

# Gesneriads

A photograph of a Gesneriad plant, likely a species of Mimulus, featuring clusters of bright red, tubular flowers and green, serrated leaves. The plant is set against a dark background, and the image serves as the cover for the journal.

*The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*

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Fourth Quarter 2013

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### Cover

*Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet', grown by Paul Lee.

Best in Show at the 2013 Gesneriad Society Convention in Toronto. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

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### The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

The objects of The Gesneriad Society are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the Gesneriad Plant Family (Gesneriaceae); to stimulate a wide-spread interest in; to gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, propagation, and conservation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination, introduction, and conservation of species and cultivars.

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for the names and cultivars of gesneriads excepting the genus *Saintpaulia*. Any person desiring to register a cultivar should contact Irina Nicholson, 2512 South Balsam Way, Lakewood, CO 80227 USA  
[hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org](mailto:hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org).

# President's Message



Everything  
happened  
when it was  
supposed to,  
as if by magic.

ANOTHER WONDERFUL CONVENTION IN TORONTO has come and gone, but the memories will linger. The attendance was high (206 registrants, with over 45 first-time attendees) and the flower show was one of the largest ever with 305 entries! The downtown Toronto location also offered attendees a selection of restaurants and shops whenever there was a free moment to enjoy them.

Keep in mind that this entire event was organized by volunteers from the Society and the Toronto Gesneriad Society who gave of their time and expertise to make sure that the trips, show, presentations, plant sales, and meals all took place with the greatest amount of effortlessness for the rest of us. Everything happened when it was supposed to, as if by magic. Another important point is that, at this and all conventions, activities are priced very close to cost, and in some cases, the prices that attendees pay are below the actual charges to the Society. Responses in surveys taken at the end of recent prior conventions have reiterated the desire of members to attend conventions located in downtown hotels, close to shopping, restaurants, and other activities. As we know, rooms at such hotels can be expensive. In addition, hotels typically charge

more for food, especially from the banquet menu. In order to keep charges to attendees at an acceptable level, the Society has frequently absorbed the local tax on meals or the service charges. (The Society does apply for exemptions from local sales taxes. However, laws vary from state to state in the United States and we often are not granted an exemption. Since we are not organized as a non-profit in Canada, we were unable to be exempt from the payment of taxes on meals.) So, in most cases, what you pay for each meal is less than what the Society is charged by the hotel. The goal of every convention has been, and continues to be, to attract as many members as possible to see the show, hear the speakers, take the trips, attend the annual membership meeting, and buy some plants – not to make money.

For the third year in a row, the Society has sponsored convention attendance for several gesneriad students. This year, Hermine Alexandre, Jeremy Keene, François Lambert, Jason Martin, and Reece Watson attended the event with funding from the Students and Speakers Convention Fund. Each student presented either a poster or a short talk about his or her area of research. I urge you to consider a donation to the Students and Speakers Convention Fund, which enables students to attend convention, see what the Society is about, and offer each of us the opportunity to meet the gesneriad researchers of tomorrow.

A highlight of this convention for me was to meet Janique Perreault, Horticulturist at the Montréal Botanical Garden. You may not know that the Montréal Botanical Garden has an extensive collection of gesneriads, including a very interesting alpine collection. Ron Myhr gave us a brief overview of the collection, and I hope that this inspired those who saw it to visit the Garden. The Society decided to increase the Garden's collection with a gift of \$100 worth of plants from plant sales at convention. We made sure to select plants that are not now in the Garden's possession. This was

*Continued on page 43*

# From The Editor



For the first time this year we have posted a set of videos of show entries to YouTube.

YOU ARE READING THE ANNUAL POST-CONVENTION issue of *Gesneriads*, documenting the 2013 Gesneriad Society Convention in Toronto. You'll read about the prizewinning exhibits in the show and some of the people who entered them. You'll also read about the lectures and other activities that we enjoyed in Toronto. If you attended, this will bring back fond memories. If you were unable to attend, you can experience the convention vicariously in the pages of this journal.

A Gesneriad Society annual convention, show, and sale is a little like the circus coming to town. We arrive, "set up our tents," and have a busy and exciting week. Then all too soon we dismantle the whole thing and scatter to the four corners of the globe.

When I have occasion to stay in Portland, Oregon, I always stay at the Embassy Suites downtown, site of our 2005 Convention. Although there is no longer any trace of gesneriads ever having been there, the hotel brings back memories of a wonderful week. I can relive that week in detail by looking in the 4Q05 issue of *The Gloxinian* and browsing the Society website for pictures of the people and plants.

So even though our conventions are ephemeral, the Society creates a permanent record of them. This way we can enjoy images of the beautiful plants and memories of our wonderful gesneriad friendships — long after the event is over. Unfortunately there's no 2005 Convention CD/DVD. That tradition did not start until 2006. As technology has improved, we have found new ways to create valuable, enduring educational resources from our all-too-brief conventions.

So in addition to this issue of *Gesneriads*, we have documented our 2013 Convention in a number of other ways. The Society website, [gesneriadsociety.org](http://gesneriadsociety.org), now has an extensive image library of plants, people, and activities from the 2013 Convention, adding to an archive that extends back into the 1990s. There is also the Tumblr blog, [gescon13.tumblr.com](http://gescon13.tumblr.com), which served as an ongoing diary of convention events, and which will remain on the web indefinitely. And for the first time this year we have posted a set of videos of show entries to YouTube. Most of the videos include an interview with the exhibitor about their entry. Check them out on the web at <http://bit.ly/16YHSc1>. And finally, there will be this year's convention DVD, the most complete record of the Toronto Convention. You can purchase it via the Society website or by mail.

I'm grateful to the members of the Toronto Gesneriad Society and everyone else who made this convention possible. I'm also very grateful to the photographers and writers who documented the festivities, and to the exhibitors who consented to be interviewed on film. Please join me in thanking those who have helped create a permanent record of a fabulous event.

Enjoy *Gesneriads*,

*Peter*

<[gesnerieditor@gmail.com](mailto:gesnerieditor@gmail.com)>



# Convention Board Review 2013

Leonard Re, Recording Secretary, The Gesneriad Society ~ Fountain Valley, CA, USA ~ <buffboy@socal.rr.com>



THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY HELD ITS 57th ANNUAL Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

President Paul Susi led the Society’s Board of Directors at meetings on July 2 and 5. The Annual Membership Meeting convened on Thursday, July 4.

The Board elected the following officers to two-year terms ending in 2015: Paul Susi, President; Jo Anne Martinez, Second Vice-President; and Leonard Re, Recording Secretary. The other three officers continue in their current positions.

There were several changes to Committee Chairs. Pam Braun stepped down as Finance Chair. Michael Riley succeeds her. After 18 years of service, Judy Becker stepped down as Gesneriad Register Chair. Irina Nicholson succeeds her. Newsletters Chair Leslie Milde stepped down. With advances in technology, it was decided to eliminate the committee. Susan Grose completed her tenure on the Nominating Committee. Ben Paternoster succeeds Susan as Chair, and Doris Brownlie was appointed to the committee. John R. Clark resigned as Conservation Chair, and Paul Susi will be appointing a new chair in the future.

In other actions, the Board approved Mary Schaeffer as assistant to the Treasurer, and she was selected as the fourth member of the Finance Committee. The Board also approved the Society’s 2014 budget presented by Becky Fontes, Treasurer. The African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Syracuse was granted its charter as a chapter of The Gesneriad Society.

Molly Schneider and her committee presented the 2013 Awards of Appreciation to Gussie Farrice and Carolyn Rippes, Co-Chairs of the Seed Fund.

The Membership voted to accept the Nominating Committee’s slate of Directors for the three-year term ending in 2016: Karyn Cichocki, Nancy Kast, Lena Klintberg, Norah Otto, Mary Schaeffer, Kathy Spissman, and Paul Susi. The Membership also approved the bylaw amendment published in the second quarter 2013 issue of *Gesneriads*, regarding the addition of conservation as one of the purposes of The Gesneriad Society.

Recipients of the third annual Student Convention Grants in attendance were Hermine Alexandre (Université de Montréal), Jeremy Keene (Ohio University), François Lambert (Université de Montréal), Jason Martin (University of Alabama), and Reece Watson (University of Alabama).

Mark your calendar to attend the 58th Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, July 1-5, 2014!

## ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY

Arcadia Glasshouse. . . . .	46	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc. . . . .	38
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# Seed Fund



It was a  
wonderful  
convention.

AS I WRITE THIS, I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE convention in Toronto. It was a wonderful convention. The quality and quantity of the plants entered in the show was phenomenal. The plant sales room was well stocked with goodies for everyone.

On another note, I will pass along some requests pertaining to the Seed Fund.

- Please send all donated seed to Karyn Cichocki only. The seed should be packed in either folded paper or tissue paper. Please do not tape the package. Also, do not put seed into plastic bags as it sticks to the plastic.
- When ordering seed, please include your membership number, and make checks payable to The Gesneriad Society. (Carolyn Ripps and I do not keep the money!) Do not send cash, and please use a business-size envelope. Large orders do not fit well in the smaller envelopes.

These requests will make life much easier for both Seed Fund co-chairs who have houses, husbands, and dogs to care for. Also, please make note of the upcoming contest for the people who contribute the most seed to the fund for the year, commencing January 1, 2014.

Recent donations from the following are gratefully acknowledged: Kelly Ates, Clay Andersen, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Paolo Castello da Costa, Karyn Cichocki, John L. Clark, Ruth Coulson, Ray Coyle, Robert Hall, Marilyn Heinrich, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Nancy Kast, Alan LaVergne, Montréal Botanical Garden, Irina Nicholson, Ben Paternoster, Mauro Peixoto, Michael Riley, Carolyn Ripps, Vivian Scheans, Hideo Shimizu, Bob and Dee Stewart, Elaine Stutt, Toronto Gesneriad Society, Vincent Woo, Masaki Yamagata, and David Zaitlin.

Send orders for hybrid seed to:  
Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

## Seed Fund – Hybrids

### *Achimenes* (D)

- ‘Carmencita’ × self
- longiflora* × ‘Klaus Neubner’
- hybrid mix (B,L)

### *Aeschynanthus* (B)

- ‘Thai Pink’ × self
- hybrid, large orange/red

### *Chrysanthemum* (F,LM)

- *pulchella* hybrid mix
- hybrid mix

### *Columnnea* (B)

- ‘Aladdin’s Lamp’ × self
- ‘Bold Venture’ × self
- ‘Fujiyama’ × self
- ‘Malissa’ × self
- hybrids (orange)

### *Episcia* (H,L,B,F)

- *cupreata* hybrids × ‘Suomi’
- cupreata* hybrids mix

- hybrid mix
- mixed hybrids (5 crosses)
- yellow hybrids

### *Eucodonia* (D,F,P)

- hybrid 1
- hybrid 2
- hybrid 3
- hybrid mix

### *Gesneria* (H,F,L)

- citrina* hybrid × self
- ‘Flashdance’ × self

### *Kohleria* (D)

- bondensis* hybrid × ‘Bermuda Red’
- hybrid mix

### *Microchirita*

- caliginosa* × *sericea* (LM)
- viola* × *caliginosa*

### *Nematanthus*

- ‘Cheerio’ × self

## Primulina

'Dreamtime' × self (sp. 'New York'  
× *flavimaculata*)

## Seemannia

'Medusa' × self

*sylvatica* hybrid × self

## Sinningia (D)

- (*aggregata* [yellow] × *sellovii*) × self  
*canescens* × *leucotricha* 'Max Dekking'  
*cardinalis* × *glazioviana*  
*cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)  
(*cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae*) × self  
(*cardinalis* × *iarae*) × self  
*cardinalis* × double orange hybrid  
(*cardinalis* 'Skydiver' × *iarae*) × self  
*eumorpha* hybrids mix (F,R)  
(*eumorpha* 'Saltao' × *piresiana*) × *conspicua*  
*glazioviana* × *leopoldii* F2 (LM)  
*guttata* × *aggregata* (yellow)  
*guttata* × *speciosa* 'Cabo Frio'  
(*iarae* × *cardinalis* compact) × self  
*leopoldii* × *iarae*  
(*leucotricha* × *bulbosa*) × self  
(*leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × self  
*leucotricha* × *piresiana*  
*sellovii* small pink hybrid × self  
(*sellovii* × 'Apricot Bouquet') × self  
(*sellovii* × *tubiflora*) × self  
(*tubiflora* × 'Apricot Bouquet') × (*sellovii*  
× *tubiflora*)  
(*tubiflora* × *incarnata*) × self  
• (*bullata* × *leopoldii*) × self  
• *warmingii* × *curtiflora* F2  
'Anne Crowley' × self (F,L)  
'Apricot Bouquet' seedling × 'Apricot  
Bouquet' (LM)  
'Apricot Bouquet' × self (LM)  
( 'Apricot Bouquet' × self ) × self (LM)  
( 'Apricot Bouquet' × self ) × *conspicua*  
(F,L)  
( 'Apricot Bouquet' × self ) × (*conspicua* ×  
*eumorpha*) (F,L)  
'Apricot Bouquet' hybrids  
'Apollo' × self (mini)  
'Beata' × self (*leucotricha* × *leopoldii*)  
'Bewitched' × self (F,L)  
• 'Butterfly Kiss' × self  
'Claire's Choice' × self

