



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 11, Number 11

November 2020



This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now, Paul Lee's article about pests and diseases, Jeanne Katzenstein's photo tribute to Nancy and Jerry Kast, and The Annual Appeal.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

Dennis Krumb from Ohio, USA, sent the photo on the right of his new *Sinningia* seedling X1. He says, "It is fragrant. Parentage is [*S. eumorpha* 'Clenilson' (purple) × (*S. bullata* × *S. conspicua*)] × *S. conspicua* =

12.5% *bullata*
25.0% *eumorpha*
62.5% *conspicua*."

Dennis Krumb photo



Gesneriads Blooming Now

Achimenes 'Glory'



Barb Borleske photos



Eucodonia hybrid #3



Smithiantha multiflora



×*Gloximannia* 'She's Dancing'



Barb Borleske photos

Columnea 'Jeanne Katzenstein'

Paul Lee on Pests and Diseases

Paul Lee



Bill Simpson photo

Paul is a member of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society, a successful organic farmer in Ontario, Canada, who also grows award winning gesneriads.

Paul, over many years, has developed a philosophy to grow plants for eating that are healthy and well mineralized. The result is extraordinarily little, if any, disease, or pest problems.

The thinking must change from how to treat the symptoms, to what is the cause. Inevitably the cause is nutritionally based, and the following article tries to show some of the techniques that are used. — Stan Sudol, editor.

The subject of pests and diseases is always lurking in the back of everyone's mind. We hope that the plant that is sickly is that way because of our neglect and not some pest we have brought in from another plant we bought, or from those cut flowers you cut from the garden.

Some of the questions you need to ask are: is the plant dry, somehow missed in your regular watering; or perhaps the lighting on your stand has been out for a while and you have not noticed? These are easy things to check for.

Next you must try and determine whether the problem is pest or disease. A magnifying glass might be helpful to determine if there are any obvious pests. If there are, you must determine if they have a hard or soft exterior. If they squish easily, they are soft and are likely to be aphids, spider mites or thrips. So as the well-known gardener, Ed Laurence says, one-part liquid soap (not detergent) to forty parts water, spray thoroughly, and wash off after about ten minutes. If necessary, repeat about a week to ten days later. For the hard-shell pests like scale, which seem to have been stuck on with glue and mealybugs, which have a protective coating of white stuff, the treatment is the same except you add eight parts rubbing alcohol to the mix. For other problems such as fungus gnats, keeping the surface of the soil drier and worked up to stop the growth of algae will solve this.

To discover other problems such as root mealybugs, this involves tipping the soil out of the pot and inspecting the soil root ball, and I am not sure what can

be done to cure this non-chemically. Best to take some cuttings and throw the soil away.

Fungus diseases are generally less frequent problems but can be annoying when they happen. When powdery mildew occurs, it can be treated with baking soda put into a solution sprayed on the leaves, about half a teaspoon to a liter of water.

For botrytis in seedlings the application of molasses in solution is greatly beneficial. The way this works is the seedlings have truly little leaf area to photosynthesize so there is a shortage of carbohydrate, sugar, to make strong growth and resist the fungus attack. The molasses also contains some calcium as well to aid in stem strength.

I would like to explain why pests and diseases are around. I think most people think they are around just to annoy us. This is not true if I understand the process. In nature everything is striving to be the best it can be. The survival of the fittest. So, when a plant is starting to grow, if there is not enough sugar, the fungus comes along and if the plant is not strong enough, it is gone. If a plant has powdery mildew it is because that plant does not have enough copper in its system, so the mildew takes the plant out. So, when you do not have a healthy plant the clean-up crew comes along. Microbes, bacteria, fungus, and pests do the job.

So, the cause of pests and disease is really us not giving our plants everything they need to be healthy. That's in my opinion.

