



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XIV, No. 5

January 2012

Winter Weather Worries

Winter weather which may cause the cancellation of a meeting is always a concern at this time of year. The Society tends to decide whether to cancel a meeting on the side of caution. Please check your email and or telephone messages before leaving for a meeting. Carol Moody is Chair of the Telephone/Email Committee, and either she or someone on the Committee will try to contact you in the event of a cancellation. If in doubt, call either Carol at (302) 477-1703, or Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449.

Patience is Rewarded!

Libby Behnke is one of the Chapter's most gifted growers even winning Best Other Gesneriad with her plant of *Columnea* 'Orange Sherbet' at the MAAVS Convention in Raleigh, NC in 2010. She lamented that she had a *Columnea* which was a shy bloomer, until this year! The plant, *Columnea* 'Dart,' is a Lyndon Lyon hybrid between *C.* 'Yellow Dragon' x *C. arguta* (a species). The picture says it all!



Libby with her basket of Columnea 'Dart' a hybrid of Columnea arguta, a seasonal blooming species. Photo by Mary Schaefer.

Change your Labels! Chirita name changes for dummies!

*by Tshuh Yang Chen, Greater New York Chapter
GloxNews, December, 2011*

The genus *Chirita* is no more. What does that mean for the plants that you grow? Below is a short guide to the most commonly grown species and their new genera/names.

Primulina - Most of the plants you now grow are going into *Primulina*. This is because scientists have determined that this group (formerly known as the *Gibbosaccus* section of *Chirita*) most closely related to *Primulina* is most closely related to *Primulina tabacum*, and because *Primulina* is the older name, it takes precedence over *Chirita*. This includes the large rosette-type plants from Southern China and their hybrids (*sinensis*, *heterotricha*, *eburnea*, *fimbriosepala*, *linearifolia*, *sclerophylla*, *sub-rhomboidea*, *flavimaculata*, *longgangensis*, etc.), as well as the tropical, smaller rosette types from Vietnam (*tamiana*, *balansae*, *gemella*, etc.). Also, the former *Chiritopsis repanda* is now a *Primulina*, *P. repanda*.

The biggest change for growers is that *Chirita sinensis* is now *P. dryas*, because *P. sinensis* is an older, invalid name for *P. tabacum* and cannot be used again (taxonomists don't believe in recycling). Most, if not, all of the other species listed will retain their species names.

Henckelia - Two of the large, shrubby species from Sri Lanka most common in cultivation, *C. moonii* and *C. walkerae* (and their hybrid, *C.* 'Moonwalker') are now placed within the large, widespread genus, *Henckelia*. Also in *Henckelia*, the somewhat rare but highly desired subtropical Chinese species *C. speciosa* and *C. dielsii*. The Himalayan *C. urticifolia*, the type species of *Chirita*, has also been determined to be a *Henckelia*. As this is the type species, and having been subsumed into *Henckelia* – **this is why Chirita is no longer a valid genus.**

Microchirita - These tropical, small stemmed plants from Southeast Asia, many of which are annuals, formed the section *Microchirita* of *Chirita*, which is now elevated to full genus status. Thus, you are now growing *Microchirita micromusa*, *lavandulacea*, *caliginosa*, *sericea*, etc. ...continued on page 2...

Others - Various other plants formerly in *Chirita* are now placed in many other genera (e.g. *Damrongia*, *Liebigia*), but chances are that you don't grow them, as they are rare in cultivation.

Holiday Dinner and Auction Enjoyed by All

The annual holiday dinner and auction at the home of Carol and John Callahan in North Wilmington on December 13th was a great success thank to member who provided another lavish buffet and who both contributed and bid on items donated to the auction. The auction raised over \$500 for the Richardson Park Learning Center, an wonderful program for students with special needs. The Chapter has been supporting a horticultural therapy program at the Center for many years.



Auctioneers Steve Borleske (right) and Anne Petrucci (left) encourage spirited bidding at the Chapter's holiday dinner and auction.

