



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

Volume XV, No. 1

September 2012

## *Midsummer Planning Luncheon Meeting Held*

The Executive Committee and several Committee chair people participated in the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's mid summer planning luncheon at the Christiana Town Center Bertucci's Italian Restaurant at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, 2012.



*Clockwise from Bottom: Barb Borleske, Julia Lynch, Mary Schaeffer, President Gary Hunter, Terry Celano, Bobbie LaFashia, Quentin Schlieder and Nancy Murray enjoy lunch during the midsummer planning meeting at Bertucci's. Not in the photo was Libby Behnke who also participated.*

The Committees for 2012-13 were confirmed as:

**Program and Activities** - Chairman, Mary Schaeffer- Libby Behnke and Quentin Schlieder

**Publicity and Communications** - Chairman, Quentin Schlieder, Geno Iubatti and Stephen Maciejewski

**Hospitality** - Chairman, Terry Celano - Bobbie LaFashia and Kathe Worrell

**Plant Supplies and Sales** - Chairman, Barbara Borleske - Pat Barbarita and Linda McGregor

**Flower Show** - Co-Chairmen - Nancy Murray and Julia Lynch

**Show and Tell/Little Show** - Gary Hunter, Mary Schaeffer, Libby Behnke, Nancy Murray and Quentin Schlieder

**Membership** - Chairman, Diane Abramson (Nametags, Cards, Birthdays)- Carol Moody (E-mail/Telephone Notification) and Mary Schaeffer (Membership Recruitment and Retention)

**Library** - Chairman, Anne Petrucci (Lending Library) – Elizabeth Varley (Acquisitions and Reviews)

**Nominating Committee** – Chairman, Quentin Schlieder – Angie Celano and Maria Walueff

**Regional Meeting** - Chairman – Mary Schaeffer – Gary Hunter and Quentin Schlieder

## *Sinningia conspicua at Last!*

I have made several (mostly unsuccessful!) attempts over the years to grow *Sinningia conspicua*, a native tuberous gesneriad to Santa Catarina and Parana States in Brazil where it grows in humus and among rocks in semi shady places. Unfortunately, it seems to get neglected and goes dormant (on occasion permanently!) and has never flowered before. Therefore, I was thrilled as I was culling plants decimated by the heat in my basement this summer to discover that it was budded and ready to flower. Perhaps my success this year can be attributed to growing it in an Oyama pot so that the plant never dried out to the point of wilting.

The species was initially named *Biglandularia conspicua*, by Berthold Carl Seemann (1825-1871) but was transferred by Nichols to the genus *Sinningia* in 1887. The species name, *conspicua* ("conspicuous") is derived from the Latin word for "see". It is sometimes referred to as Brazilian Foxglove.

This wonderful Brazilian gesneriad usually grows into a small clump to 8" tall x 1' wide. The fuzzy, green, hand-sized leaves form a rosette which is topped from early summer until fall with large, pale yellow flowers, highlighted by cinnamon runway-like streaks to guide pollinators inside the base of the flower. The flowers have a light, lemony fragrance. According to Michael Kartuz, the fragrance is reminiscent of Lily of the Valley. *Sinningia conspicua* has been overwintered successfully at Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, NC in well-drained soil in semi shade.



*The flower of *Sinningia conspicua* (l) and my plant in bud*

*Sinningia conspicua* is unhappy when the soil dries out. As with some other species, most notably *S. warmingii*, the first symptom is leaf curl. If caught

**AVSA Liaison** – Quentin Schlieder  
**Gesneriad Society Liaison** – Barb Borleske

This year's spring show will be held at the Christiana Town Square Boscov's with set up on Friday, March 22 and judging on Saturday, March 23, 2012. Since it is the Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the theme will be "**Golden Jubilee – DAVS Celebrates 50 Years.**" The Show Committee was confirmed as follows:

**Chairman** – Nancy Murray  
**Co-Chairman** - Julia Lynch  
**Schedule** - Quentin Schlieder  
**Plant Placement**- Diane Abramson, Libby Behnke and Delia Schwartz  
**Entries** - Barb Borleske and Stacey Tomaszewski  
**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** – Linda McGregor and Barb Borleske  
**Gesneriad Society Exhibit** – Elizabeth Varley  
**Sales Plants/Supplies** - Gary Hunter, Mary Schaeffer, Barb Borleske, Maria Walueff and Pat Barbarita  
**Passing/Classification** – Pam Orris, Angie Celano, Carol Moody and Mary Schaeffer  
**Design** - Bobbie LaFashia

