



# 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 11

November 2021

This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now, Charles Huston's article on the Minnesota State Fair, Jonathan Ertelt's article on *Alsobia chiapensis*, and The Annual Appeal.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Dale Martens photos

Dale Martens sent these photos of *Kohleria* 'Bud's Star Struck', a Brandon Erikson hybrid. She is growing it wick-watered under LED lights (12 hours a day). Pot size is three inches. The color is a very bright pink, and the flowers last a long time. It has very pronounced extra lobes at the calyx area.



# Gesneriads Blooming Now

Photos by the growers

*Primulina petrocosmeoides*  
grown in a K-cup under  
LED light.  
Ginny Heatter



Saintpaulia 'Mac's Paisley Print'  
Terri Vicenzi





*Columnnea* 'Jude'  
Ron Myhr

Photos by the growers



*Nautilocalyx forgetii*  
Mel Grice



*Streptocarpus* 'UA-Retro'  
Terri Vicenzi

# Minnesota State Fair Show

**Charles Huston**

Our Twin Cities Chapter participates in the African Violet Show on the first two days of our Great State Fair. The Fair lasts twelve days. In 2017, 2018, and 2019 attendance was over two million. The African Violet Society of Minnesota [AVSM] has held this judged show for decades. Everyone in Minnesota may enter plants. There are two rooms for shows. Every two days there are different plant shows by other plant societies — gladiolas, orchids, bonsai, dahlias and others.

The Show is really two shows. The AVSM judges the show entries on the day before the Fair opens, as we set up that day. We have a great time. The next two days it is a show for the visitors. The Fair staff wants it to educate and entertain their admission-paying public. We have demonstrations in one back corner on growing African violets. The Carnivorous Plant Society has a display in the other back corner, and it always draws a crowd.



