

the

GLOXINIAN

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 48, No. 1

First Quarter 1998



Petrocosmea formosa

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

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COVER

Petrocosmea formosa grown by
Maryjane Evans. See articles by B.L. Burt
and M. Evans on Pages 14 and 16.
Photo by John Evans.

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The color photograph on page 21 was sponsored by the Toronto Gesneriad Society in lieu of speaker's fee to Ben Paternoster.

ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY

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President's Message

Jon Dixon <jond@hooked.net>
55 Tum Suden Way, Woodside, CA 94062

As the rest of the world welcomes the new year, we at AGGS are at our midyear. The 1997 Convention at Denver, now six months past, is but a distant memory. In this issue you will see the schedule for this year's annual reunion (a.k.a. "Convention") held for the first time in Chicago. As you read through the schedule you'll see the program, the flower show schedule, the tours and the banquet descriptions. But what you read only scratches the surface of what the Convention will really be like. Every year about 15 per cent of AGGS members get together for five days of intense gesneriad talk, study, sharing, and fun. In addition to the formal program, we have much in the way of informal interaction. This is the time for specialists, botanists, hybridizers, and hobbyists to get together, talk, and share knowledge and experience as well as cuttings and seeds. Although packed with events, the schedule leaves much open time for these informal activities that add up to make the Convention experience so enjoyable and valuable.

This year the Convention Committee, led by Local Chairman Al Wojcik, is planning something very special. They are making an extra effort to ensure that this year we will have the most exciting plant offering ever. I can't agree more with their focus. I have always brought home large quantities of new plants from AGGS Conventions. It is a major interest of mine, and I know that many of our attendees feel likewise. One year I remember counting 49 plants (all different varieties) in my carry-on luggage. Other years have been similar. Well, I admit I tend to overdo it, but I have never turned down a plant because I couldn't find a way to get it home! The plants I bring home I grow and propagate for my fellow chapter members, just as many other attendees do. In fact the Convention plant sale has always been the principal means for new introductions of species and hybrids of gesneriads. This year promises to be very special. The Chicago area growers led by Al have created a large number of the rare newer miniature sinningia hybrids. In the last few years the means of distribution of these plants (mail-order, wholesale growers, etc.) have not kept pace with the hybridizers. The improvements in these little plants that we have seen in Convention shows and in programs is incredible, but these newer plants have not been available at sales tables, neither locally nor at Convention. This year we hope to rectify that. Also, at future Conventions we will continue this emphasis.

So, as you read the Convention schedule, think about the other activities that make up the week of events. Imagine the visits, the plant and seed sales, the informal trips out from the hotel, the new friends and the reunions with old friends. Think about the excitement of the awards banquet, the fun of the rare plant auction and the happy melancholy when we once again say "farewell till next year".



Coming Events

February 27–March 1 — Florida — Tampa African Violet Society 23rd Annual AVSA judged show and sale "Have Violets, Will Travel" at the Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 E. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. Friday 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Contact John Benish (813-681-1910).

March 28–29 — Illinois — Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society exhibit and sale, Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake-Cook Road, Glencoe. Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Admission free; parking \$6 per car, free to Garden members. Contact Nancy Maybloom (847-882-4652) <Hsmay@aol.com>.

April 4 — Michigan — Border Cities African Violet Club 46th display and sale, St. James Church, 241 Pearson St., Ferndale (between 8 & 9 Miles Road, west off Woodward). Donation \$1. Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Plants, leaves supplies, and crafts for sale. Contact Ellen (313-278-5030).

April 4–5 — New Jersey — African Violet Club of Morris County first judged show at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. Saturday 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Karyn Cichocki (973-579-7914).

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Seed Fund

Maryjane Evans <pollin8r@aol.com>
194 Morris Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869

You are about to read the longest seed list ever published by our society. This achievement has been made possible by the dedication and efforts of a very small group of members to whom we are all indebted. Please remember the Seed Fund when *your* plants are in bloom.

We extend thanks to Marlene Beam, Helen Bortvedt, Margaret Cass, Ray Coyle, Jon Dixon, Mary Gall, Rebecca Gmucs, Laura Johnson, Martin Kunhardt, Dale Martens, Toshijiro Okuto, Michael Riley, Leong Tuck-Lock, M.J. Tyler, Chris Underhill, Fay Wagman, Maureen Wilson, Al Wojcik, the Royal Botanical Garden/Edinburgh, and the Smithsonian Institution. Special thanks go to Clay Anderson of MN, Alan LaVergne of CA, and John Boggan of the Smithsonian Institution for making multiple contributions.

