



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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November 2011

Autumn Trip to MAAVS this Friday

Our autumn trip to the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) Convention in Timonium, Maryland takes place on Friday, November 11, 2011. You won't want to miss what promises to be a really great day! Final signups will be at the November 8th meeting. While there is no cost for the trip, participants will want to plan to budget for lunch at around \$20 and money to purchase plants and supplies from the many specialty vendors. We will be departing from the Fairfax ACME Parking Lot at 10:00 a.m. The tentative schedule is as follows:

10:00 a.m.	Depart Fairfax ACME parking area
11:30 a.m.	Arrive at Bluestone
12:45 p.m.	Leave Bluestone
1:00 p.m.	Arrive MAAVS Show and Sale
3:00 p.m.	Depart MAAVS Show and Sale
3:15 p.m.	Arrive Watsons
3:45 p.m.	Leave Watsons for Wilmington
5:15 p.m.	Return to Fairfax ACME

Our first stop will be at Bluestone Seafood Grille, a casual upscale restaurant featuring fresh fish and seafood. Gary Hunter has made a reservation for us. Their website lists lunch as \$8-\$18. To view the luncheon menu, follow the following link <http://www.bluestoneonline.net/index2.cfm?page=lunch>. It is five minutes from the Crown Plaza Hotel where the MAAVS Convention will be in full swing.

After lunch, we will proceed to the Crown Plaza where the showroom will have hundreds of beautiful African violets and other gesneriads on display. The salesroom will have commercial vendors from many different states selling African violets, gesneriads, and many other unusual plants, leaves, cuttings, growing supplies, AV related clothing, jewelry, books and much, much more.

MAAVS was conceived originally by Joyce Stenger (Sugarloaf) at a meeting of the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges. She proposed a Mid Atlantic Meeting of African Violet judges so that they could exchange judging ideas and unify the groups. However, the Judges didn't pursue the initiation of the group since several of the original organizers were unavailable to put the plan into motion.

Subsequently, Diane Richardson and Marie Burns of Baltimore African Violet Club decided to try to form a group that included not only the judges but all violet growers interested in attending an affordable, fun convention where they could share ideas and get to know people from other clubs and so on March 9, 1991 MAAVS was born in Burns' living room. The Society and its Convention have continued to grow and flourish and today it is one of the premier Autumn events for African Violet enthusiasts.

Marie Burns is Chairman of this year's Show ably assisted by Brian Connor, our speaker last month. The Show theme is "Violets in Birdland," due to the use of bird references in the city's culture. The baseball team is the Orioles, the football team is the Ravens, and Cal Ripkin's organization in Aberdeen is the Ironbirds. It promises to be a great show that you won't want to miss!



Watson's Garden Center in Lutherville, MD

Following the MAAVS Show and Sale, we will proceed to Watsons Garden Center in Lutherville, MD, which is about ten minutes from the hotel. Watson's offers huge selection of orchids from Florida, California, and Hawaii. Other specialties in the greenhouse include a great selection of bonsai plants and pots, cacti and succulents, African violets, and carnivorous plants. They also keep a great selection of products for tropicals in the greenhouse.

We will depart Watson's around 3:45 p.m. and plan to return to the Fairfax ACME Parking Area between 5:15 and 5:30 p.m.

Brazil Plants Support Group Preserves Rare Plants

Editor's Note: The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society is a member of this unique effort to preserve, catalog and distribute Brazil's Unique flora. We thought you might like to know more about the initiative and the visionary man who launched it.



*Mauro Peixoto in his greenhouse in Sao Paulo State, Brazil
Photo by Jim Roberts*

Since the late 1980's Mauro Peixoto has been cultivating and distributing seed of many new and rare Brazilian plant species. Single-handedly he has managed all aspects of this process - from maintaining the collections in a 33,000 square foot covered lath house to labeling and keeping records on locality and hand pollinating those for which seed has been requested. In addition to all of this, he travels yearly throughout southern Brazil to upgrade and expand the collections. Presently, the collections focus on Alstromeriaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Iridaceae, Passifloraceae, Gesneriaceae, Orchidaceae and Velloziaceae; but also extend to others related to these.

