



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 7

July 2012

Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings!** This issue includes photos from the 56th annual Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle hosted by the Puget Sound Chapter, Julie Mavity-Hudson chats about the importance of labels, and Jaco Truter on *Streptocarpus rhodesianus*.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



Sinningia 'Spellbound' grown and hybridized by Peter Shalit won the award for Best Peter Shalit hybrid at the Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle, Washington, USA.



Gesneriad Society 2012 Flower Show photos

Some of the special plants exhibited

(Go to www.gesneriadsociety.org to view photos of the award winners in each class)



Streptocarpus pusillus JT 04-02
Dale Martens



Primulina 'Omen'
Peter Shalit

Photos courtesy of Mel Grice



Episcia 'Pink Smoke'
Bob Clark



Lysionotus 'Pudding'
Bill Price



Streptocarpus fenestra-dei
Bill Price



Primulina dryas 'Latifolia' dwarf
Arleen Dewell



Chrysothemis sp. 'Ecuador'
Bill Price



Kohleria 'Thad's Uncle Ron'
Peter Shalit



Streptocarpus 'Heartland's White Gold'
Bill Price



Episcia 'Kee Wee'
Sharon Etheridge



Conandron ramondiodes 'Pink'
Bill Price



Primulina repanda var. *Guilinensis*
Arleen Dewell



Primulina 'Hotei'
Arleen Dewell



Sinningia 'Peridots Tie-Dyed'
Bill Price



Primulina spadiciformis
Bill Price



Episcia 'Harmony's Slinky Pink'
Bob Clark



Kohleria 'Bristol's Evil Storm'
Peter Shalit



Streptocarpus 'Little Kan'
Dee Stewart

Collection of microminiature Sinningias
(*Sinningia muscicola*, *Sinningia concinna*, *Sinningia pusilla*)
Peter Shalit





Monopyle species
Karyn Cichocki



Monopyle species
flower
Karyn Cichocki



Primulina sp. USBRG 98-083
Arleen Dewell



Amalophyllon clarkii
Doreen Dragon



Kohleria 'Magnifik'
Peter Shalit

Artistic and the Arts



Top left — "The Munchkins"
Paul Kroll

Top right — "Glinda the Good Witch"
Barb Festenstein



"Flying Monkeys"
Pat Shandrow



Fused glass plate depicting
Episcia 'Ember Lace'
John Wrightson

The Importance of Labels

Julie Mavity-Hudson julie.mavity@gmail.com
Joelton, Tennessee, USA

We have a number of new members in our society, which is really a wonderful thing. I remember when I first joined The Gesneriad Society in 1979. I was so excited to get all these wonderful cuttings and watch them grow into beautiful plants. I still remember the excitement of watching *Streptocarpus saxorum* babies rooting, and it still gives me a little thrill remembering it. What I didn't realize at the time was the importance of labeling those little plants. It may not seem important at first, as it didn't to me. I soon regretted that oversight, though.

There are a number of reasons to keep accurate labels. Suppose that you really like a plant you have, yet somehow one day you realize that you have lost it. If you know what it is, you can get another one like it. In addition, you may want to share that plant with others some day, and they will want to know the name. You may want to show that plant at some point as well, and you will need to know what it is.

It can be very difficult to identify a plant once you have lost a label, especially if it is a hybrid. There are so many hybrids today, and, unfortunately, many of them look a lot alike, though one may be hardier and grow better than others. There are a huge number of *Sinningia* and *Streptocarpus* hybrids, and a growing number of *Primulina* (former *Chirita*) hybrids. It is estimated that there are 30,000 African violet (*Saintpaulia*) hybrids. It is so difficult to find out the name of an AV with no label that we actually have a name for unidentified plants, we call them NOIDS (pronounced no-eeds, which stands for "no id's").

Amazingly, I was recently able to identify an African violet which didn't have a label, but this is so rare that it is the exception that proves the rule. The only reason I was able to identify it is because it is unusual and distinctive, with very long lower petals and unusual coloring, and because I knew where I had gotten it. I knew it was an Optimara because I had bought it directly from them at the Lawn and Garden Show. I asked on a couple of email lists (Gesneriphiles and AVInternational) and got the same response from both of them that it looked like 'Optimara Hiroshige II'. I was then able to contact member Russell Kirchner who works at Optimara and he confirmed that it was Hiroshige II. This experience is *far* from the norm, and it is much better to keep your labels carefully intact. Another reason for labels is to provide information on where you obtained it (you can then go back and ask for growing advice if necessary) and for keeping up with when you repotted, which can help you keep the plant healthy. I try to write at least the date of potting, and also may write the initials of the person I got it from.



One more note: if your label has an acquisition number on it, which could read something like "ABG 2001-52", "USBRG 98-083", "GRF 06-45", or "MP 1010", or any other such code, be sure

and keep that number too. These are numbers which are given to a plant when it was collected, and keeping those numbers can help us maintain genetic diversity, plus, if the scientists discover that the plant is actually a different species from what was thought, we will know exactly which plants to apply the new species name to.

From now on, I hope you will all keep your plants carefully labeled; it is worth it!

This article appeared in a slightly different form in **Gesneri-Eds**, Vol. 39, No. 12, December 2011, Julie Mavity-Hudson and Carol Ann Bonner, Editors. **Gesneri-Eds** is the newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of The Gesneriad Society.

Streptocarpus rhodesianus - the flannel cloth of the genus

Jaco Truter <Jaco.Truter@fenner.com>

Isando, South Africa

Streptocarpus rhodesianus occurs in a narrow band centered in the northwest parts of Zambia, plus the adjoining parts of Angola, Zaire (current Democratic Republic of Congo), and Tanzania (where *Streptocarpus rhodesianus* ssp. *grandiflorus*, with markedly larger floral parts occurs).

The species is characterized by relatively large soft flannel-type leaves, with wiry peduncles covered in small flowers, resembling those of *Streptocarpus meyerii*. The short tubes are white with wine-red stripes/dots/blotches in the corolla throat.

Unlike many of the other species found in south-central Africa, *S. rhodesianus* is usually found in savannah/miombo-type vegetation growing under overhanging rocks/ledges on rock outcrops.

The plants featured in the photos below were collected by a friend at Kabompo Gorge in northwest Zambia last season. When received, they appeared to be dead, completely dried out, with not a sign of life. Once water had been restored, the plants were miraculously "resurrected". A closely related relative, *Streptocarpus huamboensis*, only found on the summit of Mount Moco in Huambo Province of southern Angola, is a true "survivor," with plants being collected by the South African National Biodiversity Institute in April 2010 completely "dried-out and lifeless," with some plants inadvertently forgotten until December 2011. Within ten days of receiving water they had recovered and resumed growing.





From the editor —

This issue is rather late so I can share lots of photos from our Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle. Members of the host chapter, the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society, created a wonderful experience for all who attended.

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.

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