



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 13, Number 8

August 2022

This issue includes photos of plants blooming now, Paul Kroll's thoughts on growing according to your own conditions, photos of Larisa Sabanovic's plants growing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Coming Events.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Judy Zinni from Mississauga, ON, Canada, sent this photo of *Episcia lilacina* 'Blue Nile'. She says, "I'm experimenting with techniques to see if I can have some success with episcias (because I really like them). I guess growing under cover with natural sunlight is best at my house."

Judy Zinni photo



Blooming now...



Sinningia 'Lena H.' hybridized by Alcie Maxwell and Margery Anderson-Clive and grown by Margery Anderson-Clive

Margery Anderson-Clive photo



Kohleria 'Designer's Star Shimmer'

Grown and photographed by
Erika Schroedersecker



Sinningia braggae



Sinningia micans

For Me, Under My Conditions

Paul Kroll

As growers, whether for show or our own pleasure only, we all admire the well grown plants of others. Every club has veteran growers who consistently bring in plants that are examples of good growing. As we admire those plants and pick the brains of the owners, we are tempted to replicate the conditions under which those plants were grown, the soil mix, the fertilizing routine and other factors under which they were grown. Time to raise a red flag!

Each of us has different conditions under which we grow: natural light, artificial lights of various types and strengths, fertilizer choices, water and soil mix choices. There are way too many factors involved to replicate the exact conditions and culture under which those envied plants were grown. Even after many years of personal experience, I recall receiving advice from a respected fellow-grower on where to place a certain plant to have it perform its best. I took that advice only to see the plant go downhill and die a few weeks later. It was doing well where I had it, previous to that move.

Individual choices in culture factors and environmental conditions have to be considered. There is no harm in trying a different technique, fertilizer, watering method, or other factor, but always limit your trial to one or two plants and never the entire collection. I have heard horror stories from growers who decided to try something different and/or in addition to their normal routine and cultural practices only to find that their plants did not do well at all. An experiment is just that: an experiment, a trial. Never try anything new on more than a select few of your plants. If it works, fine. Only then should you or could you move it into the cultural practice for the entire collection.

I have given many presentations to garden clubs and various horticultural judges groups. I have also been in the audience for that type of presentation by other expert growers. I loathe to hear a presenter say something that insists on everyone using this soil mix, or that watering practice, or this type of fertilizer, etc. It is far better to encourage individuality and learning what works best for you, under your conditions. Every one of us is different and our growing situations and factors are different. What works for me may not work for you. Learn what works for you and “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”!

Gesneriads in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Larisa Sabanovic is a pioneer in the cultivation of gesneriads in the Balkans where she lives. She started growing them seven years ago with 90 varieties and now has over 500 varieties. There was no written growing information in Serbo-Croatian when she began. She knows Russian and learned everything from the FrauFlora forum. Larisa started posting pictures of her plants online and people asked her to sell rhizomes. She soon had a thousand customers! She opened the AHI-LARI Facebook group where she helps teach beginners how to grow achimenes, kohlerias, and other rhizomatous gesneriads. Dale Martens is a member of this group and says that there are currently over two thousand members!



Larisa Sabanovic photos

Some of Larisa's plants and unnamed hybrids are shown on the following pages.









Coming Events

September 10, 2022 — Laurel, MD Flower Show

National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
Saturday: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Plant auction and raffles.
Contact: Bill Schmidt schmidt.wc@verizon.net

September 17, 2022 — Sacramento, CA Display & Plant Sale

Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society
Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact: deltagesneriad@gmail.com

September 17, 2022 — Kansas City, MO Flower Show & Plant Sale

Heart of America Gesneriad Society
Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO 64122
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Vickie Avery vavery852@gmail.com

September 24 & 25, 2022 — Boylston, MA Flower Show & Plant Sale

New England Gesneriad Society & Buxton Branch, American Begonia Society
Combined plant show and sale
Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA 01505
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Admission: \$16.00 adults, \$11.00 seniors, and \$6.00 youths (6-18)
Contact: Phyllis Savage phyllis.savage@verizon.net
Website: <https://www.netgs.org>



From the editor —

I am still basking in the glow of the wonderful Tacoma, WA convention!

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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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,
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>](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.

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