

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

# Gesneriads

Volume 64 ~ Number 3  
Third Quarter 2014



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### Cover

*Lesia savannarum*, named after our  
Consulting Taxonomist, Laurence E. Skog  
Photo: John L. Clark

### Back Cover

*Ornitoboea* species growing *in situ* in Vietnam  
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

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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 names and  
cultivars of gesneriads excepting  
the genus *Saintpaulia*. Any person  
desiring to register a cultivar  
should contact Irina Nicholson,  
2512 South Balsam Way,  
Lakewood, CO 80227 USA  
hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org.

# President's Message



I thought it would be fun to find out about the background of the members

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY HAS THRIVED THROUGH the years only because of its members. As an all-volunteer organization, the Society depends on its members' skills and time to produce its journal, manage its website, keep its investments growing, develop and distribute publications and merchandise, and host our annual conventions. Because we depend on the skills of our volunteers, I thought it would be fun to find out about the background of the members who have been recently appointed either as directors or committee chairpersons.

However, before doing that, I would like to thank Larry Skog, who has been a member for 45 years, for his years of service to the Society as the chairperson of the two important funds for research and education. In the early 1980s Larry, along with Frances Batcheller and Paul Arnold, was on a committee that reviewed the plant names to appear in the journal. In 2002 Larry became the Chairperson of the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund (EMREF) and, in 2006, the chairperson of the newly created Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund (NDSSEF). In addition to these responsibilities, Larry is also the Consulting Taxonomist for this journal. Larry resigned as chairperson of

EMREF in early 2012 and of NDSSEF early this year, but continues to be active on both committees as well as on the Convention Student Grant Committee. Larry has been succeeded by Alain Chautems (EMREF) and Eric Roalson (NDSSEF).



Larry Skog



Alain Chautems



Eric Roalson



Irina Nicholson

Alain Chautems, our new EMREF Chairperson, had his first contact with The Gesneriad Society during the Sarasota Convention in July 1982, and has been a member since 1983. He presented his first convention talk at the Denver Convention in 1986. Alain specializes in Brazilian Gesneriaceae.

Eric Roalson, NDSSEF Chairperson, has been a member since 2001. He was introduced to gesneriads when he started his postdoctoral studies with Larry Skog and Liz Zimmer at the Smithsonian Institution in 2000. He has continued working in the gesneriad family at various levels since then, particularly the tribe Gloxineae and the genus *Cyrtandra*.

Irina Nicholson, Gesneriad Registrar, joined the Society in 2005 and attended her first convention in 2006 in Rochester, New York. Irina became a director in 2013 and brings a lot of enthusiasm to the position of Registrar.

*Continued on page 28*

# From the Editor



We love  
gesneriad  
evangelists —  
folks who  
spread the  
word about  
growing  
gesneriads.

THERE'S A POTPOURRI OF GESNERIAD GOODIES in this issue.

Dispatches from the wild include John L. Clark's description of gesneriad hunting in Guyana, and Stephen Maciejewski's account of his further adventures in Vietnam.

Amazing new streps have been appearing in Eastern Europe. Wallace Wells gives us the lowdown starting on page 12.

It's always nice to find a new supplier of high-quality gesneriads. Read the article about Steve's Leaves on page 29.

Al Striepens noticed something unusual with his *Primulina flavimaculata*. He tells us about it on page 15.

Springtime is show season, and of course we have lots of pictures from some of the spring shows.

A couple of new gesneriad hybrids have been registered. See the photos and read the descriptions on page 32.

We love gesneriad evangelists – folks who spread the word about growing gesneriads. Ryan Ferre (page 9) and Dale Martens (page 48) each tell us how they are doing that in their own way.

Speaking of spreading the word, I'd like to put in a plug for our "Green Membership" option as a great way to give a membership in The Gesneriad Society to an interested friend. Green Memberships cost significantly less than standard ones and offer all the same privileges except for print copies of *Gesneriads*. Besides, they save resources, in keeping with our conservation mission.

The electronic (PDF) version of our journal is released to Green Members a few days before other members receive their print copies. We are working to make this PDF more than just a facsimile of the print version. In particular, all the links in the PDF are "live" now, meaning that if you are reading *Gesneriads* on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, clicking on a URL or email address in the journal will bring you to the appropriate site in a browser or will open up a new email.

So please consider giving a Green Membership (or a standard membership) to that friend who admires the gesneriads you're growing and wants to learn more. You can use the membership form on page 52 or purchase memberships on our website. You, too, can be a gesneriad evangelist!

Enjoy *Gesneriads*,

*Peter*

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Seattle, WA, USA

# Seed Fund



What a reference to add to your library of gesneriad information!

THE LONG WAIT IS OVER! THE PUBLICATION *Proceedings of the World Gesneriad Research Conference*, which was held at The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (MSBG) in October of 2010, has finally appeared. The MSBG has published it as *Selbyana*, volume 31, number 2 (2013). The articles in the *Proceedings* range from highly technical molecular analyses of relationships within the family to interesting observations on gesneriad reproduction strategies. Abstracts of papers that were presented at the Conference are also included. Many excellent color photographs of gesneriad species provide additional useful information.

You can predict that there will be name changes when an undertaking of this magnitude occurs. This was no exception. One of the changes that will impact many growers, as well as the Seed Fund, is the reorganization of the plants that were formerly included in the genus *Codonanthe*.

Chautems and Perret have reclassified some of these familiar plants as belonging in *Codonanthopsis*. Those remaining in *Codonanthe* are found exclusively in the Brazilian rainforest, have berry fruit, and never occur on ant nests. (There goes one of our long-held beliefs.) The species that have been transferred to *Codonanthopsis* are found in other areas of Central and South

America, are often found on ant nests, and have fleshy capsule fruits. Among the species that we now should call *Codonanthopsis* are *C. calcarata*, *C. caribaea*, *C. chiricana*, *C. corniculata*, *C. crassifolia*, *C. dissimulata*, *C. elegans*, *C. erubescens*, *C. luteola*, *C. macradenia*, *C. uleana*, and *C. ulei*.

An article by John L. Clark features excellent photographs of gesneriad species endemic to Cuba and reminds us that *Gesneria rupincola* should actually be called a *Rhytidophyllum*. He also recognizes *Gesneria lopezii* as a form of *Gesneria yumuriensis*, rather than *Gesneria libanensis*. *Gesneria celsioides* is a separate species from *Gesneria humilis*. More labels and listings will need changing!

A review of molecular studies by Michael Möller and John L. Clark presents information about the taxonomic position of plants that may or may not be gesneriads. At the moment, the genera *Sanango*, *Titanotrichum*, and *Jerdonia* are in the family and *Cubitanthus* and *Rehmannia* are out. A paper by Weber et al. attempts to combine many recent findings into a new classification of the entire gesneriad family. Finally, comprehensive molecular studies of the genera *Cyrtandra* and *Columnnea* are clarifying the relationships between the species in these genera.

What a reference to add to your library of gesneriad information! This issue of *Selbyana* can be ordered from The Gesneriad Society Publications (see page 16) or order on our website.

Donations from the following are gratefully acknowledged: Jaime Andersen, Paulo Castello da Costa, Karyn Cichocki, Gussie Farrice, Robert Hall, Jeremy Keene, Hung Nguyen, Carolyn Ripps, Tom Talpey, and Leong Tuck Lock.

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

## Seed Packets — \$2 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)
  - 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

## Seed Fund – Species

- Achimenes** (D)
- admirabilis* (B,F,L)
  - *candida*
  - cettoana* (B)
  - erecta* (B)
  - erecta* ‘Tiny Red’ (F,L)
  - *grandiflora* (B,F,LM)
  - *grandiflora* ‘Robert Dressler’ (B)
  - mexicana*
  - *misera*
- Aeschynanthus** (B)
- *angustifolius*
  - fecundus* SEL1974-2907-A
  - fulgens* (evrardii)
  - garrettii*
  - gracilis* ‘Pagoda Roof’
  - *horsfieldii*
  - micranthus* SEL1974-0260
  - parviflorus* SEL1974-2701
  - pulcher* (*parvifolius*)
  - *pulcher* (*boschianus*)
  - radicans* (*lobbianus* ‘Radicans’)
  - rhododendron* (*longicalyx*)
  - sp. /Mt.Japfu
- Alsobia** (B)
- dianthiflora*
  - *punctata*
  - sp. “Chiapas”
- Amalophyllon** (D,H,L)
- divaricatum* (*Pbinaea*)
- Anodiscus** (see *Gloxinia*)
- Besleria**
- comosa* GRE9931 (T)
  - *solanooides* GRE10975 (G,T)
  - sp. GRE12396 (T)
  - sp. GRE12500
- Boea**
- hemsleyana*
  - *hygroscopica*
- Chirita** (see *Henckelia*, *Microchirita*, and *Primulina*)
- Christopheria** (*Episcia*)
- xantha*
- Chrysothemis** (F,LM)
- friedrichsthaliana*
  - pulchella*
  - *pulchella* (Ecuador)
  - pulchella* (cv. *villosa*)
- Codonanthe** (B)
- devosiana* SEL1997-0120A
  - *devosiana* (hairy)
  - *devosiana* (pink)
  - *gibbosa* (was sp. “Santa Teresa”)
  - gracilis*
  - *serrulata*
  - *venosa*
- Codonantheopsis** (*Codonanthe*)
- calcarata* ‘Puyo’
  - caribaea*
  - crassifolia*
  - crassifolia* ‘Cranberry’
  - *erubescens*
  - *uleana*
- Codonoboena** (*Henckelia*)
- *malayana* (H,M)
  - sp. aff. *curtisii*
  - sp. #1 (white)
  - sp. #2 (small yellow)
  - sp. #3 (white and purple)
- Columnnea** (B)
- *arguta*
  - brenneri* GRE9833
  - calotricha* SEL2010-0138
  - crassicaulis* (*Pentadenia*)
  - eburnea* (*Dalbergaria*)
  - fawcettii*
  - kienastiana* (*dodsonii*)
  - *linearis*
  - *linearis* ‘Purple Robe’
  - *microphylla*
  - nervosa* GRE12368
  - orientandina* (*Pentadenia*) (LM)
  - polyantha* (*Dalbergaria*)
  - pulchra* ‘Orange Crush’
  - purpureovittata*
  - purpusii*
  - *raymondii*
  - sanguinea* (*Dalbergaria*)

