

GESNERIADS

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 62, No. 1

First Quarter 2012

Primulina

Primulina dryas



FORMER *CHIRITA* SPECIES

now placed in

Damrongia, Henckelia, Liebigia, Microchirita, Primulina

Henckelia

Henckelia walkerae



Microchirita

Microchirita micromusa



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A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri

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GESNERIADS is published quarterly by The Gesneriad Society, Inc., Lawrence, KS 66044-9998. Copyright © 2012 The Gesneriad Society, Inc. Postage paid at Lawrence, KS 66044. Postmaster: Address of Record: The Gesneriad Society, Inc., 1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA.

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and Gesneriad Society, Inc.)*

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY — The objects of The Gesneriad Society are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads, to stimulate a widespread interest in, gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture and propagation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars.

GESNERIAD REGISTRATION — 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 Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, CT 06068 <hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org>.

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COVER

Former *Chiritas* now
placed in several other
genera (story on page 14)

President's Message

Paul Susi <president@gesneriadsociety.org>
Kew Gardens, New York, USA

*Life is Change
How it differs from the rocks
I've seen their ways too often for my liking
New worlds to gain . . .*

Sometimes it seems that the lyrics of "Crown of Creation" by the Jefferson Airplane should be the anthem of horticulturists! Another season of change is upon us, this time related to the genus *Chirita*. Our editor and a number of other dedicated souls have laid it all out for you in this issue of GESNERIADS and, although things may seem confusing at first, we will all soon get used to the new names and also understand the importance of the changes (our "new worlds to gain"). Going forward, all references to *Chirita* species in publications from the Society will be in their new genera, if applicable. Chapters are urged to make necessary changes to their show schedules so that judges and the public become familiar with the new classifications.

Also in this issue, in addition to the explanation of the name changes, you will find information on the culture of Primulinas (ex-Chiritas). I'm sure that we will all learn something new from reading about how others grow their plants. I grow mine in a somewhat unorthodox manner – they seemed to love the warmth of my apartment this year while I was away for a month by rewarding me with a bounty of bloom during September and October. And even though I fertilized them on a regular basis (with tomato fertilizer!), none of the plants displayed the dreaded reddish-brown cast on their leaves.

Two chapters are celebrating a milestone in their history this year: Both the New England and Long Island Chapters are celebrating their 50th anniversaries. New England had its first meeting in September of 1961 and Long Island in September of 1962. These chapters now join the Greater New York Chapter as being the oldest existing chapters in the Society. It is also interesting to note that both the New England and Long Island Chapters are, in a way, offshoots of the Greater New York Chapter. Michael Kartuz was a member of Greater New York when he moved to Massachusetts to open his nursery and subsequently was instrumental in the founding of the New England Chapter. Ruth Katzenberger and Jim Wyrzten were originally members of Greater New York and subsequently became active in the Long Island Chapter. We congratulate these two chapters on achieving this milestone and thank them for the many contributions made by them and their members to the Society.

Would you like to save money on your membership dues? Would you like to receive your copy of GESNERIADS before it even gets into the "snail-mail" stream? Then why not renew (or give a gift subscription) at the reduced Green membership rate of \$20? All individuals, no matter where you live on planet Earth, can take advantage of this delivery method, now enjoyed by 34 members. You will receive email notification of the high-resolution PDF version of GESNERIADS as soon as it is on the web site.

As you will notice, this is the convention issue of the journal. Everyone is urged to review the program and the great trips and other activities planned

in Seattle and to register for all or some of them. Remember to remind your friends who live in the Seattle area to drop by to see the show – it's free and open to everyone.

Good Growing!

Paul

Student Convention Grants

The Gesneriad Society is again pleased to announce Student Convention Grants to be awarded to students interested in or actively studying the plant family Gesneriaceae. The grants will provide registration and partial travel and/or accommodation costs for students to attend this year's convention to be held July 3-7 in Seattle, Washington. Address questions to <studentconventiongrants@gesneriadsociety.org>. The Gesneriad Society's annual conventions offer enthusiasts and researchers alike the opportunity to come together to see a diverse array of living gesneriads, to hear programs and workshops about recent research, field work, specific genera, and culture of gesneriads.

The grants have been established to promote participation among students and tomorrow's researchers and to foster scholarship in students of Gesneriaceae. Grants will be issued on a competitive basis, and it is expected that each award recipient will present a poster or 15-minute presentation at the convention. For further information and application guidelines visit <www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2013>.

Coming Events

February 18 – Arizona – Desert Sun AV & Gesneriad Society show and sale "Violets Celebrate Arizona's Centennial" at Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix. Saturday sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; show 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Contact Ann Stotzter <anncie@cox.net>.

March 17 & 18 – Illinois – Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show and Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Saturday: noon to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact Susan Bradford <asusan.bradford@abbott.com> (847-740-7801).

March 31-April 1 – Toronto – Toronto Gesneriad Society annual show "Kings and Queens of the Plant World" at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Saturday 12 to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Entrance fee: \$2. Contact <cconlin1@ca.ibm.com>.

April 14 & 15 – New York – Long Island Gesneriad Society 50th anniversary judged show and sale "Golden Oldies" (with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island) at Planting Fields Arboretum Conference Center, Oyster Bay. Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Ben Paternoster 631-549-6788 <ben9@optonline.net>.

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Seed Fund

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Just when we thought it was safe to put our pencils down, here comes a huge list of name changes. The genus *Chirita* has always been a problem. It contained four heterogeneous groups of plants that didn't really seem to have much in common with one another except that they came from locations in Asia. The recently published molecular studies of Wang et al. and Weber et al. confirm our worst suspicions. The plants weren't a cohesive group that could be put into the single genus *Chirita*. They had to be divided up, re-assigned to new groups, and renamed.

Here's where it gets complicated. The published changes take up four pages of small print in the paper by Weber et al. and include species with which we are familiar as well as some that we probably never encountered.

What used to be the *Chirita* section *Gibbosaccus*, which contained the majority of the species we grow such as *brassicoides*, *eburnea*, *sinensis*, and *linearifolia*, is now the greatly expanded genus *Primulina*, which also includes the former genera *Chiritopsis* and *Wentsaiboea*. Unfortunately, *Chirita sinensis* had to be renamed *Primulina dryas*, since the name *Primulina sinensis* had been used previously for a different plant and can't be reused.

The former *Chirita* section *Microchirita*, which includes species such as *caliginosa* and *micromusa*, is now the genus *Microchirita*.

Most of the plants formerly in *Chirita* section *Chirita*, such as *moonii*, *walkerae* and *dielsii*, are now part of the expanded genus *Henckelia*, along with *Hemiboeopsis*.

The remaining species that were in that section, whose names are probably not familiar, are now part of the resurrected genus *Damrongia*.

Those species in *Chirita* section *Liebigia*, such as *bracteosa* and *asperifolia*, now are part of the resurrected genus *Liebigia*.

Finally, a few odd *Chirita* species moved into less closely related genera like *Opithandra*, *Didymocarpus*, *Codonoboaea*, *Raphiocarpus*, and *Lysionotus*.

The genus *Henckelia* has also been revised and new names are now indicated on the list. There are also changes to the names of some *Aeschynanthus* species.

Got that? Possibly not, but don't panic because we will be listing both old and new names on the Seed Fund list effective with this issue. The Smithsonian Institution World Checklist of Gesneriaceae has also been updated. Reference: Weber, A. et al. (2011). Molecular systematics and remodelling of *Chirita* and associated genera (Gesneriaceae). *Taxon* 60(3): 767-790.

Recent donations from the following are helping the Seed Fund grow: John L. Clark, Karyn Cichocki, Nancy Kast, Leong Tuck Lock, Mauro Peixoto, Andrea Pirone, Peter Parker, Michael Riley, Carolyn Ripps, Mary Schaeffer, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Betsy Sherwin, Annika Strignert, and MJ Tyler.

Mail orders for species seed to:
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Seed Packets — \$2 each

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- 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*
- *cettoaana* (B)
- *dulcis*
- *erecta* (B)
- *erecta* 'Tiny Red' (F,L)
- *flava*
- *grandiflora* (B,F,LM)
- *grandiflora* 'Robert Dressler' (B)
- *longiflora* (B)
- *longiflora alba* (B)
- *mexicana* (B)
- *miseria*

Aeschynanthus (B)

- *angustifolius*
- *batakiorum*
- *fecundus* SEL1974-2907-A
- *fulgens* (evrardii)
- *garrettii* (B)
- *gracilis* 'Pagoda Roof'
- *horsfieldii*
- *longiflorus*
- *micranthus* SEL1974-0260
- *parviflorus* SEL1974-2701
- *pulcher* (parvifolius)
- *pulcher* (boschianus)
- *radicans* (lobbianus 'Radicans')
- *rhododendron* (*longicalyx*)
- sp. (red) / Philippines

Alloplectus

- sp. DN96-94243

Alsobia (B)

- *dianthiflora*
- *punctata*

Amalophyllon (D,H,L)

- *clarkii* USBRG 96-336
- *divaricatum* (Phinaea)
- *rupestre* RM2006-1 /Belize

Anodiscus (see *Gloxinia*)

Besleria

- *comosa* JLC9931 (T)
- *solanoides* GRE10975 (G,T)
- species GRE12396 (T)

Boea

- *hemsleyana*
- *hygroskopica*

Briggsia (A,R)

- *aurantiaca*

Chauteusia

- *calcicola*

Chirita (see *Henckelia*, *Microchirita*, and *Primulina*)

Chrysothemis (F,LM)

- *friedrichsthaliana*
- *pulchella*
- *pulchella* (Ecuador)
- *pulchella* (formerly *villosa*)

Codonanthe (B)

- *calcarata* 'Puyo'
- *caribaea*
- *crassifolia*
- *crassifolia* 'Cranberry'
- *devosiana* SEL1997-0120A
- *erubescens*
- *gibbosa* (was sp. 'Santa Teresa')
- *gracilis*
- *serrulata*
- *uleana*
- *venosa*

Codonoboea (*Henckelia*)

- *albomarginata* (H)
- *hispida* (H)
- *malayana* (H,M)
- *reptans*
- sp. aff. *curtisii*

Columnea (B)

- *arguta*
- *brenneri* JLC9833
- *calotricha* SEL2010-0138
- *crassicaulis* (*Pentadenia*)
- *dodsonii*

- *dressleri*
- *eburnea* (*Dalbergaria*)
- *fawcettii*
- *hirta*
- *inaequilatera* (*Dalbergaria*) JLC6072
- *linearis*
- *linearis* 'Purple Robe'
- *microphylla*
- *nervosa* GRE12368
- *orientandina* (*Pentadenia*) (LM)
- *ornata* (*Dalbergaria*) GRF2665
- *oxyphylla*
- *polyantha* (*Dalbergaria*)
- *proctori*
- *purpusii*
- *pygmaea* GRE11180
- *raymondii*
- *sanguinea* (*Dalbergaria*)
- *scandens* var. *fendleri*
- *scandens* var. *tulae*
- *schiedeana*
- *schimpfii* GRE12243
- *spathulata* (*Pentadenia zapotalana*)
SEL1975-0090-077
- *strigosa* (*Pentadenia*) GRF95154
- *sulfurea*
- *tandapiana*
- Corallodiscus**
- *lanuginosus*
- Corytoplectus**
- *cutucuensis* (L)
- *speciosus* JLC9969
- *speciosus* v. *orbicularis* JLC11721
- Crantzia**
- *tigrina*
- Cyrandra**
- *cupulata* (G,H,MT)
- sp. (white) /Java (T)
- Dalbergaria** (see *Columnea*)
- Diastema** (D,F,P)
- *affine* JLC9964
- *latiflorum* GRF9669A (F,H,L)
- *racemiferum* JLC9824
- *vexans*
- Didissandra**
- *frutescens*
- Didymocarpus**
- *cordatus* (G,T)
- *sulfureus*
- Drymonia**
- *affinis* GRF98109
- *chiribogana*
- *coccinea* GRF9873
- *coccinea* JLC9980 (T)
- *coccinea* var. *fusco-maculatus*
- *coriacea*
- *doratosyla* GRF9674 (B)
- *ecuadorensis* JLC 9769
- *hoppii* JLC9863
- *pendula* SEL1998-0223
- *pulchra* GRF98113
- *rhodoloma* ABG90-0528
- *serrulata* (B)
- *strigosa* (B)
- sp. (*umecta* ined.) (B)
- *teuscheri* GRE12405
- Episcia** (H,L,B,F)
- *xantha*
- *cupreata*
- Epithema**
- sp. / N. Perak (M)
- sp. (blue) /N. Perak (M)
- Fieldia**
- *australis*
- Gasteranthus**
- *bilsaensis* GRE12137
- *villosus* GRE12111
- Gesneria** (H,F)
- *acaulis* (M)
- *christii* (LM)
- *citrina*
- *cuneifolia* (L)
- *cuneifolia* 'Quebradillas' (L)
- *cuneifolia* 'Tom Talpey' (L)
- *humilis*
- *lopezii*
- *rupicola*
- *ventricosa* (M)
- Glossoloma** (*Alloplectus*)
- *bolivianum* USBRG95-140 (M)
- *ichthyoderma* JLC9836 (T)
- *scandens* GRE11235
- cf. *panamense* GRE11118
- Gloxinella** (*Gloxinia*) (D)
- *lindeniana* (F,L)
- Gloxinia** (D)
- *erinoides* 'Red Satin'
- *perennis* (LM)
- *perennis* 'Insignis' (L)
- *xanthophylla* (*Anodiscus*) (M)
- Gloxiniopsis** (*Gloxinia*) (D)
- *racemosa* (L)
- Haberlea** (A,R)
- *ferdinandi-coburgii*
- *rhodopensis*
- Hemiboea** (D)
- *strigosa*
- *subcapitata* (L)
- Henckelia**
- *dielsii* (*Chirita*)
- *pumila* (*Chirita*) (F,L)
- *pumila* (*Chirita*) USBRG2000-18 (F,LM)
- Heppiella** (D)
- *ulmifolia* GRF98172
- Kohleria** (D)
- *allenii* (T)
- aff. *amabilis* 'Panama Pink'
- *grandiflora*
- *hirsuta*
- *peruviana*
- Lysionotus**
- *ikedae*