The Design classes written by Bobbie LaFashia will include:

#### **CLASS 25 - ANNIVERSARY WALTZ**

Create a rhythmic design to be staged in a lighted niche 6" high, 5" wide, and 4" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

#### **CLASS 26 - A TOUCH OF GOLD**

Fiftieth anniversaries are called golden. Include a touch of gold in your design to be staged in a yellow niche 10" high, 8" Wide, and 6" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

#### **CLASS 27 - CELEBRATE**

An anniversary party needs an anniversary cake. Decorate a cupcake to be staged on a 6 inch pedestal. Cupcake and pedestal will be provided by the Society. Design may extend beyond the pedestal.

#### **CLASS 28 - 1963**

Choose a memorable event that happened 50 years ago for this design using a mini or semi miniature African violet plant to be staged in a niche 16" high,

12" wide. and 10" deep. Indicate the event as a subtitle on your card.

One of the most discussed topics was the introduction of Little Shows. It was decided to hold Little Shows at the September, November, February and April meetings. Plants will be entered from 7 – 7:15 p.m. and merit judging will be used by three judges. The forms provided by Karyn Cichocki of The Frelinghuysen Chapter will be used and cash awards of \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place will be awarded to the growers accumulating the most points for winning entries during the year. Members are still invited to bring plants for Show and Tell at every meeting, and these will not be judged.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the annual audit being conducted by Mary Schaeffer and Libby Behnke and an update on the Regional Show at the end of September.

#### ***Sinningia conspicua continued from page 1***

in time, after being watered, the plant recovers in a day or so. It is one of the first *Sinningias* to go dormant in autumn and its dormancy appears to be required prior to a new growth cycle.

*Sinningia conspicua* has been used by John Lindstrom in his plant breeding program. One of the more popular hybrids is X *Sinvana* 'Mount Magazine' (*Sinningia conspicua* x *Paliavana tenuiflora*). Another hybridizer, Jim Steuerlein, successfully crossed a micro species (*Sinningia muscicola*, formerly *S. "Rio das Pedras"*) and *Sinningia conspicua* creating the hybrid *Sinningia* 'Toad Hall'. Others, including Ruth Coulson, Peter Shalit, and Dan Tomso, have also used this species for hybridizing. It provides its progeny many of the good qualities that *Sinningia eumorpha* imparts, with the additional possibility of fragrance.

I have discovered that many of the species *Sinningias* have performed well outdoors in Summer and then overwintered on my sun porch in an area which often gets down to 40° F. Based on the experience of Plant Delights Nursery with this species, after my plant finishes blooming, I plan to relegate it to this regimen.  
– **Quentin Schlieder**

## ***Welcome New Member!***

Diana Metzger (12/23)  
604 Baldwin Lane  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
762-5927  
[Dianam7@verizon.net](mailto:Dianam7@verizon.net)

## ***The Chapter's 25 Best Varieties***

The results for the Chapter's 25 Best Varieties were tabulated and forwarded to Floyd Lawson, the compiler of the list, in July for the 2012 Best Variety List. Lawson thanked our members for what he described as the excellent list. He noted that the range is significant, and will be valuable to his tally.

The list which is used by so many African Violet growers is published in the *African Violet Magazine* each November. The Honor Roll of Violets is based on the Best Variety List's results.

The list is useful to both novice and experienced growers planning to show African Violets since the winners often reflect varieties which have performed well at shows throughout the country. The Chapter list further refines varieties that have performed well for our award winning growers.

The winners for the 2012 list compiled by our Chapter include: Alps, The (3), Blue Dragon (3), Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler (3), EK-Goluboglazaia Rossiia (Blue Eyed Russia) (3), Frozen in Time (3), Irish Flirt (3), Mickey Mouse (2), Milkyway Trail (3), Ming Blue (2), Ness' Cranberry Swirl (3), Ness' Crinkle Blue (3), Optimara Little Diamond (3), Optimara Rose Quartz (3), Orchard's Bumble Magnet (3), Picasso (4), Pixie Blue (4), Pow Wow (4), Precious Red (3), Rainbow's Quiet Riot (3), Rob's Fuddy Duddy (4), Rob's Fuzzy Navel (3), Rob's Jitterbug (3), Snuggles (3), Teeny Bopper (3) and Tommie Lou (4).

