

# APPRAISAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDGES INTEREST GROUP



**VOLUME 44, NO. 3  
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**Best in Show 2023 Gesneriad Society Show**  
Upper left: Sinningia collection exhibited by Dave Zaitlin (Paul Susi photo)

**Runner-up to Best in Show 2023 Gesneriad Society Show**  
Left: Multi-genera collection exhibited by Eileen McGrath (Paul Susi photo)

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

**Gesneriad Society Shows and Judging Committee:** Karyn Cichocki, Jill Fischer, Mel Grice, Paul Kroll, Judy Niemira, Michael Riley, Paul Susi (Awards Chair, Co-chair), Judy Zinni (Co-chair).

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I am pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Susi and Judy Zinni to the positions of Co-Chairs of the Shows and Judging Committee. Both have previously served on the Shows and Judging Committee and will be well-known to most of the judging community. I am confident their leadership and the expertise within the Shows and Judging Committee will greatly benefit the organization and I look forward to working with them. Congratulations, Paul and Judy.

Winston Goretsky, President The Gesneriad Society

### **Shows and Judging Committee**

*By Paul Susi and Judy Zinni*

We are pleased to announce that Karyn Cichocki, Jill Fischer, Mel Grice, Paul Kroll, Judy Niemira, and Michael Riley have agreed to serve on the Shows and Judging Committee. The judging and show management experience represented in this group is vast. In addition, these judges are seasoned exhibitors whose expertise represents decades of experience, across the horticulture, artistic, arts, and educational divisions of our shows. We are pleased and proud that each of these judges has agreed to serve on the Committee. Please join us in congratulating them on their appointment.

Send chapter show schedules to Karyn Cichocki [kdc05@ptd.net](mailto:kdc05@ptd.net) for review and approval.

Chapters may request a rosette for Best Gesneriad from Jill Fischer [jill.g.fischer2@gmail.com](mailto:jill.g.fischer2@gmail.com)

Any other questions to Mel Grice [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com)

## The Long Island Gesneriad Society Show May 6 and 7, 2023

**Marilyn Heinrich, Show Chair**

The Long Island Gesneriad Society, in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island, held its annual show on May 6th and 7th at Planting Fields Arboretum. The show theme was, "Gesneriad Avengers." The beautiful weather we had both Saturday and Sunday resulted in a record turnout of visitors. It was a very enjoyable weekend surrounded by friends and beautiful plants.

Ten members exhibited in the show with 55 total entries (46 in Horticulture, and nine in Artistic). Joe Palagonia won Horticulture Sweepstakes with seven blue ribbons, Wallace Wells won Runner-up in Horticulture Sweepstakes with four blue ribbons, and Marilyn Heinrich won Sweepstakes in Artistic with three blue ribbons.

Best in Show — *Sinningia bullata* – Levente Hajdu

Runner-up to Best in Show — *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming' —  
Dhaawantia Gonzales

Best in Artistic – Underwater Design "Loki" – Marilyn Heinrich

Best New World Tuberous In Flower – *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming'  
– Dhaawantia Gonzales

Best Old World In Flower – *Primulina tabacum* – Levente Hajdu

Best Gesneriad Grown for Ornamental Value – *Streptocarpus* 'Iced  
Artistry' – Joe Palagonia

Best New Gesneriad – *Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis* – Wallace Wells

Best Lesser-Known Gesneriad Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows –  
*Sinningia helleri* – Wallace Wells

Best Collection – Primulina Collection – Joe Palagonia

Best Arrangement of Cut and/or Growing Gesneriads — "Loki" – Marilyn  
Heinrich

LIGS is grateful to our judges: Francisco Correa, Gussie Farrice, Ginny Heatter, Michael Riley, Karyn Cichocki, and Gary Vellenzer; and to our clerks Rosemary Platz, Esperanza Kesler and Jill Stern.