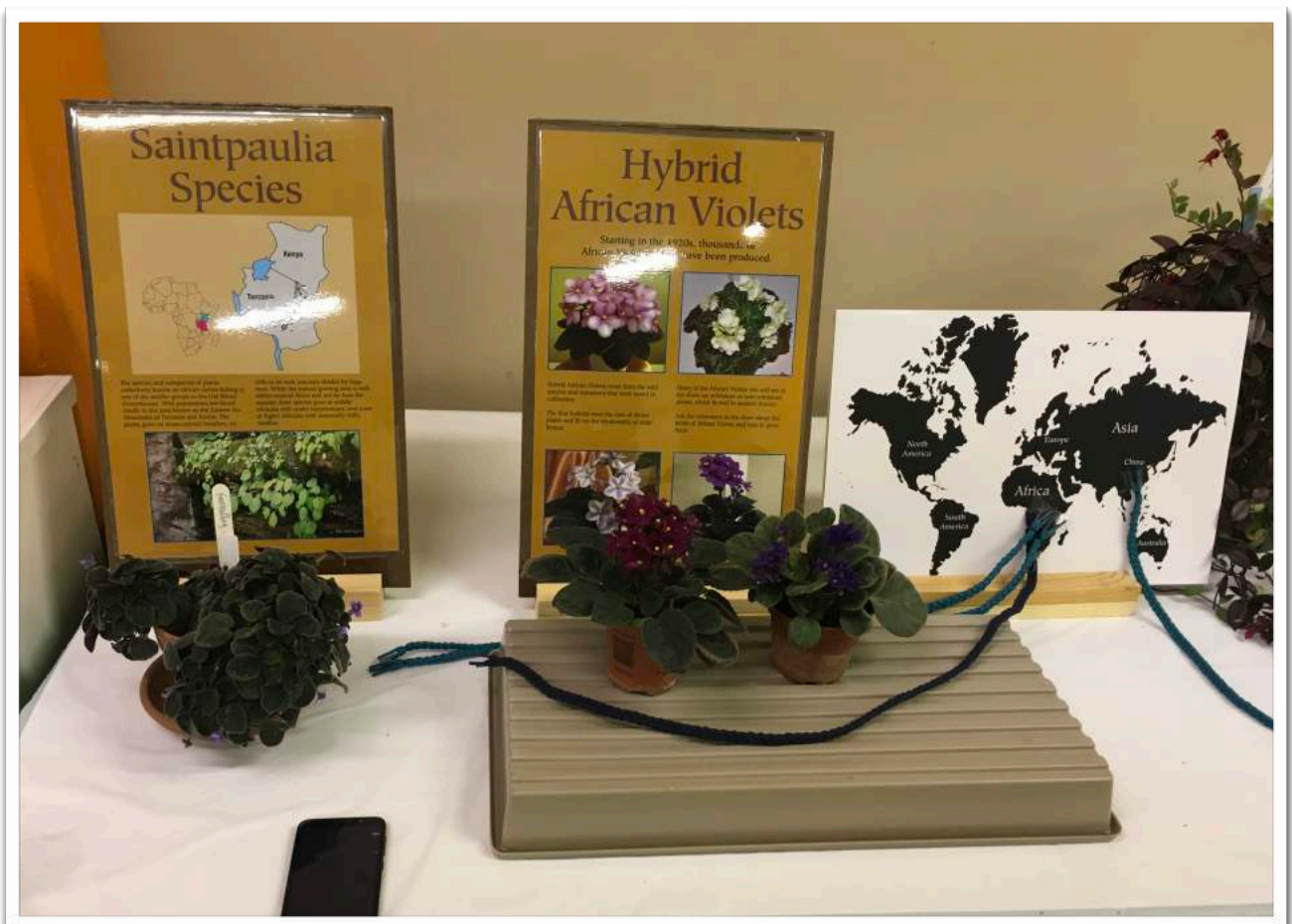
Charles Huston photos



*Primulina 'Loki'*



*Primulina linearicalyx*  
Grown by Kathy Lahti from a leaf given by Bill Price at the Omaha Gesneriad Society Convention



Part of the educational exhibit from the University of Minnesota. Eighteen gesneriads with strings connecting each plant to where it grows in nature on the map of the world.

# An Introduction to *Alsobia chiapensis*

Mart.-Mel., L.E.Skog & Perez-Farr.

**Jonathan Ertelt**

In 2014, a formally unnamed species which had been collected in southern Mexico and distributed as “*Alsobia* sp. ‘Chiapas’” was formally described in *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad* 85: 343-348. It is therein noted to have fimbriate flowers like the other species in the genus, but to be found growing among rocks rather than epiphytically. And, while I believe that it was described as having upright stems (my apologies, as the bulk of the article is in Spanish and languages have never been a strong suit for me) it was surprising to me that it was also described as being stoloniferous. I have seen several examples of this plant grown by various growers. I have never seen this species giving any indication of producing stolons. However, neither have I seen it growing in its native habitat.

As the attached images demonstrate, I grow this species “hard,” that is to say, my understanding has been that it goes through a pronounced dry season, so that is how I grow it. From October through April, it sits ignored, still receiving some daylight but set aside with others in my collection which I also provide with a dry period. They are not in as much light as they are during active growth, but are still receiving daylight, i.e. not stuck in a closet.

The result of this treatment is as might be predicted for a species which will tolerate this treatment – the leaves hang limp, turn brown and dry up. Some of them fall off the plant, others remain more persistent. I carefully groom them from the plant when I pull it off the shelf to start it back into the growing season. (If the leaves will not pull off easily, I cut them close to the stem with scissors rather than tear and pull off small bits of stem.) As can be seen from images 1 & 2, a week or so after I have started watering again the stem tips are starting to show some hints of green, indicating the beginning of new growth. Within a few weeks of seeing these signs of new growth, I repotted the plant into a significantly larger pot, granite chips mixed into the soil





mix in an increasing percentage as I filled in around the teased root ball, finishing with a half inch of granite chips as a top dressing for the 6" pot.