- scandens* var. *fendleri*  
*schiedeana*
- *schiedeana* 'Huatusco' (yellow)
  - *schimpfii* GRE12243
  - sp. "Maquipucuna" ABG97-0125
  - *sulfurea*
  - *tandapiana*
- Corytoplectus**  
*cutucuensis* (L)  
*speciosus* GRE9969  
*speciosus* var. *orbicularis* GRE11721
- Crantzia**  
*tigrina*
- Cyrtandra**  
*samoensis*  
 sp./Malaysia
- sp. (white)/Java (T)
- Dalbergaria** (see *Columnea*)
- Diastema** (D,F,P)  
*latiflorum* GRF9669A (F,H,L)  
*racemiferum* GRE12296  
*vexans*
- Didissandra**  
*frutescens*
- Didymocarpus**  
  - *cordatus* (G,T)
  - *sulphureus*
- Drymonia**  
*chiribogana*  
*coccinea* GRE9980 (T)  
*coccinea* var. *fusco-maculatus*
- *coriacea*
  - *ecuadorensis* GRE9769
  - *foliacea* GRE12650
  - *hoppii* GRE9863
  - *macrophylla* GRE12119
  - *pendula* SEL1998-0223
  - *pulchra* GRF98113
  - *punctulata*
  - *rhodoloma* ABG90-0528
  - *strigosa* (B)
  - sp. nova/Veracruz
  - sp. (*umecta* ined.) (B)
  - *teuscheri* GRE12405
- Episcia** (H,L,B,F)  
  - *cupreata*
- Epithema**  
*saxatile*  
 sp./N. Perak (M)  
 sp. (blue)/N. Perak (M)
- Eucodonia**  
*verticillata* 'Cecilia'
- Gasteranthus**  
  - *anomalus* GRE12902
  - *bilsaensis* GRE12137
  - *villosus* GRE12111
- Gesneria** (H,F)  
*acaulis* (M)  
*celsioides* GRE12449 (H,M)  
*christii* (LM)
- *cuneifolia* (L)
  - *cuneifolia* 'Quebradillas' (L)
  - *cuneifolia* 'Tom Talpey' (L)
  - *heterochroa*  
 sp. aff. *nipensis*
  - *salicifolia*
  - *shaferi* (L)
  - *ventricosa* (M)
  - *viridiflora*
- Glossoloma** (*Alloplectus*)  
*ichthyoderma* GRE9836 (T)  
*scandens* GRE11235  
 sp. cf. *panamense* GRE11118
- Gloxinella** (*Gloxinia*) (D)  
*lindeniana* (F,L)
- Gloxinia** (D)  
*erinoides* 'Red Satin'  
*perennis* (LM)  
*perennis* 'Insignis' (L)  
*xanthophylla* (*Anodiscus*) (M)
- Haberlea** (A,R)  
*rhodopensis*
- Henckelia** (*Chirita*)
- *anachoreta*
  - *ceratoscyphus* (*Chirita corniculata*)
  - *pumila* (F,L)
  - *speciosa* 'Green Leaf'
  - *speciosa* 'Vietnam'
- Heppiella** (D)  
*ulmifolia*
- Kohleria** (D)  
*allenii* (T)  
 sp. aff. *amabilis* 'Panama Pink'  
*grandiflora*  
*hirsuta*  
*inaequalis* GRE13338  
*peruviana*
- Lysionotus**  
*pauciflorus*
- Microchirita** (*Chirita*)  
*caliginosa* (LM)  
*elphinstonia*
- *hamosa* (AN,F,M)
  - *involutrata* (F,L)
  - *involutrata* (dark blue)
  - *lavandulacea* (LM)
  - *micromusa* (AN,F,L)
  - *sericea* (L,R)
  - *sericea* var. *scortechinii*
  - *viola*
  - sp. /Thailand
  - sp. /Kedah
  - sp. (blue)/Phuket
- Monophyllaea**  
*hirticalyx* (L,U)  
*horsfieldii* (U)
- Monopyle**  
  - sp. GRE12131
- Moussonia**  
  - *elegans*
- Napeanthus** (H)  
  - *andinus* GRE11052 (H)
  - *costaricensis*
  - sp. GRE12273

**Nautilocalyx**

- adenosiphon*
- melittifolius*
- panamensis* GRE12735
- sp. "Gothenberg"
- sp. "Tuberifer"

**Nematanthus**

- albus* (B)
- australis* (B)
- australis* (yellow)
- brasiliensis*
- corticola*
- fluminensis*
- fornix*
- fritschii*
- lanceolatus* 'Carangola'
- punctatus* MP0052
- sericeus* (B)
- wettsteinii* (B)
- wiehleri*

**Neomortonia** (see *Pachycaulos*)**Nomophyle** (*Gloxinia*)

- dodsonii* GRE12110

**Oreocharis**

- pankaiyuae* (*Tremacron aurantiacum*)

**Ornithoboea**

- wildeana*

**Pachycaulos** (*Neomortonia*)

- nummularium* (L)

**Paliavana** (S,T)

- gracilis* (T)
- plumerioides* (Cabral)
- prasinata*
- sericiflora* (T)

**Paradrymonia**

- ciliosa*
- sp. GRE13182/Colombia

**Pentadenia** (see *Columnea*)**Petrocosmea**

- duclouxii*
- sp. #2
- sp. #5
- sp. "Yumebutai"

**Phinaea** (D,F,P)

- albolineata*
- multiflora* 'Tracery'
- pulchella* (F,H,L)

**Primulina** (*Chirita*)

- balansae*
- eburnea* (F,R)
- gemella*
- heterotricha*
- linearifolia*
- spadiciformis* (L,R)
- subrhomboidea*
- tamiana* USBRG98-080 (F,R,P)
- sp. "V-27"

**Ramonda** (A,R)

- myconi*
- blue
- dark purple
- lavender

pink

white

- serbica* (purple)

**Raphiocarpus**

- petelotii*

**Rhytidophyllum** (G,H,S,T)

- exsertum*
- tomentosum*

**Rufodorsia** (F,LM)

- minor*

**Saintpaulia** (F,R)

- shumensis*
- 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 299
- 5b. cl. *grotei* Protzen
- 5c. cl. Uppsala #3083
- 5cl. cl. *tongwensis*
- 5f. cl. *orbicularis*
- 6. *brevipilosa*
- 8. *rupicola*
- 8. *rupicola* cl. Kacharoroni
- sp. "Kew"

**Seemannia** (*Gloxinia*) (D)

- gymnostoma* (LM)
- nematanthodes*
- nematanthodes* 'Evita' (M)
- purpurascens*
- sylvatica*

**Sinningia** (D)

- aggregata* (M)
- aggregata* 'Pendulina'
- agbensis* (T)
- allagophylla* (MT)
- allagophylla* (yellow)
- amambayensis* (L)
- araneosa* (F,L)
- barbata*
- brasiliensis* (S,T)
- bulbosa* (MT)
- bullata* (was sp. "Florianoapolis")
- calcaria* MP891 (F,L)
- canescens* (D,LM)
- carangolensis* (M)
- cardinalis* (F,LM)
- cardinalis* (compact) (F,LM)
- cardinalis* (dark calyx) (LM)
- cardinalis* (orange)
- cardinalis* peloric mix
- cardinalis* (pink)
- cardinalis* 'Innocent'
- cardinalis* 'Skydiver' (LM)
- cochlearis*
- concinna* (F,P)
- conspicua* (F,L)
- conspicua* GRF9942
- cooperi* (LM)
- cooperi* AC1522 (M)
- curtiflora* (T)
- curtiflora* GRF9927
- defoliata*
- douglasii* (red)
- elatior* AC1409 (M)
- elatior* GRF9963
- emurpha*/Saltao (L)

- eumorpha* (lavender) (F,L)  
*eumorpha* (pink)  
*eumorpha* (white)  
*gerdtiana* (was sp. "Gertiana")  
*gigantifolia*  
*glazioviana* (L)  
*globulosa* (was sp. "Globulosa")  
• *guttata* (LM)  
*harleyi* MP 482  
*hatschbachii* (L)  
*hatschbachii* 'Iporanga' (D,LM)  
*helioana* (was sp. "Santa Teresa")  
• *hirsuta* (L)  
*iarae* (F,L)  
• *incarnata* (S,MT)  
*incarnata* 'Maranhao'  
*incarnata*/Costa Rica (T)  
*insularis* (LM)  
*leopoldii* (F,L)  
*leucotricha* (F,L)  
• *leucotricha* (pink)  
*leucotricha* cv. 'Max Dekking' (M)  
*leucotricha* "English"  
*lineata* (LM)  
*lineata* (highly spotted)  
*macrophylla*  
*macropoda* (M)  
*macrostachya* (LM)  
*magnifica* (pink) (LM)  
*magnifica* GRF91134 (red)  
• *mauroana* (D,M)  
*micans* MP891 (LM)  
*muscicola* (dark) [was sp. "Rio das Pedras"  
(dark)]  
*muscicola* (light) [was sp. "Rio das Pedras"  
(light)]  
*nordestina*  
*piresiana* (L)  
*polyantha* (formerly sp. "Waechter")  
(L,M)  
• *pusilla* (F,P)  
• *pusilla* 'Itaoca' (F,P)  
• *pusilla* 'White Sprite' (F,P)  
*reitzii* (M)  
*reitzii* 'New Zealand'  
• *richii*  
• *richii* 'Itamarahu'  
• *richii* 'Robson Lopes'  
*sceptrum* (T)  
*sceptrum* AC2406 (T)  
*schiffneri* (red leaf)  
*sellovii* (MT)  
• *sellovii* 'Purple Rain'  
• *speciosa* 'Buzios'  
*speciosa* 'Carangola'  
• *speciosa* 'Cardoso Moreira' (pink) (LM)  
• *speciosa* 'Cardoso Moreira' (purple) (LM)  
*speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa'  
*speciosa* 'Regina Domingos Martins'  
*speciosa* 'Regina Serra da Vista'  
*speciosa* 'Sao Conrado'  
*sulcata* (LM)  
*tubiflora* (S,MT)
- tuberosa*  
*warmingii* (T)  
*warmingii* GRF9921  
sp. aff. *aggregata* (yellow) (M)  
sp. aff. *aggregata*/Ilhabela MP631  
• sp. aff. *reitzii* 'Black Hill' (M)  
sp. aff. *reitzii* GRF9914 (magenta)  
• sp. aff. *warmingii* 'Esmeril' (L)  
sp. "Desafinado"  
• sp. "Ibitioca" (LM)  
• sp. "Itaguassu"  
• sp. "Pancas"
- Smithiantha** (D,F,M)  
• *canarina* GRF9105  
• *lauri*  
*multiflora*  
• *multiflora* GRF9121  
• *multiflora* GRF9122  
• *zebrina* GRF9104
- Solenophora**  
• *tuxtensis* (L)
- Streptocarpus**  
*buchananii* (B)  
*caeruleus*  
*candidus* (F,R)  
*compressus*  
*confusus* (U)  
• *confusus* ssp. *confusus*/Swaziland  
*cooperi* (U)  
*cyaneandrus* (F,P)  
• *cyaneus* (blue) (R)  
• *cyaneus* (lilac)  
• *cyaneus* ssp. *cyaneus albus*  
*daviesii* (F,U)  
*denticulatus* (U)  
• *dunnii* (U)  
*eylesii* (U)  
*fanniniaae* (R)  
*fasciatus* (R)  
*fasciatus*/Krokodilpoort, E. Transvaal (R)  
*floribundus* (R)  
*formosus* (R)  
*formosus*/E. Cape, Transkei  
*galpinii*  
*gardenii* (F,L)  
*glandulosissimus*  
*goetzei* (U)  
*grandis* (U)  
*grandis* ssp. *grandis*  
*haygarthii* (F,U)  
• *haygarthii* JT04-03D/Transkei Coast  
(F,U)  
*haygarthii* JT04-051/Inchanga (U)  
*haygarthii*/Mkambati, Transkei (U)  
• *holstii*  
*johannis* (light form) (F,R)  
*johannis*/Komga, E. Cape  
*johannis*/Weza, S. Natal (R)  
sp. aff. *johannis* (F,R)  
*kentaniensis*  
*kirkii* (F,L)  
• *kunbardtii*  
• *lilliputana*

