

APPRAISAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDGES INTEREST GROUP



VOLUME 33 NO. 3 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Best in Show

Top: *Primulina* 'Cynthia', exhibited by Arleen Dewell (Mel Grice photo)

Below: *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Baby Kisses', exhibited by Ben Paternoster (Mel Grice photo)

Appraisal is published three times a year (January, May and September). Subscriptions are available to all individuals who are interested in judging gesneriads (you do not need to be a judge to subscribe) and are US \$6 (postal mail) and US \$3 (e-mail/full color) for the calendar year (U.S. and international). Subscriptions starting in mid-year will receive back issues published to date. A subscription to **Appraisal** is required of all Gesneriad Society judges. Send subscription orders to Mary Lou Robbins, Subscriptions/Production & Distribution. (If paying by check, please confirm choice of email or print version preference on check.)

Gesneriad Society Committee on Shows and Judging: Arleen Dewell (Chair), Mel Grice, Susan Grose, Dariane Joshlin, Paul Kroll, Dale Martens (Assistant Chair), Ben Paternoster, Michael Riley, Timothy Tuttle.

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MORE CHANGES

— *Arleen Dewell*

As announced in the May issue of our Judges Interest group journal and also at the Judges Interest Group Meeting at Convention in Seattle, Mel Grice is our new **APPRAISAL** editor. I know you all join me in agreeing that he continues to do a magnificent job. Thank you, Mel!

I am very pleased to report that Mary Lou Robbins has agreed to take over Mel's former responsibilities of maintaining the **APPRAISAL** subscriptions database, along with production and distribution of the journal to all of you. Mary Lou brings with her ample experience setting up and maintaining Excel spreadsheets, keeping track of membership dues, payments and distributing large electronic and postal mailings. Welcome aboard, Mary Lou! I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to Mary Helen Maran, the Society's Convention Registration Chairperson, for her help with distribution of the May, 2012 issue of **APPRAISAL**, while the search for a permanent replacement was underway.

Jo Anne Martinez, as many of you know, has done an excellent job as the Gesneriad Society's Convention Awards Chairperson for the past eight years. Is it any wonder then, that the Society has tapped her extensive talents and offered her a new position? Effective immediately, Jo Anne will be settling into her new role as the Society's new Convention Chairperson. Congratulations, Jo Anne! We will miss you, but wish you all good things in your new job.

A few months ago, I gently persuaded my dear friend and wonderful grower, Paul Lee of Fergus Ontario, Canada to consider succeeding Jo Anne as the Society's Awards Chair. After a crash-course with her at Convention this year in Seattle, I am delighted to tell you that he has readily agreed to be our new Chairperson of Awards. As the proprietor of his own greenhouse business, he brings to this position a great deal of experience, organizational skill and calmness of spirit. You will do a wonderful job as our Awards Chair, Paul!



FLOWER SHOW MANUAL REVISIONS

There have been a few minor revisions to the Flower Show Manual, since it was published in early 2010. These involve updating the wording in the score sheet commentary for "Ornamental Characteristics Other than Bloom" and clarification of communication regarding niches for the Design Division between the Schedule, Staging and Placement chairpersons at Convention and Chapter flower shows. Also included is a recent change to who is now responsible for the appointment of the Convention Awards Chairperson. All active judges, as well as those interested in becoming judges should download this free updated version of the Manual. You will find the link in the Members Only area of the Gesneriad Society's website.

Judges' Workshop at Convention 2012

— Dale Martens

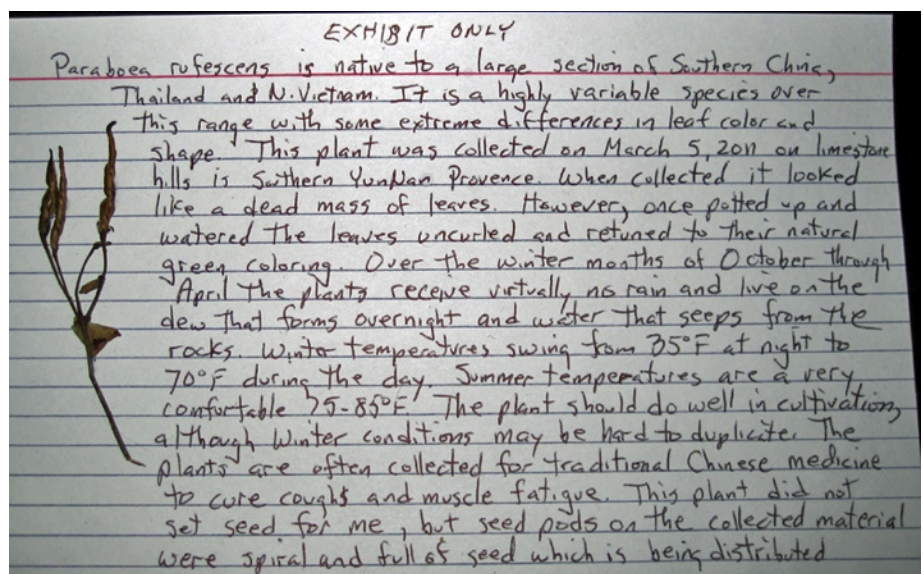
A PowerPoint program was presented to the 2012 Judges' Workshop on judging Lesser Known, New Species, and New Hybrids/Cultivars. The judges reviewed the score sheets and a discussion of key issues included definitions such as "Botanical Interest" for Lesser Known Gesneriads. This is manifested by some unusual characteristic of a plant, such as distinctive color or form of the corolla or calyx, leaf formation or texture, fruit, or growth habit. Botanical interest can also be manifested in an unusual genus not familiar to the average grower.