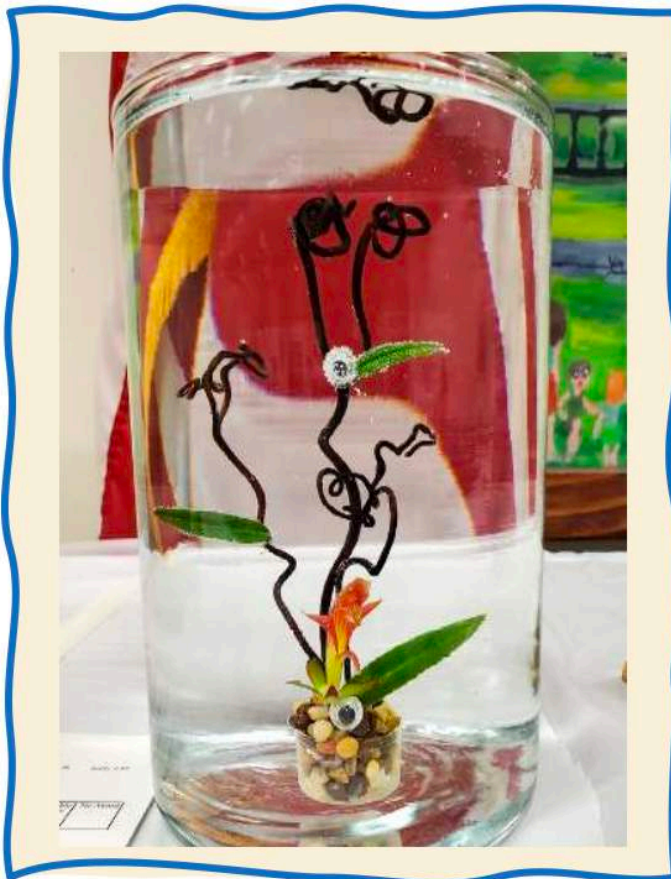
Levente Hajdu photos



*Sinningia bullata*



*Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming'



Underwater design "Loki"



*Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis*

## Judges Training Schools at Convention

Judging school sessions were held on **Tuesday afternoon, July 4, 2023**, and consisted of three afternoon sessions running concurrently and, later, one combined session for judges of all levels. The afternoon sessions were: 1) a Novice class, 2) an Intermediate-Advanced class for accredited judges preparing for the Senior judge exams; and 3) a Workshop, open to all certified Gesneriad Society judges.

Mel Grice taught the combined Novice and Intermediate classes with nine students attending. Six students took the appropriate level tests the next day.

Ginny Heatter and Ralph Olliges scored high enough on the Intermediate/Advanced tests to advance to the Senior Judge level. Gary Hitchcock and Maria Walueff scored high enough on the Novice tests to be considered as Student judges pending acquiring the necessary blue ribbons required. Congratulations!

The main topic of the Workshop was discussing what constitutes a "fully developed show specimen" as well as other comments on the score sheets.

A flower show review, open to all who participated in judging or clerking the flower show, was held on Friday, July 7, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Several members of the Shows and Judging Committee led the discussions of selected exhibits.

***Mel Grice*** on behalf of the Shows and Judging Committee

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## Show Report

The 2023 convention in Richmond, Virginia, is over and we are looking forward to the 2024 convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Flower show co-chairs, Karyn Cichocki, Jill Fischer and Sharon Long would like to thank all those that helped make the flower show as successful as it was. We are happy to report that we had 36 exhibitors who exhibited 128 horticulture, 36 artistic, 17 arts, two educational and two commercial exhibits for a total of 185 entries. We also had four exhibitors who brought six exhibits for display only. We thank all those exhibitors for participating in the show and creating a wonderful display of the Gesneriad family.

**Karyn Cichocki**

## Judges and Clerks at Convention

The 2023 Gesneriad Convention in Richmond, Virginia, included 185 total entries judged by 12 teams. Included were;

### TEAM 1

Mel Grice (M), Eileen McGrath (Sr.), Terri Vicenzi (St.), Clerk; Gary Hitchcock

### TEAM 2

Jill Fischer (M), Francisco Correa Mendoza (Sr.), Betsy Szymczak (Sr.), Clerks; Vicki Ferguson, Joel Egan

### TEAM 3

Laura Buckner (M), Wallace Wells (M), Stephen Maciejewski (M), Clerk; Sharon Long

### TEAM 4

Barbara Festenstein (M), Barbara Borleske (M), George Kloppe(Sr.), Clerk; Dmitry Ozherelyev

### TEAM 5

Deanna Belli (M), Hung Nguyen (M), Elizabeth Varley (Sr.), Clerk; Deb Donaldson

### TEAM 6

Bob Clark (M), Irina Nicholson (M), Ginny Heatter (St.), Clerks; Bruce Williams, Pam Brown

### TEAM 7

Winston Goretsky (M), Bill Price (M), Scott Ammann (Sr.), Clerk; Dale Martens

### TEAM 8

Judy Zinni (Sr.), Ralph Olliges (St.), Carolyn Ripps (M), Clerk; Nancy Crites

### TEAM 9

Carol Brown (M), Michael Riley (M), Molly Schneider (M), Clerk; Melanie Cave

### TEAM 10

Julie Thompson (Sr.), Julie Mavity-Hudson (M), Bill Schmidt (St.), Clerks; Maria Walueff, Kitty Hedgepeth

