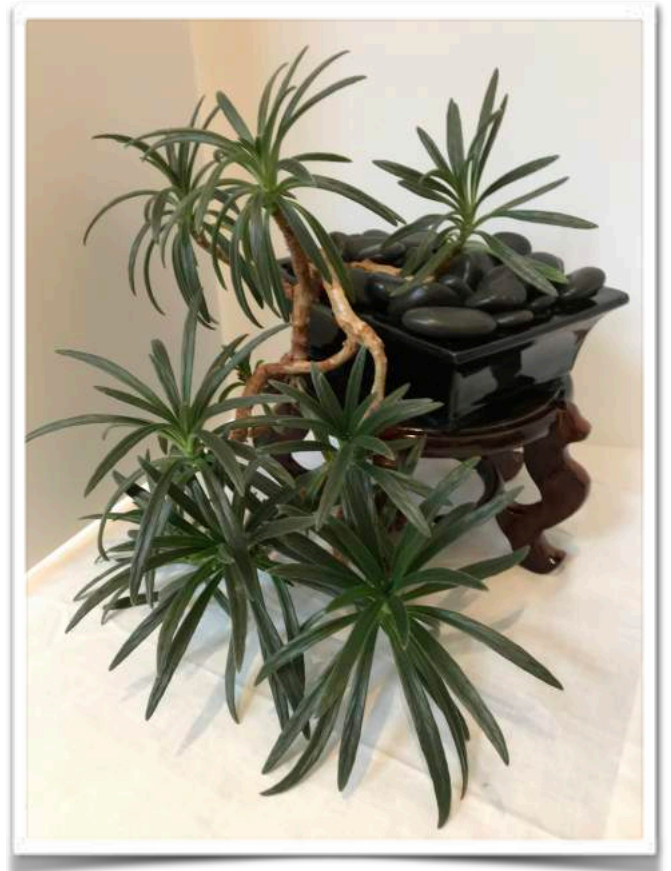
Adapted and reprinted with permission (original posts on Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group.)