- *meyeri*/SE Transvaal (R)
  - *meyeri*/NE Cape Province
  - *michelmorei* (U)
  - *modestus* (R)
  - *modestus*/Magwa Falls, Transkei (R)
  - *mokweniensis*
  - *muscosus* (L)
  - *nobilis* (M)
  - *orientalis*
  - *parviflorus* (R)
  - *parviflorus* (mauve)
  - *parviflorus* (white) (R)
  - *parviflorus* (white/mauve)
  - *parviflorus* ssp. *parviflorus*/Limpopo Province
  - *parviflorus* ssp. *soutpansbergensis*
  - *pentherianus* (F,L)
  - *pentherianus* JT04-02C
  - *pogonites* JT10-307
  - *polyanthus* subsp. *comptonii*
  - *polyanthus* subsp. *polyanthus*
  - *polyanthus* subsp. *polyanthus*/lg fl
  - *polyanthus* subsp. *polyanthus*/Valley of 1000 Hills, Natal
  - *porphyrostachys* (U)
  - *primulifolius* (F,R)
  - *primulifolius*/Valley of 1000 Hills
  - *prolixus* (F,U)
  - *pumilus* (F,P)
  - *pusillus*
  - *pusillus* JT11-294
  - *rexii* (white)
  - *rexii* JT04-082 (white)/Transkei
  - *rimicola* (F,P)
  - *roseo-albus* (F,R)
  - *saundersii* (U)
  - *saxorum* (B)
  - sp. nov. /Shiyalongubo Dam
  - sp. nov. #2 (red)
  - *thompsonii* (B,L)
  - *trabeculatus* (U)
  - *vandeleurii* (U)
  - *variabilis* (F,R)
  - *wendlandii* (U)
  - *wilmsii* (U)
  - *wilmsii*/Long Tom Pass (U)
- Titanotrichum**  
*oldhamii* (propagules)
- Trichantha** (see *Columnnea*)
- Vanbouttea** (S,T)
- *brueggeri*
  - *calcarata*
  - *fruticulosa* (MT)
  - *lanata*
  - *pendula*
- Limited quantities available. Packet may contain small amount of seed

## Seed Fund Key

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



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# One Small Strep for Education, One Giant Leaf for Plant Kind

Ryan Ferre ~ Eagle Mountain, UT ~ ryan.hosta@gmail.com



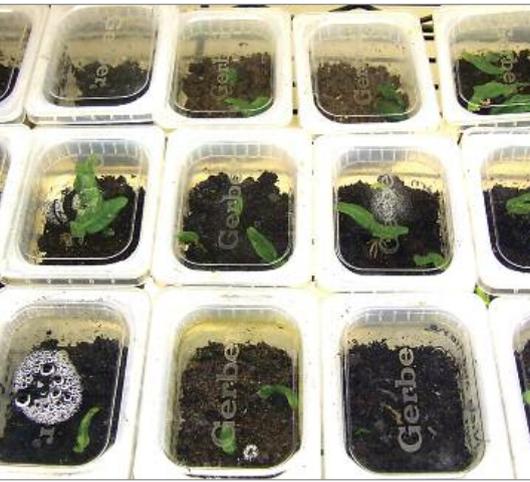
If there is one thing that we can all learn from this, it is that we should never underestimate the abilities of ten- and eleven-year-olds.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LOOKS ON THE FACES of some fifth graders when I first introduced them to “plant breeding.” The thought of creating their own hybrid set their imaginations on fire. In Utah, the curriculum for fifth graders includes “Using supporting evidence, show that traits are transferred from a parent organism to its offspring.” In the past couple of years I had my students hybridize arabisopsis plants. These were fun but not nearly as stunning as this year’s project, the genus *Streptocarpus*.

During the summer of 2013, I realized that if we began the school year with flowering streptocarpus plants, we could begin hybridizing right away. Then we could harvest the seeds in the winter and grow some of the resulting plants to give as Mother’s Day gifts in May of 2014. We are on track and happy about our progress so far. It is now April, and we have many seedlings that are just starting to show signs of flower production.

I chose plants with easy traits to identify including flower colors, double flowers, fantasy flowers, variegation, petal margins, etc. We studied the inheritance of the coat color on Labrador dogs to further understand this similar example of epistasis and how it applies to streptocarpus flower color. When the plants begin to bloom, the students will be able to identify dominant and recessive traits, and characteristics that are determined by more complex sets





of genes. We already have our predictions for our hybrids based upon these sometimes perplexing principles of inheritance. My students have read a few emails from Jeff Smith and Dale Martens on this project. We applaud them for their knowledge and helping us to deepen our understanding of our project.

So far multiple classes had hands-on experiences with the pollination and labeling of the flowers. We did a simple strategy to keep track of our crosses. We taped a different color of string to each pot. When a cross was made, we tied that string around the flower to represent the pollen parent. We watched as some amazing “twisted fruits” reached maturity around December. We acquired seeds of *Streptocarpus* ‘Cape Cool’ in November to practice growing seeds before our own seeds are ready. In addition to that, more than 150 students cut and propagated streptocarpus plants by leaf cutting using multiple techniques.

How did we teach so many students how to do this? One of my students stated, “My favorite part of this project was when we got to show other classes how to move one plant to another pot. It was fun showing them because it’s nice to share this super fun project with other classes. I loved seeing their reactions when they learned how to repot the plant.” A few students were taught in a small group how to pollinate and propagate. Those students then

taught the next few students, and so forth until most fifth grade students at our school had the opportunity of being both student and teacher. Now, students are taking responsibility to water and care for nearly 2,000 of their own hybrids.

Did we learn that “traits are transferred from a parent organism to its offspring?” I sure hope so. It goes without saying that many of these students have caught the “strep bug.” If there is one thing that we can all learn from this, it is that we should never underestimate the abilities of ten- and eleven-year-olds.

Next year, I plan on taking this process one step further. Using the Gesneriad Society Seed Fund, we will allow the students to explore some species of *Streptocarpus* and let them make planned crosses based on their traits that are not seen in modern hybrids. I couldn’t have done this without the support of other growers who have donated plants, expertise, and encouragement. For that we are truly grateful.



## A few more quotes from the students:

“I think that my least favorite part was when we had to transplant all the seedlings. There were a lot of steps and it took forever. The only time I liked it was when we did the assembly line.”

“We had a few favorite parts about this project. One of which is we loved planting the plants and watching them grow. The second one is we liked crossing them and can't wait to see what they turn up as. Lastly was the anticipation of waiting for them to grow.”

“The ‘grandchildren’ of the original plants would have some traits that were not in their ‘parents’ or ‘grandparents.’ This is simply because of recessive genes.”

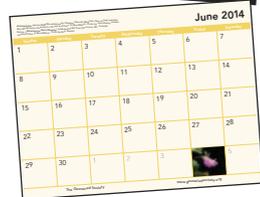
“I learned how to hybridize, clone, and pollinate streptocarpus, plus much, much more. It was fun doing everything, except watering them, it gets really annoying watering hundreds of plants.”

*Ryan Ferre teaches fifth grade at Saratoga Shores Elementary school in Saratoga Springs, Utah. He is a member of The Gesneriad Society and grows African violets, streptocarpus, episcias, primulinas, and kohlerias. He is affectionately called “Plant Nerd” by many, including his own students.*

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# Frills, Thrills and Excitement: The Streptocarpus Hybrids of Piotr Kleszczynski

Wallace Wells ~ New York, NY ~ [wwglox@gmail.com](mailto:wwglox@gmail.com)



Piotr Kleszczynski  
is a plant  
scientist and  
hybridizes plants  
for a living

ON RARE OCCASION THERE IS A BREAKTHROUGH introduction of a group of gesneriads that is wholly unique, distinctive and interesting. Such is the case with the streptocarpus hybrids of Piotr Kleszczynski, the originator of what has recently been called the “Polish Streps.”

First of all the last name is not so formidable to pronounce as it may seem. It rhymes with “flesh” “chin” and “ski.”

Piotr is 64 years old and lives in Łódź, Poland<sup>1</sup>. He works at a university in Warsaw, Poland: SGGW<sup>2</sup>, or Warsaw Agricultural University. It is the largest agricultural university in Poland and was founded in 1816. He is a plant scientist there and hybridizes plants for a living.

In the past he has hybridized passifloras, seedless grapes, and other groups of plants. He has exhibited his material at shows.

He started hybridizing streptocarpus in 1995. His hybrids utilize in part *S. ‘Alyssa’* and *‘Sylvia’*. From *‘Sylvia’* the hybrids have inherited a frilly lower lip. From *‘Alyssa’* and *‘Sylvia’* they have gotten the genes for yellow corolla color. Additional innovations he created are contrasting venation in the lower lip and venation with





Opposite, *Streptocarpus*  
hybrid #7065.  
Photo: Wallace Wells

This page top,  
*Streptocarpus* 'Bora'.  
Photo: Wallace Wells

Above left, *Streptocarpus*  
'Aphis'. Photo: Wallace  
Wells

Above right, *Streptocarpus*  
'Ambra'. Photo: Dale  
Martens

Right, *Streptocarpus*  
'Kahinta'. Photo: Dale  
Martens





*Streptocarpus* 'Maja'. Photo: Wallace Wells

hues of red. The margins of the flowers frequently are not entire but crenate. The limb of the flowers can be very undulating, even frilly.

Other characteristics noted by this grower:

- Overall of high vigor and stamina; large rapidly growing plants
- Multiple flower peduncles of sturdy character, produced all at once
- Multiple flowers per peduncle
- Relatively resistant to mildew.

Piotr's material has recently become available by vendors on eBay in the USA and UK. A search for the terms "Polish" and "Streptocarpus" or his last name will usually find them. He labels his plants with a four-digit number and then sometimes with a name that is usually short ('Maja', 'Bora', etc.). Sometimes the plants are released with only a number.

