



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

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This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now, Karyn Cichocki's article about *Streptocarpus*, and the Annual Appeal. Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

Terri Vicenzi from Bloomington, Indiana, shared this photo of *Streptocarpus* 'DS-1449', a hybrid created by Pavel Enikeev at the Dimetris nursery in Ukraine.

Terri Vicenzi photo



Blooming now...

Sinningia 'Kevin Garnett'
Mel Grice



Mel Grice photos



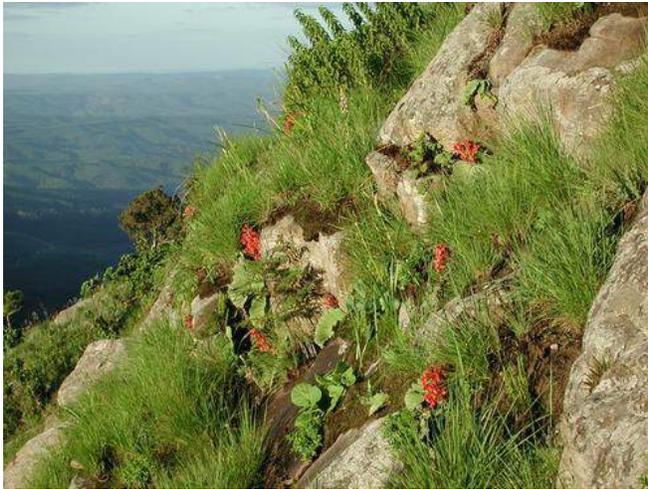
Sinningia speciosa (slipper type) grown from seed acquired over forty years ago from The Gesneriad Society seed fund. "I sowed the original seed and selected one of the plants as my favorite. I keep propagating it vegetatively from crown cuttings and now have several clones of it growing. I really like it!"

Mel Grice

Streptocarpus

Karyn Cichocki

Streptocarpus are native to Africa, some in the same areas as *Saintpaulia*, which have been reclassified as *Streptocarpus*. They grow in the mountains in rock crevices and along streams. Most have leaves that are strap like, can grow in a rosette formation, and are perennials. Other species are monocarpic, so they take up to two years to bloom and die off afterward. These species usually have a single large leaf, but some will have a second smaller leaf. There is a subgenus *Streptocarpella*, where the plants in that group have upright growing stems and come from both eastern Africa (Tanzania and Kenya) and Madagascar.



Aart Louw photos from South Africa



Streptocarpus dunnii is a unifoliate species, which grows in rock crevices on the side of mountains. It is a heavy bloomer with bright red flowers. Dale Martens has used it in several of her hybrids, including *S.* 'Dale's Gingersnaps' seen below.



Karyn Cichocki photo



Streptocarpus holstii is one of the upright stemmed species. It has dark red fleshy stems. These plants are good candidates for wicking. This plant was exhibited by Bill Price at the AVSC convention in Edmonton, Alberta Canada.

Karyn Cichocki photos



Dale Martens photo

I enjoy growing unifoliate, but they can be a challenge. There are a few that are small growing such as *S. pentherianus* (right), which will bloom within a year.

Streptocarpus lilliputana (left) is a miniature that grows in a rosette form. Dale Martens has also used it in her hybridizing to create smaller growing plants. It only has two flowers per stem.



Karyn Cichocki photo

S. rimicola (right) is another small growing species. They will die off once they are done blooming, but they form seed pods so you can start new plants.

S. saundersii is a larger growing unifoliate as you can see from these three photos. It took two years to bloom but it was worth the wait. The leaf had a red underside, and there were so many flowers on the stems that they hung down.



Karyn Cichocki
photos



As you can see, I had to trim the leaf as it had formed an abscission line when it dried out. This is a natural process that helps the plant to survive during drought or cold temperatures. This line goes across the leaf. The leaf below that line will turn yellow and eventually will dry up. So careful attention must be taken not to let the soil dry out.



S. kentaniensis (below) grows into a nice rosette and has narrow long leaves. This is another species that Dale Martens has used. It is one of the parents of *S.* 'Gator's Tail'.



The word "streptocarpus" means twisted fruit, and as you can see in the photo (by Dale Martens) the seed pod is twisted. Once it dries it will start to untwist, which will cause the seeds to fling out.

When I harvest the seed I will hold the seed pod on either end and start to untwist it so the seed will easily fall out. As you can see in the photo on the next page (by Dale Martens), the seed is quite small and can



easily be carried away by a breeze.

Pollination of *Streptocarpus* is the same as with any other Gesneriad. The pollen is available first for a few days after the flower has opened. During this time the stigma is elongating and appears at the tube opening.

The photo on the right (by Dale Martens) shows the anthers, which hold the pollen and the stigma. You can tell when the stigma is ready to accept pollen because it will have a slight dimple on the tip. The arrow is pointing to that dimple and the pollen that has been placed on it.



If you are going to hybridize, you need to remove the anthers so that they don't self pollinate the flower. Seed pods ripen in about one to two months.

Reprinted from *Gesneriad Tips 'n Trivia*, the newsletter of the African Violet and Gesneriad Society of New Jersey, October 2023, Karyn Cichocki, editor.

The Gesneriad Society Annual Appeal

The [Annual Appeal](#) helps support gesneriad research, education, and conservation by ensuring that grant money is available for eligible applicants. The target fund for 2023 is **The Conservation Fund**. This fund promotes the conservation of gesneriads through education, research, ex situ propagation and habitat preservation. Donate now! You may make a donation on line by using the link above.

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) U.S. tax-exempt corporation.

The full amount of a donation is tax deductible for U.S. Gesneriad Society members.

Happy Holidays!

Austin Grevious
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John Beaulieu created this holiday tree originally in black and white and the late Stan Sudol added the color a few years later.

Thanks to both for sharing!





2024 GESNERIADS CALENDAR



Our full-color 2024 Gesneriad Wall Calendar will brighten each month with a photograph of a different award-winner from the 2022 International Convention Flower Show. There's plenty of room for your appointments, and the 2024 Convention is already conveniently highlighted. Perfect for gifts. \$17 each including postage; \$19 each outside North America. See website for bulk pricing. *Order now and be ready when 2024 arrives!*

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[Shop here](http://gesneriadsociety.org/) to order your calendar today.





From the editor —

Keep those photos coming! Write some short articles about your favorite plant please.

If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at melsgrice@gmail.com

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

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

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