



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XVI, No. 9
May 2014

President's Message

Dear DAVS Members,

The purpose of this short note is to update you on two changes that occurred rather recently. At our show, Julia Lynch informed me that she wished to withdraw from the position of vice president for the coming year. As required by our by-laws, the nominating committee was informed and Stephanie Griffith was invited to take over that spot. I hope you'll join me in voting for Stephanie at our May meeting.

Shortly after the show, Quentin Schlieder informed me that he wished to give up his position as newsletter editor. This saddened me greatly as he does a wonderful job with our publication. Luckily, one of our members has volunteered to fill his big shoes. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Quentin for his fine efforts not only with our newsletter but in the many endeavors he handles on behalf of DAVS. We are very lucky to have him as a member.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 13th.

Regards,

Mary Schaeffer

President

Favorite 25 Lists Solicited

Each year the African Violet Magazine in its November/December issue prints a list of the Best Varieties from around the world. Hopefully our recent Show gave you the opportunity to see some great plants and possible candidates for the Best Varieties List. The list is a great aid in selecting varieties which perform well at future shows.

Every member gets 25 votes, so the number of violets and the number of total votes can be very large. The result of this survey is a great list of what is growing and blooming around the world. It's fun to do, and it is so helpful to other growers who learn of old favorites and new introductions.

It's time for members to review their favorite plants and choose a list of 25 to send to AVSA. Directions on how to submit your list will be discussed at the May meeting.

Primulina Leaf Propagation Workshop with Betsy Gottshall



Primulina 'Loki' a beautiful Peter Shalit introduction.

The May meeting will feature a wonderful workshop led by Betsy Gottshall of the Liberty Bell chapter of The Gesneriad Society. Betsy's presentation and workshop on microminiature Sinningias was one of the most popular evenings in recent memories, and her workshop on the genus *Primulina* (formerly *Chirita*) is bound to be a crowd pleaser! One of the benefits of her workshops is the great plant material you get to take and grow at home.

The program will consist of members swapping *Primulina* leaves and planting them in hinged dome containers to take home. As each member arrives they will need to sign in and list the number of leaves they are donating.

Betsy will provide the containers that will already have pre-moistened soil plus additional empty containers for any members that prefer to bring their own soil mix. Her soil mix contains two parts pro mix, one part vermiculite, one part perlite and 1/2 part ground plastic. She pre-moistens her propagation soil with well water and she does not add fertilizer until she sees lush root growth. The containers are clear so it is easy to see the roots as they appear. Each container will have 1 1/3 cup of soil so if you are bringing your own soil bring at least 4 cups of soil.

Larger leaves will be planted individually in solo cups with a baggie.

Following Dale Martens suggestion, Betsy prefers to grow several leaves in each container as they seem to enjoy company while they are young. She feels that there is a symbiotic relationship that occurs which encourages more rapid plant growth.

Betsy will provide all the labels, containers, solo cups and baggies. I will also bring leaves from my own plants. Your responsibility will be to bring healthy leaves from the *Primulinas* you already grow and wish to share with your members. She suggests that you remove your leaves at least one day prior to the meeting. Labeling your leaf donations can be time consuming. It would also be helpful if each member brings a pen for the new labels that they will attach to the containers.

Each leaf should arrive in an individual small clear bag labeled with the name of the *Primulina* on the bag. We will arrange the leaves in alphabetical order and the members will have the opportunity to make their wish lists as the leaves arrive. To keep your home plants symmetrical Betsy also suggests you remove 3 leaves from each plant. When labeling your leaves please add the word "yellow" under the name of the plant if the plant has yellow blossoms. This will assist the newer members in their selection process.

Prior to the selection process members will be invited to tell us which leaves they have donated that may require special growing conditions and also to share their own favorite technique for propagating with leaves. As an incentive to donate leaves, Betsy will have the member that donates the most leaves as the member that will get to make the first leaf selection. The second most generous donor will be the second person to select a leaf and that will be the sequence used for all the members. Those members that do not currently grow *Primulinas* will receive the same volume of leaves as the most generous donor. Once a member has their selected leaf they will plant the leaf, label their container and get back in line for their second leaf selection process. Each variety of *Primulina* will also have a sign up sheet that will keep a history of who selected which leaves so if you miss out on a special leaf you will know who might later have a baby to share with you. Remember each leaf may grow several babies. Guests are welcome.