As judges, we are expected to grow "new to me" gesneriad genera. Nancy Kast, Paul Kroll, and Bill Price, who have previously entered Lesser Known or New Species at conventions, were asked to share information. Critical are the Educational Information cards because they provide important culture information, lineage of hybrids and location origin for new species/ lesser known gesneriads. Several examples of Educational Information cards were displayed on the big screen. In the case of Paul Kroll's entry of *Bellonia spinosa*, the judges saw his Educational Information card that had close-up photos of the flower and spines. In addition, Paul listed the history of this species and cultural requirements.

The New Gesneriads (species) score sheet has a category for "Desirability" worth 15 points. The definition of Desirability is, "This category includes not only physical qualities that would make the average grower want to grow the new species, but also includes ease of culture. If a species is challenging to grow based on mature size (very large or tall) or needs high humidity or extreme cold, it may be less desirable to some growers." The majority of the judges objected strongly to having Desirability on the score sheet for New Species. The consensus was that a new species is desirable no matter what special culture needs or growth pattern it has.

The New Gesneriads (species) score sheet gives 15 points for Educational Information. In that category, the exhibitor should provide complete and clear information on origin, collector, habitat, significance, culture, etc. Perhaps the age of the exhibited plant should be required, especially if it was grown from seed.

It was pointed out that handwritten Educational Information cards are perfectly acceptable. Although Jim Roberts' New Species, *Paraboea rufescens* was entered as "exhibit only" at the 2011 convention, his handwritten Educational Information card provided details on how the species grows in the wild and included dried seedpods.



New Gesneriads (hybrids/cultivars) are more challenging to judge. The workshop attendees observed two different panels judging new hybrids. The score sheet features Distinctiveness, worth 25 points. Is the entry too similar to existing hybrids/cultivars? Judges should ask themselves, "Would I remember this plant two weeks from now? Does this new hybrid/cultivar extend the genus range through flower size, color or pattern, scent, foliage characteristics, plant size/habit, etc.?" An Intergeneric would be rewarded in this section as they are challenging to create. Miniaturizing, scent, and variegation are considered in this section. The PowerPoint program pointed out with photos some negative qualities for new hybrids/cultivars, which included unstable fantasy, weak peduncles, common flower color, and the lower, center petal distorted or stuck in the middle of the flower tube.

A discussion of Educational Information on a New Gesneriad (hybrid/cultivar) included that perhaps the exhibitor should be required to list how old the entry is that is being judged. Mature size may not be apparent if the entry is less than six months old. Episcias often don't reach final leaf coloration until they are over a year old. Lineage can be important, as it may give a clue as to the culture of the hybrid. For example, *Streptocarpus* hybrids with *Streptocarpus lilliputana* in the parentage may be sensitive to drying out because *S. lilliputana* grows near streams with constant high humidity and moist roots. The opposite is true for progeny of *Streptocarpus kentaniensis*.

Kohleria 'Peridots Salish'

Hybridizer: Iain James

Parentage

Seed Parent: Kohleria 'Karl Lindberg' — Pollen Parent: Kohleria 'Peridots Kitlope'.

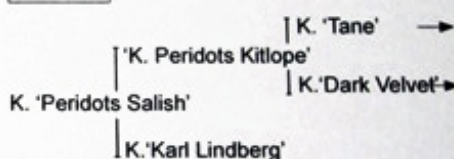
Discussion

Cross successfully achieved on July 21, 2008; resultant seed sown on March 12, 2009; first flowering September 9, 2009.

Cultivar is pollen sterile but seed fertile, and will only reproduce true by vegetative means, i.e., cuttings, rhizomes.

Future work and crosses with this cultivar will be focused on stabilizing and intensifying the "doubleness" or calyx fringe trait displayed by its flowers.

Pedigree



Distinctiveness and Desirability

Large-leaved and vigorous but displaying a relatively compact growth habit, spreading outward rather than upward.

During active growth, flowering is continuous with alternating periods of heavy to moderate bloom. Cultivar displays traits of increased blossom size and color which are significant improvements from those of either parent. To varying degrees, a large proportion of blossoms exhibit "doubleness", i.e., extra calyces or fringes.

The judges were shown inadequate Educational Information cards, one of which had the following: "*Streptocarpus* 'Mystic Raspberry Dawn', hybridized by Pat Couture, is a cross between *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili' and *Streptocarpus* 'Firebird'. Nothing on that card gave cultural information, nor did it point out what characteristics were dominant between those two parents. It's helpful to the judges and informative to the public to know what the exhibitor feels is distinctive about the new hybrid/cultivar. After all, when a new hybrid/cultivar is registered with The Gesneriad Society's Registrar, there is a section on the form asking to, "Describe in detail how this cultivar differs from others of its type — i.e., how it is to be distinguished from plants now in cultivation." The Educational Information card in the 2012 Flower Show Schedule had a size limitation of 8.5 x 5.5 inches. It would seem large enough that the exhibitor has room to describe how the new hybrid/cultivar is distinct from others.