'Connect The Dots' × self (mini)

'Delta Fox' × self (F,P)

• 'Desafinado' × self

'Diego' (red) (F,L)

'Diego' (pink)

'Dollbaby' × self

'Doris' F3 × self

• 'Elin' × *leucotricha*

'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet' × self

'Fuzzy Bear' × self

'Good Pink' × self (F,L)

'Gyllenblom' × 'Raketbain'

• 'Jubilee' × self (F,L)

• 'Krezdorn Yellow' × self (L)

• 'Krishna' × self

'Lavender Crest' × self

'Little Imp' × self (F,P)

'Little Redhead' × self

'Maiden's Blush' × self (F,P)

• 'Mark Twain' × self

• 'Mother of Pearl' × self (F,P)

'Mothers Day' × self (F,L)

• 'Neese' × self

'Ozark Pink Petunia' × self

'Pale Beauty' × self (L)

'Pink Pearl' × self

'Premier Pink' × self (F,P)

'Pure Pink' × self (F,P)

• 'Purple Crest' × self

'Raketbain' × self

'Ruby Red' × self (F,P)

'Scarlet O'Hara' × self

'Scarlet Sunset' × self (F,P)

• 'Super Orange' × self

'Tampa Bay Beauty' × self (L)

• 'Ted Bona' × self (F,P)

'Vevette' × self

• 'Winkie' × self

• 'Xanadu' × self F2

hybrid (peach) × self

Super Mini F5

• 'Georgia Sunset' hybrid mix

"Hummingbird Mix"

miniature hybrid mix (F,P)

• miniature hybrid mix (lav/purple) (F,P)

pink hybrid mix

peloric hybrid mix

peloric hybrid mix, red

## Seed Packets — \$2 each

- Please**
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is MasterCard or Visa (\$6 minimum)
  - Make checks payable to The Gesneriad Society in U.S. funds
  - **Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope** (non-U.S. orders will have the postage added to their credit card bill)
  - List alternate choices
  - Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

- Note**
- There is a limit of one seed packet of a single variety per order
  - There is a limit of 25 seed packets per order
  - There is a household limit of 50 seed packets per calendar year

***Sinningia speciosa* hybrids (F,R)**

- blue × self
- mini
  - lavender
  - pink
- purple
  - red
  - rose
  - white
  - white × red
- pink & rose pink
- pink dwarf
- purple peloric
- purple w/spots
- purple × pink
- red w/spots
- red w/white edge
- white w/red spots
- white/lavender
- “California Minis”
- Chiltern hybrid
- blue slipper
- blue slipper × self
- lavender & pink slipper × self
- lavender slipper
- pink slipper
- red slipper
- AC1503 × *speciosa* ‘Regina’
- blue mix
- orchid/purple mix
- pink mix
- pink/white mix
- pink & white slipper
- pink and white × purple
- purple
  - purple × red
  - red mix
- slipper mix
- Charles Lawn hybrid mix
- Early Giant mix
- Jack Evans purple mix
- ‘Regina’ hybrid
- Small’s dwarf mix
- mixed hybrids

***Smithiantha* (D)**

- ‘An’s Sognare Firenze’ × self
- ‘An’s Sognare Firenze’ × *zebrina*
- ‘Big Dots Rule’ × ‘Vivian’s Gift’
- ‘Golden Leopard’ × *zebrina*
- ‘Jan’s Surprise’ × ‘Tropical Sunset’
- (light orange hybrid) × ‘An’s Antique Print’
- ‘Little One’ (F,L)
- ‘Sassy Redhead’ × ‘An’s Sognare Firenze’
- ‘Vivian’s Gift’ × self
- mixed hybrids (F,L,M)

***Streptocarpus***

- ‘Amy’ × self
- ‘Bethan’ × self
- ‘Black Panther’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Charm’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Daisy Jane’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Gum Drop’ × self

- ‘Bristol’s Hey Mei’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Hot Rod’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Ice Castle’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Luv It’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Popsicle’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Ripe Melon’ × self
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × self (V)
- (‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Bristol’s Leopard Skin’) × self
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Charlotte’
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Coral Flair’ (V)
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Emily’s Song’
- ‘Cape Beauties’ × self (F,P)
- (‘Cape Essence’ × ‘Iced Pink Flamingo’) × unnamed hybrid
- ‘Charlotte’ × self
- ‘Charlotte’ × ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’
- ‘Crystal Wonder’ × self
- ‘Demeter’ × self
- ‘Electric Blue’ × self
- ‘Elegance’ × self
- ‘Ella Mae’ × self
- ‘Ella Mae’ × “Blue Variety”
- ‘Falling Stars’ × self
- ‘Fancy Pants’ × self
- ‘Fernwood’s Bam Bam’ × *modestus*
- ‘Fernwood’s Cherries Jubilee’ × self
- ‘Fernwood’s Fairy Princess’ × self
- ‘Festival Wales’ × self
- ‘Fleischle Princesse’ × self
- ‘Fleischle Roulette Cherry’ × self
- ‘Franken Dainty Lady’ × self
- ‘Franken Jane Elizabeth’ × self
- ‘Franken Stacey’ × self
- ‘Good Vibrations’ × (*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed)
- ‘Hera’ × self
- ‘Ice Berg Blues’ × ‘Guidelines’
- ‘Ice Berg Blues’ × ‘Crystal Beauty’
- ‘Ice Berg Blues’ × (‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Bristol’s Leopard Skin’)
- ‘Ice Berg Blues’ × ‘Paper Moon’
- ‘Jane Elizabeth’ × “Blue Variety”
- ‘Jenny’ × self
- ‘Ken’s Purple’ × self
- ‘Keri’s Purple’ × self
- ‘Kim’ × self
- ‘Kitten Face’ × self
- ‘Midnight Flame’ × self
- ‘Mini Pink Fu’ × self
- ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’ × self
- ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’ × ‘Iced Amethyst Showoff’
- ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’ × ‘Velma’
- Pale lilac netted × self
- ‘Park’s Holiday Hybrid’ × self
- ‘Party Doll’ × self
- ‘Passion Pink’ × self
- ‘Pegasus’ × self
- ‘Persephone’ × self
- ‘Pink Ice’ × self
- ‘Royal’ (red)



- 'Royal' (white/pink stripes)
- 'Sandra' × self
- 'Scarlet Glitter' × unknown
- 'Somerset Purple Ice' × self
- 'Spooky' × self
- 'Stacey' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Stonewashed' × self
- 'Sue mini' × self
- 'Suzie' × self
- 'Texas Hot Chili' × 'Burgundy Ruffles'
- 'Thalia' × self
- 'The King' × self
- 'Velma' × self
- (*confusus* ssp. *confusus* × *polyanthus* ssp. *verecundus*) × self
- *johannis* × unknown
- (*montigena* × *rexii*) × self
- *montigena* × *rexii* (natural hybrid)
- (*primulifolius* × *rexii*) × self
- (*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed) × ('Cape Essence' × 'Iced Pink Flamingo')
- *rexii* × *gardenii*
- rexii* hybrids
- Wiesmoor hybrids
- hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines
- hybrid, lg purple
- hybrid, lg white
- hybrid, lg mixed colors
- hybrid, pink/pink
- hybrid, red
- hybrid, red × self
- hybrid, white/pink × self
- hybrid mix
- Dibleys Dragon Mix
- Dibleys Pink Bouquet Mix
- New Zealand hybrid mix

#### ***Streptocarpella* Subgenus**

- hybrids
- 'White Butterfly' × self

#### **Intergenerics**

- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia macropoda* MP 944
- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia reitzii* MP 949
- × *Gloximannia* 'Circe' × self

#### **Mixed gesneriad hybrids**

- denotes LIMITED quantities

## **Seed Fund Key**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) Alpine or cool greenhouse</p> <p>(AN) Annual, dies after flowering</p> <p>(B) Suitable for hanging basket</p> <p>(D) Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes</p> <p>(F) Blooms readily in fluorescent light</p> <p>(G) Recommended for greenhouses; requires space</p> <p>(H) Requires humidity and warmth</p> <p>(L) Low growing; not more than 12"</p> | <p>(LM) Low to medium height</p> <p>(M) Medium height; 1 to 2 feet</p> <p>(MT) Medium to tall</p> <p>(P) Petite or miniature; under 6"</p> <p>(R) Rosette in form</p> <p>(S) Requires sun to bloom</p> <p>(T) Tall plants; generally over 3 feet</p> <p>(U) Unifoliate or single leaf</p> <p>(V) Leaves may be variegated</p> |
|--|---|

## **SEED FUND PROMOTIONAL CONTEST**

To encourage donations to the Gesneriad Society's Seed Fund, a contest will begin on January 1, 2014. First and second place prizes will be given to the persons making the most Seed Fund donations throughout the year. The number of individual types of seed contributed (not the number of seeds) will be tracked from January 1 through December 31, 2014. The prizes (\$25 for 1st and \$15 for second) will be gift certificates of the winners' choice below:

- ▮ SEED FUND
- ▮ CONVENTION PLANT SALES
- ▮ GESNERIAD SOCIETY WEBSTORE
- ▮ COMMERCIAL GROWER OF WINNER'S CHOICE

# A Meeting Place Indeed – The Gesneriad Society's 57th Annual Convention

**"Toronto, A Gesneriad Meeting Place"**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 2-6, 2013**

Vincent Woo ~ Toronto, Canada ~ <lumpboy@hotmail.com>



The range of plant material was astonishing, perfect bushy globes laden with flowers, giant shrubs several feet tall, as well as miniatures you could have sneezed off the table.

for the flower show entries and I took the job seriously. People still recount stories of seeing me on hands and knees, crawling on the plush carpet of the ballroom, magnifying glass and flashlight in hand, hunting for bugs. My other vivid memory is of the magnificent mounted *Streptocarpus cooperi* that Dee and Bob Stewart brought from their greenhouse. It was cradled in Dee's lap on

CONVENTIONS ARE LIKE BIRTHDAYS TO ME – THEY generate months of increasing excitement and anticipation, the actual event whizzes by in a blur of happy celebration and reminiscence with friends, and then suddenly it's over, and you are left tired but happy poring over presents and photos. The similarities to birthdays continue – they come once a year like clockwork, whether you are ready or not – marking the passage of time and bringing reminders of joyful moments as well as people we wish we could see again. Like other regular attendees, I've cherished every convention I've been to and enjoyed special moments from each: the 2001 heat of Kansas and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Society; 2002 Morristown and its flamingo girls; and the lush Rhododendron garden in Seattle last year. As a member of the Toronto Gesneriad Society, I had the novel experience of playing both host and tourist this year. The 57th Gesneriad Society Convention in Toronto, Canada marks the third time our city has hosted this wonderful gathering, along with 1985 and 1994.

I can't help but compare this year's convention with my first ever convention in 1994. I had come to Toronto for school and become involved with the Society and its incredible growers and members of the AGGS like Monte Watler, Betty Tapping, and Ron Myhr (to name a few). I was asked to help with inspections

**Lily Huie, Rego Park, NY:**

"As a newcomer to the annual convention, I didn't know what to expect. The best part of the convention was seeing all the beautiful plants arrayed on the judging table. I had the opportunity to take a multitude of pictures of the gesneriads in flower, the variegated plants, and hand-made gesneriad crafts."



Screen shot of gescon13.tumblr.com

the plane ride up, the long flower stalk extending up and over her shoulder! That's dedication. Nearly 20 years have passed and some of the same cast of characters, along with many new friends, have continued to come to conventions to share their passion for gesneriads.

The first day of the convention was fun because I decided to stay at the hotel, the Hyatt Regency on King Street, for the whole week and have a "staycation" in my own town. The hotel is the same building where the convention was held in 1994. Since then it has come under new management and has been fully renovated. It is steps away from



Board Meeting. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

the theatre district, main shopping streets and conveniences, with the near constant bustle of tourists and business people present. The newest addition to the street was two doors down from us, the TIFF Bell Lightbox, a purpose-built venue for the Toronto International Film Festival, but also housing condos and a celebrity-chef restaurant on the main floor. Sushi, Italian, Indian buffet, Montréal-style delicatessen and the ubiquitous Tim Horton's and Starbucks rounded out the food options around the hotel. None of us went hungry and all were properly caffeinated through the week. I bumped into a few convention registrants in the lobby who were already well into their



Conventiongoers at Parkwood.  
Photo: Dale Martens

Toronto vacation, having come early for the weekend to join in with the Canada Day revelry (fireworks, flag-waving) as well as Toronto's Gay Pride (street festival, parade and more flag-waving).