The buffet is always delicious, but a few offerings always stand out. Angie Celano's Egg Nog is a perennial favorite (and perhaps contributes to the spirited bidding!). She was kind enough to share the recipe, which is as follows:

Egg Nog (Angie Celano)

	<u>2 1/2 Quarts</u>	<u>4/5 Quart</u>
Eggs	9 whole	3 whole
Sugar	1 1/2 cups	8 tablespoons
Brandy (Christian Bros.)	1 cup	1/3 cup
Dark Rum (Myers)	1 cup	1/3 cup
Whiskey	1/4 cup	3 tablespoons
Milk	1 quart	1 1/3 cups
Table Cream	1/2 pint	2/3 cup
Vanilla	1 tablespoon	1/3 teaspoon
Whipping Cream	1/2 pint	2/3 cup

Blend rum, brandy and whiskey and set aside. In a separate bowl, blend sugar and eggs with a mixer until thick. Pour in liquor blend slowly and add milk, cream and vanilla. Just before serving, whip the cream until firm, and then fold into Egg Nog. Angie doubles the recipe for our holiday dinners. She notes that she was given this recipe over 40 years ago, and it has been a favorite ever since!

One of the other selections, Savory Herbed Baked Brie was extremely popular and was brought by Valann Budischak, one of our newer members. She also agreed to share her recipe:

Savory Herbed Baked Brie (Val Budischak)

1 2 pound wheel (8" diameter) Brie
1 sheet frozen puffed pastry
1/4 c. chopped parsley
1-2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp dried rosemary
1 tsp dried thyme
1 tsp dried marjoram
2 oz hard salami, chopped
1 egg, lightly beaten

- Place brie in freezer for 30 min. Let pastry stand at room temp for 20 min.
- Mix parsley, garlic and herbs in small bowl
- Slice brie into 2 layers. Spread herb mixture on bottom layer. Sprinkle w/ salami. Replace top layer
- Unfold pastry sheet. Roll into 12"x8" rectangle on floured surface
- Place brie in center of pastry. Cover w/ pastry & cut off excess. Brush edges w/ egg & press to seal.
- Flip over. Place on cookie sheet and brush top of pastry w/ remaining egg & cut 4 steam vents.
- Bake at 350° for 30 min. until pastry is golden and puffed. Let stand 15 min. before serving.

Thanks, again to all who participated in our Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction, especially John and Carol for providing a beautiful and festive venue!

Welcome Two New Members!

Julia A. Lynch
14 Gumwood Drive
Wilmington, DE 19803
mycat1us@yahoo.com

Brian Connor
3003 Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
Brian_Connor@bd.com
(410) 327-5151

Julia is a Master Gardener, and Brian was our speaker on *Streptocarpus* in October.

Spring Show Planned

The 2012 Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Annual Show and Sale will be open to the public on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the second floor Auditorium of the Boscov's Christiana Town Center Department Store in Christiana, Delaware. Setup and entries will take place on Friday, March 30th and the plant sale also will be open that day from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. The greatest change is that the show and sale be out in the store, rather than in the Auditorium this year. The theme for this year's show is ***African Violets at the Races***. Tentative design classes include:

START YOUR ENGINES! - The world's best NASCAR drivers battle it out on the 'Monster Mile' twice a year at Dover International Speedway. Create a design suggesting motion to be staged in a lighted niche 6" high, 5" wide, and 4" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

THERE THEY GO! - Live harness racing is run at Harrington Raceway and Dover Downs. Choose your jockey silk colors and incorporate them into a design to be staged in a yellow niche 10" high, 8" wide, and 6" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

POINT- TO-POINT - Winterthur Point-to-Point steeplechase race is a popular Northern Delaware country horse race held in May. Design a hat using African violets to wear to this social and sporting event. Hat and hat stand to be provided by the club.

WINNER'S CIRCLE - Thoroughbred racing is run at Delaware Park in Wilmington. After the race, horse and jockey go to the winner's circle and are decorated with flowers. Design a planting using a mini or semi miniature African violet to be staged in a niche 16" high, 12" wide, and 10" deep.

The Design Chairman for this year's show is Bobbie LaFashia, and if you have suggestions, please let her know as soon as possible since the show schedule is being prepared so that it can be submitted to AVSA for approval in January.