- Microchirita (Chirita)**
caliginosa (LM)
 - *hamosa* (F,M)
 - *involutrata* (F,L)
 - *involutrata* (dark blue)
 - *lavandulacea* (LM)
 - *micromusa* (F,L)
 - *sericea* (L,R)
 - species (Thailand)
 - species (blue) from Phuket
- Monophyllaea**
hirticalyx (L,U)
horsfieldii (U)
- Monopyle**
 - sp. GRE12131
- Moussonia**
 - *elegans*
- Napeanthus**
 - *costaricensis*
 - species
- Nautilocalyx**
adenosiphon
 - *mellitifolius*
- Nematanthus**
albus (sp. "Santa Teresa") (B)
australis (B)
 - *brasiliensis*
 - *corticola*
 - *fissus* GRF9938
 - *fluminensis*
 - *fornix*
 - *fritschii*
 - *punctatus* MP0052
 - *sericeus* (B)
 - *wettsteinii* (B)
 - *wiehleri*
- Neomortonia**
 - *nummularia*
- Nomopyle (Gloxinia)**
dodsonii GRE12110
- Opithandra** (see *Oreocharis*)
- Oreocharis**
 - *muscolica* (*Briggsia*)
 - *pankaiyuae* (*Tremacron aurantiacum*)
 - *primuloides* (*Opithandra*)
- Paraboea**
 - *capitata*
- Paliavana** (S,T)
prasinata
 - *plumerioides* (Cabral)
- Paradrymonia**
 - *ciliosa*
 - *decurrens* (L)
- Pentadenia** (see *Columnea*)
- Petrocosmea**
duclouxii
 sp. #5
- Phinaea** (D,F,P)
albolineata
multiflora 'Tracery'
 - *pulchella* (F,H,L)
- Primulina (Chirita)**
 - *eburnea* (F,R)
 - *flavimaculata* USBRG94-085 (R)
 - *gemella*
 - *heterotricha*
 - *liboensis* (white veined) (H,L)
 - *longgangensis*
 - *lutea* (F,R)
 - *spadiciformis* (L,R)
 - *tamiana* USBRG98-080 (F,R,P)
 - *viola*
- Ramonda** (A,R)
 - *myconi*
 - *myconi* —
 - blue
 - dark purple
 - lavender
 - pink
 - pink/white
 - white
 - *serbica* (purple)
- Rhytidophyllum** (G,H,S,T)
auriculatum
 - *exsertum*
 - *tomentosum*
- Ridleyandra**
 - *morganii*
 - *quercifolia*
- Rufodorsia** (F,LM)
 - *minor*
- Saintpaulia** (F,R)
 3. *shumensis*
 - 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 299
 - 5b. cl. *grotei* Protzen
 - 5b. cl. *grotei* Silvert (F,L,R)
 - 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Punter No. 7
 - 5c2. cl. Uppsala #3083
 - 5cl. cl. *tongwensis*
 - 5f. cl. *orbicularis*
 - 6. *brevipilosa*
 - 8. *rupicola*
 - 8. *rupicola* cl. Cha Simba 'Kew'
- Seemannia (Gloxinia)** (D)
gymnostoma (LM)
nematanthodes
 - *purpurascens* / Bolivia
 - *sylvatica*
- Sinningia** (D)
aggregata (M)
aggregata 'Pendulina'
aghensis (T)
aghensis AC2356
allagophylla (MT)
allagophylla (yellow)
 - *amambayensis* (L)
 - *araneosa* (F,L)
 - *barbata*
 - *brasiliensis* (M)
 - *brasiliensis* 'Verde'
 - *bulbosa* (T)
 - *bullata* (was sp. "Florionopolis")

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,H,L)
conspicua (F,L)
conspicua GRF 9942
cooperi (LM)
cooperi AC1522 (M)
curtiflora (T)
curtiflora GRF9927
defoliata
douglasii GRF91188 (LM)
douglasii GRF9936 (LM)
douglasii 'Red'
elator AC1409 (M)
elator GRF9963
eumorpha /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)
insularis (LM)
leopoldii (F,L)
leucotracha (F,L)
 • *leucotracha* (pink)
leucotracha cv. 'Max Dekking' (M)
leucotracha "English"
lineata (LM)
lineata (highly spotted)
macrophylla
macropoda (M)
macrostachya (LM)
magnifica GRF91121 (pink) (LM)
magnifica GRF91134 (red)
 • *mauroana* (D,M)
micans MP891 (LM)
musciicola (dark) [was sp. "Rio das Pedras" (dark)]
musciicola (light) [was sp. "Rio das Pedras" (light)]
nivalis AC1460 (L)
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* 'Robson Lopes'
sceptrum (T)
sceptrum AC2406 (T)
schiffneri (red leaf)
sellovii (MT)
sellovii GRF9919
sellovii 'Bolivia' USBRG96-003
 • *sellovii* 'Purple Rain'
 • *speciosa* 'Buzios'
speciosa 'Carangola'
speciosa 'Domingos Martins'
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. "Bahia"
 • sp. "Ibitioca" (LM)
 • sp. "Pancas"
 mixed species
Smithiantha (D,F,M)
 • *canarina* GRF9105
 • *lauri*
multiflora
 • *multiflora* GRF9121
 • *multiflora* GRF9122
 • *zebrina* GRF9104
Streptocarpus
buchananii (B)
candidus (F,R)
compressus
confusus (U)
 • *confusus* ssp. *confusus* /Swaziland
cooperi (U)
cyanandrus (F,P)
 • *cyaneus* (blue) (R)
 • *cyaneus* (blue/long corolla)
 • *cyaneus* (lilac)
 • *cyaneus* ssp. *cyaneus albus*
daviesii (F,U)
denticulatus (U)
 • *dumii* (U)
eylesii (U)
fanninia (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 (blue form)
grandis ssp. *grandis*
haygarthii (F,U)
- *haygarthii* JT04-03D/Transkei Coast (F,U)
haygarthii JT04-051/Inchanga (U)
haygarthii /Mkambati, Transkei (U)
holstii (B,L)
johannis (F,R)
johannis /Komga, E. Cape
johannis /Weza, S. Natal (R)
sp. aff. *johannis* (F,R)
kentaniensis
 - *kentaniensis* (N. Kei River)
kirkee (F,L)
 - *kunhardtii*
 - *lilliputana*
 - *meyeri* /SE Transvaal (R)
meyeri /NE Cape Province
modestus (R)
 - *modestus* /Magwa Falls, Transkei (R)
molweniensis
muscosus (L)
nobilis (M)
pallidiflorus (F,LM)
parviflorus (R)
parviflorus (mauve)
 - *parviflorus* (white) (R)
parviflorus (white/mauve)
 - *parviflorus* ssp. *parviflorus* /Limpopo Province
penterianus (F,L)
- 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* JT04-02C (P)
rexii (white)
rexii (pale blue/long corolla)
rexii (white/blue mix)
rimicola (F,P)
roseoalbus (F,R)
saundersii (U)
saxorum (B)
sp. nov. / Shiyalongubo Dam
thompsonii (B,L)
trabeculatus (U)
 - *vandeleurii* (U)
variabilis (F,R)
wendlandii (U)
wilmsii (U)
wilmsii /Long Tom Pass (U)
Mixed species

Titanotrichum
oldhamii (propagules)

Tremacron (see *Oreocharis*)

Trichantha (see *Columnnea*)

Vanhouttea (S,T)

 - *brueggeri*
 - *lanata*
 - *pendula*

Mixed alpine gesneriads
Mixed gesneriad species

 - Limited quantities available. Packet may contain small amount of seed

Seed Fund Key

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

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Botanical Review No. 39

Bob Stewart <aeschynanthus@verizon.net>
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- **Inclusion of *Metabriggsia* into *Hemiboea* (Gesneriaceae).** Weber, Anton, Wei, Yi-Gang, Sontag, Susanne, & Möller, Michael. *Phytotaxa* 23: 37-48. 2011.

The authors studied the two species of *Metabriggsia* and concluded, based on both molecular evidence and on morphology, that the genus should be synonymized under *Hemiboea* and the two species transferred, to become *Hemiboea ovalifolia* and *Hemiboea purpureotincta*.

- **A new definition of the genus *Petrocodon* (Gesneriaceae).** Weber, Anton, Wei, Yi-Gang, Puglisi, Carmen, Wen, Fang, Mayer, Veronika, & Möller, Michael. *Phytotaxa* 23: 49-67. 2011.

The authors conclude, based primarily on molecular evidence, that several Asian plants of very diverse floral forms are in fact closely related and should be grouped into a single genus. The genus name *Petrocodon* is the oldest name in the group, so this formerly small genus now includes about 20 species.

In particular, the attractive plant formerly known as *Calcareoboea coccinea* is now *Petrocodon coccineus*.

- **A new delineation for *Oreocharis* incorporating an additional ten genera of Chinese Gesneriaceae.** Möller, Michael, Middleton, David, Nishii, Kanae, Wei, Yi-Gang, Sontag, Susanne, & Weber, Anton. *Phytotaxa* 23: 1-36. 2011.

The authors use molecular evidence plus detailed morphological study to conclude that *Ancylostemon*, *Bournea*, four *Briggsia* species with yellow flowers (including the type species for that genus), *Dayaoshania*, *Deinocheilos*, *Isometrum*, *Opithandra*, *Oreocharis*, *Paraisometrum*, *Thamnocharis*, and *Tremacron* are best regarded as a single genus *Oreocharis* (the oldest available name).

All of these plants are rosette-type, with dry capsule fruit. Flower and anther characteristics differ considerably, presumably because of specialization for different pollinators.

The paper includes several color photographs to give a visual impression of the plants being discussed. (Former) *Ancylostemon ronganensis* and *Briggsia stewardii* could pass for (former) rosette *Chirita* species. (Former) *Oreocharis magnidens* has leaves that resemble *Episcia* species in appearance. (Former) *Dayaoshania cotinifolia* has a pink flower of unusual shape, giving the appearance of two large upper lobes and two pointed lower lobes. (Former) *Thamnocharis esquirolii* has a pink four-lobed cross-shaped flower.

A few of these plants are in limited cultivation. Examples include: *Briggsia muscicola* becomes *Oreocharis muscicola*; *Tremacron aurantiacum* becomes *Oreocharis pankaiyuae*; and *Opithandra primuloides* becomes *Oreocharis primuloides*.

- **Phylogenetic reconstruction of *Chirita* and allies (Gesneriaceae) with taxonomic treatments.** Wang, Yin-Zheng, Mao, Ru-Bing, Liu, Yan, Li, Jia-Mei, Dong, Yang, Li, Zhen-Yu, & Smith, James F. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 49: 50-64. 2011.

The question of exactly what is a *Chirita* and whether the plants with that name form an acceptable group has long been a problem. The genus traditionally includes the rock-growing rosette plants so popular with our members, the "annual *Chiritas*" of completely different appearance, several soft-leaf plants, a few shrubs, and several other plants that are less commonly cultivated.

The development of DNA molecular evidence techniques has provided a new opportunity to revise the genus. The results will cause considerable label changing for many of our members.

In particular, it seems that the "rosette Chiritas" formerly of genus *Chirita* section *Gibbosaccus* plus *Primulina tabacum*, plus the species of *Chiritopsis* and *Wentsaiboea*, can be grouped to form a proper genus. However, the "type specimen" of the genus *Chirita* is not one of these plants, so that name cannot be used for this group. Instead, the group gets the oldest genus name, which is *Primulina*. All of the labels for this popular group of plants will need to be changed. Fortunately, most of the species names will remain the same.

The "annual Chiritas" with flowers "coming out of the leaf" formerly in genus *Chirita* section *Microchirita* will move to the genus *Microchirita*, again with the species name generally staying the same.

The "shrubby Chiritas" formerly in genus *Chirita* section *Liebigia* from Sumatra and Java will move to the genus *Liebigia*; in particular *Chirita asperifolia* will become *Liebigia speciosa*.

The genus name *Chirita* will remain with the type specimen for the genus (*Chirita urticifolia*) and some closely related species such as *C. walkeri*, *C. pumila*, and *C. speciosa*.

However, see the next item before starting to write the labels.

• **Molecular systematics and remodelling of *Chirita* and associated genera (Gesneriaceae).** Weber, Anton, Middleton, David J., Forrest, Alan, Kiew, Ruth, Lim, Chung Lu, Rafidah, A.R., Sontag, Susanne, Triboun, Pramote, Wei, Yi-Gang, Yao, Tze Leong, & Möller, Michael. *Taxon* 60 (3): 767-790. 2011.

This is another paper breaking up the old *Chirita* genus. This paper was submitted before the paper discussed above, but the Wang et al. paper went through the review process extremely quickly and was published first. The present paper proposes a somewhat different reconstruction and different set of names; it will be interesting to see which system gains favor among botanists.

Fortunately for growers, this paper also concludes that the "rosette Chiritas" formerly of genus *Chirita* section *Gibbosaccus* plus *Primulina tabacum*, plus the species of *Chiritopsis* and *Wentsaiboea* can be grouped to form a proper genus, and that the genus name will be *Primulina*. Most species names will pass without change, but these authors have found one conspicuous exception. The former *Chirita sinensis* will become *Primulina dryas* because the name *Primulina sinensis* was published over 100 years ago as an illegitimate synonym for *Primulina tabacum* and therefore cannot be re-used, and because the name *Chirita dryas* had been previously published for the species *Chirita sinensis* and was therefore available.

There also seems to be substantial agreement between the two sets of authors on the establishment of *Microchirita* and *Liebigia*.

However, these authors find that the type species of *Chirita*, *Chirita urticifolia*, actually belongs with a group of plants that includes the type specimen of *Henckelia*, which is the older name, which would mean that the genus *Chirita* completely disappears. The related species mentioned above will also change to *Henckelia*. The paper by Wang et al. did not include any *Henckelia* species in their study. The present authors also reduce *Hemiboeopsis* to synonymy under *Henckelia*.

These authors also find that *Chirita lacunosa*, *Chirita purpureolineata*, and an undescribed species used in their study should be separated out in the revived genus name *Damrongia*.

The authors also find that the plant described as *Chirita elata* should be moved under *Henckelia*, but in a different section from the other former *Chirita* species.

Another conclusion of this paper is that the genus *Henckelia* now requires further study. They state that papers are in preparation, so we can anticipate further changes.