The first morning was spent at the Board meeting, where the business issues for the Society were discussed and resolved. Then it was time for our trip out to the Parkwood Estate, a sprawling property in the neighboring town of Oshawa. This had been the family home of the McLaughlins, who developed the automobile empire of General Motors in Canada. The family produced keen gardeners and art collectors. The greenhouses and gardens were a real treat. The tour of Parkwood's landscaped grounds and mansion with its formidable art collection showed the extent of their collecting mania. I think we know a thing or two about collecting obsessions.

Later that evening, after a cleanup and a nap, the members gathered for the usual opening dinner, where the local Convention Chairs, Doris Brownlie and Paul Lee, greeted us with Canadian hospitality. For the second year in a row, a Tumblr blog (<http://gescon13.tumblr.com>) had been set up to capture events as they happened.



Doris Brownlie.  
Photo: Mel Grice



Judges Training School. Photos: Paul Susi

occasional Brit or Australian at the Host Chapter Social. I think I may have had a gin and tonic or two.

The next day I woke early to go to a Judges Training Session with our esteemed educator, Ben Paternoster, who was leading the advanced session. I got to be his assistant and we went through a quiz on our knowledge of current Latin names (I realized I had missed the memo that *Petrocosmea rosettifolia* is now *P. cryptica*.) We also had an anxious exercise trying to identify gesneriads through photographs. (I find it a challenge to identify pink and green *Episcias* without the flowers as clues.) Ben always employs such thought-provoking questions and we learned so much!

The rest of the afternoon was jam-packed. We had Dale Martens moderating the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association meeting, with growers from every corner of the world. Ooohs and aaahs were heard as sumptuous photos of new hybrids were shown. Bob Counsell (UK) introduced some of his new *Strep* hybrids, Ruth Coulson (Australia) presented her floriferous outdoor-grown peloric *Sinningias*, and Bev Donsworth (Australia) described her variegated *Streps* and *S. kentaniensis* hybrids. We also saw the latest developments of Vivian Liu's *Kohleria* and *Smithiantha* breeding program, her hybrids bearing the alpha name "An's." She grows on a rooftop in Taiwan and told us she couldn't tell

Members had already begun to post images and comments of their activities.

After supper we went to the Growers Forum, which was a highly anticipated discussion of culture techniques hosted by the always entertaining Michael Riley. The participants discussed different styles of growing, varying from growing year-round outdoors in Australia, to trying to replicate conditions of the wilds of South America in northern U.S. states. Carolyn Ripps discussed some of her observations on Ecuadorean gesneriads, Carol Ann Bonner gave tips on growing *Columneas* and *Nematanthus*, Dee Stewart discussed how she tries to replicate native conditions, and Bob Stewart gave us a lesson on the peculiarities of humidity in high altitudes. Our first night finished off with drinks at the downstairs hotel bar, chatting with Americans, Canadians, and the



Dale Martens at the GHA Meeting. Photo: Ron Myhr





Dee and Bob Stewart – Then and Now!



Vincent Woo and Susan Smith – Then and Now!

us the parentage of her plants as the entire flat of seedlings had been knocked over, losing all the information on her crosses! We've been there before. Our eyes sated from all those new plants, at the end of the meeting we all got to pick up goodies from the overflowing raffle tables, where I got a leaf of Dale Martens' variegated miniature *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Lava'.

From there we gathered for a workshop by Dee and Bob Stewart on a novel way to grow *Streptocarpus*. As I mentioned before, one of the best memories of my 1994 Toronto Convention was seeing that magnificent unifoliate, *Streptocarpus cooperi* grown by Dee and Bob Stewart. I forgot to mention it won Best in Show! After all these years I finally got to see how they grew it. They showed us how to twist and tie young unifoliate Strops onto tree fern bark plaques with sphagnum moss tucked all around. The Toronto Gesneriad Society Newsletter Editor, Stan Sudol, found a couple of photos of that original plant that he had taken. I thought it might be fun to have a before and after set of photos, so I tried to recreate it - how do we look?

Conservation Committee Meeting. Photo: Paul Susi



The final activity of the night was an inspiring update on the work that has been done with the Gesneriad Conservation Center in China, reported by Stephen Maciejewski. He showed us photos of the GCCC, with the new propagation houses for the critically endangered species (*Primulina*, *Petrocodon*), the developing display gardens where many of the limestone-loving specimens are tucked into rocky crevices, and the new staff (gardeners, researchers). We hope to read more about new populations of certain species being found, as well as their successes in propagating species by seed and vegetatively.



The next day I had to get up early to go down and help with the flower show entries, as Bill Price and I were assigned to Classification and Plant Inspection. I got several reminders from the supremely organized flower show crew (led by Chair Beverley Williams) to be there on time. I, ahem, may have slept in last year. They run a tight ship! But joking aside, the flower show was set-up like a production line: entries with Karyn Cichocki and Emma Bygott producing cards, multiple tables with staging areas to allow exhibitors to complete final grooming, and then a system of colored cups to show when plants were inspected and ready for placement. Leonard Re, Bruce Williams, Bob Clark, and Jeremy Keene were swooping down collecting plants and picking up mistakes being made by yours truly. The coffee hadn't quite kicked in yet. The range of plant material was astonishing, perfect bushy globes laden with flowers, giant shrubs several feet tall, as well as miniatures you could have sneezed off the table. I was particularly stunned to see Robert Hall haul (no pun intended) in a giant *Columnea* (formerly *Coltrichantha*) 'Indian Feather' that originated as a half-dead six-inch cutting brought back from the Seattle Convention. It had grown close to three feet across in just one year! I sometimes wonder whether Robert puts hormones in his water! (Editor: See article, page 22)

Now it's always interesting to see how exhibitors worry about whether their plants are worthy for show, but I try to encourage them to enter whatever they bring. You never know! I think we gesneriad folks can be a little too self-critical about our plants, having seen some stunners on Gesneriphiles, but I love seeing the variation of what we can do in our own homes. In the end, there were over 300 entries, one of the highest numbers ever for convention, and I hope we can top that next year.

I wandered down to the auction room, where they were accepting donations. There, to my astonishment, on the live auction table, was a living specimen of a very special gesneriad. *Negria rhabdothamnoides*, endemic to a small island in the ocean off the coast of Australia, can grow to be



1. *Negria rhabdothamnoides* in the Toronto Auction
  2. *Negria rhabdothamnoides* in the wild
  3. *Negria rhabdothamnoides* trunk
- Photos by Vincent Woo

thirty feet tall, and has glorious waxy orange flowers that have given it the name of "pumpkin tree." Bob

and Dee Stewart once grew this species from seed and flowered it, and were again successful in germinating some old stored seed. It holds a special place for me, as it was one of the species I studied for my research on the genetic relationships of the Chilean and South Pacific gesneriads of tribe Coronanthereae. I saw it growing wild on the slopes of Mount Lidgbird on Lord Howe Island in 2003, but never expected it to appear in Toronto. It needs to be kept moist, and even though I dearly would have loved to have grown it,



Molly Schneider, Chair of Awards of Appreciation Committee. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson



Paul Lee, Bill Price, and Paul Kroll.  
Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

my drafty house would have killed it in an instant. But it's a species we should all appreciate, as there are only a handful of gesneriads big enough to climb! It may also appear on a judges exam one day. A word to the wise!

After lunch we were treated to a set of presentations. Ron Myhr gave a brief introduction to the extensive and expanding collection of gesneriads managed by Janique Perreault at the Montréal Botanical Garden. This was followed by the student

presentations. Two students from the Université de Montréal, Hermine Alexandre and François Lambert, each gave a presentation on their research on *Gesneria* and *Rhytidophyllum*, discussing the relationship between morphology, habitat, and pollinators. Jeremy Keene, from Ohio University, presented new insights into the relationships of *Monophyle* and related genera, based on DNA analysis. Two other students, both working under John L. Clark at the University of Alabama, gave poster presentations. Jason Martin's poster was on the "Systematics of *Resia* – an Enigmatic Genus." Reece Watson's poster described his research on the "Phylogeny of Caribbean Gesneriaceae."

Bob and Dee Stewart's talk on *Streptocarpus* species was both enlightening and entertaining. As usual, the Stewarts grow plants many of us can only dream of. Their talk was filled with useful information the average grower could use to grow better *Streptocarpus*. Potting up plants can take a lot of time, as growers move their plants through several size pots during each plant's growing cycle. Bob advised us that if a grower was very careful when watering, a baby *Streptocarpus* could be planted into its final growing pot.

Next it was on to dinner and one of the important activities of any convention: the annual Membership Meeting. Fortunately, the business part of the meeting was run efficiently and we were able to meet the officers and committee chairpersons who carry out the Society's work throughout the year. We elected new directors: Lena Klintberg, Norah Otto and Mary Schaeffer, to join re-elected directors Karyn Cichocki, Nancy Kast, Kathy Spissman and Paul Susi in the class of 2016. We also applauded Gussie Farrice's and Carolyn Ripps' receipt of Awards of Appreciation (Gussie and Carolyn are Co-Chairpersons of the Seed Fund). A bonus this year was the recognition of all Awards of Appreciation recipients who were present at convention. They each received an emerald "gem" which was affixed to the member's name badge. (Editor: see article, page 40.)

The talk after the membership dinner was Bill Price's "Approaching Perfection."



Dee and Bob Stewart.  
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



Waiting in line for admission to the plant sales room. Photo: Vincent Woo

Bill showed a set of beautiful pictures of seldom-seen plants that most people find difficult to grow, but which he seems to grow effortlessly. Since Bill is one of the best growers of unusual species, this was an event not to be missed. In keeping with his generous nature, Bill shared some of his growing secrets with everyone in the audience. Just a few of the tidbits: *Petrocodon coccinea*, despite its fairly robust appearance, should be grown covered. It is very slow-growing, even for Bill. Most Kohlerias like bright light, but *K. peruviana* does not. *Corytoplectus* and *Henckelia* seem to want constant moisture. If you missed the talk, and would like more tidbits, be there the next time Bill is scheduled to speak!

After a day of great lectures and hard work, retail therapy can be fun, and plant sales are always highly anticipated. A number of people had wondered whether the hard-to-propagate *Primulina* 'Cynthia' might be in the sales room, so our indomitable Nancy Kast had to strictly guard the entrance and carefully scrutinize each number on the name

## Needlepoints

During the 2013 Convention, a group of Society members visited the Toronto Botanical Garden to see the framed and mounted set of gesneriad needlepoints created by the late Renée White and donated to the Garden.



Zachary Osborne, Librarian at the Toronto Botanical Garden, with Paul Kroll and Doris Brownlie.  
Photo: Paul Susi



Explanatory essay about the needlepoints.  
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



Society members pose in front of the mounted needlepoints. Photo: Paul Susi





Betty Tapping and Murna Kosowan.  
Photo: Dale Martens

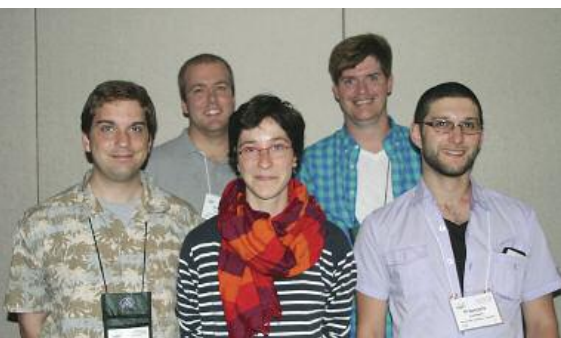
*Sinningia agbensis*, which had yet to pop open its flower despite all the extra warmth in the room. As with every show, there was a buzz surrounding the potential Best in Show and there were certainly a large number of contenders to choose from. My favorites were a new species recently brought into cultivation and grown by the extraordinary Nancy Kast, *Paradrymonia ulei*, with stunning crimson flowers; another grown by Nancy, *Gasteranthus anomalus* with the genus' classic pouched flowers; the glossy black upright foliage of Bill Price's *Primulina wentsaii*; and Eileen McGrath's perfect globe of *Achimenes* 'Glory'.

I figured the special awards team would make that decision, so I dashed off for a quick lunch (grilled octopus!) and then to John L. Clark's talk on "Pollinators, Pouches and Upside-Down Flowers." John is always a dynamic speaker and gets fired up teaching us about the conclusions of his recent work. I have a particular interest in his genetic work on the evolutionary relationships of New World gesneriads. He discussed three main findings: 1) that upside-down flowers have evolved multiple times in the tribe *Episcieae*; 2) that pollinator



Marina DeSouza, Deanna Belli, and Julie Thompson. Photo: Vincent Woo

studies strongly suggest that pouched or hypocyrtoid flowers (with a tiny opening in the mouth of the flower) are anti-bee, rather than pro-bird, as bees tend to be inefficient pollinators; and 3) that radial symmetry (five equal flower parts arranged in a wheel, rather than the standard two-lipped arrangement of two top, three bottom petals) has also independently evolved several times within the broader gesneriad family. Dr. Clark reported that his work had resulted in the classification of four new monospecific genera. Two of the four



Student Presenters: Jason Martin, Reec-e Watson, Hermine Alexandre, Jeremy Keene, François Lambert.  
Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

are in cultivation. *Neomortonia nummularia* was shown to be distinct and unrelated to the only other species in the genus, *Neomortonia rosea*. *N. nummularia* has been renamed as *Pachycaulos nummularium* ("swollen nose"). *Episcia xantha*, which no one seemed to be able to cross with other *Episcias* (Dale Martens tried repeatedly), is not closely related, and is now called *Christopheria xantha*. The scientific article can be found here (<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1600/036364413X666723>).