He also maintains a website <http://www.streptokarpus.pl> on which he publishes a catalogue of his hybrids.

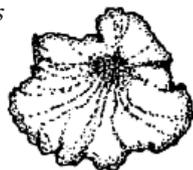
1 Pronounced "wooch" (like wood + "ch" at the end)

2 Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego; website <http://www.sggw.pl/>

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# Observation of Peloria in *Primulina flavimaculata*

Al Stripens ~ Rowland Heights, CA ~ [alstripens@juno.com](mailto:alstripens@juno.com)



Recently I observed an odd inflorescence on one of the plants on my light stand

observed an odd inflorescence on one of the plants on my light stand. What caught my eye was a tall pedicel shooting almost straight up, with a salverform flower on the end, also pointing upward. Since the normal inflorescence for this species is a peduncle terminating in multiple, nodding, somewhat slipper-shaped flowers, the disparity was striking. On closer examination, the corolla appeared to have almost perfect radial symmetry, with little difference in the size or projection of the lobes. Preserving the radial symmetry, the yellow spot that normally appears beneath the dorsal lip of *P. flavimaculata* appears to have been replaced by a narrow, yellow band around the inside of the corolla tube, just beneath the lobes, and partly visible in the close-up.

PELORIA IS DEFINED AS “AN ABNORMAL, OFTEN hereditary, regularity of structures occurring in normally irregular flowers.” On the one hand, it can be the result of a quirk in development of an individual flower, unstable, and non-hereditary. On the other hand, if it results from a mutation in a regulatory gene, it can be stable and heritable.

In gesneriads, peloria takes the form of actinomorphic flowers, that is, flowers having radial symmetry, as opposed to the usual zygomorphic form, with bilateral symmetry. The best-known gesneriads with stable peloria are the hybrids in the *Sinningia speciosa* Fyfiانا Group, the so-called Florist Gloxinias. Another example in *Sinningia* is the George Kalmbacher type of *Sinningia cardinalis*. Stable peloria is also known to occur in other gesneriad genera. Examples in *Columnnea* are the cultivars ‘Alpha’ and ‘Starburst’. Peter Shalit commented on stable and unstable peloria in sinningias in an early *CrossWords* article.

Over the years I have grown several species and hybrids of *Primulina* (ex-*Chirita*). One of my favorites is *Primulina flavimaculata*. It is easily propagated, and I always have several of them growing in my collection. They do well in my covered patio year round, but I grow some under lights as well. Recently I



Peloric (radially symmetric) flower.  
Photo by author

After doing some research and initially finding no mention of peloria associated with *Primulina*, I began to think this might be the first recorded instance for this genus. Then I chanced upon an article from *The Plant Cell*, indicating that actinomorphic flowers are known to occur (rarely) in *Primulina heterotricha*. In the case of my plant, the observed peloria also appears to be of this unstable kind, since there are now some normal inflorescences on the same plant. Even if this peloria were stable, I doubt that it would be considered a desirable trait, as the normal inflorescence seems to me to be far more attractive. In any case, this information may be of interest to those working to understand the regulation of floral symmetry in Gesneriaceae.

**References:**

Shalit, P. 1977. Comments on Peloric Sinningias. *CrossWords* 1(2):13-14.  
 Mach, J. 2012. Transcription Factors and Darwin's "Abominable Mystery": Positive Autoregulation in Floral Zygomorphy. *The Plant Cell* 24:1712.

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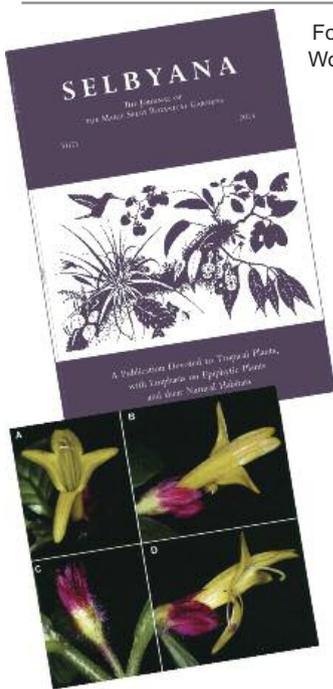
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Figure 1. 2014 Mt. Ayanganna Expedition team (from left to right): Boyeid Edmond, John L. Clark (back row), Christopher Andrew, Jon Grammer (back row), Clafford Joseph, Rodney Daniel, Peter Joseph, Christopher Milensky (back row), Franzin Edmon, and Luciano Edmon.

## EXPLORATORY RESEARCH EXPEDITION TO MT. AYANGANNA IN THE INTERIOR OF GUYANA

John L. Clark ~ JLC@ua.edu

The University of Alabama, Department of Biological Sciences, Tuscaloosa, AL

IN FEBRUARY 2014 I PARTICIPATED IN AN EXPEDITION TO WESTERN Guyana in South America to visit Mount Ayanganna. The objective of our expedition was to scout the relatively unexplored eastern side of Mt. Ayanganna for an upcoming research expedition. The small size of our team greatly facilitated our ability to mobilize and assess the route to the summit of Mt. Ayanganna in a relatively short time period. Participants in addition to myself included Chris Milensky (of the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Birds), Jon Grammer (an undergraduate student from The University of Alabama), and seven Patamona Amerindians (Figure 1).

Mount Ayanganna (2080 m high) is the highest mountain wholly within Guyana. (Mt. Roraima is higher, but it is on the border with Venezuela and Brazil.) Ayanganna is a *tepui*, a flat-topped mountain that is formed from exposed Roraima sandstone. The mountain consists of multiple tiered escarpments that are comprised of precipitous cliffs and gently sloping plateaus. Walking up a *tepui* is different from other mountains in rainforest regions because slogging through knee-deep mud and a constant barrage of steep hills is replaced here by level ground of hard-packed sand that is interrupted by cliffs. Shallow puddles accumulate on the level ground and hiking on the four billion year-old exposed sandstone is like walking on a beach without waves and then navigating steep climbs to access another plateau.

We ascended a route that had been pioneered in 2001 by Dr. David Clarke from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Dr. Clarke's exploration in Guyana was funded through the Smithsonian Institution's Biological Diversity of the Guianas Program. He was a resident collector in Guyana (1995-1997) and his exploratory expeditions facilitated the discovery of many new species, botanical novelties, and publications on plant diversity of the Guiana Shield (Kelloff et al. 2011).

My interest in visiting the Pataro-Siparuni Region in Guyana and Mt. Ayanganna is because it is the only known locality for *Lampadaria rupestris*, a monotypic (i.e., only one species) genus in the Gesneriaceae. *Lampadaria* is endemic to Guyana and it is only known from two collections. Feuillet and Skog (2003) described *Lampadaria* from collections made by David Clarke, and it is the only genus in the New World Gesneriaceae that has never been evaluated in a phylogenetic context using molecular sequence data.

My dream to visit Ayanganna was made possible through an opportunity facilitated by Chris Milensky, museum specialist at the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Birds. Chris has extensive experience in Guyana from more than two decades of exploratory collecting expeditions. He was gracious in allowing me to accompany him on a preliminary scouting trip. Chris returned to the area one month after our trip to lead an extensive collections-based expedition with a primary emphasis to collect birds. Chris was assisted by Aleksandar "Aleks" Radosavljevic from the Chicago Botanic Garden who was to collect the gesneriads featured in this report. Aleks' collections will be made available for ongoing studies at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

All expeditions to the interior of Guyana mandate meticulous and comprehensive preparations because all necessary supplies must be transported on a small plane. We calculated three pounds of food/person/day (10 people  $\times$  7 days  $\times$  3 pounds/person/day = 210 pounds). Equipment is an additional 200 pounds and three men with clothing weigh approximately 500 pounds. Our Cessna 206 flight was limited to 1050 pounds, and the total weight that we calculated the night before our departure was only 910 pounds (200+210+500). Another important factor to calculate is total weight for the return flight because remote landing strips have short runways and mandate even lighter loads for a safe takeoff.

Our seven Patamona Amerindian workers walked three days from various villages along the upper Ireng River on the Brazilian border to meet us at an overgrown airstrip that was originally built for a currently inactive diamond mine. The arrangements for our trip were made in early December of 2013 via a logistically complicated string of communication. We had faith that our guides would arrive early, clear the landing strip from overgrown vegetation, prepare a base camp, and meet us on the pre-arranged date of arrival (assuming good weather). The non-conventional communication is hard to imagine, but the beauty of working in countries like Guyana is experiencing a system of communication that does not depend on telephones or computers.

Our first day in Guyana began in the capital, Georgetown, at the Ogle Airport. It ended by arriving on the landing strip near Mt. Ayanganna and setting up base camp. We just had time for a brief walk before dark. One of the first plants that I observed was *Lesia savannarum* (Figure 2), a recently described genus (Smith & Clark, 2013) that I published collaboratively with James Smith from Boise State University. This taxon was previously classified first as a member of the genus *Alloplectus* and then reclassified in the genus *Nematanthus*. Its confusing classification is a result of its isolated phylogenetic position that is supported by molecular sequence data (Clark et al. 2006, 2012), morphological characters, and biogeography. The name *Lesia* honors Laurence E. Skog

