



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XIV, No. 1 **September 2011**

Favorite 25 Lists Submitted

Each year the African Violet Magazine in its November/December issue prints a list of the Best Varieties from around the world. This list will be compiled by AVSA Best Variety/Honor Roll Chairman, Floyd Lawson.

Every member got 25 votes. 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.

One of the big winner this year was 'Pow Wow' (AVSA Reg. #7708), a vivid, deep red, semi double with pansy shaped blossoms abundantly produced over plain, medium green foliage, variegated in white. It was hybridized by Kent Stork and introduced in 1992. It is included in the AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets in 2000. To be in the Honor Roll a variety must have appeared in the Best Variety List for three consecutive years. It was still appearing on the list in 2007. The other getting four votes was 'Irish Flirt (AVSA Reg. #7577), a Lyndon Lyon introduction producing prolific small, bright green, double flowers accented with varying amounts of white in the centers and having deeply fringed edges and blanket ruffled, semiminature, medium green foliage.

Here are the favorites submitted by the Delaware African Violet Society: The Alps (2), Chantaspring (2), Cirelda (3), EK-Goluboglazaia Rossiia (Blue Eyed Russia)(2), Frozen in Time (2), Irish Flirt (4), Little Pro (2), Mickey Mouse (2), Ming Blue (2), Ness' Crinkle Blue (2), Ode to Grace (2), Optimara Little Diamond (2), Optimara Little Moonstone (2), Optimara Rose Quartz (2), Orchard's Bumble Magnet (3), Picasso (2), Pixie Blue (3), Pow Wow (4), Rainbow's Quiet Riot (2), Rob's Fuzzy Navel (3), Rob's Fuddy Duddy (3), Rob's Fuzzy Navel (3), Rob's Jitterbug (2), Teeny Bopper (3), Tommie Lou (3) and Vallarta Campanas Moradas (2).

Thanks to all the members who took time to submit their lists! Look for some of these varieties at our monthly plant sales!

2011 Gesneriad Society Convention was a great Success

The Gesneriad Society's 55th Annual Convention, hosted by the Liberty Bell Chapter as held at The Loews Philadelphia Hotel, a center city landmark dating from the 1930s which once served as the headquarters of Philadelphia Savings Fund Society from July 5 to July 9, 2011. This downtown venue retains much of its historic character and was a convenient location.

The trip to Chanticleer, a "Main Line" pleasure garden on the former Rosengarten Estate in Wayne, PA was the opening event on Tuesday. Chanticleer

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2011 Annual Gesneriad Society Show in Philadelphia, PA

Boscov's October 4th Event Supports Chapter

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society will be participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, thanks to the efforts of member Anne Petrucci.

"Friends Helping Friends" is a day to enjoy great shopping, a super 25% discount shopping pass (some exclusions apply), refreshments, register to win prizes including a flat panel television, a diamond pendant, and a \$500 shopping spree. Passes to "Friends Helping Friends" will be available from Anne at our Tuesday evening meeting for \$5.00 each with 100% of the ticket money retained by the Society (If we sell 20 tickets, we make \$100!) Tickets are valid at all Boscov's stores. These passes make great gifts, so plan to buy several and support our organization. See Anne to purchase yours at the September meeting.



Members of the Delaware Chapter enjoy dinner at the 2011 Gesneriad Society Convention. Pictured left to right in front row are Mary Schaeffer, Libby Behnke, Nancy Murray and Barb Borleske and in the back row are Gary Hunter, Carol Callaghan, Elizabeth Varley, Quentin Schlieder and Steve Borleske.

has been called the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America. The garden is a study of textures and forms, where foliage trumps flowers, the gardeners lead the design, and even the drinking fountains are sculptural. It is a garden of pleasure and learning, relaxing yet filled with ideas to take home.

The Host Chapter Social was held in the rooftop dining room at Loewe's that evening, with delicious hors d'oeuvres, and live music courtesy of members of the Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society. The opening dinner, featuring a flavorful Italian buffet, followed in an adjacent dining room.