This article appeared originally in the Newsletter of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society, Vol. 3, No. 9, November 2020, Stan Sudol, editor. <http://tavgs.ca>

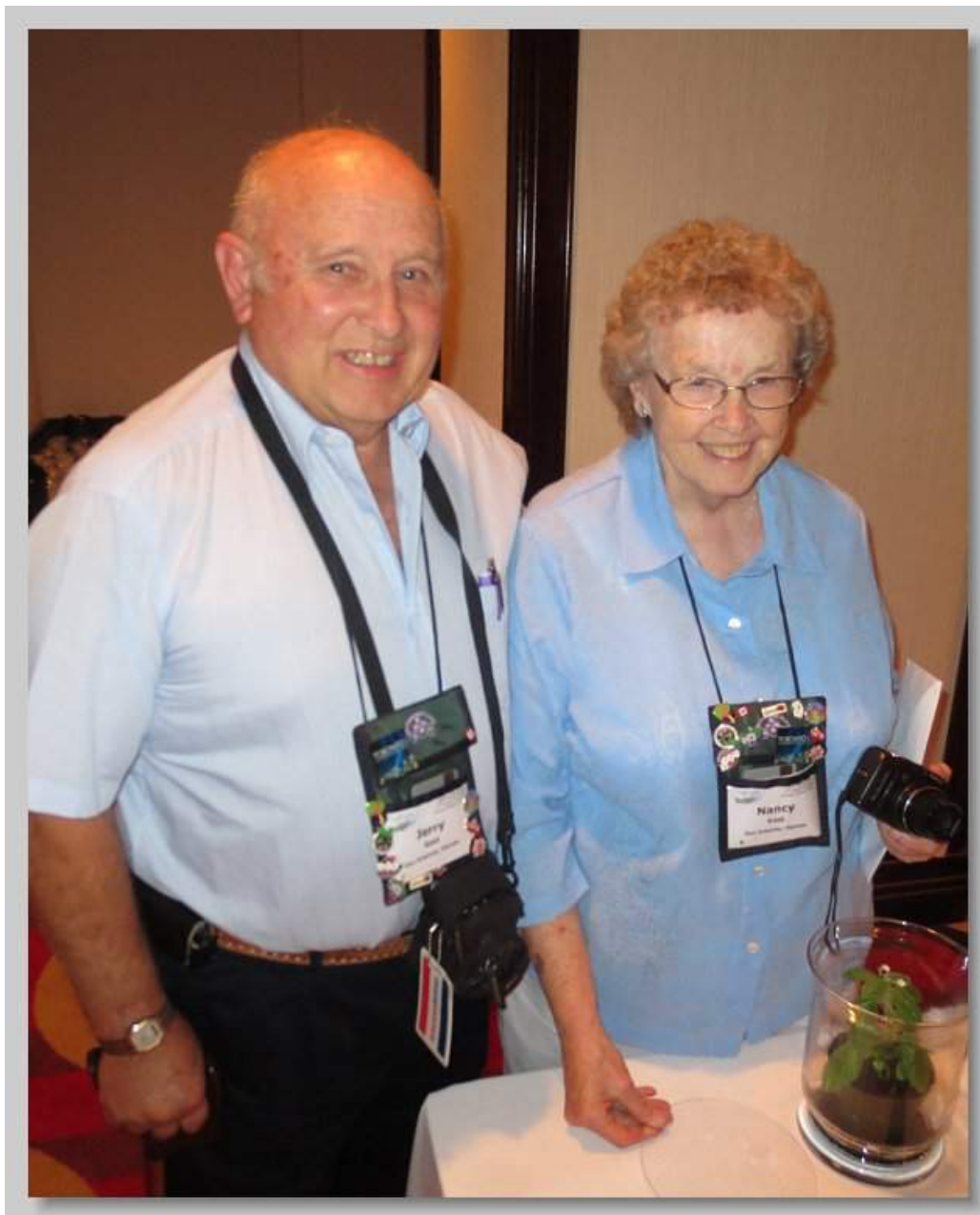
Aeschynanthus longicaulis
Julie-Mavity Hudson photo