Carol Ann Bonner and Julie Mavity-Hudson. Photo: Vincent Woo

evening's event. Everyone tried to make it early for the cocktail hour. The room was full of laughter and smiles, lots of wine and beer flowing, new friends and old meeting up and catching up. I took some photos, and one photo with Carol Ann Bonner and Julie Mavity-Hudson captures the essence of the camaraderie of the group. When we were called to the banquet, all filed in and quickly filled the tables. As we ate, the awards were presented and we began to celebrate the winners. The final

moment of Best in Show was just precious because Paul Lee got to present the award to himself for his stunning *Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet', a seedling selection from open-pollinated seed from favorite 'Apricot Bouquet'. This seedling has a deep rich red

color in the flowers. I know Paul debated whether to name it, but it has stood the test of time. Paul reminded me that this same plant had once traveled in a car to Long Island. We drove down together, and I had to fling an arm out every now and then to make sure it didn't fly off the back seat when we hit a bump in the road. It was a survivor! The current show plant arrived to the show at its peak, flowers all fresh, opened but not yet dropping pollen or leaking nectar all over the leaves. It was perfect and we were all so proud of Paul's achievement. We made sure to take lots of

From John's talk we ran to the Flower Show as the doors were being opened! Row upon row of beautiful plants, artistic endeavors and designs were laid out, ribbons everywhere. A gallery of the winners is on the website so those who weren't able to attend can see the highlights of the show. Some of my favorites included a delicate watercolor of *Primulina* 'Deco' by Bruce Boyd, Stephen Maciejewski's photo of *Primulina purpurea* growing wild in China, and an arrangement by Toronto member, Deanna Belli, featuring delicately twisted wires supporting *Petrocosmea* babies floating above a central mother plant. Well done all!

The momentum of the day was building as people began to go to their rooms to dress for the evening's event. Everyone tried to make it early for the cocktail hour. The room was full of laughter and smiles, lots of wine and beer flowing, new friends and old meeting up and catching up. I took some photos, and one photo with Carol Ann Bonner and Julie Mavity-Hudson captures the essence of the camaraderie of the group. When we were called to the banquet, all filed in and quickly filled the tables. As we ate, the awards were presented and we began to celebrate the winners. The final



Judges' Walk-Through. Photo: Dale Martens

#### **Sayeh Beheshti, Toronto:**

"This was my first Gesneriad Society convention so I really did not know what to expect. I thoroughly enjoyed all the events I attended. Maybe my favorite part was the opening of the sales room. That was exciting and having plants in each genus grouped together with labels was different than what I am used to. I had a great time!"

moment of Best in Show was just precious because Paul Lee got to present the award to himself for his stunning *Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet', a seedling selection from open-pollinated seed from favorite 'Apricot Bouquet'. This seedling has a deep rich red color in the flowers. I know Paul debated whether to name it, but it has stood the test of time. Paul reminded me that this same plant had once traveled in a car to Long Island. We drove down together, and I had to fling an arm out every now and then to make sure it didn't fly off the back seat when we hit a bump in the road. It was a survivor! The current show plant arrived to the show at its peak, flowers all fresh, opened but not yet dropping pollen or leaking nectar all over the leaves. It was perfect and we were all so proud of Paul's achievement. We made sure to take lots of



photos with him standing next to the plant with all the ribbons, a proud papa indeed.

The next morning Arleen Dewell, Shows and Judging Chair, led all of this year's judges and clerks through the show, giving us observations and feedback on our work. It's so valuable to have the chance to see what experienced judges have to say and I recommend it to all those who participate.

The critique always makes me a little sad, as it is a signal that the fun that is convention is nearing a close. It's like that moment when you've blown out the candles on your birthday cake, you still anticipate the icing hitting your tongue, but then you also

know your guests are going home soon. Alas! Lots of people came to the show to gaze at their favorite plants, to marvel at their size or the number of flowers, and everyone left

satisfied. The shy *Sinningia aghensis* that we couldn't judge the day before decided to reward us anyway and had finally opened its flower, flushed with that deep dark purple, rewarding the photographers that had been there in the morning. A number of us local members couldn't linger too long as we had agreed to help out with the phytosanitary certificate process. Doris Brownlie organized it to a "T." People's plants were processed with clock-like precision. Sayeh Beheshti, Carolyn Conlin-Lane, and Brett Flewelling kept the line moving, proofreading forms, and hunting down people next in line to make sure they were ready.

The last lecture of the convention was by Dr. Alain Chautems, speaking on the current state of the *Sinningia* clade. He presented on the molecular work that has been

completed in Switzerland. He concluded that *Sinningia* should be kept together as one larger genus (with and without tubers), rather than to be split up into several genera. This means that *Paliavana* and *Vanhouttea* species will fall under the umbrella of *Sinningia*, and so affect growers less. These results came after many years of work looking at the genetics as well as morphology of newly collected species. The work of Mauro Peixoto in Brazil has contributed immensely to the understanding of this group.

Next we adjourned to the Saturday luncheon and live auction, always a lot of fun. The Tennessee Chapter, hosts of next year's convention, provided a variety of desirable plants as table favors. If these are any indication of what's to be for available in the salesroom in Nashville in 2014, readers should start saving their money right now.

In his inimitable style, auctioneer extraordinaire Bill Price took center stage to run the auction as the luncheon meal was winding down. He advocated that the audience not think of their bids as spending money or buying plants but rather as a donation to a good cause. As usual, he was successful. Enthusiastic convention-goers bid high prices for



Alain Chautems.

Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

**Bev Donsworth,  
Sydney, Australia:**

"I would like to add my thanks to the organizers and the many friendly workers at the convention. I thoroughly enjoyed all the events that ran so smoothly and were well prepared. I did enjoy seeing plants that before have only been pictures in a book. Many thanks to you all."



Mary Schaeffer and Elizabeth Varley.

Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

choice plants donated by generous growers, raising another considerable sum for the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund. Whether purchasing or observing, everyone had a good time watching the proceedings.

The last activity of the convention is always the final dinner, once phytos are all issued and the flower show has been broken down. In the past we've had this event at various venues: in hotels, on the water in boats, on islands in native villages, underneath dinosaurs, and this year, high in the sky in a revolving restaurant! Though I've been to the CN Tower before, it's always fun to bring new folks to experience eating 350 m (1100 feet) up above the city. We gathered in the lobby and walked the three blocks with the group, divided into small groups, and took the elevator (complete with glass floor and wall) up to the restaurant. We were whizzed up in a couple of minutes. The pressure



Convention-goers in the CN Tower elevator.  
Photo: Vincent Woo

**Stan Sudol, Toronto:**

"It was very nice to meet people that I knew from Gesneriophiles and the Journal. However, the time I liked the best was to visit the flower show and see what amazing gesneriad growers and artists we have in our group. A most wonderful experience."

changes happened so quickly our ears popped! Everyone piled in and those who could stomach it looked down as the city got smaller and smaller, but as you looked out you could see the vista of the shoreline of Lake Ontario, the high rise towers and the network of neighborhoods. The food was delicious, prime rib, salmon, wild rice – but of course, the company was better. We got to see the sun set on the horizon – from above. What a way to end the convention!

Now that the 2013 convention is over and I have recovered from all the excitement, I get to think about our fun moments and to look at my presents, the little cuttings rooting on my light stand, and daydream about next year's celebration in Nashville, Tennessee. I hope to see you there!



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# Flower Show Awards

Paul Lee, Awards Chairperson ~ <evelyn.lee2@yahoo.ca>  
Fergus, Ontario, Canada

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO TORONTO THIS YEAR FOR OUR ANNUAL convention. The members of the Toronto Gesneriad Society hope you had a good time and that the convention was one to remember. The number of entries in the show was 305, one of the largest ever, brought by 49 exhibitors. I had a challenge to deal with them, as this was my first time doing the awards. However, thanks to Jo Anne Martinez who made herself available for questions, I managed. Bob Counsell was also a great help to me. The show had many split classes because there were so many entries, which made Thursday evening busier than I expected, reallocating awards. In the end I was pleased to hand out awards to 36 exhibitors, showing us the quality of entries.

If you were unable to attend this year's convention, please visit our web site to view the award-winning exhibits and purchase your own DVD. I wish to thank members and chapters for their generosity. I managed somehow to award all the funds that were donated – I think that must be beginner's luck. The winners from the 2013 Convention Flower Show in Toronto are as follows:

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE** – to Beverley Williams with ten blue ribbons, a cash award from the New England Gesneriad Society in memory of Jessie Crisafulli, and a cash award from Carol Ann Bonner for the people of The Gesneriad Society whose friendship is the only thing more beautiful than the gesneriads themselves.

**RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE** – to Paul Kroll with five blue ribbons, a cash award from Sue Smith in honor of Monte Watler, and a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Paul Kroll.

**BEST IN SHOW** – to Paul Lee for *Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet', a cash award from the Long Island Gesneriad Society in honor of Ben Paternoster, and a cash award from the African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York in recognition of the gracious generosity of long-time member Paul Kroll, we thank you. See article, page 21

**RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN SHOW** – to Robert Hall for *Columnnea* 'Indian Feather', a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in honor of past and present members of the Greater New York Gesneriad Society, a cash award from Doris Carson, and a cash award from the Grow and Study Gesneriad Society. See article, page 22

**SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC** – to Deanna Belli with three blue ribbons, a cash award from Judy Fox in loving memory of her late husband Ed who unexpectedly passed away in April, and a cash award from the Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society in honor of Laura Shannon.



*Sinningia* 'Kevin Garnett' grown by Louise Cheung  
Photo: Winston Goretsky



*Paradrymonia ulei* grown by Nancy Kast. Photo: Dale Martens



*Streptocarpus orientalis* grown by Irina Nicholson.  
Photo: Winston Goretsky



*Sinningia* 'Stone's Yulia' grown by  
Lan Jiun Wu. Photo: Winston Goretsky

**BEST ARTISTIC** – to Barbara Festenstein for her kinetic design “Close Encounters”, a cash award from Sally Robinson in honor of M.J. Tyler and in memory of David Tyler, and a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein for her excellent service as editor. See article, page 23

**RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN ARTISTIC** – to Paul Kroll for his design “Sports Meet”, a cash award from Mel Grice in honor of Judy Zinni, and a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Paul Kroll.

**SWEEPSTAKES IN THE ARTS** – to Ruth Coulson with three blue ribbons, a cash award from the Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society in honor of Margaret Cass.

**BEST IN ARTS** – to Julie Mavity-Hudson for her picture quilt featuring *Codonanthe digna*, a cash award from the Long Island Gesneriad Society in memory of Kay Rotando, and a cash award from Carol Ann Bonner, who was a friend in need, in honor of Molly Schneider, a friend indeed. See article, page 25

**RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN THE ARTS** – to Bruce Boyd for his watercolour painting of *Primulina* ‘Deco’, a cash award from Irina Nicholson in honor of Paul Kroll, and a cash award from Carol Ann Bonner in honor of Pam Braun for her emergency plant relocation.

**BEST COMMERCIAL OR EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT** – to Olga Semova for her Commercial Display of Gesneriads, a cash award from Becky Fontes, and a cash award from Wallace Wells in memory of Norma Chenkin.

**BEST IN SECTION A** – to Paul Lee for *Sinningia* ‘Flamenco Apricot Bouquet’, a cash award from Nancy Kast in honor of her husband Jerry, for his extraordinary help and support of her “out of control” growing of gesneriads.

**BEST IN SECTION B** – to Eileen McGrath for *Achimenes* ‘Glory’, a cash award from Paulo Castello da Costa.

**BEST IN SECTION C** – to Robert Hall for *Columnnea* ‘Indian Feather’, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Betty Vriens, Norma Chenkin, and Frank Kahn.

**BEST IN SECTION D** – to Beverley Williams for *Saintpaulia rupicola* ‘Cha Simba’, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Quentin Schlieder.

**BEST IN SECTION E** – to Brett Flewelling for *Columnnea* ‘Broget Stavanger’, a cash award from the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society.

**BEST IN SECTION F** – to Nancy Kast for *Paradrymonia ulei*, a cash award from the Caribbean Basin African Violet and Gesneriad Society.

**BEST IN SECTION G** – to Irina Nicholson for *Streptocarpus orientalis*, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans and Susan Schlieder.

**BEST IN SECTION H** – to Paul Kroll for *Primulina* ‘Maxtimer’, a cash award from Joan Wood.

**BEST IN SECTION I** – to Beverley Williams for her *Petrocosmea* Collection, a cash award from Bill Price in honor of Arleen Dewell.

