



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

Volume XV, No. 8

April 2013

## ***PLAN(T) A DISH GARDEN OR TERRARIUM FOR SHOW***

*By Lee Linett*

*With this month's presentation by Karyn Cichocki and Jill Fischer on "Container Gardening Insights," I thought this article by Lee Linett published in the March Issue of the National Capital Chapter's newsletter PetalTones would be of interest. Reprinted with permission for the editor and author.*

It isn't too early to plan on entering a terrarium or dish garden in the chapter's show at the end of September. Why start now when there are months to go? In a word, time; time for the plants to fill in and look more like a natural landscape instead of a put-together last minute arrangement.



*Karyn Cichocki's entry of "Plantings of Growing Material Natural Garden (planted on rock or wood) not to exceed 12" in any dimension" won sweepstakes in Artistic at the 2009 Gesneriad Society Convention.*

There always are things to at the last minute, but starting from scratch shouldn't be one of them. When terrariums and dish gardens are placed in the show, they're placed at table level, so keep in mind that judges and viewers will be looking down rather than at eye level. It is important to have some "open spaces" from this perspective as well as a front on view. Winding paths and simulated water or streams should continue to a logical source or end and this is where your creative use of rocks, pebbles, and wood comes into play.

While your dish garden or terrarium might be viewed from only one side, the whole arrangement should present a completed look all around, front to back and side to side.

If you want to use a piece of wood or a rock as a focal point, try different angles for placement... upside down or vertically instead of horizontally. Several flat rocks can be stepped up to form ledges and overhangs. Pieces of bark, small branches and twigs can be utilized to prop up and hold different levels of plantings. A dish garden or a terrarium will look much more interesting with different levels of plantings.

A lazy Susan is a very useful aid in planting a dish garden and will enable you to turn the container to get all around without having to walk around to the other side. Have your materials on the table within easy reach and take your time in arranging.

Save the sheet moss for completing the dish garden or terrarium until a week before entry. The reason is to allow for any last minute adjustments with a minimum of disturbance. When you take the moss out of the package, cut it to roughly the size(s) you'll need to cover the mix and pick off the bits of detritus then soak the moss in room temp water in a shallow pan for 10 minutes. The moss will expand a bit and more detritus will float to the top. Try to skim it off then place the moss on a few layers of paper towels to soak up excess water. Place the moss where you want it and poke the edges down with a thin bamboo skewer. The moss will green up in a couple of days and give a finished look to your arrangement. Give yourself time and plan on making a terrarium or dish garden to grow throughout the spring and summer. Make a diagram or diagrams. You'll have a better idea of what will fit and what is too much.

## ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show a Winner***

Thanks to the great planning and hard work of Co-Chairs Nancy Murray, Julia Lynch and their Committee, the 2013 Delaware African Violet Society Show and Sale held as the Christiana Town Center Boscov's on Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. was a great success. The Show, with the theme "*Golden Jubilee – The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Celebrates 50 Years,*" and was awarded the AVSA Blue Certificate. The theme was beautifully presented by a decorations and a delicious cake provided by Linda McGregor.

Thanks are due to Anne Petrucci and Carol Moody for their work on the Awards Committee. The winners are:

## DAVS SPECIAL SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

**FIRST HORTICULTURE** – Barb Boleske (32) - Vice

President's Award donated by Mary Schaeffer

**SECOND HORTICULTURE** – Libby Behnke (29) - Sand  
picture donated by Old Country Gardens

**THIRD HORTICULTURE** – Mary Schaeffer - Samuel  
Murray Memorial Show Chairman Award donated by  
Nancy Murray

**GESNERIAD SWEEPSTAKES** – Barb Borleske - Susan  
Schlieder Memorial Award donated by Quentin Schlieder

**DESIGN SWEEPSTAKES** – Bobbie LaFashia (3) –  
donated by Quentin Schlieder in honor of Angie Celano



*Libby Behnke's spectacular plant of Saintpaulia 'Dress Rehearsal' was judged Best in Show.*

## OTHER AWARDS

**BEST IN SHOW** – Libby Behnke for *Saintpaulia* 'Dress Rehearsal,' Gen Scholl Memorial Award donated by Bobbie LaFashia.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BEST IN SHOW** – Bobbie LaFashia for *Saintpaulia* 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet,' Ron Schacht Memorial Award donated by Mary Schaeffer.

**BEST SEMI-MINATURE AFRICAN VIOLET** -  
Bobbie LaFashia for *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy,'  
Wallace Behnke Memorial Award donated by Libby  
Behnke.