The final discussion addressed the question, "Should the points for the Educational Label be increased from 10 to 15? If so, where would you take away points?" Voting showed the majority felt the points should be increased to 15 and that five points should be deducted from Condition.

The workshop ended with a raffle of new hybrids and what could be a future entry for the Lesser Known section; *Streptocarpus galpinii*, that Dale grew from seed given to her by Harold Koopowitz.

JUDGING SCHOOLS & WORKSHOPS

The Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society hosted a judging school on May 20, 2012 ably taught by Dale Martens, Vice-Chair of the Gesneriad Society's Shows and Judging Committee. Sixteen Chapter members signed up for the School.

New Student Judges:

Edna Alexander	Alton, IL.
Judi DuPont	Newark, IL.
Bonnie Formella	Ottawa, IL.
Jane Miller	Addison, IL.

New Senior Judge:

Carol Brown	Godfrey, IL. (Beginning January 2013)
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That same lovely May weekend in Nashville Tennessee, Master Judge Karyn Cichocki presented "Judging Crafts Representing Gesneriads" to the members of the Tennessee Gesneriad Society. The next day, she led a Workshop showing the members the technical aspects of drying many types of gesneriad flowers and how she creates, executes and frames her beautiful arrangements. Thanks to Karyn's skillful tutelage, I know we'll see some dried gesneriad arrangements entered by members of the Tennessee Gesneriad Society, when Convention returns to Nashville in 2014.

Convention Judging Schools and Workshop – Seattle, Washington July 4, 2012

Seventy-six conventioners were kept very busy most of Independence Day attending the Novice and Intermediate-Advanced judging schools. The Workshop was once again facilitated by Dale Martens, who led a lively and informative discussion on the judging of Lesser-Known, new species and new hybrid Gesneriads. Be sure to read Dale's excellent article about the Workshop proceedings in this issue! Arleen Dewell taught the Novice judging school and Ben Paternoster, with the assistance of Wallace Wells, taught the Intermediate-Advanced session. For Session II of the School on Wednesday afternoon, we all came together for a lively discussion concerning do's and don'ts when writing comments. Paul Kroll, who acted as Judges and Clerks Chair, presented a few examples of judges' comments that were made during the Toronto Gesneriad Society's Chapter Show in 2011. Many thanks to Paul and to the members of the Toronto Gesneriad Society for allowing pictures from their beautiful show to be used as examples for Paul's talk.

The school and workshop attendees were:

Edna Alexander, Judy Anderson, Deanna Belli, Carol Ann Bonner, Mary Bozoian, Pam Braun, Carol Brown, Doris Brownlie, Tom Bruning, Doris Carson, John Carter, Judith Carter, Paulo Castello da Costa, Karyn Cichocki, Bob Clark, Cassandra Coleman, Francisco Correa, Vilma Dallas, Cindy Eastman, Jacquie Eisenhut, Gussie Farrice, Barbara Festenstein, Becky Fontes, Mel Grice, Susan Grose, Rohm Gustafson, Doreen Hovermale, Dariane Joshlin, Michael Kartuz, Nancy Kast, Jeanne Katzenstein, Jeremy Keene, Paul Kroll, Suzie Larouche, Alan LaVergne, Debra Lavergne, Paul Lee, Pele Lim, Ingrid Lindskog, Stephen Maciejewski, Charlene Marietti, Barbara Matthews, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Jo Anne Martinez, Eileen McGrath, Nancy Moerer, Linda Neumann, Hung Nguyen, Irina Nicholson, Norah Otto, Rosemary Platz, Bill Price, Leonard Re, Michael Riley, Carolyn Ripps, Sally Robinson, Thad Scaggs, Jay Sespico, Peter Shalit, Barbara Stewart, Bob Stewart, Dee Stewart, Dona Stilwell, Elaine Stutt, Paul Susi, Sylvia Svitak, Julie Thompson, Levin Tilghman, MJ Tyler, Fay Wagman, Irwin Wagman, Wallace Wells, Beverley Williams, Joan Wood, John Wrightson, Judy Zinni.

Grateful thanks are extended to all teachers, school and workshop facilitators and of course to all of you – our attendees!

New Student Judge:

Sally Robinson Poulsbo, WA.

Reinstated Student Judge:

Linda Neumann North Royalton, OH.

New Senior Judges:

Alan LaVergne	Palo Alto, CA.
Irina Nicholson	Lakewood, CO.
Jay Sespico	Valrico, FL. (Beginning January 2013)
John Wrightson	Freeland, WA. (Beginning January 2013)