Wednesday offered the Judging School in which Mary Schaeffer participated. Quentin participated in the Presidents and Newsletter Editors Meetings which reinforced just how great the Delaware Chapter is doing. We offered one of the few upbeat presentations! Several of our members were busy preparing for the very successful plant sale co-chaired by Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer. Our Chapter raised \$526.68 thanks to plants grown by Libby Behnke, Barb Borleske, Mary Schaeffer and Quentin Schlieder.

The dinner Honoring Chapters and Members-at-large was held that evening followed by the always popular Gesneriad Hybridizer's Association. Unfortunately due to illness in the family, Jon Lindstrom who was the scheduled speaker could not participate, but Dave Zaitlin, noted Sinningia hybridizer filled in with a great presentation. The popular raffle distributing new and exciting hybrids concluded the evening.

Flower Show entries were accepted on Thursday morning and several members continued assisting Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer with preparing for

the plant sale. The first lecture, "The Phylogenetics of the Genus *Petrocosmea*" by Michael Kotarski, was presented later in the afternoon, followed by dinner and the Annual Membership Meeting with President Peter Shalit presiding. Awards of Appreciation were conferred and the Society's incoming Director were elected. After dinner, the second lecture, "Ask the Experts: A Grower's Forum" moderated by Paul Kroll was presented. Sales of publications and promotional items preceded the opening of the Plant Sale. Quentin Schlieder had the honor of being designated the first to be admitted to the plant sale since he was the first member to register for the Convention. The sales room was fully stocked with many treasures!



*Best in Show was won by Charlene Marietti, local convention chair, with her entry of *Nemanthus corticola*, which was covered with bright red flowers dangling from long pedicels.*

Flower show judging took place on Friday morning. It was the first experience to enter this national Show for most of our members, and the competitive judging rather than merit judging used by AVSA was a revelation! Gary Hunter received a 2nd place for his commercial display of Green Fuse Botanicals "Lady Slipper Series" introductions of Dibley's Streptocarpus and for his educational display of Sinningias as Garden Plants. He also received a 3rd place award for his entry of *Nemanthus gregarius*

'Dibley's Gold.' Barb Borleske also received 2nd place awards for her plants of *Chirita* USBG 98-083 and *Chirita spadaciformis*. Barb also received 3rd place awards for her entries *Streptocarpus* 'Iced White Wine,' *Chirita* 'Deco,' and *Streptocarpus* 'Samantha.' Mary Schaeffer received a 2nd place award for her color print of *Saintpaulia* 'Lacy Red,' and a 3rd place award for her color print of *Kohleria* 'HCY's Jardin de Monet.' She also received a 3rd award for her plant of *Kohleria* 'Feather Boa.' Stephen Maciejewski received 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards for his photographic exhibits.

Early Friday afternoon, John Boggan presented a lighthearted and very informative presentation titled "*Gloxinia* and *Seemannia* (and Who Knows What Else)." Boggan is a researcher at the Smithsonian and an accomplished hybridizer. His use of tropics including *Seemannia* and *Gloxinia* in his Washington, DC garden is quite unique. The Flower Show opened to the public following his presentation.

That evening, there was a cocktail hour and an opportunity to meet and greet friends from all over the country followed by the Flower Show Awards Banquet.

Saturday was the final day of the Convention and included final opportunity to enjoy the Flower Show and to scour the sales room for great bargains. The final lecture was titled "Genetic Diversity in *Sinningia speciosa*: History and Origins of the Florist Gloxinia" and was presented by David Zaitlin. The luncheon on Saturday honored Commercial Growers including our own Gary Hunter, who recently launched *Gary's Specialty Plants*, and included a live auction and the close of the silent auction.

Following lunch prices were reduced followed by the frantic effort to breakdown plant sales. The few leftover plants were eagerly picked up to benefit the autumn sales of several Chapters.

The highlight of the day was a very pleasant walk to the Academy of Natural Sciences, enjoying the sites along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and drinks and dinner with the dinosaurs. All of the meals had been exceptionally good, and this one did not disappoint either. The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia is the New World's oldest natural history museum and is a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. A special highlight of the evening was the opportunity to see historical herbarium specimens of gesneriads collected in the wild, including one collected by the late Hans

Wiehler, who many of us knew from his publications and work with the Gesneriad Research Foundation.