**BEST IN SECTION J** – to Jackie Mills for *Primulina* ‘Moonlight’, a cash award from Bill Price in honor of Dave Zaitlin.



## Best in Show: *Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet'

Grown by Paul Lee



Paul Lee waters his award-winning plant. Photo: Dale Martens

**Per Paul:** "This is my own hybrid selection. It came from a seed pod on *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet'. I don't think it was a self, because I've never seen any other seed pods on this plant. I took the seed pod and grew this plant from it. I think the pollen came from *Sinningia selovii*, because it was close by. It was probably cross-pollinated by some friendly insect. I plan to register and propagate this hybrid.

"This plant is several years old.

I showed it at the convention in Rochester as a smaller plant. I keep it in the basement in the winter. In April when the shoots are a few inches long I bring it into the greenhouse, which I just heat for the spring. The temperature is relatively uneven though. This plant is growing in a 12-inch pot, and the tuber fills the pot to within two inches of the edge of the pot. Earlier this year it was bursting through a smaller pot."

See the full video interview with Paul and his plant on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/15t7z3v>



Closeup of flowering stems.  
Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

Flower closeup.  
Photo: Winston Goretsky





# Runner-Up to Best in Show: *Columnnea* 'Indian Feather'

Grown by Robert Hall



**Background:** According to the *Columnnea* Register, this is a hybrid made by Dr. Hans Wiehler. When the cross was made, the parentage was described as *Pentadenia ecuadorana* × *Trichantha brenneri*. Both parents are now classified in the genus *Columnnea*, with *Pentadenia ecuadorana* considered to be a synonym for *Columnnea angustata*.

The judges looked in vain for berries. This is a sterile hybrid and cannot set seed, so unfortunately it does not make berries.

**Per Robert:** "I stopped growing gesneriads for a number of years because of other pursuits, particularly athletics. When I heard we were going to have the convention here in Toronto, I asked Vincent Woo to get me whatever cuttings he could get from the convention in Seattle. He brought back a piece about 4-5 cm long of *Columnnea* 'Indian Feather'. It was half dead. I revived it, rooted it, and grew it. This is a year's worth of growth. I only grow in windows. This plant grew in a southeast window. The house is designed to get more sun in winter than summer, so it grew well all winter, and slowed down in the summer when there was less sun. I watered it whenever it looked like it was getting dry. I fertilized it whenever I remembered. I haven't trimmed or trained it. This is how it grew. It's taken minimal work."

See the full video interview with Robert and his plant on YouTube:  
<http://bit.ly/18oNYDL>



Photos counterclockwise from left:

*Columnnea* 'Indian Feather' whole plant.  
Photo: Winston Goretsky

*Columnnea* 'Indian Feather' flower closeup.

*Columnnea* 'Indian Feather', view of leaf undersides and flowers.  
Photo: Dale Martens  
Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson



BEST IN SECTION K – to Barbara Festenstein for her design “Close Encounters”, a cash award from Karyn Cichocki in memory of Kay Rotando.

BEST IN SECTION L – to Deanna Belli for her design “Meeting Space”, a cash award from Sylvia Svitak in memory of Kay Rotando of the Long Island Gesneriad Society.

BEST IN SECTION M – to Deanna Belli for her Tray Landscape, a cash award from Bill Price in honor of Monte Watler.

BEST IN SECTION N – to Jackie Mills for her Natural Garden, a cash award from Bill Price in honor of Paul Kroll.

BEST IN SECTION O – to Stephen Maciejewski for his Color Print of *Primulina purpurea*, an endowed cash award from the Crisafulli Family in memory of Jessie and Anthony Crisafulli. See article, page 34

BEST IN SECTION P – to Julie Mavity-Hudson for her Picture Quilt of *Codonanthe digna*, a cash award from Bill Price in honor of Ben Paternoster. See article, page 25

BEST IN SECTION Q – to Olga Semova for her Commercial Exhibit of Gesneriads, a cash award from Bill Price in honor of Nancy and Jerry Kast.

BEST RECENTLY REGISTERED HYBRID – to Louise Cheung for *Sinningia* ‘Kevin Garnett’, a cash award from the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association.

BEST PERIDOTS HYBRID – to Nancy Carr for *Kobleria* ‘Peridots Rolo’, a cash award from Iain James.

BEST TAIWANESE HYBRID – to Lan Juin Wu for *Sinningia* ‘Stone’s Yulia’ a cash award from Vivian Liu.

BEST SCENTED GESNERIAD – to Eileen McGrath for *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Pedra Lisa’, a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Jo and Doug Hawley.

BEST EPISCIA – to Beverley Williams for *Episcia* ‘Jim’s Hall’s Choice’, a cash award from Dale Martens.

BEST PETROCOSMEA – to Beverley Williams for her *Petrocosmea* Collection, a cash award from the New England Gesneriad Society in honor of Mary Bozoian.

BEST SINNINGIA – to Paul Lee for *Sinningia* ‘Flamenco Apricot Bouquet’, a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Diantha and Al Buell.

BEST STREPTOCARPUS – to Brett Flewelling for *Streptocarpus saxorum* (variegated), a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Irwin Rosenblum.

## Best Artistic: Kinetic Design “Close Encounters”

Barbara Festenstein



**Per Barbara:** “I tried to interpret it as something in space. My black background is the sky, and the little dried seedpods are planets. The *Streptocarpus* blossoms are *S. ‘Cape Cool White’*. There is some *Baby’s Breath*, and a little *Columnnea ‘Broget Stavanger’* to cover the pin holders that I put water in to keep the flowers fresh. It’s a kinetic design, meaning it has to either move or imply movement.”

See the full video interview with Barbara and her design on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/15gl9uL>



Photo: Winston Goretsky

BEST GESNERIAD EXHIBITING FRUIT – to Bob Stewart for *Streptocarpus johannis*, an endowed cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Maryjane Evans.

BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY A FIRST-TIME CONVENTION EXHIBITOR – to Brett Flewelling for *Columnnea* 'Broget Stavanger', a cash award from Karyn Cichocki.

JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT – to Nancy Kast for *Gasteranthus anomalus*, a cash award from Dale Martens.



*Streptocarpus* 'Black Tie Affair' grown by Eileen McGrath. Photo: Dale Martens



*Episcia* 'Pink Smoke' grown by Doris Brownlie. Photo: Winston Goretsky

## CLASS AWARDS

### SECTION A – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Tuberous

Class 1 – *Sinningia speciosa* "Empress Mix" – to Ron Myhr, a cash award from Norah Otto in honor of Dr. Miriam Denham, and a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez.

Class 2 – *Sinningia tuberosa* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Betsy Gottshall in honor of Margaret Cass, and a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez.

Class 4A – *Sinningia* 'Stone's Yulia' – to Lan Jiun Wu, a cash award from Betsy Gottshall in honor of Quentin Schlieder, and a cash award from Dariane Joshlin in honor of Mary Bozoian.

Class 4B – *Sinningia* 'Ozark Rosy Cheeks' – to Maureen Mark, a cash award from Paul Kroll, and a cash award from Doris Carson in honor of Peter Shalit.

Class 5A – *Sinningia* 'Kevin Garnett' – to Louise Cheung, a cash award from Betsy Gottshall in honor of Linda Zillich, and a cash award from Susan Allison.

Class 5B – *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells' – to Emma Bygott, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Mary Bozoian, and a cash award from Doris Carson in honor of Doris Brownlie.

Class 5C – *Sinningia* 'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet' – to Paul Lee, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Tim Tuttle, and a cash award from Dale Martens in honor of Arleen Dewell.

Class 6 – *Sinningia* 'Country Prayer' – to Brett Flewelling, a cash award from Betsy Gottshall, and a cash award from Susan Allison.

Class 7 – *Nautilocalyx lynchii* – to Eileen McGrath, a cash award from Murna Kosowan in honor of Norma Kunzel, president of the Stampede City African Violet Society, and a cash award from Doris Carson in honor of Peter Shalit.

### SECTION B – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

Class 8 – *Achimenes* 'Glory' – to Eileen McGrath, a cash award from Betty Fenerty, and a cash award from Nancy Carr.

Class 9 – *Kohleria* 'Green Goblin' – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Arleen Dewell, and a cash award from Nancy Carr.

Class 12 – *Amalophyllon clarkii* – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Paul Kroll, and a cash award from Doris Carson in honor of Doris Brownlie.

Class 13 – *Pearcea* sp. aff. *sprucei* "Ecuador" – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Ben Paternoster, and a cash award from Dale Martens in honor of Arleen Dewell.



## Best in Arts: Picture Quilt of *Codonanthe digna*

Julie Mavity-Hudson

**Per Julie:** “Basically this is appliqué, trapunto, and embroidery. Appliqué is where I put the leaves down and sewed around them. Trapunto is how I made the berries – it’s actually a little sandwich with stuffing in it, sewed down. There’s embroidery in the center of the flowers. This was



Photo courtesy of Julie Mavity-Hudson



Photo: Winston Goretsky

my first work of this type. I’ve made traditional quilts before but this is the first appliqué quilt I’ve done. I researched the techniques by reading, looking at blogs, and getting help from fellow members of a Yahoo quilt list. I copied the image from a photograph of a plant at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.”

See the full video interview with Julie and her creation on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/1axmvAE>

### SECTION C – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Fibrous-Rooted

Class 15 – *Columnea* ‘Indian Feather’ – to Robert Hall, a cash award from Paul Kroll in memory of Frances Batcheller, and a cash award from Dale Martens in honor of Arleen Dewell.

Class 16 – *Episcia* ‘Jim’s Hall’s Choice’ – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of the Toronto Gesneriad Society members, and a cash award from Dale Martens in honor of Arleen Dewell.

### SECTION D – Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 20 – *Aeschynanthus humilis* – to Eileen McGrath, a cash award from Deanna Belli in honor of Doris Brownlie for her tireless coordination efforts to help bring us all together at this wonderful event, and a cash award from Arleen Dewell in memory of Nellie Sleeth and Norma Chenkin.

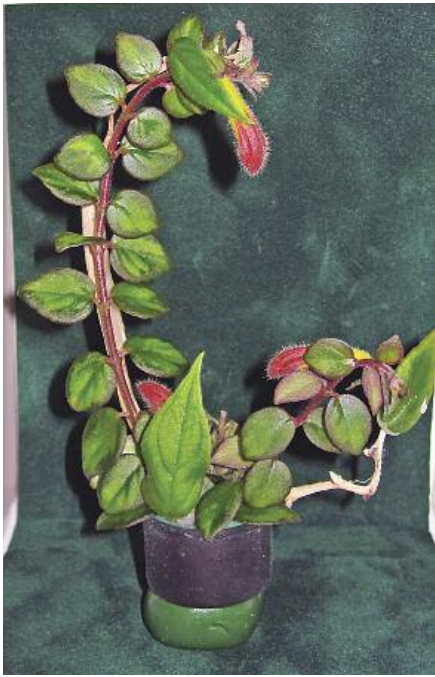
Class 22 – *Primulina spadiciformis* – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Jill Fisher in memory of Maryjane Evans, and a cash award from Jill Fisher in honor of Karyn Cichocki.

Class 23A – *Primulina* ‘Aiko’ (red) – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society in honor of Quentin Schlieder.

Class 23B – *Primulina* ‘Rachel’ – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Doris Brownlie, and a cash award from Molly Schneider in honor of Carol Ann Bonner, wishing good health.

Class 24A – *Saintpaulia grotei* ‘Silver’ – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Jill Fischer in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein, and a cash award from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society in honor of Quentin Schlieder.

Class 24B – *Saintpaulia rupicola* ‘Cha Simba’ – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Molly Schnieder in honor of Carol Ann Bonner, wishing good health, and a cash award from Deanna Belli in honor of the 2013 Toronto Gesneriad Convention volunteers: Thank you for all your hard work in making this event such a success.



"Meeting of the Minds" by Leslie Cox  
 Photo: Dale Martens

"Linked In" by Paul Kroll  
 Photo: Winston Goretsky



"Sports Meet" by Paul Kroll  
 Photo: Dale Martens



"Meeting Space" by Deanna Belli  
 Photo: Winston Goretsky





*Sinningia speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa'  
Photo: Dale Martens



*Amalophyllon clarkii* grown by Karyn Cichocki  
Photo: Winston Goretsky

Class 25– *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara Little Crystal' – to Marina DeSouza, a cash award from Leslie Milde in memory of Anne Kosinski, and a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Anne Kosinski.

Class 26A – *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Bed Bug' – to Brett Flewelling, a cash award from Paulo Castello da Costa.

Class 26B – *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Combustible Pigeon' – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Susan Grose in honor of Fay and Irwin Wagman for their years of cheerful service to the Society.

Class 27A – *Saintpaulia* 'Buckeye Sasparilla' – to Doris Brownlie, a cash award from Paul Susi in honor of Doris Brownlie, and a cash award from Paulo Castello da Costa.