Minutes of the Judges Interest Group Meeting

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

Seattle, WA

1. Arleen Dewell called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed the attendees.
2. Arleen thanked Dee Stewart for acting as recording secretary for the meeting.
3. Arleen then announced changes to the staff of **Appraisal**. Former Editor, Charlene Marietti resigned in late 2011. Mel Grice has accepted the editorship of **Appraisal**. Mary Lou Robbins will take over Mel's former position for **Appraisal** subscriptions, production and distribution. Arleen thanked Charlene for her excellent work as Editor over the last 3 years and welcomed Mel and Mary Lou to their new roles with **Appraisal**. She also thanked Mary Helen Maran for agreeing to look after production and distribution for the May 2012 issue of **Appraisal**, while the search for a permanent replacement for Mel's former position was ongoing.
4. Arleen thanked all of those who have contributed articles for **Appraisal** over the past year: Larry Boyer, Doris Brownlie, Terri Campbell, Carolyn Conlin-Lane, Mel Grice, Susan Grose, Nancy Kast, Jeanne Katzenstein, Paul Kroll, Ingrid Lindsog, Ben Paternoster, Mary Lou Robbins, Paul Susi and the authors of show reports received from the New England and Tennessee chapters.
5. Arleen announced that Dariane Joshlin will join the Shows and Judges Committee, replacing Charlene Marietti.
6. The following minor changes have been made to the Flower Show Manual (see the manual for details of the changes):
 - a) the job descriptions involving staging, schedule and placement chairpersons have been clarified (pp 4-5)
 - b) change for appointment of the Awards chairperson (p 9). Arleen announced that she has appointed Paul Lee to take over the position of Awards Chairperson, replacing JoAnne Martinez who has accepted a new role as the Society's new Convention Chairperson. Arleen thanked JoAnne for the exemplary job she has done as Awards Chair for the past 8 years.
 - c) Wording change to former "Gesneriads Grown for Foliage" under Score Sheet Definitions (p 16). This change makes the wording consistent with the change to its corresponding score sheet. Details of these changes will be in the September issue of **Appraisal**. The updated Flower Show Manual will be available for download from the web site at that time.
7. The following changes to the Convention Flower Show Schedule have been made:
 - a) The name changes affecting the former genus Chirita, especially the species now in the genus Primulina require renaming some classes and also re-numbering classes so that they appear in alphabetical order. Most changes are in Section D, (Old World in Flower) and Section E, (Other Old World and New World grown for ornamental characteristics).
 - b) A new class has been added in Section D for Streptocarpus with variegated foliage.
 - c) The class for Petrocosmea in Section E, Ornamental Characteristics Other Than Bloom, has been eliminated. Non-blooming Petrocosmeas can still be entered in the class for Other Old World Gesneriads in Section E. Doris Brownlie asked about the status of adding a class for "species of concern". Arleen responded that they were still working

on how to handle this, perhaps including it in the Education Division.

Pam Braun asked why the class for *Petrocosmeas* in Section E has been deleted. Arleen explained that most out-of-flower *Petrocosmeas* have little to add in terms of ornamental value. Plants exhibited in this section must possess other ornamental characteristics when not in bloom.

Other Business

1.) Certification Requirements for All Judges are as follows:

a) Be a member in good standing of The Gesneriad Society,

b) Maintain a valid subscription to **Appraisal**,

c) Submit the Annual Judges Report to the Shows and Judges Chair each year.

The deadline for the Annual Report is September 30, 2012. Please get your reports in on time.

- Submitting your report is a requirement for keeping your Judging Credentials in order.

- The report template will arrive with the September issue of **Appraisal**.

- Roughly 1/3 of judges fail to submit their reports on time.

- The time frame for listing your activities runs from September 1 of the prior year to August 31 of the current year. For chapters hosting fall shows, please report related judging activities in the report for the correct year. Karyn Cichoki commented that she keeps a copy of the template and fills it in as the year goes along to ensure that her activities are reported correctly.

Pam Braun asked if judging Chapter mini-shows should be included in the report. Arleen said yes, if the mini-show is judged by accredited Gesneriad Society judges.

Susan asked if work for a fall show is done over the summer, which year should it be reported in. Arleen said to report it in the year the work is done.

2.) Arleen announced that, due to the 16 hour hiatus between the close of entries and the beginning of judging at 8:00 AM on Friday, the show room will be open from 9:30 PM to 10:30 PM on Thursday evening for designers ONLY with entries in Division II Artistic, for the purpose of freshening up designs, if necessary. Final touches/placement of blossoms can still be done on Friday morning 6:30 AM to 7:15 AM.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.

'GESNERIAD SHOW' ENTRIES PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE!

After three years in development, the Gesneriad Society is pleased to announce the launch of our new computer program for flower show entries that we have named, 'Gesneriad Show'. Individuals and Chapters are welcome to purchase the program for \$50.00 USD. You will find a shopping cart link to it under the 'Shop' heading on the Home Page of the website.

Thank you to software designer Joseph Svitak, Jr. and our President, Paul Susi, for their hours of concentrated work and commitment to provide us with the best entries program ever!

Judging in the Emerald City — 2012

— Doris Brownlie

This year was my second and final attempt at being Judges' Chair for the convention flower show. This year for the first time, we had judges sign up to judge, clerk or do either when they registered for the convention. At the end of each month, beginning in January, Mary Helen sent me a copy of the registration lay-out and I acknowledged each request by E-mail, thanking everyone for offering their services, and promising to contact them again in June when I had finalized the teams. For the judges who selected "Either", I said they would probably be judging, because I wanted as many teams as possible in order to have the show judged on time. A blessing from receiving the registration layout was that I could write and plead for some people who were not judges to clerk. I told them all they had to do was be a warm body who could follow orders. Only one person turned me down! A minus for the Registration form was that when a husband and wife were both registering on the same form, there was room for only one of them to volunteer. We had several couples; both of whom were willing to help.