**Toronto African Violet
and Gesneriad Society
Show Photos** <http://tavgs.ca/>

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



Primulina leprosa
Bill Price



Primulina linearifolia
Brett Flewelling



Sinningia 'Prudence
Risley'
Don MacDonald

Mel Grice photos

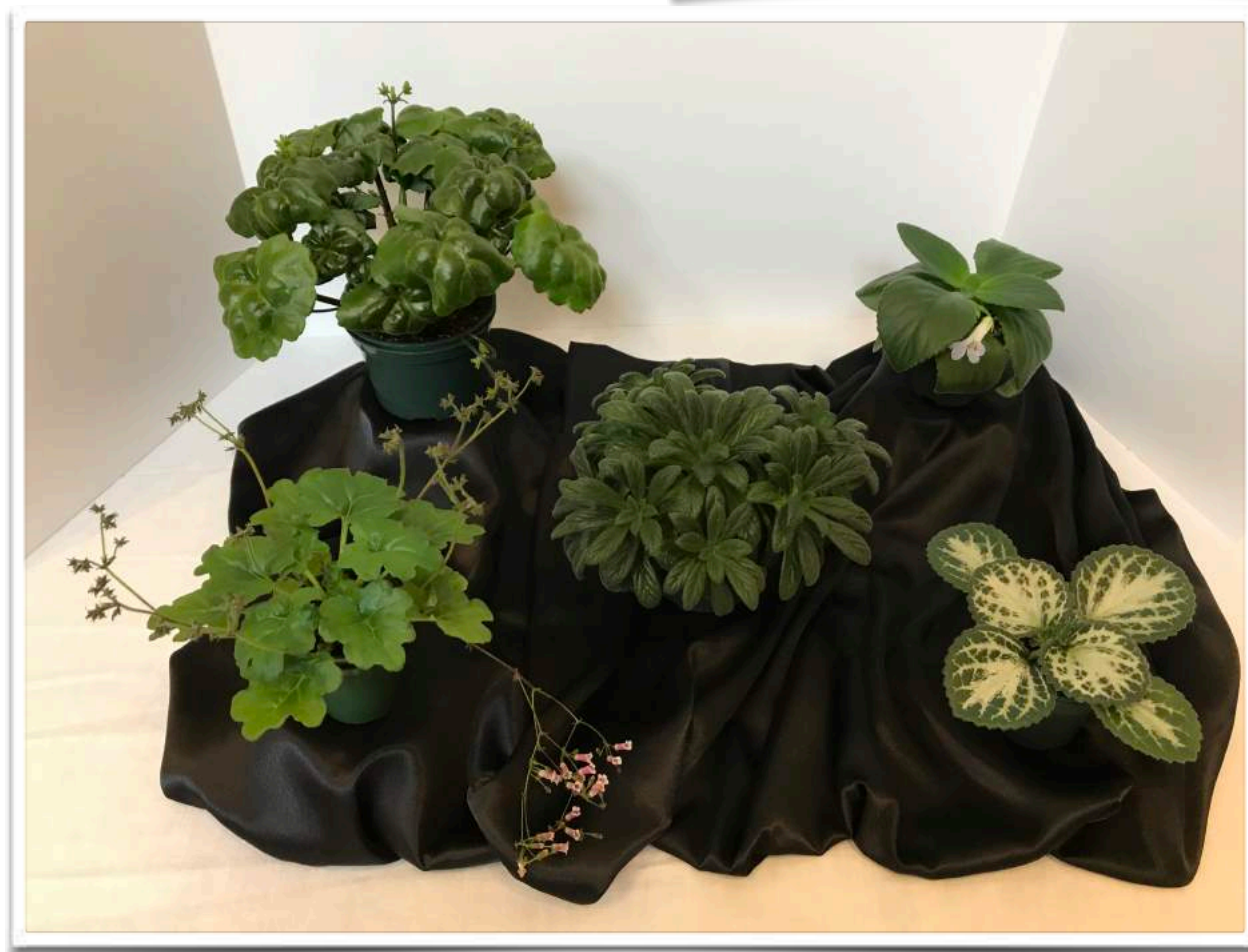


Sinningia 'KC's Spanish Flirt'
Sue Smith



Sinningia 'Party Girl'
Audrey Burry-Plunkett

Mel Grice photos



Primulina collection - Beverley Williams

Top left to right: *Primulina glandulosa* var. *yangshuoensis*, *Primulina gueilinensis*, center:
Primulina linearicalyx, bottom left to right: *Primulina maciejewskii* and *Primulina* 'Loki'.

Coming Event



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/)

Just in time to add to your spring wardrobe! T-shirts,
caps and more are now available in the web store.
Check it out!

[https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/
collections/apparel](https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/apparel)





A MasterClass on *Hybridizing*

A four-part downloadable program for those looking to get started in gesneriad hybridizing and for experienced hybridizers to learn how to fine-tune their existing programs.

Topics: * Genetics of Gesneriads * Hybridizing Sinningia
* Hybridizing Saintpaulia (African violet) * Hybridizing Streptocarpus

Presenters: Dr. Jeff Smith, Pat Hancock, Mel Grice, Jeremy Stevens, Dale Martens, and Karen Allen.



Available: For \$19.95 at <https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/webinars>

Webinar Master Class: Hybridizing Gesneriads

The Master Class on Hybridizing Gesneriads is a four-part downloadable program created by The Gesneriad Society to help those looking to either get started on a hybridizing adventure or fine-tune their existing programs. The presenters and their topics are:

•**Dr. Jeff Smith**, a botanist known for his expertise in the saintpaulia species, speaks on genetics (40 minutes).

•**Dale Martens**, the chairperson of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association and hybridizer of the Heartland's, Iced, and Dale's series of plants, joins **Karen Allen**, a hybridizer looking to strengthen some of the fantasy characteristics in streptocarpus and the creator of the "3S" series of streptocarpus, speaking about streptocarpus (51 minutes) and **Jeremy Stevens**, a prolific hybridizer working to get more yellow into his sinningias and the creator of the "JS" series of sinningias, discussing sinningias.

•**Pat Hancock**, famed hybridizer of the beautifully variegated violet Buckeye series and owner of Buckeye African Violets, joined by **Mel Grice**, First Vice President of the Gesneriad Society, discuss saintpaulias (21 minutes).

Some of the other issues discussed include:

- How to get variegation in the foliage
- What to do to increase your odds of getting a fantasy bloom
- When and what to discard (not all your babies will be worthy of wider distribution)
- Setting hybridizing goals and how to increase your odds of getting those results
- Suggested parents when looking for smaller size, scent and variegation
- And much more.

The Master Class is priced at \$19.95 for all four sessions. Once you download each webinar, they are yours to keep and view at your leisure, in any order.

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



From the editor —

I have been on the road again traveling to several spring shows.

My plants seem to know that it is spring even though the temperature has been up and down.

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 _____
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(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

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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,
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For application online: www.gesneriadsociety.org