There are a few culture notes in this paper. The authors note that *Henckelia* species generally do not occur on limestone rocks, while *Damrongia*, *Microchirita*, and *Primulina* species are found almost exclusively on limestone.

All *Microchirita* species are found on exposed limestone rocks and are somewhat tolerant of sun.

Chirita dismembered!

David J. Middleton <d.middleton@rbge.ac.uk>
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland

Chirita as traditionally delimited contains about 140 species found in Sri Lanka, the Himalayas and southern China, through continental Southeast Asia and into Malesia as far as Sumatra, Java, and Bali. In recent years more and more species have been described, particularly from southern China, and it is likely that there are large numbers of undescribed species in China, Vietnam, and other parts of Southeast Asia. The genus was first described by David Don in 1822, taking up the name first proposed by Francis Buchanan-Hamilton. The genus remained fairly small until the beginning of the 20th century when the huge number of species of *Chirita* from southern China began to become known to the outside world and the scientific and horticultural communities.

David Wood revised the genus in 1974 and recognised 77 species in three sections: *Chirita*, *Gibbosaccus*, and *Microchirita*. In the 1980s onwards the number of species being described increased rapidly, mostly from southern China and mostly in the section *Gibbosaccus*. Most of these species were included in the account of the Gesneriaceae in the *Flora of China* (Wang et al. 1998). There have also been problems in the delimitation of species, most notably when Olive Hilliard resurrected a fourth section, *Chirita* sect. *Liebigia*, and revised the species within it (Hilliard 2004). Whereas Wood had recognised only one species in this group, *Chirita asperifolia*, Hilliard divided it into 12 species! Conversely, it is likely that some of the new species described from southern China in recent years may prove to be synonyms of already known species when they are critically revised.

It has long been recognised that *Chirita* is a rather heterogeneous assemblage of species united by a single character, the shape of the stigma. In *Chirita* the upper lobe of the stigma is not developed and the lower lobe is nearly always bifid. In other characters the species range from very small herbs to subshrubs, rather fleshy annuals to woody perennials, and terrestrial plants of the forest floor to plants growing in the fissures of limestone rocks. The flowers may be only a few millimetres to several centimetres long and the corolla may be white, yellow, orange, pink, blue, purple, or sometimes combinations of these colours.

In recent years molecular sequencing and phylogenetic reconstruction techniques to hypothesise the evolution of groups of organisms have become increasingly important in the classification of plants. These techniques frequently help clarify formerly intractable classification problems and often highlight previously overlooked relationships between plants that make very good sense. Morphological characters that were previously thought not to be important sometimes turn out to be the characters that unify a particular group. Also characters that were formerly thought to unite a group of plants may be shown to have arisen many times in unrelated plants in response to particular evolutionary pressures. These techniques have now been applied to *Chirita* and the results, perhaps unsurprisingly, have led to the genus being divided into five separate genera, each one not being particularly closely related to any of the others formerly placed within *Chirita*. Inevitably the nomenclatural consequences of these changes are many but the five genera

that have emerged are all now much more morphologically homogeneous than *Chirita* used to be. This work was published by Weber et al. in 2011.

The five genera are *Damrongia*, *Henckelia*, *Liebigia*, *Microchirita*, and *Primulina*.

Damrongia

The species in this genus used to be placed in *Chirita* section *Chirita*. There are seven known species, all from Thailand with one of them also reaching into Peninsular Malaysia. They all occur only on limestone rocks and have white, blue, or purple flowers. They are hypothesised to belong to the group of Asian genera with twisted fruits even though this character has been lost in *Damrongia*. Currently, no species are known in cultivation.

Henckelia

This is the most nomenclaturally confusing of the genera to emerge from *Chirita* and the one with the most knock-on nomenclatural consequences in other groups of Asian Gesneriaceae. *Henckelia* previously comprised around 180 species in southern India, Sri Lanka, southern Thailand, and Malesia. It has now been shown that the species of *Henckelia* from southern India and Sri Lanka are closely related to the original type species of *Chirita*, *Chirita urticifolia*, and its relatives and that the southern Thai and Malesian species of *Henckelia*, by far the majority of the genus, are only distantly related to these. The classification consequences of this under the rules of botanical nomenclature are that the genera *Henckelia* and *Chirita* must be combined and that the older name has priority. The older name is *Henckelia* and, consequently, the name *Chirita* is no longer to be used. However, as noted above, very many species of *Chirita* are not in this group of species and the large majority of *Henckelia* species in Southeast Asia must be moved into other genera. As there is little current horticultural interest in the Southeast Asian species formerly in *Henckelia*, the far-reaching nomenclatural effects of these changes will have little immediate interest to growers.



Henckelia (Chirita) speciosa



Henckelia (Chirita) pumila

Henckelia
(*Chirita*)
dielsii



Henckelia with its new circumscription remains the most morphologically diverse of the genera to emerge from *Chirita* although when the molecular results led to a re-examination of the morphological characters that could unite the species to be placed therein it was discovered that the southern Indian and Sri Lankan species of *Henckelia* did share the characteristic stigma character of *Chirita* except that the lower lip is not bifid as was usual, but already not universal, in *Chirita*. There are approximately 56 species of *Henckelia* found in Sri Lanka, southern and northeastern India, Nepal, Bhutan, southern China, northern Vietnam, northern Laos, and northern Thailand. They are generally plants of the forest floor or on non-limestone rocks. Ten species are known in cultivation (see below).

Liebigia

This is the only entirely Malesian genus to emerge from *Chirita*. It occurs in Sumatra, Java, and Bali and has twelve species according to Olive Hilliard (2004). They are coarse perennial herbs of the forest floor. One species occurs in cultivation, the former *Chirita asperifolia*, now *Liebigia speciosa*. However, given that all species of this genus used to be lumped into *Chirita asperifolia* it might be that there are more species being cultivated than is currently appreciated.



Liebigia speciosa
(*Chirita asperifolia*)

Microchirita

The species in this group have long been known to be closely related and were previously classified as *Chirita* section *Microchirita*. They are mostly rather fleshy short-lived or annual plants found in the Western Ghats of India, the foothills of the Himalayas, through continental Southeast Asia to Borneo, Sumatra, and Java. They are all species of limestone rocks. There are approximately 18 species but the taxonomy of the genus is in need of review. It is likely that there are currently some undescribed species with white flowers and possible that some of the yellow-flowered species are insufficiently distinct as to deserve species' status. Many species in this genus have an unusual crest-like inflorescence that emerges from the leaf petiole with the flowers opening sequentially. Several species are known in cultivation (see below).



Microchirita (Chirita) involucrata



Microchirita (Chirita) lavandulacea



Microchirita (Chirita) elphinstonia

Primulina

This is by far the largest of the genera to emerge from *Chirita* and the one of most interest to growers. *Primulina* is already known to growers through *Primulina tabacum* and this used to be the only species in the genus. It has now been discovered that the species of *Chirita* section *Gibbosaccus* and the species of the genera *Chiritopsis* and *Wentsaiboaea* are closely related to *Primulina* and that they should all be recognised within the same genus, thereby enlarging it to over 130 species. Even though it is the largest of the ex-*Chirita* genera, it is not the most widespread being found only in the limestone areas of western and southern China and northern Vietnam. Guangxi province is particularly rich in species with about half of all known species. They are perennial rhizomatous herbs and often have rather leathery leaves and attractive flowers making them ideal for cultivation. Over 20 species are currently known in cultivation (see below).



Primulina (Chirita) species (clockwise from top):
P. linearifolia, *P. tamiana*, *P. sclerophylla*, *P. lutea*, *P. liboensis*

Important literature

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The cultivated species

There are over 40 species of *Chirita* that are currently in cultivation. Many of these species were discussed in THE GLOXINIAN vol. 48, part 2 (1998), in a series of articles on the genus and won't be discussed in any detail again here. Listed below are the cultivated species along with their new names.

<i>Chirita anachoreta</i> = <i>Henckelia anachoreta</i>	<i>Chirita longgangensis</i> = <i>Primulina longgangensis</i>
<i>Chirita asperifolia</i> = <i>Liebigia speciosa</i>	<i>Chirita lutea</i> = <i>Primulina lutea</i>
<i>Chirita balansae</i> = <i>Primulina balansae</i>	<i>Chirita micromusa</i> = <i>Microchirita micromusa</i>
<i>Chirita barbata</i> = <i>Microchirita barbata</i>	<i>Chirita minutimaculata</i> = <i>Primulina minutimaculata</i>
<i>Chirita bogneriana</i> = <i>Primulina bogneriana</i>	<i>Chirita moonii</i> = <i>Henckelia moonii</i>
<i>Chirita brassicoides</i> = <i>Primulina brassicoides</i>	<i>Chirita ophiopogoides</i> = <i>Primulina ophiopogoides</i>
<i>Chirita briggsioides</i> = <i>Henckelia briggsioides</i>	<i>Chirita pteropoda</i> = <i>Primulina pteropoda</i>
<i>Chirita caliginosa</i> = <i>Microchirita caliginosa</i>	<i>Chirita pumila</i> = <i>Henckelia pumila</i>
<i>Chirita dielsii</i> = <i>Henckelia dielsii</i>	<i>Chirita sclerophylla</i> = <i>Primulina sclerophylla</i>
<i>Chirita eburnea</i> = <i>Primulina eburnea</i>	<i>Chirita sericea</i> = <i>Microchirita sericea</i>
<i>Chirita elphinstonia</i> = <i>Microchirita elphinstonia</i>	<i>Chirita sinensis</i> = <i>Primulina dryas</i>
<i>Chirita fimbrisejala</i> = <i>Primulina fimbrisejala</i>	<i>Chirita spadiceiformis</i> = <i>Primulina spadiceiformis</i>
<i>Chirita flavimaculata</i> = <i>Primulina flavimaculata</i>	<i>Chirita speciosa</i> = <i>Henckelia speciosa</i>
<i>Chirita gemella</i> = <i>Primulina gemella</i>	<i>Chirita subrhomboidea</i> = <i>Primulina subrhomboidea</i>
<i>Chirita hamosa</i> = <i>Microchirita hamosa</i>	<i>Chirita tamiana</i> = <i>Primulina tamiana</i>
<i>Chirita heterotricha</i> = <i>Primulina heterotricha</i>	<i>Chirita tribracteata</i> = <i>Primulina tribracteata</i>
<i>Chirita hookeri</i> = <i>Henckelia hookeri</i>	<i>Chirita urticifolia</i> = <i>Henckelia urticifolia</i>
<i>Chirita involucrata</i> = <i>Microchirita involucrata</i>	<i>Chirita viola</i> = <i>Microchirita viola</i>
<i>Chirita lavandulacea</i> = <i>Microchirita lavandulacea</i>	<i>Chirita walkerae</i> = <i>Henckelia walkerae</i>
<i>Chirita liboensis</i> = <i>Primulina liboensis</i>	<i>Chirita wentsaii</i> = <i>Primulina wentsaii</i>
<i>Chirita linearifolia</i> = <i>Primulina linearifolia</i>	<i>Chirita yungfuensis</i> = <i>Primulina yungfuensis</i>
	<i>Chirita zeylanica</i> = <i>Henckelia communis</i>

The Gesneriad Society follows Gesneriaceae nomenclature established on the Smithsonian Institution Taxonomy Reference Website:
<http://botany.si.edu/gesneriaceae/checklist>

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Back to Basics: Pots

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

Those who plan on showing plants at the July 2012 Convention might think of repotting *Episcias*, *Primulinas* (ex-*Chiritas*), and *Streptocarpus* in early February or March. It seems I get more flowers when my show plants are slightly rootbound, so I plant them in their show pots at least five months ahead of the show.

There are several pot types and these are just a few: plastic, glazed ceramic, self-watering ceramic, self-watering plastic (including Oyama), and the unglazed clay/terracotta. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Let's start with plastic. Plastic is lightweight, less expensive, easy to clean, and minimizes evaporation. Over the years, plastic pots get brittle and white ones turn yellowish. Due to the nature of plastic, if the pot is over-watered then the soil stays soggy a long time. If that happens on a mature plant, I usually remove the root ball and squeeze it with paper towels before putting it back in the pot. Therefore, a plastic-potted plant needs a well-drained soil.

Glazed ceramic pots also need well-drained soil. I often use glazed bonsai pots in which to grow a grouping of miniature or micro-miniature *Sinningias*. Since I wick water, the soil needs to be about half perlite to keep the soil from becoming too soggy in the glazed pot. Glazed pots are often brightly colored or have a design on them. When potting a plant for show, neutral colored pots are less likely to be distracting for a show entry. Keep in mind that ceramic pots can be quite heavy and break if dropped. I do like a heavy pot for *Streps*, *Smithianthas*, *Seemannias*, and *Kohlerias*, otherwise they tend to topple over when the leaves become large. Self-watering ceramic pots come in two pieces. The top pot has an unglazed bottom portion that absorbs water from a bottom container. Neither the top nor bottom container has a drainage hole. The plant and soil go into the top pot. You fill the bottom container with water with added fertilizer. Place the top pot inside the bottom container where it has contact with the water. The first blue-ribbon-winning show plant I ever saw at a Gesneriad Society convention using the ceramic self-watering pot was *Streptocarpus* 'Summer Parfait' entered by Carol Hamelink at the 2009 Convention. I asked her about her soil mix. She uses half Pro-mix and half perlite and adds horticultural charcoal when she can find it. Carol says her soil is evenly mixed and there is no layer of perlite



Types of self-watering pots



Streptocarpus 'Summer Parfait' exhibited by Carol Hamelink growing in a ceramic self-watering pot

on the bottom. She says the soil in the top pot must already be wet for the wicking to begin. If the soil is too dry, then carefully add water, keeping in mind there is no drainage hole. The photo above shows Carol's plant and the hole in the bottom pot where she adds water.