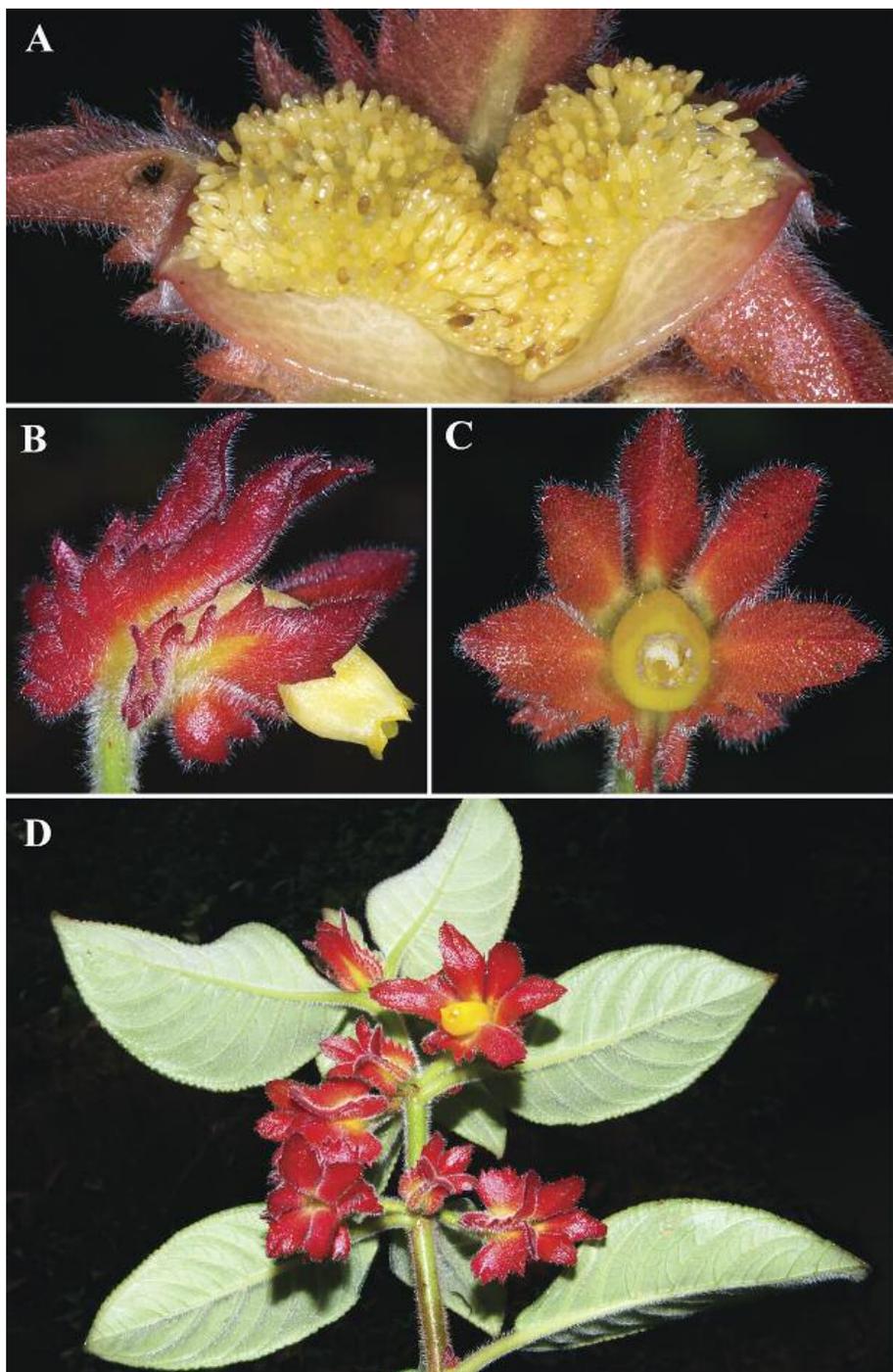


Figure 2. *Lesia savannarum* (C.V. Morton) J.L. Clark & J.F. Smith. **A.** Fleshy display capsule. **B.** side view of mature flower. **C.** Front view of mature flower. **D.** Elongate shoot.

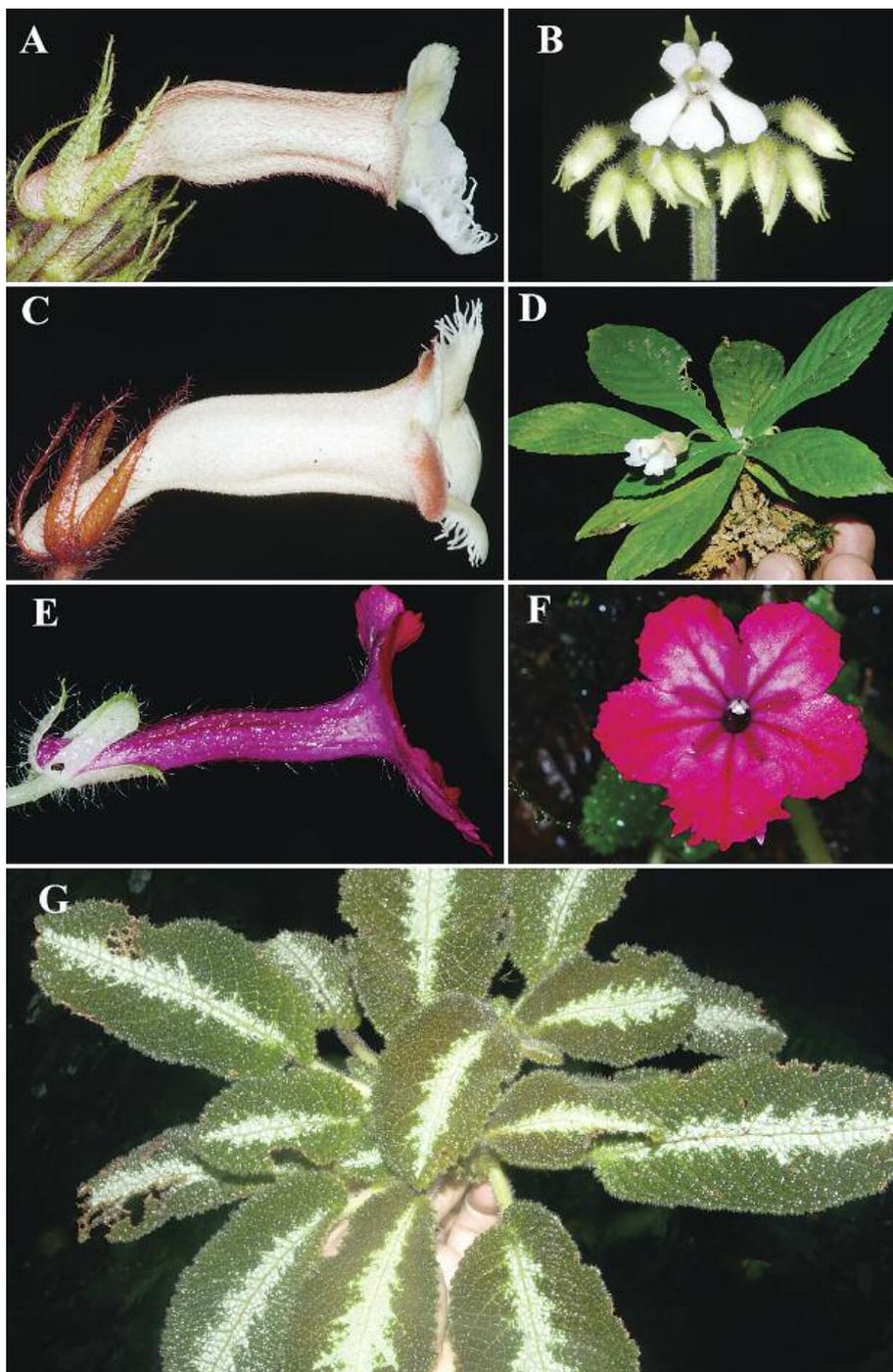


Figure 3. Gesneriaceae diversity encountered on Mt. Ayanganna. **A.** *Paradyrmonia* sp. **B.** *Anetanthus* sp. **C.** *Paradyrmonia ciliosa*. **D.** *Napeanthus rupicola*. **E-G.** *Nautilocalyx coccineus*.



Figure 4. **A.** J.L. Clark, Christopher Milensky and Jon Grammer in front of the Cessna 206. **B.** Clafford Joseph (Patamona Amerindian guide) carrying 100+ lbs. using a Wurushi. **C.** Locally caught eels and small fish grilled over low-burning fire. **D.** Campsite.

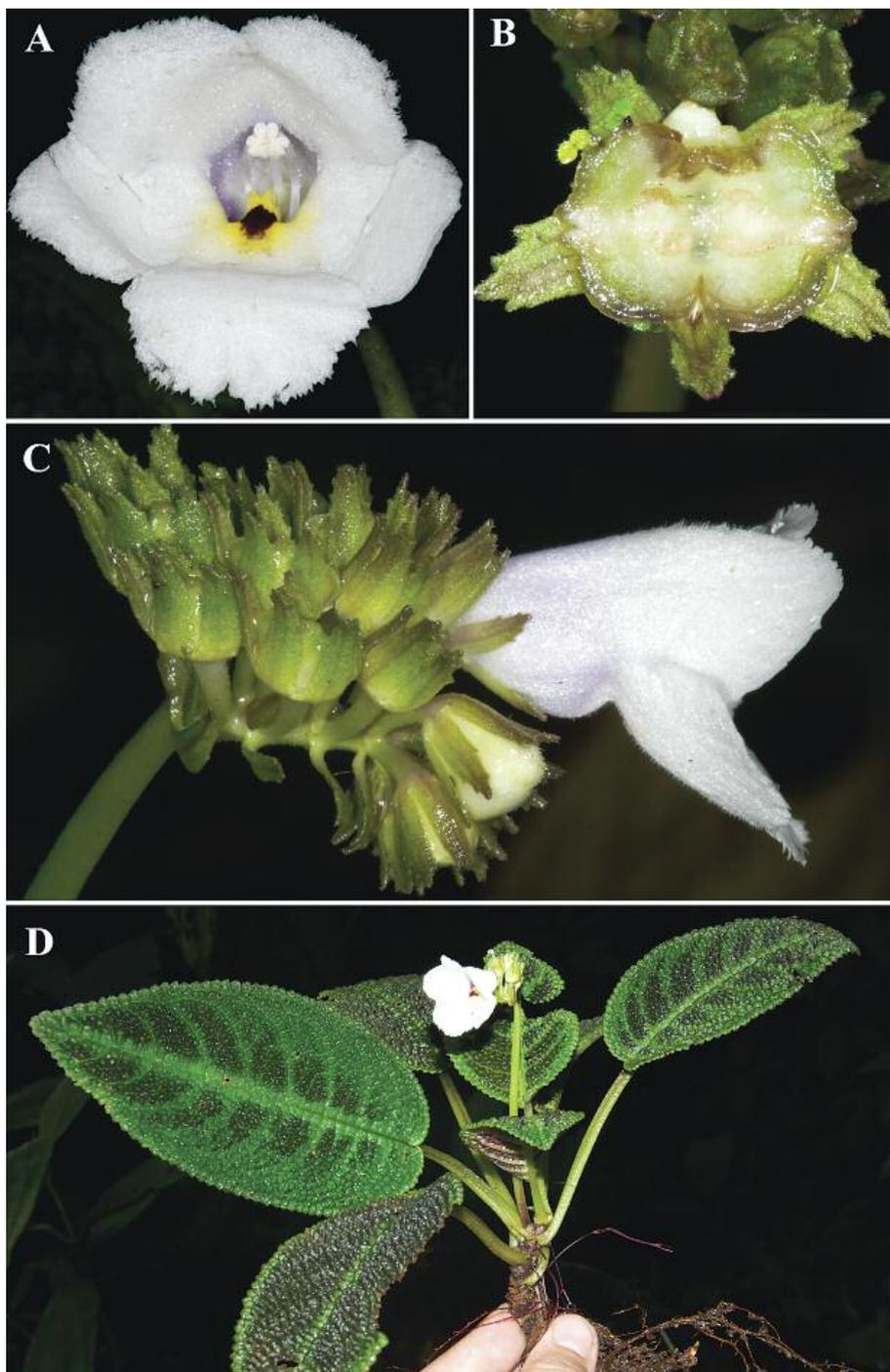


Figure 5. *Lampadaria rupestris* Feuillet & L.E. Skog. **A.** Front view of corolla. **B.** Mature bivalved capsule. **C.** Lateral view of inflorescence. **D.** Habit.

and is derived from his initials (L+E+S = *Lesia*). Dr. Skog co-chaired my Ph.D. committee and has dedicated more than four decades of research to taxonomic studies of the Gesneriaceae as a curator and research scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

Our second day in the field involved hiking along a plateau with relatively little elevation gain. Gesneriads observed throughout our six-hour walk included *Nautilocalyx pictus* and *Paradrymonia ciliosa* (Figure 3). My 50+ pound pack was hefty, but not nearly as challenging as the 100+ pounds carried in back packs called Wuruchis (Figure 4B) by our Amerindian guides. Watching their bodies stand from a sitting position gave me an entirely new appreciation for their natural strength. Other impressionable abilities of our Amerindian guides included an astonishing skill to wield cutlasses (=machetes) for constructing campsites using only natural products such as vines for lashing the beams of the shelter (Figure 4D), to build wet-dry fires for cooking (Figure 4C), and to hunt using sling shots that were readily available because the sling shots adorned their heads like hats. The structures that they created for campsites were strong enough to hold the weight of 5+ adults in hammocks that hung between beams.