Thank you to members Libby Behnke, Barb Borleske, Carol Callaghan, Elizabeth Varley and Nancy Murray, who assisted with placing table favors and/or plant sales. Volunteers also were treated to a thank you lunch arranged by Mary Schaeffer at Bertucci's in Christiana following the Convention. In addition to lunch, Mary also provided nice plants to each volunteer who assisted.

DAVS Goes to the Races!

Barb Borleske hosted a delightful afternoon meeting of the Flower Show Committee at her beautiful Greenville home on August 10, 2011. President Gary Hunter, Vice President Mary Schaeffer, Flower Show Co-Chair Nancy Murray, and Linda McGregor participated over delicious snacks and drinks. The theme for this year's Show will be "African Violets at the Races" and will be held at Boscov's Christiana store on Friday March 30 & Saturday, March 31, 2012

The Committee for this year's event will be:

Chairman	- Nancy Murray
Co-Chairman	- Barb Borleske
Schedule	- Quentin Schlieder
Plant Placement	- Diane Abramson and Angie Celano
Entries	- Carol Callaghan and Barb Borleske
Awards	- Ann Petrucci and Carol Moody
Judges	- Terry Celano
Clerks	- Libby Behnke
Publicity	- Quentin Schlieder and Geno Iubatti
Theme	- Linda McGregor
Ribbons	- Maria Walueff
AVSA/ Educational Exhibit	- Pam Orris and Elizabeth Varley
Sales plants/supplies	- Barb Borleske, Maria Walueff and Pat Barbarita
Passing/Classification	- Carol Moody and Mary Schaeffer
Design	- Bobbie LaFashia

September Meeting Notes...

Mary Schaeffer will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation on species *Saintpaulias* and will be bringing small plants of *Saintpaulia orbicularis* for everyone to grow and enjoy at home. She also suggests that members bring leaves of species to trade. President Gary Hunter suggests that we gather at 7:20 for organizing ourselves and starting at 7:30 with business meetings as short as possible.

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Host: Quentin Schlieder

Program: “**Understanding the African Violet Species**” –Mary Schaeffer is organizing this presentation based on the AVSA DVD of the same title which will introduce you to the discovery, origin, habitat and conservation, culture and showing of the species comprising the genus *Saintpaulia*, as well as an introduction to recent classification changes. Following the program, there will be a propagation workshop on species *Saintpaulia* and an opportunity to take home leaf cuttings to grow and enjoy! Our first plant sale of the season will conclude the evening. Bring surplus plants to share. Don't forget to bring plants for the Little Show or Show and Tell! **Also, see note on page 3!!!**

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Hostesses: Snacks - Mary Schaeffer
Beverages – Libby Behnke

Program: “**Cape Primrose 101**” Brian Connor is an award winning grower of African Violets and Cape Primroses, botanically known as *Streptocarpus*, in the Baltimore AVSA and the National Capital Area Chapters of the Gesneriad Society. He is Vice President of that Chapter and also was co-chair of the Flower Show at the Gesneriad Society's Convention in Philadelphia. Following Brian's presentation, there will be a *Streptocarpus* leaf section prop shop. A plant sale will conclude the evening. Bring surplus plants to share. Don't forget to bring plants for the Little Show or Show and Tell!

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Upcoming Shows and Sales...

September 17-18, 2011 (Times Below)

National Capital Area Chapter will present its judged show and sale with the theme "Gesneriads on Broadway" at Behnke's Nursery, 11300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD on Saturday noon to 6 p.m.; and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission Lectures on Saturday: 1:30 p.m. "Basic Potting Mixes"; 3:30 p.m. "*Streptocarpus*" and s on Sunday: 1:30 p.m. "What is a Gesneriad"; 2:30 p.m. "Propagating Gesneriads"; 3:30 p.m. "Dish Gardens" Contact Jim Roberts for more information at jim-roberts@hughes.net.

October 2, 2010 11AM - 3PM

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society will present “In Tune with 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 or (973) 579-7914.

October 15, 2011 (Noon – 6PM)

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia will present "Fashionable Violets" in Cathedral Hall at Cathedral Village Retirement Community, 600 East Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (near Andorra Shopping Center). contact Judith Smith at smithja@mail.med.upenn.edu for more information.

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. For more information: http://maavs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82&Itemid=85

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