



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 12, Number 1

January 2021

Beginning the twelfth year of **Gleanings**. This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now and Jill Fischer's article on growing *Columnnea orientandina*.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor



Photo on the right is a young plant of *Sinningia speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa' blooming for the first time at my house. I love the prominent white veins in the leaves. The blooms are attractive too!

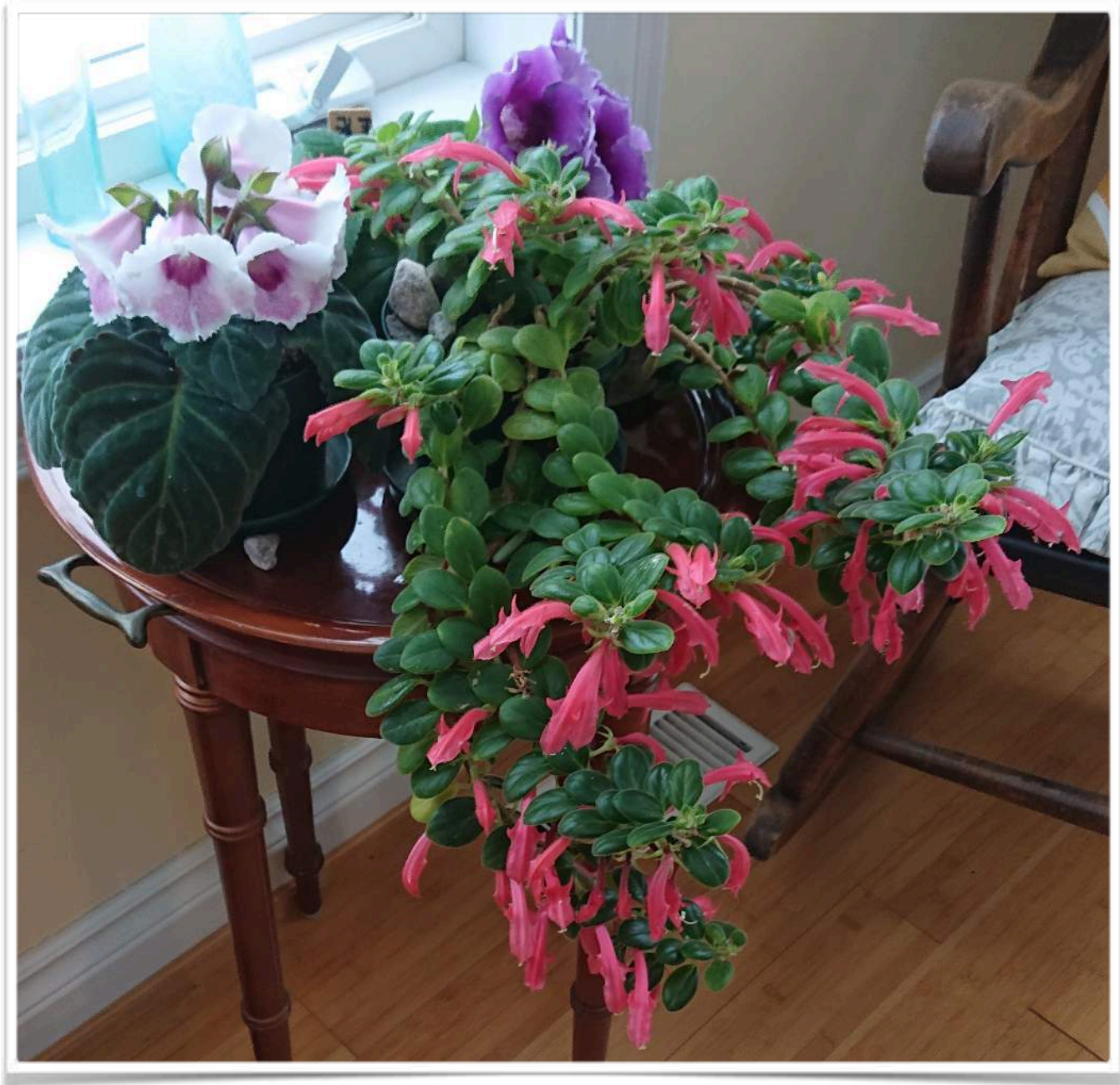
Mel

Mel Grice photo



Gesneriads Blooming Now

Ron Myhr photo



The whole window hasn't changed that much, the *Sinningia speciosa* 'Empress Mix' is still doing well although starting to fade. (Top)

I brought up my *Columnea* 'Jude' stock plant, which is blooming nicely. Normally branching and upright, it's trailing a bit, stooping with age. Still nice.

Behind it to the left is Jay Sespico's *Sinningia* 'Rock Loves Paul'.