Betsy Gottshall (Gottshb@verizon.net)

2014 Annual Show and Sale



Diane Abramson displays her entry of *Aeschynanthus lobbianus* which merited the Best Gesneriad Award.

Despite of the challenges of a new venue within Boscov's Department Store at Christiana Town Center, thanks to the great planning and hard work of Co-Chairs Julia Lynch, Stephanie Griffith and their Committee, the 2014 Delaware African Violet Society Show and Sale held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. was a great success. The Show, with the theme "**Casting a Violet Spell,**" and was awarded the AVSA Blue Certificate. The theme was beautifully presented by decorations staged by Linda McGregor, which at the suggestion of Stephanie Griffith this year included a special table for the top prize winning entries. This year's plant sales saw a significant increase in profit of 30% over the previous year thanks largely to great plants from Lederer's Greenhouses, Gary Hunter and Andrew Norris.

The winning entries included:

Horticulture Sweepstakes awarded to Barb Borleske

2nd Horticulture Sweepstakes awarded to Bobbie LaFashia

Gesneriad Sweepstakes- \$25.00 sponsored by Barb Borleske in honor of Bessie Pyle awarded to Barb Borleske

Design Sweepstakes - \$25.00 sponsored by Carol Callaghan awarded to Terry Celano

Saintpaulia Sweepstakes - \$25.00 sponsored by Barb Borleske in memory of Carol Cattlett awarded to Bobbie LaFashia

AVSA Standard Collection - \$25.00 sponsored by Mark and Stephanie Griffith awarded to Mark Griffith for *Saintpaulia* 'Green Horizon', *S.* 'Mirror Image', and *S.* 'Optimara EverGrace'

AVSA Mini/Semi Collection - \$25.00 sponsored by Bobbie LaFashia in memory of Gen Scholl awarded to Bobbie LaFashia for *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', *S.* 'Little Pro', and *S.* 'Snuggles'

Best Saintpaulia- \$50.00 sponsored by Stephanie Griffith awarded to Stephanie Griffith for *Saintpaulia* 5b clone *confusa*

Second Best Saintpaulia - \$15.00 sponsored by Geri Garvin awarded to Bobbie LaFashia for *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'

Best Standard Saintpaulia - \$15.00 sponsored by Quentin Schlieder in honor of Diane Abramson awarded to Carol Moody for *S.* 'Spring Rose'

Best Species Saintpaulia - \$15.00 sponsored by Carol Moody in memory of Madeleine Becker awarded to Stephanie Griffith *Saintpaulia* 5b clone *confusa*

Best Variegated Saintpaulia - \$15.00 sponsored by Libby Behnke in memory of Ada Shelton awarded to Bobbie LaFashia for *S.* 'Rob's Chilly Willy'

Best Trailer Saintpaulia - \$15.00 sponsored by Nancy Murray in memory of Sam Murray awarded to Nancy Murray

Best Gesneriad - \$50.00 sponsored by Quentin Schlieder in memory of Susan Schlieder awarded to Diane Abramson for *Aeschynanthus lobbianus*

Second Best Gesneriad - \$15.00 sponsored by Libby Behnke in honor of Wally Behnke awarded to Barb Borleske for *Kohleria* 'Jardin du Monet'

Best Gesneriad Collection - \$25.00 sponsored by Barb borleske in memory of June McMurry Lesh awarded to Elizabeth Varley for *Primulina* 'Loki', *P.* 'Destiny', and *P.* 'Rachel'

Best Fibrous Gesneriad - \$15.00 sponsored by Elizabeth Varley awarded to Diane Abramson for *Aeschynanthus lobbianus*

Best Rhizomatous Gesneriad - \$15.00 sponsored by Mary Schaeffer in memory of Ron Schacht awarded to Barb Borleske for *Kohleria* 'Jardin du Monet'

