



# Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from chapter newsletters, our journal *Gesneriads*, and original sources)

Volume 5, Number 5

May 2014

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes Paul Susi's photos from the recent expedition to southeast China including the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China and my article about *Sinningia* 'Esther'.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor



Karyn Cichocki from Lafayette, New Jersey, USA sent these photos of *Henckelia ceratoscyphus*. She says, "When the flowers first open they don't show the yellow on the top part of the tube entrance and they are whiter and develop the lavender coloring (which is darker on the lower petals) after they are open a few days."



# In Search of Chinese Gesneriads

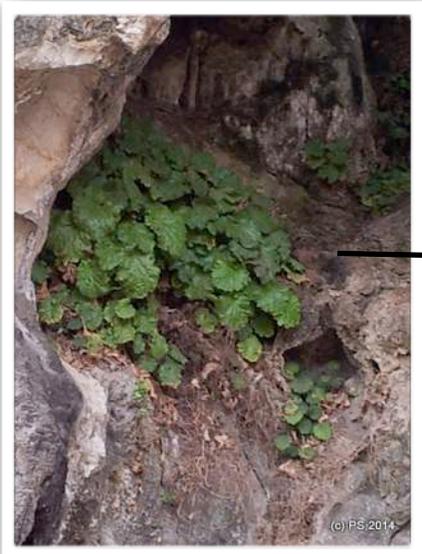
Paul Susi [psusi11@gmail.com](mailto:psusi11@gmail.com)  
Huntington Station, New York, USA



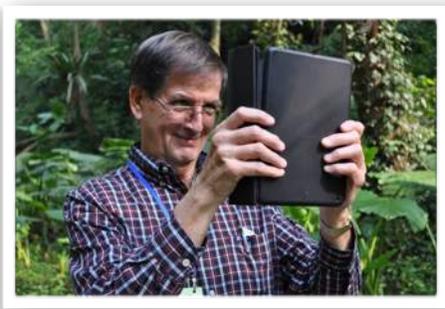
Stephen Maciejewski led a group from the Gesneriad Society on a recent visit to the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China. They toured southeast China and visited gesneriad locations. Paul Susi shares a few of his photos with us.



Propagation house at the Gesneriad Conservation Center



*Primulina tabacum* in Ling Fong Square



Leonard Re



*Primulina tabacum* in Ling Fong Square  
(Hezhou City)



*Primulina fimbrisepala*



*Primulina medica*



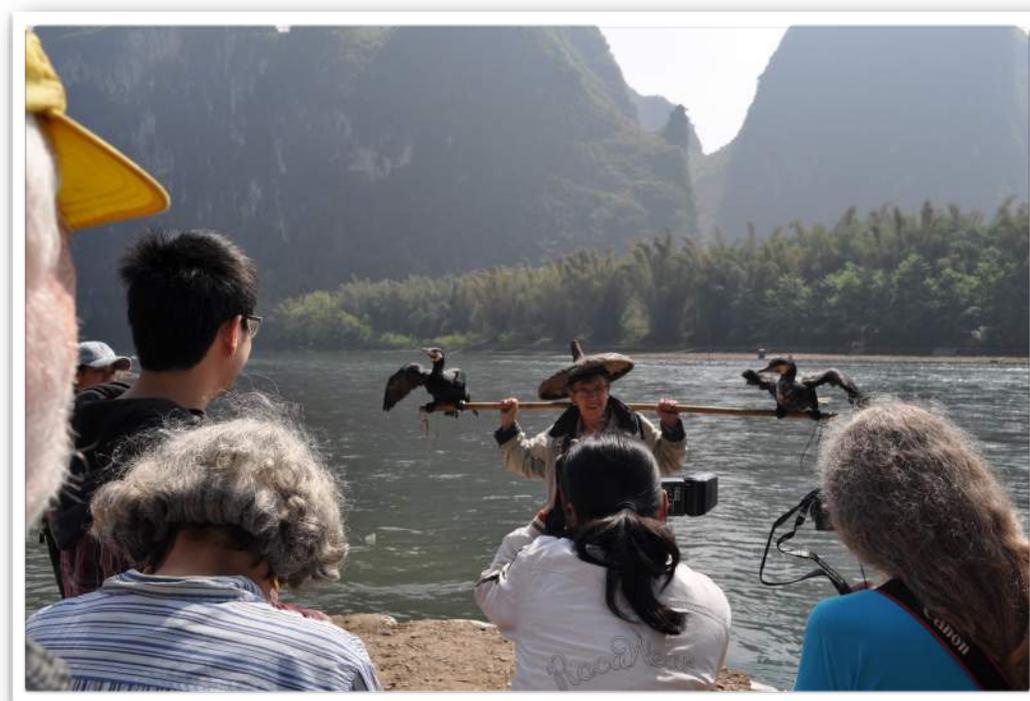
Dr. Wen Fang (2014 convention speaker) on the Li River Cruise



