



# Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 15, Number 5

May 2024



This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now, Julie Mavity-Hudson's article about *Kohleria* 'Brazil Gem', and photos of gesneriads shown at the Richmond African Violet Society Show.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

*Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Scarlet Macaw'  
grown by Terri Vicenzi.

Dale Martens crossed her *S.* 'Texas Hot Chili' with *S. dunnii* to create this hybrid.

Terri Vicenzi photo



Blooming now...



*Streptocarpus* 'DS-d'Artagnan'  
A hybrid created by Pavel Enkieev  
Grown and photographed by Ruth Hoffman

*Streptocarpus* 'VaT-Bird'  
(A Tatiana Valkova hybrid)

Terri Vicenzi photos



Streptocarpus plants on Terri Vicenzi's light stand



*Episcia* 'Faded Jade'

Terri Vicenzi photos

*Streptocarpus candidus*



## **Kohleria 'Brazil Gem'**

Julie Mavity-Hudson

I have a special fondness for kohlerias, and have been frustrated that they have not grown well for me for the past few years, with strange “rhizome-like” foliage and few if any flowers. Some would just grow an inch or two and then go dormant. I finally figured out that they were just getting far too much light, and since I couldn't move them further from the lights due to my stands' situations, I decided to cut back on the hours of light. In addition, I changed out my 5000 Kelvin tubes so I have one 5000 K (cool white) tube, and one 3000 K (warm white) tube on each shelf. This has made an enormous difference. I started to see normal growth within two weeks, and not too long after, started seeing flower buds. They are now really going to town, with some I have had for several years blooming for the first time. The abundance of flowers is probably due at least in part to the change in color of light, but the normal growth is undoubtedly due to the reduction of light. I can state this with some confidence because I already had two shelves that had 4100 K tubes and the foliage there was distorted as well, and is now normal.

I have a special fondness for *Kohleria* 'Brazil Gem' because of its history. My late best friend and former Gesneriad Society President, Carol Ann Bonner, is said to have brought it into this country from Brazil hidden in her underwear. Now, I don't know if this is really true because she never confirmed it, but she did tell me the story of how they found it. She was in Brazil with Hans Wiehler and members of The Gesneriad Society for a Gesneriad Research Foundation plant expedition. They were driving around and spotted red flowers in the parking lot of a bank. They stopped and discovered it was a previously unknown kohleria. I don't think they ever found out where it came from — whether it was a species or hybrid, but they pinched a piece (the bank was apparently closed so they couldn't ask). They nicknamed it “Brazilian Bank Heist.” It later was distributed under the name *Kohleria* 'Brazil Gem', though I have to say I actually prefer the original nickname. It is growing better for me now than it ever has and has a lot of flowers.



Reprinted from *Gesneri-Eds*, the newsletter of the Tennessee chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Volume 52, issue 12, January 2024, Julie Mavity-Hudson, editor.

Julie Mavity-Hudson photo

# Gesneriads at the Richmond African Violet Society Show



*Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Pig'

Bill Schmidt

Jill Fischer photos



*Primulina* 'Destiny'

Kitty Hedgepeth



*Sinningia* 'Party Dress'  
Bill Schmidt

Jill Fischer photos



*Primulina* 'Summer Song' - Kitty Hedgepeth



*Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie'  
Best Gesneriad  
Kitty Hedgepeth

Jill Fischer photos



*Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' - Barbara Stewart





*Aeschynanthus longicaulis*

Jill Fischer

Jill Fischer photos



*Sinningia* 'Merry Christmas'

Jill Fischer



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The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,  
 1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

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**From the editor —**

Thanks to Jill Fischer for the photos from the Richmond show! Thanks to Terri and Ruth for the other photos!

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

Mel

**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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