### TEAM 11

Brett Flewelling (M), Brandon Erikson (M), Edna Alexander (M), Clerk; Donna Coleman

### TEAM 12

Bev Williams (M), Barb Stewart (M), Peter Shalit (M), Paulo Castello da Costa (Sr.), Clerks; Johanna Zinn, Levin Tilghman

Thank you to all of those who worked so diligently to make the Richmond convention a success. Virginia really is for gesneriad lovers.

**Judy Niemira, Judges and Clerks Chair**

# 2023 Gesneriad Society Convention Flower Show



*Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*  
Ray Coyle



*Sinningia* 'Party Dress'  
Kitty Hedgepeth



*Sinningia* 'Bud's Galactic Core'  
Brandon Erikson



*Primulina* 'Minnie Pearl'  
Barbara Borleske

Mel Grice photos



*Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie'  
Kitty Hedgepeth



*Streptocarpus* 'Fire and Ice'  
Johnnie Berry

Mel Grice photos



*Sinningia speciosa* 'Poco Purado'  
Karyn Cichocki



*Chrysothemis pulchella* 'Bronze'  
Edna Alexander



**What's New?** (New Gesneriads from the Convention Show)**Judy Zinni**

There were a number of new gesneriads shown at this year's show. As judges, we must always keep learning about gesneriads – new species and new hybrids. The convention show schedule has "Section F-New Gesneriads: Introductions made within the last 5 years, but not previously entered in this section of any Gesneriad Society Convention Show." Of course, this means that once a species or new hybrid has been entered into these Section F classes, they will not be permitted to be entered in the new gesneriad classes again. An educational card is required for these entries. In addition, the Shows & Judging Committee keeps an up-to-date list of species and hybrids (named hybrids only) that have been entered in these classes to facilitate exhibitors and classification with entries. Please study these exciting new plants from this year's show.

***Primulina sinovietnamica*** (Langson, Vietnam collection)  
Entered in Class 42 by Hung Nguyen, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

*Primulina sinovietnamica* is a plant species that grows in both China (Guangxi) and Vietnam, as its name suggests. This is a specimen from Langson, Vietnam, which I cultivate indoors. It's domed and let dry between watering. The hairs on the leaves turn redder when exposed to more light. The flowers are very similar to those of the Chinese plants and they bloom at the same time. I have been able to cross-pollinate this plant with other primulina pollen and produce seed pods, but I have not tested their viability yet.



Winston Goretsky photo

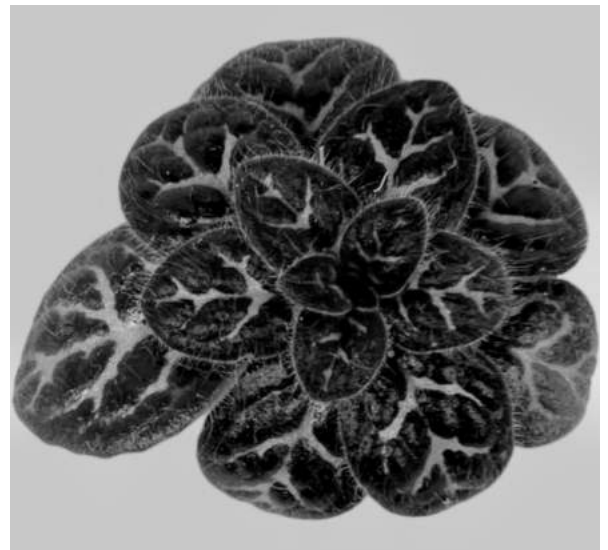
***Primulina sinovietnamica***

Entered in Class 42 by Wallace Wells, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

A new species of Gesneriaceae from southwest Guangxi, China is described here as *Primulina sinovietnamica*. This previously unknown species is morphologically similar to *P. pungentisepala* and *P. ningmingensis*, but can be distinguished from the latter two taxa by several non-overlapping

morphological characters. The three sampled individuals from the two presently known populations of the new species cluster together in the phylogenetic analysis, separated from the other two closest taxa by two common base substitutions, confirming the recognition of this new species. The two subpopulations have somewhat different leaf patterns. Cultivation: Is the same as with other primulina species. High quality milled peat moss amended with perlite. Avoid fertilizing with chemical fertilizers except in very minute amounts.

