



# *The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society*

Volume XV, No. 2

October 2012

## ***2012 Mid Atlantic Show, Sale and Symposium Now History***

Them Mid-Atlantic Show Sale and Symposium sponsored jointly by the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society, the Liberty Bell Chapter of The Gesneriad Society and the National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society welcomed more than sixty gesneriad enthusiasts to Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware on Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30, 2012.



*Julia Lynch (far right) clerks for a team including (l to r) Francisco Correa, Carolyn Ripps and Bob Stewart. Also pictured is Michael Riley, a past President of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society*

From all accounts, the meeting was a huge success! Thank you to all of the Delaware Chapter members who helped organize the event and especially Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer who organized a fantastic sale which has generated funds for a future regional event, if we decide to pursue one. Appreciation is also due to Terry Celano who made our guests feel welcomed and fed.

***Congratulations on a very successful regional gathering last weekend. Bob and I had a great time! We agree with all the other attendees who feel that this should be an annual event. It was wonderful.***

**Peter Shalit, Seattle, WA  
Immediate Past President  
The Gesneriad Society**

Thanks to Stephen Maciejewski who entertained and introduced the speakers and Brian Connor who organized the arrangement classes and judging teams. The Committee is grateful to Libby Behnke, Julia Lynch and Elizabeth Varley who clerked and Barb Borleske who did placement. Thanks to Dilly Schwartz who helped set up in the beginning and was there to the very end helping Stephen, Brian and Mary clean up and Kathe Worrell who assisted with hospitality. We are also grateful to Maria Walueff who helped organize and staff the sales table almost the entire time.

We appreciate members like Libby, Barb, Mary, Terry, Brian, Maria, Bobbie, Stephen and Gary who entered the Show. But most of all we are grateful to members and University of Delaware employees Val Budischak and Claudia Bradley who made Townsend Hall available to us and who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to assure a successful event!



*Maria, Dilly and Claudia organize plants on the Sales table*

The meeting drew attendees not only from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, but also from Washington State, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Alabama and Florida. Our own Sue Rosiak made the trip all the way from Indiana.

Thanks, to all of the members already mentioned and others like Geno Iubatti, Angie Celano, Carol Callaghan, Mary Schaeffer, Libby Behnke, Claudia Bradley, Barb Borleske, Val Budischak, Terry Celano, Bobbie LaFashia, Julia Lynch, Dilly Schwartz, Elizabeth Varley, Maria Walueff and Kathe Worrell (hope I didn't miss anyone!) who provided refreshments throughout the entire event

*Thank you to the Delaware Chapter for providing a wonderful meeting. The venue was lovely; the show excellent; the sales great; and the food was very good --- both lunches and Timothy's. The Munchies Table was a terrific addition and Terry's attention to details did not go unnoticed.*

Lee Linett, Olney, MD  
Past President  
The American Gloxinia and  
Gesneriad Society

There were 169 entries in a show which featured some of the rarest and choice gesneriads in cultivation today. Members of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society entered 72 of those plants. Here are the major awards:

- ♥ Sweepstakes in Artistic goes to Karyn Cichocki with 3 first place, 0 second place, and 0 third place ribbons.
- ♥ Sweepstakes in Horticulture goes to Andrew Norris with 3 first place, 3 second place, and 2 third place ribbons.
- ♥ Sweepstakes in The Arts goes to Stephen Maciejewski with 3 first place, 3 second place, and 2 third place ribbons.
- ♥ Best *Saintpaulia*: Bobbie La Fashia - *Saintpaulia* 'Tommie Lou'
- ♥ Best in Show: Nancy Kast - *Gasteranthus* collection
- ♥ Best Fibrous Rooted Gesneriad: Nancy Kast - *Gasteranthus* collection
- ♥ Best Tuberous Gesneriad: Mary S. Schaeffer - *Sinningia* 'Orange Raindrops'
- ♥ Best Rhizomatous Gesneriad: Dee Stewart - *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*
- ♥ Best Artistic Entry: Jill Fischer - Straight-sided Terrarium
- ♥ Best in the Arts: Stephen Maciejewski - *Primulina ophiopogoides*

- ♥ Best Educational Exhibit: Stephen Maciejewski - *Oreocharis x heterandra*
- ♥ Runner up Best in Show: Paul Sorano - *Columnnea* 'Broget's Stavanger'
- ♥ Best Novice in Horticulture: Donna Beverin - *Petrocosmea* 'Momo'
- ♥ Best *Episcia*: Andrew Norris - *Episcia* 'Show Time'
- ♥ Best *Sinningia*: Mary S. Schaeffer - *Sinningia* 'Orange Raindrops'
- ♥ Best *Primulina*: Elizabeth Gottshall - *Primulina dryas*
- ♥ Best *Petrocosmea*: Donna Beveri - *Petrocosmea* 'Momo'
- ♥ Best *Streptocarpus*: Marie Burns - *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's White Gold'
- ♥ Best Lesser Known Gesneriad: Bob Stewart - *Drymonia punctulata*
- ♥ Best New Introduction: Nancy Kast - *Cremosperma* sp.
- ♥ Best Collection: Nancy Kast - *Gasteranthus* collection

*Just wanted to let you know that we had a great weekend with all of you in the East. Please let everyone know that we really thought you put together a great show and sale.*

*The friends were exceptional, the food was great, the show was beautiful, and the plant sale was over the top. I really enjoyed the programs from John L. Clark and Bob and Dee Stewart. Both were of great interest to me. I am a forever learning, and both were packed full of info.*

*The very best to all of you and I hope you will continue this show. The location was also very good with the lodging close to the show area.*

Nancy Kast  
San Antonio, FL

Jim Roberts and Brian really outdid themselves on the flower show setting it up in record time, and Jim Christ as usual excelled with entries ably assisted by



Kyoko Imai, all of the National Capital Chapter. The Show came together in record time!