The tallest stem is close to 9" in length and easily between 1/4-1/2" diameter for most of its length. Images 3 & 4 were taken more recently, about a month after the first two. As can be seen, numerous axillary buds have started to grow as well as several of the terminal buds (while a few of the terminal buds are either slower to break dormancy or have dried back).



Jonathan Ertelt photos

Assuming that this growing routine continues to produce a healthy and happy plant, I think that this could be an outstanding specimen within a year or two. And, last but not least, image 5 (see next page), taken last August, shows a couple of flowers on this same plant.



Now, three months later, I am glad to report that this plant is putting on quite a show. Each of the half dozen or more stems have fully leafed out and are now showing buds and blooms. It will continue to flower for another month or so before it starts to slow down, likely triggered by either shorter days/longer nights, cooler temperatures, or both. At that point I will be bringing it inside. I will again stop watering it, keeping it cool and dry, still in bright light but not much direct sun (to this extent it is pampered somewhat), encouraging a winter dormancy. But I get ahead of myself.

Right now it is putting on quite a show. There are eight main stems, with a couple of additional side growths, and the majority of these have buds and blooms. While I have not set up a photography niche to highlight the plant, I hope that you can still appreciate both the plant and the flowers. Hopefully next year it will make it to a show. Good Growing!



Jonathan Ertelt photos

Reprinted from *Gesneri-Eds*, the newsletter of the Tennessee chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Volume 49, issue 7, July 2021 and Volume 49, issue 10, September 2021, Julie Mavity-Hudson, editor.



# 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 2021 is **The Elvin McDonald Research 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.

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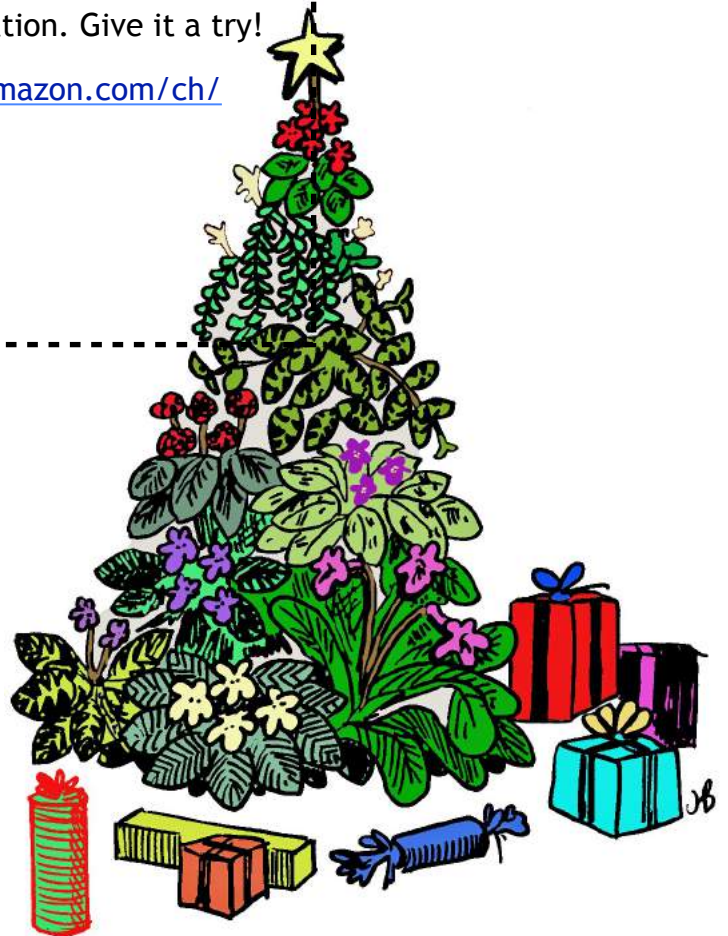
The URL for the hyperlink is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6059828>

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 —**  
Thanks to all those who contributed articles and photos.

If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at  
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### 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 <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.

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