



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from **The Gesneriad Society, Inc.**

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

Volume 14, Number 12

December 2023

This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now, Paul Susi's article about growing gesneriads in the desert, and a reminder about the Virtual Flower Show.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

Streptocarpus
'Fernwood's Morning Sunrise' grown by Vicki Ferguson from Dayton, Ohio. This hybrid was created by Lee Stradley.



Mel Grice photo

Blooming now...

Alex Yu sent these photos of *Primulina* 'Summer Song'

See the photo on the following page of its pollen under a microscope.



Alex Yu photos



Alex Yu took this image of primulina pollen at 400x magnification.



Primulina 'First Time'
grown by Terri Vicenzi

Mel Grice photo

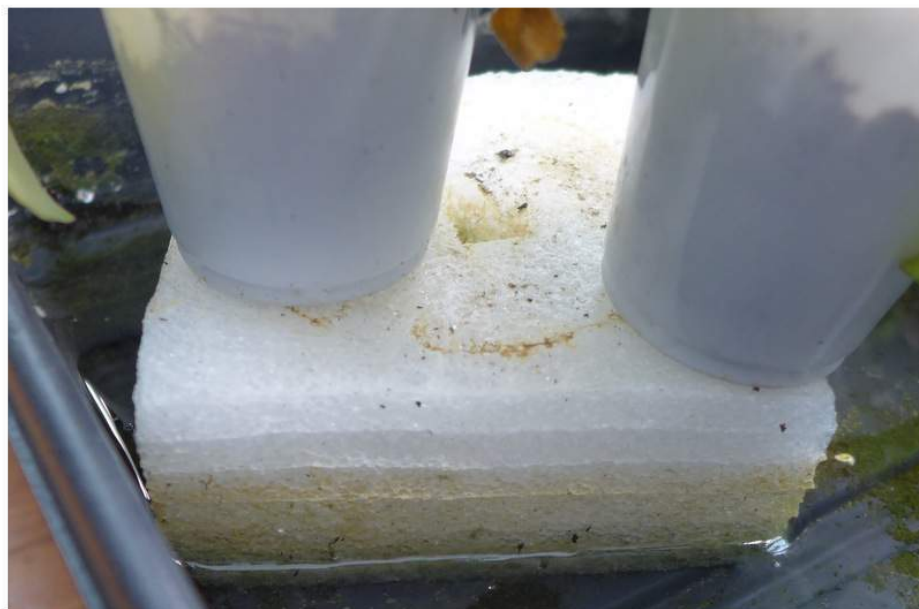
Growing Gesneriads in the Desert

Paul Susi

In April of 2021 I had written an article for the Long Island chapter newsletter on my experiences learning how to grow gesneriads in our new home in Palm Springs, California, and it was reprinted in Gleanings in the April 2021 issue. Having been growing gesneriads in the desert close to four years now, I thought an update was in order.

My indoor growing conditions have changed substantially and I am experimenting with growing gesneriads outdoors. In November 2021 we moved from a condo to a manufactured home of about the same size, but with one less bedroom. This required me to decide what to do with the light stand. I decided to not put up a four-shelf unit but, instead, to grow select gesneriads using one LED fixture (4000K, 4000 lumens) on the bottom shelf of a small table in the living room. And, for various reasons to be explained later, only about five of the gesneriads I was growing in April 2021 were still with me!

I decided to change two aspects of the growing set up: I did not enclose the area in plastic as I had done previously and I enclosed the wicks for each plant in a Styrofoam cube. The former decision was made to make the growing unit more attractive and the second was a practical one. In the old light stand, each plant was wicked and placed on egg crating and the wicks dangled in a tray filled with water. Unfortunately, many of the wicks dried out between the point that they exited the water and entered the bottom of the pot.



Paul Susi photo

As a result, a number of plants were stressed. This happened while we were away for a few months and the plant sitter didn't water the stressed plants from the top. Ergo....plant mortality. Now, each plant sits on a Styrofoam cube and the wick is in a channel in the cube from the time it exits the bottom of the pot to when it is in the water. No plant mortality! With water in the trays all the time, the humidity in the immediate growing area is between 30-40% and the temperature in the house ranges from the upper 60s in the winter to the upper 70s in the summer.



Primulina tabacum



Primulina dryas 'Hisako'