Please note:

- 1) *Aeschynanthus manni* has been identified as *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*
- 2) *Chirita* species #10 has been identified as *Chirita tribracteata*
- 3) *Codonanthe* sp. nov. (*cordifolia* ined.) is now *Codonanthe cordifolia*
- 4) *Codonanthe* sp. nov. GRF91175 is now *Codonanthe venosa*
- 5) *Sinningia* sp. aff. *cardinalis* from Iporanga is now *Sinningia hatschbachii*
- 6) *Sinningia speciosa*/Australian hybrid mix is now designated as Charles Lawn hybrid mix
- 7) *Streptocarpus caulescens* var. *palescens* is now *S. pallidiflorus*
- 8) *Streptocarpus cyaneus* (pink) is now *S. roseoalbus*
- 9) *Streptocarpus cyaneus* (white) is now *S. fenestra-dei*

Seed Packets — \$1.50 each

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- Make checks payable to the AGGS Seed Fund in U.S. funds
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- Remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

Achimenes (D)

- admirabilis* (B)
- chettoana* (B)
- dulcis* (B)
- erecta* (B)
- erecta* 'Tiny Red' (F, L)
- grandiflora* 'Robert Dressler' (B)
- longiflora* (B)
- longiflora alba* (B)
- miseria* SI88-039 (B)
- skinneri* W1897 (L)
- 'Carmencita' (L)
- hybrid mix (B, L)

Aeschynanthus (B)

- albidus*
- angustifolius*
- boschianus*
- *buxifolius* 913296
- chrysanthus*
- cordifolius*
- evrardii*
- fecundus*
- garrettii*
- gracilis*
- hartleyi*
- hildebrandii* SI94-214

- hosseusii*
lanceolatus
longicaulis
longicaulis 'Kew'
longiflorus
micranthus
mimetus
obconicus
parasiticus
parvifolius
parvifolius 'Bali Beauty'
pulcher
radicans
tricolor
 sp. 'Coral Flame'
 sp. 'Kew Pink'
 • sp. (Vietnam) 921622
- Alloplectus**
- bolivianus* SI95-140 (M)
cristatus
panamensis GRF9517 (M)
 sp. aff. *schultzei* GRF97103
 sp. aff. *panamensis* GRF9781
 (orange)
 sp. GRF9776 (yellow)
 sp. GRF9788 (pinkish/yellow above)
 sp. GRF97153 (peach/orange)
 sp. GRF97166
 sp. nov. (*plicatissimus* ined.)
 (salmon calyx) GRF9521
 sp. nov. (*plicatissimus* ined.)
 (green calyx) GRF9556
- Alsobia** (B)
- dianthiflora*
 • *dianthiflora* 'Costa Rica'
punctata
- Anodiscus**
- xanthophyllus* (M)
xanthophyllus (Ecuador) GRF97109
- Besleria**
- formicaria* LS7560 (M)
laxifolia GRF9675 (M)
princeps GRF9479 (LM)
triflora GRF9432 (LM)
 sp. GRF9558 (LM)
 sp. GRF9783 (orange w/yellow base)
 sp. GRF97108 (orange)
 sp. GRF97129 (yellow/orange)
 sp. GRF97141 (orange)
 sp. SI95-162
 sp. SI95-164
- Boea**
- *hemsleyana* (F, R)
 • *hygroskopica* (F, R)
- Briggsia** (A, R)
- aurantiaca*
musciicola
- Capanea**
- grandiflora* GRF9480 (M)
- Chirita**
- caliginosa* (LM)
elphinstonia (F, L)
flavimaculata SI94-085
heterotricha SI94-088 (F, R)
involutocrata (F, L)
lavandulacea (LM)
micromusa (F, L)
 • *moonii* (LM)
pumila (F, L)
 • *sericea* (LM)
sinensis latifolia (F, R)
sinensis latifolia (dwarf) (F, R)
subrhomboidea (F, R)
 • *tribracteata* (R)
walkeri (LM)
 species #2 (R)
 sp. 'New York' SI85-022 (R)
 • 'Hisako' × self (F, R)
- Chiritopsis**
- *repanda* var. *guilinensis* (R)
- Chrysothemis** (F, LM)
- friedrichsthaliana*
friedrichsthaliana GRF9764
villosa
 hybrid mix
- Cobananthus**
- calochlamys* (LM)
- Codonanthe** (B)
- calcarata* 'Puyo'
caribaea
 • *carnea*
 • *cordifolia*
corniculata
crassifolia
 • *crassifolia* (red lvs) SI85-112
crassifolia 'Cranberry'
digna
digna 'Moonlight'
elegans
erubescens
gracilis
 • *gracilis* 'Kautsky' AC266
paula
serrulata AC1313
 • *venosa* GRF91175
- Codonanthopsis** (S)
- peruviana* (B, L)
ulei (B, L)
- Columnnea** (B)
- *argentea* (L)
arguta
 • *dodsonii*
erythrophaea
filipendula
glicensteinii
gloriosa
gloriosa 'Superba'
hirta

