



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XIV, No. 8

April 2012

Plans for Regional Meeting Continue to Unfold

The Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium, a collaborative event of the Delaware, Liberty Bell and National Capital Area Chapters of The Gesneriad Society, will be held in Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, 531 South College Avenue, Newark DE from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 30, 2012,

The show, with the theme “**Gesneriads Across the Globe: An International Family,**” and sale are free and open to the public. The Show and Sale set up will be on Saturday, September 29, 2012 in the morning with judging in the afternoon. The Flower Show Banquet will be held Saturday evening at Timothy’s of Newark.

In addition to the Show and Sale, there will be two wonderful presentations on Sunday. The first will feature John L. Clark from the University of Alabama who will give a presentation on “Searching for Gesneriads in Cuba”

Clark is an Associate Professor in The University of Alabama’s Department of Biological Sciences. His research focuses on the diversification and taxonomy of the flower plant family Gesneriaceae in the New World Tropics. Since 2006 John has participated in eight expeditions to Cuba for ongoing research on the Flora of Cuba Project. His research has facilitated the rediscovery of plants that had not been documented since the 1800s, some of which have been recently introduced into the horticultural community. John will discuss recent taxonomic changes that affected the names of commonly grown Gesneriaceae from the Caribbean. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see Gesneriads growing naturally in their habitats.

The second presentation will feature Bob and Dee Stewart live in Stowe, Vermont, where they maintain an extensive collection of exotic gesneriads in their greenhouse. Bob and Dee began growing gesneriads almost 25 years ago, starting on windows, moving to light, then to more elaborate lights, and then to the greenhouse. They grow a wide variety of species, including a lot of epiphytes and cool growers. Bob and Dee have won many awards for their plants, and

...continued on page 3...

African Violets Go to the Races Attracts the Crowds

Thanks to the great planning and hard work of Co-Chairs Barb Borleske and Nancy Murray and their Committee, the 2012 Delaware African Violet Society Show and Sale held as the Christiana Town Center Boscov’s on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. was a great success. The Show, with the theme “African Violets Go to the Races,” and was awarded the AVSA Blue Certificate and attracted African violet and gesneriad enthusiasts from throughout the region.



Saintpaulia ‘Precious Red,’ grown by Bobbie LaFashia, was awarded Best in Show.

Thanks are due to Anne Petrucci and Carol Moody for their work on the Awards Committee. Congratulations are in order for all of the winners which included:

DAVS SPECIAL SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

FIRST HORTICULTURE – Barb Boleske (31)

Ada J. Shelton Memorial Award donated by Libby Behnke

SECOND HORTICULTURE – Mary Schaeffer (29)

June McMurphy Lesh Memorial Award donated by Barb Borleske

THIRD HORTICULTURE – Angie Celano (26)

Show Chairman Award donated by Barb Borleske

FOURTH HOLTICULTURE – Libby Behnke (21)

Sally Crossan Memorial Award donated by Diane Abramson

GESNERIAD SWEEPSTAKES – Barb Borleske (31)

Susan Schlieder Memorial Award donated by Quentin Schlieder

DESIGN SWEEPSTAKES – Pat Barbarita (4)

Gen Scholl Award donated by Bobbie LaFashia

OTHER AWARDS

BEST IN SHOW – Bobbie LaFashia, June McMurphy Lesh

Memorial Award donated by Barb Borleske for *Saintpaulia* 'Precious Red.'

SECOND BEST IN SHOW - Bobbie LaFashia,

Gladys Callaghan Memorial Award donated by Carol Callaghan for *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara New Jersey

BEST STANDARD AFRICAN VIOLET –

Bobbie LaFashia, Vice President's Award donated by Mary Schaeffer in memory of Ron Schacht for *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara New Jersey'

BEST MINIATURE AFRICAN VIOLET – Bobbie

LaFashia Yankee Candle donated by Friendly Gift Shop for *Saintpaulia* 'Precious Red'

BEST SEMI-MINATURE AFRICAN VIOLET -

Bobbie LaFashia, Helen Spisak Memorial Award donated by Pam Orris *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'

DELAWARE COUNCIL OF JUDGES AWARD –

Diane Abramson, Ribbon for *Columnea* 'Fujiana'

SPRINGFIELD JUDGES AWARD – Libby Behnke,

Ribbon for *Saintpaulia* 'Rockin' Robin'

BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION – Libby

Behnke, Gertrud Grabosky Memorial Award donated by Carol Callaghan for *Saintpaulia* 'Rockin' Robin,' 'Ozio' and 'Newtown James Peel'



The 2012 Show, African Violets Go to the Races, featured 196 entries and was well attended.

BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION (Class 8)

Bobbie LaFashia, Ruth Ann Morse Memorial Award donated by Carol Callaghan for *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy,' 'Little Pro,' and 'Ode to Grace.'



Mary Schaeffer won Best Gesneriad with this very floriferous plant of *Kohleria* 'HYC's Jardin de Monet.'

BEST GESNERIAD – Mary Schaeffer, Lillian Crewe

Memorial Award donated by Diane Abramson for *Kohleria* 'HYC's Jardin de Monet.'

2nd BEST GESNERIAD – Brian Connor, Carol Catlett

Memorial Award donated by Quentin Schlieder for *Primulina* 'Rachel'

BEST INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGMENT –

Bobbie LaFashia, Betty Gregg Memoiral Award donated by Barb Borleske for "There They Go"

BEST INTERPRETIVE ARRANGEMENT – Mary

Schaeffer, Wallace K. Behnke Annual Award donated by Libby Behnke for "Winner's Circle."

BEST DESIGN – Mary Schaeffer, A.D.K. Eta Chapter

Sorority Award donated by Terry Celano for "Winner's Circle."

BEST SPECIES – Angie Celano, Marion Mossberg Memorial

Award donated by Quentin Schlieder, *Saintpaulia* 8 clone *rupicola*

BEST TRAILER – Anne Petrucci, Charlotte Maltman

Memorial Award donated by Carol Moody for *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Humpty Doo.'

BEST NOVICE – Stacey Tomaszewski, donated by Julia

Lynch for *Saintpaulia* 'Buffalo Hunt'

AWARDS OF MERIT – Brian Connor award donated by

Mary Schaeffer for *Primulina* 'Jade Moon,' Mary Schaeffer award donated by Quentin Schlieder for *Kohleria lucianni* x *Kohleria* 'Peridots Kitlope,' Barb Borleske plant donated by Gary Hunter and Libby Behnke award donated by Mary Schaeffer for *Columnea* 'Fujiana.'

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD - donated by Mary Schaefer and awarded to Mary Schaeffer for *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Blue.' Drawing winner was Linda Tilley of Newark, DE.

TERRY'S KIDS AT RICHARDSON PARK LEARNING CENTER - Angie Celano Annual Award donated by Angie Celano, Madeline Becker Memorial Award donated by Carol Moody, Geno Iubatti Award donated by Geno Iubatti, Anne Petrucci Annual Award donated by Anne R. Petrucci, Fiore Celano, Sr. Memorial Award donated by Anne Petrucci, and the Quentin Schlieder Award donated by Quentin Schlieder.

Congratulations to all of the winners and workers! Carol Callaghan reports that there were 22 (up from 16 the previous year) exhibitors with 165 horticulture entries (up from 143 the previous year), 27 design entries (up from 23 the previous year) and 2 special (education) entries for a total of 196 entries (up from 168 entries the previous year). She also noted that the number of other gesneriads surpassed the total number African Violets in the show again this year.



Pam Orris' Education exhibit garnered many positive comments

The theme was beautifully presented by a display created by Linda McGregor.

Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer did an outstanding job on plant sales. The total sales were \$3,290.75 (up from \$1,580.00 the previous year) resulting in a net income of \$1,206.00 (up from \$869.60 the previous year). Two commercial vendors and members provided plants for sale.

Member plants were allowed up to 75% of the sale price. Members supplied their plants with a range of 75% to 0% returned to them at the end of the sale. Betsy Gottshall and Russ Strover from the Liberty Bell Chapter brought several micro mini Sinningias and other gesneriads which they donated for the sale.

