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.

50th 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.
2nd 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.
2nd BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION - Bobbie LaFashia for Saintpaulia ‘Rob’s Fuddy Duddly,’ 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.
2nd 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 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 ARRANGEMENT – 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 Schaefer 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 10th 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
* Columnea ‘Aladdin’s Lamp’ (Blue Mountain)
* Columnea ‘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

Geri Garvin  (9/18)
810 Everett Road
Marydel, MD  21649
(410) 438-3627
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.

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.

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 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 10th 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 11th, 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 or by telephone at (301) 854-2021.

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