- hirta* GRF9493
- *hirta* var. *pilosissima*
- hirta* 'Dark Prince'
- hispidula*
- lepidocaula* GRF9468
- *linearis* GRF9488
- linearis* 'Purple Robe'
- maculata*
- nicaraguensis* CR92F16
- oerstediana* GRF9423 (B)
- oxyphylla*
- proctori* W3573
- purpusii*
- *querceti* (L)
- raymondii* (LM)
- scandens* var. *tulae* (yellow)
- schiedeana*
- tomentulosa*
- *urbanii* (L)
- verecunda* MBG2204-60 (L)
- zebranella* GRF1595
- hybrid mix
- Conandron** (A, R)
- ramondioides*
- ramondioides*/Awaji Island
- Corytoplectus**
- capitatus* (LM)
- capitatus* G291
- congestus* GRF93259 (LM)
- cutucuensis* (L)
- cutucuensis* GRF9794
- riceanus* GRF9654 (M)
- *speciosus* (L)
- species GRF9656 (M)
- Dalbergaria** (M)
- asteroloma*
- asteroloma* GRF9758
- asteroloma* GRF97169 (white)
- *cruenta*
- eburnea*
- medicinalis* GRF9507
- ornata* GRF2665
- perpulchra*
- polyantha*
- sanguinea*
- sanguinea* 'Orange King' GRF9492
- species GRF93191
- species GRF9797 (yellow)
- species GRF97160
- Diastema** (D, F, P)
- *affine* SI95-163
- *latiflorum* GRF9668
- (green leaf)
- racemiferum*
- racemiferum* GRF9757 (wine reverse)
- vexans*
- Didissandra**
- frutescens* (M)

- Didymocarpus**
- species (Malaysia)
- Drymonia**
- alloplectoides* SI96-347 (B)
- *coccinea*
- conchocalyx* (B)
- conchocalyx* 'Silver Lance' × self (M)
- doratostyla* GRF9674 (B)
- ecuadorensis* 'Red Elegance' (LM)
- macrophylla* (M)
- rhodoloma* (B)
- semicordata* G2191
- serrulata* (B)
- serrulata* GRF9752
- strigosa* (B)
- strigosa* GRF1912
- turrialvae* GRF9419 (LM)
- urceolata* GRF93146 (LM)
- urceolata* GRF97124 (red) (LM)
- sp. nov. (*umecta* ined.) (B)
- species SI95-156
- Episcia** (H, L, B, F)
- xantha*
- cupreata* hybrids mix
- hybrid mix
- Euclidonia** (D, F, P)
- andrieuxii*
- verticillata* 'Ehrenberg'
- hybrid mix
- Gasteranthus** (H)
- corallinus* GRF95120 (LM)
- wendlandianus* GRF97163 (LM)
- sp. GRF9772
- sp. GRF97118
- sp. GRF97152
- species (Ecuador)
- Gesneria** (H, F, L)
- acaulis*
- christii*
- cuneifolia*
- cuneifolia* 'Esperanza'
- cuneifolia* 'Quebradillas'
- cuneifolia* 'Tom Talpey'
- humilis*
- pumila*
- reticulata*
- reticulata* 'El Yunque'
- ventricosa* (M)
- 'Flashdance'
- Gloxinia** (D)
- gymnostoma* (LM)
- lindeniana* (F, L)
- nematanthodes* (L)
- perennis* (LM)
- perennis* 'Insignis' (L)
- racemosa* (L)
- sylvatica* (LM)
- sylvatica* (Bolivia) SI94-002

- 'Medea' × self (F, L)
 'Medusa' × self (F, L)
- Haberlea** (A, R)
ferdinandi-coburgii
rhodopensis
- Hemiboea** (D)
henryi (L)
- Heppiella** (D)
 • *ulmifolia* GRF95141 (L)
- Jancaea** (A, R)
 • *heldreichii*
- Koellikeria** (D, F, P)
erinoides
 • *erinoides* 'Polo Polo'
- Kohleria** (D)
hirsuta (F, L)
hondensis (LM)
 • *peruviana* (LM)
 • *rugata* (LM)
spicata (M)
 • *warszewiczii* (LM)
 'Bermuda Red' × self (L)
 hybrid mix
- Lysionotus** (LM)
ikadae
montanus
pauciflorus
serratus
warleyense
 species
- Mitraria**
 • *coccinea* (B, LM)
- Monophyllaea** (H, LM)
elongata
horsfieldii
- Monopyle**
macrocarpa GRF94123 (LM)
- Moussonia**
deppeana (M)
elegans (M)
elegans GRF9407
septentrionalis G1201 (F, LM)
- Napeanthus** (H)
costaricensis (F, P)
 • *jelskii* SI94-511 (F, P)
 • *macrostoma* (F, P)
 • *robustus* GRF9765 (L)
- Nautilocalyx**
adenosiphon (B, L)
colonensis (LM)
melittifolius (F, LM)
 • sp. nov. (*mexicanus* ined.) (F, L)
- Nematanthus**
australis (B)
brasiliensis (MT)
corticola (B)
crassifolius (B)
fissus (L)
fluminensis (B)
- fornix* (B)
fritschii (B)
gregarius (B)
hirtellus (B)
jolyanus (Sao Paulo) (B)
 cf. *lanceolatus* AC2009
 cf. *lanceolatus* AC2010
maculatus (B)
serpens (B)
strigillosus AC1434 (B)
wettsteinii (B)
 sp. 'Santa Teresa' (B)
 sp. GRF3555 (B)
- Neomortonia**
nummularia (B)
- Opithandra** (A, R)
primuloides
- Ornithoboea**
wildeana (L)
- Paliavana** (S, T)
prasinata
prasinata GRF732
prasinata GRF91126
tenuiflora
- Paraboea**
 • species (Malaysia)
- Paradrymonia**
cilosa (L)
decurrens (L)
flava (F, L)
 sp. aff. *fuquaiana* SI94-220
 sp. nov. (*costaricana* ined.) (L)
- Pearcea**
abunda (L)
 • *hypocyrtiflora* (F, P)
 • *sprucei* (L)
 sp. nov. (red) (L)
- Pentadenia**
angustata (B)
byrsina (B)
crassicaulis (B)
 • *ecuadorana* GRF1176 (LM)
manabiana (B)
microsepala GRF1837 (B)
orientandina (LM)
rileyi GRF86243 (LM)
spathulata GRF9503 (LM)
strigosa GRF95154 (B)
strigosa GRF9777
zapotalana (B)
- Petrocosmea** (R)
flaccida (F, P)
 • *formosa* (F, P)
parryorum (F, P)
- Phinaea** (D, F, P)
albolineata
divaricata
multiflora
multiflora 'Tracery'