From January to June, I just made a list of the judges and a separate list for the clerks, then added their E-mail addresses to my address book. In June, when I found out I had enough people on the list for 16 teams, I looked in the January Appraisal to find out the level of each judge. I made new lists of Master, Senior and Student judges, then assigned one from each level where possible to each team. After assigning two clerks to each team, I sent the list to Arleen Dewell and Paul Kroll, both members of the Shows and Judges' Committee, for approval. On receipt of approval, I wrote a group letter to each team, telling them who their team members were. I addressed each judge or clerk personally with instructions to come to the breakfast room by 7:45 a.m., if they had not chosen to have breakfast with the group, for final instructions. I heard back from many of the judges and clerks and for that I am so grateful.

I also received from the Flower Show Chair, M.J. Tyler, a list of exhibitors in the Artistic and The Arts Divisions so that I could assign these classes to judges with no entries in those classes.

On the Tuesday of the final week before the convention, I received the list of the 45 Special Awards. I had an idea that many of the judges would like to be included in the judging of special awards, so I divided them into 10 categories and then divided most of the judges into new teams for the judging of these awards. I then E-mailed each new Special Awards team, informing them of their second assignment. Many of the student judges felt very honoured to be part of this final process. I also made a card for each award and asked the student judges to be clerks. I also made a card out for each judge with their numerical and alphabetical teams to be placed on the breakfast table; color coordinating the cards with their second team and the award cards. On the award cards I also wrote the name of the judge who was to pick up that card and how many each team was to receive.

I also made up a folder of the teams to be placed at the registration desk in case judges wanted a reminder. I heard from Mary Helen that no one enquired. Several of the judges thanked me for telling them ahead of time, so that they could relax and know what they had to do on Friday morning.

The teams were:

1. Carol Ann Bonner, Doris Carson, John Wrightson – Diane Stewart, Anne Vidaver
2. Dariane Joshlin, Julie Mavity-Hudson, John Carter – Bruce Williams, Donna Coleman
3. Norah Otto, Karyn Cichocki, Jay Sespico – Katrina Andresen, Marianne Moore
4. Pam Braun, Tom Bruning, Joan Wood – Cathy Dragon, Doreen Dragon
5. Susan Grose, Nancy Kast, Judy Carter – David Pierce, Carol Orozco
6. Bob Clark, Jeanne Katzenstein, Wanda Macnair – Cindy Eastman, Michael Kartuz
7. Peter Shalit, Mary Bozoian, Sylvia Svitak – Paula Bozoian, Jamie Notman
8. Stephen Maciejewski, Doreen Hovermale, Deanna Belli – Levin Tilghman, Elaine Stutt
9. Wallace Wells, Leonard Re, Paulo Costello da Costa – Nancy Moerer, Cassandra Coleman
10. Carolyn Ripps, Barbara Matthews, Ingrid Lindskog – Allison Brigham, Tommy Liu
11. Rosemary Platz, Julie Thompson, Eileen McGrath – Becky Fontes, Francisco Correa
12. Charlene Marietti, Thad Scaggs, Irina Nicholson – Barbara Dawson, Norma Kunzel
13. Linda Hall, Fay Wagman, Gussie Farrice – Murna Kosowan, Linda Neumann
14. Paul Kroll, Barbara Stewart, Mary Schaeffer – Jeremy Keene, Lisa Kampel
15. Ben Paternoster, Vilma Dallas, Barbara Festenstein – Pat Shandrow, TehShan Lee
16. Michael Riley, Judy Zinni, Richard Macnair - Maida den Oudsten, Bill Price

Pele Lim was supposed to be a clerk on Team 15. I changed her to that team at the last moment, but she did not receive the message and got lost in the shuffle. By the time she was found, I had replaced her with my spare clerk, Pat Shandrow. My extra judge, Hung Nguyen, waited patiently throughout the first round of judging and was rewarded by helping to clerk for the major awards.

On Thursday afternoon after entries had closed and classes were subdivided, I received from the computer the number of entries in each class and assigned classes to every team, making sure that each team had no more than 15 entries to point score. When the class sheets were printed, Jacquie Eisenhut, (who was my shadow at this point) and I sorted out the sheets, wrote the team numbers on each class sheet and on the 16 schedules which were all attached to a clipboard. A second clipboard was available for each team for writing on the score sheets.

On Friday morning, the judging teams could each sit at separate tables for breakfast and final instructions. New this year was the fact that the Awards Chair requested that the judges check the clerking sheets before they were handed in to avoid any mistakes.

The judging went well, but it must be a psychological feeling about the task at hand because it was no faster than last year, when each team had four more exhibits to point score. I noted however, that they were taking more time to make positive remarks to help the exhibitors, so I did not take any classes away from teams that were slower. The other judges waited patiently until the final teams were formed. Then Jo Anne asked if I could have 3 judges stay behind, just in case something extra needed to be done. When all was completed, these judges were not needed, after all. A feather in the cap for each and every judge who followed instructions and carried out their assigned duties in a conscientious manner.

Thank you so much for allowing me to lead you in this manner for these last two years. I hope you will be ready and willing next year to sign up for Jacquie and give her your competent assistance. Happy growing, everyone!

