

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Gesneriads

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Gesneria bracteosa

Photo: John L. Clark

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Primulina 'Silver Feather'

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The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

The objects of The Gesneriad Society are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the Gesneriad Plant Family (Gesneriaceae); to stimulate a wide-spread interest in; to gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, propagation, and conservation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination, introduction, and conservation of species and cultivars.

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for the naming of gesneriad cultivars excepting those in *Streptocarpus* section *Saintpaulia*. Any person desiring to register a cultivar should contact Irina Nicholson, 2512 South Balsam Way, Lakewood, CO 80227 USA
hybridregistrar@gesneriads.org.

Message from the President



HARD TO BELIEVE HOW TIME IS FLYING BY. BY THE time you read this, it will be almost time for convention. If you haven't signed up, I recommend it highly. It's always a great experience and I can't imagine missing it. I always learn so much and get to hang out with my favorite people. I know that many of you just cannot go for various reasons, but don't worry. We will have lots of pictures posted on the website afterwards.

I hope that those of you who live near a chapter of The Gesneriad Society take advantage of that good fortune. A local chapter is a wonderful way to learn about gesneriads, as well as to acquire new plants, good advice, and good friends. I have been a member of the Tennessee Gesneriad Society since 1979 and it is truly a great experience. I have met the best friends of my life there, and learned so much. I also have acquired (too many) plants, but it's also a place to share the over-abundance. That can be a great help in the future when you lose a plant and want to replace it. Check out the Chapters page on our website to see if there is a chapter near you. If there isn't, why not gather up some friends and start one?

Check out the Chapters page on our website to see if there is a chapter near you.

I am getting ready to sow some gesneriad seed from our great Seed Fund. If you haven't yet tried growing gesneriads from seed, you are missing out on a great opportunity to increase the diversity of your collection without spending a fortune. Packets of seed are very reasonable, and we have quite a good collection, thanks to donations from our members. It's also really fun to pollinate your plants and watch the seedpods grow. I am watching a huge nautilocalyx pod develop right now. Once you have ripe seed, why not sow a little for yourself and then send the rest to the Seed Fund? It's a great feeling to share.

Hope to see you all at the convention!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie".

Julie Mavity-Hudson
<gespres2015@gmail.com>
Joelton, TN, USA

🌱 Seeds For Us 🌱

Send orders for hybrid seed to:
Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue,
Staten Island, NY 10308

Send orders for species seed to:
Carolyn Ripps, 21 Sprain Road,
Hartsdale, NY 10530

**Send donations of seed for the
Seed Fund to:**
Karyn Cichocki, 79 Beaver Run Road,
Lafayette, NJ 07848

From The Editor



Despite this era of social media... there is still a very big place for in-person interaction.

I FINALLY REGISTERED A COUPLE OF MY HYBRIDS. I'm a very slow hybridizer. When a new seedling blooms it's incredibly exciting, but I resist the temptation to immediately name and distribute the plant. I've learned that just because the plant has a pretty flower, doesn't mean that it will be easy to grow, floriferous, easy to propagate, and all those other characteristics that make a new plant worthwhile for folks to grow. I discard most of the hybrids I produce, and grow the most promising seedlings through several cycles of bloom and propagation before considering releasing them.

Ideally I would register a hybrid when I name and release it, but I've been lax about that. With much prodding, though, I have gone ahead and registered one *sinningia* and one *primulina*. Registering makes a plant "official," we publish descriptions and photos of all newly registered hybrids in *Gesneriads* and they are also archived on the Society website. There is also an award at each convention show for the best recently registered hybrid, which brings more attention to the plant. If you are hybridizing *gesneriads*, please consider registering any that prove to be worth releasing to the public. Registration of a hybrid is easy and it doesn't cost anything. Information about registering hybrids can be found on the *Gesneriad Society* website.

Gesneriads are easy to hybridize, so breeding new varieties has always been a big part of my enjoyment of the plant family. If you haven't tried it yet, I encourage you to do so. Joining the *Gesneriad Hybridizers Association (GHA)* is a good way to get started. Their newsletter has articles by other amateur *gesneriad* breeders, and their seed fund offers new hybrid seed to members of the GHA at no cost, so you can grow new hybrids without even making a cross. In fact, one of the ancestors of my *sinningia* hybrids was grown from GHA seed many years ago.

This is the last issue of *Gesneriads* before our 2018 Convention. Despite this era of social media, where we can connect online with friends of shared interest, there is still a very big place for in-person interaction. I love seeing all my old *gesneriad* friends and meeting new ones. And speaking of hybridizing, the GHA also hosts a presentation at each *Gesneriad Society* Convention, and it is one of the most popular and best-attended events of the week. I hope to see you there!

Enjoy *Gesneriads*!

Peter

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Seattle, WA, USA

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The 2017 Lawrenceville School in Cuba Program: Trekking from Guantánamo to the North Coast through the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park

John L. Clark, Aldo Leopold Distinguished Teaching Chair, Science Department, The Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 USA ~
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ALEJANDRO DE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL Park straddles the provinces of Holguín and Guantánamo in eastern Cuba. This park is one of Cuba's most important biological treasures. It has one of the highest rates of endemism in the Caribbean because the flora is adapted to soils derived from ultramafic (=Serpentine) rocks that contain toxic levels of heavy metals. In 2001 it was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Most tourism to the park is limited to short hikes (2-3 km) along the north coast. Since my first visit to Cuba in 2006, I have always wanted to trek from the southern end (Guantánamo) to the north coast (Holguín) of the park. That dream became

a reality when the Cuban park service launched an initiative in 2016 to promote tourism through trekking. The recently developed route is referred to as the *Trek Ruta Ojito de Agua*. In collaboration with the Cuban park service, I organized the first group from the United States to complete the trek. A total of 13 students from the Lawrenceville School comprised our group, which was co-led by the author and Jennifer Mayr (both teachers in Lawrenceville's Science Department) and our colleague Stephen Wallis, a teacher in the School's Mathematics Department.

We walked more than 60 miles throughout six days and five nights. We brought with us more than a thousand pounds of gear packed in duffels that are as readily placed on an airplane as they are mounted on mules. We brought lunches for the trek (our guides only provided breakfast and dinner); two fully functional portable solar suitcases that were built by students on campus; linens and bedding that we donated to our Cuban colleagues; camping gear; books; and s'more supplies so that we could share a treat from the USA with our hosts. Some areas were remote and required tents, cooking over fires, and the use of creative latrines. Two nights were spent in the small and remote village of La Melba where we visited an elementary school and interacted with members of the community. We worked directly with two park administrators and five Cuban biologists. We hired more than 20 local guides to cook, open trails, and facilitate the 10+ pack mules that carried our provisions. Not only were the students immersed in a botanical paradise, but they were able to experience a wilderness-based trek in one of Cuba's most diverse and remote forests.

Outlined below are highlights of the gesneriads we photographed and the route that we followed. Essays written by three students are also featured to provide you with an idea of their personal journeys and experiences during this unique learning opportunity.



A. Our expedition team of Lawrenceville School teachers, students, and our Cuban colleagues (park guards, cooks, and biologists) during our first night on the Trek Ojito de Agua (Guantánamo). **B.** Cooking food on a fire. **C.** Pack mule. **D.** Our kitchen and communal area at Alto de Iberia (Holguín).

June 8, 2017 – Guantánamo to Ojita de Agua

The day prior (June 7th) was dedicated to traveling between Philadelphia and the city of Guantánamo. We spent our first night at Hotel Marti and the next day traveling by bus to the park guard station known as *Ojito de Agua*. We arrived relatively early (about 1 p.m.) and hiked in the surrounding forest on the trail *Sendero la Torre*. The most abundant gesneriad in the area was *Gesneria bracteosa* (Figure 2). What was remarkable about this population was the broad range of corolla colors (uniformly yellow or uniformly maroon or yellow suffused with maroon). The unbranched trees range from two to three meters tall, which is significantly taller than most other members of the family that are small herbs.

June 9 – Ojita de Agua to Piloto

The morning was dedicated to sorting gear on mules, adjusting packs, and preparing for the walk to an abandoned mine that is referred to locally as *Campamento Boca de Piloto*. The walk is about 10 miles and we gained 500 meters in elevation. This area is part of the Rio Toa watershed and the vegetation shifts from a dry to a montane forest (i.e., more moisture and higher elevation). The three gesneriads that we observed in this region were *Gesneria bracteosa*, *G. duchartreoides*, and *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

June 10-11 – Piloto to La Melba

We hiked to the small village of La Melba, which is currently the only locality on the trek that you can locate on a map. The surrounding forests of La Melba are some of the most understudied regions in Cuba. One of the goals of our expedition was to locate populations of *Gesneria wrightii*, which is a shrub that is extirpated from its original locality. Though I initially reported that it was extinct (Clark et al. 2013), I was confident that it existed nearby because I have seen photographs from Cuban colleagues who have conducted research in these forests. It is predicted that the only known populations of this rare endemic species exist near La Melba. We spent two nights there and an entire day was dedicated to walking through forests near abandoned bauxite mines in search of *G. wrightii*. Unfortunately, we did not locate a single population of *G. wrightii*. One factor that complicated our search was the recent devastation of the local vegetation from Hurricane Matthew. Another factor may be that it was difficult to locate because it was not flowering during our visit. Either way, there is more than one reason for returning to La Melba. Other gesneriads that we observed in the environs of La Melba were *Columnnea sanguinea*, *Gesneria bracteosa*, and *G. duchartreoides*.

June 12 – La Melba to Alto de Iberia

The hike out of La Melba to Alto de Iberia was along a ridgeline flanked by forests of trees that superficially appear like giant poinsettias (*Euphorbia helena*) and camellias (*Bonnetia cubensis*). We crossed into the watershed of Santa Maria. One of the highlights of this segment of our expedition was meeting with a new set of park guards who brought fresh supplies of food and musical instruments. We enjoyed learning songs, dancing, and hearing the musical talents of our Cuban colleagues.

June 13 – Alto de Iberia to Bahia de Taco

Our hike out of the forest to the lowland northern coast ended at the Taco Bay Biological Research Station, between Moa and Baracoa near *Nibujon*. Seeing the ocean on the north coast of Cuba was a special moment because of the views and the rapidly approaching trailhead that led back to civilization. I was especially excited about the geological transition from serpentine to limestone. Associated with the limestone in this area is *Gesneria salicifolia*, a local endemic that is common along cliffs near the ocean.