Class 27B – *Saintpaulia* 'Kentucky Bride' – to Betty Fenerty, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Judy Zinni, and a cash award from Molly Schnieder in honor of Carol Ann Bonner, wishing good health.

Class 27C – *Saintpaulia* 'Barbara Jean' – to Louise Cheung, a cash award from Mary Lou Robbins in memory of Frank Kahn, and a cash award from Arleen Dewell in memory of Nellie D. Sleeth and Norma Chenkin.

Class 28A – *Saintpaulia* 'Trail Along' – to Olga Semova, a cash award from Paul Susi in honor of Susan Grose.

Class 28B – *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Vanilla Trail' – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from the North Coast Gesneriad Society.

Class 30 – *Streptocarpus johannis* – to Bob Stewart, a cash award from Betsy Branson in memory of Laura Shannon, and a cash award from Laura Buckner in honor of Barbara Festenstein, the best roommate.

Class 31A – *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Baby Egrets' – to Bruce Williams, a cash award from Alan LaVergne in memory of Celine Chase.

Class 31B – *Streptocarpus* 'Spin Art' – to Olga Semova, a cash award from Doris Carson in honor of Bob Clark.

Class 31C – *Streptocarpus* 'Black Tie Affair' – to Eileen McGrath, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Bill Price.

Class 31D – *Streptocarpus* 'Matthew' – to Bruce Williams, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Doris Brownlie and all the members of the host chapter Toronto Gesneriad Society.

Class 32 – *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Polar Midnight' – to Richard Carr, a cash award from Laura Buckner in memory of her mother, Erna Reid, who gave her the love of flowers, and a cash award from the North Coast Gesneriad Society.

Class 33 – *Lysionotus* 'Pudding' – to Robert Hall, a cash award from Laura Buckner in honor of Barbara Festenstein, the best roommate, and a cash award from Alan LaVerne in memory of Celine Chase.

#### **SECTION E – Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers**

Class 34 – *Episcia cupreata* 'La Soledad Bronze' – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Laura Buckner in memory of her mother, Erna Reid, who gave her the love of flowers, and a cash award from the Heart of America Gesneriad Society.

Class 35A – *Episcia* 'Ember Lace' – to Brett Flewelling, a cash award from Laura Buckner in honor of Barbara Festenstein, the best roommate, and a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Monte Watler.

Class 35B – *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' – to Deanna Belli, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Monte Watler.

Class 35C – *Episcia* 'Pink Smoke' – to Doris Brownlie, a cash award from Carol Ann Bonner in honor of Julie Mavity-Hudson for being a steadfast friend who also moves plants.

Class 36A – *Primulina wentsaii* – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Heart of America Gesneriad Society.



Terrarium (straight-sided) by Jill Fischer



Natural Garden by Deanna Belli





Tray Landscape by Deanna Belli



"Maid of the Mist" underwater arrangement by Karyn Cichocki  
All photos these two pages: Winston Goretsky



*Saintpaulia rupicola* 'Cha Simba' grown by Beverley Williams.  
Photo: Winston Goretsky



*Saintpaulia grotei* Silvert clone grown by Beverley Williams.  
Photo: Winston Goretsky





*Saintpaulia* 'Kentucky Bride' grown by Betty Fenerty. Photo: Dale Martens



*Saintpaulia* 'Trail Along' grown by Olga Semova. Photo: Dale Martens

- Class 36B – *Primulina* ‘Cynthia’ – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.
- Class 37A – *Columnnea* ‘Broget Stavanger’ – to Brett Flewelling, a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Paul Kroll, and a cash award from Elizabeth Varley in honor of Quentin Schlieder.
- Class 37B – *Streptocarpus* ‘Iced Artistry’ – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Stan Schwartz.
- Class 38A – *Drymonia chiribogana* – to Robert Hall, a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Doris Brownlie, and a cash award from Bruce Boyd.
- Class 38B – *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora* – to Steve Kerr, a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Stan Schwartz.
- Class 38C – *Chrysothemis pulchella* ‘Bronze’ – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Stan Schwartz.
- Class 39 – *Petrocosmea minor* – to Emma Bygott, a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Bill Price, and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.

#### SECTION F – New Gesneriads

- Class 40 – *Paradrymonia ulei* – to Nancy Kast, a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Arleen Dewell, and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.
- Class 42 – *Streptocarpus* ‘Cape Cool Pink’ – to Ron Myhr, a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Louise MacPherson for her generous spirit and love of plants, and a cash award from Judy Fox in loving memory of her husband Ed who unexpectedly passed away in April.
- Class 43 – *Petrocosmea* ‘Keystone’s Tiny Tim’ – to Emma Bygott, a cash award from Doris Carson in memory of Frances Batcheller.

#### SECTION G – Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

- Class 44 – *Cremosperma* species – to Nancy Kast, a cash award from the San Francisco Gesneriad Society.
- Class 45 – *Alsobia* sp. RM 2010-1 – to Ron Myhr, a cash award from Susan Grose in honor of John Boggan for his generosity and his contributions to knowledge.

#### SECTION H – Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads

- Class 46 – *Primulina* ‘Maxtimer’ – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Susan Grose in honor of Molly Schneider for her many years of enthusiastic service to the Society.

#### SECTION I – Collections of Gesneriads

- Class 47 – *Petrocosmea* Collection – to Beverley Williams, a cash award from Susan Grose in honor of Carol Ann Bonner for her many years of cheerful service to the Society.

#### SECTION J – Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

- Class 49 – *Primulina* ‘Kazu’ – to Jackie Mills, a cash award from Marianne Moore.
- Class 50 – *Primulina* ‘Moonlight’ – to Jackie Mills, a cash award from Marianne Moore.

#### SECTION K – Arrangements of Fresh-Cut Gesneriad Material

- Class 51 – “Wool Gathering” (Challenge Class A) – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Judy Fox in loving memory of her husband Ed, who unexpectedly passed away in April.
- Class 52 – “Secret Rendezvous” (Challenge Class B) – to Jill Fischer, a cash award from Vincent Woo.
- Class 53 – “Close Encounters” – to Barbara Festenstein, a cash award from Vincent Woo.
- Class 54 – “A Brief Encounter” – to Laura Buckner, a cash award from Vincent Woo.
- Class 55 – “Meeting of the Minds” – to Leslie Cox, a cash award from Vincent Woo.
- Class 56 – “Sports Meet” – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Vincent Woo.
- Class 57 – “Maid of the Mist” – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from M.J. Tyler in memory of David B. Tyler.



*Episcia* ‘Jim’s Hall’s Choice’ grown by Beverley Williams. Photo: Bob Stewart



*Lysionotus* ‘Pudding’ grown by Robert Hall. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson



Commercial Exhibit by Olga Semova. Photo: Dale Martens

### **SECTION L – Arrangements of Fresh-Cut, Dried, and/or Growing Gesneriad Material**

Class 58 – “Preservation Committee Meeting” – to Judy Zinni, a cash award from Thad Scaggs in honor of Dale Martens for so generously sharing her knowledge and plant material.

Class 59 – “Linked In” – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Fay Wagman in honor of Barbara Festenstein.

Class 60 – “Connect the Dots” – to Steve Kerr, a cash award from Eileen McGrath in honor of Peter Shalit.

Class 62 – “Meeting Space” – to Deanna Belli, a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez, and a cash award from the San Francisco Gesneriad Society.

### **SECTION M – Plantings of Growing Gesneriad Material**

Class 63 – Terrarium (straight-sided) – to Jill Fischer, a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez.

Class 65 – Tray Landscape – to Deanna Belli, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Frances Batcheller.

Class 66 – Natural Garden – to Deanna Belli, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Arleen Dewell.

### **SECTION N – Artistic Entries by a Novice**

Class 67 – Natural Garden – to Jackie Mills, a cash award from Karyn Cichocki in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein for all her hard work as editor of the journal.

### **SECTION O – Photography**

Class 68A – Color Print of *Nematanthus fritschii* ‘Ilha Bela’ Display Fruit (parts of a plant) – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Doris Brownlie in honor of Betty Tapping.

Class 68B – Color Print of *Sinningia bullata* (parts of a plant) – to Ruth Coulson, a cash award from Ina Beaver in honor of Betty Tapping.

Class 69A – Color Print of *Sinningia araneosa* (whole plant) – to Ruth Coulson, a cash award from Barbara Festenstein.

Class 69B – Color print of *Amalophyllum macrophyllum* GRE12904 (whole plant) – to Dale Martens, a cash award from Betsy Gottshall in honor of Marlene Buck, and a cash award from Dariane Joshlin in honor of Mary Bozoian.

Class 70 – Color print of *Primulina purpurea* (natural habitat) – to Stephen Maciejewski, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Monte Watler.

Class 71A – Monochrome print of *Kohleria* ‘Double Rings’ – to Ruth Coulson, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Stan Sudol for his enduring patience and superior work on the Toronto Gesneriad Society website and newsletter.

Class 71B – Monochrome print of *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora* – to Julie Mavity-Hudson, a cash award from Judy Zinni in honor of Vincent Woo, and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.

### **SECTION P – Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads**

Class 72 – Watercolor of *Primulina* ‘Deco’ – to Bruce Boyd, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Paul Lee for readily assuming the laborious job of Awards Chair.

Class 73 – Picture Quilt of *Codonanthe digna* – to Julie Mavity-Hudson, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Monte Watler for his many years of loyal service and contributions to the society.

Class 74 – Paper Tole Picture of *Saintpaulia* hybrid – to Marina DeSouza, a cash award from Susan Grose in honor of Bob and Dee Stewart for their service and contributions to knowledge.

### **SECTION Q – Commercial Displays**

Class 75 – Display of Gesneriads – to Olga Semova, a cash award from Doreen Dragon.



# Best in Photography: *Primulina purpurea*

Stephen Maciejewski ~ Philadelphia, PA, USA ~ <teciu1949@gmail.com>



I WAS IN CHINA AND VIETNAM FOR NEARLY A month this year and although I took a lot of photos, it was not easy picking that “perfect” image to enter in the show. I had several photos from which to choose. Ultimately, I followed my instincts and was pleased that the judges agreed with my choice. My photo entry of *Primulina purpurea* in the 2013 Gesneriad Society Convention Show won a blue ribbon and received the Best in Photography Rosette.

I find there are so many steps in selecting a photo to enter in a gesneriad show. I take a lot of images, which gives me a lot of choices, but then it's very time-consuming to sort through all of them. Plus, what looks good on the camera or computer screen may not have what it takes to be a winner when it is enlarged and printed. Having just the right amount of background surrounding the plant is also critical when depicting a plant growing in its natural habitat.

Over the years I have learned that it is important to supply an educational card with all photographic entries. In this particular class it is required.



*Primulina purpurea* growing in the wild. All photos by the author





*Primulina purpurea* habitat

### Background:

*Primulina purpurea* was first discovered by Dr. Wen Fang in 2009. He noted that it looked like *Primulina medica* but was also different. It grows in the crevices and rock faces of coarse limestone hills at about 180 meters elevation. We found numerous populations in this one area. The climate here is “Subtropical Monsoon.” Dr. Wen’s description, *Primulina purpurea* F. Wen, B. Zhao & Y.G Wei (Gesneriaceae), A New Species From China was first published in the Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon. 19(2): 167–172, 2012 (December). According to Dr. Wen, the species flowers in April and May and the fruit matures from July through August. The flowers are very eye catching, ranging from purple to fuchsia with two distinct yellow stripes. The leaves are densely pubescent.

Let me tell you more about finding *Primulina purpurea*. Leaving Guilin with our driver, we drove for hours. In the countryside, through the the largest talc-producing area of the world, we shared narrow roads with big trucks in Zhongshan County. We finally found our object of desire on April 9th. It was actually quite easy to access the site. We found *P. purpurea* in the limestone hills near Hezhou, in Gonggan Township, Zhongshan County, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, China. It is only known from this one location.

Now some background information on how I got the prizewinning image. I photographed *Primulina purpurea* in China in early 2013. During my trip, I spent over two weeks in the wilds of Vietnam looking for gesneriads and then explored the newly created Gesneriad Conservation Center of China (GCCC) at the Guangxi Institute of Botany (IBK) in Guilin, China for several days. After that I traveled east of Guilin to see additional gesneriads in a different location with Professor Wei Yi-Gang, author of *Gesneriaceae of South China* and Dr. Wen Fang, who teaches, explores, conserves and manages the propagation house of the GCCC. We saw numerous plants and many gesneriads on this trip. One of the most exciting finds was *Primulina purpurea*.



*Primulina purpurea* flowers, in the wild



My photo was entered in Class 70: Color print of gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat. "The subject must be portrayed growing wild in an area of the world considered by botanists to be its natural range, not cultivated in pots, gardens, or greenhouses. A white card (maximum 8.5" x 5.5") must be provided detailing location, climate, month/year photo was taken, how the site was accessed, and any other pertinent information."