Seattle Gesneriad Convention Show

Arleen and Cynthia, Belles of the Ball

— Deanna Belli

The annual Gesneriad convention is always a lot of fun to attend, and the showroom is the hub of the action; with 209 exhibits this year (124 in horticulture, 53 in Artistic, 31 in the Arts and 1 Educational exhibit) you can quickly understand why. This year's show was no different with so many amazing high quality entries, convention goers did not have to look far to strike up conversations about their favorites. The new species introductions were especially popular this year, how wonderful to see *Gasteranthus diverticularis*, exhibited by Bill Price in full bloom, and the fragrant *Monopyle* sp. exhibited by Karyn Cichocki. I for one am looking forward to trying out these new species in my own collection when seed becomes available (hint, hint!).

Perhaps my most favorite part of any show is the artistic and arts divisions. The skill and craftsmanship that go into these exhibits are amazing, congratulations to Charlene Marietti, Best in the Arts, and Karyn Cichocki, Best in Artistic, for their wonderful exhibits.

This year's Best in Show *Primulina* 'Cynthia', exhibited by Arleen Dewell was especially fascinating to see in bloom, from the moment I helped Arleen unload her plants from the car I knew she had something special. Living in the Toronto area I have been lucky to see a few specimens of *Primulina* 'Cynthia' at our local shows, but this was the first time I had ever seen it in bloom. I am sure for many it was their first time seeing this wonderful plant too. *Primulina* 'Cynthia' is a sport of *Primulina* 'Kazu' named by Vincent Woo in honor of his mother. I was very proud to see my fellow Canadians do so well this year, congratulations to all the exhibitors! See you next year in Toronto!



Gasteranthus diverticularis



Best in Show *Primulina* 'Cynthia', exhibited by Arleen Dewell & named by Vincent Woo



THE JUDGING TEAM

In the May 2012 issue of *APPRAISAL*, we asked for your comments:

At our last meeting, a standard Saintpaulia hybrid with multiple crowns was entered in the Little Show. It was covered with bloom; however, the judges didn't give it an award. There was some discussion at the meeting about entering gesneriads the way the exhibitor wishes to grow them. The AV judges said that AVSA rules should be followed where standard hybrid AV's are concerned. Then the point was mentioned that rules were just for convention shows and that chapters can choose their own set of rules. As a judge, what would you do, if confronted with this situation?

A master judge responded:

Interesting that this should appear in this issue of *Appraisal*, as our judging team had a similar experience at a Gesneriad Chapter Show last month. We judged a Saintpaulia trailer, which only had 2 crowns, both of which had bloom on them. One of the judges on our panel wanted to fault it for this according to the rule that AVSA has about trailers having a minimum of 3 crowns. However, the plant had a pleasing form and both crowns had blossoms. I explained that the Gesneriad Society didn't have a specific rule limiting how many crowns/stems must be present.

The guidelines that the Gesneriad Society has for judging are not just for convention, but also to be used at the chapter level. If chapters were allowed to make up their own rules, wouldn't an exhibitor and judges be confused when they entered or judged at a society convention? They are there to guide the exhibitor to grow better plants. One would say that a standard Saintpaulia would not be pleasing if grown with multiple crowns, but if the grower worked at it and the exhibit was pleasing, I say why not? If we allow other genera to be exhibited with multiple crowns/stems, why not all? It is up to the exhibitor to make that decision and to enter an exhibit that is pleasing to the eye. For example, I thought that a zippered *Petrocosmea* entered at the Sacramento Gesneriad Society convention in 2003 was interesting, but I understand that not all would agree with this.

A senior judge commented:

I read *Appraisal* and this is my input on the Saintpaulia situation. Page 1 of The Gesneriad Society's Flower Show Manual does state that the personnel, procedures and judging standards "can be modified substantially for chapter little shows." Was there any information in the schedule about Saintpaulias being judged using AVSA rules? Assuming not, and using our Gesneriads in Bloom scoresheet, then deduct points for it being not well shaped along with any other cultural or conditional problems. If it scored 70 or higher, then it is eligible for an award. If below 70 then no award. However, if the schedule stated to judge Saintpaulias using AVSA's rules, then it would be disqualified due to multiple crowns. In either case polite comments should be made on the score sheet.

A master judge pointed out:

I have an observation or two concerning the multi-crowned Saintpaulia entered in your Little Show that the judges did not award. In general, I support the judging team's decision not to award this entry, in spite of the fact that gesneriads can be entered in gesneriad shows as single crowned or multi-crowned exhibits. I think Saintpaulias are unique in that the hybridizer,

in the published description, determines the Saintpaulia type: standard, semi, miniature, or trailer, each having particular characteristics. Since this entry was neither a Saintpaulia species or trailer, the entry does not conform to the hybridizer's description, and should not, in my opinion, be awarded. Had this exhibit been entered in the "Trained or Sculptured" Class as a creative horticultural exhibit, I might be more willing to consider it for an award.