Ramonda (A, R)

myconi —
alba
lavender
purple
rosea

myconi (upright rosette)

nathaliae

serbica

Rhabdothamnus

- *solandri*

Rhynchoglossum (H, L)

gardneri

obliquum

Rhytidophyllum (G, H, S, T)

auriculatum

exsertum AC1583

leucomallon

tomentosum

villosulum

Rufodorsia

- *congestiflora* GRF94119 (F, L)

Saintpaulia (F, R)

grandifolia

intermedia

ionantha

orbicularis

pendula kizarae

- *shumensis*
hybrid mix

Sinningia (D)

aggregata (M)

aggregata 'Pendulina' (B, L)

aggregata AC1461

allagophylla (MT)

barbata (LM)

brasiliensis (M)

brasiliensis 'Verde'

brasiliensis AC1314

bulbosa (T)

calcaria MP891 (F, L)

canescens (F, L)

carangolensis (M)

cardinalis (F, LM)

cardinalis (compact) (F, L)

cardinalis 'Innocent'

cardinalis (pink)

- *cochlearis* AC2005 (LM)

conspicua (F, L)

conspicua (fragrant selection)

cooperi (LM)

cooperi AC1522

curtiflora (T)

douglasii GRF91188 (LM)

- *defoliata* (L)

douglasii (pink form) (M)

elatio AC1409 (M)

eumorpha (lavender) (F, L)

eumorpha (pink)

eumorpha (white)

- *gigantifolia* (LM)
- *harleyi* MP482 (F, L)

- *hatschbachii* (L)

hirsuta (F, L)

iarae (F, L)

insularis (LM)

leopoldii (F, L)

leucotricha (F, L)

lindleyi AC1501 (L)

lineata (LM)

lineata (highly spotted)

macropoda (M)

macropoda (dwarf form) (L)

macrorrhiza (T)

macrostachya (LM)

magnifica GRF91121 (pink) (LM)

magnifica GRF91134 (red)

mauroana (LM)

micans MP892 (LM)

nivalis AC1460 (L)

pusilla (F, P)

pusilla 'White Sprite' (F, P)

reitzii (M)

rupicola AC1511 (F, L)

sceptrum (T)

schiffneri (LM)

sellovii (MT)

sellovii 'Purple Rain'

speciosa 'Cabo Frio' MP178 (F, L)

speciosa 'Lavender Queen'

speciosa 'Regina'

speciosa 'Regina' AC1562

speciosa (Chiltern Seed Co)

speciosa AC1503

sulcata (LM)

tubiflora (S, MT)

- *tuberosa* (F, L)

- *valsuganensis* MP619 (LM)

villosa (F, L)

warmingii (T)

sp. aff. *warmingii* from

Ilhabela MP631

sp. 'Lanata' MP622 (L)

cardinalis 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)

iarae × 'Bewitched' (F, L)

speciosa AC1503 × *speciosa*

'Regina' (R)

eumorpha hybrids mix (F, R)

'Anna W.' × self (F, P)

'Anne Crowley' (F, L)

'Apricot Bouquet' × self (LM)

'Apricot Down' × self (L)

'April Starr' × self (F, P)

- 'Barbara Jean' × self (F, P)

- 'Bewitched' × self (F, L)

'Diego' (red) (F, L)

'Diego' (pink)

'Diego' (purple)

- 'Dollbaby' (F, P)
- 'Foxfire' × self (F, P)
- 'Georgia Sunset' × self (F, P)
- 'Good Pink' × self (F, L)
- 'High Voltage' × self (F, P)
- 'Jiminy Cricket' × self (F, L)
- 'Jubilee' × self (F, L)
- 'Krishna' × self (F, P)
- 'Leo B.' × self (F, P)
- 'Little Imp' (F, P)
- 'Mother of Pearl' × self (F, P)
- 'Mothers Day' × self (F, L)
- 'Pale Beauty' × self (L)
- 'Patty Ann' × self (F, P)
- 'Peaches' × self (F, P)
- 'Pink Ice' (F, P)
- 'Pink Imp' (F, P)
- 'Pink Petite' (F, P)
- 'Pure Pink' × self (F, P)
- 'Purple Crest' × self (F, P)
- 'Rosebells' × self (F, L)
- 'Ruby Red' × self (F, P)
- 'Saylor's Snowcap' × self (F, P)
- 'Scarlet Red' (F, P)
- 'Scarlet Sunset' (F, P)
- 'Star Eyes' (F, P)
- 'Sun Blaze' × self (L)
- 'Super Orange' (F, P)
- 'Super Red' × self (F, P)
- 'Tampa Bay Beauty' (L)
- 'Virgil' × self (L, M)
- 'Whimsey' × self (F, P)
- 'Angora Love' × 'Margaret' (L)
- 'Cherry Chips' hybrids mix (F, P)
- 'Georgia Sunset' hybrids mix (F, P)
- hybrid miniature mix (F, P)
- pink hybrid miniature mix (F, P)