Distribution and habitat: The species is found in mountainous regions of southern China near the border with Vietnam.



Mel Grice photo

### ***Beccarinda tonkinensis***

Entered in Class 42 by Wallace Wells, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

*Beccarinda* is a genus of the Gesneriaceae family which includes about seven to nine species of perennial or more rarely suffrutic, lithophytic or terrestrial, rhizomatous herbaceous plants. They are widespread in tropical China, Myanmar and northern Vietnam. The leaves, collected in a basal rosette or carried by a single stem, have a hairy to glabrescent lamina, a cordate or wedge-shaped base. The inflorescences are lax umbels, axillary, with few floral tops. The actinomorphic calyx has five equal segments; the corolla, from blue-lilac to red, actinomorphic, is bell-shaped with a bilobed flap, a bilobed upper lip and a trilobed lower lip, with equal lobes or with the central one slightly larger. The fruits are narrow ovoid or oblong capsules. Cultivation is the same as for saintpaulia; high grade peat with perlite.



Ron Myhr photo

***Sinningia helleri* x *S. guttata*** (green leaves with spotted flowers)

Entered in Class 43 by Dave Zaitlin, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

(Please enjoy reading about this new hybrid; since it is, as yet, unnamed it will not appear on the list used for classification at shows)

This is a true-breeding cultivar that started as a collaborative project in 2016 with Hung Nguyen, who made the initial F1 hybrid between *S. guttata* and *S. helleri*. The F1 was backcrossed to *S. helleri*, and a BC1-generation plant was then self-pollinated. Two lineages of plants with helleri-type spotted flowers and either dark leaves or green leaves were then selected. The plant entered here is the end product of the 'green' lineage, and will soon be named, registered, and distributed.



Mel Grice photo

***Primulina medica* x *P. pseudoyungfuensis***

Entered in Class 43 by Karyn Cichocki, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

(Please enjoy reading about this new hybrid; since it is, as yet, unnamed it will not appear on the list used for classification at shows)

The seed pod was harvested on 4/11/22 and seed was sown on 6/7/22. The first transplanting was on 6/16/22 and the seedlings were transplanted almost on a monthly basis. The first bloom started in mid-June 2023 and the flowers thus far are light to medium pink and are slightly larger than those on *P. medica*. So far only one plant that has bloomed shows multiple flowers per stem as featured in the plant exhibited. Although leaves are more round than that on *P. medica*, they are not as dark as those of *P. pseudoyungfuensis* and thus far the red hairs that are dominant on the father have not shown up on the offspring.



Mel Grice photo

## Know Your Flower Show Manual!

Paul Susi

*This is the first in a series of articles in which we will highlight various aspects of the Flower Show Manual that are of importance to judges, clerks and everyone involved in putting on a convention or chapter flower show. Your comments are invited and you should address them to the person who has contributed the article.*

### Honorable Mention Ribbon

Paul Susi <[gesneriadawards@gmail.com](mailto:gesneriadawards@gmail.com)>

Since I have been Awards Chairperson, I have noticed that there appears to be a certain reticence on the part of judges to award Honorable Mention ribbons to entries which appear to deserve them. Whenever I peruse convention shows, I cannot determine why this is the case. There are always classes in which the scoring is tight (i.e., four entries all score over 90 points) or a class in which a high-scoring entry in the 80s just misses being awarded a yellow ribbon and other similar situations.

The Flower Show Manual discusses Honorable Mention ribbons in two locations: under Judges and under Award Guidelines. Let's take a look at those two sections.

### Judges

"The following should be kept in mind by each judge when judging a flower show" is how the section on judges is prefaced and this is the point made about Honorable Mention ribbons:

8. Honorable Mention may be awarded to an entry that shows special quality, but does not win a first, second, or third place award, or where point scoring is close.

### Award guidelines

Honorable Mention: May be awarded to exhibits deserving of special recognition or in a class with a number of high scoring entries.

As you can see, these two sections reinforce each other: Honorable Mention ribbons should be considered when 1) scoring is very close or 2) when an exhibit deserves recognition and was not awarded a blue, red or yellow ribbon. Note that point #8 under Judges implies that there may be more than three entries displaying special qualities. Just because judges recognized

the first, second and third place winners by giving them ribbons, they are not constrained in recognizing any other entries which show special qualities.