Day three was dedicated to searching for populations of *Lampadaria*. We were fortunate to have an Amerindian guide who assisted David Clarke's 2001 expedition to the same area when the plant was last found. After walking for two days along streams and not seeing any *Lampadaria* I became anxious that its existence was a myth. The specific epithet "*rupestris*" means rock-lover. Thus we studied every exposed rock for the presence of *Lampadaria*. We searched for three hours with no success. Ultimately we located a stream with exposed lateritic boulders. It was there that we located *Lampadaria* in abundance (Figure 5). We celebrated with M&M's, high-fives, and some pleasant yelling. There were no previously known images of *Lampadaria* with mature flowers, so we were fortunate to photograph many individuals with mature flowers and fruits. Abundant populations of 2-3 individuals/rock were seen. Occasionally a cluster of five boulders would host 15+ individuals. A striking feature of *Lampadaria* is the marked dark foliage with bullate surfaces (Figure 5).

Days four and five were dedicated to climbing towards the summit of Mt. Ayanganna. Some of the gesneriads that we observed during these two days were the following: *Napeanthus rupicola*, *Anetanthus* sp. and *Paradrymonia* species (Figure 3). We walked long hours that included one 11-hour non-stop hike that brought us to a ridgeline below the peak. We had not planned to summit Ayanganna, so arriving near the summit ridge was a pleasant unexpected result of our expedition.

Day six was dedicated to walking back to the airstrip where we returned to our initial base camp. Preparations were made for meeting our airplane. Good weather made it possible for our pilot to arrive at 8 a.m. on the morning of day seven and we were back in Georgetown by 10 a.m.

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# Flower Show Roundup

Long Island Gesneriad Society Show & Sale, April 12 & 13, 2014



Best in Show: Paul Susi's plant of *Primulina* 'Aiko' (dark form)



Runner up to Best in Show was *Sinningia* 'Esther', grown by Joe Palagonia. Photos: Paul Susi

# Puget Sound Gesneriad Society Show & Sale March 22, 2014



Miniature arrangements using *Saintpaulia* blossoms. Three separate entries exhibited by Pat Shandrow.



*Primulina* collection grown by Doreen Hovermale. From left to right: *P. wentsaii*, *P. ophiopogoides*, *P. 'Maxtimer'*



*Sinningia leucotricha* grown by George Krasle. Tuber is about 45 years old.



Carol Harcharik, MJ Tyler, Doreen Hovermale, and Sally Robinson

Photos: Patrick Forgey

## Philadelphia Flower Show, March, 2014



*Primulina dryas* 'Hisako'  
grown by Brandon Hoover



*Drymonia* grown by Lynn Cook and  
Troy Ray



*Codonanthe devosiana* 'Paula'  
grown by Lynn Cook and Troy Ray



*Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' grown by  
Leslie Ann Miller

Photos: Mel Grice



*Sinningia* 'Orange Raindrops' grown by Julia Lynch



*Primulina* 'Destiny' grown by Angie Celano



*Kohleria* 'HCY's Jardin de Monet' grown by Barb Borleski. Photos: Kenneth Moore

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# President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

Stuart Hammer has been appointed as a Director to fill the balance of the term of John R. Clark, who resigned earlier this year. Stuart has been a member of The Gesneriad Society for about 20 years but has been a gesneriad grower for over 35 years.

Norah Otto is the new Chapters and Affiliates Chairperson, replacing Charlene Marietti, to whom we owe our thanks for thoroughly documenting all the important information about the chapters. Norah has been growing gesneriads since 1975, joined the Society in 1983, and was elected as a director in 2013.

Stephen Maciejewski, co-Chairperson of the Conservation Committee, joined the Society in 2002, became a director in 2008, and was instrumental in establishing a relationship between the Society and the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China in 2012.



Norah Otto



Stephen Maciejewski



Jeremy Keene



Carol Ann Bonner

Jeremy Keene, co-Chairperson of the Conservation Committee, was among the first students to obtain a grant to attend convention from the Convention Student Grant Committee. He received his doctorate in Plant Biology, with a focus in plant systematics, in 2013.

Carol Ann Bonner, the Chairperson of the new Merchandise Committee, has been a member for over 25 years. She has also served as Society President and as Chairperson of the Membership Publicity Promotion Committee. The new committee will focus on developing new designs for pins and apparel to keep us all chicly attired.

Finally, a note about a decision made at the Board of Directors meeting in February. Based on the recommendation of Dariane Joshlin, Insurance Chairperson, chapters will no longer be charged a premium for the insurance coverage provided by the Society. There will only be a charge for insurance certificates issued at the request of a venue to be named as an "additionally insured." All chapters in the United States and Canada continue to be covered by the Society's liability insurance policy for all activities in all locations.



Paul Susi  
<president@gesneriadsociety.org>  
South Huntington, NY, USA

# Steve's Leaves

Steve Rosenbaum, Proprietor ~ Lewisville, TX, USA ~ <http://stevesleaves.com>

DURING THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY BOARD RETREAT IN DALLAS IN February 2014, some attendees took a side trip to Steve's Leaves, a local commercial nursery that has recently started shipping nationwide.

From the Steve's Leaves website: "Steve began his horticultural journey with an interest in terrariums at the age of 13. By the time he was 18 (1976) he had started a backyard nursery. Filling the back seat and trunk of his car with his home grown tropical plants, he drove to each local florist and nursery until his daily supply was sold. In 1991, after filling up his two backyard greenhouses and two leased commercial greenhouses, Steve consolidated his operation onto four acres in Lewisville, Texas."

For most of the 38 years since starting his nursery, Steve has sold exclusively in the local Dallas/Ft. Worth area. More recently he has begun selling online via his website. He carries over 1000 varieties of tropical houseplants, including many gesneriads. His carefully chosen selection of varieties, as well as the high quality of the plants he ships, have generated many positive comments online.



Jo Anne Martinez, Jeanne Katzenstein, Stephen Maciejewski, Jeremy Keene, Leonard Re (Photo: Paul Susi)

Various episcias (Photo: Peter Shalit)





Greenhouse overview (Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson)



Paulo Castello da Costa, Jo Anne Martinez, Steve Rosenbaum (Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson)



Streptocarpus (Photo: Paul Susi)



Irina Nicholson, Don Miller, Carol Ann Bonner (Photo: Leonard Re)



Episcia 'Pink Smoke' (Photo: Paul Susi)

Although the greenhouse operation is not generally open to the public, a Board member contacted Steve to see if we could visit. Steve welcomed us in, gave us a tour, and even let us buy some plants. *Episcia*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Streptocarpus*, *Pearcea*, *Nematanthus*, and *Nautilocalyx* were among the gesneriad genera featured. We were most impressed by how clean the greenhouses were, how neatly the plants were arranged, and just how healthy everything looked. Per Steve: "The plants I choose to grow are ones that I find attractive and will grow under my hot Texas conditions without a lot of babying. Those tend to be tropical plants with a lot of color or interesting texture. Many gesneriads fit that description."



*Episcia* hanging baskets (Photo: Paul Susi)



*Pearcea abunda* (center) (Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson)

## SEED FUND PROMOTIONAL CONTEST

To encourage donations to the Gesneriad Society's Seed Fund, a contest began on January 1, 2014. 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, 2014. The prizes (\$25 for first and \$15 for second) will be gift certificates of the winners' choice below:

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

# Recent New Hybrid Registrations

Irina Nicholson ~ Lakewood, CO, USA ~ hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org

***Primulina* 'Blue Mood'**, 2014, IR141235, Lai Bi-Dan and Wen Fang, China. (*P. linearifolia* × *P. macrorbiza*). Cross made Mar. 15, 2011, planted Apr. 20, 2011 and first flowered Mar. 9, 2013. Sterile, reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves green with gray or white short pubescent hair, 12-14 cm long × 3-3.5 cm wide, 5-6 cm petiole, hairy, linear with crenate margin, cuneate base and acute tip. Calyx split, chartreuse, 0.5-0.8 cm. Pedicel 1.2-1.5 cm. Number of flowers per axil – 2-4. Corolla salverform, 4.5-5.5 cm long × 2.5-3 cm wide, light blue. Easy to grow, suitable to very good light but not direct sun. Temperature should be above 0°C and below 35°C.



***Primulina* 'Purple Hair'**, 2014, IR141236, Lai Bi-Dan and Wen Fang, China. (*P. vilosissima* × *P. eburnea*). Cross made Mar. 21, 2011, planted Apr. 5, 2011 and first flowered Mar. 26, 2013. Sterile, reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette, length of the stem 3.4-3.8 cm. Dark green leaves with purple short hairs, 20-22 cm long × 6-7 cm wide, 3-5 cm petiole, hairy, elliptic with entire margin, cuneate base and acute tip. Calyx split, brownish green to brown, 0.8-1.1 cm. Pedicel 1.8-2.2 cm. Number of flowers per axil – 3-5. Corolla salverform, 5.6-6 cm long × 4.3-4.6 cm wide, bluish purple to dark purple. Easy to grow, suitable to bright light but not direct sun. Temperature should be above -2°C and below 35°C.



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*Paraboaea martinii*. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

## WILD VIETNAM – LEECHES, VIPERS, BAT BOYS, AND GESNERIADS

### Part 2

Stephen Maciejewski ~ Philadelphia, PA, USA ~ <teciu1949@gmail.com>

#### Days 4, 5 and 6

The fourth day was very productive. We found two species of *Hemiboea*, one similar to *Hemiboea sinovietnamica* like before, as well as another species of this genus. In addition, we came upon *Lysionotus pauciflorus*, which is found in China, North Vietnam, and Japan.