It's a challenge to describe a self-watering plastic pot. It has two pieces. The base of the top pot has slits that allow airflow for the roots and also allows water to drain when you leach the pot. That top pot's base also has a cylinder that goes to the bottom of the base/reservoir and it also has slits at the cylinder's base. The idea is to fill the cylinder and part of the base of the top pot with perlite that acts like a wick since it sits in the water. Most of these types of pots have lines that guide the grower for the amount of perlite, soil, and water. Unless you overfill with water, your plant has less chance of root-rot. Another advantage to this type of pot is that one could go on a vacation and not worry about the pot drying out. If I remove flowers and disbud the plant plus fill the base pot with water to the recommended level, I can usually go on a ten-day vacation without the plant drying out. Another advantage is that a saucer or slip potting isn't needed to show the entry. Also, I like this type of pot because it sits higher on the shelf, keeping leaves from touching the shelf. For that reason, it's a great show pot for Streps. A disadvantage is that one cannot see how much water there is in the bottom pot if it's not a clear base. In order to replenish the water, you have to lift up the pot with the plant and pour water into the base pot. This can be a challenge if the plant is a trailer or has stolons. Also, to leach the pot you have to hold the top pot with the plant in one hand and water with the other hand because the plant can't easily sit on its cylinder especially if roots are emerging from the base of the cylinder. You have to hold the pot while it drains. I used to grow very large Streps and Primulinas in five-inch self-watering pots. Each had a base pot that was clear so I could easily see how much water was left in the reservoir and also had a hole in the top area to add water so I didn't have to lift the plant out of the base.

My mother-in-law always grew Episcias and African violets in unglazed clay/terracotta pots with drainage holes in the bottom. She'd put broken pieces of pottery in the base of the pot. Since the pots are porous, her very heavy soil, which was mostly gotten from the back yard or from rich, black topsoil from nearby onion fields, didn't stay soggy if she over-watered. She'd pour water into the pots and let the pot sit on a saucer that held the excess water. I was amazed that her plants were so healthy and full of flowers. She'd done this since the 1950's, so who was I to try and change her way? There

are some disadvantages to clay pots including the crusty layers of mineral salt build-up on the base and the rim of the pot that can be cleaned with a firm bristle brush and plenty of water. Often the leaf petioles that rest on the rim of the pot can be scarred or damaged due to the salt build-up on the clay pot rim. I've known some to dip the rims of clay pots in wax. There are products one can use to "paint" the insides of the pots to prevent the salts from staining the pot.

What pot size is best? It is usually suggested that a rosette-shaped gesneriad grow in a pot one-third the size of the diameter of the plant. I prefer the squatty (azalea or bulb) pots for rosette-shaped gesneriads like *Petrocosmeas* and *Primulinas* since their roots tend to grow horizontally rather than deeply. The squatty pot's diameter is three-quarters the height of the pot. I use taller pots for rhizomatous plants like *Kohlerias* and *Smithianthas* because I replot from 2-1/2 inch pots into standard 3- or 4-inch pots. I remove the bottom two to four leaves and place the plants quite a bit deeper in the soil. When I am growing seedlings, I like to fill a tray with 2-1/2 inch square pots that don't tip over as easily as round ones.

What color is best? White light reflects heat, so if you grow in a bright, sunny window, then white is preferable to dark colors. White shows dirt. I like to write on my pots not only the name of the plant, but also when I transplanted it. In addition, I often write the name of the person who hybridized the plant or who gave it to me and the date they gave it to me. Therefore, white is best for me. Yet when it comes to showing a plant for competition, I use green or another neutral color because I want the attention of the judges to be on my plant and not the pot.

My plant room has a large, walk-in closet and it is stocked with hundreds of pots of various sizes and types. Even with all those choices, it's sometimes a challenge to decide which to use.



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Welcome to the Emerald City

Bob Clark, Local Convention Chair <bobclark98122@gmail.com>
Seattle, Washington, USA

The Puget Sound Gesneriad Society would like to welcome you to the Pacific Northwest by inviting you to Seattle to attend the 2012 Gesneriad Society Convention, which will be held from July 2 to July 7 at the Renaissance Hotel. Known for being a bustling urban center that maintains a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, Seattle's good-natured spirit makes visitors feel warm and welcome.

Our hotel is located in the Pioneer Square section just minutes from the heart of downtown. Attendees will be able to walk to world-class shopping, dining, and attractions such as Pike Place Market, the Seattle Art Museum, and the architecturally stunning Seattle Public Library.

Seattle is a place with snow-capped mountains in two directions (the Cascade Range and the Olympic Mountain Range) and a snow-cone volcano (Mount Rainier) in a third direction. We promise you they exist, even though you may not see them.

This is a green place and also a tree-hugging place. Seattle is known as the Emerald City, from which we took our convention theme: **Gesneriads in the Emerald City**. The Emerald City is also the focus of our convention show schedule, which is based on perhaps one of the most beloved of all Hollywood musicals, "The Wizard of Oz."

Welcome ... and please don't spend all your time inside the hotel. Seattle is also a good place to see airplanes, buy fish and produce, see the future of computers, buy a book, and have the best-tasting cup of coffee ever, on a rainy morning. Sunshine? That's the bright light in the sky that you might see sometime after July 4. Welcome to the Great Northwest!

56th Annual Convention of The Gesneriad Society

Convention Trips

The members of the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society are happy to invite you to participate in the following pre-convention and convention tours. With so much available to see and do in the greater Puget Sound area, we are offering an optional pre-convention tour on **Monday, July 2**. We will travel by bus to nearby Tacoma to experience contemporary glass art in a breathtakingly beautiful museum on the city's revitalized waterfront. You will feel the heat as you watch a team of artists create masterpieces from molten glass in the world's largest hot shop (housed inside the iconic 90-foot stainless steel cone) and marvel at edgy and inspiring exhibitions of glass in the galleries. With its striking architecture, majestic outdoor art installations, the remarkable *Chihuly* Bridge of Glass, and the finest museum store around, the Museum of Glass *is* Tacoma's cultural landmark.

On **Tuesday, July 3**, we will take a short bus trip to Federal Way to enjoy an afternoon at the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden – 22 acres of botanical splendor and home to one of the largest collections of species rhododendrons and azaleas in the world. On a guided tour, we will learn about these extraordinary plants growing in a forest of conifers and deciduous trees. In addition, we will see myriads of beautiful companion plants including ferns, maples, heathers, and perennials as well as hundreds of tropical beauties set alongside a stream, waterfalls, and towering boulders. At the center of the garden visitors can enjoy the expansive overview of the landscape from the charming gazebo and then explore the Fern Stumpery, Alpine and Pond Gardens, and the breathtaking Meconopsis (Himalayan Blue Poppy) Meadow. Our tour will also include a visit to the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, which features 60 outstanding bonsai from six Pacific Rim nations.

Saturday evening, July 7, we will enjoy a Northwest native cultural experience. The trip will begin with a 45-minute narrated cruise from downtown Seattle to Blake Island State Park. Upon arrival at Tillicum Village, we will be greeted with an appetizer of steaming clams in nectar. Inside the longhouse, we'll watch as whole salmon are cooked over an alder-wood fire on cedar stakes in the traditional Northwest Coast Indian style. We'll then sit down for a fabulous salmon buffet meal followed by a show highlighting the Coast Salish tribes through historical Native American dance combined with modern native storytelling and symbolism. The ancient native culture is married with modern technology in a twist that creates a unique and compelling native cultural experience. After the show, there will be free time to explore the grounds and gift shop before we cruise back to Seattle.

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

515 Madison Street, Seattle, Washington USA

For direct hotel reservations, call 206-583-0300 or toll-free 1-800-546-9184 (US and Canada). Inform reservations you will be attending The Gesneriad Society Convention 2012. Reservations can be made by phone or online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=4796430>. The link is available at <www.gesneriadsociety.org>.

Rates: \$139 Single/Double \$149 Triple/Quad \$169 Corner King Suite

Rooms are subject to all applicable taxes (currently 15.6%). *Reservations must be received by June 9, 2012 to guarantee convention rates.* Convention rates are in effect three days before and three days after convention, based on availability. The entire hotel is smoke-free. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m.; check-out time is 12:00 noon. High-speed Internet access is complimentary for convention attendees in guestrooms and in meeting rooms. Hotel parking rates and other parking options provided on The Gesneriad Society website.

A cancellation fee of one night's deposit will be charged if the Renaissance is not informed of a reservation cancellation at least 2 days prior to the scheduled arrival. A \$50 early departure fee may be assessed for departures prior to the confirmed departure date.

Convention Chairpersons

<i>Convention</i>	Jim Roberts <jim-roberts@hughes.net> 410-227-2324 2408 Henson Drive, Marriottsville, Maryland 21104
<i>Convention Coordinator</i>	Jeanne Katzenstein <jkatzenste@aol.com>
<i>Convention Registrar</i>	Mary Helen Maran <maranmh@tampabay.rr.com>
<i>Development Committee/Auction</i>	Suzie Larouche
<i>Shows & Judging</i>	Arleen Dewell
<i>Awards</i>	Jo Anne Martinez
<i>Local Convention Chair</i>	Bob Clark <bobclark98122@gmail.com>
<i>Artwork</i>	M.J. Tyler
<i>Convention Booklet</i>	Iain James
<i>Convention Packet</i>	Rohm Gustafson
<i>Plant Sales</i>	Mel Grice
<i>Publicity</i>	Peter Shalit
<i>Speakers</i>	Peter Shalit
<i>Special Events & Transportation</i>	Lynette Miller
<i>Table Favors</i>	Pat Shandrow
<i>Treasurer</i>	Doreen Hovermale
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	Leonard Re
<i>Flower Show</i>	M.J. Tyler <mjtyler2@gmail.com>
<i>Artistic Schedule & Reservations</i>	Pat Shandrow
<i>Classification & Plant Inspection</i>	Bill Price
<i>Educational & Commercial</i>	Joe Freeman
<i>Entries</i>	Paul Susi
<i>Judges & Clerks</i>	Doris Brownlie <jtbrownlie@idirect.com>
<i>Placement</i>	Carol Ann Bonner
<i>Plant Maintenance</i>	Carol Harcharik
<i>Staging</i>	Jamie and Dennis Notman

Plant Sales Procedures

The plants available for sale at convention come from commercial vendors, our members, and from chapters who may participate as donors or vendors. An invitation to participate as either a donor or vendor is extended to all Gesneriad Society members who adhere to the guidelines. Any amount of donated plant material is greatly appreciated. Donated plants do not need to be priced in advance, although it would be helpful. All potted plants for sale should be well rooted, clearly labeled, and insect/disease free. Rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, and stolons in labeled plastic bags are also welcome. All plants should be delivered to the plant sales storage area by Wednesday evening.

Each item coming into plant sales must be labeled per the instructions detailed on the Society's website <www.gesneriadsociety.org>. To be considered a vendor (commercial, chapter, or individual) at convention, you must bring a minimum of 50 plants in order to receive a portion of the sales revenue. All individuals, chapters, and vendors putting plants into the sale are expected to volunteer in the sales room for a few hours during convention. Plants are dual tagged to ensure that sellers receive proceeds from their plants, buyers go home with correctly named plants, and the sales process is efficient.

If you plan to donate and/or sell plants at convention, please inform the Plant Sales Chair as soon as possible. Send your name, address, and the ID and tag color (example: "M.G." on blue tag) you will use on your tags to Mel Grice: 2019 Crosswind Court, Englewood, OH 45322 <melsgrice@earthlink.net>. Proceeds from plant sales are mailed to vendors after the convention.

56th Annual Convention of The Gesneriad Society

Tuesday, July 3, to Saturday, July 7, 2012

Convention Registration Form

Mail to Convention Registrar: **Mary Helen Maran**
 2655 Winding Wood Drive, Clearwater, FL 33761 USA

Or register online at <www.gesneriadsociety.org>
 Email inquiries to <maranmh@tampabay.rr.com>

Please print:

Name(s) _____
 [will appear on your name badge(s) and attendees list as printed here]

Address _____ City _____

State/Prov _____ Country _____ Zip/Post Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership # (top line of current mailing label) _____

- Life Member Attending my first Gesneriad Society Convention
 Commercial (nursery/greenhouse name) _____

Date arriving at hotel: _____ Date leaving hotel: _____

- I will be driving to convention or using a car there and will require parking
 I will require a phytosanitary certificate to transport plants out of the United States

During judging on Friday morning, I would like to judge clerk either
 (You will be contacted by the judges chairperson regarding an assignment)

Special diet needs (check box and/or specify) Registrant _____
 Vegetarian specify if will also eat chicken fish
 Diabetic Allergic to shellfish Allergic to peanuts
 Other _____

Will you volunteer a few hours of your time to help with staffing during convention?
 (You will be contacted by the volunteer coordinator regarding specific days/times)
 As needed Host at Registration Assist with Plant Sales
 Host at Flower Show Take meal tickets / Distribute table favors

Early registrations must be made online by midnight of or postmarked by April 15, 2012 to take advantage of the **10% discount on meals, activities, trips and purchases**. Registrations made **after April 15, 2012** will be at the **full rate for all selections**. The registration fee includes all lectures except the Judging School for which there is separate registration. **Admission to plant sales, as well as GHA giveaways, will be in registration number order.**

Convention cancellation and refund policy: Full or partial cancellations of convention registrations made before June 18 will be honored with full refunds. Full or partial cancellations made between June 18 and July 2 will be honored with refunds based on previous commitments made to the hotel, bus and tour operators. Refunds for full or partial cancellations cannot be guaranteed if requested after July 2. **The registration fee is not refundable for full cancellations made after June 18, 2012.**

All prices are in US dollars

Registration	No.	Cost \$US
Primary Registrant (including packet)	_____ @ \$55 = \$	_____
Guest or Family: Spouse/children (including packet)	_____ @ \$20 = \$	_____
Subtotal for registration fee:		\$ _____

*10% discount on meals, trips and purchases if postmarked by April 15, 2012
 or made online by midnight of April 15, 2012*

Event	No.	\$US	Cost Total
Monday , July 2, Pre-Convention Trip to Tacoma Glass Museum _____	@ \$20 = \$ _____		
Tuesday , July 3, Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting	@ \$22 = \$ _____		
Tuesday , July 3, Trip to Rhododendron Species Garden	@ \$30 = \$ _____		
Tuesday , July 3, Opening Dinner: Seattle Buffet	@ \$55 = \$ _____		
Wednesday , July 4, Judging School (<i>select one per registrant</i>)	@ \$11 = \$ _____		
Reg #1: <input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate/Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop (certified judges only)			
Reg #2: <input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate/Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop (certified judges only)			