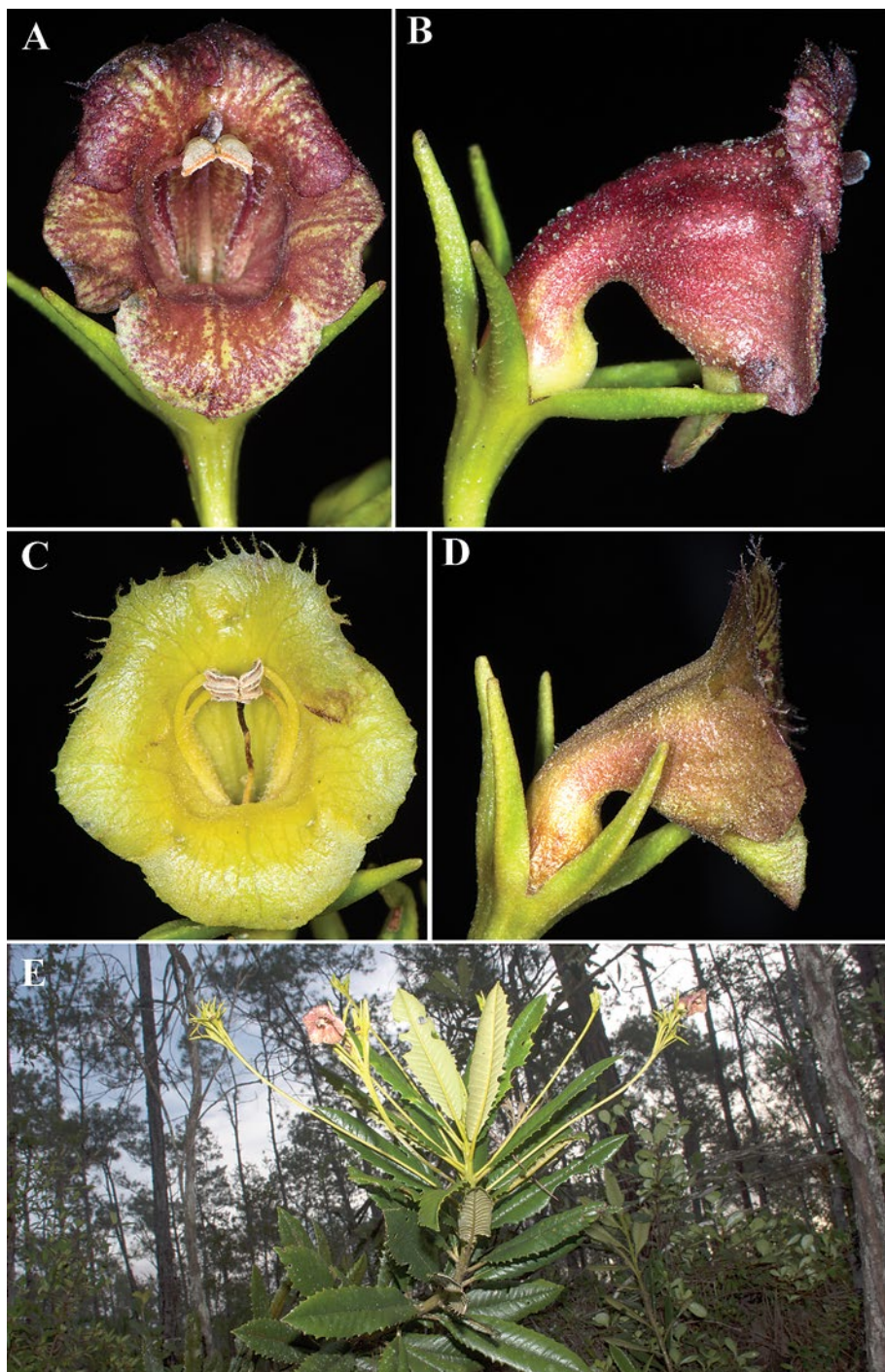
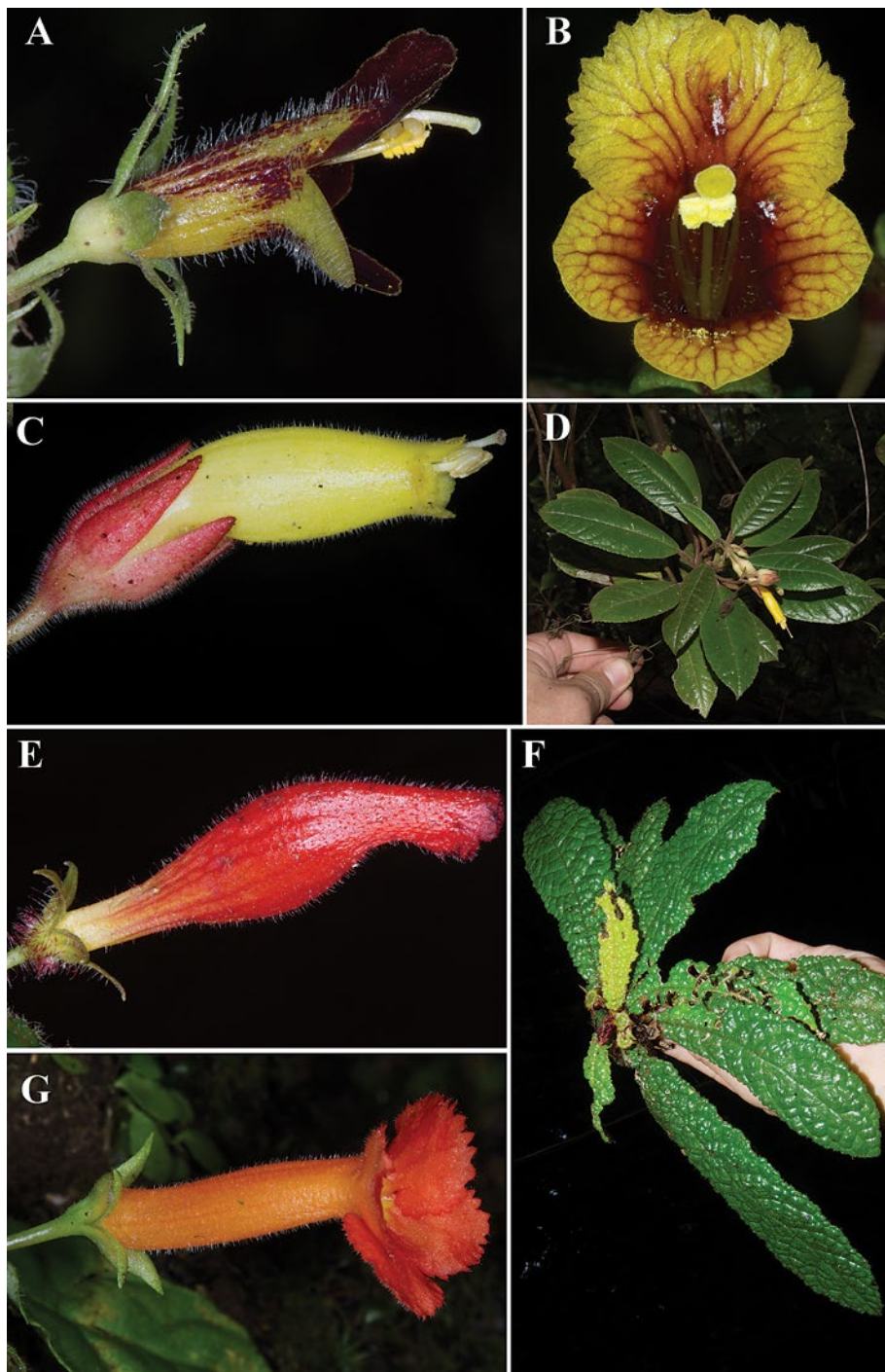
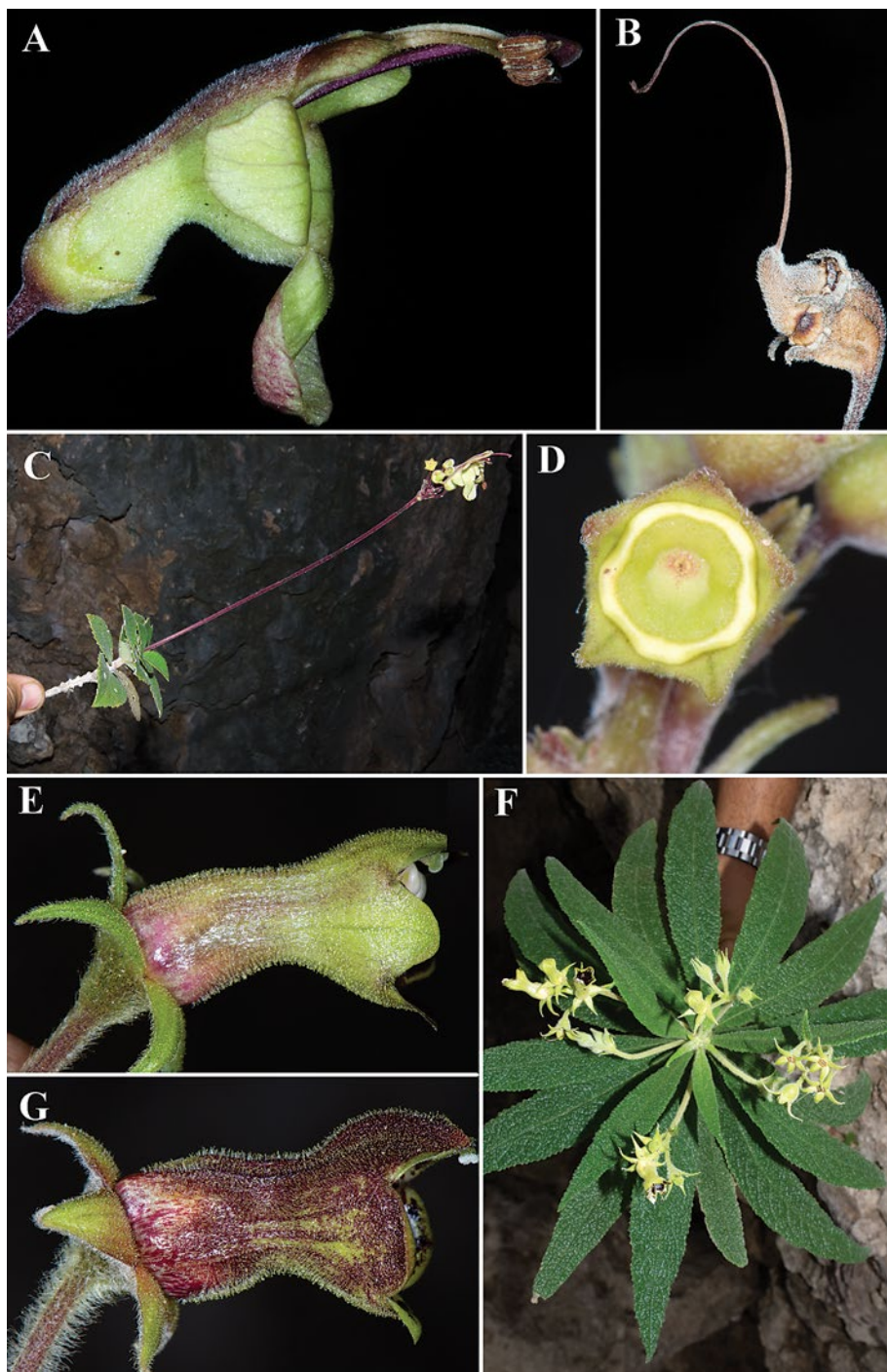


Figure 2. Corolla variation in a population of *Gesneria bracteosa* along the trail Sendero la Torre in Ojito de Agua (Guantánamo).



Common gesneriads located on the trail to the summit of El Yunque (Guantánamo).
A & B. *Gesneria depressa*. **C & D.** *Gesneria glandulosa*. **E & F.** *Gesneria purpurascens*.
G. *Gesneria reticulata*.



Two endemic gesneriads located along the southern coastal deserts of Guantánamo.
A-D: *Pheidonocarpa corymbosa*. **E-G:** *Rhytidophyllum acunae*.

June 14 to 19 – Circumnavigating the eastern peninsula

Our group left the forest for a more leisurely trip of bus travel, hotels, beaches, and restaurants. We dedicated one day to hiking to the summit of El Yunque de Baracoa, a picturesque peak that resembles an anvil (*yunque* in Spanish). Christopher Columbus mentioned El Yunque in his chronicles about the discovery of the Americas. The Cuban government declared El Yunque a National Monument in 1979. It is the only mountain in the Caribbean where you can observe more than ten different Gesneriaceae species during a relaxing day hike. These species include the following: *Bellonia spinosa*, *Besleria lutea*, *Columnnea tincta*, *C. sanguinea*, *Gesneria depressa* (= *G. shaferei*), *G. duchartreoides*, *G. glandulosa*, *G. purpurascens*, *G. reticulata*, and *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

We traveled by bus to Maisí, the eastern most point of Cuba and then to the southern coastal deserts of Guantánamo. The latter is home to two rare endemics: *Pheidonocarpa corymbosa* and *Rhytidophyllum acunae*. Eventually we made our way back to the north coast and spent our last two nights in the Cordillera Sierra de Nipe in the Mensura-Piloto National Park, about 110 km southwest of Holguín and 600 meters above sea level. This area is characterized by tropical pine forests, and it is the type locality of *Gesneria nipensis*.

Cuba is rapidly changing, especially as a result of a recent surge in tourism, particularly in the capital city of La Habana. I don't recall any point of our trip when we ran into more than a handful of other tourists and we did not see any Americans until we arrived at the Holguín airport. This expedition was made possible because of ongoing research for the Gesneriaceae treatment for the Flora of Cuba in collaboration with the following Cuban biologists: Sara Suárez T., Norvis Hernandez, and Pedro González Gutierrez. We covered a lot of territory during our brief visit, but there are still poorly known populations and a few new species that have never been photographed. I look forward to returning soon to maintain ongoing momentum of a better USA-Cuba relationship and to continue to promote Cuban biodiversity.

Literature Cited

Clark, J.L., J. Matos, S. Suarez T., S. Ginzburg, and L.E. Skog. 2013. An annotated species list for the Gesneriaceae of Cuba. *Selbyana* 31(2): 186-227.

Delivering the Power of the Sun to Cuba's Alejandro de Humboldt National Park

Annika Goldman, Class of 2018, The Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, USA



WHEN I TRAVELED TO EASTERN CUBA ON A biodiversity program with the Lawrenceville School in the summer of 2017, we packed hiking boots, granola, bug spray, sleeping bags, and two large blue “briefcases.” These were our Solar Suitcases, built by Lawrenceville students during their Environmental Science class.

The Suitcase components are created by We Share Solar (www.wesharesolar.org), a non-profit solar education program where high school students learn about how solar electricity works by building Solar Suitcases and studying the flow of energy through the systems. The Solar Suitcase is a stand-alone, 12-volt solar system that can power lights for two-three rooms for up to five hours at night. During the day, it can also charge many cell phones as well as digital equipment such as e-readers, laptops, headlamps, and camera equipment. When paired with an 80-100+ watt solar panel and a 14-amp hour



Park station Ojita de Agua, southern edge of Alejandro de Humboldt National Park (Guantánamo)



battery, the Solar Suitcase ensures electricity 365 days a year as long as there are four hours of sunshine each day. During rainy days, users need to conserve the battery, using the system for only the most necessary purposes. Solar Suitcases have been installed throughout the world in orphanages and rural schools that are off-grid in places such as Kenya, Uganda, and the Philippines.



Our Lawrenceville group arrived in Cuba, excited for the journey ahead and especially about bringing a transformative gift to the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park. As we left civilization and traveled deeper into the forest, it felt more and more like we were in the middle of nowhere



and we had no doubt that there was no electricity in this area. There were no power lines anywhere and no lights were coming on in the dark. Once we made it to a clearing where a few huts were clustered with donkeys grazing about, we saw a group of people eagerly awaiting our arrival. Helping us with all our luggage, their eyes lit up as we unloaded the blue Solar Suitcases. We were all so excited to see how they could be set up and help the ranger station do its work when aided by renewable power.

After settling in our huts and getting acquainted with everyone, our group grabbed safety glasses, power drills, and the Solar Suitcases, and went to work setting up the systems. Working closely with the rangers, we determined the most impactful locations to hang lights and permanently install the blue Suitcase on the wall. After a short conference, we broke up into smaller groups and delegated the tasks so that we could finish the installation prior to sunset. After just ten minutes, we all had a rhythm down. Handing each other supplies and drilling seemed almost like a choreographed dance. We felt such joy in the work, knowing the positive impact it would have for our new friends.

After 20 minutes, the blue Solar Suitcase that we had transported from the Garden State was attached firmly to the wall, lights were hanging from the ceiling, and the solar

panels were soaking in sunshine and filling up the system battery for the evening ahead. We eagerly waited until the sunset and darkness surrounded us. Holding our breath, we flipped the switch and it felt like Christmas in the rangers' hut!

As a team we all felt proud of what we had brought the rangers, knowing they were going to use the light to work late, stay connected, charge equipment (such as radios) and enjoy their long evenings socializing and cooking together under LED lights powered by free and abundant sunshine.

Before leaving the station, we all signed our names on the Solar Suitcase, hoping that when our new friends use the system they will remember our team and the Lawrenceville School, knowing that they have American friends who care deeply about the work that they do every day.

From the Garden State to the Pearl of the Antilles

*Grace Cangiano, Class of 2019, The Lawrenceville School,
Lawrenceville, New Jersey, USA*



AT 3:50 IN THE MORNING, THE KNOCKING BY OUR trip leader on our doors woke us up. I jumped out of bed and got dressed quickly, filled with excitement for the day ahead of me. I was on my way to Cuba!

Our group of Lawrenceville School students waited, half-asleep, for the bus to take us to the airport. As we rode along, I thought about the waterfalls, plants, animals, and people that I would encounter over the next two weeks in Cuba. After arriving at the Philadelphia airport, we began the long process of hauling 20 fully stuffed, 50-pound duffels of gear from the bus to the terminal for our flight to Miami. After landing in Miami, we said goodbye to the USA and boarded another plane to Holguín, Cuba. Upon arrival, we were struck by the dry heat that engulfed us which prompted us to remove our cozy sweatshirts that were no longer appropriate in the tropical climate. We walked through a sea of shiny antique cars to our tour bus waiting for us across the parking lot.

During our long drive to Guantánamo, we looked out the windows to see rows of pristine streets with spotless houses and messages of the Cuban Revolution covering many walls and water tanks. We were in the bus for five hours and bonded by sharing our life stories and discussing important things, like what “Harry Potter” house we would be in. By the time we arrived at the hotel I already felt as though everyone was a close friend. We ate dinner to the music of two Cuban men singing “Guantanamera,” which would soon become the theme song of our trip.

The next morning, we said goodbye to civilization and rode for three hours on a bus deep into the Cuban countryside to the southern entrance of the Alexander de Humboldt National Park where we would spend the next six days hiking and observing wildlife. On the bus ride, our trip leader, Lawrenceville Science Master Dr. (John)



One of our remote campsites located in a serpentine forest near La Melba (photo by Annika Goldman)

Clark would frequently stop to point out plants, such as the *Piperaceae* that is related to black pepper and identifiable by its smell and swollen nodes. At the camp we feasted on fresh pineapple from the nearby plants and went to bed early after a short day hike, eager to begin our trek the next morning. We fell asleep to the noise of insects that filled the forest around us.