We then were fortunate to find a very unusual species of *Paraboaea* — a very large plant, growing on a rocky limestone crevice near the road in the nature reserve. Nicknamed “Titan” because of its large size, this species looks like *Paraboaea sinensis* but it is up to three times the size. Everything about this plant is huge. The big leaves are dark green and their undersides a beautiful contrasting light tan. The light pink flowers are also large and thick. We collected DNA materials for future analysis to determine if this really is a different species. Interestingly, we observed many ants on the stems, leaves, buds, and flowers. Are they pollinators? We did not observe any of the ants taking nectar from the corolla. More research is needed.

Later, we found *Rhynchoetechum vestitum*. Not a lot is known about the conservation status of this plant but it is used in traditional Chinese medicine for treating Hepatitis A.





Opposite, Typical habitat. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski  
Above, *Rhynchotechum vestitum*. Photo: Wen Fang

That evening, as we processed our day's collection, we also bagged some plant parts in silica gel to be used later for molecular testing. Other specimens were treated to an alcohol bath, which keeps them fresh while we are still in the field.

The next morning we awoke to the sound of birds having a singing contest in the outdoor courtyard of our hotel. Lining the entrance in cages were beautiful Hwameis, a brown thrush-like bird with a bright eye patch. I had read about these singing contests and was delighted to encounter them here. The Vietnamese love birds and many keep them around their houses. Unfortunately they cage many of their native species.

This day we were in the Pu Hu Nature Reserve, meeting with park officials. This seemed rather formal as we were seated around a large rectangle of polished wooden desks with large hammer and sickle symbols on the wall and a prominently displayed bust of Ho Chi Minh, the father of the country.

However, formality was dismissed when Hong Xin, who was seated next to me, said, in a muffled and anxious voice, "**Leave now.**" I looked at him with surprise, but as my eyes dropped to his thighs, I saw COILED around his leg a pit viper. It had been resting under the tabletop and now was using his leg to get to the floor. Hong was calm and relaxed but as soon as I announced what was happening, the meeting erupted and everyone jumped as the very poisonous long-nosed pit viper slithered from Hong's leg to the floor. Since we were in a national reserve, Ranger Nguyen Ba Thach just scooped up the beautiful, yet menacing, snake with a broom and dustpan and took it outside for release. Otherwise it might have been an ingredient in the well-known Xinyu Five-Snake alcohol drink.



*Lysionotus pauciflorus*. Photo: Wen Fang



*Paraboea glutinosa*. Photo: Wen Fang

Excitement and frayed nerves are perhaps but a small price to pay for the opportunity to find new gesneriads!

As if that weren't enough of a wake-up call to start the day, we then had to cross a river to see more gesneriads. There was a boat to ferry us across the river and then a taxi. Actually the taxis were fleets of young men with motorbikes hired to take us up the mountain on a very narrow and rutted dirt road alongside a huge dropoff. I had not been on a motorbike for 45 years and there were no instructions and no helmet. The forest

*Paraboea martinii*. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

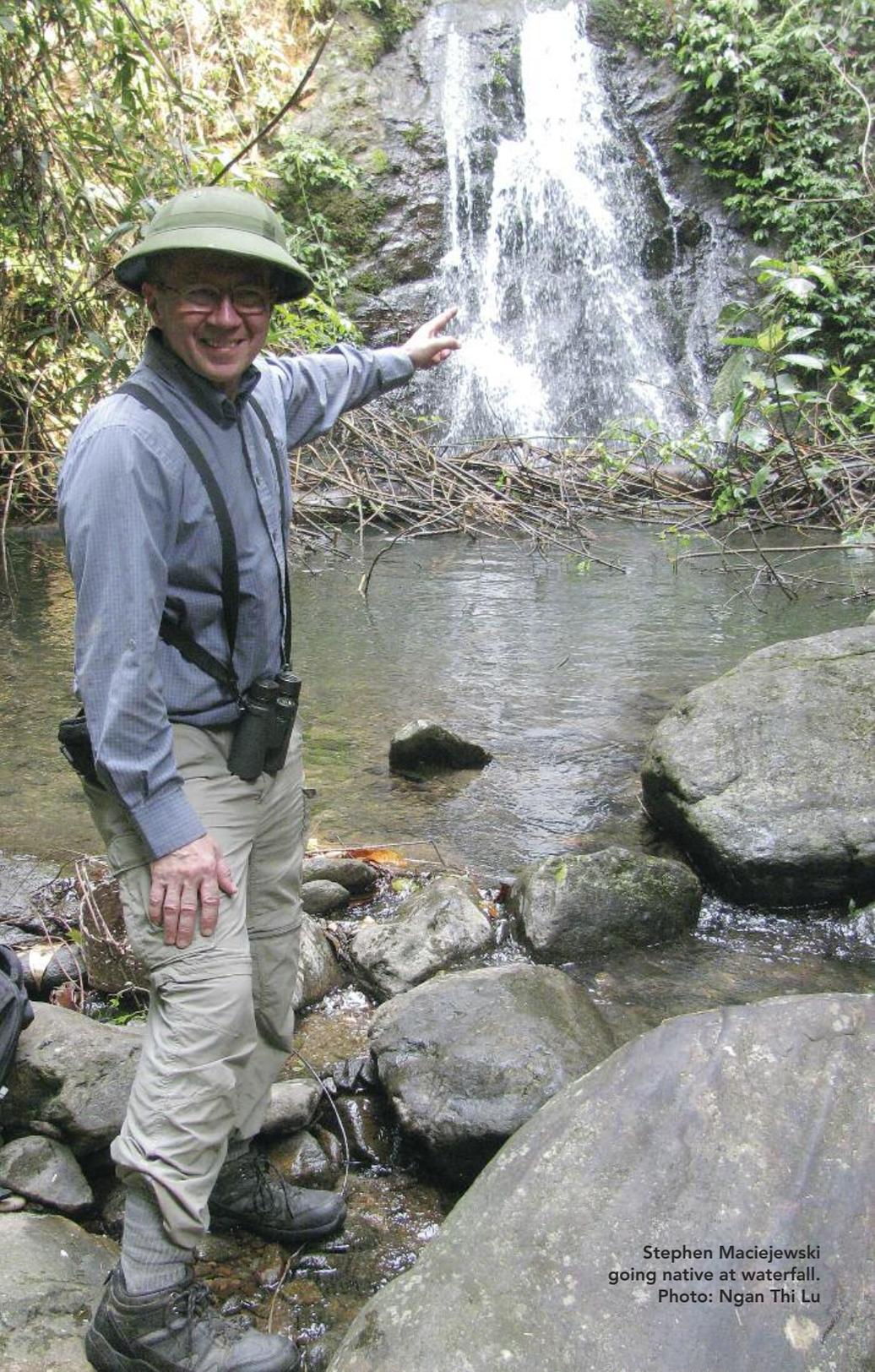




On the bridge (L to R Troung, Thach, Stephen, Qiu, Hong). Photo: Wen Fang



Wen Fang inspecting a large specimen of *Primulina laxiflora*. Hot temperatures will easily kill the roots but it has a great location here for the roots to grow deep into the rock and keep cool. It has been over-collected because of its beautiful flowers and its cough-curing medicinal qualities. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



Stephen Maciejewski  
going native at waterfall.  
Photo: Ngan Thi Lu



A new species of *Microchirita*. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



Lunch in the field. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



An unusual and very large gesneriad, possibly a species of *Paraboea* found growing on a rocky limestone crevice near the road in the nature reserve. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



Here we are at the ranger's station having lunch. We often ate on the floor using a mat. Photo: Wen Fang.



*Henckelia ceratoscyphus*.  
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski



We were always interested in checking out any cave in the area, on the lookout for cave-dwelling gesneriads.

ranger said, “Get on,” and off we went. Where do you put your feet? Your hands? I stopped looking at the scenery flying by, the hundred-foot drop, and possible disaster and started to name the hairs on the back of the driver’s head. Eventually, I just hugged the driver around the waist to hold on. Later, Ngan told me that this scary experience is known as “marriage by motorbike.”

Rewards ensued. We found *Paraboea martinii* and a *Boeica stolonifera*, and another *Boeica* species. About 12 species of *Boeica* exist. They grow in shady and damp places and on humid rocks.

We also found jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) trees with fruit. It has the largest tree-borne fruit, reaching up to 80 pounds. The flavor is a combination of apple, pineapple, and banana.

Another cave beckoned – one that was paved with years of bat droppings. One of the rangers climbed down into a guano pit and filled a bag with this enriched fertilizer to take back to camp. Then we saw the “dancing gesneriad” that was growing on the roof of the cave’s opening, twisting and turning in the wind. It may be a new species, perhaps in the genus *Pseudochirita*. Later, one of the guides prepared a natural snack for us. With a machete, he cut down a young, wild banana tree. Then he stripped the outer green layers and gave us the inner core to eat. It was white and stringy, like dental floss, but surprisingly refreshing. After lunch we made a quick stop to a chopstick-manufacturing factory along the riverbank that was using large rafts of floating bamboo to make huge rounds of eating utensils.



*Lysionotus pauciflorus*. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

The next day we found an incredible specimen of *Primulina laxiflora* growing deep into a slight crack of a gigantic boulder. Hot temperatures would certainly kill the roots, but this was a perfect spot for this plant to grow and keep its roots cool. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), this species is near threatened as the plants have been over-collected for their beautiful flowers and cough-curing medicinal qualities. We also found *Henckelia ceratoscyphus* as well as two species of *Cyrtandra*. All told we collected many different kinds of plants for various organizations.

## Days 7, 8 and 9

We then drove to a new location. Sometimes we spent hours in the van but the atmosphere was always celebratory. We were more like kids on an adventure than scientists searching for new plants. Wen Fang often joked and sang.

We spent the next two days at a remote ranger station. It was rustic. We slept two to a bed with just boards for a mattress and surrounded by mosquito netting. We had time to see their beehives, sample their honey wine, and even do some birdwatching. I observed Gray-backed Shrike, Yellow Wagtail, White-vented Myna, Chinese Pond Heron, kingfishers, egrets, and many more.

The next day we were again in hot pursuit of more gesneriads. We found a species of *Raphiocarpus* – and leeches. After Truong yelled “Leeches present!” we got out of the area quickly. Everyone got leech bites on the trip except me. Perhaps spraying “Off!” on my bare feet, socks, pant legs, and boots kept them away. There are more than 1,000 species



Two brown leeches feeding on our guide's foot. Whenever we heard the call “Leeches present” we ran out of the area. In this area there were mainly two kinds: brown leeches and green ones. Worldwide there are around 1000 species in a rainbow of colors. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

of leeches in the world but here we mainly saw brown, ground-dwelling leeches and green leeches that fell on to us from the trees. The green leeches were the worst as you can continue to bleed for hours after they have finished feeding on you!

