



Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

Volume 3, Number 6

June 2012

This issue includes an article by Elvin McDonald and photos he took of *Streptocarpus* at Floriade, photos from the North Coast Gesneriad Society Show, notes Dale Martens took at David Thompson's lecture on *Streptocarpus*, and photos from the AVSA-AVSC Convention in Detroit.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Vivian Liu will be the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association speaker on July 4th at the Gesneriad Society Convention this year. The GHA meeting is earlier in the day this year — 3:30 in the afternoon.

We are going to have a fantastic raffle table including *Sinningia* 'An's Nyx' (above). Rhizomes will be available of *Kohleria* 'Designer's Jewel Case' (right).

There will be quite a variety of other new hybrid gesneriads available on the GHA raffle table.



Streptocarpus wendlandii ?

Elvin McDonald



"I shot these photos in April at the 2012 Floriade in Venlo, the Netherlands. Photo below is the more usual lavender color." Elvin
(See next page to learn more about Elvin McDonald)



Editor's note – this is a unifoliate streptocarpus in a commercial exhibit, and it is labeled as *Streptocarpus wendlandii* but to some folks' eyes it looks more like *Streptocarpus saundersii*. What do you think?

From the Society's Founder

Elvin McDonald <emcdonald@botanicalcenter.com>
Des Moines, Iowa, USA

At age 74, people are not surprised when I tell them my children Mark, Steven, and Jeannene will be 51, 50, and 48 this year, but disbelieve when I say the fourth will be 60. The "fourth" is, of course, what has become The Gesneriad Society. I was actually only 13 when I sent letters to *Flower Grower* and *Popular Gardening* magazines, asking those interested in forming a gloxinia society to write me. Within days after publication I received more than 300 letters in our Rural Free Delivery mailbox in front of my parents' farm in the Oklahoma panhandle. Our party line was so unreliable that I had to be driven 16 miles into town to use a friend's telephone in order to make a long-distance call.

The Florist Gloxinia hybrids created by Albert Buell were my inspiration for starting a society. I had been a member of the American Begonia Society and a reader of *The Begonian* since I was about age 10, and that organization was my model for naming the journal THE GLOXINIAN and for having a seed fund.

Earlier this year, Paul Susi sent out images of Charles Lawn's hybrids in *GloxNews* and, of course, they set my heart aflutter. Times are different: Unlike the old days of mail and unreliable telephone service, Paul connected me with Dale Martens within minutes by email ... and within days I had a packet of Lawn's hybrid seeds from her. They arrived on my birthday and I handed them off to the best grower I know, Gary Heggen of Conrad, Iowa. Gary coaches our Team Orchid volunteers who, under his able direction, curate the orchid collection at the Des Moines Botanical Center where I am Friends Director. Gary is also a member of the Evening African Violet Society of Des Moines, which is now working to build a gesneriad collection at the Botanical Center.

Yes, I admit to pride at having started what has become The Gesneriad Society, but I am proudest of what all of you do to make it one of the best in terms of solid science and research, cyberspace presence, and outreach to all plant people. Congratulations. Here's to another 60 years!



This article appeared originally in GESNERIADS Vol. 61, No. 3, Third Quarter 2011, Jeanne Katzenstein, editor. Read other interesting articles like this about gesneriads by becoming a member of The Gesneriad Society and receiving our quarterly 56-page journal.

Elvin McDonald and Dale Martens in a photo taken in 2009.

North Coast Gesneriad Society

The North Coast Gesneriad Society (new chapter in Ohio) held its first mini-show in April 2012 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. The theme was "North Coast Gesneriads – First Venture." It turned out to be a huge success with over eighty entries. Additional plants were offered for sale along with a raffle. There was great participation by the members and the public. The chapter meets the third Saturday (usually) of every month at the Orange Library. Call Penny at 440-286-8235 for more information.



