

Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from **The Gesneriad Society, Inc.**

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

Volume 16, Number 2

February 2025

This issue includes photos of gesneriads blooming now in North America and photos from Jamaica and Vietnam.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor

Sinningia 'WSL's Shiny Surprise' grown by Mary Schaeffer from Plymouth, Massachusetts. A hybrid created by Hsu Long Wu from Taiwan.

Mary Schaeffer photo



Blooming now...

Last spring I was repotting this *Primulina baishouensis*. The rock had been sitting on my potting table for years. It caught my eye as I was looking for a pot and I thought "Why not? After all, primulinas grow in cracks in rocks in the wild." So I put the root ball with a little soil in the hole in the rock and put it in the greenhouse. It was doing very well. After a couple of months I decided to lift it out of the pot to see how roots were doing. As I lifted the plant, the rock came with it. The roots had attached themselves firmly to the rock, so that's where it's going to stay. It has bloomed a few times over the summer and fall. This is the most blooms it has had at one time so far. The rock is called feather rock - it's a type of volcanic rock with lots of air holes. We water with a hose in the greenhouse. I just spray it every time I go by with the hose.

Dee



Primulina baishouensis - Dee Stewart



Dee Stewart photos



Sinningia 'Romanza'
Wallace Wells
Wallace Wells photo



Sinningia 'Judy Becker'
Wallace Wells
Wallace Wells photo



Primulina 'Atsuko'
Wallace Wells
Wallace Wells photo



Saintpaulia 'Buckeye Lady Love'
Vicki Ferguson
Vicki Ferguson photo

I recently visited the northeast coast of Jamaica and was able to find some gesneriads.

In a more exposed area I was able to find a *Rhytidophyllum* sp., growing in light shade with numerous ferns. Sadly, it was not in bloom. It is pictured growing with *Adiantum tenerum* and *Pelazoneuron serra*.



Alex Yu photo

Along several streams, I was able to find wonderful displays of *Gesneria acaulis*, often growing lithophytically* on slopes and cliffs. Many seedlings were visible on a surface composed of dense clay. All populations I was able to find were in thick shade under the canopy, often growing with *Adiantum tenerum*, *Pelazoneuron serra*, *Peperomia clusiifolia*, and *Selaginella plana*.



Alex Yu photos

*Lithophytic means relating to plants that grow on rocks. Lithophytes can grow on cliff faces, escarpments, or stony soil. They get nourishment from the atmosphere and use the rock as a surface to take root.

Primulina drakei growing lithophytically in Vietnam



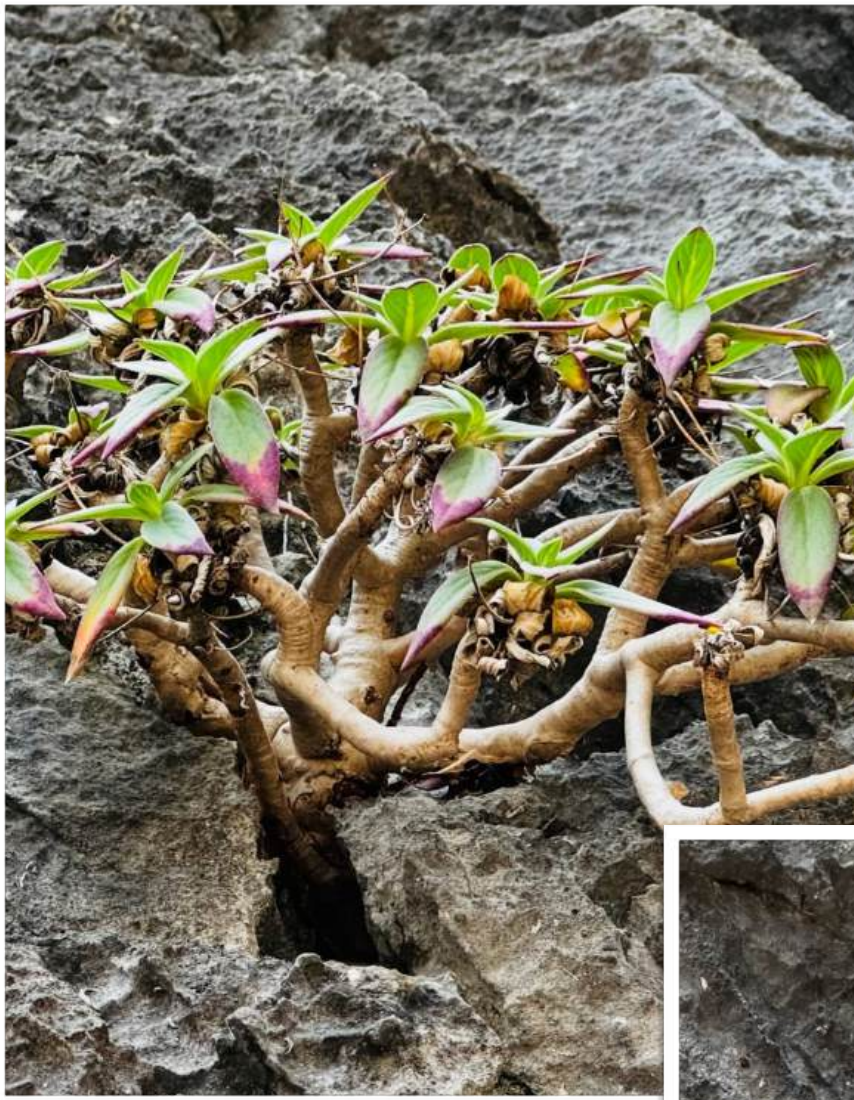
Joel Egan photo

Joel Egan

"More photos of this truly remarkable primulina species growing everywhere on the sheer rock cliffs of Vinh Lan Ha, northeast Vietnam.

It is winter at the moment, so the plants are in a somewhat dormant state where they shed lower leaves and look dried out.

These plants are thriving in the tiniest crevices with little to no soil, exposed to the pelting rain and baking sun.



They are very tough plants.

I used to grow this species and it died on me! I must have really done something wrong to make my plant less happy than these gnarled and haggard beauties."

Joel Egan photos





“Gesneriads Gather in the Garden State” The Gesneriad Society’s 68th Annual Convention

June 29 to July 5, 2025

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel
199 Smith Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Registration is now open

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2025-convention-parsippany-nj/>

Convention T-Shirts Are Ready!

T-shirts with this year's convention logo are available for purchase from the [store](#) on the Gesneriad Society website. Click on **Apparel** and then **Shirts**, and you'll see the shirts with this year's convention logo on them. They come in men's and women's sizes and in various colors.

None will be sold at the convention, however. They have to be ordered ahead of time and will be delivered to your home address. To quote one buyer: "**beautiful!**"





From the editor —

Thanks to all those sending photos and comments! Please keep them coming!

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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Membership and Changes of Address

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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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