*Primulina* sp. ined.  
(silver hairs)



Julie Mavity-Hudson and friends

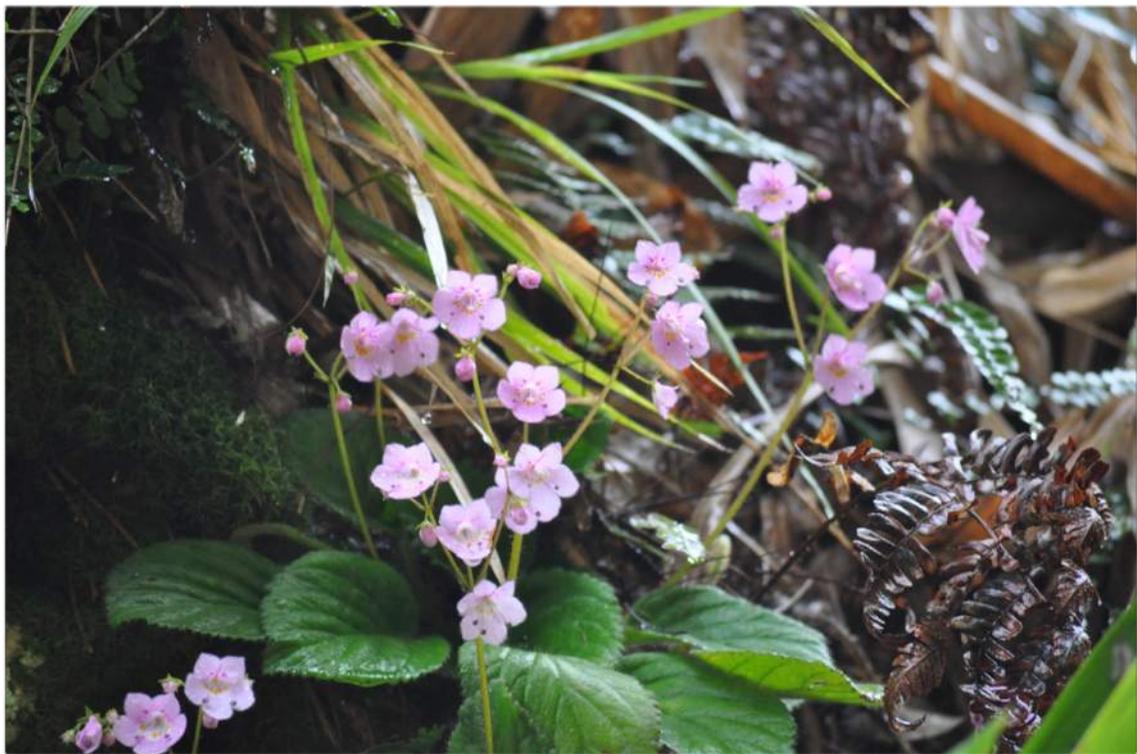


All photos by Paul Susi except where noted.

Gussie Farrice and the cormorants

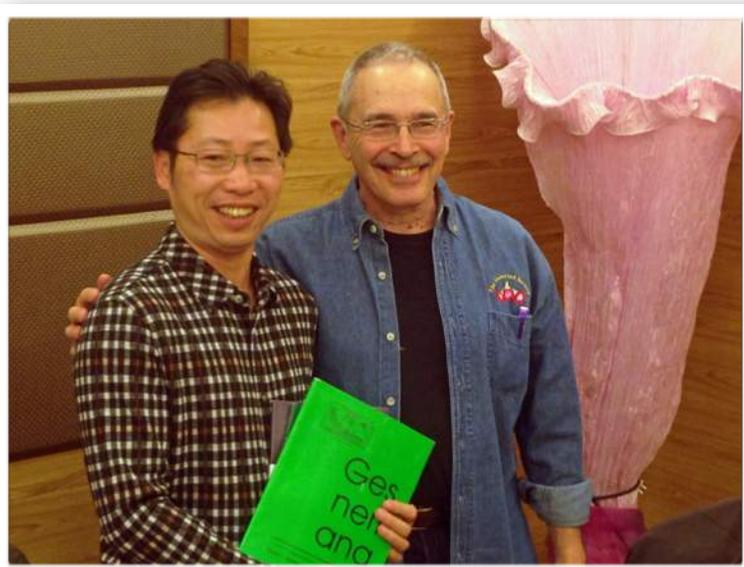


*Paraboea dictyoneura*



*Oreocharis dayaoshanioides*

The photos in this issue of **CLEANINGS** should give you a taste of what we experienced on the recent trip to southeast China and Guilin. The trip had its challenges (hiking 1000 feet down the Guangdong Grand Canyon was one of them) and its many rewards: seeing a new paraboea species in its natural habitat, visiting the type location for *Primulina tabacum*, discovering a new location for *Oreocharis xiangguiensis*, enjoying delicious food, and visiting the display house and gardens of the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China. Thanks to Stephen Maciejewski for coming up with the idea and to Prof. Wei Yi-Gang, Dr. Wen Fang, and students Hong Xin and Long Fei-Fu for planning the trip and being such gracious hosts.



