



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from Chapter newsletters, our journal GESNERIADS, and original sources)

Volume 4, Number 3

March 2013

This issue includes photos of Kartuz Greenhouses, Jaco Truter's discussion of *Streptocarpus haygarthii* and *Streptocarpus occultis*, Ben Paternoster's observations on *Sinningia helioana*, and Coming Events.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Nancy Kast of San Antonio, Florida, USA sent these photos of *Paradyrmonia hypocyrta*. It is about 26 inches tall, growing in an enclosed 40-gallon fish tank with almost 100% humidity. (See last month's issue for photos of Nancy's growing methods)



A Visit to Kartuz Greenhouses

Michael Kartuz Kartuz@kartuz.com
Vista, California, USA



Michael Kartuz shows Sinningia tubers starting to sprout new growth



<http://www.kartuz.com/>





Photos taken by Stephen Maciejewski and Mel Grice at Kartuz Greenhouses during a visit by members of the Gesneriad Society Board of Directors after this year's Board Retreat held in California.





Board members (from left to right) - Jo Anne Martinez, Mel Grice, Susan Grose, Gussie Farrice, Bob Stewart and Dee Stewart



Board member Irina Nicholson



Two Interesting South African Streptocarpus Species

Jaco Truter Jaco.Truter@fenner.com
Isando, South Africa

Streptocarpus haygarthii:

This monocarpic unifoliolate occurs over a large area of KwaZulu-Natal province, from sea level in the Umtamvuna Nature Reserve, where huge pink-flowered and blue-flowered specimens occur to the fairly small rose-colored forms that grow in the Drakensberg Mountains at altitudes above 2500 masl. [meters above sea level - ed.]

There are a number of geographic forms, so a whole collection of different forms of this species would make a pretty spectacular showing. The form shown in the photo is a particularly attractive one collected at Kranskop, in central KwaZulu-Natal province, the type locality of *Streptocarpus floribundus*. The long, arching peduncles carry masses of soft white/lilac flowers, with two violet flashes. This species is easily confused with *Streptocarpus confusus* and *Streptocarpus pentherianus*.



Jaco Truter photo

Streptocarpus occultis:

This diminutive perennating unifoliolate is part of a large group of similar-looking species with small tubular white flowers that includes *Streptocarpus rimicola*, *Streptocarpus makabengensis*, *Streptocarpus davyi*, *Streptocarpus pusillus* and others. This species is very rare, only occurring in two or three small populations near Warburton, in Mpumalanga province; growing in the shelter of huge granite boulders in open rolling grassland.



Jaco Truter photo

When originally collected, it was thought to be nothing more than another form of *Streptocarpus rimicola*, but Hilliard and Burtt eventually officially described it as a new species. In contrast to *S. rimicola* and *S. makabengensis* that are strictly monocarpic (growing, flowering once, and then dying off), *S. occultis* is perennating (flowers over a number of seasons). In nature, it is a tiny plant, the leaf being barely 2 cm in length. In cultivation it increases dramatically in size. As with *S. rimicola*, *S. makabengensis*, and many others in this group, all the flowers are self-fertilized.

A Strange Sinningia

Ben Paternoster ben9@optonline.net
Huntington, NY, USA

We are quite accustomed to seeing Sinningias without bloom, but seldom in bloom without foliage. *Sinningia helioana* (formerly *Sinningia* sp. "Santa Teresa") as a mature plant does just that.

Karyn Cichocki gave me two seedlings of this Sinningia a few years ago. Based on the cultural information she provided, I placed the plants on the bottom shelf of my light setup in a prop box with the cover slightly ajar. Also in this box were the three micro-miniature *Sinningia* species *muscicola*, *pusilla*, and *concinna*. I would describe the environment as filtered light and evenly moist. The tubers sent up single leaves from various points on the tubers (usually in the spring), but not many. Usually the leaves would turn yellow in the fall and drop off. Finally, I asked Karyn if it would ever bloom. Her response was that it takes at least two years before the tubers are mature enough to send up blooms. I was encouraged because it had been a couple of years since she gave me the plants. Sure enough, after the foliage died and fell off this fall, flower spikes appeared on both tubers.



Sinningia helioana
Ben Paternoster photo

This is not the only Sinningia with the unusual habit of producing flowers and leaves that emerge separately directly from the tuber, but it is the most recently found and published. The two previous ones are *Sinningia defoliata* and *Sinningia tuberosa*. *Sinningia helioana* and *S. defoliata* produce leaves and flowers successively in separate stages while *S. tuberosa* produces leaves and flowers separately directly from the tuber at the same stage. Strangely, these three species are not closely related. *Sinningia helioana* is placed within the clade that also includes the three micro-miniature species *S. pusilla*, *S. muscicola*, and *S. concinna*. Since I grew mine with these three species, this may account for my success.

Sinningia helioana was named for Helio de Queiroz Boudet Fernandes, director of the Mello Leitão Museum in Santa Teresa, Brazil who collected this very interesting plant. There is a hybrid with this species and *S. pusilla*. Created by Dale Martens in collaboration with Karyn Cichocki, it was named *Sinningia* 'Heartland's Flashlight'.