Wednesday, July 4, Luncheon Honoring Chapters

Roast turkey and havarti panini w/Yukon gold potato salad @ \$40 = \$ _____

Grilled vegetable sandwich on ciabatta w/couscous salad @ \$40 = \$ _____

Other registrant (specify): _____

Thursday, July 5, Dinner and Annual Membership Meeting

Jamaican jerk chicken breast, Caribbean peas, and rice @ \$52 = \$ _____

Pork tenderloin, spicy pears, caramelized onion, purple potato au gratin @ \$52 = \$ _____

Other registrant (specify): _____

Friday, July 6, Full Continental Breakfast Buffet (*open to all*) @ \$22 = \$ _____

Friday, July 6, Flower Show Awards Banquet

Northwest salmon, grilled vegetables, ratatouille w/fig molasses @ \$60 = \$ _____

Island spiced pork with brandy roasted apples & sweet potato mash @ \$60 = \$ _____

Roasted vegetable ravioli, brown butter sauce, on a bed of sautéed greens @ \$60 = \$ _____

Other registrant (specify): _____

Saturday, July 7, Luncheon Honoring Commercial Growers

Roast beef/cheddar/horseradish aioli panini w/roasted garlic potato salad @ \$40 = \$ _____

Poached chicken salad, romaine lettuce, chopped egg, cucumbers, jack cheese, bacon, and spiced pecans @ \$40 = \$ _____

Other registrant (specify): _____

Saturday, July 7, Cruise from Seattle to Blake Island for dinner, show, and free time at Tillicum village @ \$85 = \$ _____

Gesneriad Society tote bag (pick up at convention) @ \$15 = \$ _____

Gesneriad Society calendar 2013 (pick up at convention) @ \$12 = \$ _____

Convention DVD-ROM (to be mailed later in 2012) @ \$15 = \$ _____

Sub-total for meals, trips, activities, and purchases \$ _____

Subtract 10% if postmarked by April 15, 2012 (\$ _____)

Total for meals, trips, activities, and purchases \$ _____

Flower Show Award Sponsorship \$ _____

in honor of in memory of _____

Subtotal for registration fee (from previous page) \$ _____

Grand total \$ _____

*Make check or money order (payable in US\$ on a US bank) to: **The Gesneriad Society, Inc.***
 or charge \$ _____ to my VISA MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date _____ Name on card _____

Signature _____

2012 Convention Program

Monday, July 2

10:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Pre-Convention Tour to Tacoma Museum of Glass
(lunch on own)

Tuesday, July 3

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Board of Directors Meeting
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Convention Registration/Information/Promo Sales
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Board Buses
1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trip to the Rhododendron Species Garden and Pacific
Rim Bonsai Collection in Federal Way
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration/Information
(flower show entry forms accepted)
6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Opening Dinner and Welcome
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Conservation Meeting

Wednesday, July 4

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Convention Registration/Information
(flower show entry forms accepted)
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Judges Interest Group Meeting
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Judges Training, Session 1
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Luncheon (honoring chapters/members)
1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Judges Training, Session 2
3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. GHA Meeting and Program
(note that GHA giveaways will be in registration order)
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration/Information/Promo Sales
(final flower show entry forms accepted)
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Basics Program
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Judges Test
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Growers Forum
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Host Chapter Social / Fireworks

Thursday, July 5

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Convention Registration/Information
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Flower Show Entries
1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Basics Program
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Auction Items Accepted
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mini-Presentations by Students
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Chapter Presidents Meeting
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lecture #1: "Tissue Culture of Gesneriads and Other
Cultivated Plants" by Steven McCulloch (Olympia, WA)
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Convention Registration
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Membership Meeting and Dinner
7:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Lecture #2: "Gesneriads of South China" by Professor
Wei Yi-Gang (Guangxi, China)

8:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sale of Publications + Promo Items
 9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Early Plant Sales
 (entry by registration number)
 9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Plant Sales

Friday, July 6

6:30 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Flower Show Late Entries (with permission)
 7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet (open to all) followed by Judging Instructions
 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Flower Show Judging
 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Convention Registration/Information
 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sales Open and Auction Viewing
 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lecture #3: "Conservation of Gesneriads of South
 China" by Professor Wei Yi-Gang (Guangxi, China)
 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Flower Show Open
 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Newsletter Editors Meeting
 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Basics Program
 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration/Information
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour
 7:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Flower Show Awards Banquet
 9:15 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Flower Show Open

Saturday, July 7

6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Photographers Only in Show Room
 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Flower Show Judges Critique
 (only for this year's judges/clerks)
 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Convention Registration/Information
 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Basics Program
 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Auction Viewing
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Sales Open
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Flower Show Open
 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Lecture #4: "Sinningia Farming in California" by
 Alan "Farmer Al" LaVergne (Palo Alto, CA)
 11:30 a.m. Silent Auction Closes
 12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Luncheon and Live Auction
 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Auction Settlement (live and silent)
 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Final Plant Sales Open
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Phyto Inspector Available
 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sales and Auction Breakdown
 Flower Show Breakdown
 4:45 and 5:30 p.m. Shuttle Buses to Pier
 6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Cruise to Blake Island for Dinner and Show at Tillicum Village

The Gesneriad Society Convention 2012 Flower Show Schedule

"Gesneriads in the Emerald City"

Entries will be accepted on Thursday, July 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Late entries may be received on Friday morning, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. only by prior arrangement and with the written permission of the Flower Show Chairperson.

Division I – HORTICULTURE

SECTION A — New World Gesneriads in Flower – Tuberos

- Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids (upright or pendent flowers)
- Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species with rosette growth pattern
- Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species with upright growth pattern
- Class 4 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with rosette growth pattern
- Class 5 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with upright growth pattern
- Class 6 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (largest leaf less than 1" long)
- Class 7 Other tuberous gesneriads

SECTION B — New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

- Class 8 *Achimenes*, *×Achimenantha*
- Class 9 *Kohleria*
- Class 10 *Seemannia* and its intergeneric hybrids
- Class 11 *Smithiantha*
- Class 12 Other rhizomatous gesneriads less than 5" in all dimensions including the container
- Class 13 Other rhizomatous gesneriads

SECTION C — New World Gesneriads in Flower – Fibrous-Rooted

- Class 14 *Codonanthe*, *×Codonanthus*
- Class 15 *Columnnea* (*Dalbergaria*, *Pentadenia*, *Trichantha*)
- Class 16 *Episcia*, *Alsobia*
- Class 17 *Gesneria*
- Class 18 *Nematanthus*
- Class 19 Other fibrous-rooted gesneriads

SECTION D — Old World Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 20 *Aeschynanthus*
- Class 21 *Petrocosmea*
- Class 22 *Primulina* species or named cultivars (including former *Chirita* with rosulate growth pattern)
- Class 23 *Primulina* hybrids (former *Chirita* with rosulate growth pattern)
- Class 24 *Saintpaulia* species
- Class 25 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as miniatures (max of 6" diameter)
- Class 26 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as semi-miniatures (max of 8" diameter)
- Class 27 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as standards
- Class 28 *Saintpaulia* trailers
- Class 29 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpella*
- Class 30 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpus*, species
- Class 31 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpus*, hybrids
- Class 32 *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpus*, hybrids with variegated foliage
- Class 33 Other Old World gesneriads

SECTION E — Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers: Decorative fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

- Class 34 *Episcia*
- Class 35 *Episcia* with pink-and-white leaf variegation
- Class 36 *Primulina* (former *Chirita*) species, named cultivars or hybrids
- Class 37 Other gesneriads with green-and-white leaf variegation
- Class 38 Other Old World Gesneriads, species or hybrids
- Class 39 Other New World Gesneriads, species or hybrids

SECTION F — New Gesneriads: Introductions made within the last 5 years, but not previously entered in this section of any Gesneriad Society Convention Show. A white card (not to exceed 8.5"×5.5") must be provided giving educational information such as name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

- Class 40 Species in flower
- Class 41 Species not in flower
- Class 42 Hybrids or named cultivars in flower
- Class 43 Hybrids or named cultivars not in flower

SECTION G — Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows: A white card (not to exceed 8.5"×5.5") must be provided with educational information such as habitat, source, cultural requirements.

- Class 44 In flower
- Class 45 Not in flower

SECTION H — Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads: An educational 8.5"×5.5" white card is suggested stating what training the exhibit received and how the exhibit is to be viewed (all sides or from the front).

- Class 46 Bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style

SECTION I — Collections of Gesneriads – A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for ornamental qualities, or in combination (*Saintpaulias* must be in flower). Exhibitor must provide a white card, not to exceed 8.5"×5.5", with identification of plants. In Class 47, exhibitor is encouraged to reflect variety as this is a consideration in judging. In Class 48, educational information must also be provided.

- Class 47 Plants of a single genus either species, cultivars or hybrids
- Class 48 Kinship group – Interspecific or intergeneric hybrid/hybrids exhibited with one or more parents

SECTION J — Gesneriads Grown by a Novice – A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the Horticulture Division of a gesneriad (including AV) flower show. Exhibitors wishing Novice Status for the Horticulture Division may not enter other Horticulture classes.

- Class 49 Gesneriads in flower
- Class 50 Gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than flowers (no flowers or buds showing color allowed)

Division II – ARTISTIC

There is a limit of 4 entries in each class in Sections K, L, and M with the exception of Classes 55 and 59, which have a limit of 8 entries, and Class 56, which has no limit. Reservation requests (deadline of June 18, 2012) must be emailed to Pat Shandrow, <pat@shandrow.net> or mailed to her at 4408 59th Street Court East, Tacoma, WA 98443-2446. Reservations are also required for Sections N and O, with no limit on the number of entries in each class. *Artistic arrangers must leave the showroom at the latest by 2:00 p.m.*

SECTION K — Arrangements of Fresh-Cut and/or Growing Gesneriad Material

- Class 51 "Toto Too!" – Dorothy carried her small black dog, Toto, in a wicker basket. Create a basket design with no niche and no larger than 12" in any dimension.
- Class 52 "Emerald City" – As Dorothy and her friends approach the Emerald City, they spy the tall spires. Create a vertical design using foliage only. Niche size: 20"H×10"W×10"D.
- Class 53 "Wicked Witch" – Create a black and white design with a touch of green gesneriad material mimicking her skin color. Niche size: 15"H×10"W×10"D.
- Class 54 "Over the Rainbow" – One of the most beloved songs of all time. The sky is the limit for this class. Niche size: 10"H×8"W×8"D.

SECTION L — Arrangements of Fresh-Cut Gesneriad Material

- Class 55 "The Munchkins" – A truly miniature design no larger than 4" in any dimension, staged on a riser with no niche.
- Class 56 "Glinda the Good Witch" – Glinda floats around in a bubble. Create an underwater arrangement not to exceed 12" in any dimension, to be staged on a riser.
- Class 57 "Flying Monkeys" – A kinetic design. Niche size: 20"H×15"W×15"D.
- Class 58 "Scarecrow" – This friend of Dorothy's was made of straw. Create a design using dried gesneriad material only. Niche size 10"H×8"W×8"D.
- Class 59 Challenge Class – All materials will be provided except mechanics and container. The class title will be announced at 9 a.m. and materials will be available at that time. Niche size: 7"H×5"W×5"D.

SECTION M — Arrangements of Growing Gesneriad Material

- Class 60 "Ruby Slippers" – Dorothy's fabulous red pumps were the key to getting her and Toto back to Kansas. Create a design with red flowers or other red material in it. Niche size: 15"H×10"W×10"D.

- Class 61 "Tin Man" – This friend of Dorothy was made of tin. The use of metal somewhere in your arrangement is encouraged. Niche size: 10"H×8"W×8"D.
- Class 62 "Cowardly Lion" – Do you remember how he wrung his tail after being scolded by Dorothy? Create a design with wooly, fuzzy-looking gesneriads. Niche size: 15"H×10"W×10"D.

SECTION N — Plantings of Growing Material

- Class 63 Terrarium – straight-sided: not to exceed 24" in any dimension.
- Class 64 Terrarium – curved: not to exceed 24" in any dimension.
- Class 65 Tray Landscape – not to exceed 24" in any dimension.
- Class 66 Natural Garden – planted on any naturally occurring material, (e.g. rock, wood, shell) not to exceed 24" in any dimension.

SECTION O — Artistic Entries by Novices: A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad (including AV) flower show. Exhibitors wishing Novice Status for the Artistic Division may not enter other Division II classes.

- Class 67 Artistic entries suitable for any of the classes in Sections K, L, M, or N, except for Challenge Class 55. Exhibitor must identify, on a 3"×5" white card, the name of the class chosen and the plant material used.

Division III — THE ARTS

SECTION P — Photography: The subject must be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8"×10" and mats should not exceed 11"×14". Easels must be provided for prints 5"×7" or over. Exhibitors are required to reserve space (indicating the size of the exhibit) for entries in Sections P & Q. Limit: One entry per exhibitor per class. Reservations (deadline June 18, 2012) may be emailed to <joehort1@hotmail.com> or mailed to Joe Freeman, 2539 South Ainsworth Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405

- Class 68 Color print of parts of a gesneriad (flowers, fruit, foliage, etc.).
- Class 69 Color print of a whole gesneriad plant.
- Class 70 Color print of gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat. The subject must be portrayed growing wild in an area of the world considered by botanists to be its natural range, not cultivated in pots, gardens, or greenhouses. A white card (maximum 8.5"×5.5") must be provided detailing location, climate, month/year photo was taken, how the site was accessed and any other pertinent information.
- Class 71 Monochrome print.

SECTION Q — Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads: Exhibitor may include a 3"×5" white card describing techniques and/or processes used in the creation of an entry

- Class 72 Painting or drawing. (An easel must be provided by the exhibitor.)
- Class 73 Needlework or textile. (A 3"×5" white card must be provided giving the source of the design.)
- Class 74 Other arts and crafts.

Division IV — COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

Reservations (deadline June 18, 2012) for Sections R and S may be emailed to <joehort1@hotmail.com> or mailed to Joe Freeman, 2539 South Ainsworth Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405. Limit: One entry per exhibitor per class.

SECTION R — Commercial Displays

- Class 75 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (10 or more plants).
- Class 76 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (fewer than 10 plants).