A master judge replied:

It is unfortunate but true, that those of us who are credentialed by both the Gesneriad Society and AVSA as judges, have difficulty keeping our thinking separated. More often than not, the boundaries are blurred. This is the case with the situation cited in this article. Since AVSA follows, endorses and enforces the GS rules and regulations pertaining to what they call the "other" gesneriads (other than Saintpaulia), it is only fair that the Gesneriad Society should follow, endorse and enforce AVSA's rules regarding the species and hybrid Saintpaulia. AVSA is the official international registry for Saintpaulia and its hybrids and until AVSA's authority is recognized by the Gesneriad Society, we will enter this harangue again and again. Hybridizers on both sides of this fence, (Gesneriad Society and AVSA) work diligently to be certain that their creations behave according to the descriptions released along with their hybrids. These should be recognized by all. If a grower wants to grow a plant in another way, or using a method other than the hybridizer's description, that's fine for their own experience and enjoyment. For them to push the envelope at a show – whether a Little show, Chapter, or International Convention – is more than a challenge to the judges. It can be expected that loggerheads would be the result, no matter whose rules were cited. As an AVSA Master judge as well as a Gesneriad Society Master judge, I personally would have great difficulty awarding a ribbon to a Saintpaulia grown in an abnormal way. The plant could and perhaps should be entered "for exhibit only" and not in competition.

A student judge writes:

I would still want to judge the standard African violet by AVSA rules because shows are also a learning/educational experience for growers and attendees alike. Usually, multiple-stem standard violets do NOT bloom well, commercial growers do not sell them with multiple stems (unless they miss suckers). I know that when we put other gesneriads in our Show, we do judge them as they are supposed to grow, (within our sometimes limited experience for the "other" gesneriads).

The Shows & Judging Chair responds:

Firstly, I must point out a quotation error in judge's comment #2. Page 1 of the Flower Show Manual under the heading, "Purpose of This Manual" (second paragraph) explains that **personnel and procedures** followed primarily at Gesneriad Society convention and chapter flower shows "can be modified substantially for chapter 'little' shows." The paragraph does not refer to or condone any adaptation of Gesneriad Society judging standards with respect to chapter 'little' shows.

In the Convention Show Schedule, we ask exhibitors of African violets to respect the hybridizers' stated descriptions and size limitations. Gesneriad Society Chapters also include this requirement in their own Show Schedules. I concur with the judges' decision in the Chapter 'little' show situation described above. If the plant was registered by the hybridizer as a Standard African violet and shown multi-crowned, then they made the right call not to award it, regardless of how heavily it was blooming or which type of show it was entered in.

Gesneriad Society judges do not disqualify or refuse to evaluate standard, semi, miniature or trailing African violet hybrids that do not conform to the hybridizers' stated description or size limitation, as AVSA judges are trained to do. Rather, such entries should be eliminated from the judges' consideration of awards. How is this achieved? By deducting points under the category of Cultural Perfection and possibly Condition as well, then writing constructive comments that reflect the resulting point score and reasons for their decision.

Judge's comment #1 showcases controversy regarding African violet trailers and how some judging procedures can differ between AVSA and the Gesneriad Society. I freely admit that I do not necessarily agree with AVSA's rule that requires a trailing African violet to have a minimum of 3 flowering crowns. As long as I have been a member and long before, the Gesneriad Society has had no rule concerning the minimum number of crowns a trailing African violet must have. If the plant is well groomed, culturally balanced and pleasing to the eye but exhibiting only two flowering crowns, why shouldn't it be eligible for entry – not only in the class for trailing African violets, but also as suggested above, in the trained or sculptured class, if the exhibitor so desires?

(If you are enjoying our new "JUDGING TEAM" feature and want to see it continue, please send your judging dilemmas to: arleendewell@shaw.ca)

We welcome articles & news related to Gesneriad Society judging & chapter shows.

Deadlines for *Appraisal* Submissions: December 1, April 1 and August 1

Please send:

*Articles and show reports to Arleen Dewell arleendewell@shaw.ca

*Upcoming show information, miscellaneous announcements to Mel Grice
melsgrice@earthlink.net

*Address changes, subscription payments, and missing issues to Mary Lou Robbins
mlr07005@gmail.com

* (If paying by check, please indicate which version (email or postal) of *Appraisal* you want to receive.)

Notes on Photos and Text

- Please label digital photos and send them individually with the plant name to ensure accuracy.
- Please provide the name of the photographer so that we can credit the correct person. **Please DO NOT embed photos in Word documents.** Send photos as large size JPEGs in separate emails if necessary
- Please **DO NOT** send text in outline form or in spreadsheets. Simple Word documents work best.

Not sure when your *Appraisal* subscription expires? The number before your name on the label indicates the year your subscription ends. For example, 12 = December 2012. Email subscribers will see the year your subscription expires in the Subject line: APPRAISAL September 2012 issue (14) = subscription expires at end of 2014.

Gasteranthus

— Paul Kroll

This genus is a challenging one for me, not to grow, but to bloom. I am currently growing several species of *Gasteranthus*: *Gasteranthus atratus*, *Gasteranthus species nova*, *Gasteranthus calcaratus* subspecies *calceolus*, *Gasteranthus tenellus* and *Gasteranthus villosus*. The last two are still quite young plants as I received them as cuttings late in 2011.

Although my plant room (all under lights) is quite humid, I continue to grow the *Gasteranthus* completely enclosed in terrarium conditions. They are grown in a light soil mix and watered, fertilized the same as all my gesneriads: once a week, with one-quarter strength fertilizer (rotated among 4 or 5 brands) and the water adjusted to a pH of approximately 6.8 with distilled vinegar. I also add a drop of Superthrive to each gallon of water. Once a month, I add one-quarter of a teaspoon Epsom salts per gallon along with the fertilizer. This seems to keep the foliage green by making the fertilizer available and not "locked up" in the growing medium. All the *Gasteranthus* species require low light and I grow them on the floor of the plant room, next to the shelves with four T-12 tubes.