Over the years his personal collection has grown to about 4,000 plants - 1,250 species representing thirty plant families. It is from this collection that he harvests a good portion of the seeds that he distributes. This collection could be more extensive, but due to the necessity of his travels during the spring and summer, it had declined. He was unable to afford a qualified person who would maintain the plants in his absence and to help him when he was there. Every year he takes many people on tours showcasing the Brazilian flora, so he knew that there

was great interest in the subject. His desire to continue the distribution of seed and the need for the habitat information that is so critical to good plant care prompted him to try to develop a solution, and so he devised what became known as the Brazil Plants Support Group.

The Brazil Plants Support Group seeks to bring together individuals who are interested in the rich and diverse Brazilian flora as well as helping him to preserve a unique collection of rare Brazilian plants, from which seed is collected for distribution. The Group also seeks to bring into cultivation and to distribute to members new or rare species in the families represented in his original collection, while not excluding others of interest.

The Group also was a means to maintain the health of the existing collection and to improve the collection by replacing the material that has been lost or adding new material to enlarge it. The Brazil Plants Support Group facilitates the collection of seed from difficult and rare species from cultivated or wild plants.

The program enables Peixoto to hire one full time employee to work at the greenhouse and to help finance the repair and maintenance of the existing greenhouse, including purchasing materials to repot the entire collection. These purchases include fertilizer, pesticide, potting mix, etc. This costs about \$400.00 US per month.

The Brazil Plants Support Group offers three membership levels, each with different benefits. These levels include:

- **Sustaining Membership** - \$ 60/year
18 seed pkgs/year (6 pkgs 3 times/year)
- **Preservationist Membership** - \$125/year
Preservationist Membership 36 seed pkgs/year (12 pkgs 3 times/year)
- **Visionary Membership / Garden Clubs / Institutional** - \$ 250/year
72 seed pkgs/year (24 pkgs 3 times/year)
- **Friend of Brazil Plants** – Donation up to \$ 60 per year .
No free seeds.

A complete list of available seed is emailed to each member every 4 months, and new additions will be emailed as they become ready. The seed is sent on a first come, first serve basis. Seed is not cumulative and must be received within the current period with deadlines of April 30, August 31, and December 31. Free seeds are limited to one package from each species per order. There is only one free shipment

per period; additional shipments pay the regular postage fee.

The quantity of seeds in each package varies according to availability and extremely rare seeds that have a very high market price (up to \$10 each seed) are rated according to its rarity. For example, each *Worsleya raineri* seed is worth three to five ordinary seed package.

Peixoto prioritizes obtaining new and/or rare species (seeds, tubers or cuttings). Tubers or cuttings are sent (as available) through express mail at member's own risk and expense and tubers and cuttings are not included among the dividends members receive.

An exclusive and non-listed club has been maintained at Yahoo called "Brazil Plants Support Club" The site includes a complete plant inventory (Plant Family, genera, species, origin, etc), a financial balance with all expenses and receipts, including a member-by-member payment profile every three months, a quarterly online newsletter with all additions and deletions from the collection.

In club's "Photo" section members can view pictures of new material and/or rare plants from the collection and pictures of interest to the club. The club's "Messages" section features posts of new species and rare material to the members, that are provided on a first ordered - first served basis. Updates to the seed-list are available at least one week before the list goes to the site, so members have the possibility of ordering before the general public.

Mary Schaeffer has been managing our participation in this initiative. Mary notes that she received the following in the first shipment, and about 80% of these germinated. When she planted the second batch she resowed those that either didn't germinate or only had one or two germinating. The plants will be grown on and hopefully will be available at the sales table. The first batch included:

Gesneria cuneifolia 'Quebradillas,' *Gesneria cuneifolia* 'Tom Talpey,' *Gesneria humilis* MP 0655, *Gesneria* hybrid (*christii* x *citrina*), *Gesneria reticulata* 'El Yunque,' *Rhytidophyllum leucomallon*, *Alsobia punctata*, *Diastema racemiferum*, *Kohleria eriantha* 'Iguassu,' *Lysionotus serratus*, *Moussonia elegans*, *Seemanian gymnostoma*, *Sinningia leucotricha* 'Itaquera,' *Sinningia richii* 'Robson Lopes' (Yellow), *Sphaerorrhiza sarmentiana*, *Codonanthe calcarata* 'Puyo,' *Codonanthe carnosa* 'Mangaratiba,' *Codonanthe devosiana* 'Guaratuba' *Nematanthus corticola*, *Nematanthus brasiliensis*,



Sinningia richii 'Robson Lopes' (Yellow)

Photo credit: Mauro Peixoto

Nematanthus brasiliensis, *Codonanthe cordifolia*, *Codonanthe crassifolia* 'Belem,' *Sinningia macropoda*, *Gloxiniopsis racemosa*, and *Codonanthe devosiana* 'Pink.'

Second batch included:

Besleria melancholica, *Boea hygroskopica*, *Chirita heterotricha*, *Codonanthe devosiana* 'Hairy – Massaguassu,' *Codonanthe gibbosa*, *Codonanthe serrulata*, *Diastema racemiferum*, *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Chapada dos Guimarães,' *Gloxiniopsis racemosa*, *Kohleria bogotensis*, *Kohleria hondensis*, *Nautilocalyx mellitifolius*, *Nematanthus crassifolius*, *Nematanthus fritschii*, *Nematanthus gregarius* 'Arujá' red leaf, *Nematanthus jolyanus* 'Boraceia,' *Nematanthus punctatus*, *Paliavana tenuiflora*, *Sinningia calcaria*, *Sinningia pusilla* 'Itaoca,' *Sinningia reitzii* 'Iporanga' (magenta flowers), *Sinningia speciosa* 'Carangola' and *Vanhouttea fruticulosa*

To see photos of these and many of the other plants offered through the Brazil Plant Club, visit Mauro Peixoto's website at <http://brazilplants.com/>.

Mary notes that this seed is very viable compared to some other sources and the program has provided the opportunity to acquire really unusual gesneriads, many of them at risk in their native habitats due to destruction of habitat. It is the perfect way to help preserve some of these species for the future while enriching our own collections. This program also has provided incredible opportunities for hybridizing new varieties. If you would like to help Mary, please let her know at the November meeting!

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hosts: Snacks - Diane Abramson

Beverages – Geno Iubatti

Program: “Aeschynanthus” - Aeschynanthus is a genus of about 185 species of tropical trailing epiphytes with brightly colored flowers that are pollinated by sunbirds. They are found in southern and southeastern Asia, the islands of Indonesia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. Join us and discover the many wonderful houseplants which belong to this genus and how to grow them! A panel of members will review how they grow and enjoy these fascinating plants. A cutting workshop will follow the presentation. A plant sale will conclude the evening. If you have surplus plants to share bring them. Don't forget to bring plants for the Little Show or Show and Tell!

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. (Note earlier time!)

Carol and John Callaghan's home, 2806 Rickdale Road, Wilmington, DE 19810

Hostess: Hostess for supplies - All members for the food. **Sign up at the November meeting.** Pot Luck Dinner and Auction: Guests are welcome and we would like you to sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert that will serve 8 people or more. Also plan to bring plants, handcrafts, surprise boxes, gifts or something from your kitchen for the auction.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor

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First Class Mail

Time Value/ Please Expedite!

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

November 10th to 12th, 2011

2011 MAAVS Convention, the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Timonium, Maryland. Theme is “Violets in Birdland.” Chapter trip is planned for Friday, November 11, 2011. The Show and Sale open to the public at 1 p.m. For more information: http://maavs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82&Itemid=85

April 14th-15th, 2012

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale at Planting Fields Arboretum, Conference Center, Oyster Bay. The Show celebrates the chapter's 50th Anniversary, “Golden Oldies”, in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island. The hours are Saturday, April 14, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Ben Paternoster at ben9@optonline.net for more information. Gesneriad Society judges interested in receiving an invitation to judge the show should contact Paul Susi at ps117@earthlink.net.



Carol Callaghan discusses plants on the Show and Tell Table at our October meeting