We woke up early from the noise of a radio broadcasting loudly in Spanish and got dressed in our hiking gear, our shoes still bright and clean. I wandered to the main hut and ate breakfast then went back to our cabaña to sort my gear in a large backpack. Lawrenceville Math Master Mr. (Stephen) Wallis, a hiking enthusiast whose spirit animal is quite appropriately a mountain goat, helped us adjust our packs before we started. This was a crucial step to minimize the pain of the day ahead. We began our hike in a serpentine forest that loosely resembled those of the New Jersey Pine Barrens due to the presence of pine trees, but as we continued up the mountains, it transitioned into wet montane forest.

Our guides, Ms. Norvis Hernandez and Dr. Pedro González Gutierrez, would often stop to point out flora and fauna along the trail, and Fabrizio, another student, and I would offer a rough translation to our classmates who were not as fluent in Spanish. We listened for the song of Cuba's national bird, the Cuban trogon, whose feathers match the colors of the flag of Cuba, as we trekked through the pine forest. Around midday, when the heat seemed unbearable, a brief downpour of rain cooled us off. We reached our destination at around 2:00 p.m. — an abandoned Russian mining camp along the banks of a river. Immediately, we dropped our packs and ran to its rocky shore to splash our faces with the cold water. We washed our clothes and swam, then ate dinner around a tall roaring campfire, dancing to the guitar music of our guides. Afterwards, we pitched our tent and fell quickly asleep to the sound of the gentle rushing water next to us.

The next day followed a similar structure, but I began to feel more in tune with hiking. For example, when our guides would say that we had two hours left, that could mean anything from two hours to six hours, but we distracted ourselves from the distance by looking at our surroundings as we walked up and down mountains and crossed rivers. The region of Cuba that we were in, specifically the park, is home to many endemic plants species as a result of the metallic soil that forced plants to evolve and adapt. Dr. Clark showed us many plants, including the Cuban versions of holly and poinsettia. Towards the end of the hike, we had little motivation to keep going, as we were drenched in sweat and our packs were digging into our hips, but Mr. Wallis pushed us forward by explaining the golden ratio and phi as we continued on winding pathways



Above, Trekking with packs through a banana plantation on the outskirts of La Melba

Below, Gathering water from a local stream (we used iodine to treat drinking water during the trek) (photos by Annika Goldman)





The Río Duaba with El Yunque in the horizon
(photo by Annika Goldman)

through the mountains in a wet jungle forest. I have never been so thankful for math; without it, I never would have made it to the end. At 5:00 p.m. we entered the village of La Melba where we stayed for two nights. As we walked to the house where we were sleeping, I noticed shy faces of children peeking out at us through fences. Our guides explained that foreigners rarely visited the village.

We spent the rest of the day and the next day swimming in the river with

the kids, playing soccer, and visiting the local school. While at the river, I watched Manuel, an eight-year-old boy, climb high in a tree on the bank then confidently jump 20 feet into the water below. We looked over to our trip leaders with eager eyes, but they shook their heads sternly. That night the entire community of La Melba came to our house to play music and sing while we danced in circles and played games until the kids had to go to bed for school the next morning.

After two more days of hiking and another stop along a river, we reached the bus that would take us to the seaside town of Baracoa. We stayed in a small *Casa Particular* (a bed and breakfast) run by a family. My room had its own balcony that overlooked the ocean, providing a cool breeze into our otherwise hot room. That night we enjoyed our first cooked meal in a long time, with locally caught fresh lobster, octopus, and fish. Later in the evening, I looked out my balcony down the street to see rows of brightly painted houses where inside, families gathered around their televisions watching telenovelas. Every house had all of its doors and windows open, allowing me to catch a glimpse of their lives.

Our group fueled up at breakfast the next day because we planned to hike *El Yunque*, the mountain that looms over the city of Baracoa. We drove to the information center where we found a sign that said that this hike was “difficult.” Dr. Clark, however, told us that this meant that it would actually be quite easy.

He was wrong.

We hiked for three hours up steep terrain in intense heat with stinging nettles (*Urticaceae*) on either side of the trail. Although the hike was the most challenging experience of my life, the view was worth the effort. From the top, we could see for miles in every direction. We rested there for half an hour, taking in the scenery and drinking lots of water, before climbing back down. After successfully climbing *El Yunque*, which translates to “the Anvil,” we spent the rest of the day exploring the town of Baracoa. Fabrizio especially loved negotiating with the local people and managed to significantly lower the price of locally made chocolate bars.

Since arriving back in the US, the group of people that I journeyed to Cuba with is still very close. We talk to each other every day, laugh about our inside jokes from the trip, and reminisce about our shared experiences. The memories I made and the things I learned in Cuba, ranging from communism to how to live in nature to the *Polymita* land snail and plant evolution, will last me a lifetime.

From Guantanamera to Polymita: A Cultural and Biological Expedition to Cuba

Hiroki Nagao, Class of 2018, The Lawrenceville School,
Lawrenceville, New Jersey, USA



During the summer of 2017, the Lawrenceville School provided me and eleven other students with an amazing opportunity to explore Cuba's wildlife. While the main goal of the trip was to explore the rich biodiversity of Cuba's national parks, we also took advantage of interacting with Cubans and learning more about their history, society, and culture. My experience in Cuba was memorable not only because it was the first time that I was immersed in the wilderness, but also as it provided me with an opportunity to build long-lasting friendships with park rangers and biologists.

I must acknowledge that I signed up for the trip expecting to research Cuba's endemic flora. In fact, I initially decided to attend the program as I believed that it would supplement an Independent Study project that I was conducting with Dr. Clark on the geographic distribution of Caribbean plants with an emphasis on the flowering plant family Gesneriaceae.

On the first night at our hotel at Guántonamo, however, I was completely taken by surprise by Cuban music. The dinner was fantastic and authentic, consisting of *ropa vieja* (the national dish of Cuba consisting of shredded flank steak accompanied by rice and beans). During the meal, we enjoyed listening to two musicians singing the famous Cuban song "Guantanamera." I realized that cultural immersion was integral to our voyage in Cuba.

The following day, our team started to undertake the challenge of trekking 60+ miles through the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, the largest and most biodiverse national park in Cuba. Each of us carried a 40+-pound pack. The hikes lasted longer than we expected; it took us all day to reach each camp. Every day, we were drenched in sweat, our legs were constantly bitten by swarms of mosquitoes, and our clothes were covered with mud. Despite this challenge, our trip leaders encouraged us to keep pushing through the thick jungle. From this experience, I learned the necessity of becoming "comfortable with the uncomfortable."

Our experiences at the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park provided us with the opportunity to study the wildlife of Cuba's rainforests. In addition to Dr. Clark having us memorize certain plant families, such as Gesneriaceae, Melastomataceae, and Piperaceae, we were given the opportunity to observe the endemic fauna of Cuba. On one hike, the park rangers showed us the Cuban trogon or tocororo, the national



Variation in a population of the Cuban land snail or the painted snail (*Polymita picta*). This snail is endemic to eastern Cuba. It is considered by many experts as the most beautiful land snail on the planet.



Gesneria salicifolia. **A.** Lateral view of corolla. **B.** Fruit showing prominent longitudinal ribs. **C.** Rosette habit. **D.** Flower with scale. **E.** Excitement in locating our first population of *G. salicifolia*. **F.** Limestone cliffs featuring abundant populations of *G. salicifolia*.

bird of Cuba, as well as the Cuban tody, a relative of a kingfisher. We were also constantly surrounded by the call of a Cuban solitaire or Cuban nightingale. Our team was also pleasantly overwhelmed by the sheer number of small critters: anole lizards, tree frogs, beetles, scorpions, millipedes, and tree snails.

Additionally, I never considered the chance of practicing Spanish until I met with several Cuban biologists. At Lawrenceville, my Spanish teachers have encouraged us to speak the language abroad and learn about Latin American culture by communicating directly with locals. Although I enrolled in the trip primarily to extend my understanding of Cuba's biodiversity, I also enjoyed the benefit of cultural immersion. During our hikes, mealtimes, and s'more gatherings, I constantly spoke in Spanish with Cubans, especially Ms. Norvis Hernandez and Dr. Pedro González Gutierrez. This interaction provided me with the unique opportunity to build long-lasting friendships. In fact, Norvis became so fond of my enthusiasm for biodiversity and eloquent communication skills that she gave me a new nickname – "Hiroski" – and that name has stuck with me ever since.

During the trip's second phase, I continued to cultivate my love for Cuba's biodiversity. I was especially excited to walk in a forest covered with the endemic Cuban painted land snail or *Polymita picta* (page 16). Upon arriving at the coast of Guántanamo, we were in awe of a forested grove filled with dazzling colors of the *Polymita picta* shells; the hues ranged from dandelion yellow to ebony to crimson.

Our team also encountered a limestone canyon lined with bushes of *Gesneria salicifolia*, one of the plants that I investigated for my Independent Study on the taxonomy and geographic distribution of Gesneriaceae in Cuba. In this project, I mapped specimen records using geographic information system software (Esri ArcView) that were documented by Laurence E. Skog during his dissertation research at Cornell University (Skog 1972). We discovered that the two major populations recognized as *Gesneria salicifolia* in Skog (1976) are disjunct in Cuba and correlated with different geology. The specimens from eastern Cuba are endemic to limestone. In contrast, the specimens from western Cuba are endemic to serpentine. Ironically, we spent most of our time walking through serpentine forests, but we observed the species that is endemic to limestone.

Travelling to Cuba's wilderness was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. The voyage provided me with the unique opportunity to explore Cuba's unique biodiversity and bond with amazing park rangers from an entirely different culture.

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The author with Norvis Hernandez, resident biologist and snail taxonomist with the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park.

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Donations mailed from anywhere should be sent to:

Karyn Cichocki, 79 Beaver Run Road, Lafayette, NJ 07848

Cultivating Gesneriads in Greece

Panagiotis Mperetzikis < vegasastron@gmail.com >



My love for gesneriads started three years ago.

CULTIVATING GESNERIADS IN THE HOT AND DRY climate of Greece is tougher than you might imagine. For a long time I have been cultivating many species of plants, mostly orchids. My love for gesneriads started three years ago. Generally gesneriads are not widely known in Greek markets, except for African violets and “Gloxinias” (*Sinningia speciosa* hybrids).

In the beginning, I cultivated species of *Streptocarpus*, but unfortunately the summer was a great challenge for them. Summer in Greece is dry with 20-35% humidity, while temperatures stay above 30°C (80°F), even at night. With great efforts, in a room with a northern orientation inside my house, I managed to keep alive some of the plants. Apart from streptocarpus, I also cultivate other gesneriads that survive more easily in our climate, like kohlerias, sinningias, primulinas, achimenes, episcias, smithianthas, and xsmithicodonias.

I love hybridizing some of these plants. Recently I managed to create my own crosses of *Streptocarpus* and am now waiting



Streptocarpus 'DS-Strawberry'



Streptocarpus 'Fernwood's Silhouette'



Kohleria 'Elvira'



Sinningia 'Party Dude'





My seedling collection



My winter gesneriad collection

for them to bloom. I have grown *Sinningia* and *Primulina* species from seeds and the results were amazingly good. It's a great feeling knowing that some of my Greek friends/growers manage to cultivate and propagate gesneriads successfully. That led me to create a page on a popular social network so that more growers in Greece might become informed about the existence, the cultivating methods, and the beauty of gesneriads.

Gesneriads are a beautiful and very promising new world that I want to discover more!

Special thanks to Dale Martens for her great interest.



Previous page, *Smithiantha* 'Midvinterljus'; Above, *Primulina* 'Erika'

There's Something for Everyone in New England!

Gloria Utzig <Gloria.utzig@gmail.com> and Maureen Pratt <maureen@maureenpratt.com>

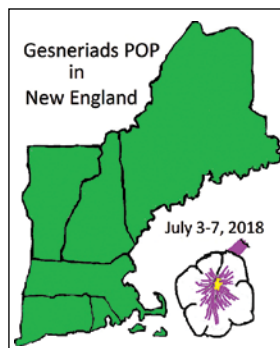
AS YOU PLAN YOUR TRIP TO FRAMINGHAM, Massachusetts, for our 62nd Annual Gesneriad Society Convention, you might want to add in a few days to explore some of the historic and unique opportunities that New England has to offer. Our convention hotel is within easy driving distance to Boston and other nearby attractions, and our special convention rate is good from June 28 to July 10, 2018, so there's plenty of time to enjoy a great convention and discover some of the area's hidden and not-so-hidden treasures, too!

The city of Boston is about a 50-minute car ride or a short trip by rail from the Framingham commuter train stop. A delightful blend of old and new, the Freedom Trail and other walking tours of some of Boston's neighborhoods, especially Chinatown and the North End, offer unique glimpses into some of the earliest episodes in U.S. history while providing opportunities to buy contemporary wares and delicious food. The official website for the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau (<www.bostonusa.com>) has some terrific trip-planning tools to get you started planning. Consider, too, these stops along the way:

Sports fans will not want to miss seeing Fenway Park <<https://www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark/tours>>, home to the Boston Red Sox and affectionately known as "America's Most Beloved Ballpark" (with apologies to Wrigley Field fans!). The Sox are playing away from June 29 to July 6, but this gives tourists a chance to visit the park, take a guided tour, and even sit atop the Green Monster seats, 37 feet over left field!

Harvard University offers some horticultural opportunities to explore. The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University <arboretum.harvard.edu> was established in 1872, and its living collection of trees and shrubs occupies 280 acres. It is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Wednesdays, when it is closed. The Harvard University Herbaria and Libraries <<https://huh.harvard.edu/pages/visit>> is closed to the general public, but its specimen collections may be viewed by visitors who contact the curator in advance to make arrangements.

Art lovers might enjoy visiting the MIT campus, across the Charles River from downtown Boston, to see Arthur Ganson's kinetic sculpture gallery and other works in the MIT Museum <<https://mitmuseum.mit.edu/visit>>.



Fenway Park (photo courtesy of Gloria Utzig)



Fireworks (photo courtesy of Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau)

In and around July 4, Boston loves to party! Harborfest <<https://www.bostonharborfest.com/>> runs June 30 to July 4, and features dozens of events, including music concerts, colonial and revolutionary reenactments, cruises, tours, walks, a Saturday art fair, and a Sunday chowder tasting. The Annual Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular <<http://bostonpopsjuly4th.org/>> takes place July 4th on the Esplanade, but you can get a sneak preview by attending the dress rehearsal July 3rd (open to the public and less crowded).

If you want to get “above it all,” visit The Prudential Center<<http://www.prudentialcenter.com/>>. At the top of the building is the Skywalk Observatory that will give you a 360-degree view of Greater Boston and beyond, and the mall <http://www.prudentialcenter.com/shop_detail.html?id=64> found on the lower levels has quite a few stores and restaurants, too! (Boston sales tax is 6.25%; tax-exempt items include sales of food for human consumption other than meals sold by a restaurant and clothing costing \$175 or less per item. For items that cost more than \$175, sales tax is only due on the amount over \$175.)