## ***Boscov's October 16<sup>th</sup> Event Supports Chapter***

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society will be participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 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. Some members use the pass to get wonderful bargains for early holiday shopping. See Anne to purchase yours at the September meeting.

## ***Proposed 2012-13 Budget to be Considered***

The Treasurer prepared an annual budget which was submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee of the Society as required under the Bylaws. The Budget is being published here for the members' review. Expenditures not included in the adopted annual budget will require prior approval by both the Executive Committee and the membership. Approval of the Budget will be considered during the business portion of the September meeting.

### ***Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Proposed 2012-13 Budget***

#### **INCOME**

Dues	300
Boscov's Tickets	20
Plant Sales & Raffle	600
Horticulture Supplies Sales	400
Flower Show Income	1500
Donation from Newsletter Editor	555
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3375</b>

#### **EXPENSES**

AVSA related-membership, award	60
Gesneriad Society-Membership,	
Insurance, award, etc.	75
MAAVS-membership, award	50
Brazil Plants	250
Speakers	400
Horticulture Supplies	400
Flower Show Expense	1160
Commercial Plants	700
Judges Lunch	175
Postcards (donated)	145
Computer Supplies	50
Banner	35
Ribbons (donated)	30
Schedule (donated)	25
Sunshine	100
Memorials	100
Newsletter (paper, ink, postage)	355
Misc. Supplies	100
Contributions	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3300</b>

## ***Opportunity Knocks!***

Pam Downs, owner of Delaware Seed and Garden Supply, has invited DAVS to present a class to customers to help them gain more knowledge about understanding how to care for African Violets. It is a to great way share knowledge with those who are interested in learning and to recruit new members!

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

**Tuesday, September 11, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts:** Snacks - Libby Behnke  
Beverages – Mary Schaeffer

**Program:** “Eight Great Gesneriads to Grow Along with Your African Violets” - Our own Gary Hunter will kick off the year with a talk about Gesneriads that grow particularly well with violets. He promises that there will be plants of all items covered in his talk for sale after the lecture. ***Bring plants for sale, show and tell and our first judged Little Show!***

**Tuesday, October 9, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts:** Snacks - Quentin Schlieder  
Beverages – Bobbie LaFashia

**Program:** “Krazy about Kohlerias” - Three of DAVS own Kohleria growers (Claudia Bradley, Barb Borleske, Mary Schaeffer) will walk you through the basics of growing kohlerias under lights, on the window sill and outside during the warmer months. A brief history along with propagation techniques will be included. Each member will go home with a cutting or rhizome to grow on their own. Don't forget to bring plants for sale and Show and Tell!

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts:** Snacks - Nancy Murray  
Beverages – Pam Orris

**Program:** “The Violet Gallery Comes to DAVS” - Brenda and Mahlon Petry from Violet Gallery will present a program on African violets and bring an assortment of their violets for sale.



## ***The Mid Atlantic Gesneriad Show, Sale & Symposium***

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 on Sunday, although the University may assess a modest parking fee. The Symposium costs \$25.00 and includes a box lunch and refreshments. Here is the schedule:

### **Saturday, September 29, 2012 - Townsend Hall**

8 a.m. – Noon -Entries  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. -Plants Accepted for Plant Sale  
Noon – 1 p.m. -Judges/Clerks Luncheon/instructions  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. -Judging  
3 p.m. – 5 p.m. -Sales and Shop Open to Exhibitors, Judges, Clerks and Volunteers  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. -Awards Dinner at Timothy's of Newark

### **Sunday, September 30, 2012 – Townsend Hall**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. -Show and Sale open  
Noon-1 p.m. -Lunch for registrants  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m. -*Searching for Gesneriads in Cuba*, a presentation by Dr. John L. Clark  
2 – 2:30 p.m. - Break with Refreshments  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. -*Rare and Unusual Gesneriads and How We Grow Them* a presentation by Bob and Dee Stewart  
4-5:30 p.m. -Dismantle Show

For more information visit

<http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/files/RegionalShow.pdf>.

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

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

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