We are already thinking about next year's show. Diane has suggested that the theme reflect the 50th Anniversary of becoming an AVSA affiliate! This and other ideas will be discussed at future meetings. If you have ideas, please share them!

Regional Meeting (Continued from page 1)

lectured on the greenhouse culture of gesneriads at the AGGS 1998 Convention. They have been members of AGGS (now The Gesneriad Society) for over 25 years. Bob is the botanical reviewer for *Gesneriads* and is a fabulous photographer. Dee is a wonderful grower. They were featured in the February issue of *Gleanings*, a free e-newsletter from The Gesneriad Society. Space is limited and registration will be required for the Symposium. Watch future issues of the newsletter for more details, and if you are planning to attend and are able to help, please let Quentin Schlieder, who is the event Chairman, know.

Election of 2011-12 Officers Set at April Meeting

The following Slate of Officers for 2012-13 was published in last month's newsletter as required under the bylaws and will be considered at the April 10th meeting. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Quentin Schlieder, Angie Celano and Maria Walueff, proposes the following slate of officers for 2012-13:

- President Gary Hunter
- Vice President Mary Schaeffer
- Secretary Terry Celano
- Treasurer Bobbie LaFashia

Nominations also can be offered from the floor. The installation of officers will be held at the June meeting

Judging School Announced

New Jersey Council of African Judges (NJCAVJ) is sponsoring a judging school on June 2, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the in Classroom A of the Haggerty Education Center at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown New Jersey. The cost is \$25.00, if taking the test or \$15.00, if auditing the school. A light breakfast and beverages will be provided by the NJCAVJ. The instructor will be Kay Rotando.

Participants must be members of the African Violet Society of America. Participants must bring the AVSA Handbook, 11th or 2007 revision (see pp 88-89 in handbook), proof of three blue ribbons (one may be from design or other gesneriads class), their AVSA membership card, a brown bag lunch, 2 blooming African violet plants, for practice judging and testing and a self-addressed, stamped, business size envelope.

If you would like more information, or to register, contact Susan Hanna by telephone at 215-256-9752 or by e-mail at shanna825@hotmail.com.

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Host: Snacks & Beverages – Quentin Schlieder

Program: “Judging Gesneriads” This PowerPoint presentation was developed by noted and prize winning growers Dale Martens, Paul Kroll and Bill Price and was presented at the AVSA Convention in Denver, CO in 2007. This presentation is of value not only to judges, but especially to growers who will learn how accomplished judges will evaluate their entries. 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, May 8, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Hostesses: Snacks – Terry Celano

Beverages – Angie Celano

Program: “Terrariums” - Two big hitters from The Philadelphia International Flower Show-Lynn Cook and Troy Ray-will be presenting a very informative program on Terrariums at our May meeting. Come and learn how to create a dynamic enclosed environment and maybe go home with the creation! It will be raffled off at the end of the meeting! 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!

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th, 2012

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show celebrates the chapter's 50th Anniversary with the theme “Golden Oldies”, on 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.

Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, 2012

African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, PA will hold their annual show and sale at the Springfield Mall, Baltimore Pike and Sproul Road, Springfield, PA 19064 Hours for the plant sales are from noon to 9PM on Friday May 4th, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 5th and 11 a.m. -4p.m. on Sunday, May 6th. The Show is open on Saturday from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information contact Peggy Mooney atpm1016@rcn.com.

Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, 2012

The Garden State African Violet Club will present its 61st Annual Show and Sale on Saturday, May 5th, 2012 From Noon - 4p.m. and Sunday, May 6th from 11a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road in West Windsor, NJ 08550. For more information, contact Paula Bal by e-mail at Paulapt213@yahoo.com or by telephone at (732) 771-7117.

Friday, May 11th and Saturday, May 12th, 2012

The Baltimore African Violet and Gesneriad Club Annual Show and Sale. Watch the May newsletter for more details. Mark your calendar now!

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

First Class Mail

Time Value/ Please Expedite!