Or, if you want to enjoy something different, take a whale-watching cruise, a Boston Duck Tour, or a Swan Boat ride<<https://www.boston.com/section/events!>>

Shopping opportunities abound near our convention hotel.

Natick, the first town to the east of the hotel, has several strip malls and the upscale Natick Mall, for shoppers who want something new. But if you love antiques, then the Brimfield Antique and Flea Market <<http://www.brimfieldshow.com/>> in Brimfield (from July 10 to July 15, 2018) is a must. The largest outdoor antiques show in the country, it has more than 4,500 dealers spread out over 23 fields over a mile along both sides of Route 20. It's like walking through an outdoor museum, only everything is for sale!



View from Prudential Center (photo courtesy of Gloria Utzig)

For history buffs who want to explore the area around the hotel, there's plenty to do! In Lexington (about a half-hour northeast by car) is Minute Man National Historical Park <<https://www.nps.gov/mima/learn/education/teacher-ranger-teacher.htm>>. Take guided tours and see a multimedia presentation “The Road to Revolution,” Paul Revere's capture site, Hartwell Tavern, North Bridge, and walk the Battle Road Interpretive Trail.

The Liberty Ride Guided Tour of historic Lexington & Concord <<https://www.bostonusa.com/listings/the-liberty-ride-guided-tour...concord/11695/>> visits birthplaces



Brimfield Antiques & Flea Market
(photo: brimfieldantiquefleamarket.com)

of American liberty and 19th century literature on a trolley tour given by costumed guides. You will hear detailed accounts of the exciting events of April 19, 1775, see Paul Revere's capture site at Minute Man National Historical Park and the site where colonial militia were first ordered to fire upon the British. The tour also visits Lexington Battle Green, site of America's oldest war memorial, where the Lexington militia confronted 900 British soldiers that April morning,

the Emerson House, the Concord Museum, and Munroe Tavern where President Washington dined, and more.

About 45 minutes southeast from the hotel is another historic site, Adams National Historical Park <<https://www.nps.gov/adam/index.htm>>, which includes the birthplaces of two U.S. Presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and four generations of the Adams family homes and gardens on 13 acres.

Like small garden tours? Then the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival <<https://www.capecodchamber.org/hydrangea-fest>> (July 6-15, 2018) is for you. There are daily tours of private gardens throughout the ten days, and the fees support a variety of charities.

The summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra is Lenox, and the Tanglewood Festival <<https://www.bso.org/brands/tanglewood/features/2018-tanglewood-season.aspx>> is world-renowned for its beautiful setting in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts.

Want to go beyond Massachusetts?

Two and a half hours north from the hotel (in Franconia Notch in the White Mountains of New Hampshire) is the annual Celebration of Lupines (<<http://www.franconianotch.org/events/celebration-lupines-throughout-june-copy-2/>>), June 1 thru June 30, 2018)

In the opposite direction, the Nathan Hale Homestead <<https://www.ctlandmarks.org/nathan-hale>> is in Coventry, Connecticut (about an hour southwest from the hotel). Captain Nathan Hale was captured and hanged by the British for being a spy during the American Revolution. He was 21 years old. He is quoted as saying "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Within one-and-a-half to two hours from the hotel, Rhode Island is the location for some of the region's most popular art, horticultural, and sporting events.

Discover new art treasures at one of New England's longest-running, highly ranked fine art festivals. The annual Wickford Art Festival <<http://www.wickfordart.org/art-festival-2018.html>> (July 7-8, 2018) held in Wickford, Rhode Island, features more than 250 artists displaying their art in a beautiful seaside town.

Mingle with the crowd on the sidelines at a polo match at the Newport International Polo Series <<http://nptpolo.com/index.cfm>> (June 2 to September 29, 2018) at Glen Farm in Portsmouth, Rhode Island).



The Breakers Mansion and Cliff Walk, Newport, RI
(photo: Preservation Society of Newport)

In Newport, Rhode Island, tour the summer “cottages” (the Newport Mansions <<http://www.newportmansions.org/>>), summer homes to people of social and financial prominence during the 1840’s to the 1900’s. Most of these mansions are located on the cliffs overlooking the ocean. A cliff walk meanders for 3.5 miles and has panoramic sea views on one side, and glimpses of Gilded Age mansions on the other.

While in Newport, catch some great music at the Newport Music Festival <<http://www.newportmusic.org/>> (July 4 to July 22, 2018 in

Newport, Rhode Island). This festival celebrates its 50th anniversary season!

With a convention that showcases the best in all things gesneriads and a location that puts you within driving distance of some of the best summer fun, food, and sightseeing, Convention 2018 is one you won’t want to miss! Come with extra empty space in your luggage and storage room on your SIM cards to bring back lots of new plants and great memories. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Gesneriad Society

62nd Annual Convention

July 3-7, 2018 – Framingham, Massachusetts, USA

Call for 2018 Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members of The Gesneriad Society will be held on Thursday, July 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

Call for 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 from 2 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting. The Board will reconvene on Friday, July 6, 2018 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Leonard Re, Recording Secretary



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Gesneriad Hybridizers Association Meeting at the Gesneriad Society Convention, July 4, 2018



WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE A GUEST SPEAKER AT this year's GHA meeting. Dmitry Ozherlyev is a Russian grower who loves saintpaulias, streptocarpus, primulinas, kohlerias, and other gesneriads. He often judges African violets and other gesneriads at shows in Moscow. Dmitry is a member of the Community Board of the Russian AV Magazine. He has written some articles and he translates articles by American writers in this magazine. At the GHA meeting he will introduce the newest Russian, Ukrainian, and Eastern European gesneriads (Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, and Hungary). These include new cultivars of *Sinningia speciosa*, *Achimenes*, *Kohleria*, *Sinningia*, and

Streptocarpus. Dmitry's goal is to popularize Russian and Ukrainian hybrids of African violets and other gesneriads outside their own countries. He says, "I hope that flowers can help to change the world to be more friendly and beautiful."

Nominations for 2018

Nominating Committee Report

The following members have agreed to have their names placed in nomination as Directors for a three-year term ending in 2021:

- Barbara FestensteinRochester, NY
 Winston Goretsky.....Calgary, AB, Canada
 Austin Grevious..... University Place, WA
 Mel Grice..... Englewood, OH
 Stuart Hammer Worcester, MA
 Marilyn Heinrich East Northport, NY
 Mary Jo Modica Tuscaloosa, AL

Paul Susi, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

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Introducing *Sinningia speciosa* 'Lorna Ohlgren'

Dave Zaitlin ~ Lexington, KY ~ dzaitlin@gmail.com



Are you kidding, can this plant really be 80 years old?

HERE IS A STORY THAT I HAD HOPED TO TELL someday, and I'll give you the punchline so as not to keep you in suspense: 2017 marked the year that a very old and unique cultivar of *Sinningia speciosa*, a so-called Florist's Gloxinia, came to light after decades of obscurity, and this can be attributed to modern social media.

Many of us in The Gesneriad Society have grown "gloxinias." The cultivated forms of *Sinningia speciosa* were once so popular that an interest group was formed in 1951 by people who enjoyed growing them (guess which one!). Although "gloxinias" are still occasionally available in the US, often in the floral section of grocery stores around Mother's Day, they are nowhere near as popular as they once were. I for one am happy to see that at least two members of our Society, Jay Sespico (Florida) and Hector Wong (Hawaii), are busy crossing, growing, selecting, naming, and registering new Florist Gloxinia cultivars.

The botanical literature from the 19th century documents the transformation of *Sinningia speciosa* from the wild Brazilian forms with nodding flowers into the plants with large upright flowers that we know today (see my article in *Gesneriads* vol. 61, #3 from 2011). This process occurred over a period of approximately 75 years, and plants from the later 19th century are instantly recognizable as "gloxinias." You can see from Figure 1 that all of these cultivars had flowers with single corollas; this is because plants with double corollas did not appear until the late 1850s. Two of the classic named cultivars, 'Emperor Frederick' and 'Emperor William' (aka 'Kaiser Friedrich' and 'Kaiser Wilhelm'), are known to date from this period and can be bought as tubers from commercial nurseries or from eBay vendors.

I have long hoped that one or more of the many hundreds of named "gloxinia" cultivars from the 19th century would turn up eventually. Even though all of the cultivated forms of *Sinningia speciosa* that we grow today are descended directly from those original varieties, it is highly probable that some of the genetic diversity in this

group has been lost. I had expected that if any of these early cultivars were ever to be found, it would almost certainly be in an old botanical garden, or in a glasshouse on an old country estate, probably somewhere in the UK. But with all the social upheavals and the two World Wars that engulfed Europe in the



Figure 1

past century, I realize that this is probably a longshot at best. So who would have thought that such an “ancient” plant would be found right here in the US, and in the frozen north of Minnesota, no less!

The story unfolded like this. On January 23, 2017, there was a posting on a Facebook group called *Sinningia* Haven by a user named “Hyn Patty,” who described an old “gloxinia” owned by a GardenWeb member who went by the handle “BlueDaisy52.” There was a very nice image accompanying the description, so I responded, expressing my interest in the plant for the genomic research that I have been conducting with colleagues at Virginia Tech. Three days later, I received an email message from Facebook telling me that Hyn Patty had mentioned me in a comment in *Sinningia* Haven. It turned out that Hyn Patty had contacted BlueDaisy52 on my behalf (“at Dale Martens’ urging”), and was telling me that she was sending me BlueDaisy52’s name and email address. I thanked her for her efforts, and for some reason waited over two months before I contacted BlueDaisy52 on April 12 (lazy me). From our subsequent correspondence, I found out that BlueDaisy52 is actually Deborah Ohlgren, a lady who lives in Moose Lake, MN, a town of ~3,000 people located 115 miles north of Minneapolis. Her original posting on GardenWeb was from May 2013, and here it is in Deborah’s words:



Figure 2

“I have a beautiful purple Gloxinia plant that I ‘inherited’ from my Mother-In-Law last year. It is over 80 years old give or take a few years. My Mother-In-Law has had this plant for over 60 years and she had received it from her Aunt who had it for about 20 years before that.

“It has always been in an old clay pot with just regular dirt [see Figure 2] and has never been transplanted. It blooms every summer and when the blooms are done for the season my Mother-In-Law would cut the plant off even with the dirt and put in a cool dark room. When it started to grow in the Spring she would put it back out near a South window.

“I am so afraid if I do anything different I will end up killing the plant that has been in my Hubby’s family for so long! I would like to try to propagate this Gloxinia just in case this plant does not survive in my care but am not sure how and when the best time to do it would be. I am afraid to repot it since it has always been in the same pot.

“I would appreciate any advice on how to propagate this Gloxinia in order to keep the plant going, hopefully for many more years!”

My initial reaction was something like, “are you kidding, can this plant really be 80 years old, and in 80-year-old “dirt” no less?!”

The link to Deborah’s 2013 GardenWeb posting also included a long thread of replies and comments from many gardeners offering assistance, as well as a few who expressed their astonishment that such a plant could survive for so many years. The most helpful was from longtime GS member Irina Nicholson, who provided advice and detailed instructions for propagating the old plant from stem and leaf cuttings. Over the next few years, Deborah posted about her experiences growing the original plant, and also shared her successes in getting cuttings to root and flower and then recover from dormancy. The thread ended in January 2017 with Hyn Patty telling Deborah that the Facebook posting had proved very popular, and then encouraging her to send me her contact information.

Deborah and I exchanged a few messages, and she kindly agreed to send me some plant material. Therefore, in late April, I sent her an insulated box with tubers and leaves of a few wild-type *Sinningia speciosa* varieties, and she used the same box (it was still



Figure 3

cold in Minnesota) to send me a stem cutting and a small rooted plant (with a tuber) of her old cultivar. The turnaround time was exactly one week (Kentucky to Minnesota and back to Kentucky). I removed two leaves from the stem cutting, planted everything in regular Pro-Mix, and put the pots under a clear dome on the light stand. I wrote to Deborah in late May to tell her that the cutting was already rooted. This cutting then produced its first flower about four weeks later in June (Figure 3). The flower color was more purple than it appeared in Deborah's photo of the original plant in full bloom that she posted on Facebook – this I attribute to the camera and the bright sunlight, since she described it as a “purple Gloxinia plant” in her GardenWeb posting in 2013.

When I contacted Deborah in December to ask for her help in preparing this article, she sent me some original images of the plant taken in 2014 and 2016 (Figure 4). Her husband, Russell, also sent along a little bit of family history as it pertained to the 80-year-old gloxinia:

“Sophie (Lorna’s husband’s [Ralph’s] Aunt) came to this country around 1910, after her husband had been here for a year or two finding a place to live. She passed away in about 1955, after which the plant was given to Lorna. Lorna kept it until she moved into an assisted living [facility] in 2011, when we began caring for it.”

Russ also expressed the opinion that the original tuber of the ‘gloxinia’ could have come over with the family when they immigrated to the US, but he acknowledged that there is no direct proof of this. I managed to do some online genealogical research, and I found that Sophia Ohlgren arrived in the US from Norway in 1914, two years after her husband Cunral, who entered the US at Ellis Island on board the ship Oscar II in January of 1912. Cunral, aka Conrad or Konrad (1882-1941), is listed in the 1920 US Census as a farmer in Moose Lake Township, MN who owned his own farm. Sophie passed away in 1956 at the age of 66, at which time Lorna, Russell's mother, inherited the plant. If all of these dates are correct, then Lorna owned the plant for 55 years, and if



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

it did indeed make the Atlantic passage with Sophie, it could very well be over 100 years of age.

Deborah asked me to name this unique ‘gloxinia’ cultivar after her husband’s mother, who had owned it for longer than anyone else. *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ is easy to propagate from leaves and stems, and it also proved to be fully fertile. I self-pollinated the first flower and harvested plenty of seeds 5 weeks later. The fresh seeds germinated well; I now have >20 seedlings, and all of them resemble the parent plant (Figure 5). By the time this is published we will know whether the flower color breeds true. I expect that it will.

To me, *Sinningia* ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ has an old-time look to it. The flowers are smaller than those of many present-day cultivars such as ‘Empress’ and ‘Avanti’, and all of the flowers on my plants have had 5 petals so far (Deborah’s big plant has flowers with both 5 and 6 petals). Most of the flowers on plants of ‘Empress’ that I have grown over the past few years have 6 petals, and some have 7. Also, the flowers on ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ are plain, without ruffled edges. But the most distinguishing feature is the foliage. The leaves of ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ are long and narrow, and they have a coarse texture that I have not seen in any other *S. speciosa* cultivar.

Although Lorna (Figure 6) passed away in December 2016, her name will live on in the plant that she owned for over 50 years. It was her dedication to growing this old “gloxinia” that preserved it for present and future generations of gesneriad enthusiasts. I plan to send seeds of *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ to the Gesneriad Society Seed Fund, and plant material will be distributed at the 2018 Gesneriad Society Convention in Framingham, MA.

