

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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This issue includes photos of plants blooming now, Stephen Covolo-Hudson's experience with creating new streptocarpus hybrids, and The Annual Appeal.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor

Barb Borleske from Delaware, USA, sent this photo of *Microchirita micromusa* now blooming for her.

She says, "The plant set seed spontaneously, and shortly thereafter the plant began to yellow and die. I found the seed very easy to germinate, and I grew out several seedlings. I grew the seedlings under a LED shop light, covered with a dome in my cool basement. The seedlings were never moved out of their original 2.5-inch pots, but they grew rapidly and bloomed profusely. I'm hoping to have lots of seed to share with the seed fund."

See more photos on the next page.

Barb Borleske photo



Blooming now...



Barb Borleske photos

Microchirita micromusa

Barb Borleske





*Primulina
linearicalyx* x *P.
'Sweet Dreams'*

Karyn Cichocki

Another hybrid
created by
Levente Hajdu.





Primulina spinulosa from Karyn Cichocki

She says, "In this close-up (sorry for the flower being a bit out of focus) you can see the spiky hairs that are on the leaves, which are also on *P. wentsaii* and *P. ophiopogoides*."



Primulina tribracteata

"This is one of my new favorites! I love the white veins on the leaves and the delicate shading on the flowers."

Mel Grice

Sharing a cross of *Streptocarpus* 'Vmee's Sweet Words' x *S.* 'Steffano's Double Take'

Stephen Covolo-Hudson

stefano2@gmail.com

I created the cross to see how edges are inherited in streptocarpus hybrids. *Streptocarpus* 'Vmee's Sweet Words' is yellow with a strong pink/purple edge and some throat spots (see attached photos). *Streptocarpus* 'Steffano's Double Take' has a strong lower red border on the bottom three petals. *Streptocarpus* 'Fleischle Roulette Cherry' is one of its seed parents.



Streptocarpus 'Vmee's Sweet Words'



Streptocarpus 'Steffano's Double Take'



Streptocarpus 'Fleischle Roulette Cherry'

Ultimately, my goal was to see if I could get back the *S.* 'Fleischle Roulette Cherry' pattern without having to have it present genetically in the background on both sides of the cross. Using *S.* 'Vmee's Sweet Words' with a yellow base color and a different edge has proved that I can get edges but more in the pattern of the seed parent. So my next step will be to cross one of these seedlings

back to *S.* 'Fleischle Roulette Cherry' and see what happens.

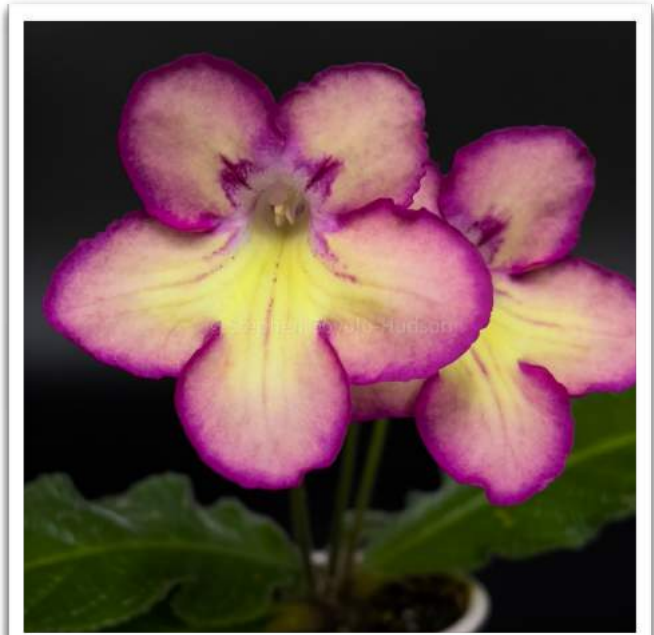
On a side note, I use *S.* 'Steffano's Double Take' as a pollen parent (it's female sterile) in most of my crosses since it always produces exceptional seedling variations.

Here are some photos of plants that resulted from the cross. None have been named so far.



Stephen Covolo-Hudson photos





Stephen Covolo-Hudson photos



Note the one seedling has never opened fully — the curse of the 'Silvia' / bi-color genetics.

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 2022 is **The Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund**. This fund provides scholarships to students of gesneriad botany or horticulture. 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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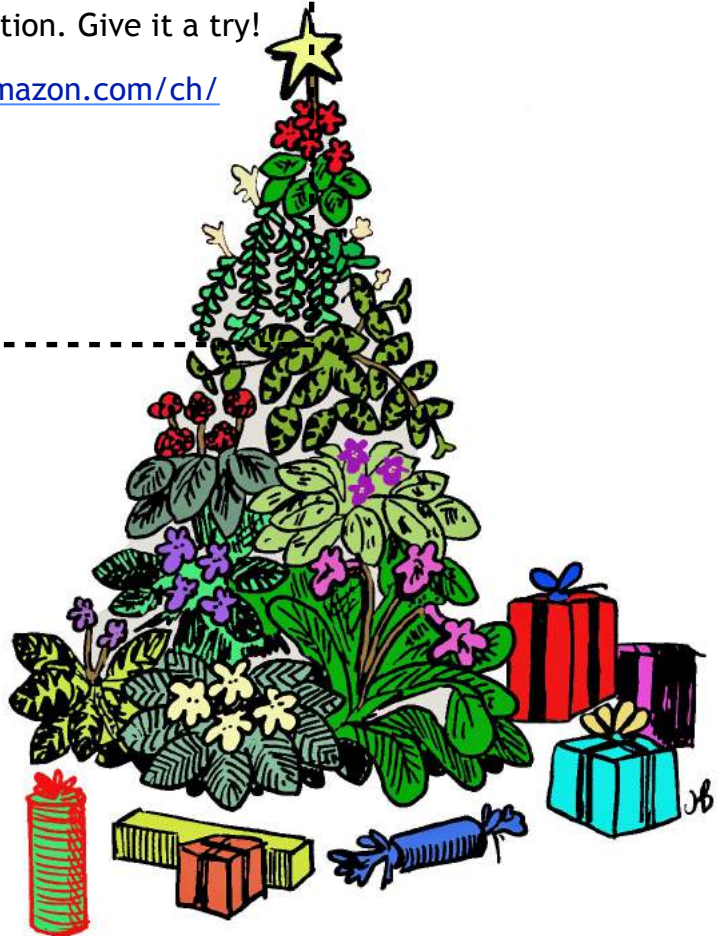
The URL for the hyperlink is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6059828>

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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 —

I always enjoy seeing the tree of gesneriads on page 9 created by John Beaulieu!

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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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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