Ron Myhr



Episcia 'Ruby Red Dress'
Gail Rankin photo



Sinningia cardinalis 'Innocent'
Paul Kroll photo



Nautilocalyx glandulifer
Paul Kroll photo



Primulina cordata
Ray Coyle photo

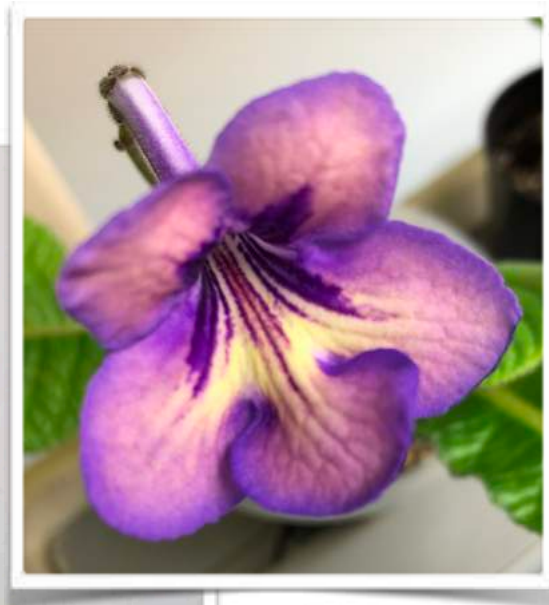


Microchirita mollisima
Ray Coyle photo



I bought a packet of Dibley's Dragon seed a couple of years ago and was delighted with the variety of flowers that were produced. I was expecting all plain pink but the variety was amazing.

Beverley Donsworth (Australia)



Beverley Donsworth
photos



These are two seedlings grown from the seed fund seeds — *Streptocarpus* 'Iced Amethyst Showoff' x S. 'Bristol's Bluebird' and *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Lava' x S. 'Tina Ballerina'.

Beverley Donsworth

Beverley Donsworth
photos





Sinningia 'Solstice'
Mel Grice photo



Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Party Boy'
Mel Grice photo

Columnea orientandina

Jill Fischer

I became interested in growing *Columnea orientandina* ever since I saw a beautiful specimen exhibited by Olive Ma Robinson at a Gesneriad Society convention several years ago. It was loaded with beautiful, large pink berries. Up until recently, I have struggled with growing a nice specimen.

Columnea orientandina is an upright growing specimen coming from Ecuador. The red color on the leaf tips is more prominent when viewed from below. The small yellow flowers are also found on the underside of the leaves. I believe it is thought to be pollinated by hummingbirds in the wild. They are drawn in by the red color on the leaf tips to help pollinate the flowers.



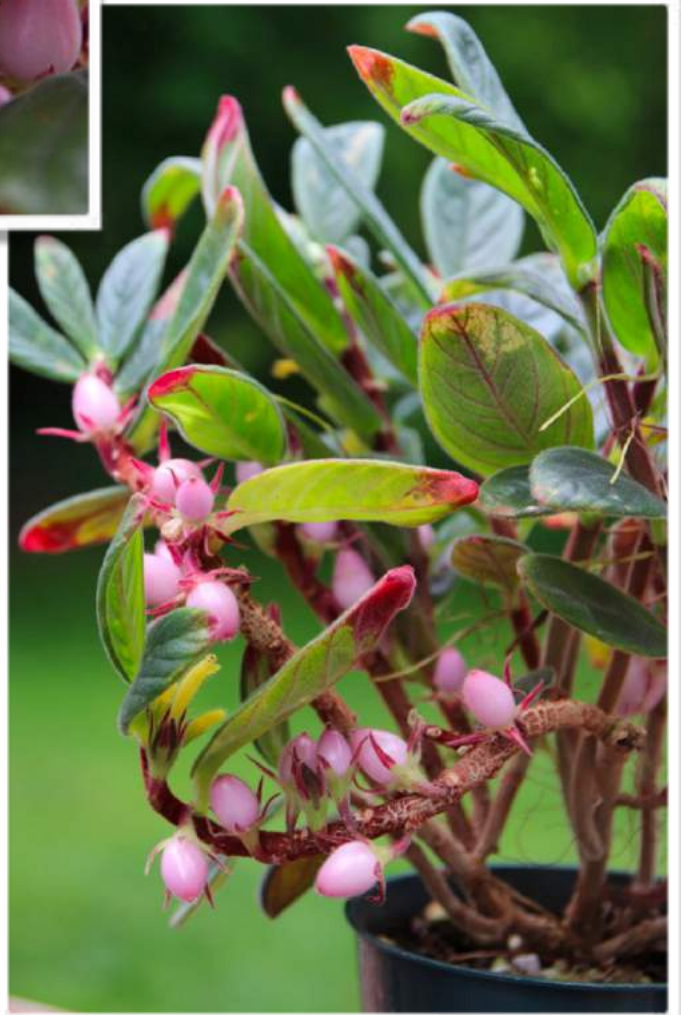
Jill Fischer photo

This past year, my plant really "took off." I moved it to an upper level room growing area, which is the warmest room in our house. In the past, I've gotten a few flowers and an occasional berry, but this winter it was loaded with small, yellow flowers. The flowers themselves are small and hidden, but the berries are spectacular. I used a "veggie bee" knock-off to tickle the blossoms to try to entice berry formation. I tented the plant with a loose fitting plastic bag to increase humidity. Also this winter, I switched my two grow tubes to T8 tubes on for twelve hours per day.

As you can see in the photos, I have many berries coming along. I will contribute the seeds to The Gesneriad Society seed fund once the berries are squished open and the seeds allowed to dry. I should also have some plantlets of *Columnea orientandina* to share at plant sales in the fall.



Jill Fischer photos



This appeared originally in ***Gesneriad Tips 'n Trivia***, the Newsletter of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society, Vol. 47, No. 5, June 2020, Karyn Cichocki, editor.



From the editor —
 Hope that winter is being kind to you. Please send photos of your blooming plants!

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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