Figure Legends

1. Two prints from late 19th century British publications showing examples of “gloxinia” cultivars available at that time. Left – hand-colored engraving from *The Florist and Pomologist*, edited by Thomas Moore (1879). Right – chromolithograph from *The Flower Grower’s Guide*, Division 6, by John Wright (1893).
2. *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ emerging from dormancy in 2013. This is the original plant passed down from Sophie Ohlgren to her husband’s niece Lorna in 1956, and then from Lorna to her daughter-in-law Deborah Ohlgren in 2011.
3. A rooted cutting of *S. speciosa* ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ flowering under fluorescent lights in Kentucky in May, 2017.
4. The original plant of ‘Lorna Ohlgren’ flowering in Minnesota in 2014 (left) and 2016 (right).
5. Seedlings of *S. speciosa* ‘Lorna Ohlgren’. The plant on the right was repotted twice, first at around 2 months, and again at 4 months after germination, and is showing flower buds at 5 months of age in January 2018.
6. Lorna Ohlgren, of Moose Lake, MN, photographed in 2014 at the age of 90.

Photo credits: Figures 2, 4, and 6 by Deborah Ohlgren; Figures 3 and 5 by the author.

Gesneriads

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The Shopping Mall

“OZARK” *Sinningias*, African Violets and other Gesneriads. Dave's Violets, 1372 S. Kentwood Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804 (417) 887-8904 Email: <plantman@ipa.net> (no catalog). www.davesviolets.com.

MRS STREP STREPS – *Streptocarpus*, Primulinas, and other Gesneriads. Email for list of available plants. Kathy Spissman, 4086 Brownlee Dr., Tucker, GA 30084. Phone (770) 939-5289. Email: <mrsstrepstrops@comcast.net>.



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Botanical Review No. 46

Bob Stewart ~ Stow, MA, USA - <aeschnanthus@verizon.net>



REGENERATION NICHE OF THREE EPIPHYTIC species of Gesneriaceae from Chilean rainforests: implications for the evolution of growth habits in Coronanthereae. F. Salinas & J. J. Armesto. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*. *Linnean Society of London* 170: 79-92, 6 figs. 2012.

The authors studied the relationship of growth habit versus seed germination and survival for the three epiphytic gesneriad species of the temperate rain forest of southern Chile.

Moisture-laden winds off the Pacific produce a cool wet climate somewhat like the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State in the USA. Annual rainfall can be more than two meters (or more than 84 inches), heavier in the winter and lighter in the summer, but not “dry” at any time. Mean annual temperature is about 9°C (48°F), with modest variation between summer and winter. It can go below freezing several nights each year. A high temperature of 30°C (86°F) would probably be a record.

Sarmienta repens is a pure epiphyte, living only upon living and dead trees, with no connection to the ground. It attaches to the trees using adventitious roots from the stem nodes. In nature, it flowers in the southern-hemisphere spring and summer (September to February), and fruit ripens during autumn (March to April).

Mitraria coccinea is a “secondary hemiepiphytic liana,” meaning that it starts on the ground and climbs trees as a vine. I remember seeing a large patch at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh that produced thin arching stems several feet long that rooted when they bent over and touched the substrate. In nature, this species flowers in the southern-hemisphere spring and summer (October to February), and fruit ripens during autumn (March to April).

Asteranthera ovata is another secondary hemiepiphytic liana. It grows as a creeper on the forest floor, stumps, and logs. In nature, it flowers in the southern-hemisphere summer (January to February).

The authors counted the occurrence of the three species by height in the trees, and found that *Sarmienta repens* had a definite tendency to grow up high, while the other two species tended to be growing lower in trees.

The authors studied seed germination for the three species under outdoor weather and light, with an enclosure to exclude rodents and birds, and poison bait to try to control slugs. They tried two different substrates: forest floor soil, and bark (with mosses and ferns accompanying) from *Nothofagus nitida*. They also tried two different light levels, one simulating high in the tree and one simulating the forest floor under the canopy.

Germination for *Sarmienta repens* was very good. Median germination times varied from one to two months. (For the other two species, don't give up before six months have passed.) This species preferred germinating in the higher light condition for both substrate types, and preferred bark to soil in both light conditions. The combination of low light and forest floor soil was markedly bad for germination, cutting the rate about in half.

The bark they used is probably not readily available in the northern hemisphere. If I wanted to experiment at home, I would probably try one of the bark types popular with orchid growers, such as sequoia or rhododendron. Make sure that it is thoroughly soaked

for best moisture retention. Remember that the test bark had mosses and ferns, which will hold extra moisture.

Germination for *Mitraria coccinea* was reasonable, about 30%, and was not markedly different for the various light and soil conditions.

Germination for *Asteranthera ovata* was quite poor at 3.3%. Their graphs appear to show a slight preference for the higher-light condition, but it was not statistically significant. The authors did not suggest a reason for the low germination. I speculate that a plant would not spend energy producing seeds that did not germinate when given the right conditions, so there must be some tricky conditions required for good germination.

The authors also studied post-germination survival times. The main reasons for seedling death were freezing, herbivory, and desiccation. If you can avoid these problems when growing at home, your seedling survival rates should be much better.

None of the seedlings survived well in the open-canopy simulation, where they were quite exposed to the hazards mentioned above. *Sarmienta repens* survived longer on bark than on soil, and *Mitraria coccinea* survived longer on soil than on bark.

Seedlings survived longer in the lower-light scenario. *Mitraria coccinea* did particularly well, especially in soil. The few seedlings of *Asteranthera ovata* in soil did particularly well. *Sarmienta repens* did not survive especially well under low light either. The authors did not comment, but I will speculate that it just did not get enough light.

The authors also looked at the growth habits of these species compared to the genetic analysis of the Coronanthereae done by Vincent Woo. (This tribe includes the Chilean species and several species from the Australia and SW Pacific region.) They conclude that in this group the tree growth habit is ancestral, the liana habit is derived from the tree habit, and the fully epiphytic habit is derived from the liana habit.

Cellular DNA damage and lipid peroxidation after whole body gamma irradiation and treatment with *Haberlea rhodopensis* extract in rabbits. S. Georgieva, B. Popov, G. Miloshev, & G. Bonev. *Revue de Médecine Vétérinaire* 163(12): 572-576. 2012.

Damage to cells from ionizing radiation can occur by at least two mechanisms. One occurs when the radiation strikes water molecules (which are most of the volume of the cell) and produces fragments and hydrogen peroxide, which are strong oxidizing agents and can attack DNA. These oxidizing agents can also attack lipids (fats) such as the cell membrane, and cause peroxidation, producing carcinogenic chemicals.

Agents that can protect against these effects are of considerable interest, for reducing radiation-induced cancer for example. I am sure that we have all heard about antioxidants in fruit for example.

An extract of the European mountain gesneriad species *Haberlea rhodopensis* has previously been shown to have many potentially interesting compounds, and to have minimal toxic effects. The present study is aimed at an evaluation of this extract as a protectant against ionizing radiation.

The study used rabbits divided into several groups, basically testing the effect of the extract injected before or after a radiation dose, plus control groups without radiation or with dummy injections. Damage assessment was done by specialized tests on blood samples.

Regarding the test they used for damage to DNA, an injection of the extract prior to radiation showed a reduced level of DNA damage compared to a dummy injection, while an injection after radiation had no effect. An injection of extract with no radiation showed some DNA damage, but not nearly as much as the radiation.

Regarding the test they used for lipid peroxidation, the extract did not cause damage itself, and it had a significant effect against such damage when injected either before or after radiation.

Radioprotection from Genetic Damages by Resurrection Plant *Haberlea rhodopensis* – in vivo/in vitro Study with Rabbits. B. N. Popov, S. Y. Georgieva, & S. Lalchev. Trakia Journal of Sciences 10(3): 41-47. 2012.

This study is related to the one above; some of the authors are the same. In this paper, rabbits were injected with water containing various amounts of *Haberlea rhodopensis* extract (including zero as control). Blood samples were then drawn. The samples (rather than the whole rabbits) were then dosed with various amounts of gamma radiation. The blood samples were then cultured for 48 hours, and then the lymphocytes (white blood cells) were tested for chromosomal aberrations. These cells are known to be sensitive to radiation damage.

The results showed that, as expected, increasing radiation dosage created increasing damage. The results also showed that the plant extract produced a protective effect, and that protection increased with extract concentration for the levels studied. The highest level of extract cut the radiation damage roughly in half.

There are several plant extracts that are being studied for radiation protection, and much work remains to be done to find the most-effective and least-toxic substances. For the case of protecting against side-effects of radiation treatment for cancer, it would also be important to make sure that the plant extract does not protect the cancer cells!

Light as environmental regulator for germination and macrocotyledon development in *Streptocarpus rexii* (Gesneriaceae). K. Nishii, T. Nagata, C.-N. Wang, & M. Möller. South African Journal of Botany 81: 50-60. 2012.

The seedlings in this study were germinated on sterilized nutrient agar in a growth chamber at 23°C (73°F), under various lighting conditions. White fluorescent lights were used for most cases, and LED lights were used to test the effect of specific colors of light.

In streptocarpus seedlings, one of the two cotyledons (seed leaves) develops directly into a “leaf,” and the other withers. Previous studies have shown that the determination of which cotyledon will grow is made after germination, and in at least some cases can be effected by the direction of light, with the cotyledon away from the light source (thus getting more light, because the light hits it on the side rather than the end) being the one to grow.

The initial germination test ran for 13 days, with seedlings exposed to various amounts of light during that time. Seed exposed to continuous light (i.e., 24 hours per day) for the period germinated 100%, and seeds kept in darkness had no germination. Seed exposed to continuous light for one day germinated at only 6.5%, five days at 94%, and ten days at 100%. The light exposure acts as a trigger to germination; once the seed has been exposed to enough light, it will germinate in the dark. The authors note that the difference in germination rate between one-day and five-days of light exposure might also be partly due to the seedlings having more time to absorb water; more work is needed.

Another test looked at the effect of light after germination, on the proper development of unequal cotyledons. Control seedlings under continuous light showed this development after 20 days. Seedlings grown in the dark after having been germinated in light did not show unequal cotyledon development. Seedlings grown in the dark also showed an elongated hypocotyl (“stem”). Seedlings receiving only five or ten days of light during the twenty-day period had smaller cotyledons with little development of inequality relative to full-light seedlings; the ten-day seedlings did better than the five-day seedlings.

A third test looked at the effect of different colors of light on the establishment of unequal cotyledons. After 30 days, control seedlings grown under white light and test seedlings grown under blue light showed proper development, with unequal cotyledons

and the beginnings of roots. Seedlings grown under red light showed improper development, with small and equal cotyledons, and with less root development. Of course, most people are not directly interested in germinating seeds under colored lights, but to the scientist it can indicate which light-sensitive compounds in the plant are controlling which stages of growth.

The authors point out that seeds of old-world gesneriads lack an endosperm as a food resource for the developing seedling, which must therefore proceed quickly to photosynthesis to survive. Light is therefore immediately important to seedling growth and survival.

The paper has a great deal of other interesting information along with some very nice pictures, and should be of interest to anyone interested in the details of seed germination and development.

For the home grower, there are some interesting tidbits here. The first is that these seeds need light to germinate and to grow; they must be on the surface, not buried.

The second point is that these streptocarpus seedlings require a lot of light, and it would be worth testing whether leaving the lights on for much longer periods than usual is beneficial. It is possible that 12 hours per day should be regarded as a minimum for seedlings, rather than as a normal amount. If you want to experiment, try some seedlings under 24 hours per day light (in a different room, to avoid disturbing adult plants). Remember to avoid excessive temperature.

Finally, 100% germination is impressive; perhaps growing seeds on sterilized nutrient agar would be a worthwhile effort for difficult seeds.

***Anna rubidiflora* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Guizhou, the southern part of China. Yi-Gang Wei, Fang Wen, Bo Zhao, & Shun-Zhi He. *Plant Ecology and Evolution* 146(2): 203-211. 2013.**

The only member of this genus that I have seen is *Anna mollifolia*. The genus does have other members, and this new species is the fourth. The paper includes a complete description, a DNA analysis, a botanical illustration, and photographs of the plant in habitat.

The habitat is shaded and damp limestone cliffs in a gorge. The climate is moist in autumn and winter, and sporadically dry in spring and summer. The plants found were blooming in October.

If the plant ever becomes available for cultivation, it will be interesting to adventurous growers. The leaves have silver veins, and the flower has purple markings on the white background.

Another tidbit from this paper is that the generic name *Anna* comes from Hebrew, meaning graceful and charming. It was the name of the mother of the Virgin Mary in Christian tradition, and is a common female first name in Germany.

Temporal and spatial origin of Gesneriaceae in the New World inferred from plastid DNA sequences. Mathieu Perret, Alain Chautems, Andréa Onofre de Araujo, & Nicolas Salamin. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society. Linnean Society of London* 171: 68-79. 2013.

This study uses DNA techniques to infer the evolutionary history of the gesneriads. This is possible if you can do two things. The first used to be impossible but is now reasonably straightforward: this is to read out the DNA sequences of a great many species, and figure out the number of places where these sequences differ because of the random changes that have happened over the eons.

The second thing you need to do is to get an estimate of the average rate at which these sequence changes occur; this is a little tricky. Ideally, you would like to find fossils

showing when some of the members of the group existed, to provide a reference date. However, gesneriads have not left any fossils that have been found so far. The authors have had to use fossils from other plant groups.

Once the authors had DNA sequences and some calibration points for dating the rate of changes, they could make estimates of when various groups of gesneriads diverged from each other.

Almost all of the gesneriad DNA samples came from New-World species and the South Pacific group, with only a few Old-World species. The authors also obtained DNA from several outlier groups and sister groups to the gesneriads, to get an idea when they diverged.

One conclusion is that the ancestors of gesneriads originated in the temperate Andes-Amazon region of South America in the late Cretaceous (think of dinosaur extinction time). Some of these early plants moved to places that would eventually be “Old-World” maybe 20 million years later. (The continents were much closer together back then.) Another group moved from South America to the South Pacific area a little later, and the ancestors of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* moved independently even later.

Spreading around South America happened in a short span about 34 million years ago. A large amount of diversification to form the current rich collection of species happened within the last 10 million years.

Regarding relationships within the family, this study largely confirmed the existing arrangements. One thing that I found interesting is that *Titanotrichum* is apparently most closely related to *Napeanthus* and *Besleria*, rather than to the other rhizomatous gesneriads.

The family containing *Calceolaria* is confirmed as a sister group to the gesneriads.

The genus *Cubitanthus* is placed in the Linderniaceae family rather than among the gesneriads.

The authors confirm Wiehler’s decision to place the genus *Sanango* among the gesneriads.

They also suggest that the genus *Peltanthera*, containing only *P. floribunda*, should either be placed in the gesneriads or made a separate family. (The next paper below creates a separate family for it, but the discussion of its proper place is apparently ongoing at the present time.) The plant is a tree with fragrant flowers having five stamens, a feature not usually found in gesneriads.

This review is a very brief overview of a complex discussion. If it seems interesting, by all means read the original to get the full and correct story.

