




Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

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May 2021



This issue includes Terri Vicenzi's photos of gesneriads
blooming now and information about The Gesneriad
Society's Virtual Flower Show and Convention.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

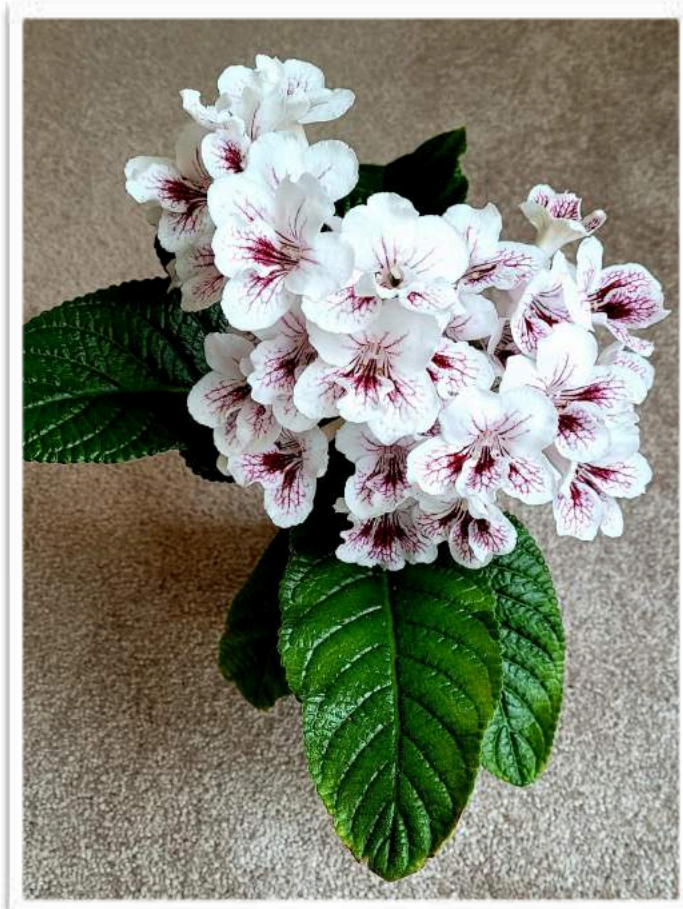


Terri Vicenzi from Indiana,
USA, sent this photo of
Streptocarpus 'Jasmin', a
hybrid created by Piotr
Kleszczynski (Poland).
See more photos from
Terri on the following
pages.

Terri Vicenzi photo



Gesneriads Blooming Now



Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Plastic Fantastic'



Streptocarpus 'DEM-The Hedgehog'



Terri Vicenzi photos



Terri Vicenzi will be one of the Virtual Convention speakers. See pages 8 and 9 for information about some of the other speakers.

Terri Vicenzi photos

Terri Vicenzi has taken the gesneriad world by storm over the past few years. Although a long-time African violet grower she is a latecomer to the broader Gesneriaceae and exhibited at her first convention only two years ago. But what an exhibition it was!

Her haul was spectacular – Runner up to Sweepstakes in Horticulture; Best *Streptocarpus*; Runner-up to Best in Horticulture; Best Gesneriad grown by a first-time conventioneer. All from 20 entries.

It was about ten years ago that Terri took a serious interest in cultivation of *Streptocarpus* and found that she could grow them better than she could grow her African violets. It was just at the time that many exotically beautiful streptocarpus hybrids were coming out of Eastern Europe, and it was exciting to grow these magnificent plants. It was through attending her first AVSA convention in 2015 that she became familiar with the broader Gesneriaceae, and she now is partial to *Primulina* and *Smithiantha*, in addition to *Streptocarpus*.

Terri's program in the virtual convention will focus on *Streptocarpus*, including her cultivation techniques and her approach to showing them. Of course, there will be many photos of her beautiful plants.



Streptocarpus 'Ohio's Bounty'



Gesneriads at Home around the World
Virtual Convention and Flower Show 2021

June 29 to July 3, 2021

Registration is Free and open to Everyone

Registrants will receive links to all presentations after the convention ends

All times EDT (UTC -4)

Tuesday, June 29th

12 pm – Introductory Program 1: Gesneriads – Plants for Beginners, with Ron Myhr

3 pm – Official Opening with Mel Grice, President, followed by *Streptocarpus* with Terri Vicenzi

7:30 pm – Conservation Committee, with Stephen Maciejewski and Jeremy Keene

Wednesday, June 30th

12 pm – Introductory Program 2: Gesneriads – Here, There and Everywhere, with Dale Martens

5 pm – Growing Gesneriads in Australia, with Ruth Coulson

7:30 pm – The Gesneriad Hybridizers Association meeting, hosted by Dale Martens

Thursday, July 1

12 pm – Introductory Program 3: Gesneriads – Getting Information, Plants and Support, with Mel Grice

3 pm – Annual Meeting of the Gesneriad Society, with Mel Grice, including the Awards of Appreciation

7:30 pm – Gesneriads of South-east Asia, with David Middleton

Friday, July 2

10 am – Student Presentations

12:00 pm – The Virtual Flower Show Opens!