The new terrain was even more challenging than usual. There were huge boulders and no path. Making our own way was slow – through stream beds and on slippery slopes. At one point we had to cross a narrow ravine on a fallen tree that spanned an eight-foot drop. I was reluctant, so the rangers cut two long bamboo poles for me to use to balance myself. We collected *Stauranthera grandiflora*, more *Paraboea* species, and *Microchirita aratiformis*. To be continued...

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# Coming Events

Mary Schaeffer ~ Newark, DE, USA ~ <schaeffermary@yahoo.com>

## Gesneriad Society Events



**July 1-5 – Nashville, TN**  
58th Annual Gesneriad Society International Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Nashville Downtown, Nashville, TN, USA. Hosted by the Tennessee Gesneriad Society. Flower Show and Plant Sales open to the

public July 4 and 5. Additional information: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

**September 6 – San Francisco, CA** San Francisco Gesneriad Society Judged Flower Show and Plant Sale, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Additional information: Paulo Castello da Costa [sfgs2013@outlook.com](mailto:sfgs2013@outlook.com); [www.sfgesneriads.org](http://www.sfgesneriads.org)

**September 13-14 – Sacramento, CA**  
Delta Gesneriad & AVS Judged Show and Sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA, September 13, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. September 15, 11 p.m. – 3 p.m. Additional information: [www.sacviolets.org](http://www.sacviolets.org)

**September 20-21 – Boylston, MA** Annual Combined Plant Societies' Judged Show and

Sale, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA, September 20, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. September 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participating: New England Chapter, The Gesneriad Society, and Buxton Branch, American Begonia Society. Admission: \$12 adults, \$9 seniors and \$7 youths (6-18) Additional information: 617-479-3680 or Sharon Rosenzweig, [srosenzw.sr@gmail.com](mailto:srosenzw.sr@gmail.com)

**September 26-27 – Kansas City, MO**  
Heart of America Gesneriad Society Annual Show. Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, MO; 816-784-5300. September 26, Flower Show entries 9-11 a.m., judging 1-4 p.m., Plant Sale open to public 1-4 p.m. September 27, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale open to public. Additional information: Susan Grose, [sagrose@aol.com](mailto:sagrose@aol.com)

**September 28 – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**  
Edmonton African Violet & Gesneriad Society Plant Sale, Muttart Conservatory, 9626 - 96A Street, Edmonton, Alberta, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**October 5 – Morristown, NJ** Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society Show and Sale, 353 E Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additional information Karyn Cichocki 973-579-7914

## June 30 to July 4, 2015 – Oakland, California 59th Annual Gesneriad Society International Convention

Hosted by the San Francisco Gesneriad Society  
Additional information: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

## Other Events of Interest to Gesneriad Society Members

**September 19-20 – Mansfield, OH** Ohio State African Violet Society Show and Sale, Kingwood Center, 900 Park Avenue, West Mansfield, OH. September 19: Sale 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Show 1-5 p.m. Workshop 3 p.m., September 20: Show & Sale 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Workshops 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Additional information: Lori Hilfer 440-821-2967

**October 11-12 – Madison, WI** Wisconsin Council of AVC's African Violet Show & Sale,

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI. October 11: 12 noon – 5 p.m.; October 12: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Additional information: Alice Peterson, 608-298-7324 or [peters56@tds.net](mailto:peters56@tds.net)

**November 13-14 – North Wilmington, DE**  
MAAVS African Violet Convention and Show, Crowne Plaza - Wilmington North, 630 Naamans Road, Claymont, DE, Additional information: <http://maavs.org/>

## Seed Fund Donations

Donations mailed from anywhere should be sent to:

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

### Changes to Hybrid Seed List 2Q14

#### Additions:

*Euclidonia verticillata* 'Cecilia' × *Euclidonia*  
hybrids reverse crosses  
*Sinningia speciosa* Empress Mixed  
*Sinningia* 'Piglet' × self  
*Sinningia* 'Romanza' × self  
*Streptocarpus* 'Cape Cool' hybrids

#### Deletions:

*Sinningia speciosa* hybrids Early Giant mix  
*Streptocarpus* 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Crystal  
Beauty'  
*Streptocarpus montigena* × *S. rexii* (natural  
hybrid)

Send orders for hybrid seed to:

Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

## 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](http://www.davesviolets.com).

OUT OF AFRICA, Blooming *Streptocarpus*. Send \$1 for catalog. Gary S. Mikita, 2842 Brown St., Portage, IN 46368. Phone (219) 763-4861. E-mail [garymikita@cs.com](mailto:garymikita@cs.com) [www.garys-out-of-africa.com](http://www.garys-out-of-africa.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: [mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net](mailto:mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net).



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# Meet the New Directors

SALLY ROBINSON IS A RETIRED ACADEMIC WHO became familiar with gesneriads through the participation of her sister, MJ Tyler, in local chapter and Gesneriad Society activities. Sally is a member of the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society (Washington State) and attended her first convention in Philadelphia (2011). She is now on her way to becoming a gesneriad judge.



Sally Robinson



Jeremy Keene

Jeremy Keene successfully completed his studies for a Doctorate in Plant Biology, with a focus in plant systematics, in 2013. Jeremy attended several conventions through grants from the Convention Student Grant Committee and is on his way to becoming a successful grower, as well as researcher, of gesneriads.

Dave Zaitlin purchased his first miniature sinningia (cryptically named N20) as a college student from a small plant shop on the Commons in Ithaca, NY in 1974. He has been a member of the Society for over 30 years, and has recently published two peer-reviewed papers on genome size (2010) and biodiversity in *Sinningia speciosa* (2012). He is presently collaborating with a researcher at Cornell University to sequence the entire nuclear genome of *S. speciosa*.



Dave Zaitlin

—Paul Susi, President, The Gesneriad Society

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## Invite Newbies to Visit

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Please do consider inviting someone new in your club to your house to see how you grow gesneriads.

I GOT AN EMAIL FROM SOMEONE NAMED BOB WHO lives in my area. At one time Bob grew streptocarpus, sinningias, and achimenes, but became too busy with his work and life to continue. He was a member of The Gesneriad Society back when it was called AGGS. Bob said he's retired now and wants to get back into growing gesneriads. Since it's been such a long time away from the hobby he wanted some guidance for starting up again.

Because you, too, may be asked for advice, I thought I'd share what happened after Bob contacted me. I invited him over. My achimenes rhizomes were about to start sprouting, so I bagged up a dozen of those for him and was prepared to share other plants. Because I knew a few hours in my plant room would overwhelm anyone with all the information I planned to share, I printed some photos to show him stages of potting plants. In addition, I made up a list of things he would need to supply his plant room. When Bob arrived, I turned on my computer and showed him all the fantastic information he can find on the Society's web site. He was amazed at having the journal available online to members and was impressed with the numerous color photos in the journal. I showed him the 2014 Convention information, too.

My basement plant room is 16' x 12', with a vinyl floor recently replacing carpet and a large window that gets no direct sun. Bob





looked over the four different types of plant stands and studied the lights. Three of my stands have T-12 lights. A fourth stand is a homemade wooden stand with two sets of T-8 lights per shelf. I use the cheapest T-12 and T-8 lights I can get. The timers are set for 12 hours. I mentioned how important it is to have stands with wheels so one can pull and push them around for easy access for grooming and watering. We discussed the distances between the tubes and the plants. I pointed out that the lights on my wire-rack stands are too close to the shelf. These stands are good for the smaller sinningias, but they don't have enough headroom for streptocarpus and taller gesneriads.

We also chatted about growing media and the fertilizers I use. Bob wanted to make sure he understood how I make the soilless mix and how I pasteurize it. I use a canning pot for pasteurizing and storing the soil, so I opened the lid and had him stir around the mix to see what it looked like and how loose it was. Then I put some of the mix in a baggie so that when he made his own, it would have a similar consistency.

Bob was very curious about the wick reservoir watering method I use for nearly all my gesneriads. I showed him how I put a very wet, acrylic yarn wick into a Solo cup, then add about an inch of wet perlite before adding enough moist but not soaking-wet mix to just about 1-1/2 inches below the rim. Then I swirl around the wick material on top of the mix before adding more mix. The next step is to poke a hole in the middle of the soil with an old pen and then drop a rhizome or young seedling into the hole. I demonstrated how I use a sandwich baggie to line the reservoir before adding water. That way all I need to do in about 8 weeks is to dump the algae water, throw away the baggie



## Basic Tools for the Work Table

- Several small scissors
- Permanent markers
- Plastic labels
- LED light desk lamp
- Cheap facial tissues
- Isopropyl 70% alcohol swabs
- Magnifying glass
- Paper face mask
- Toothpicks and “sucker pluckers”
- Fine spray bottles
- Roll of wax paper
- Small sharp knife
- Acrylic yarn

and wash the lid. With this system there is no need to wash the reservoir.

I think what fascinated Bob the most was that I grew all of my miniature and micro-miniature *sinningias* outside of a terrarium. I have a clock with humidity and temperature gauges so he saw the room had 40% humidity. I pointed out the fan in the ceiling, which keeps the air moving.

I love my chair with wheels and my U-shaped work table — \$10 each at garage sales. I can scoot all over the room in my chair. I keep materials like wax paper handy on either side of the table. What’s really important to me is the bright LED desk lamp that I use on my table and another nearby for when I document plant-related activities with photography. I also have a two-drawer file with folders and materials related to *gesneriads*. I have a bright red two-level cart on which I put my gallons of water and my watering cans. The gallon jugs have labels on

them describing what water I’m using (reverse osmosis vs. tap water). Before I go upstairs for the evening, I make sure each jug is full so the water is room temperature the next day. I also told Bob he needed to re-purpose all sorts of plastic food containers with lids. He could see my various containers that were giving temporary extra humidity to cuttings and seedlings.

I showed Bob how I am very cautious about wiping scissors and tools with alcohol swabs to prevent passing on disease or critters to other plants. I put down a new sheet of wax paper for each plant on which I work. I have a great magnifying glass that I use each and every time I bring a plant to the table for grooming or transplanting. I have a fine-mist spray bottle filled with distilled or reverse osmosis water for misting seedlings and newly transplanted plants. I have another eight-ounce spray bottle filled with distilled water and ¼ teaspoon of Neem Oil, that I spray on top of the soil for fungus gnats or on leaves with powdery mildew. I hang blue or yellow insect sticky-traps on the stands to catch flying insects.

I told Bob I was going to base my column on his visit. He said to be sure to include where people can find suppliers of plants and pots. So those of you who aren’t aware of it, the advertisers in this journal are very helpful. There’s also a list of suppliers and local chapters on the Society’s website, [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org).

Please do consider inviting someone new in your club to your house to see how you grow *gesneriads*. In my case I don’t worry too much what people think about the algae in the reservoirs, the spent flowers on the floor, or the spilled mix that I keep meaning to sweep up. They are not there to judge my housekeeping, but to learn the basics.

Prof. Wei Yi-Gang

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