SECTION S — Educational Exhibits

- Class 77 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion.
- Class 78 Exhibit of plant material with educational information.
- Class 79 Exhibit of photograph(s) of gesneriad plant material that because of its seasonal nature or rarity in cultivation is not often exhibited live. A white card (not to exceed 8.5"×5.5") must be provided outlining source, natural habitat, cultural information, and reason for suitability in this class.
- Class 80 Exhibit of photograph(s) of gesneriads growing outdoors as bedding, accent, or container plants. Gesneriad(s) must be identified and additional information included about climate, growing medium, culture, etc.

General Rules and Exhibitors Information

1. Each exhibitor must prepare a list of plants and other exhibits with the appropriate Section and Class numbers to facilitate the work of the Entries Committee. The Flower Show Committee will assist in identifying material unknown to the exhibitor. A computerized entry system will be used, and an entry form will be included in each registration packet. **Exhibitors must complete their entry forms and submit them at Registration on Tuesday or latest by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.** Your cooperation will help expedite the actual entries process for everyone.
2. All plant material must be free of insects and disease. All entries will be inspected, including those for exhibit only.
3. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule and must be approved by the Classification Committee. Nonconformity to schedule may bring disqualification.
4. Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society.
5. Entries will be accepted only during the hours specified. An exhibitor may request that an entry be accepted for exhibit only. Educational information should be provided where appropriate. These entries, and any arriving after the close of Entries, will be placed in a separate area of the showroom for exhibit only and will not be judged.
6. All entries will be staged in the showroom by the Placement Committee. Collections and artistic entries may be placed in the showroom by the exhibitor in the space designated and during the stated time for entries.
7. In fairness to amateur growers, institutions may not make more than two entries in each of the Horticulture, Artistic or Arts Divisions of the flower show. The same restriction applies to commercial growers whose employees assist with the culture and grooming of potential entries.
8. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated at the discretion of the Show Committee after entries close.
9. No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes. All entries must be checked out through the Show Committee.
10. Standard competitive judging, as established by The Gesneriad Society, will be used.
11. Awards will be made according to the following point scores: 1st, blue ribbon (90-100); 2nd, red ribbon (at least 80); 3rd, yellow ribbon (at least 70). Honorable Mentions may also be awarded.
12. Special Awards (more than a class ribbon) are reserved for Gesneriad Society members of record at the time of Flower Show entries, unless specifically offered to nonmembers. An exhibit must score 90 or above to be considered.
13. Awards for Best and runner-up to Best Gesneriad in Show in Division I, (excluding *Saintpaulia* hybrids) are given for horticultural perfection. These awards and those for Best in Divisions II, III and IV are reserved for Gesneriad Society members of record at the time of Flower Show entries. Exhibits in all Divisions must score 95 points or higher to be considered for these awards.
14. Sweepstakes and Runners-up to Sweepstakes awards for any Division require a minimum of three blue ribbons in a Division to be eligible. These awards are reserved for Gesneriad Society members of record at entries time.
15. The Gesneriad Society will endeavor to protect all entries, but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

Additional Horticulture Division Rules and Information

1. All plants must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's care for at least 3 months prior to the show.
2. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different cultivar, unless otherwise prohibited.
3. Exhibitors of *Saintpaulia* hybrids are required to respect size limitations as defined by the hybridizer as registered in the AVSA Master Variety List.
4. Exhibitors will be permitted to indicate the front of a horticulture entry.
5. No particular type of container is specified. All containers used must be clean. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.
6. An exhibitor may provide educational information on a white 3"x5" card for any entry if desired.
7. All exhibits in flowering classes must have at least one fully opened flower.
8. Seed pods or fruit (not spent blossoms) are permitted on all gesneriads entered in the Horticulture Division. The exhibitor should realize when entering a blooming plant with seed pods or fruit that some judges could find them enhancements of, or detractions from, the plant's appearance.

Additional Artistic Division Rules and Information

1. Gesneriads must predominate.
2. While *Saintpaulias* are permitted in all artistic classes, the use of other gesneriads is strongly encouraged.
3. Other live and dried plant material is permitted but no artificial plant material is allowed.
4. Plant material used in the Artistic Division need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
5. All plant material used is to be identified on an accompanying white 3"x5" card. Supplemental titles or descriptions may be added but are not required.
6. Accessories are optional unless specifically required.
7. Table covers and niches will be neutral in color. Exhibitors may provide additional background.
8. Cut blossoms or plant material may be placed in artistic arrangements on Friday morning from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m.
9. In Section N, "Dimension" refers to the linear measurements of height, width and depth only.
10. Straight-sided terrariums are composed of flat pieces of glass or plastic. Curved terrariums have rounded pieces.
11. All niche sizes stated are for space dimensions allotted. Actual niche side wings are one half the size stated.

Additional Arts, Commercial and Educational Division Rules and Information

1. All entries must have been made by the exhibitor and feature gesneriads in some form.
2. Entries must not have been exhibited before in any Gesneriad Society Convention show.
3. Photography: The exhibit is being judged on the skill, technique and composition displayed, not on the quality of the plant material chosen as a subject, except for Class 69.
4. Educational exhibits may be entered by institutions, chapters, study groups or individuals. In Class 77, any project relating to gesneriads may be presented with illustrative material that may or may not include live plant material.

Judges Training School

Judging school will be held on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 and will again consist of morning and afternoon sessions. People interested primarily in growing and showing, but not necessarily in becoming judges are welcome to attend. The morning session, beginning at 9:30 a.m. is comprised of three parts: 1) a Novice class for those wanting to learn about the judging of gesneriads; 2) an Intermediate/Advanced class for accredited judges primarily interested in preparing for Senior judge exams; 3) a workshop, open to all certified judges (topic to be announced in the January issue of *Appraisal*). It is very important when registering for the school that you clearly indicate which of the three classes you intend to take. The afternoon session, beginning at 1:30 p.m. will combine all three groups for practice judging and discussion. Novice and Intermediate/Advanced exams will be given from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for those wishing accreditation as Gesneriad Society judges.

Registration for both sessions of the School is \$11 payable when you register for convention (both online and printed). **Please note: No payments for judging school will be accepted at convention.** Subscription renewals for *Appraisal* are to be paid separately to Mel Grice. Novices who meet all the requirements to become student judges must subscribe to *Appraisal* no later than September 30, 2012.

The Judges Interest Group will meet from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday morning before the school sessions. All current Gesneriad Society judges and those interested in becoming judges are welcome to attend. A flower show critique, open to all who participate in judging or clerking the flower show, will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Arleen Dewell, Shows & Judging Chair <arleendewell@shaw.ca>

A Call for Judges and Clerks

Members registering for convention who would like to assist in the judging or clerking of the flower show on Friday morning should indicate their request to be considered on the convention registration form. You may contact Doris Brownlie, 80-600 Silvercreek Boulevard, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 2B4 Canada or <jtbrownlie@idirect.com> with any questions. Remember to register for the breakfast on Friday as final instructions will be given there.

Flower Show Awards

The chapter members of the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society are proud and thrilled to be hosting the 2012 Convention in Seattle, Washington. As Awards Chair, I need everyone's support to award the many winning exhibits that we are sure to see in the Convention Flower Show. With your help, I can recognize each and every award-winning exhibit. THANK YOU to all who have donated in the past. I am counting on you again this year. Never donated an award? Become a first-time donor and join the tradition. Remember, donations for awards are tax-deductible.

A member or chapter wishing to donate may forward an award to me at the address below. Checks or money orders should be made payable to The Gesneriad Society. Awards may also be made when registering for convention by mail or on the website <www.gesneriadsociety.org>. All awards must be received by June 18. Any awards received after this date will be applied to next year's convention.

Preference is for unspecified awards. Special requests will be filled on a first-come basis. If there are no eligible entries, or the category's award has already been filled, with your permission the award will be transferred to another class or section. Should there be fewer eligible entries than awards, the balance of award donations will be carried over for awards at next year's convention. Acknowledgment of all award donations will appear in the fourth quarter issue of GESNERIADS and also on our website. Again, thank you for your past support and for your consideration for this year's convention.

Jo Anne Martinez <awards@gesneriadsociety.org> 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, FL 33613

Convention Auction

Live or silent, we know that you will enjoy bidding and winning at this year's auction. If you plan on making an auction donation, complete the auction form that you will receive with your registration packet and have it with you when you bring your items to the auction area. (Check the convention program for the precise time and location for making your auction donations.) Bring us some of your own special plants or horticulturally related items as auction donations and join the fun.

Paul Susi, Development Chair, and Suzie Larouche, Auction Chair



Grouping of *Primulina* species and hybrids: (back, left to right)
P. dryas 'Hisako', *P. gemella*, *P. dryas* 'Angustifolia';
 (front, left to right) *P.* 'Souvenir', *P.* 'Rachel', *P. linearifolia* (variegated), *P.* 'Betty'

Culture of Primulinas (ex-Chiritas)

Dale Martens (and other growers)

Dale Martens (Sherrard, Illinois): When someone asks me a question about the culture of any gesneriad genera, I usually suggest they ask a couple more people the same question. There's no single way to grow any plant. It depends on your environment — your average room temperature, the type of water available, the soilless mix you use, and the type of light you're able to give the plants. How I grew Primulinas in California is different from how I grew them in Texas and how I now grow in Illinois where I have to use reverse osmosis water. Therefore this article includes methods used by several people.

I have grown Primulinas (ex-Chiritas) since 1988 and used a large leaf of what was then called *Chirita sinensis* in my first-ever design entry at the 1989 Convention. At that time I bottom watered in saucers and used a commercial soil that was rather heavy with little perlite or vermiculite. I'd put water in the saucer and whatever was not absorbed after thirty minutes was poured down the drain. I kept the plants on the dry side, but never let them wilt. My goal was to grow enormous leaves, so I used high-nitrogen orchid fertilizer at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water. I foliar fed with 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of fish emulsion at least once a month, making sure I sprayed not only the top of the leaves but under the leaves. I'd put hot water in the spray bottle and add the fish emulsion so the fine mist was not freezing cold. The effectiveness of foliar feeding is controversial, but I had a friend who strongly felt it made a big difference, so I was very consistent in regular feedings. I turned my plants once a week to keep them symmetrical. The

plant stand was next to a south-facing window, so the plants got plenty of light. Here's my secret for creating a really large *Primulina*: I never cut the rootball when transplanting. What I do before transplanting is leach the pot with at least two cups of water. Next I add 1/4 teaspoon of Epsom salts to a gallon of water and pour two cups of that through the pot. Then I place the plant into a pot that's only one inch larger. Although that's more work for me to be transplanting frequently, I feel it doesn't stress the plant.

Twenty years later, I now wick water all of my gesneriads because I travel a lot and don't want to ask anyone to water my plants while I'm away. I was recently given *Primulina minutimaculata*. Most of us who saw Ron Myhr's Best New Species awarded entry at the 2008 Convention fell in love with it. (An image can be seen at <<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2008/plants/bigpics/BestNewSpecies.htm>>.) After about four months it didn't seem to be growing much (actually not at all) plus a leaf was rotting, so I wrote to Ron expressing some concern because I was wick watering. He said it was a slow grower which confirmed what my friend said when she gave it to me. Ron also said he'd seen it grown well on a wicking system, so that made me feel better. I decided to repot it with more perlite. Since I now wick water, my soil needs to be light and this particular species (under my conditions) seems to need even lighter soil. I still use a variety of non-urea, high nitrogen fertilizers. My point in discussing the challenge of growing this particular plant is that we all must adjust to the individual needs of each species of *Primulina*. It doesn't matter if I'm successful growing all other plants in the genus a certain way, if there's a species or hybrid that shows stress, then I have to make adjustments to the culture I'm giving that particular plant or give it away to someone who might be more successful. Luckily with e-mail, I can contact excellent growers and get their opinions fast before the plant dies.

Thad Scaggs (Spring Hill, Florida) and I were chatting on the phone about hybridizing. Because he got a second-best gesneriad award at a show in Florida with 'Patina', I asked him how he grows *Primulinas*. He said he uses equal parts of New Zealand sphagnum, perlite, and vermiculite. No peat is used, but he adds a generous portion of horticultural charcoal. Thad also adds dolomite lime since New Zealand sphagnum is acidic, and he uses a high-nitrogen, urea-free fertilizer such as Better-Gro Orchid Plus. He is careful when transplanting to use a pot that is not too much larger than the current pot.

I wrote to **Beverley Williams** (Brooklin, Ontario, Canada) to ask how she grows *Primulinas*. She responded: "I treat my *Primulinas* the same as everything else in my plant room. They are potted in Fisher's formula soil which includes equal parts, perlite, vermiculite, sphagnum peat moss, horticultural charcoal, and soil along with a bunch of chemicals like dolomite lime, ferbam (for mold) and such. I keep them in 4-inch pots, no bigger as they will grow to be the size of huge platters otherwise. In a 4-inch pot they get to be the size of a dinner plate as it is.

"Once a year I cut the root ball down and remove quite a few of the leaves, keeping about four to six leaves, and then re-pot the plant into a clean pot and top up the soil. My *Primulinas* receive the same fertilizer as the rest of my plants. I alternate watering using 20-20-20 and Miracle Gro for bloom. I bottom water each plant separately. Some of the *Primulina* species are not cut back as drastically depending on the type and the size of them, which I like to keep reasonable.

"I use T8 bulbs and the plants usually get about ten hours of light. In the summer I keep my lights at eight hours and water less often. Repotting takes place now every year. I also use water collected by my dehumidifier along with tap water. My water is high in iron and leaves a pinkish tinge.

"In the winter the thermostat in the house is set at 72°F during the day and 64°F at night. In the summer when the temperature gets up into the 80's we use our air conditioning. As my plants are in the basement, the temperatures tend to be cooler than the rest of the house."

Paul Kroll (East Aurora, New York) offered his comments on growing the ex-Chiritas: "I have been growing Primulinas for many years. The first one was *Primulina dryas* (*Chirita sinensis*) 'Hisako', given to me by Betty Tapping as a leaf that was as large as a ping-pong paddle! Another friend got the same. He "wedged" his leaf, removing all but a two-inch triangle at the base of the petiole. I put mine down "whole." His baby plants were in three-inch pots before mine were separated from their mother leaf! Since then I have propagated my plants with wedging in this fashion.