**BEST SPECIES AFRICAN VIOLET** - Barb Borleske for  
*Saintpaulia orbicularis*. award donated by Maria Walueff.

**BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION** – Carol  
Moody for *Saintpaulia* 'Allison's Laughter,' S. 'EK  
Goluboglaziana,' and S. 'Ma's Neon Lights,' June

McMurray Lesh Memorial Award donated by Barb  
Borleske.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION** - Bobbie  
LaFashia for *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy,' S. 'Little  
Pro,' and S. 'Irish Flirt,' Ruth Ann Morse Memorial Award  
donated by Carol Callaghan.

**BEST GESNERIAD**–Libby Behnke for *Primulina*  
'Serenity,' Lillian Crewe Memorial Award donated by  
Diane Abramson.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BEST GESNERIAD** – Nancy Murray for  
*Aeschynanthus lobbianus*, award donated by Barb  
Borleske.

**BEST KOHLERIA** – Barb Borleske for *Kohleria* 'Manchu'  
award donated by Quentin Schlieder.

**BEST PRIMULINA GROWN FOR ORNAMENTAL  
FOLIAGE** – Elizabeth Varley for *Primulina* 'Aiko,' award  
donated by Quentin Schlieder.

**BEST PRIMULINA IN BLOOM** – Libby Behnke for  
*Primulina* 'Serenity,' Gertrud Grabosky Memorial Award  
donated by Carol Callaghan.

**BEST STREPTOCARPUS** – Barbara Borleske for  
*Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Potpourri,' a plant donated by  
Gary Hunter.

**BEST COLUMNEA** – Gary Hunter for *Columnea*  
'Firebird,' Gladys Callaghan Memorial Award donated by  
Carol Callaghan.

**BEST SINNINGIA** – Libby Behnke for *Sinningia* 'Lil  
Georgie,' Carol Cattlett Memorial Award donated by  
Quentin Schlieder

**BEST DESIGN** – Terry Celano for "Celebrate", Ada  
Shelton Memorial Award donated Libby Behnke.

**BEST GESNERIAD COLLECTION** – Gary Hunter for  
*Streptocarpus* 'Hara No Mizu, S. 'Harlequin Blue,' S.  
'Monarch's Journey, Emma Memorial Mazzetta Award  
donated by Barb Borleske.

**BEST CONTAINER GARDEN** – Pat Barbarita, award  
A.D.K. Eta Chapter Sorority Award donated by Terry  
Celano

**BEST TERRARIUM** – Kathe Worrell, award donated by  
Pat Barbarita.

**BEST INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGMENT** –  
Terry Celano for "Celebrate," Charlotte Maltman Memorial  
Award donated by Carol Moody.

**BEST INTERPRETIVE PLANTING** – Pat Barbarita,  
award donated by Barb Borleske.

**BEST NOVICE** – Kathe Worrell, award donated by  
Elizabeth Varley.

**PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD** – Nancy Murray for  
*Aeschynanthus lobbianus*, award donated by Mary  
Schaefer. Drawing winner was Stephanie Czetli of  
Lancaster, PA.

**BEST IN CLASS 4** – Carol Moody for *Saintpaulia* 'Spring  
Rose,' award donated by Mary Schaeffer

**BEST IN CLASS 11** – Bobbie LaFashia for *Saintpaulia*  
'Snuggles,' award donated by Pat Barbarita.

**BEST IN CLASS 16** – Mary Schaeffer for *Sinningia*  
*bullata*, award donated by Pat Barbarita.

**BEST IN CLASS 18a** – Barbara Borleske for *Kohleria*  
'Flashdance,' award donated by Pat Barbarita.

**BEST IN CLASS 21a** – Angie Celano for *Primulina*



'Nimbus,' award donated by Pat Barbarita.  
**BEST IN CLASS 21a** – Angie Celano for *Primulina*  
USBRG 98- 083 award donated by Quentin Schlieder.

Congratulations to all of the winners and workers and to Neil Lipson and Barry Woolf who photographed the show.



Nancy Murray's plant of *Aeschynanthus lobbianus* won the Peoples Choice Award.

Gary Hunter, Mary Schaeffer, Maria Walueff, Ray Ruger, Val Budischak and Nancy Murray again did an outstanding job on plant sales. The total sales were \$2905.75 (down from \$3,290.75 the previous year) resulting in a net income of \$489.62. Two commercial vendors and several 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 from the Liberty Bell Chapter brought several micro mini Sinningias and other gesneriads which she donated for the sale.