Stephen's prizewinning photographic entry.  
Photo: Dale Martens

The contrast of the thick leaves, colored chartreuse at times, against the dark limestone rock, plus the rich blend of amethyst, mauve, violet or royal purple flowers along with those two yellow stripes in the throat, definitely captured my attention. If that wasn't enough, the entire plant – leaves, stems and flowers – is covered with a luxuriant coating of fine hairs. I just loved these hairy plants, growing on rock walls, dripping color. To say the plants were eye-catching would be an understatement.



*Primulina purpurea* in cultivation at the GCCC

Special thanks to Dr. Wen Fang and Professor Wei Yi-Gang for taking me along on this wonderful trip and showing me this beautiful plant, and to Dr. Fang for the information he provided me in the writing of this article.

*From the Editor:* Watch Stephen describe his experience photographing *Primulina purpurea* in this YouTube video: <http://bit.ly/17W5dLR>

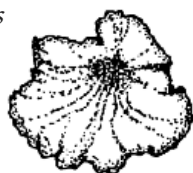
The population of *Primulina purpurea* is small and scattered along a 15 sq. km. area. It is in danger of extinction due to human activities and habitat destruction. According to the criteria established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) *P. purpurea* is considered Critically Endangered.

Fortunately, it is now growing and even flowering in both the gesneriad propagation house and in the Gesneriad Display House at the GCCC. Look for more about the GCCC in upcoming issues of *Gesneriads*.

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## GESNERIAD PORTRAIT



*Columnnea* 'Broget Stavanger' grown by Brett Flewelling. Winner of "Best Gesneriad Grown for Ornamental Value Other Than Flowers", 2013 Gesneriad Society Convention. This cool-loving gesneriad can be challenging to grow. Brett's specimen is one of the nicest the judges had ever seen. Photo: Ron Myhr



## Coming Events

Mary Schaeffer ~ Newark, DE, USA ~ <schaeffermary@yahoo.com>

**October 6 –  
Morristown, New  
Jersey** Frelinghuysen  
Arboretum Gesneriad  
Society Annual Show  
& Plant Sale, Freling-

huysen Arboretum, 353 E Hanover Ave.,  
Morristown, NJ 07960. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Additional information: Karyn Cichocki  
973-579-7914 or kdc05@ptd.net

**October 12-13 – Madison, Wisconsin**  
The Wisconsin Council of African Violet  
Clubs Show and Sale. Olbrich Botanical  
Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison,  
WI. October 12, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. and  
October 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free  
admission and parking. Additional  
information: Alice Peterson  
peters56@tds.net or 608-298-7324

**October 12 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**  
African Violet Society of Philadelphia,  
Cathedral Village Retirement Community,  
600 E. Cathedral Rd., Philadelphia, PA.  
October 12, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Additional  
information: avsp@phillyviolets.org

**May 3-4, 2014 – Cheektowaga, New York**  
African Violet & Gesneriad Society of  
WNY Annual Show and Sale. Galleria  
Mall, Cheektowaga, New York. May 3,  
2014 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; May 4, 2014  
10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Additional  
information: Judy Niemira  
judith.niemira@gmail.com

**July 1-5, 2014 – Nashville, Tennessee**  
Gesneriad Society Annual Convention,  
DoubleTree by Hilton Nashville  
Downtown. Nashville, Tennessee, USA

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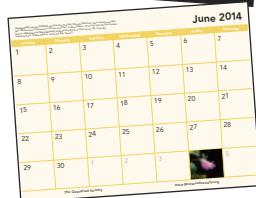
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## 2014 Calendars are Here!

Our full-color 2014 Gesneriad Wall Calendar will brighten each month with a photograph of a different award-winner from the 2012 Convention Flower Show. There's plenty of room for your appointments, and the 2014 Convention is already conveniently highlighted. Perfect for gifts. \$13 each or 5 for \$55; outside North America add \$2 per calendar for additional postage. Order now — supplies are very limited!



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## In Memoriam

Jack Evans, Beerwah, Australia  
Martha Mitchell, Albuquerque, NM  
James Setliff, Atlanta, GA

Jon Lindstrom, Fayetteville, AR  
Harry Matsukane, Orange, CA  
Nancy Platnick, Bay Shore, NY



*Chrysothemis pulchella* 'Bronze' grown by Paul Kroll. Photo: Winston Goretsky

# Awards of Appreciation

*Molly Schneider, Chair, Awards of Appreciation ~ <molly608sch@comcast.net>*

AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE GESNERIAD Society held on July 4, 2013 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Awards of Appreciation were presented to two deserving individuals.

The Gesneriad Society instituted the Awards of Appreciation in 1977 to recognize those individuals whose activities have benefited the Society in one or more exceptional ways. A number of factors are considered when choosing a recipient of an Award of Appreciation. Among them are the individual's length of service to the Society, the importance of the service rendered by the individual, the individual's service as a chairperson of one or more committees, work by an individual in behind-the-scenes activities, consistent contributions of gesneriad articles for publication, and other activities that benefit both the Society and the world of gesneriads.

The website lists all the recipients since 1977. All awardees attending this year's membership meeting were asked to stand. Many were standing, and showing their continued interest and support of gesneriads and the Society.

In 2013 our committee members (Arleen Dewell, Michael Riley, and Molly Schneider) gathered ideas and suggestions for potential awardees. This year the committee chose two individuals whose activities have benefited The Gesneriad Society in many exceptional ways. Arleen and Michael each introduced one of the awardees. Their speeches of introduction follow. [All photos: Julie Mavity-Hudson]

## Award of Appreciation – Gussie Farrice

*by Arleen Dewell*

One of the greatest assets The Gesneriad Society has to its credit, whether at chapter level or internationally, are the people who do so much more than just “belong.” People who show their commitment every day through their activities on the Society's behalf are the backbone of this organization and one of the reasons why it functions so well. I'm pleased to present one of those people to you this evening.

When Gussie was informed she had received this recognition, she had no idea how long it had been since she joined her chapter or the society. All that was important to her was helping out, wherever she was needed. It all began 25 years ago in her home chapter, the Greater New York Gesneriad Society. Very soon after that, she joined the parent organization and has attended every convention since New Orleans in 1993. The Frelinghuysen Arboretum and Swedish gesneriad chapters are also proud to include Gussie's name on their membership rosters. She works endlessly at chapter and convention plant sales, promoting gesneriads to the general public and other Society members. She brings to us a lot of experience through jobs she has held during her working life in retail sales and reception. Gussie has extended her personal knowledge by accompanying first Dr. Hans Wiehler, and later Dr. John L. Clark, on research expeditions to Ecuador and Brazil.



One of Gussie's greatest joys in life is "tripping the light fantastic" with her husband Frank, especially dancing the Lindy and cha-cha! In fact, she even got to dance with Liberace once! Knowing his wife was a huge fan, Frank was able to secure great tickets to see him at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Gussie was absolutely thrilled and knew that somehow she was going to end up on stage with Liberace. Sure enough, partway through the show, he came into the audience and there was Gussie, looking up at him with her big, beaming smile! He asked her name and when she answered he replied, "well! I've never danced with 'a Gussie' before!" With that, he escorted her up to the stage where they danced and danced to their hearts' content.

So Gussie, on behalf of The Gesneriad Society, it is my pleasure to present to you this well-deserved Award of Appreciation for all that you have done and are doing for us as a speaker, writer, former director, judge, hybrid Seed Fund Co-Chair, life member and tireless promoter of gesneriads.

## Award of Appreciation – Carolyn S. Ripps

Michael Riley

We know from the history of our organization that it was the twinkle in his eye and the gloxinia seeds in his hand that inspired a teen-aged Elvin McDonald to rally our interest in gesneriads. Other of our stalwart members, like Mike Kartuz, seem to have been born to the cause. If you happened to attend the 1968 AGGS Convention in New York City, you saw a blue-ribbon *Columnnea microphylla* grown by Miss Judith Becker, and both the first and second place ribbons in the Junior Class awarded to plants of a Slipper Gloxinia and an  $\times$ *Gloxinera*, grown by Peter Shalit – age 14. However, the recipient of this Award of Appreciation is no slouch in pursuing her chosen path in life. She started collecting seed at two years of age and remembers rooting cuttings from her mother's philodendron plant at age three. We are fortunate that the Solanaceae Society did not enlist her services, since the seed she collected was from plants of *Physalis*, or Chinese Lanterns – but then most precocious two-year olds need a little direction ... even if her name is Carolyn S. Ripps.

Carolyn found considerable direction in the next few decades while completing medical school and rearing three children. She had an avid interest in cacti and succulents and frequently visited the Brooklyn Botanic Garden where she became friends with botanist George Kalmbacher. He shared her interest in cacti and introduced her to another of his passions, gesneriads. Now, on the right course ... she joined the AGGS and the Greater New York Chapter, sometime in the 1960's.

Carolyn has served our Greater New York Gesneriad Society as President, Vice President, Director, Propagation Chairperson, and Liaison to The Gesneriad Society. She has also been a member of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society for five years. She has been active in the Cactus and Succulent Society and the Indoor (Light) Garden Society and grows a variety of plants in her Hartsdale, New York home with a greenhouse, outdoor gardens, basement light gardens and nearly every window that might possibly sustain plant growth. In 1981, Carolyn wrote the *Dover Coloring Book on Cactus* – she selected the line drawings and provided their botanical names and descriptions.



Carolyn and her husband, Mike Horton, have attended gesneriad conventions since 1985. They also share a passion for fine wine which compliments the overwhelming passion for plants; particularly in the middle of an Ecuadorean cloud forest. Carolyn and Mike have been on numerous research expeditions to Central and South America with Doctors Hans Wiehler and John L. Clark.

Professionally, Carolyn is a retired clinical pathologist, was the director of the laboratory at the Veterans Administration Hospital and has published numerous scientific papers on her specialty. She is not only mother to three children, but four grandchildren and two Pembroke Welsh Corgis. She is a volunteer in the herbarium of the Selby Botanical Garden in Sarasota, Florida, serves as a member of the Gesneriad Society Board of Directors, as Chairperson of the Species Seed Fund, and is a member of the Conservation Committee. Carolyn is a Master Judge and a Life Member of The Gesneriad Society. In her spare time she hybridizes gesneriads, and contributes as a member of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association. Her goals are often directed to the production of calyx-double Sinningia hybrids, and the promotion of gesneriad species conservation around the world.

Felicidades y Muchas Gracias, Carolina! (*Carolyn and I routinely speak Spanish to each other but since all we know are HELLO and GOODBYE, it is pretty brief!*)

## Auction Report

AUCTIONS ARE A HIGHLIGHT OF CONVENTIONS AND A GOOD source of donations. This year's convention was a great success, thanks to 47 donors who contributed items for the silent auction, which were set up as 124 lots. There were 49 items in the live auction.

Generous bidders donated \$3931 for silent auction lots, and the lively live auction contributed \$2146, for a total of \$6077. All the proceeds will go to the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund.

The Society is grateful to all donors and bidders for their generosity. Special thanks go to Monte Watler for a very large donation to the silent auction, and to Ron Myhr, whose framed prints, offered as a special part of the silent auction, were so coveted that a mini live auction had to be held to determine the winning bidder.

Suzie Larouche, *Auctions Chairperson*

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*Aeschynanthus humilis*, grown by Eileen McGrath. Photo: Winston Goretsky

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

Mme. Perreault's first convention and she seemed to have enjoyed herself – even volunteering to clerk at the Flower Show! I trust that she will continue to join us at future conventions.

Two chairpersons retired just prior to convention. We all owe an expression of thanks to Judy Becker who, after 18 years of service, has retired as Gesneriad Registrar. Judy's breadth and depth of knowledge regarding gesneriad species and hybrids is unparalleled in the Society. We look forward to her continued participation in Society activities and trust that she will continue to be available on Gesneriophiles to answer those numerous arcane inquiries. She is succeeded by Irina Nicholson, a Society Director and a member of the 3Gs Chapter in Colorado. Leslie Milde stepped down as Newsletter Committee Chairperson after ten years in the position. Leslie has done a wonderful job informing all newsletter editors about what is available from other chapters' newsletters. I know that both Judy and Leslie will continue to contribute however they can to the Society in the coming years.

*Paul*

Paul Susi

<president@gesneriadsociety.org>

# Donations

*Paul Susi, Development Chairperson ~ <development@gesneriadsociety.org>*

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE MADE TO THE GESNERIAD Society during the period January through June 2013. Each donor's generosity is greatly appreciated.