"I grow in my regular mix of sphagnum moss, peat moss, sterilized soil, perlite, and vermiculite with some bone meal and lime added. Primulinas seem to enjoy extra lime and that is what I give them. I fertilize all my plants with the exact same mixture, once a week. Plants that are potbound (another preference of Primulinas) and plants in full bloom need some spot watering midweek. I fertilize at the rate of one-quarter teaspoon per gallon of water, rotating four or five different brands. Once a month I add one-quarter teaspoon of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to each gallon of water as well. This seems to keep the pH at a place where plants can absorb the most from the fertilizers' benefits.

"My Primulinas are grown on all levels of shelves in my plant room. The only one which seems to prefer a certain spot is *P. sclerophylla*. The others are quite adaptable, even the *P. sclerophylla* hybrids. Currently I am growing the following species of *Primulina*: *sclerophylla*, *linearifolia*, *minutimaculata*, *spadiciformis*, *dryas* 'Hisako', and USBRG 98-083 along with the following hybrids: 'Rachel', 'Louisa', 'Maytime', 'Patina', 'Piccolo', and 'Jo Anne Martinez'. I grew Carolyn Conlin-Lane's hybrid (and named it) 'Bridal Veil' (*P. balansae* × *P. linearifolia*) to a large, trained/sculptured plant and put it into the auction at the 2011 Gesneriad Society Convention in Philadelphia."

Joe Palagonia (Howard Beach, New York) described his method of growing Primulinas: "I have been growing and showing Primulinas (ex-Chiritas) for over 25 years. They have grown well for me and are my favorite gesneriad. My success in growing them was not immediate, and there was much trial and error and many casualties. I searched, read, asked questions to veteran growers, and experimented. I finally came up with many ideas that work for me: They do not like to be over-watered; they do not like to sit in water; they do not like to dry out; they do not like to be over-potted; they like a light soil; they like it cool (bottom shelf is best); they do not like a lot of fertilizer; and they like lime (alkaline conditions).

"My soil mix is 5 parts Pro-mix, 2 parts perlite, 1 part vermiculite, 5 level tablespoons dolomite lime (1 part = 1 gallon±). I like to repot every year or year and a half, sizing the pot to be approximately 1/3 the diameter of the plant. When potting I add one inch of perlite to the bottom of the pot. This way the roots of the plant do not come in direct contact with the water

since I water from the bottom in a saucer. Once a week I give each plant as much water as it can absorb in half an hour and then I remove any excess water from the saucer. The plants are grown 12 inches under two 4-foot, 40-watt, wide-spectrum tubes that are on for 11 hours per day. I use Peters 20-20-20 at a rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water for three weeks and the fourth week I use plain water with no fertilizer. Happy growing ... sit back and enjoy any of these rewarding gesneriads."

Nancy Kast (San Antonio, Florida) was asked to share her thoughts to encourage people to grow Primulinas. She replied, "Growing Primulinas has been an enjoyable experience for me. I use an African violet soil mix with extra sponge rock in the bottom of the pot to provide a little more aeration and to limit the amount of soil. They seem to like being root bound, so I don't pot into large pots until necessary. They require very little fertilizer, but some folks like to add a little extra lime, depending on the pH. I personally don't use extra lime. My soil mix includes ProMix BX, Baccto, perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, and dehydrated cow manure. Different areas have to adjust the amounts according to temperature, etc. Here in Florida we have to use a lighter mix than the northern states. Most of my plants are grown under two T12 fluorescent tubes in shop-light fixtures. Lights, on timers, are on for nine hours a day. I do grow my Primulinas in the coolest room in my house.

"I have found that no matter what genera I have grown, they seem to grow better and larger with repotting every four to six months. When I repot, I notice that the roots are clinging to the charcoal which leads me to believe that they might like a little extra charcoal. Primulinas are easy to grow and very rewarding, giving you blooms most of the year. You should try some!"

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Gesneriad Adventures in Southern China

Jim Roberts <jim.roberts2408@gmail.com>
Marriottsville, Maryland, USA

This past March I had the privilege of visiting southern China and seeing some of our favorite gesneriads growing in their natural environment. It all started when my company decided to hold its international sales meeting in Hong Kong. I knew I wouldn't get another chance like this for some time so I inquired, as I always do when traveling, if there were any gesneriad growers in Hong Kong.

Thad Scaggs told me about Luke Leung in Hong Kong. I subsequently spent a day with Luke and his wife and young son and saw how he grows his plants – in sweater boxes in the windows of their upper-story condo overlooking beautiful downtown Hong Kong. It was amazing to see how many plants he could fit into a very small space as well as his ability to hybridize some beautiful Kohlerias in these boxes.

But the biggest treat was yet to come. A contact I had made a year before invited me to visit him in Kunming and tour southern China to see some of the native gesneriads there. Although I didn't know what to expect, I learned a lot about the climate and growing conditions that these plants thrive in.

Kunming, which is called the garden city of China, has a climate that is perfect for growing many different plants. It never gets up to 90°F in the summer and doesn't drop below freezing in the winter. My friend, Yang, grows a number of gesneriads, orchids, and other plants in his apartment in the city.

I flew the 2-1/2 hours to Kunming from Hong Kong to arrive there near sundown. Getting through customs and into the airport was easy. With my bag I exited the customs area looking for Yang. I had no idea what he looked like, and expected to see him waiting for me there with a sign. No Yang. Here I was deep in the heart of China. I spoke no Chinese and, much to my dismay, no one there spoke any English. Okay, Jim, don't panic yet. He's probably stuck in traffic somewhere. Half an hour later, still no Yang. Since he was making all the hotel arrangements for me, I had no idea what I was going to do if he didn't show. I did have his phone number, but when I dialed, I got a message in Chinese that, of course, I didn't understand. More panic. And then he walked in carrying his sign with my name on it. Whew!

We took a cab and I checked into a hotel near his home. The room was small and the bedsprings were huge, but I was most surprised to find two gas masks and two condoms in the room. I learned that they are standard in every hotel room in China. (Must be part of a "be prepared" Chinese philosophy.) Yang gave me half an hour to settle in before returning to take me out to dinner. He asked what I like to eat and I said anything. He looked at me, laughed, and said, "I don't think so." He was right. We went to a local restaurant where the food was okay, but on the bland side. It had been a long day for me so we returned to the hotel and I turned in for the night.

The next day our adventures began. We took a six-hour bus ride to Wenshan, a city south of Kunming and towards the border of North Vietnam. Prior to my visit, I had thought that the climate in an area so close to

Vietnam would be very warm, humid, and tropical. However, I had not considered the elevation. The climate is very temperate there with daytime temperatures in the low 70's and night temperatures dipping into the low 40's and upper 30's.

I was there in the middle of the dry season. This part of China gets virtually no rain from October until April. The only moisture that the plants get is from the dew that forms due to the wide temperature swings.

We checked into a very nice hotel and met our local guide, Mr. Tang, who deals mostly with orchids, but also collects gesneriads. He collects and sells plants in both China and Vietnam and grows a wide variety of plants on his rooftop garden. I'm not an orchid grower, so I don't know if the orchid plants I was seeing were rare varieties or relatively common. I do know about gesneriads and they were wonderful with many different plants of *Petrocosmea*, *Paraboea*, *Lysionotus*, and *Didymocarpus* all growing under the shade cloth covering his roof. Mr. Tang took charge of making arrangements with local guides he knew to help me see gesneriads in the wild.

Dinner consisted of boiled goat leg, vegetables, and rice. The goat leg tasted okay but was a bit bland and very tough. Boiling meat doesn't do much to tenderize it. And of course it was not just the meat, but the skin and bones that we pulled out of the pan of boiling water set on our table. Every meal consisted of this boiling pot of water in the center of the table. The pot was on a hotplate so that it continued to boil the entire time we were eating.

The following morning we met our driver, also a Mr. Tang, who drove us to Yanshan. The roads were dirt-covered and bumpy, and the air temperature was comfortable. The countryside seemed a lot like a typical New England landscape with pines and maples ... but with *Petrocosmeas* that looked as if they had been mounted on the rocks with glue guns. There was no evidence of root systems. The plants were very small when removed from the rocks. They probably spread a great distance over the surface of the rough limestone, but the roots were so fine that they couldn't be seen. The plants were not in prime condition as they hadn't had any rain in over four months.



The first day, walking down the road in Yanshan



Two of the better-looking gesneriads growing on the dry rocks after four months with no rain: *Paraboea rufescens* (left) and *Petrocosmea* species (right)

The *Paraboeas*, which were growing at every location we visited, were in even worse condition varying a great deal depending on the elevation and amount of ground moisture. In the worst cases, such as those found in Yanshan, the plants were mounds of dried-up leaves on brown stems. An occasional patch of green would show itself near the base of the stems. Seed pods were everywhere. I was surprised to see that the seed pods themselves are short twisted capsules, very similar to those found on *Streptocarpus* plants.

Our second day took us to Xichou, a city very close to the Vietnam border. At times we were collecting within 20 km (12 miles) of the border and I was somewhat concerned about what would happen if we crossed the border by mistake and ended up in North Vietnam. We didn't. We saw many *Petrocosmeas* and *Paraboeas* growing on a bank right next to the road in Fadou where we picked up our local guide who seemed to have his own agenda. He climbed into the mountains to show Mr. Tang where he had seen *Chiritas* grow, but lost all of us and was up in the mountains on his own for over an hour. He came down from the mountain with some nice Chinese orchids, but nothing that interested me.

Later that day we climbed some pretty steep hills and found large patches of *Lysionotus*, *Annas*, and (probably) *Hemiboeas* growing near each other. The long rhizomes seemed to stretch forever between the stones under a light moss cover. There were many leaf variations on the *Lysionotus* plants, smooth and very toothed edges, green stems, and stems with heavy purple spotting. And again, lots of seed pods. Some of the clusters indicated that the plants must have held more than 50 flowers on one crown.

The last day my guides took it easy on me. My back had been bothering me the entire trip. I don't know when it happened but when I came home and saw my doctor I learned that I had two herniated disks, probably from the long car rides on bumpy roads. But the experience was well worth the pain.

There are several takeaways from this adventure. Gesneriads are gathered by the locals for medicinal purposes (as are many of the ground orchids). Every guide we visited had mounds of *Lysionotus* plants that were

destined for the local market where the rhizomes and leaves are ground up to make tea to relieve aches and pains. However, whenever the guides gathered plants with us they were careful to only remove a few from each location so that the plants could continue to grow and multiply.

The second takeaway had to do with the Chinese people themselves. I couldn't get over how friendly and accommodating everyone that I met was. Most had never seen a Westerner and I got many stares from both old and young. But most were interested in who I was and many came over to me and said "Hi," which was the extent of their English.

And the third big takeaway was how different everything is. The land has been farmed for thousands of years. The terraced land could be seen from the mountain roads and extended fairly high up the sides of some of the mountains. After the first day that was reminiscent of New England, I started to feel more like I was in China. All the roads were under construction everywhere we traveled. Many were dirt, but construction crews were working hard to improve the Chinese infrastructure. All the land was owned by the government, which meant that we didn't have to ask permission to cross a farm to climb a hill that looked promising. No one owned the field and as long as we weren't stealing from the farmer, our footsteps meant nothing.

I asked about plant clubs and such since there was so much local knowledge and interest. There are none. Special interest clubs like this cannot meet in China. Groups comprised of more than five people need a special government permit, which is not easy to get. Even family gatherings such as those for a birthday party are prohibited.

Would I go back? You bet I will. I'm already considering a trip in 2013 only next time I'll take a couple of weeks and make sure I go after the rainy season has started so that I can see some of the plants in flower. And I'll go further east, into *Chirita* territory. All of our guides knew what Chiritas were, and all had seen plants like what we showed them in the books we had with us, but no one could find them when they were out of flower.



Paraboaea rufescens
seed pods



Bundles of *Lysionotus*
plants at a market



Lysionotus species



Anna mollifolia

Editorial Note: This trip was taken before the publication of the changes in plant names (*Chirita*, etc.) so all references in this article are made using the former genus names. Additional photographs from Jim's trip to China are available on The Gesneriad Society Website.

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Note: Supplemental information to this issue of GESNERIADS is available on The Gesneriad Society Website:

- Additional images of *Primulina* species
- Images of former *Chirita* hybrids
- Additional images from the China trips
- Conversion listing of former to new species names from the article starting on page 44
- Images of other species with recent name changes

Photographs of the many former *Chirita* species seen in this issue courtesy of Julie Mavity-Hudson, Jeanne Katzenstein, Dale Martens, Ron Myhr, Paul Susi, Gerry Vriens, Beverley Williams, and The Gesneriad Society Archives

China: Disappearing Mountains, White Bees, and Grandma's Chirita

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Time and again we found ourselves at the base of other-worldly looking karst mountains, surrounded by flooded rice paddies, standing near a cave, looking for gesneriads. Multiply this by 15 days, add 3000 kilometers of driving, breath-taking mountaintop scenery, no two meals the same, friendly and generous people, 6053 digital images, and a long list of rare, endangered, and beautiful gesneriads ... and you'll begin to get a sense of our journey.

Follow me on this Chinese road trip through a seldom-visited part of the world ... but first the background. The birth of this adventure was at the World Gesneriad Research Conference, October 2010 in Sarasota, Florida. There I met a number of gesneriad researchers from all over the world, including Professor Wei Yi-Gang. Chance placed us at the same hotel, but Professor Wei's beautiful and informative presentation and book, *Gesneriaceae of South China*, brought us together again and again. Later, after many email exchanges, I received the invite of a lifetime – a visit to China. Condensing a long trip like this into a short article involves a little magic. This overview will break the trip into five segments of three days each.

Days 1, 2, and 3 –

I began the 7,872 mile trip in Philadelphia, and arrived at my final destination, Guilin, about 24 hours later. The fortune cookie served with my airline meal read, "Willingness opens the door to knowledge, direction, and achievement!" The airfare cost about \$1,700 (with flight insurance for a round-trip ticket at peak travel time) and another hundred dollars plus for a Chinese visa. Wei met me at the airport and arranged for a very nice room at the Guilin Tobacco Trade Hotel.

Guilin is one of the most beautiful cities in China. Karst mountains are the backdrop for a number of rivers, lakes, and waterways. Poets and artists have been describing and portraying its beauty for hundreds of years. I met one of the book editors and contributors, Dr. Wen Fang, as we were going to Seven Stars Park, just a kilometer from the city center. I heard my name called on the bus. I didn't know that anyone else in China knew me! Wen is keenly interested in conservation and plant exploration, and has discovered many new species. (He also manages the gesneriad conservation rooms at the Guangxi Institute of Botany.)