The Chair people for this year's show include:

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

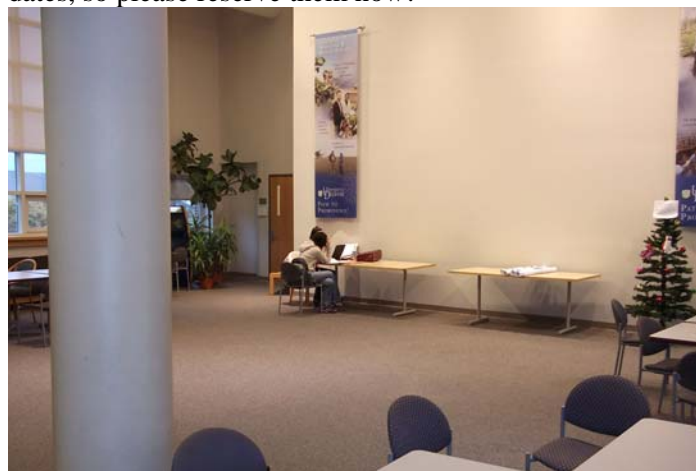
Anne Petrucci is collecting money for show awards. She will accept cash, but if you would like to pay by check, please make it payable to Anne. If you can't make the meeting, you can contact Anne at (302) 652-8839.

Regional Meeting Plans Progress

The Regional Meeting Committee chaired by Mary Schaeffer has been making progress on staging our first regional meeting which would include members of the Liberty Bell, National Capital and other interested members of the Gesneriad Society.

Mary, along with Committee members Gary Hunter and Quentin Schlieder, visited the University of Delaware on November 14, 2011 to inspect the venues proposed for the lectures and show. The Committee ultimately decided on the common area and adjacent lecture room in Townsend Hall, which is the focal point of the University's College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences and which an integral structure in the University of Delaware Botanic Garden.

Setting a date has been a challenge, since it is dependant on the Blue Hen's Football schedule and other University activities, but Saturday, September 29th and Sunday, September 30th are the tentative dates, so please reserve them now!



The Common area where the show would be held.

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hostesses: Snacks - Carol Moody

Beverages - Pam Orris

Program: - “African Violet Troubles!” – African Violets and their relatives are among the easiest and most rewarding of houseplants, but occasionally a problem arises and intervention is necessary. The AVSA’s presentation on the challenges of growing African Violets will be the focus of the evening. We also will enjoy a discussion on how to cope with the occasional bumps in the road we encounter when growing African Violets and Gesneriads. ***If you have a plant with problems, you may bring it for diagnosis, but if you suspect a pest problem, please bring it securely enclosed in a clear plastic bag!*** A plant sale will conclude the evening. If you have surplus plants to share bring them. Don’t forget to bring plants for the Little Show or Show and Tell!

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hostesses: Snacks – Elizabeth Varley

Beverages – Maria Walueff

Program: “African Violet Trailers” Trailing African Violets have grown in popularity and variety since first introduced by Tinari Greenhouses at the AVSA Convention in 1954. Perhaps no one is a more consummate grower of African Violet Trailers than Bill Price who consistently wins awards at the AVSA Convention.. Join us for an informational program based on Price’s presentation at the 2009 AVSA Convention in Reno Nevada.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor

36 South Main Street

Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31, 2012

The Delaware African Violet Society and Gesneriad Society will present “African Violets Go to the Races,” the Society’s Annual judged Show and Sale. ***It is time to begin propagating plants for the sale and selecting the plants you plan to grow on for entries in the show!*** Member grown plants are usually more profitable than plants purchased for resale, however, Gary Hunter who provides the plants for the shop at Longwood Gardens plans to provide plants for resale. Please reserve the dates now and plan to participate! Set up is on Friday, and Judging is on Saturday morning. Plant Sales will be open later on Friday afternoon. Times will be announced.

Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th, 2012

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale at Planting Fields Arboretum, Conference Center, Oyster Bay. The Show celebrates the chapter’s 50th Anniversary, “Golden Oldies”, in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island. The hours are Saturday, April 14, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Ben Paternoster at ben9@optonline.net for more information. Gesneriad Society judges interested in receiving an invitation to judge the show should contact Paul Susi at ps117@earthlink.net.

May 4-6, 2012 (Times tba)

The African Violet Society of Springfield (Delaware County) will present “Artful Romance with Violets” at the Springfield Mall on Baltimore Pike at Rt. 320, Springfield, PA.

First Class Mail

Time Value/ Please Expedite!