Primulina USBRG 98-083
Linda Neumann



Saintpaulia 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'
Tracy Lorence



Primulina 'Patina'
Linda Neumann

Photos courtesy of Carole McKnight



David Thompson's lecture on Streptocarpus

Dale Martens <dalemartens@mchsi.com>
Sherrard, Illinois USA

I attended David Thompson's lecture on *Streptocarpus* at the recent AVSA-AVSC Convention. Ninety minutes went very fast. David is an excellent speaker, very organized and used humor. He didn't have a PowerPoint program, just talked the whole time. We both use the low Phosphate fertilizers, I recall his being 20-10-20. He only uses 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of water and prefers rain water or reverse osmosis water. I use R/O water but use 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. I think I'll try the 1/8 teaspoon on a couple of plants.

David prefers to use Pro-Mix HP for his plants. He mentioned something interesting. When it comes time to repot, he only takes the very center three leaves of a newly emerging plant to pot into a new pot. Everything else is thrown away. No soil is kept. He's right that if you look very closely at a newly emerging plant, there are tiny roots poking out at the base. So he puts that "plant" into a small pot with fresh soil and keeps it in high humidity for several weeks until it roots. I usually take about a cubic inch's worth of roots and soil when I repot. I still have to put it in high humidity.

David loves looking at *Streptocarpus* flowers. His enthusiasm for hybridizing them is quite contagious. The funniest part was when he said something like when you look at the center of an AV flower what do you see? ...a bunch of "naughty parts." Then when you look at the center of a *Streptocarpus* flower, you see beauty with color and lines.

His current favorite of his new hybrids is *Streptocarpus* 'Strawberry Cheesecake' and he's got it for sale on eBay right now. He sold a dozen of them right away at convention, but I missed it.

<http://stores.ebay.com/David-Thompsons-Plants/Streptocarpus-Information.html>



Streptocarpus 'Strawberry Cheesecake'



Streptocarpus 'TsF-Zhizel' introduced in Russia



Streptocarpus 'Sulphur Mine'

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice

AVSA - AVSC Convention Photos Detroit, Michigan, USA



Best Other Gesneriad — *Sinningia speciosa* 'Carangola'
Eileen McGrath



Streptocarpus 'Heartland's Peacock'
Dale Martens



Streptocarpus 'Dale's Polar Lava'
Dale Martens

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



Nautilocalyx species nova - Paul Kroll



Paradrymonia campostyla - Gary Dunlap



Best Semiminiature — *Saintpaulia* 'Pink Playmate'
Tracy Lorence



Best Standard — *Saintpaulia* 'Frozen in Time'
Olga Semova



Saintpaulia 'Buckeye Smarty Jones'
Marge Farrand



Gesneria pedicellaris
Paul Kroll



Saintpaulia 'Petite Blarney' - Diane Miller



Streptocarpus pusillus JT 04-02 - Dale Martens



Episcia 'Kee Wee'
Donna Turner

Saintpaulia 'Heinz's Desert Song'
Donna Brining





Streptocarpus 'Dale's Polar Icicles' - Dale Martens



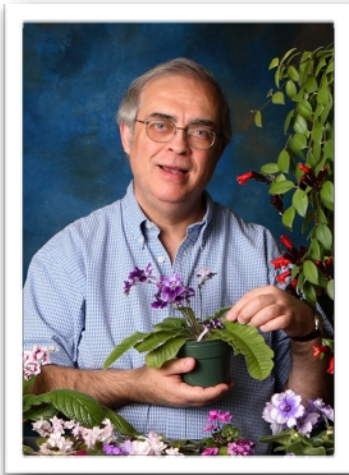
Sinningia 'Peridots Martian Sunset' - Eileen McGrath



Kohleria 'Manchu' - Mark Occhionero



Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Potpourri' - Tracy Lorence



From the editor —

This issue is rather late because of the AVSA-AVSC Convention in Detroit. The July issue will also be late so that I can share lots of photos from our Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle.

Please continue sending articles. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at editor.gleanings@gesneriadsociety.org.

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The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,
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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, Slide Programs and Seed Fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

New Member Date _____

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

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