

The Gesneriad Society's 50th Annual Convention - 2006

Convention Speakers

In keeping with our photographic history, we are so very pleased to have a local expert as one of our speakers. Why does the seemingly simple process of photographing a flower and producing an accurate monitor image, color print, or projection often turn out to be difficult or even impossible? How can such problems be avoided?

Edward J. Giorgianni's presentation will give us some of the answers. Ed retired in 2005 as a Research Fellow from Eastman Kodak Company, where he worked for thirty-eight years designing advanced photographic and electronic color-imaging products and systems. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Center for Imaging Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, and an independent consultant to several professional groups, including the American Academy of Motion Picture Art and Sciences. A Kodak Distinguished Inventor, he holds more than thirty patents in the field of imaging science and technology. Ed has taught courses in color science and color imaging for many years and is a four-time recipient of the Kodak Imaging Science and Technology Instructor of the Year Award. He is a contributing author to three textbooks and numerous technical papers on color science and color imaging, and he is the author of the textbook *Digital Color Management: Encoding Solutions*.

A second speaker is also from our area. **Olive Ma Robinson**, an owner of 'The Violet Barn', in Naples, New York, is a commercial member of AVSA and The Gesneriad Society. As a hybridizer, she has developed the "Ma's" series of standard African violet hybrids, recently winning Best New Cultivar at the 2005 AVSA Convention show. She is perhaps even better known as an accomplished designer, having won numerous awards at regional and national shows, including Best in Design at both convention shows in 2005. Sometimes a finished design isn't what you expected, but making it can still be fun, thus the title of the presentation, "Design Made Fun". Olive will begin by showing what her favorite plants and materials are, why and when they are appropriate for use in either arrangements or container gardens, the "must have" tools and accessories, and the basic "mechanics" of design. She'll also discuss how to read and interpret a show schedule, plan your design, organize your materials and tools, "test" your design, and pack for the show.

John Robert Clark is working on his PhD in Botany at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. John will speak to us on the genus *Cyrtandra*, which is the subject of his Ph.D. dissertation research. This genus, the most species-rich in the family (~1000 species), is widely distributed from Indonesia northeast to Hawaii and throughout the South Pacific. John is using both molecular markers and morphology to study the relationships within this large genus, principally in Hawaii, and the South Pacific. He will discuss his collecting expeditions in Hawaii (2004), Western Samoa (2004-2005), and Fiji (2006) which he conducted in order to gather material of this genus for his research.

Mauro Peixoto is well known to the many gesneriad enthusiasts who have accompanied him on his trips to see and collect gesneriads in the wild in Brazil, or who belong to his BrazilPlants club. He lives in São Paulo State, Brazil. His passion for plants started in early childhood and by age 12, he started to grow orchids. Later, his interests expanded to include the study and cultivation of other families: Gesneriaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Passifloraceae, Aristolochiaceae, and other families native to Brazil, especially in the Atlantic Rainforest area of Southeast Brazil. His desire to study and photograph them in their habitat led him to travel around Brazil, alone or with other plant enthusiasts interested in specific families. He currently works as a guide to groups or individuals interested in observing native Brazilian plants in the wild before they go extinct. He

has discovered several species previously unknown to Science and has worked extensively with Dr. Alain Chautems of the Geneva Botanical Garden to identify and name his collections. For the past few years he has also worked to set up and organize a collection of herbaceous plants at the Instituto Plantarum de Estudos da Flora (Plantarum Institute for Botanical Studies), in Nova Odessa, São Paulo State. Mauro will speak to us on the genus *Nematanthus*.