Simningia speciosa (F, R)

- blue mix
- "Double Brocade" mix
- mini lavender
- pink
- purple
- rose
- white
- orchid/purple mix
- pink mix
- pink/white mix
- red mix
- white w/red spots
- Charles Lawn hybrid mix
- hybrid mix
- blue slipper
- lavender slipper
- pink slipper
- purple slipper
- mixed slipper
- pink dwarf
- red and white dwarf

- Small's dwarf mix
- white dwarf slipper

Smithiantha (D)

- aurantiaca* (F, L)
- canarina* GRF9105 (M)
- cinnabarina* (F, L)
- loui* GRF9117 (F, L)
- multiflora* GRF9121
- multiflora* GRF9122
- zebrina* GRF9104 (M)
- *aurantiaca* × *loui* (F, L)
- 'Little One' (F, L)
- 'Sunset' × self (F, L)
- Chiltern hybrid (F, L)
- hybrid (yellow) (F, L)
- hybrid mix (F, L)

Solenophora

- *tuxtlensis* (H, T)

Streptocarpus

- baudertii* (F, R)
- bolusii* (U)
- buchananii* (B)
- caeruleus* (R)
- candidus* (F, R)
- caulescens* (F, LM)
- compressus* (U)
- confusus* (U)
- confusus* ssp. *confusus* (U)
- cooksonii* (U)
- cooksonii* (dark purple)
- cooperi* (U)
- cyanandrus* (F, P)
- cyaneus* (blue) (R)
- cyaneus* (blue/long corolla)
- cyaneus* (blue/short corolla)
- cyaneus* (lilac)
- daviesii* (F, U)
- denticulatus* (U)
- dunnii* (U)
- eylesii* (U)
- fanniniae* (R)
- fasciatus* (R)
- fenestra-dei* (R)
- floribundus* (R)
- *formosus* (R)
- gardenii* (F, L)
- glandulosissimus* (B)
- goetzei* (U)
- grandis* (U)
- grandis* (blue form)
- haygarthii* (F, U)
- holstii* (LM)
- johannis* (F, R)
- kentaniensis* (R)
- kentaniensis* (N. Kei River)
- kentaniensis* (S. Kei River)
- kirkii* (F, LM)
- meyeri* (F, R)
- michelmoresi* (U)

- modestus* (R)
molweniensis (U)
molweniensis subsp. *eschowicus*
muscosus (L)
nobilis (M)
pallidiflorus (F, LM)
parviflorus (R)
parviflorus (mauve)
parviflorus (white/mauve)
pentherianus (F, L)
pole-evansii (R)
polyanthus (F, L)
polyanthus subsp. *comptonii*
 • *polyanthus* subsp. *polyanthus*
polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus*/lg fl
polyanthus subsp. *verecundus*
porphyrostachys (U)
primulifolius (F, R)
 • *primulifolius* (dark blue)
prolixus (F, U)
 • *pumilus* (F, P)
rexii (F, L, R)
rexii (blue)
rexii (white)
rexii (pale blue/long corolla)
rexii (white/blue mix)
 • *rimicola* (F, P)
roseoalbus (R)
saundersii (U)
saxorum (B)
silvaticus (R)
stomandrus (F, L)
thompsonii (B, L)
thysanotus (B, L)
trabeculatus (U)
vandeleurii (U)
variabilis (F, R)
wendlandii (U)
wilmsii (U)
 'Athena' × self (R)
 'Black Panther' × self (R)
 'Blue Angel' (B)
 • 'Cape Beauties' (F, P)
 'Cherry Red' × self (R)
 • 'Georgette' × self (R)
 'Karen' × self (R)
 'Midnight Flame' × self (R)
 • 'Network' × self (R)
 • 'Orion' × self (R)
 'Pegasus' × self (R)
 'Royal' (red) (R)
 'Royal' (white/pink stripes) (R)
 • 'Sandra' × self (R)
 • 'Scarlet O'Hara' × self (R)
 • 'Snowdrop' × self (R)
 'Strawberry Crush' × self (R)
 'Suzie' × self (R)
 'Wild Grape' × self (R)
 'Black Panther' hybrid mix (R)
 compact hybrid mix (F, R)
 Martin Kunhardt hybrid mix
 New Zealand hybrid mix (F, R)
rexii hybrids (F, R)
 Wiesmoor hybrids (F, R)
 hybrid mix (F, R)
 hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines (R)
 • *streptocarpella* hybrids (B)
- Titanotrichum***
oldhamii (propagules)
- Trichantha***
ambigua (B)
brenneri (LM)
citrina (B)
dodsonii GRF90158 (LM)
 • *heterophylla* GRF94121 (B)
kucyniakii GRF93166 (MT)
 • *minor* (B)
minutiflora GRF9552 (LM)
 • *parviflora* (LM)
purpureovittata (L, B)
- Vanhouttea*** (S, T)
calcarata GRF3026
- Mixed gesneriads***
- denotes LIMITED quantities