Two New Lamiid Families for The Americas. E. A. Molinari-Novoa. *Weberbauerella* 1(7): 1-4. 2016.

This is a short paper formally establishing a new family for the genus *Peltanthera* as discussed above. The formally declared characteristic is that it has five stamens. He also mentions as evidence that this plant lacks certain characteristic chemicals found in gesneriads.

The author recognizes that the controversy on proper positioning of this genus is ongoing.

***Nautilocalyx rugosus* (Gesneriaceae), a New Species from the Río Cenepa Watershed (Amazonas, Peru). Rocio del Pilar Rojas & J. L. Clark. *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 9(2): 345-349. 2015.**

This new species is unusual for the genus in growing directly on a wet sandstone rock wall. The leaves are about 5cm (two inches) long, elliptical, green above and purple below. The leaves are bullate, like *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, but in this plant there is a

single elongated hair at the peak of each bulla. This is a characteristic that it shares with *Begonia staudtii*, an unrelated plant from a different continent, so it must be convergent evolution in response to similar environment. The flowers are similar in general appearance to those of *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, but this plant has flowers that are larger, and they have a short spur at the back end.

As with many newly discovered species, it is at first known only from a single limited area, so it is considered Critically Endangered. If it ever becomes available for cultivation, it looks like a good one.

Morphological differences between the flowers of *Ramonda serbica*, *R. nathaliae* and their hybrid. M. Lazarević, T. Rakić, & J. Šinžar-Sekulić. Botanica Serbica 38(1): 91-98. 2014.

There are two places in southeastern Serbia where the two Balkan species of *Ramonda* live together, and form natural hybrids. The question studied here is, how to distinguish the hybrids from the (somewhat similar) parents.

These plants live on exposed rocks facing northward, and also on rocks in the forest. They do not favor direct sun. *Ramonda nathaliae* is more tolerant of drier situations and is more frequent in the more-exposed spots.

Flowers of *Ramonda serbica* are slightly cupped. They usually have five petals, though sometimes three to six. The margins of the petals are flat, and do not overlap. This species is hexaploid, with 144 chromosomes. Anthers are usually blue-violet.

Flowers of *Ramonda nathaliae* are flat. They usually have four petals (quite unusual for a gesneriad), though sometimes three to six. The margins of the petals are undulated, and they overlap. This species is diploid, with 48 chromosomes. Anthers are usually yellow.

Flowers of the hybrids are rather similar to those of *Ramonda serbica*. The hybrids are mostly tetraploid, with 96 chromosomes. Anthers are usually yellow with a hint of blue. Seed from these hybrids has low fertility.

The authors made measurements of many characteristics of the flowers, and used statistical methods to figure out which characteristics were the best for separating the species and hybrids. Their conclusions were that the two species can be separated visually by the characteristics mentioned above. They hybrids cannot be reliably distinguished from the species in the field by flower shape; counting of chromosomes or other laboratory methods will be required.

Changes to Species Seed List 1Q18

Additions:

Achimenes grandiflora
Aeschynanthus tricolor 'Rapunzel'
Columnea ornata
Columnea scandens v. *tulae*
Columnea sp./Haiti
Columnea sp. GRE9000/Ecuador
Columnea spathulata
Gesneria celsioides
Hemiboea ovalifolia
Lysionotus sp. "Selby"
Ornithoboea lacei
Sinningia speciosa 'Poco Parado'
Titanotrichum oldhamii (propagules)

Deletions:

Achimenes grandiflora 'Robert Dressler'
Boea hygroskopica
Columnea dissimilis GRE14287
Cyrtandra samoensis
Cyrtandra sp./Malaysia
Drymonia coccinea
Drymonia coccinea v. *fusco-maculatus*
Drymonia pendula
Drymonia pulchra
Drymonia sp. nov./Veracruz
Drymonia sp. (*umecta* ined.)
Paliavana werdermannii

Send orders for species seed to:

Carolyn Ripps, 21 Sprain Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530

Experiences Growing the Gesneriads from Southern Chile

Bob Stewart ~ Stow, MA, USA ~ <aeschyranthus@verizon.net>

I HAVE TRIED GROWING EACH OF THE THREE SPECIES DISCUSSED in the accompanying Botanical Review article, with varying success.

My favorite of the three is *Sarmienta scandens*. Once this plant has been established, it grows enthusiastically under the conditions available here. It is in a greenhouse, where it gets full sun in the winter and about half sun (because of shading material) in the summer. It gets water sprayed all over it with a hose almost every day. The temperature is in the range of 50°F/10°C in winter, and as low as the fans and evaporative cooler can get it in summer.

It has essentially no soil at all. The pot in the picture once held long-fiber sphagnum moss, but this has long since decayed away. The pole that it is climbing is a tree fern pole, commonly sold for growing orchids. This picture is a few years old. Since then, the plant has climbed onto the tree fern plaque next to it on the right, conquered that, and invaded the next plaque up.





Previous page and above, *Sarmienta scandens* growing in the author's greenhouse.
Photos by the author

Several years ago, we had a sarmienta that was climbing the glass walls of the greenhouse by getting its roots into the joint between the glass and the aluminum frame. Our attempts to grow the plant in soil mix have been unsuccessful; this is a real epiphyte.

The flowers of *Sarmienta scandens* are attractive and produced in quantity. Flowering is usually in late winter to spring; there are seldom many left by convention. I have seen claims that temperatures below 40°F/4°C are required to induce flowering, but the thermostat in the greenhouse is set for 56°F/13°C in winter, and the plant blooms nicely.

Although *Sarmienta scandens* grows readily when well-established, it does not establish well. We find it very difficult to start a plant from a cutting, even if the cutting already has roots, and even if we start it in the same conditions as the parent. The most dependable method for producing a new plant is to put a suitable substrate next to an existing plant for a few months, and allow it to encroach on the new territory, and then cut it loose.

This species could be awkward for growing in a home or a light garden. It would be difficult to provide daily spraying. Also, many under-light situations have rather high temperatures, especially in closed boxes under lights. This plant wants cool, wet conditions, not warm and dry. The temperatures that humans are willing to live in are seldom seen in its habitat. On the other hand, the greenhouse can get quite warm during daytime in summer, and the plant does fine, so there may be hope indoors.

We are also growing *Mitraria coccinea*, in the same light and temperature conditions as the sarmienta. The mitraria is growing in a shallow four-inch pot of soil (but with frequent water). It has sent a stem clambering up the vertical screen behind it, and arching out to the side when it ran out of screen; the length of the stem is now about six feet. For us it has not been a good bloomer. Now that I have read the paper describing its preferences, perhaps I will try growing it in lower light under the bench.

I am told that this species will survive outdoors in San Francisco, most years at least.

Many years ago we twice attempted, unsuccessfully, to grow *Asteranthera ovata*. It did not survive more than a few months. We gave it conditions similar to the sarmienta, which may have been too bright. I am waiting for a chance to try it again, this time in low light as the paper suggests. The online pictures of the flower are quite striking.

Convention Dates to Remember

Register and reserve your hotel room early!

- June 8 Hotel reservation deadline for convention room rates.
(Note: Convention rates will not be honored after our room block is filled, which could be before this date so reserve your room early.)
- June 15 Donation deadline for Flower Show awards.
- June 18 Judging School registration deadline. Be reminded that no registrations will be accepted at convention.
- June 18 Reservation deadline for artistic and arts entries and for commercial and educational exhibits.

To register for convention online, go to

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2018-convention-framingham-massachusetts/>

Christopheria xantha

Dale Martens, Sherrard, IL, USA ~ dalemartens@mchsi.com



AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2016, I RECEIVED AN order of seeds from The Gesneriad Society's Seed Fund that included a packet of *Christopheria xantha*. I had grown it about a decade before with its older name of *Episcia xantha*. At that time I had several episcias in bloom including *E. lilacina*, but nothing would cross with *E. xantha*. Now I know there's a good reason for the incompatibility. According to James F. Smith and John L. Clark's article in *Systematic Botany* (2013), "*Christopheria xantha* is known from forests in French Guiana and Guyana between 50-500 m. The placement in *Episcia* has not been questioned until this species was included in phylogenetic analyses (Clark et al. 2006,

2012). It is clearly part of a clade of other Shield-endemic Gesneriaceae and is not related to other species of *Episcia*. Neither is *Christopheria* closely related to the other Neotropical genus of Gesneriaceae with stolons, *Alsobia*." According to Dr. Smith, the genus name "is derived from the first and last names, respectively, of Christopher Davidson and Sharon Christoph who provided both logistical and intellectual support to him including the trip to French Guiana where leaf material for this species was collected."



From top left, *Christopheria xantha* berries, ripe fruit split open, flower face on, side view showing profile of flower



Plant in educational display at 2017 Convention

All photos by the author

I sowed the *Christoperia xantha* seeds in a one-ounce container with a lid. The soilless mix was moist, not muddy. Seeds germinated within two weeks. As per my usual routine, I transplanted the seedlings often and when they were eight weeks old, I removed the cotyledons and buried the little seedlings deeper into the mix. By the end of May, just five months after sowing the seeds, I had a large plant with stolons and flowers!

Culture for this species includes T-12, cool-white tube light 12 hours a day. When I placed it under T-8 tubes, there was an immediate difference with leaf movement downward and a tight center developing. So I quickly moved it back under the T-12 tubes. I wick water all my plants using 1/8 teaspoon of balanced or higher nitrogen orchid fertilizers per gallon of water. Room temperature in my basement is between 65 and 82 degrees Fahrenheit. Flowers would not open in my room's 38% humidity, but would cooperate with open flowers if I laid clear food wrap over the plant. Therefore, it would do very well in a high-humidity situation. The soilless mix I use is a commercial sphagnum peat moss blend with vermiculite, perlite, and mycorrhizae.

I entered an Educational Display at the Omaha Convention and it was awarded a blue ribbon. I have to thank Jim Smith and John Clark for their assistance with information for the display. There were several yellow buds plus two berries for everyone to see. Even when the flowers did not fully open, berry-like fruit formed. The calyces and berries were a bright green that contrasted with the very dark, reddish-green leaves. The fruit took about eight weeks to ripen and split, revealing brown seeds surrounded by a moist gel. It took another week for the seeds to dry. Of course, I'll donate seeds back to the Seed Fund!

Reference: Molecular Phylogenetic Analyses Reveal Undiscovered Monospecific Genera in the tribe Episcieae (Gesneriaceae), *Systematic Botany* (2013), 38(2): pp. 1–13 © Copyright 2013 by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists DOI 10.1600/036364413X666723

Rarely Seen, Rarely Done: Merging Two Passions

Drew Norris ~ Marriottsville, MD, USA ~ <extensionofgreen@yahoo.com>



In the enclosure there is an array of interesting, familiar, and uncommon plant species and varieties.

SOME TIME AGO, MY WORK AND THE GENERAL pace of life had me busier than I had ever been. Years spent battling plant pests, repotting hundreds of gesneriads, begonias, and carnivorous plants, had left me overwhelmed with the enormity of my collection and how much effort it would take to get organized again.

I found myself searching for pleasures that would help me escape from what I should be doing and focus on something more enjoyable. The art of procrastination became the art of avoidance. My prizewinning plants showed the symptoms of months of neglect. I started dreaming of lizards, large planted enclosures, and a new way to grow some of the plants from my burgeoning stands, without having the tedium of constant care.

As often happens with me, my imagination is always bigger than my space and my budget, so as my dreams became reality, I found plant stands disappearing to make room, but few of my old plants found new homes in new enclosures. What did find their way into my newest project were blooming gardenias, orange-flowered gingers, blooming orchids, dracaena, variegated palms, ficus trees, and even a genuine cinnamon tree! Eventually some gesneriads and begonias have returned, though they are late additions and require some growing in.

What my husband Jim and I have put together is rather like an aquarium, but without the water. Sitting in front of the zoo-quality masterpiece is every bit as relaxing and enjoyable. In my basement, where three plant stands used to be, is a homemade enclosure, housing a pair of very special lizards (chameleons). It is 16' long, divided into two 8' lengths, each 4' wide and 6' 10" tall. The walls are white polywall, covered with plastic lattice. The doors are crystal clear polyester film, with a screen top, screened ventilation at the bottom, a foot and a half deep planting layer with drainage, automatic misting, and a well-orchestrated lighting arrangement, simulating sunrise and sunset.

The base of the enclosure is plywood, with standard uprights, lined with a rubber pond liner. On top of the rubber liner are cinder blocks, and on top of the cinder blocks, there are vinyl coated wire closet shelves. Over the wire shelves is professional grade landscaping fabric. This arrangement creates an empty space, 6" deep, in the bottom of the 2' base. There is a pump installed underneath the shelving,



The completed enclosure

Photos by Jim Roberts



Plants in the enclosure

with an output hose leading outside the enclosure to a drain. This false bottom keeps the soil from sitting in water and provides a necessary solution to the problem of managing the volumes of water the inhabitants require.

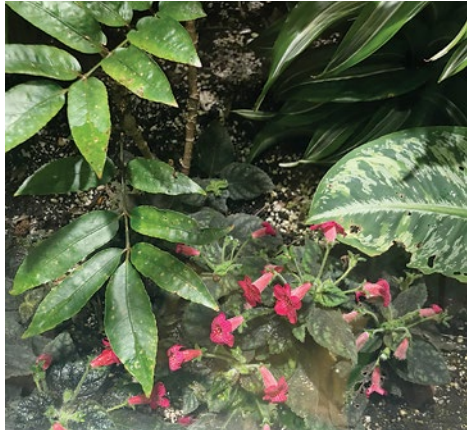
Once the base construction was completed, the next step was installing the lattice to serve as a hanging spot for epiphyte baskets, climbing support for vines, climbing surface for the chameleons, and a break from the stark white walls. Once all was in place, it was time to carry fifteen 40-lb bales of Sunshine Mix #4 down the stairs and fill the base with this pH-stable, coir-based, perlite-amended, ready-to-use product. I also mixed in a generous amount of Osmocote slow-release fertilizer pellets.

At either end, above the lights, there are cooling fans blowing air across the lighting. On the final cap of finer screen are two 20" box fans, with the intakes facing the enclosure and the output blowing outwards towards the basement ceiling. This arrangement prevents a

buildup of heat and draws fresh air from the bottom, through the strip of screen above the planting and keeps the air from stagnating. Finally, misting and lighting were installed in the enclosure canopy.

I have changed my approach to lighting several times, in an effort to minimize heat output from the light and maximize lighting and temperatures for the plants and chameleons. Currently, I am employing a dozen 40-watt, 6500k LED spotlights, six on either side; two 165-watt mercury vapor bulbs for UVB, the ultraviolet light chameleons need to metabolize calcium and manufacture vitamin D3; four 75-watt halogen basking lights; and four 4' 6-tube T8 fixtures with built in reflectors. In each T8 fixture, there are four 5000k LED T8 retrofits and two Arcadia 12% T8 UVB tubes in the center. The lights are set on separate timers so that in the morning, three of the LED spots come on, providing a soft, gentle light. Shortly after, simulating the warm hues of the morning sun, the basking halogens come on. Two hours later, the second lot of LED spots come on, along with the 6-tube fixtures. Finally, at midday, the intense mercury vapor bulbs come on. The lights turn off in reverse order, simulating warm evening sunset and early moonlight, before full darkness. The total light hours vary by season and are greatest during summer, at 16 total hours per day. In winter, I cut the light hours to 10 total hours.