## **ELVIN McDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND – \$806**

Virginia Barthelemy  
Karyn Cichocki, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses  
Edward Davis  
Marilyn Heinrich  
Tan Jiew Hoe  
Darlane Joshlin, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses  
Dale Martens, in lieu of refund for Judging School fee (2012)  
Eleanor Mattaliano  
Jo Anne Martinez, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses  
Carolyn Ripp, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses  
Kathy Spissman, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses  
Paula Whitlock  
The Grow and Study Chapter, in memory of Dolly Crowder  
Gesneriad-dicts of Western New York, upon the dissolution of the chapter  
Saintpaulia and Houseplant Society (UK), upon the dissolution of the society

## **NELLIE D. SLEETH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND – \$2136**

Virginia Barthelemy  
Terry Celano, in lieu of speaker's honorarium from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Janice Murasco  
The Estate of Jon Lindstrom  
Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society

## **FRANCES BATCHELLER ENDOWMENT FUND – \$298**

Virginia Barthelemy  
Frances Baschnagel  
Carol Ann Bonner, Julie Mavity-Hudson and Molly Schneider in lieu of Society dues paid for by the Tennessee Gesneriad Society  
Terry Celano, in lieu of speaker's honorarium from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Susan Grose, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses  
Susanne Haffner  
Gary Hunter, in lieu of speaker's honorarium from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Diantha LaVoie  
Nelly Levine  
Eleanor Mattaliano  
Judith Smith  
Joan Wilson  
North Coast Gesneriad Club

## STUDENTS AND SPEAKERS CONVENTION FUND – \$563

Virginia Barthelemy

Karyn Cichocki, in lieu of speakers' honoraria from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society and the Long Island Gesneriad Society

Jeanne Katzenstein, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses

Mary Helen Maran, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses

Carolyn Rippis, in memory of Jon Lindstrom

Quentin Schlieder, in lieu of refund for dues overpayment

Jamie Walcott

Grow and Study Chapter, in memory of Harry Matsukane

North Coast Gesneriad Club

## COLOR PHOTO SPONSORSHIP – \$472

Arleen Dewell, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses

Jill Fischer, in lieu of speaker's honorarium from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Virginia Heatter

Ben Paternoster, in lieu of reimbursement for Judging School fee (2012)

Carolyn Rippis, in lieu of reimbursement for Society expenses

Al Striopens, in memory of Marna Striopens

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** Marilyn Heinrich and Christopher Nagy (Life Membership dues are placed in the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund)

Does your employer or former employer have a program to match your charitable donations? If so, please consider applying for a matching donation the next time you donate to The Gesneriad Society.

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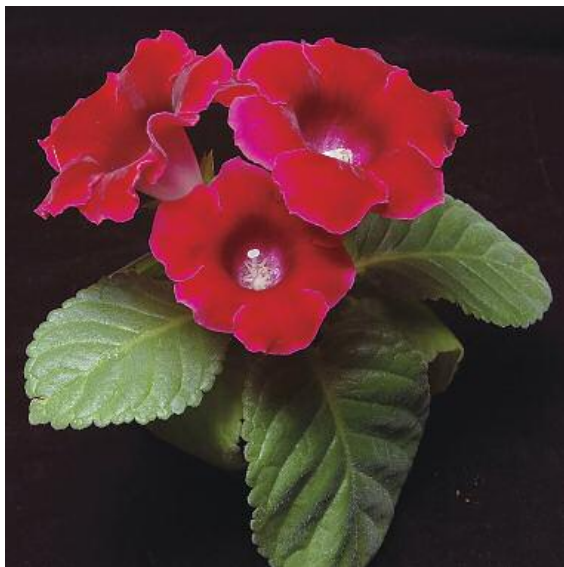
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*Sinningia speciosa* "Empress Mix" grown by Ron Myhr  
Shown at the 2013 Gesneriad Society Convention.  
Photo: Bob Stewart



## Seed Fund Donations

Donations mailed from anywhere should be sent to:

Karyn Cichocki  
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Lafayette, NJ 07848

### Changes to Species Seed List 3Q13

#### Additions:

- Nematanthus pycnophyllus*
- Oreocharis pankaiyuae* (Tremacron aurantiacum)
- *Primulina linearifolia*
- *Primulina sclerophylla*
- Sinningia* sp. "Desafinado"
- *Streptocarpus pusillus* JT11-234

#### Deletions:

- Achimenes warszewicziana*
- Chautemsia calcicola*
- Sinningia agbensis* AC2356
- Sinningia* mixed species
- Sinningia sellovii* GRF9919
- Streptocarpus* mixed species
- Streptocarpus pusillus* JT04-02

#### Change:

- Episcia xantha* to *Christopheria xantha*
- Neomortonia nummularia* to
- Pachycaulos nummularium*
- Heppiella ulmifolia* GRF98172 to
- Heppiella ulmifolia*

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## Streptocarpus

Dale Martens ~ Sherrard, IL, USA ~ <DaleMartens@mchsi.com>



The challenge in hybridizing is that your goal may need a couple of generations to achieve.

“Best Streptocarpus” award at the AVSA Convention in 2012. Although African violet growers often express concern that higher nitrogen fertilizers cause decreased variegation, my variegated streps do well with it. I grow under cheap T-8 and T-12 cool white fluorescent tube lights that are on for 10 hours a day. The streps appear to bloom better under two sets (4 tubes per shelf) of T-8 lights.

Let's talk leaching, as I believe it's one of the most important culture requirements. Plants that have grown in small pots (2 1/2 inch or 3 ounce plastic cups) and are ready to go into larger pots, have absorbed a few months' worth of fertilizer. Therefore, leach out the fertilizer salts from the old soil before transplanting. Even if you like to remove some soil from the roots, there still is old soil attached. Leach by placing a pot over a bucket and by slowly pouring up to two cups of water through the pot. Often after leaching, I will then pour through the pot a light fertilizer such as a “Foliage-Pro” 9-3-6 that is mixed at 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of water. An option for those who think the plant's leaves are too yellowish is to leach first, and then pour water mixed at ratio of 1 teaspoon per half gallon of Epsom

I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE EXCITING GENUS RIGHT now than *Streptocarpus*. There are all sorts of species seed in the Seed Fund, plus there are plenty of fascinating new hybrids being created. Streptocarpus come in quite a range of sizes and flower colors and some have scent. Most hybrids bloom constantly and are happy growing in natural window light, under shady trees in warm weather, in greenhouses, or on plant stands. I'm in the midst of writing a booklet on *Streptocarpus* for The Gesneriad Society, so I know there's a vast amount of information that can only be touched upon lightly in this article.

**Culture:** Most Streptocarpus plants grow easily in well-drained soil that's allowed to slightly dry out between waterings. Although that seems what's best for them, some of us grow them on wick reservoirs where the roots are never dry. Discussions with some Streptocarpus growers have resulted in agreement that 1/8 teaspoon of a balanced fertilizer or a fertilizer with slightly higher nitrogen is best. For at least three years now, I've used a couple different non-urea, orchid fertilizers with higher nitrogen, and never used a “high bloom” or higher phosphate fertilizer. One of my entries, *Streptocarpus*, ‘Heartland's Peacock’, was in spectacular bloom when it was awarded the



Blooming Streptocarpus plants on Dale's plant stand



Figures 1-3 show the separation of an overgrown plant of *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Scarlet Macaw', yielding 5 new plantlets.

salts through the pot. Do not combine Epsom salts with fertilizer. I've seen Epsom salts help center leaves become greener, but older leaves that remain yellowish should be removed. I leach my pots, no matter what size, at least every 8 to 12 weeks.

**Soilless mix:** Loose, well-draining soilless mix begins with sphagnum peat moss. Most growers add perlite and vermiculite plus some dolomitic lime to balance the acidity of the sphagnum peat moss. The pH should be slightly on the acidic side. I have heard of some who like to add pasteurized leaf mold and others who add aged horse manure. Because we all have different water (rain, tap, reverse osmosis, well water), it is important to experiment to find what soilless mix works best for your type of watering conditions (reservoir or hand watering). I wick water, therefore my soil is lightened by as much as 50% with perlite. If you purchase soil, be sure to note if the package says "moisture-retaining" as that can indicate that a product was added to hold moisture. In that case the soil would need additional perlite. Also note if the package contains fertilizer. If so, then either don't use additional fertilizer for the first month (particularly on young plants), or reduce the amount of additional fertilizer you use.



Insects on yellow sticky card

**Insects:** Yellow or blue sticky cards, hanging from the plant stands, help you see the type and quantity of flying insects. They are typically hung, but I've also laid the cards down flat on stands to see if anything is walking around. I put one under a recently purchased Strep, and I caught mealybugs that had dropped off the plant.

**Mealybugs.** Although you can purchase insecticides for mealybugs, I'd rather take a leaf and start over. The big fat, cottony mealybugs above the soil that hide in nodes and lay eggs on the backs of leaves are

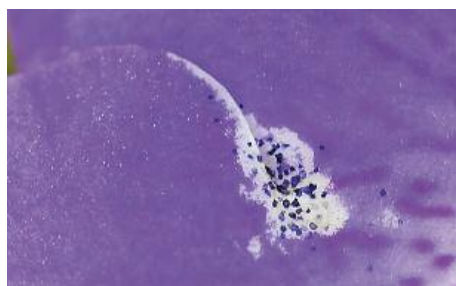


Mealybug

really a challenge. They move quickly, too, and you need to research as to what the various life stages look like. You think they're gone, but that little, pale wiggly thing crawling on a leaf might be one of the stages. Again, it's just easier to start over with a leaf, but don't trust there weren't eggs or larvae on the leaf cuttings. Mealybugs in soil are a challenge to kill, and if you have plants on reservoirs, you'll see them floating on the water.



**Thrips.** I've had thrips that puncture and then suck on flowers as well as leaves. On flowers look for black dots on petals or pollen spilled in the flower's throat area. On new purchases, it's a good idea to keep the flowers and buds removed for at least three months. On leaves look for silvery lines because the top leaf layer was stripped. Thrips appreciate heat for their life cycle, so summertime seems when they do their best to increase population. Whatever critters you are battling, talk to your friendly gesneriad commercial grower and ask what's best to use and follow the directions on the bottle.



Thrips damage

**Mites.** Unlike African violets, which show mite damage in the plant's center, Strep leaves show damage near the tips and the leaves appear grayish due to the webbing. The eight-legged mites walking on the leaves are visible with a strong magnifying glass, especially if you use a very bright light because they run away from the light. If you use a miticide, read the instructions and good luck. I never keep a mite-infested plant.



Mite damage

After treating plants for any insects, isolation for three months is the best thing to do if you found insects of any kind. Unfortunately with mites, the three-month isolation—especially in a humid terrarium environment—seems to simply hold down the population. Once the plant is out in room air, the mites thrive and spread.



Leaf propagation of Streptocarpus

**Propagation:** A long time ago I used to remove the mid-rib and plant leaf halves in a light mix. That generally works, but for variegated streps it does not. The white areas rot. So I have gone back to cutting 2-1/2 inch sections from base to tip while keeping the leaf and cuttings under water. I leave them in the water for about five minutes. I then bury each leaf section about 3/4 of an inch deep in a soilless mix lightened with extra perlite and vermiculite. In the warmer seasons you'll see young, green leaf tips popping out of the soil in a matter of weeks. In the colder seasons, it can take longer.

When you have a plant that's overgrown, it's time to separate the plant. First remove all the flower stems so you can see what you're doing. Then remove all the leaves that are yellowish. Then look for natural separation areas between plants in the pot. Cut straight down with a sharp knife. I usually remove the bottom half of the soil under the newly sectioned plants. Then I repot into the smallest pot possible and place several of the newly potted plants in a gallon-sized baggie, but don't zip the baggie closed. Although

the plants will go into shock, the baggies help keep humidity high and support the leaves for the two or three weeks of adjustment time. Keep the soil moist, but not soaking wet. The worst thing you can do for a Strep when repotting is to bury it too deeply in the pot. In that case, the newly emerging leaves will have a blackish-wet look.



Streptocarpus seed pod, untwisted

**Hybridizing:** I have to thank

Michael Kartuz who taught me about hybridizing Streps back in the 1980's. He'd give a lecture to our Grow and Study Gesneriad Chapter once a year and bring a carload of gesneriads including his Strep hybrids. After the club's meeting was over, Michael kindly and patiently answered my hybridizing questions and gave me

advice on what to cross. When you hybridize, have a goal in mind and choose the parents accordingly. I wait until flowers have been open at least a week before pollinating. After fertilization, the pistil elongates and it takes about eight weeks to ripen the seeds. The first flower can appear within 4-1/2 months from sowing seed, but only if seedlings are transplanted often. I begin transplanting when the seedling is 10 days old because transplanting stimulates growth.



*Streptocarpus pentherianus*  
All photos by the author

The challenge in hybridizing is that your goal may need a couple of generations to achieve. Novices tend to see small differences in their newly

hybridized plants and want to name far too many seedlings. The public doesn't see the differences and wonders why the hybridizer named all those look-alikes. Novices need to check photos on the Internet and compare their hybrids to ones already named. I throw away several hundred hybrids each year and name very few. My reputation means everything to me. Judges who judge the New Hybrids/Cultivars section of Society flower shows need to ask themselves, "Will I remember this hybrid in two weeks?" Therefore, I look at my hybrid and ask myself if that seedling was on a show table with 20 other show plants, would the judges remember mine two weeks later? Please don't hesitate to contact me for advice on hybridizing Streps.

Prof. Wei Yigang

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