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

A New Species of *Petrocosmea*

B. L. Burtt, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
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For several years an attractive species of *Petrocosmea* has been grown by gesneriad enthusiasts under the name *Petrocosmea kingii*. It was introduced into cultivation at the University Botanic Garden in Vienna by Dr. H. Kurzweil who had collected it on Doi Chiangdao in northwest Thailand. *Petrocosmea kingii* is a different plant that is little known, having been collected only twice on Mt. Mooleyit (Mülayit Taung) in Tenasserim, Burma (now Myanmar). It differs from the Thai species, here named *Petrocosmea formosa*, in having leaves with larger, acute blade and shorter petiole. *P. formosa* has a rather small blunt blade and rather long petiole.

Petrocosmea formosa belongs to Section *Deinanthera* W.T.Wang, which is characterised by its very distinctive anthers. Each anther is sharply contracted at the top into a blunt beak; the two anthers are held face to face, the beaks thus forming a single "gun". Actually, each beak is divided into two tubes, one from each anther-loculus, and thus the "gun" is four barrelled. The term "gun" is apposite, for when the head of a probing insect (or the point of a pencil) is pressed against the wall of the anther, a jet of dry powdery pollen is shot out of the beak. Thus section *Deinanthera* has a very different pollination mechanism from the rest of the genus.



Petrocosmea formosa

The corolla in Section *Deinanthera* is also distinctive in having a bright orange yellow patch at the base of the upper lip, and there is another on the floor of the tube below the anthers. I am not aware that these occur elsewhere in the genus. I am grateful to Jeanne Katzenstein for alerting me to the fact that the first flowers on *Petrocosmea formosa* may, apart from the orange patch, be pure white, while later flowers have the corolla lobes a light violet, the upper ones only very lightly coloured. The same sequence was followed on plants grown in Edinburgh.

The Section *Deinanthera* includes *Petrocosmea kerrii*, which has been in cultivation for many years, *P. kingii*, *P. meglanensis*, *P. grandifolia* and *P. formosa*. I have previously included *P. wardii* in *P. kerrii* (in Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 22: 312. 1958), but I am now less sure of this; it is a much more delicate plant. With this uncertainty, there are five or six species in the section. *Petrocosmea formosa* is published here as it has now been in cultivation for some years and I have been very slow in getting the taxonomy sorted out. An account of the genus in Thailand is in preparation, and this will include one further species of Section *Deinanthera*.

I am most grateful to Maryjane Evans and to Jeanne Katzenstein for information on this plant and for sending me material of it. A Latin diagnosis is necessary to validate the name:

Petrocosmea formosa B.L.Burt, **species nova** *P. kerrii* Craib affinis sed foliorum laminis tantum ad 4.5 x 3.25 cm (nec ad 10-20 cm longis) obtusis (nec acutis vel subacuminatis), petiolis ad 9 cm longis laminis valde excedentibus, corollae (primis albis exceptis) labio inferiore pallide violaceo (nec albo) distinguiter.

Type: cult. in horto M. Evans, from Mt. Chiangdao, Thailand, where collected by Kurzweil (E).

Other material seen from Doi Chiangdao: *Kerr* 5564 (BM, E, K), *Beusekom* & *Phengkai* 1354 (BKF, E).



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"Where Can I Get One?"

Maryjane Evans <pollin8r@aol.com>
194 Morris Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869

... is what growers say when they first see *Petrocosmea formosa* in bloom. The springtime display of flowers on a small plant is very striking.

This species has made an excellent horticultural subject for me. I grow it under a greenhouse bench in a cool lightly shaded location. Plants in 3" pots produce a heavy flush of bicolor flowers in the spring with over 25 open flowers at one time. The flowers are quite large compared to *P. flaccida* and *P. nervosa* and somewhat larger than *P. kerrii*. The two upper lobes are lavender with a large golden yellow patch at the base, and the three lower lobes are white. The intensity of the color is variable, depending on light and temperature. This year, for the first time, the flowers that opened later were all lavender with the golden yellow patch. The flowers are held well above the leaves, three per peduncle. It's a very free-flowering plant. Even very small plants with five or six leaves will bear flowers.

While it grows best for me in a cool location, it has flowered in a light garden in a warm (70°F) room. The blooms were a little smaller but didn't go by quickly.

Petrocosmea formosa propagates readily from leaves put down in the spring. I let the clumps of plantlets grow until they have a good number of leaves before I remove and divide them. The petioles are very succulent and tender on young plantlets, and I found that I would damage many of them when I removed and separated them early.

And now there is an answer to the question posed above: **from the Seed Fund!** I was able to produce a small amount of seed this year for the first time, and I hope you will enjoy growing this plant as much as I have.