In the enclosure there is an array of interesting, familiar, and uncommon plant species and varieties. These were chosen based on their suitability to the environment, safety and compatibility with the chameleons, and varying colors, heights, and textures. I wanted a natural-looking landscape, with harmonious but colorful landscaping. I've utilized several variegated *Ficus benjamina* trees, a gardenia tree, bamboo palms, scheffleras, *Dracaena marginata*, a cinnamon tree, and *Ficus alii* to provide the tall canopy plants, with branches capable of supporting the weight of animals that can reach nearly 3' in length



There actually are some gesneriads in the enclosure!

and 1400 grams. There are secondary plantings of fatsia, a variegated rhapsis palm, an orange-flowering ginger, a Miracle Fruit shrub, *Coffea arabica*, and other *Dracaena* varieties. Following these are an assortment of *Calathea*, *Cetantbe*, *Aphelandra*, (zebra plant), *Crossandra*, creeping begonias, *Syngonium rayii*, *Philodendron jopeii*, and yes, there are gesneriads! So far, recently added gesneriads include \times *Rhytidoneria* 'Ako Cardinal Flight', *Nautilocalyx aeneus* 'Bronze', *Kobleria* 'Flirt', and *Chrysothemis pulchella* 'Dark Form'. Many gesneriads and begonias would thrive in the humid, freely draining, and well-lit environment. I have considered attempting some gasteranthus, other nautilocalyx, and *Neomortonia rosea*, but space and light are limited among the current full plantings. The main reason I did not include more gesneriads is that they are easily shaded by the necessary taller plants, such as the ficus and gardenia. They are also susceptible to being consumed by the slugs that despite my best efforts find a way in.

When you have animals there are obstacles to treating for pests. I sprayed all of the plants with miticides and systemics. Inevitably, spider mites, foliar mealy bugs, and scale

appear. Sometimes it's a matter of parts of prone plants being shaded by others. Lack of light will result in weak growth, favored by pests. Judicious pruning, occasional swapping of plants, and spraying while the chameleons enjoy the warm months in an outdoor enclosure, keep things from becoming problematic.

My pair of chameleons (*Calumma parsonii*) are approximately three to four years old. They are wild caught animals from the Ranomafana region of Eastern Madagascar. Both have adjusted smoothly

to life with me and they take insects from my feeders and show little concern for my presence. I breed many of my own insects to feed my chameleons, including nine species of tropical cockroaches (some approaching the size of a human hand), silkworms, crickets, and occasionally other insects. I also feed them wild-collected katydids, locusts, mantises, moths, cicadas, dragonflies, and other insects. These are appropriately sized and offer them some variety and the opportunity for the chameleons to use their amazingly long, sticky tongues, which can be up to 1-1/2 times the animals' body length! I never tire of watching them stalk and shoot their insect prey.

I hope you have enjoyed this small departure from gesneriad discussions and have found some inspiration and curiosity towards finding out about other plants, animals, and techniques that can pair with our love of gesneriads like fine wine with a gourmet meal.



Female chameleon

∞ Seed Fund Promotional Contest ∞

To encourage donations to the Gesneriad Society's Seed Fund, a contest began on January 1, 2018. First and second place prizes will be given to the persons making the most Seed Fund donations throughout the year. The number of individual types of seed contributed (not the number of seeds) will be tracked from January 1 through December 31, 2018. The prizes (\$25 for first and \$15 for second) will be gift certificates of the winners' choice below:

- ∞ SEED FUND ∞ COMMERCIAL GROWER OF WINNER'S CHOICE
- ∞ GESNERIAD SOCIETY WEBSTORE ∞ CONVENTION PLANT SALES

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Coming Events

Ray Coyle and Karyn Cichocki <events@gesneriadsociety.org>

Gesneriad Society Events

April 21 – Seattle, WA Puget Sound Gesneriad Society and Seattle African Violet Society Annual Show and Sale, Wallingford Senior Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N #140, Seattle, WA 98103. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Additional information: Heather Dunn <hlbillups@gmail.com>

May 5 – Vancouver, BC, Canada Vancouver African Violet & Gesneriad Club Annual Show and Sale, Floral Hall, VanDusen Garden, 5251 Oak St., Vancouver, BC, Canada. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Additional information: Marianne Moore <mdmoore@telus.net>

May 5-6 – Oyster Bay, NY Long Island Gesneriad Society Flower Show & Plant Sale, Planting Fields Arboretum

Conference Center, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. May 5: 1 - 4 p.m.; May 6: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Additional information: <psusi11@gmail.com> or <https://www.longislandgesneriads.org/>

July 3-7 – Framingham, MA The Gesneriad Society's 62nd Annual Convention, hosted by the New England Gesneriad Society, Sheraton Framingham Hotel, 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01701. Additional information: <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/2018-convention-registration-now-open/> and <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2018-convention-framingham-massachusetts/>

Other Events of Interest to Gesneriad Society Members

April 7 – Windsor, CT Windsor African Violet Society Annual Judged Show and Sale, "Violets Under the Big Top," Grace Episcopal Church, 311 Broad St., Windsor, CT 06095. 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Come early for the best selection of plants for sale from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. Additional information: www.windsoraffricanviolets.org or Nancy Hayes at violetnancy@comcast.net or 860-930-6260.

April 13-15 – Richmond, VA Richmond African Violet Society Judged Show and Sale, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond,

Virginia 23228. Show: April 14, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.; April 15, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sale: April 13, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.; April 14, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; April 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Additional information: Barbara Greenawalt, 804-755-7434 or <barbgreenawalt@hotmail.com>

April 14-15 – St Louis, MO Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council Show and Sale, Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis MO 63119. April 14 and 15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Additional information: 314-406-4628 or <linda.mslavc@gmail.com>



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Gesneriad Registrations

Irina Nicholson, Registrar ~ Lakewood, CO, USA ~
<irina.nicholson.co@gmail.com>



***Sinningia* 'OJ's Annabelle'**, 2017, IR171392, Olga Johnsen, Skudeneshavn, Norway, (*S.* 'Pretty Bell' × *S. eumorpha*). Cross made June 2016, planted October 2016, first flowered July 19, 2017. Fertile, reproducible only vegetatively. Miniature sinningia, erect growth habit. Leaves dark red-green with red reverse, 5.5 cm long, 5 cm wide, with 2.2 cm petiole, ovate with cordate base, crenate margin and rounded tip. Calyx split, green with dark red tips, 0.9 cm long. Pedicel 6.4 cm with 1 flower per axil. Corolla salverform 4.7 cm long × 3.4 cm wide, dark purple with yellow throat with some white and lime green and dark spots. This cross achieved a small plant with larger and more open flowers than its seed parent.



***Primulina* 'Silver Feather'**, 2017, IR171393, Wen-Jun Lu, Sheng Huang, Hong-Tao Liu, Wuhan, China, (mutation of *Primulina fimbrisepala*). Discovered in 2015 in a group of this species grown in a conservation facility. Fertile. Basal rosette. Dark green leaves with silver-white pattern, 6-14 cm long, 4.3-8.5 cm wide with 4-8.5 cm petiole, ovate with cuneate to oblique base, serrate margin and acute tip, hairy. Calyx split, chocolate brown, 7-10 mm long. Pedicel 3-8.5 cm long with 3-4 flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 5-7.2 cm long × 1.8-2.3 cm wide, purple. Silver-white feather patch goes all the way along the central vein of the leaf blade and can be as wide as one third of the width of the blade. It can be cultivated in Central, Eastern and Southern China with an optimum growth temperature range 15-28°C.



***Primulina* 'Loki'**, 2017, IR171394, Peter Shalit, Seattle, WA, (*P. brassicoides* × *P. dryas* 'Latifolia Dwarf'). Cross made 2004, planted 2004, and first flowered 2006. Sterile, reproducible only vegetatively. Flat basal rosette. Leaves deep green (RHS 137a) with prominent silver markings; midrib and veins sometimes red, blade 3-5 cm long, 3-5 cm wide, petiole 2 cm, orbicular with cuneate base, serrate margin and rounded tip. Calyx split, green, 4 mm long. Pedicel 8 cm long with 3-5 flowers per axil. Corolla salverform, 2 cm long × 2.5 cm wide, violet purple (RHS 75b). Leaf shape and markings are unique among primulina cultivars. Extremely easy to grow; vigorous; compact.



***Sinningia* 'Solstice'**, 2017, IR171395, Peter Shalit, Seattle, WA, (*S.* 'Tomorrow' × *S. conspicua*). Cross made 2007, planted 2007, and first flowered 2008. Fertile, reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette with somewhat upright growth habit. Leaves pale green (RHS K3d), 12 cm long × 9 cm wide, with 3 cm petiole, ovate with cuneate base, acute tip. Calyx split, green 1.4 cm long. Pedicel 8 cm with 1-5 flowers per axil. Corolla salverform, 4.5 cm long × 2.4 cm wide, pale yellow (RHS 11d) with maroon spots and lines in throat. Slight variable fragrance, very vigorous with minimal dormancy. Easier to grow than *S. conspicua*.

Donations

Betsy Gottshall, Development Chairperson ~ Collegetown, PA, USA ~
<gottshb@verizon.net>

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS

throughout the year enable The Gesneriad Society to meet its dreams for future research, scholarships, convention speakers, student grants, conservation, and special convention activities. These funds are not financed through dues payments. They are entirely dependent on the generosity of your donations to secure their growth and availability for future applicants. Donations to the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund ensure the financial stability of the Gesneriad Society in the coming years.

The recipient of the proceeds in the live and silent auctions at the 2018 Framingham Gesneriad Convention will be the **Conservation Fund**.

The following tax-deductible donations were made to The Gesneriad Society during the period July to December 2017.

CONSERVATION FUND – \$1,015

Timothy Demmin, Jeanne Katzenstein

FRANCES BATCHELLER ENDOWMENT FUND – \$1,099

Marlene Beam (in memory of Doris Carson)

Margaret Bruckhart (in memory of Elizabeth Nissley)

Glenview/North Shore African Violet Society

Pamela Schwager

Tennessee Gesneriad Society (in memory of Carol Ann Bonner)

NELLIE D. SLEETH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND – \$205

Andrea Pirone

Maureen Pratt

Vancouver African Violet & Gesneriad Society

Larry Williams

STUDENTS AND SPEAKERS FUND – \$1,228

Hector Wong on-line auction of *Sinningia speciosa* 'Double Raspberry Pearl' during his lecture "Growing Gesneriads in Urban Honolulu" at Gescon17

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (in lieu of speaker's fee for Dale Martens)

Long Island Gesneriad Society (in lieu of speaker's fee for Jeanne Katzenstein)

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (in lieu of speaker's fee for Karyn Cichocki)

Jeanne Katzenstein

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Stephen Dunn, William Eddleman, Betsy Gottshall, Franc Hancock, Maureen Pratt, Lan Wu (Life Membership receipts are placed in the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund.)

THE 2017 ANNUAL APPEAL TO CHAPTERS FOR THE ELVIN MCDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND – \$200

Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society (in honor of Russ Strover)

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society (in memory of David Harley)

THE 2017 ANNUAL APPEAL TO MEMBERS FOR THE ELVIN MCDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND – \$7,590

Anonymous (in honor of Peter Shalit & Bob Clark)

Anonymous many (in honor of Dale Martens)

Heather and Michael Ascher

Marlene Beam (in memory of Doris Carson)

Barbara Burde

Karyn Cichocki

Ray Coyle

Patrick Duffy

Betsy Gottshall (in memory of Carol Ann Bonner)
 Austin Greivous
 Mel Grice (in honor of Betsy Gottshall)
 Stuart Hammer
 Marilyn Heinrich
 Stephen Maciejewski (in honor of Wei Yi-Gang)
 Dale Martens (in honor of the Webinar Team)
 Carra O'Daniel (in memory of Carol Ann Bonner)
 Ben Paternoster
 Leonard Re (in honor of Irina Nicholson)

Carolyn Ripps (in memory of Carol Ann Bonner)
 Mary Schaeffer
 Molly Schneider (in honor of Rickey Schneider who keeps her gesneriads growing)
 Dell Sherk (in honor of Leonard Re)
 Peter Shalit & Bob Clark (in honor of Paul Susi)
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 Paul Susi
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FRANCES BATCHELLER ENDOWMENT FUND) – \$10,000 BEQUEST FROM THE ESTATE OF CAROL ANN BONNER

Carol's message: "You have enriched my life like the beauty of a slowly unfurling sinningia bud – how do you put that into words? You don't. More than that, it's not just the beauty, it's the expectation, it's the joy. Knowing that you have friends everywhere; and not just friends, but good friends, all over the world. Thank you for being my friends."

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Convention Fun!

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



I'D LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S SO EXCITING about attending The Gesneriad Society's conventions, so I'm telling the story in photos from past conventions. They're a sampling of what to expect if you've never attended before. Many use these conventions as an annual vacation since each year's convention is in a different city, and there are so many places to explore. In order to determine the best day to arrive, look first at the "Convention Program" because it lists what activities are scheduled each day: <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ConventionProgram-1.pdf>



Ben Paternoster and Mel Grice enjoying Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC, Canada. The society schedules amazing bus trips, often to botanical gardens. This year we have pre-convention trips, one on Monday and another on Tuesday. The tour bus ride is great because I'm able to sit with friends and catch up on the latest with them. If I sit with someone I don't know, then I make a new friend and learn what and how they grow gesneriads. The Opening Dinner is held that Tuesday evening along with a Conservation Meeting and Program.



Here I am with Vivian Liu and Dolly Yeh who attended from Taiwan. If you are on Facebook or e-mail chat with other growers, attending convention provides the opportunity to see them in person.



Wednesday evening is the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association (GHA) meeting and everyone is invited. I lead that program and there's a speaker followed by a free raffle. See the happy faces in the audience of a past meeting!



This is what a judging school looks like. Consider signing up for the novice judging school to learn how the judges point-score entries. It will help you grow better, too! If you are entering a plant, craft, or photo, the Show Entry Form must be turned in by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. <http://www.gesneriadociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Web-C18-Flower-Show-Entry-Form-FILLABLE.pdf> Wednesday focuses on judges training and sessions. Photo: Peter Shalit



Thursday is a very busy day! If you have entries, you'll be guided through the process by a team of helpful people. This photo shows Nancy Kast and her entries with Bill Price assisting her.