3 pm – Gesneriads of Southern Brazil, with Nathan Gazineu

7:30 pm – Gesneriads of China, with Fang Wen

Saturday, July 3

12 pm – Hybridizing Beautiful Achimenes and other Genera, with Serge Saliba, followed by the Convention Close with Mel Grice, President

REGISTER NOW!

[<https://gesneriadsociety.org/2021-virtual-convention-information/>]

Virtual Flower Show entries are being accepted through May 31. You must be a member of The Gesneriad Society to enter the show. Classes have been added this year for gesneriads grown outdoors and for artistic and arts presentation. The complete show schedule and rules follow.

Schedule for 2021 Gesneriad Society Virtual Flower Show

Section A - Gesneriads in Flower Class 01 - New World tuberous species

Class 02 – New World tuberous hybrids

Class 03 – New World rhizomatous species

Class 04 – New World rhizomatous hybrids

Class 05 – New World fibrous species

Class 06 – New World fibrous hybrids

Class 07 – Old World species, excluding Saintpaulia

Class 08 – Old World Species, Subg. Streptocarpella, Sect. Saintpaulia species

Class 09 – Old World hybrids, excluding Saintpaulia

Class 10 – Old World hybrids, Saintpaulia hybrids

Section B - Gesneriads grown for Ornamental Value Other Than Flowers (fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color; a plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section)

Class 11 - New World Gesneriads

Class 12 – Old World Gesneriads

Section C – Seldom Seen Gesneriads (information must be supplied by grower)

Class 13 - Species in flower

Class 14 – Species not in flower

Class 15 – Hybrids in flower

Class 16 – Hybrids not in flower

Section D – Gesneriads Outdoors

Class 17 – Gesneriad(s) grown in a garden

Class 18 – Gesneriad(s) grown in an outdoor planter

Class 19 – Gesneriad(s) growing in situ (native habitat) – information explaining where picture was taken must be included.

Section E – Artistic

Class 20 – Plantings of Growing Gesneriad Material (terrarium, tray landscape, natural garden)

Class 21 – Arrangements of Fresh-Cut and/or Dried or Treated Gesneriad Material (title optional, underwater arrangement can be entered in this class)

Class 22 – Arrangements of Growing Gesneriad Material (title optional)

Section F – Arts

Class 23 – Parts of a Gesneriad (close-up photos of flowers, fruit, foliage, etc.)

Class 24 – Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads – information explaining the medium chosen, techniques and/or processes used in the creation of the entry must be provided.

The Gesneriad Society 2021 Virtual Flower Show Rules

1. Only members of The Gesneriad Society are eligible to submit photos.
2. Each exhibitor may submit **up to five** photos; **only one photo per email**.
3. Large file sizes are preferred, with a **minimum file size of 100kb**.
4. Photos may be taken from any angle and must be in focus; while photo quality is not explicitly to be evaluated, bear in mind that good presentation of the subject will impress viewers.
5. When choosing classes for entries, exhibitors should keep in mind that New World gesneriads are those that originate in North/Central/South America and the Caribbean; Old World gesneriads are those that originate in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, New Guinea, and other Pacific islands).