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Gesneriads, The Internet and You

David Turley <dturley@pobox.com>
6118 Windsor Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407

As I sat down to write this column I realized it has been two years since AGGS made its debut on the World Wide Web. We have come a long way in a short time. I thought I'd take a few minutes (paragraphs) to review how far we've come.

From humble beginnings we now have a photo library with over 100 pictures of gesneriads. Visitors to the web site can enjoy pictures from two AGGS Conventions. What a great way to relive those fun times. In case you haven't visited recently, I should tell you that you can now see pictures of 27 award-winning exhibits from the Denver Convention.



This photo of *Columnnea oerstediana* (exhibited by John Evans) is one of many award-winning entries from the Denver Convention now pictured on the AGGS Web site.

We have hosted two online auctions to benefit the Frances Batcheller Endowment fund. More auctions are planned and a "live" online auction is in the planning stages.

The "Gesneriad Message Corner" is a popular stop for visitors to the web site. Here is an easy way to get answers to your gesneriad questions, to answer questions from other growers, or just share your experiences. Nearly 400 messages were posted in 1997.

We are also hosting online chats. These chats will be a regularly scheduled event on the AGGS web site. Times for upcoming chats will be posted on the web site. Why not stop by and say hi?

Does your chapter have a show planned? Do you want free world-wide publicity? AGGS provides just that via our Web site. Simply use the form found on the events page and send the information in. We'll post it. Gesneriad enthusiasts have been known to travel far and wide in search of shows and sales.

In honor of our two year anniversary, instead of picking a "Web Site of the Month", I will encourage you to visit the AGGS site again. I'll bet there's something there you missed during your last visit.

This month I will share a few postings from "Gesneriad Message Corner". This is only a sampling of the many topics discussed.

Zendelle Bouchard <zendelle@aol.com> asked a question about an unusual, and popular gesneriad:

"I have a *Primulina tabacum* but have not been able to find any information on this plant in any of the african violet/gesneriad books. Is it in fact a gesneriad? If so, is there anything I should know about its care? I've had it for about a year and it has never flowered (I admit to being a neglectful parent). I just replaced two of my cool white bulbs with grow light bulbs, will this help?"

Jeanne Katzenstein <jkatzenste@aol.com> provided helpful information:

"There is an excellent article titled "A Nice Catch" written by Maryjane Evans about *Primulina tabacum* in the May/June 1994 (Vol. 44, No. 3) issue of THE GLOXINIAN on pages 10-11, including pictures. Information included there should be of help."

Carolyn Conlin-Lane <carolync@vnet.ibm.com> also shared her experiences with this species:

"I am no expert, but there seems to be a lull in posting, so I thought I'd share what (little) I know about this plant.

Since there is a picture of it in the AGGS Photo Gallery, I'm confident in affirming that it is indeed a gesneriad (a fairly recently discovered one, according to the caption).

I was given a baby one about 6 months ago. It is currently in a 2.5 inch pot, and has a leaf span of about 7 inches. I suspect it will soon be time for a new pot! I was told to treat it just like an African Violet (I grow it under lights with the AVs — I use a combo of one grow light and one cool, on for 13 hours per day). This seems to have been a successful approach, as it is just putting up its first (two) bloom stalks."

There has been increased interest in hydroponics of late, such as this post by **Soili Damm** <r_s.damm@t-online.deon>:

"I have been cultivating gesneriads in hydroponics for 19 years now (mostly episcias, streptocarpus, kohlerias, etc.). Anyone else doing so? What experiences?"

Tom Slewinski <EUSTOMA81@aol.com> replied:

"I have been growing gesneriads and other plants using hydroponics for about three years now. I have found that most plants grown with hydroponic methods like fluorescent light better than diffused sun light. I have tried all sorts of methods and I found one to be the best with gesneriads. I grow them in four-foot water trays about 6 inches deep with the water pumped from one side to another to clean and circulate the water. The roots grow better when

they have something to grab on to, so put perlite in the water trays. I mix my own growing solutions depending on the plants that am growing. I have found that plants will do better under fluorescent lights when you add a pinch of sodium fluoride (stuff in toothpaste [helps plant absorb light given off by fluorescent tubes]) with a few drops of iodine (for the plants hormone production) and a few drops of indolebutyric acid for a stable root system. This system has worked the best for my gesneriads. With all of the other systems my achimenes, kohlerias, or sinningias did not produced any rhizomes or tubers. With the system I am using now they are producing them so profusely that they break off and get caught in the pumps every day. When I lifted one of the achimenes out of the water there were about 30 rhizomes on the root system. But you have to be very careful that they do not rot in the water. Hope this helps."

Tom Slewinski also posted his own question:

"I am starting to hybridize my plants but they do not bloom when I need them to. Is there any way I can store pollen so when I need it when the plant in not in bloom I can store it and it will still pollinate without the pollen dying?"

Experienced hybridizer **Al Wojcik** <awojcik@ibm.net> provided these tips:

"The key to storing pollen for later use is to keep it cool and dry. Best way to accomplish this is to use a desiccant (a material that absorbs moisture), along with a tightly sealed container. Place the pollen on any dark-colored paper (I like to use black tissue paper — you can usually find it in any good stationery store) and carefully fold and mark the paper with the date and species. Place about an inch of a desiccant like Flower-Dri (available in many craft stores) in the bottom of the container. Insert the folded paper into the desiccant and close the top. Keep the container in your refrigerator. Using this method, I've had pollen keep for several years."