The convention features lectures by accomplished gesneriad growers plus mini-presentations and poster displays by students who are studying gesneriads. This photo shows Laura Clavijo presenting a program on gesneriads in Colombia. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

The highlight of Thursday evening is the grand opening of the Plant Sales Room. Entry into the room is based on your registration number, so register today if you haven't already! The tables are set up to feature individual genera, as seen in this photo of the achimenes table showing plants and rhizomes for sale. The sales room also has a large selection of the Society's Seed Fund packets. Photo: Peter Shalit



Photos by author unless noted otherwise



Friday features the Silent Auction that includes books, journals and live plants. Friday's main activity is the judging of the show. When the show first opens to the public, there will be ribbons on the tables, but no one knows the top awards until the evening Flower Awards Banquet. Meals are a fun way to enjoy the company of other gesneriad growers!



In the meantime, for my newly purchased plants I'm covering the soil with paper towel and tape that I brought from home. Then I put each into a plastic bag.



Early Saturday morning only photographers are allowed in the show room for about an hour. That's followed by Arleen Dewell's flower show judges critique. A fun activity is the luncheon and live auction where you will probably see show plants up for bid. After the show ends, there's a closing dinner where we share convention experiences and give our goodbye hugs. Be sure to take plenty of photos of the show!



Seed Fund – Hybrids

Gussie Farrice, Seed Fund Co-Chairperson ~ Staten Island, NY, USA ~
<f.farrice@verizon.net>



So bring your lists and we will try to fill your hearts' desires.

AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE, THE WEATHER HERE in New York is quite cold and miserable. One day we have temperatures that are below 0°F with the wind chill factor, and the next we have temperatures in the 40s. I cannot wait for convention in July. You will never hear me complain about hot weather even when the thermometer hits the 90s. I hope that many of our members will be attending convention this year. The convention will be in Framingham, Massachusetts which is near my daughter who lives in Natick, MA. When I visit my daughter we almost always have a dinner at the Dolphin Restaurant. This is the same restaurant where the Saturday, July 7, dinner will be held. I can assure you that it will be a dinner you will not want to miss, so be sure to register for it. Both seed fund co-chairs will be attending convention, and will have our seed fund boxes with us. So bring your lists and we will try to fill your hearts' desires. Hope to see you there.

Recent donations from the following are gratefully acknowledged: Kelly Ates, Karyn Cichocki, Keith Dabney, Barbara Festenstein, Jill Fischer, Nancy Kast, Paul Kroll, Eileen McGrath, Hung Nguyen, Michael Riley, Carolyn Ripps, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Jay Sespico, Bob and Dee Stewart, and Gary Vellenzer.

Send orders for hybrid seed to:
Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

Seed Fund – Hybrids

Achimenes (D)

- 'Carmencita' × self
- longiflora* × 'Klaus Neubner'
- hybrid mix (B,L)

Aeschynanthus (B)

- "Thai Pink" × self
- hybrid, large orange/red

Chrysothemis (F,LM)

- pulchella* hybrid mix
- hybrid mix

Columnnea (B)

- 'Bold Venture' × self
- 'Fujiyama' × self
- 'Jude'
- 'Malissa' × self
- hybrids (orange)

Episcia (H,L,B,F)

- cupreata* hybrids × 'Suomi'
- cupreata* yellow hybrids
- cupreata* hybrids mix
- hybrid mix
- mixed hybrids (5 crosses)
- yellow hybrids

Eucodonia (D,F,P)

- verticillata* 'Cecilia' × *Eucodonia* hybrids
- reverse crosses

- hybrid 1
- hybrid 2
- hybrid 3
- hybrid mix

Gesneria (H,F,L)

- citrina* hybrid × self
- 'Flashdance' × self
- 'Sundrop' seedling × self

Kobleria (D)

- 'Brazil Gem' × *bogotensis*
- hybrid mix

Microchirita

- caliginosa* × *sericea* (LM)
- viola* × *caliginosa*

Nematanthus

- 'Cheerio' × self

Primulina

- 'Dreamtime' × self (sp. "New York" × *flavimaculata*)
- dryas* 'Hisako' × self

Seemannia

'Medusa' × self
sylvatica hybrid × self

Sinningia (D)

- (*aggregata* [yellow] × *sellovii*) × self
(*calcareae* × *reitzii*) × self
canescens × *leucotricha* 'Max Dekking'
carangolensis × *warmingii* 'Esmeril'
cardinalis × *glazioviana*
cardinalis hybrids
cardinalis 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)
(*cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae*) × self
(*cardinalis* × *iarae*) × self
[(*cardinalis* × *leucotricha*) × *leopoldii*] × self
cardinalis × double orange hybrid
(*cardinalis* 'Skydiver' × *iarae*) × self
conspicua × *cardinalis*
eumorpha hybrids mix (F,R)
(*eumorpha* 'Saltao' × *piresiana*) × *conspicua*
glazioviana × *leopoldii* F2 (LM)
guttata × *aggregata* (yellow)
guttata × *speciosa* 'Cabo Frio'
(*iarae* × *cardinalis* compact) × self
leopoldii × *iarae*
(*leucotricha* × *bulbosa*) × self
(*leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × *leopoldii* × self
(*leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × self
leucotricha × *leopoldii*
leucotricha × 'Apricot Bouquet'
leucotricha × *piresiana*
sellovii small pink hybrid × self
(*sellovii* × 'Apricot Bouquet') × self
sellovii × 'Peridots Sand Pebbles'
(*sellovii* × *tubiflora*) × self
sellovi × unknown sp.
(*sellovii* × *warmingii*) × self
(*tubiflora* × 'Apricot Bouquet') × (*sellovii*
× *tubiflora*)
(*tubiflora* × *incarnata*) × self
'Anne Crowley' × self (F,L)
'Apricot Bouquet' seedling × 'Apricot
Bouquet' (LM)
'Apricot Bouquet' × self (LM)
('Apricot Bouquet' × self) × self (LM)
'Apricot Bouquet' seedling × *conspicua*
(F,L)
• ('Apricot Bouquet' × self) × (*conspicua* ×
eumorpha) (F,L)
'Apricot Bouquet' hybrids
'Arkansas Bells' × self
'Beata' × self (*leucotricha* × *leopoldii*)
'Bewitched' × self (F,L)
'Cindy-Ella' × self
'Claire's Choice' × self
'Dale's Coral Fiesta' × self
'Delta Fox' × self (F,P)
'Diego' (red) (F,L)
'Diego' (pink)
'Dollbaby' × self
[('Dollbaby' × 'Mercury') × self] × 'Foxey
Blue'
'Doris' F3 × self
• 'Elin' × *leucotricha*
'Flamenco Apricot Bouquet' × self

('Florianoapolis' × *leopoldii*) × self

- 'Fuzzy Bear' × self
'Georgia Peach'
'Good Pink' × self (F,L)
'Gyllenblom' × 'Raketbarn'
• 'Jubilee' × self (F,L)
• 'Krezdorn Yellow' × self (L)
• 'Krishna' × self
'Lavender Crest' × self
'Little Imp' × self (F,P)
'Little Redhead' × self
'Maiden's Blush' × self (F,P)
'Mother of Pearl' × self (F,P)
'Mothers Day' × self (F,L)
'Ozark Pink Petunia' × self
'Pale Beauty' × self (L)
'Peridots Blazer' × self
'Pink Pearl' × self
'Premier Pink' × self (F,P)
'Pure Pink' × self (F,P)
• 'Purple Crest' × self
'Raketbarn' × self
'Romanza' × self
'Ruby Red' × self (F,P)
'Scarlet O'Hara' × self
'Scarlet Sunset' × self (F,P)
• 'Super Orange' × self
'Tampa Bay Beauty' × self (L)
• 'Ted Bona' × self (F,P)
• 'Treva McDaniel' × self
'Vevette' × self
• 'Winkie' × self
hybrid (peach) × self
Super Mini F5
• 'Georgia Sunset' hybrid mix
'Hummingbird Mix'
miniature hybrid mix (F,P)
• miniature hybrid mix (lav/purple) (F,P)
pink hybrid mix
peloric hybrid mix
peloric hybrid mix, red
- ### *Sinningia speciosa* hybrids (F,R)
- blue × self
mini
lavender
pink
• purple
red
rose
white
white × red
• pink & rose pink
pink dwarf
• purple peloric
purple picotee
purple × pink
purple w/spots
red picotee
red w/spots
red w/white edge
solid dark purple
white
white w/red spots
white/lavender

- ‘California Minis’
- Chiltern hybrid
- blue slipper
- blue slipper × self
- ‘Avenida Niemeyer’ × *S. macrophylla*
- ‘Empress’ purple × self
- lavender & pink slipper × self
- lavender slipper
- pink slipper
- red slipper
- AC1503 × *speciosa* ‘Regina’
- blue mix
- orchid/purple mix
- pink mix
- pink/white mix
- pink & white slipper
- pink and white × purple
- purple
- purple × red
- red mix
- slipper mix
- Charles Lawn hybrid mix
- Empress Mixed
- Jack Evans purple mix
- ‘Regina’ hybrid
- Small’s dwarf mix
- white × red
- mixed hybrids
- Smithiantha** (D)
- ‘An’s Sognare Firenze’ × *zebrina*
- ‘Big Dots Rule’ × ‘Vivian’s Gift’ hybrid (white)
- ‘Jan’s Surprise’ × ‘Tropical Sunset’
- ‘Little One’ (F,L)
- ‘Sassy Redhead’ × ‘An’s Sognare Firenze’
- ‘Vivian’s Gift’ × ‘Sunrise Thunder’
- Streptocarpus** subg. **Streptocarpus**
- ‘Amy’ × self
- ‘Bethan’ × self
- ‘Black Panther’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Charm’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Daisy Jane’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Gum Drop’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Hey Mei’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Hot Rod’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Ice Castle’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Luv It’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Popsicle’ × self
- ‘Bristol’s Ripe Melon’ × self
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × self (V)
- (‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Bristol’s Leopard Skin’) × self
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Charlotte’
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Coral Flair’ (V)
- ‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Emily’s Song’
- ‘Cape Beauties’ × self (F,P)
- (‘Cape Essence’ × ‘Iced Pink Flamingo’) × unnamed hybrid
- ‘Charlotte’ × self
- ‘Charlotte’ × ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’
- ‘Crystal Wonder’ × self
- ‘Demeter’ × self
- ‘Electric Blue’ × self
- ‘Elegance’ × self
- ‘Ella Mae’ × self
- ‘Ella Mae’ × ‘Blue Variety’
- (‘Epupa Falls’ × self) × self
- ‘Falling Stars’ × self
- ‘Fancy Pants’ × self
- ‘Fernwood’s Cherries Jubilee’ × self
- ‘Fernwood’s Fairy Princess’ × self
- ‘Festival Wales’ × self
- ‘Fleischle’s Princesse’ × self
- ‘Fleischle’s Roulette Cherry’ × self
- ‘Franken Dainty Lady’ × self
- ‘Franken Jane Elizabeth’ × self
- ‘Franken Stacey’ × self
- ‘Good Vibrations’ × (*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed)
- ‘Hera’ × self
- ‘Ice Berg Blues’ × ‘Guidelines’
- ‘Ice Berg Blues’ × (‘Canterbury Surprise’ × ‘Bristol’s Leopard Skin’)
- ‘Jane Elizabeth’ × ‘Blue Variety’
- ‘Jenny’ × self
- ‘Ken’s Purple’ × self
- ‘Keri’s Purple’ × self
- ‘Kim’ × self
- ‘Kitten Face’ × self
- ‘Midnight Flame’ × self
- ‘Mini Pink Fu’ × self
- ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’ × self
- ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’ × ‘Iced Amethyst Showoff’
- ‘Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon’ × ‘Velma’

Seed Packets — \$3 each

- Please**
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is MasterCard or Visa (\$6 minimum)
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 - Make checks payable to The Gesneriad Society in U.S. funds
 - **Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope** (non-U.S. orders will have the postage added to their credit card bill)
 - List alternate choices
 - Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)
- Note**
- There is a limit of one seed packet of a single variety per order
 - There is a limit of 25 seed packets per order
 - There is a household limit of 50 seed packets per calendar year

- Pale lilac netted × self
 'Park's Holiday Hybrid' × self
 'Party Doll' × self
 'Passion Pink' × self
 'Pegasus' × self
 'Persephone' × self
 'Piment Ornamental'
 'Pink Ice' × self
 Polish Mini #2 × self
 'Royal' (red)
 'Royal' (white/pink stripes)
 'Sandra' × self
 'Scarlet Glitter' × unknown
 'Smooched' × self
 'Somerset Purple Ice' × self
 'Spooky' × self
 'Stacey' × "Blue Variety"
 'Stonewashed' × self
 'Sue mini' × self
- 'Suzie' × self
 - 'Thalia' × self
 - 'Velma' × self
 - 'Wow' × self
- (*confusus* ssp. *confusus* × *polyanthus* ssp. *verecundus*) × self
- *johannis* × unknown
 - (*montigena* × *rexii*) × self
 - (*polyanthus* ssp. *polyanthus* × *prolixus* JT04-11) × self
 - (*primulifolius* × *rexii*) × self
- *rexii* × *gardenii*
rexii hybrids
 - Wiesmoor hybrids
hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines
 - hybrid, lg purple
hybrid, lg white
hybrid, lg mixed colors
hybrid, pink/pink
hybrid, red
hybrid, red × self
hybrid, white/pink × self
hybrid mix
Dibley's Dragon Mix
Dibley's Pink Bouquet Mix
New Zealand hybrid mix
- Streptocarpus* subg. *Streptocarpella* sect. other than *Saintpaulia***
- hybrid
hybrid, white/pink flowers
- Intergenerics**
- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia macropoda* MP 944
- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia reitzii* MP 949
- × *Gloximannia* 'Circe' × self
- Mixed gesneriad hybrids**
- denotes LIMITED quantities

Seed Fund Key

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) Alpine or cool greenhouse (AN) Annual, dies after flowering (B) Suitable for hanging basket (D) Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes (F) Blooms readily in fluorescent light (G) Recommended for greenhouses; requires space (H) Requires humidity and warmth (L) Low growing; not more than 12"</p> | <p>(LM) Low to medium height (M) Medium height; 1 to 2 feet (MT) Medium to tall (P) Petite or miniature; under 6" (R) Rosette in form (S) Requires sun to bloom (T) Tall plants; generally over 3 feet (U) Unifoliate or single leaf (V) Leaves may be variegated</p> |
|--|---|



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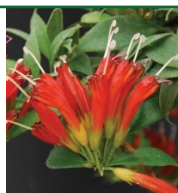
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Gesneriad Hybridizers Association — *CrossWords*, 3 issues, \$8 (\$9 outside USA). Send to Martha Lacy, 260 Stoddards Wharf Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335 <Martha_GHA@comcast.net>
“**Gleanings**” — a free monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society (Mel Grice, editor). To subscribe, go to <http://www.gesneriads.org/gleanings/index.htm> and click on “Subscribe to Notification email.”
Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group — Visit the website for instructions about joining the list: <<http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/gesneriphiles>>

Visit <<http://gesneriads.org/resources/>> for more information about websites, organizations, and Facebook pages devoted to gesneriads.

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