Best Tuberous Gesneriad - \$15.00 sponsored by Carol Moody in memory of charlotte Maltman awarded to Barb Borleske for *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'

Best Rare or New Gesneriad - \$25.00 sponsored by Pat Barbarita awarded to Elizabeth Varley for *Streptocarpus candidus*

Best Trailing Gesneriad - \$15.00 sponsored by Libby Behnke in memory of Wallace K. Behnke awarded to Diane Abramson for *Aeschynanthus lobbianus*

Best Primulina - \$10.00 sponsored by Quentin Schlieder in honor of Libby Behnke awarded to Barb Borleske for *Primulina* 'Silver Surfer'

Best Episcia - \$10.00 sponsored by Stephen Maciejewski awarded to Libby Behnke for *Episcia* 'Jim's Green Grass'

Best Streptocarpus - \$10.00 sponsored by Diane Abramson in memory of Gertrud Grabosky awarded to Barb Borleske for *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's White Gold'

Best Kohleria - \$10.00 sponsored by Maria Walueff awarded to Barb Borleske for *Kohleria* 'Jardin du Monet'

Best Sinningia - \$10.00 sponsored by Bill Dillon awarded to Barb Borleske for *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'

Best Artistic - \$50.00 sponsored by Julia Lynch awarded to Terry Celano for "Hocus Pocus"

Best Arrangement - \$10.00 sponsored by Elizabeth Varley awarded to Pat Barbarita for "Abracadabra"

Best Miniature Arrangement - \$10.00 sponsored by Quentin Schlieder in memory of Geno Iubatti awarded to Terry Celano for "Harry Potter"

Best Planting - \$10.00 sponsored by Quentin Schlieder in honor of Angie Celano awarded to Terry Celano for "Hocus Pocus"

Best Dish Garden - \$25.00 sponsored by Angie Celano in memory of Fiore Celano, Sr. awarded to Stephanie Griffith

Best Terrarium - \$10.00 sponsored by Kathe Worrall in memory of John Houston awarded to Terry Celano

Best Novice - \$25.00 sponsored Kathe Worrall in memory of Chrystal Lavinnia Worrall awarded to Bill Dillon for *Streptocarpus confusus*

Springfield Judges Award - Awarded to Bobbie LaFashia for "Abracadabra"

Not Awarded:

Delaware Judges Award

Best Container - \$10.00 sponsored by Gary Hunter

Peoples Choice Award - \$50.00 sponsored by Mary Schaeffer in honor of DAVS members

Congratulations to all of the winners and members who entered the Show. Thank you also to members who donated plants for the sale.

While the new venue seemed quite successful, we are not certain about the location for next year's show and sale since Boscov's may be undertaking renovations to the store.

The \$10 annual dues are now payable to Bobbie LaFashia, the Chapter's Treasurer. Make Checks payable to DAVS and give them to her at either the May or June meetings. A preaddressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience except for new and honorary members who don't owe dues.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor
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***First Class Mail
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Upcoming DAVS Meeting...

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hosts: Snacks - Terri Celano

Beverages – Elizabeth Varley

Raffle Prizes – Ray Ruger/Quentin Schlieder

Program: "The *Primulina* Workshop" Betsy Gotshall of the Liberty Bell Chapter will present her popular *Primulina* workshop where not only will attendees learn how to grow this popular plant, they'll have the opportunity to go home with several leaves planted and ready to go. Members are encouraged to bring their own *Primulina* leaves to exchange. Show and Tell and Plant/Supply Sale will be held.

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Thursday, May 8, 2014, 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Talleyville Fire Station Memorial Hall, Concord Pike Park in the Back and Enter at REAR

Brandywine Garden Club Plant Sale

Choice Annuals, Herbs and Perennials plus Clivia

Saturday, May 10, 2014, Noon to 5 p.m.

Medford Leas Retirement Community, 1 Medford Leas Way, Medford, New Jersey. The show is in the Arts and Activities Wing of the complex.

The African Violet Club of Burlington County's 24th Annual Show and Sale – Violets in the Land of the Rising Sun.