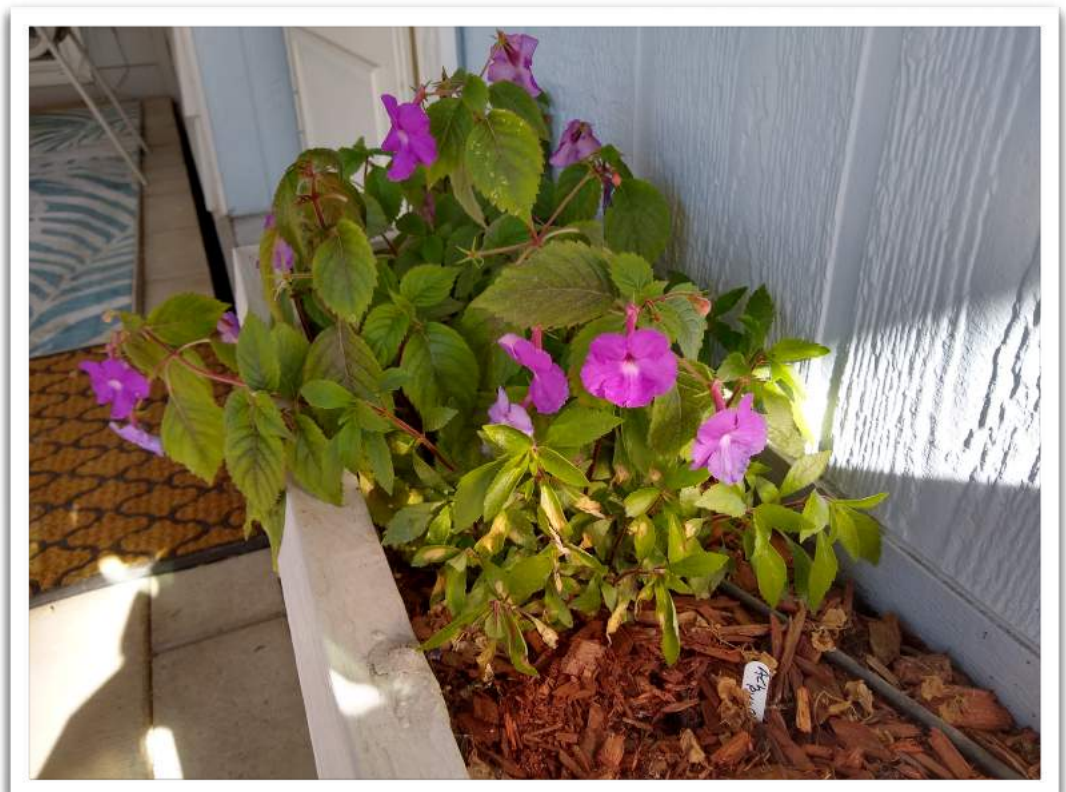


Paul Susi
photos

Primulina linearicalyx

Early this year I planted a bunch of achimenes rhizomes that I had received from Karyn Cichocki in a planter along the west side of the house. Several sprouted in early spring, and I was certain that they would not survive the almost daily highs of 115° during the summer. However, to my surprise, not only did they survive, but they thrived and one hybrid is blooming. I have since planted several more achimenes that I purchased at the Richmond convention. They haven't sprouted yet but fingers crossed. The planter gets direct sun late in the day during the fall and winter and is totally shaded during the summer. The water is supplied by a drip irrigation system that is on for ten minutes three times a day during the summer. Temperatures at night during the summer only get as low as 80°, but during the winter they range from lows of 45° to highs in the upper 70s-low 80s. The achimenes in the photo has been blooming since early October of this year.

My next attempt at growing gesneriads outdoors will be the tuberous sinningias that thrive in sun, such as *S. tubiflora*. Darianne Joshlin of Fountain Hills, Arizona, which has similar temperatures as the Palm Springs area, told me that she has had great success with her tubiflora plant outdoors for a number of years. Looking forward to the convention in St. Louis next year and a new crop of rhizomes and tubers for the planter and my small light setup!



Paul Susi photo

Convention Presentations

Terri Vicenzi from Bloomington, Indiana, shared this photo of *Smithiantha* 'Tropical Sunset'.

Terri's presentation, "Smithiantha: The Queen of the Rhizomatous Gesneriads" is available in The Gesneriad Society Shop at:

<https://shop.gesneriadsociety.org/products/2023-convention-presentations-download>

Any or all of of the nine 2023 convention presentations may be downloaded for one price, \$25.00.

(Please note that if you were a registered attendee at the 2023 convention, these programs are available to you free of charge. However, you must access them from a Gesneriad Society email communication sent to the attendees in October.)



Terri Vicenzi photo

You will receive a PDF file which has links to all of the presentations. These sessions are available as downloadable MP4 files — which means that they are yours to keep and add to your gesneriad library. The MP4 file format is compatible with both Windows and Apple products.

Please note that while you can have as many people as you want in the room viewing these presentations, you cannot share your link with others.

Happy Holidays!

Streptocarpus 'Iced Artistry'
grown by Paul Kroll



Mel Grice
photos



Saintpaulia 'Humako Inches'
grown by Gwen Wallace



The People's Choice Selections can now be viewed on The Gesneriad Society website. This is the link to the page with their names and images, where there is also a link to the full show: [link to winners and show](#). The photo below is just one of the show entries.



Primulina atropurpurea - grown by Ron Myhr, Ontario (Canada)



From the editor —

Keep those photos coming! Write some short articles about your favorite plant please.

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

Mel

Consultants Alcie Maxwell
Judy Zinni
Dale Martens

Internet Julie Mavity-Hudson
Communications Paul Susi

Newsletter Mel Grice
Editor 2019 Crosswind Ct.
Englewood, OH
45322 USA

melsgrice@gmail.com

Permission to reprint from **Gleanings** is granted, provided that credit is given to the author and the publication.

Donations

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization with an IRS section 501 (c)(3) status for donations. You can make your donations online at www.gesneriads.org. You may also send your donation (check payable to The Gesneriad Society) to:

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.

New Member Date _____

Renewal Membership # _____

Name _____
FAMILY NAME GIVEN NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

Address _____
STREET

CITY STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Email _____ Telephone _____

Chapter Affiliation (list only one) _____

(Rates in US\$)	Mailing in US 1 year	Mailing in US 3 years	Mailing outside US 1 year	Mailing outside US 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$26	\$73	\$31	\$88
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Subscription <small>(organizations, chapters, affiliates)</small>	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life	Mailing in USA \$375		Mailing outside USA \$450	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Option	Electronic journal copy (no print copy) for Individual or Household Members \$20 (one year), \$55 (three years) anywhere in the world			

I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund

Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Students and Speakers Convention Fund Conservation Fund

In Honor Memory of _____

Please make checks or money orders payable in US\$ on a USA bank to: **The Gesneriad Society**

Or, charge my VISA or MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Amount _____

Mail to: **The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
1122 East Pike St., PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA**

For application online: www.gesneriads.org