The Chapter realized \$25.00 as its share from the sale of the ceramic self-watering pots sold by a private vendor. The Sales Committee is analyzing how to increase the income from sales next year.

We are already thinking about next year's show. Julia Lynch and Stephanie Griffith have agreed to be Co-chairs. If you have ideas, please share them!

## ***Election of 2013-14 Officers Set at April Meeting***

The following Slate of Officers for 2013-14 was published in last month's newsletter as required under the bylaws and will be considered at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Quentin Schlieder, Angie Celano and Maria Walueff, proposes the following slate of officers for 2013-14:

- President Mary Schaefer
- Vice President Julia Lynch
- 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

## ***February Little Show Results***

The February Little Show featured stunning plants from both Gary Hunter and Barb Borleske. Here are the results:

### **Gary Hunter (7 Blues, 1 Red Ribbons)**

*Nematanthus australis* (red ribbon - lack of bloom)

*Nematanthus* 'Cheerio'

*Nematanthus gregarious* "Dibley's Gold"

*Sinningia* 'Lil Georgie'

*Codonanthe devosiana*

*Columnnea* 'Aladdin's Lamp' (Blue Mountain)

*Columnnea* 'Inferno'

Dish Garden

### **Barb Borleske (4 Blue Ribbons)**

*Primulina dryas angustifolia*

*Primulina* USBRG 98-083

*Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Potpourri'

*Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'

## ***Welcome New Members!***

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society. They are:

Kathy Paschetto (6/2)  
608 Creek Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
(610) 925-0848  
[Manycats4@verizon.net](mailto:Manycats4@verizon.net)

Geri Garvin (9/18)  
810 Everett Road  
Marydel, MD 21649  
(410) 438-3627  
[Andoverfarm@msn.com](mailto:Andoverfarm@msn.com)

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

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts:** Snacks - Stacey Tomaszewski  
Beverages – Mary Schaeffer

**Program: “Container Gardening Insights”** - Two award winning designers, Jill Fisher and Karyn Cichocki, will share their considerable expertise on putting together both gardens in natural containers and in trays. Bring cuttings of some of their favorite gesneriads for a cutting exchange.

**Tuesday, May 14, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts:** Snacks - Anne Petrucci  
Beverages – Julia Lynch

**Program: “Collecting Gesneriads in Ecuador”** - Our own Elizabeth Varley will present a beautifully illustrated program her trip to Ecuador in April 1988. Varley formerly was the curator of the Gesneriads at Longwood Gardens. Cuttings of some of the plants Elizabeth discusses will be available.

**Tuesday, June 11, 2013 – 6:00 p.m. (Note earlier time!) Potluck Dinner and Picnic** – Enjoy the home and garden of Steve and Barb Borleske. Everyone is invited to bring their significant other or a guest and your favorite dish.

**Tuesday, September 10, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Program: “Secrets from an Award-Winning African Violet Grower”** - Sandy Skalski, winner of numerous awards at the national African Violet Convention in Cherry Hill, will reveal her secrets to producing award winning violets.

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

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Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

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

**April 13th-14th, 2013**

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale, “Going Green”, in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island, at Planting Fields Arboretum, Conference Center, Oyster Bay. Saturday, April 13, 1:00 to 4:00 pm; Sunday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ben Paternoster at [ben9@optonline.net](mailto:ben9@optonline.net).

**April 19-21, 2013**

The African Violet Society of Springfield (Delaware County) Annual Show and Sale, “Violet Junction,” *has moved to Granite Run Mall, 1037 W. Baltimore Pike west of Media, PA!* The judged African violet show is open from 1:00 to 9:00 pm on Saturday, April 20, 2013 with plant and flower sales from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The show and sales are open from 10:00 am to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, 2013. Gary Hunter will be organizing and managing the sale which will offer many choice African Violets, gesneriads, patio and houseplants. E-mail [AfricanViolets@gmail.com](mailto:AfricanViolets@gmail.com) or telephone (610) 864-3392 for more information.

**May 10 and 11, 2013**

The Baltimore African Violet and Gesneriad Club Annual Show and Sale will be held at The Shops at Kenilworth 800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson, MD. Admission is free. African violets, other gesneriads and supplies will be for sale. Club members will be happy to give advice and answer all violet related questions. On Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> the show is open from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the sale is open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, the show and sale are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Shirley Huffman by e-mail at [bshuffman2@aol.com](mailto:bshuffman2@aol.com) or by telephone at (301) 854-2021.

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