A Photo Tribute to Nancy and Jerry Kast

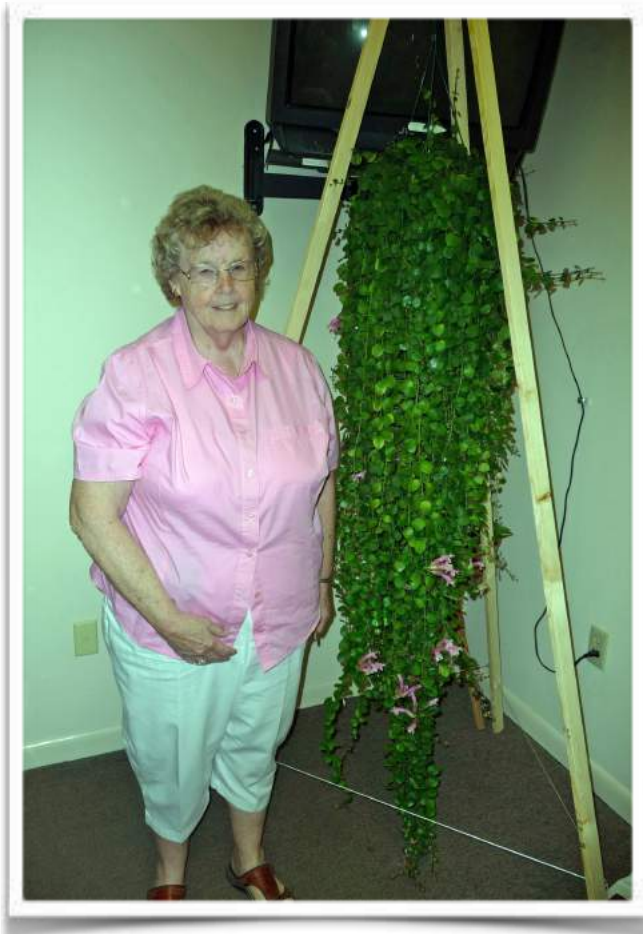
Jeanne Katzenstein

You couldn't ask for two more involved and enthusiastic members of any chapter or society. For many years they have dedicated much of their time and effort to growing, showing, propagating, and sharing their gesneriads with other enthusiasts whether presenting educational programs to the public and other plant groups, at our chapter meetings, at Gesneriad Society conventions, and even participating in a gesneriad research expedition to Ecuador.



Jerry and Nancy at one of many Society conventions they attended and exhibited award-winning plants.

Vincent Woo photo



Nancy with *Aeschynanthus* "Thai Pink" transported to a chapter show and tell. Jerry made this six foot tall plant stand just to show it at a chapter meeting.

Photos by Jeanne Katzenstein except where noted

Nancy at home with her gesneriads (a few years ago)





Nancy and Jerry in search of gesneriads in the rainforests of Ecuador in 2011.

Lena Klintberg photo

Over the years, Nancy and Jerry have supplied beautifully grown plants for chapter shows (like those seen below at our 2012 show in Altamonte Springs), for chapter events like our state fair displays and numerous sales as well as for show and tell and the raffle table at most every chapter meeting.



Nancy Kast awarded Sweepstakes in Horticulture for these 9 blue-ribbon entries

This article appeared originally in ***Gesneriad Greetings***, the newsletter of the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, October 2020, Marian Yeager, editor. <https://www.facebook.com/tampa.gesneriads/>

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 2020 is **The Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund**. This fund provides scholarship grants for students and gesneriad researchers. This fund gives financial support to students as they do their research on gesneriads. All gesneriad members will benefit from the technical research from these students. Donate now! You may make a donation on line by using the link above.

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) U.S. tax-exempt corporation.

The full amount of a donation is tax deductible for U.S. members.

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When you use [Amazon Smile](#), Amazon will donate .5% of each purchase to The Gesneriad Society. There is no extra cost to you, and you will be supporting the work of The Gesneriad Society in research, education, and conservation. Give it a try!

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

Austin Grevious
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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 —

Please continue to send me photos. Your articles would also be greatly appreciated.

If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at melsgrice@gmail.com

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Membership and Changes of Address

The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
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Changes of Address — Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary [<gesneriadsocietymembership@gmail.com>](mailto:gesneriadsocietymembership@gmail.com) 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 _____

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- Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund
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