Welcome Dinner with He Chen-Xin and Paul Susi  
Bob Clark photo



Professor Wei with his new Gesneriad Society shirt  
Bob Clark photo



Carolyn Ripps and others in the GCCC garden  
Paul Susi photo



*Paraboea* sp. nova



*Primulina bipinnitifida*



Mike Horton



Hong Xin (student) and Carol Ann Bonner



Typical meal



Not a typical meal



Lena Klintberg



Here is a link to a video shot by Paul Susi that is posted on YouTube of 2014 convention speaker, Dr. Wen Fang, singing "Chinese Orchid."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGwzSkpu2bU>

Irina Nicholson, Bob Clark, Bill Price, Wen Fang, and Fu (student)

# Sinningia 'Esther'

Mel Grice [melsgrice@earthlink.net](mailto:melsgrice@earthlink.net)  
Englewood, Ohio, USA

*Sinningia* 'Esther' attracted a lot of well-deserved attention recently when a photo was posted on Gesneriphiles. Joe Palagonia from Howard Beach, NY received runner-up to Best in Show at the Long Island Gesneriad Society (LIGS) show with a superbly grown specimen of *Sinningia* 'Esther'. It was hybridized by a longtime LIGS member who is now deceased so the exact parentage is lost forever. Sherman Paur received some of the seeds and planted them. He grew them on and selected the plant with the most desirable characteristics naming it for his wife of over forty years.

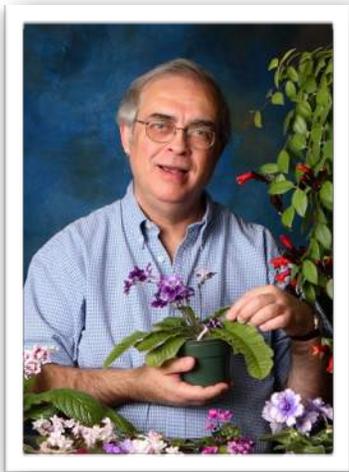
I was fortunate to obtain a start of this highly desirable hybrid when I visited the Long Island show a few years ago. *Sinningia* 'Esther' is evidently a scarlet *Sinningia cardinalis* peloric hybrid crossed with something else. It makes a number of crowns each with bright red flowers at the tips. It does not grow as tall as many *Sinningia cardinalis* hybrids. It has an upright growth pattern which means that it tends to grow towards the light with spaces between the leaves thus producing a stem. It can be grown flatter if given quite a bit of light — say under T-8 or T-5 lights placed only a few inches above the plant.

Propagation of *Sinningia* 'Esther' is easy by taking crown cuttings. I insert an inch of the crown's stem into my rooting mix — equal parts Pro-Mix, perlite and vermiculite. I first dip the cut end into Clonex® to help the cut end root and form a tuber. The cutting is placed in its own plastic bag or under a plastic dome while rooting. Four months later I usually have a well-rooted plant that needs to be repotted into the next size pot so the new tuber has room to grow larger.

I have been busy propagating starts of *Sinningia* 'Esther' for plant sales at the Gesneriad Society Convention in Nashville this July!



Paul Susi photo



**From the editor —**

I attended several shows this spring so be looking for more show photos in future issues. Please send photos of your local shows if I was not able to attend your show.

If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at [melsgrice@earthlink.net](mailto:melsgrice@earthlink.net)

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2 Rushmore Street, South Huntington, NY 11746  
For additional information, contact: <development@gesneriadsociety.org>.

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1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

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**Renewals** — Send dues to the Membership Secretary. A Renewal Notice is sent two months prior to the expiration date of your membership. (The expiration date is printed on your mailing label/ membership card on the back cover of *Gesneriads*.) Please remit your dues prior to the expiration date to avoid missing an issue as we are not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late payment of dues. Back issues may be ordered from Publications.

**Application for Membership — *The Gesneriad Society, Inc.***

WELCOME – membership in our international society includes quarterly issues of *Gesneriads – The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*, a copy of *How to Know and Grow Gesneriads*, a packet of gesneriad seeds and a wealth of information about our chapters, flower shows, publications, research, slide programs and seed fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

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