6. Photos submitted for Classes 01 through 23 must have been taken between June 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021.
7. Photos submitted for Classes 01 through 22 must be color; photos submitted for Class 23 may be color or monochrome. Photos must not have been exhibited in the 2020 Virtual Flower Show.
8. Photos submitted for Classes 01 through 16 must be of plants grown by the exhibitor for at least three months when photographed.
9. Photos for Classes 01 through 16 must show a single container consisting of one or more plants of the same species or hybrid with as much of the plant included as possible and exhibiting the characteristics of the plant.
10. Photos submitted for Classes 17, 18 and 19 may include more than one gesneriad. If there are several gesneriads in the photo, the subject line of the email must indicate the name of one plant in the photo (see rule #13). However, each gesneriad in the photo must be listed in the email and identified as to its location in the photo.
11. Close-ups of parts of a plant are only eligible for Class 23.
12. Photos submitted for Class 24 must be of arts and crafts that have never been entered by the exhibitor in any Gesneriad Society Convention Flower Show and must have been taken between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021.
13. **The subject line of each email must include the class number, plant name (one gesneriad plant name for classes 17, 18 and 19 if several gesneriads are in the photo), and the name of the exhibitor.**
Example: "Class 01 – *Sinningia hirsuta* – your name."
If someone else took the photo, that person's name should be put after the exhibitor's name:
Example: "Class 01 – *Sinningia hirsuta* – your name, the photographer's name."
14. Classification and nomenclature issues will be settled by the classification team, whose decisions are final.
15. Photos may be submitted beginning on May 1, 2021. The deadline for submission of photos is May 31, 2021. Submit photos, one per email, to:
gesneriadawards@gmail.com.
16. By submitting photos to The Gesneriad Society website, the photographer agrees that submitted photos may be reproduced in all Gesneriad Society publications, including the journal *Gesneriads*, newsletters and social media, with attribution given to the photographer. Use by the public is not permitted, unless permission is requested from and is expressly given by the photographer. The enforcement of any violations of the photographer's copyright will be the responsibility of the photographer.

Some Virtual Convention Speakers

See <https://gesneriadsociety.org/2021-virtual-convention-information/> for the complete list of speakers

Ruth Coulson is a long-time Australian grower and hybridizer of outstanding gesneriads. She began growing plants like *Aeschynanthus*, *Columnea*, *Achimenes* and Florist Gloxinias in the 1970s, without knowing that they were all called gesneriads. They were just more pretty plants to add to her burgeoning collection.



A few years later she developed a passion for *Saintpaulia*, and that subsequently introduced her to the world of gesneriads in all their glory, and to the friendship of many other growers of these plants. Soon she had gesneriads everywhere, in her shade house and in her home, and began successfully exhibiting her plants.

Her particular hybridizing interests were the mid-size *Sinningias*, but she tried her hand at many others. She achieved some spectacular successes. Her current growing focuses on *Episcia* which she grows indoors.

Ruth's presentation will focus on the challenges and pleasures of growing outstanding gesneriads in Australia, and on the people and plants she has encountered through her long and successful engagement with the Gesneriaceae.

David Middleton is a professional botanist with a long and productive career in Gesneriaceae research, focused on the genera and species in South-east Asia and in the Malaysian archipelago. He has collected and described several new genera such as *Chayamaritia*, *Rachunia*, *Somrania* and *Tribounia*, and many new species. A particular interest has been the genus *Aeschynanthus*, and he is perhaps the world authority on this genus.



Nathan Gazineu is a young botanical collector in Brazil, with more than 1700 plants in cultivation. He received the collection from a noted botanist who had collected many specimens for the first time, and all the plants have systematic information about their collection data, habitat and cultural requirements. Nathan has a particular interest in the Gesneriaceae, among other plant families, and is always seeking to increase his collection and his knowledge.



Nathan's particular interest is the Atlantic rainforest in Rio de Janeiro state, as well as in adjacent areas to the south and west. His extensive gesneriad collection includes many species collected from these areas, with special emphasis on *Sinningia* and *Nematanthus*.

The focus of Nathan's presentation will be on his collection, on photos of beautiful plants in their natural habitats and on discussion of the conservation status of many of these rare and beautiful species.

Serge Saliba is a Romanian hybridizer whose particular interest is in the rhizomatous gesneriads, especially *Achimenes* and \times *Achimenantha*. He has made use of some of the most advanced hybridizing techniques to produce the spectacularly beautiful hybrids that have been distributed around the world.

He has also begun working to create miniatures in *Sinningia* and *Kohleria*, with stunning success. While not yet widely distributed, these plants have the potential to upend the world of gesneriad hybrids



Serge's talk will focus on his hybridizing work and on the beautiful creations that have come from that work. While the focus will be on the beautiful plants, he will touch on the innovative techniques that have led to his success.



From the editor —
 Hope that you are all taking photos of your plants for the Virtual Flower Show!

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

Mel

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Austin Grevious
 4932 - 88th Avenue West, University Place, WA 98467 USA
 For additional information, contact: [<aagrevious@gmail.com>](mailto:aagrevious@gmail.com)

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 _____

Renewal Membership # _____

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 Or, charge my VISA or MasterCard
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For application online: www.gesneriads.org