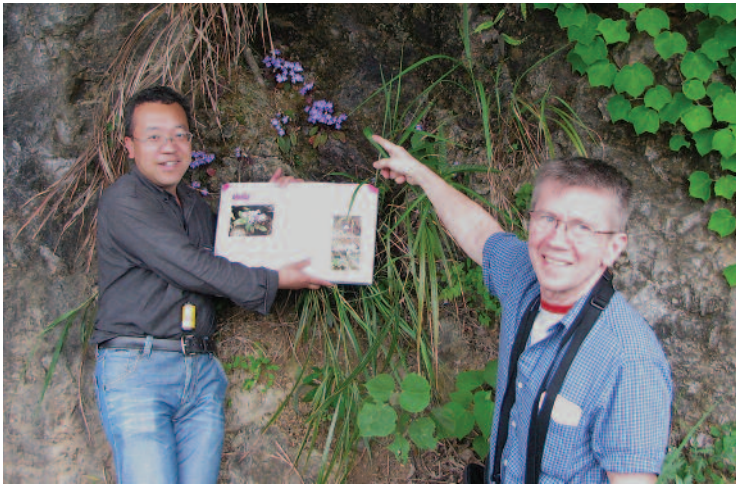
We had just started walking through this picturesque 100-acre park with its hills, caves, and rock formations, when we looked over a stone bridge and saw *Chirita eburnea* flowering on a vertical rock face, the plants anchored in a small crack. WOW! Seeing gesneriads in nature is always somewhat baffling. They seem out of context since I am so used to seeing them only on show tables. This was my first gesneriad in China. My first Chinese love. What a start!

Dr. Wen then pointed out *Chirita longicalyx* hanging down from another natural wall, growing out of rock. This species grows only in Guilin, with only 70 plants known to exist. It is critically endangered according to the criteria of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

Later we encountered *Hemiboea subcapitata* var. *pteroaulis* in flower, another endangered species that grows primarily in Guilin and Yangshuo counties. We also found *Chiritopsis repanda* var. *guilinensis*. The entire plant is known for its sweet honey fragrance.

Days 4, 5, and 6 –

Leaving Guilin, we traveled west towards Rongshui county. The scenery was magical with cone-shaped mountains dotting the landscape everywhere. There are numerous caves in this part of China. Some even have shrines in them with gesneriads growing right at the edges. We walked through an orange grove and headed to the base of the nearby hills. In the shadow of some huge boulders we found *Chirita longii* in bloom. This beautiful species, also endangered, prefers cliffs and caves in limestone hills. Later we found *Chirita ronganensis*, whose flower color varies from white to purple with leaves from green to mauve. Only two locations (300 to 400 plants in total) exist for this species listed as critically endangered. One area has been quarried for road building material!



Stephen pointing to *Primulina (Chirita) ronganensis* while Professor Wei holds his book open to this species

The next day we found one of only two populations of *Chiritopsis mollifolia* in the suburbs of Rongshui. These critically endangered small plants grow on damp shady cliffs at the entrance to caves. Another rare species we found was *Hemiboea purpurea*.

We continued southwest into Bama County. There had been a drought in this part of Guangxi Province and some of the taxa we were looking for could either not be found, were in poor condition, or were not flowering. One example was *Lagarosolen hochiensis*, which was discovered by Wei in 2008. This critically endangered species has only 300 individuals in two locations. Another example was *Chirita hochiensis*, which is also critically endangered because of human disturbance to the habitat and people picking the plants to use as medicine.

Later we all left the car and started a walk through thick vegetation over large boulders following a stream. We headed to an enormous rock wall with a cascading waterfall to see *Chirita liguliformis*. Here it grows as a clinging vertical carpet, with 3,000 to 5,000 individual plants drenched by a constant flow of water.

Afterwards we drove by more postcard-perfect rice fields surrounded by those captivating conic mountains. Huge gates arched over highways to mark the entrance to a town or a special destination, like One Hundred Demons Cave, our next stop. It really is huge – you could hide an army in it or wait out some cataclysmic event. A stream flows through it and gesneriads grow not only at the entrance but also in the cave. There we found *Chiritopsis repanda*, which prefers limestone cliffs and cave mouths.



Cave of One Hundred Demons



Stephen in habitat of *Primulina* (*Chirita*) *liguliformis*

Road signage was frequently lacking so we were often getting lost. But not to worry as Wei stated, "My job is to get lost in order to find things." Other species we found included *Chirita nandanensis* and *Lagarosolen jingxiensis*.

Each day we were in a different locale and had the opportunity to try new dishes. When Wei asked if I liked white bees I did not know what to say. What is that? "Lives in the ground," he said. Maybe a termite? No. I started to put the piece, presented to me on a tooth pick, in my mouth but they quickly raised their hands to show I should not do that. It was frozen! Later a beautifully presented dish arrived, covered with white bee larva and adult bees which had been sauteed with ginger. Soon nothing was left and the plate was empty. It was that good!

Days 7, 8, and 9 –

A long car ride took us to the Dashiwei Karst Tiankeng National Geopark in Leye County. Tiankeng is Chinese for "heavenly pit" or "sky holes." We took a shuttle bus halfway to the top. A switchback trail took us even higher, almost to heaven. The views were mesmerizing. We were so high it felt like one could actually fly. This area was in full sun and very hot, so we gladly rushed down the stone steps to enter the unique environment of the cool gorge. I eventually lost count of the endless number of stone steps as we neared the bottom where the air was dramatically cooler.

The Tiankeng is over 2000 feet deep! *Briggsia longipes*, an easily cultivated gesneriad, covered a number of boulders there. We also found the widespread species, *Paraboea sinensis*. Later we came across *Chirita leyeensis* (not yet described), which has only two populations and fewer than 200 plants.

The next day we visited a tea plantation and later saw huge flame-colored Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron simsii*) spilling over the road. We were in remote terrain when a group of three young men on motorbikes stopped me to say "Hi. Take my picture," as they locked arms around my shoulders. Later Wei said he thought that they had probably never seen a foreigner before. Nearby we found *Paraboea swinhoii*, a species with many populations growing along the roadside.

It was getting late but we had another stop to make. Wei told me that one of the plants I had requested to see was just a short climb up an intermittent waterfall. It was slow going and slippery, but I finally got to see *Chirita pinnatifida*. Although widespread, it is difficult to cultivate, perhaps because it needs high humidity and lots of water.

The day's menu included wild banana stem soup and a large plate of small river fishes. It was fantastic! When the owners and customers (two local teachers) found out I was an American, they paid for the food and bought us drinks!

In Jingxi county, we then picked up Mr. Lu, a friend of Wei's from the forest service and went to visit the site of his grandmother's grave. He told a great story about relocating her remains and needing water to mix with the cement to make the grave-marker. While looking for a stream, he actually discovered a new species of *Chirita*. Was it named for her I asked? This old woman, born in another age, was just called daughter #3. The plant would be published as *Chirita subrhomboidea* var. *tribracteata*.

We finished the day with three *Paraboea* species: *P. rufescens*, a widespread species with stiff, leathery looking leaves (populations safe); *P. trisepala*, which only has two populations numbering about 1,000 plants; and another *Paraboea* species.

Other species found included *Calcareoboea coccinea*, *Chirita napoensis*, *Epithema carnosum*, *Lagarosolen lui*, *Lysionotus pauciflorus*, *Paraboea sinensis*, *P. umbellata*, and *Rhynchoechum ellipticum*.

Days 10, 11, and 12 –

While there are thousands and thousands of limestone hills, Wei knew which ones we should investigate. We hiked around the base of one he selected and found *Chirita spinulosa*. It looks a lot like a succulent. It is critically endangered with fewer than 50 individuals known to exist, collected for medicinal purposes and for its attractively colored flowers.



Paraboea guilinensis



Primulina (Chiritopsis)
glandulosa var. *yangshuiensis*



Hemiboea subcapitata var. *pteracaulis*



Primulina (Chirita) yungfuensis



Primulina (Chirita) ronganensis

Wei then directed us to another limestone hill, this one with more vegetation and also a number of *Chirita ophiopogoides* plants. It looks even more succulent than *Chirita spinulosa*. Both are considered endangered because of over-collecting for medicinal purposes.

The next day we visited the Yiling Cave grounds and found *Chirita linearifolia*. It is easily cultivated and in many collections. Later we found the widely distributed *Paraboea glutinosa*. We then headed to the Da Ming Shan Nature Reserve, a 150,000-acre preserve, often shrouded in mist. There we found the vividly colored flowers of *Gyrocheilos chorisepalum*, a species found almost exclusively within the park and considered endangered.

The following day, we again found ourselves between a rice paddy and a cave. This time we were admiring a new *Chirita* species, *C. leprosa*, with purple-edged, bumpy-textured leaves. Always ready to please, Wei then located yet another plant on my "must see" list, *Paraboea peltifolia*, growing at the base of a limestone hill. This species is critically endangered with only 250 individual plants known.

Days 13, 14, and 15 –

We headed to Da Yao Shan Nature Reserve. High in the mountains, it was like botanizing in the clouds. Wei located an extremely rare, naturally occurring hybrid *Oreocharis xheterandra*. Only 20 individual plants have been found between 2006 and 2008. The parents, *Oreocharis magnidens* and *Oreocharis argyreia*, are not endangered and grow close together.

Nearby on vertical rock walls in three locations we found an adorable little plant named *Beccarinda minima*. It is critically endangered with only about 350 individuals. Another species, *B. tonkinensis* may be difficult to cultivate but is relatively widespread. We also located *Chirita sinensis*, a near-threatened species that is easy to cultivate.

While starting to head back on the main road out of the mountains, we encountered a very large landslide that completely covered the road with over ten feet of rubble. The alternate route had turned into a river of muddy water. Our driver thought it was unsafe to navigate but a local guy drove over the muddy road with his pickup truck. He made it, but then the road collapsed. We had to take the third option. When the fog and rain set in, four hours of driving time were added to the trip. Three times our driver turned into the hillside because he couldn't see where the road was. What would have happened if he turned in the opposite direction, I wondered? Mr. Tang, who has been driving for 36 years, later declared that this was the second-worst driving experience of his career.

After recovering from that drive, we made time to see *Chirita glandulosa* var. *yangshuoensis*. Although there are eight different populations, it is still critically endangered since it exists in only one area and the number of plants is low.

The next day, we saw *Paraboea guilinensis*, endangered but still growing near the construction of a large chicken coop. The very attractive leaves of *Chiritopsis bipinnatifida* caught my attention as they have done to many others. This species is easily cultivated but faces extinction due to roads, dams, its beauty, and its medicinal usage. As Wei often says, "If you want to save Chinese plants, never buy Chinese medicine."

Other plants found during this time period included *Chirita donglanensis* (not yet described), *C. liboensis*, *C. villosissima*, *Lagarosolen coriaceifolium*, and *Petrocosmea xingyiensis*.

We returned to Guilin and went to the Guangxi Institute of Botany where Wei is employed. We visited the conservation rooms filled with rare gesneriads and viewed the extensive grounds that include habitats specifically created for collected gesneriads. Some of the gesneriad species I saw either in the conservation rooms or outside in the gesneriad habitat at the Institute included *Briggsia* species, *Chirita medica*, *C. minutimaculata*, *C. xingpingensis* (not yet described), *C. yungfuensis*, and *Pseudochirita guangxiensis* ... plus many, many more.

Conclusion –

When Wei Yi-Gang invited me to visit him in Guilin, China, and then to go looking for gesneriads in the wild, I knew I was in for a memorable trip. To travel with Wei (a botanist, plant explorer, conservationist, and professor) gave me the best possible traveling companion – knowledgeable yet down to earth. Imagine spending two weeks looking for gesneriads with an expert who has devoted the past 20 years of his life to exploring China, with the dream of discovering, studying and protecting these plants. Together we observed over 60 species of gesneriads in 18 genera, including 20 different *Chirita* species.

But half of all the gesneriads in China are endangered. Although those iconic cone-shaped mountains seem endless, many that offer specific habitats for gesneriads are being destroyed just to get building material for roads and other projects.

With Wei as my guide, I was able to witness many unique gesneriads, some critically endangered with populations reduced to only 50 individuals. I often worried about the plants and wondered how many people would ever again have the opportunity to gaze at these gesneriads in their natural surroundings before they become extinct?

Special thanks to Professor Wei Yi-Gang and Dr. Wen Fang for their assistance in plant identification and help with this article. Professor Wei will be giving two lectures at The Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle, July 2012. Please support conservation in China and purchase his book, Gesneriaceae of South China.



Gyocheilos chorisepalum



Primulina (Chirita) longii

Editorial Note: This trip was taken before the publication of the changes in plant names (*Chirita*, etc.) so all references in this article are made using the former genus/species names. The accompanying photographs are captioned with new and former names. A list of plant names referenced in this article (with their new names) as well as additional photographs from Stephen's trip to China are available on The Gesneriad Society Website.

Prof. Wei Yigang

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Gesneriad Society Chapter Shows – Best in Show Winners



Sinningia pusilla 'White Sprite'
exhibited by Brad Walker
Tennessee Chapter Show
(photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson)



Sinningia 'L'il Georgie'
exhibited by Kyoko Imai,
National Capitol Area Chapter Show
(photo by Kyoko Imai)



Chirita Collection exhibited by Mary Ann Bjorggaard
Heart of America Chapter Show (photo by M. Bjorggaard)



Sinningia warmingii exhibited
by Paulo Castello da Costa,
San Francisco Chapter Show
(photo by Tommy Liu)



Columnnea 'Broget Stavanger'
exhibited by Jill Fischer
Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter
Show (photo by Karyn Cichocki)

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Deletions:

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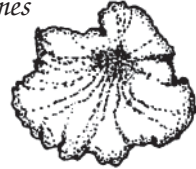
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Primulina tabacum (above) is the type species of the genus *Primulina*. It was formerly the only species in the genus that now includes about 130 species (~25 in cultivation) recently transferred from the former genus *Chirita*. The grouping below shows a variety of *Primulina* species and hybrids (listed clockwise from top center): *P. dryas* 'Hisako', *P. 'Diane Marie'*, *P. longgangensis*, *P. gemella*, *P. tamiana*, and *P. sclerophylla*.