Source: Taxonomic revision of *Sinningia* Nees (Gesneriaceae) IV: six new species from Brazil and a long overlooked taxon, 2010, Alain Chautems, Thereza Cristina Costa Lopes, Mauro Peixoto & Josiene Rossini.



Sinningia 'Heartland's Flashlight'
Dale Martens photo

This article appeared in **Gesneriad News**, Vol. 44, No. 6,
February 2013, Mel Grice, editor.

Coming Events

March 23 — Christiana, DE

Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale
Boscov's Department Store in Christiana Town Center, Route 273 (Just off Interstate 95)
Christiana, DE 19702.

Saturday March 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parking is free and the store is handicapped accessible. The sale will offer choice African violets from the Violet Gallery, gesneriads and houseplants from Gary's Specialty Plants (supplier to the Longwood Gardens Gift Shop) as well as choice species and hybrids grown by members. Additional information: Quentin Schlieder qcsjr@comcast.net or visit <http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/files/AnnualShowAndSale/AnnualShowAndSale.htm>

April 6-7 — Sacramento, CA

Capital City AVS Annual judged show and sale

Sacramento Garden & Arts Center

3330 McKinley Blvd.

Sacramento, CA

April 6 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Additional information: Lynn Lombard lynn_lombard@att.net or visit <http://www.sacviolets.org/>

April 6-7 — Morristown, NJ

African Violet Club of Morris County 18th annual show and plant sale

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

53 East Hanover Avenue

Morristown, NJ

April 6 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Additional information: Karyn Cichocki kdc05@ptd.net

April 13-14 — Oyster Bay, NY

Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale in conjunction with the

Saintpaulia Society of Long Island

Planting Fields Arboretum Conference Center

Oyster Bay, NY

April 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

April 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information: Ben Paternoster ben9@optonline.net

April 13-14 — Cleveland, OH

North Coast Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale

Cleveland Botanical Garden

11030 East Blvd.

Cleveland, OH 44106

April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.(sales); show from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information: Carole McKnight mcknighttime@yahoo.com

April 20-21 — Columbus, OH

Columbus African Violet Society judged show and plant sale

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden

1777 East Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43203

April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.(sales); show from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

April 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information: Donna Vogelpohl donnaV8452@columbus.rr.com

May 26 - June 2 — Austin, TX

African Violet Society of America annual convention

Renaissance Austin Hotel

Arboretum Boulevard

Austin, TX 78759

Additional information:

<http://www.avsa.org/convention/index.html>



Convention 2013

The Gesneriad Society's
57th Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Toronto
370 King Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 2 - July 6
Hosted by the
Toronto Gesneriad Society

REGISTER NOW

Flower Show and Plant Sales
Open to the Public and FREE
Friday, July 5 – 9 AM to 5 PM (sales)
2 PM to 5 PM (show)
Saturday, July 6 – 8:30 AM to 12 Noon (sales)
8:30 AM to 3 PM (show)



From the editor —

Another snow/ice storm is on the way as I finish this issue. My plants are perking up with the days getting longer. Somehow they know that warmer weather is coming. The spring shows will soon be here! Take lots of photos.

Please continue sending articles. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at melsgrice@earthlink.net

Mel

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Donations

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization with an IRS section 501 (c)(3) status for donations. You can make your donations online at www.gesneriadsociety.org. You may also send your donation (check payable to The Gesneriad Society) to:

Paul Susi, Development Chairperson
2 Rushmore Street, Huntington Station, NY 11746

For additional information, contact: [<development@gesneriadsociety.org>](mailto:development@gesneriadsociety.org).

Membership and Changes of Address

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

Changes of Address — Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary [<membership@gesneriadsociety.org>](mailto:membership@gesneriadsociety.org) 90 days prior to moving to avoid missing an issue. The Society is not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late notification of address changes. Back issues may be ordered from The Gesneriad Society Publications.

Renewals — Send dues to the Membership Secretary. A Renewal Notice is sent two months prior to the expiration date of your membership. (The expiration date is printed on your mailing label/membership card on the back cover of GESNERIADS.) Please remit your dues prior to the expiration date to avoid missing an issue as we are not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late payment of dues. Back issues may be ordered from Publications.

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, Slide Programs and Seed Fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

New Member Date _____

Renewal Membership # _____

Name _____
FAMILY NAME GIVEN NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

Address _____
STREET

_____ CITY STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Email _____ Telephone _____

(Rates in US\$)	Mailing in US 1 year	Mailing in US 3 years	Mailing outside US 1 year	Mailing outside US 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	\$70	\$30	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$26	\$73	\$31	\$88
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life	Mailing in US \$375		Mailing outside US \$450	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Option	Electronic journal copy (no print copy) for Individual or Household Members \$20 per year anywhere in the world			

I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund

Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Gesneriad Research Center Fund

Students and Speakers Convention Fund

In Honor Memory of _____

Please make checks or money orders payable in US\$ on a US bank to: **The Gesneriad Society**

Or, charge my VISA, or MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Amount _____

Mail to: **The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
1122 East Pike St., PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA**

For application online: www.gesneriadsociety.org