Congratulations to Mary Schaeffer who won one first place, two second place and 5 third place awards; Barb Borleske who won one first place, four second place and two third place awards; Brian Connor who won one first, seven second and two third place awards; Libby Behnke who won one first place, four second place and one third place awards; Maria Walueff who won four second place and one third place awards; Elizabeth Varley who won two second place and one third place awards; Bobbie LaFashia who won four first place and two second place awards and Gary Hunter who one third place awards.

The two presentations by John L. Clark and Bob and Dee Stewart on Sunday afternoon were wonderful and introduced registrants to many new and unusual gesneriads. Additionally, the Stewarts brought many plants and cuttings from their greenhouse for people grow on and enjoy at home. Special thanks is due to member Diana Metzger who referred the Clarks to an excellent babysitter who allowed John and Silvana Clark to attend the banquet at Timothy's of Newark.

Finally, thank you to everyone who brought plants and worked on the plant sale which raised an incredible \$5,344.50. the selection and quality was impressive with many rare offering brought by Nancy and Jerry Kast for the extensive Florida collection

## ***How to Grow an Award Winning Sinningia for the Show...Start Now!***

Dale Martens, prize winning Gesneriad grower and hybridizer, recently responded to an inquiry on how to grow a miniature Sinningia for show on Gesneriphiles. She noted that she does not simply want a miniature sinningia in bloom for a show, but she wants a mature, fully developed plant in full bloom. Martens wants the leaves as large as they are genetically programmed to be, and the most flowers per stem the particular hybrid or species can produce.

Martens doesn't just don't grow a bunch of sinningias and hoping one of them is show quality. She starts about five months before the show and works at it. The plants get a lot of attention with turning and consistent fertilization.



*Dale Martens' miniature sinningias entered at the Denver convention. These happen to be a grouping of the Taiwan hybrids since she knew that her friends Vivian Liu and Dolly Yeh planned on being at that convention. Hybrids in the photo from left to right: Front row: An's Sparrow Pink, KC's Spicy Girl, HCY's Aries Back row: HCY's Blue Whale, An's Eggplant, HCY's Lady Red*

Usually she begins with naked tubers that she only half buries in a soilless mix, but there are times when she starts by rooting tip cuttings. Either way, five months later, she has a show plant. The key is maturity. The base leaves are healthy and sturdy and have never been allowed to have a bud/bloom.

She added that if you look at the typical miniature sinningia, the bottom four leaves are pretty puny. In her situation, those are long gone because she removes them at an early stage and pots the plant lower in the pot. She doesn't allow the next four base leaves to have buds/flowers...ever. Energy then goes into making larger leaves and a good foundation for a show plant. The rest is good culture with fertilization and turning of the plants. Martens grows under fluorescent lights which are on 12 hours a day. She wick waters all of them.

The S. 'HCY's Blue Whale' in the photograph had some damage in transit to the show, and she had to remove flowers and some leaves. But she enters shows to joyfully introduce new hybrids rather than get ribbons, and this one was new, although not to her personal standards of show quality.

Regarding fertilizers, she does not use high bloom fertilizers. She prefers to alternate non-urea orchid fertilizers 20-14-13 and 20-10-20 with some more balanced 20-20-20 fertilizers at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water. She leaches the pots once around the 10th week time period.

Martens added that the Sinningias in the photo all are in 3-inch pots, with some the azalea pots and others a standard 3-inch pot.

## ***Upcoming DAVS Meetings...***

**Tuesday, October 9, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803**

**Hosts:** Snacks - Quentin Schlieder  
Beverages – Bobbie LaFashia

**Program:** “Krazy about Kohlerias” - Three of DAVS own Kohleria growers (Claudia Bradley, Barb Borleske, Mary Schaeffer) will walk you through the basics of growing kohlerias under lights, on the window sill and outside during the warmer months. A brief history along with propagation techniques will be included. Each member will go home with a cutting or rhizome to grow on their own.

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803**

**Hosts:** Snacks - Nancy Murray  
Beverages – Pam Orris

**Program:** “The Violet Gallery Comes to DAVS” - Brenda and Mahlon Petry from Violet Gallery will present a program on African violets and bring an assortment of their violets for sale. This will be one of the last opportunities to acquire choice named violets that can be shown at the Chapter’s March show.

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. Note earlier time! Holiday Dinner and Auction** This year we will celebrate in the Brandywine Room at Rockland Place

## ***Upcoming Shows and Sales...***

**October 6, 2012 11AM - 3PM**

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society will present ***“Intoxicating Gesneriads”*** in the Haggerty Education Center at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960. Plant Sale. Free parking and admission. Information: Karyn Cichocki at [kdc05@ptd.net](mailto:kdc05@ptd.net) or (973) 579-7914.

**October 13, 2012 (Noon – 6PM)**

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia will present ***“Chinese New Year - The Year of the African Violet”*** in Cathedral Hall at Cathedral Village Retirement Community, 600 East Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (near Andorra Shopping Center). For more information, contact Judith Smith at [smithja@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:smithja@mail.med.upenn.edu).

**November 3 and 4, 2012**

TriState African Violet Council Annual Judged Show and Sale in the Haggerty Education Center at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960. Plant Sale. Nov 3, 2012 1:30 - 4:30 pm and Nov 4, 2012 10:30 am - 3:00 pm Free parking and admission.

***2013 Annual Show and Sale  
“Golden Jubilee –  
DAVS Celebrates 50 Years”  
Friday March 22 & Saturday, March 23, 2012***

## ***The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter***

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***First Class Mail  
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