Of the *Gasteranthus* species I am growing, only two are eligible to be shown/exhibited in the ornamental foliage classes at shows: *Gasteranthus atratus* and *Gasteranthus species nova*. This latter one was collected in the late spring of 2007 by a gesneriad research group expedition to Ecuador. John L. Clark was the leader of this group. It was found growing near a stream flowing down a mountain and was described as follows:

". . . a very interesting *Gasteranthus* species that had whorled leaves and an orange blossom with a pronounced pouch with irregular margins on the lower region of the corolla. It was a very exciting find."

I obtained a tiny plant as the successful bidder while attending the Gesneriad Society's convention in 2008. It has not yet bloomed for me, probably due to the fact that I keep taking cuttings to share. The leaves have interesting silvery markings which make it attractive even when out of bloom.

Gasteranthus atratus has attractive bullate leaves that, when mature, are bronze colored and shiny. Younger shoots are green. The blooms on this plant are trumpet-shaped and very yellow. I have bloomed this one and exhibited it at several shows with two or three blooms on it. Once, it was in contention for best-in-show, but one of the judging panel members dismissed it with the comment, "not enough bloom". At that time most of us had not seen this plant in bloom at all! Bill Price's spectacular entry of *Gasteranthus atratus* at the Vancouver convention will forever remain in our minds as absolutely breathtaking. I do feel that we must, as judges, beware of considering that plant as a "benchmark", since we may never again see one that glorious and with so many open blooms.

I received small plantlets of *Gasteranthus* subspecies *calceolus* a few years ago. I believe they had been grown from seed. John L. Clark, the collector of this particular species, tells me that it was collected in Zamora-Chinchi in Ecuador. It is restricted to the Eastern Andes and is a relatively recent taxonomic name published by Dr. Larry Skog. It has been a



very slow grower over the past three years. I have not yet been able to get this plant to bloom. This plant has medium to dark green bullate leaves and no significant markings.

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice

Bill Price's spectacular entry of *Gasteranthus atratus*



Gasteranthus villosus
Nancy Kast



Gasteranthus tenellus
Nancy Kast

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 14-15 — Mansfield, OH **Ohio State African Violet Society Show and Plant Sale**

Kingwood Center, 900 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, OH 44906

September 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (sale); Show from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Show is free to public. Kingwood charges \$5.00 for parking.

Contact: [Lori](#)

September 15-16 — Sacramento, CA **Delta Gesneriad & AVS Show and Plant Sale**

Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA

September 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free admission and parking.

Contact: www.sacviolets.org or Lynn Lombard 530-637-9000.

September 22-23 — Boylston, MA **Annual Combined Plant Societies' Judged Show and Plant Sale**

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

September 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Participating: Buxton Branch, American Begonia Society and New England Chapter, The Gesneriad Society

Admission: \$10.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors and \$5.00 youth aged 6-18

[Contact](#)

September 22-23 — Nashville, TN **Tennessee Gesneriad Society Show and Plant Sale**

Cheekwood Botanic Gardens, Botanic Hall, 1200 Forrest Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37205

September 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

September 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There will be many rare and unusual plants for sale.

Contact: julie.mavity@gmail.com or 615-364-8459.

September 28-29 — Kansas City, MO **Heart of America Annual Show and Plant Sale**

Loose Park Garden Center Building, 5200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, MO

September 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Flower show entries open to all.

September 28 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Plant Sale only open.

September 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale open.

The Heart of America Gesneriad Society will be joined by the Mid-America Begonia Society for both the Flower Show and Plant Sale.

contact: [Susan Grose](#)

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 29 — Centennial, CO **Rocky Mountain Annual Fall Sale**

Tagawa Garden Center, 7711 S. Parker Road, Centennial, CO 80016

Saturday only sale from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: [Nelly Levine](#)

September 29-30 — Newark, DE **Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium**

Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, 531 South College Ave., Newark, DE

September 29 — show set up and evening banquet.

September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale open.

The show and sale are free and open to the public. Complete information can be accessed on line at <http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/files/RegionalShow.pdf> or hard copies of the brochure, registration information and flower show schedule can be requested by email at qcsjr@comcast.net.

October 7 — Morris Township, NJ **Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter Exhibit and Sale**

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morris Township, NJ.

October 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Karyn Cichocki kdc05@ptd.net

October 13 — Philadelphia, PA **African Violet Society of Philadelphia Annual Show and Plant Sale**

Cathedral Village Retirement Community, 600 E. Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128-1933

October 13 from noon. to 6:00 p.m.

The plant sale will feature Violets and Gesneriads from Fancy Bloomers and other commercial growers plus a variety of growing supplies and materials.

contact: [Carol](#)

October 20-21 — Altamonte Springs (Orlando), FL **African Violet Council of Florida and the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society**

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 230 W. State Road 436, Altamonte Springs (Orlando area), FL 32714

October 20 — Plant sales 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Show noon to 6:00 p.m.

October 21 — Show and sales 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society will host seminars on different aspects of Gesneriads beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Contact: [L. Price](#), or visit <http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org>