What does the receipt of an Honorable Mention ribbon say to an exhibitor? To someone who has never won a ribbon before, it is a strong encouragement that their entry has merit that was recognized by the judges. Having a ribbon lying next to an entry, regardless of the exhibitor's history, does boost one's confidence as an exhibitor. Honorable Mention ribbons on the table are also a visual cue to anyone viewing the show of the quality of exhibits being shown.

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

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

Please send:

\*Articles and show reports to Mel Grice [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com)

\*Upcoming show information, miscellaneous announcements to Mel Grice [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com)

\*Address changes, subscription payments, and missing issues to Jill Fischer [jill.g.fischer2@gmail.com](mailto:jill.g.fischer2@gmail.com)

\* If paying by check, please indicate which version (email or postal) of *Appraisal* you want to receive. Checks should be made payable to **The Gesneriad Society**.

#### Notes on Photos and Text

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

Not sure when your *Appraisal* subscription expires? The number after your name on the label indicates the year your subscription ends. For example, 12/2023. Email subscribers will see the year your subscription expires in the Subject line: APPRAISAL September 2023 issue (23) = subscription expires at end of 2023.

## Flower Show Manual Revision

As a Gesneriad Society Judge, one of our most valuable tools is the *Flower Show Manual: A Guide for Show Personnel, Judges, and Exhibitors*. This document is available on the members-only page of the Society website, so it is accessible to all Society members in good stead (if you do not know your password to the members-only area, please contact the Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark). The manual was last revised in 2016. The Shows and Judging Committee will be undertaking a review of the Manual and will present recommended revisions to the judging community once it has been completed.

To facilitate this process, the Committee asks that our judges take some time to read the current Manual, reflect on what is currently written, and make revision suggestions. Ask poignant questions: Is this section clearly written so it is easily understood? Does the text reflect what our current practice is? Is the procedure listed reasonable and achievable? Are there other aspects of a show that are not currently covered?

This project is now currently underway. Therefore, if you have suggestions and recommendations for the revision of the Manual, please forward those by **October 15, 2023** to:

Paul Susi - [gesneriadawards@gmail.com](mailto:gesneriadawards@gmail.com)

Judy Zinni - [jzinni@bell.net](mailto:jzinni@bell.net)

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to your submissions.

## Additions and Corrections to List of Certified Judges

### Certified Judges 2023

Name	Level	Exp.	Travel	Address
Walker, Brad	S	24		



Send any additional corrections to the List of Judges to [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com)

## THE JUDGING TEAM

This plant of *Sinningia bullata* was brought in to a propagation workshop. It was explained that this plant has been growing for two to three years in this elongated manner with stems two to three feet long because this is how it grows in nature. In fact, each internode had been in flower continuously until two weeks ago. The question ensued — if it had been in flower, could it — or should it have been entered in the Little Show for judging? In what class, for what purpose, etc.?

A Master judge responded —

This is the way that the *Sinningia bullata* that I've tried growing would grow for me. I had them under a four-tube T8 fixture that is on for ten hours. I have no idea why it grew like that. Of course, if it was in flower, it could be entered. I might do so just to challenge the judges. But it is a flower show and we all try to exhibit plants that make a nice looking presentation. Some plants just don't make good "show" plants and if an exhibitor chooses to exhibit it, then they have to be prepared that it will be awarded a lower score.

A Senior judge responded —

If the show has a class that in any way represents an educational display or a representation of a plant growing in nature, then emphatically yes. With, or without flowers, this is a fascinating look at what happens in nature. We seldom find plants that are compact with perfectly shaped tubers and well clad in flowers. I would urge the inclusion of this type of exhibit for the insight it can provide. A card with all the information about growing sites and growth patterns would be needed to explain the unusual shape of this particular specimen of *Sinningia bullata*. If the show does not have such a class, include it anyway under "for exhibit only" with an educational card.



## CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS — ALL JUDGES

1. Member in good standing of The Gesneriad Society
2. Maintain a valid subscription to ***Appraisal***
3. Submit your Annual Judges Report to Judy Niemira by **October 30<sup>th</sup>** each year

Judy Niemira [judith.niemira@gmail.com](mailto:judith.niemira@gmail.com) or send to:

12 Dappled Drive, East Amherst, NY, 14051

cc: [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com) for any changes to address or email

**Reminder:** The ***Appraisal*** annual judges reporting period encompasses October 1st of the previous year to September 30th of the current year. Example: October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Report templates will arrive with the September issue of ***Appraisal***. If no report is received by October 30, 2023, it will be assumed that your intention is to resign your Gesneriad Society judging credentials. This will be documented in the January 2024 issue of ***Appraisal***.



Judges Review

Winston Goretsky photo