Carla A. Ryan <caryan@usaor.net> passed along a query she received:

"I recently received a letter from a South African gesneriad enthusiast seeking information on *chiritas* and *Seemaniania latifolia*. I intend to give her what I found in *The Miracle Houseplants* and the *Exotic Plant Manual*. Has *Seemaniania latifolia* been reclassified as something else? I couldn't find it listed in *The Miracle Houseplants*."

Al Wojcik helped her out:

"Yes. *Seemaniania* has been dropped and all plants formerly classified in this genus have been transferred to *Gloxinia*. Note that the genus *Gloxinia* has no relation to the "Florist *Gloxinia*" which is now properly known as *Sinningia speciosa*."

After which **Carla** added:

"Thanks for your help. I was able to look up the genus *Gloxinia* in the *Miracle Houseplants* and found a reference to *Seemaniania latifolia* there. It is now *Gloxinia sylvatica*."

There is no end to the topics discussed. On your next visit to the AGGS web site, visit the "Gesneriad Message Corner" and add your thoughts. If you have questions or comments on AGGS' Web site, feel free to write me at <webmaster@aggs.org>. The URL for our Web site is <<http://www.aggs.org>>. See you there!

The Story Behind *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'

Arleen Dewell

#311-2366 Wall St., Vancouver, BC Canada V5L 4Y1

In the late fall of 1995, I started cuttings of *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' and *E.* 'Unpredictable Valley' and by Christmas of that year, transplanted each into shallow, domed containers 8" in diameter. I immediately top-dressed the soil surfaces of each cutting with long-fibre sphagnum moss. Past experience had taught me that quite often very humid conditions caused thin-textured leaves to rot if they came into direct contact with the soil. Soon, both plants began to produce lots of stolons, some of which were tacked down to root in the moss. *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' grew incredibly fast and within a month and a half, desperately needed a larger covered container. *E.* 'Cleopatra' was also doing well but did not appear to be growing at the same break-neck speed as 'Unpredictable Valley'.

I transferred *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' into a 12" domed container about six weeks before our club's show in the Spring of 1996. Long before show day arrived, the plant's outer leaves began to contort and curl under, conforming to the inner confines of the dome. What to do? After much soul searching, I took the plunge and gradually began to wean the plant away from its dome. I misted the moss top-dressing twice a day in an effort to keep the humidity around the leaves high. The plant was entered "domeless", but it was obvious to myself and to the judges that it had been grown covered in the past because of the unnaturally contorted leaves and the brown discoloration that was present on some of the older leaf margins.

It wasn't until the late Spring of 1996 that *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' finally began to come into her own. She outgrew her 8" tray and was transferred, still covered, into a 12" domed container. By mid-September of 1996, I had reached the same impasse I had with 'Unpredictable Valley'. Without hesitation or any acclimation, I removed the dome to prevent the leaves from twisting and put the plant on the lowest shelf on my light stand. This shelf is 3" above the floor and the light source about 13" above the tray rim. This action on my part wasn't based on any kind of logical thought processes. That spot just happened to be available on my stand, and I considered it simply a "holding space" while I decided her fate.

To my surprise, 'Cleopatra' looked none the worse for wear three weeks later; there were no dried, browned edges and best of all, the stems were all straight, allowing the leaf blades to extend naturally over the rim of the container. I decided to leave her exactly where she was and continued to carefully water, feed and occasionally mist the moss top-dressing. She prospered throughout the winter of 1996-97 without any browning, filling in the gaps with her exquisite foliage.

The relative humidity in my growing areas, incidentally, is only what I would consider to be low-average. Based on the conventional temperature and humidity gauges that I have, it runs between 40% and 48% during the day when the lights are on and rises to about 53% during the night when the lights are off. During the winter months, it had fallen as low as 35% without any detrimental effects to Cleo! The obvious questions then are: How reliable are these commercially available gauges for measuring relative humidity;

does temperature have a role to play when these pink and white variegated varieties are grown open; and are *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' and others like her really as temperamental as we have been led to believe? As Convention 1997 in Denver drew closer, I had no doubt that with careful packing, *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' could easily survive the plane trip from Vancouver. With barely a leaf out of place, she shrugged off the stress of spending three days in a dry, air-conditioned show room.

I wondered what would happen if I rooted some stolons of *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' covered in the conventional way and then transplanted them into open containers after rooting. I retained the shallow containers, but dispensed with the sphagnum moss top-dressing. Several things became immediately apparent. Growth rate slowed down significantly and the leaves themselves didn't grow as large. The variegation pattern was more vibrant and better demarcated. Growing "open" seemed to produce thicker, stockier stems and generally a more vigorous-looking plant.

I have since acquired cuttings of two other pink and white variegated episcias, specifically *E.* 'Peppermint Brocade' and *E.* 'Pink Dreams'. They have been growing open now for 12 and 8 months respectively with much the same results. If your growing conditions allow, why not try these special episcias out in the open for a change? You might be pleasantly surprised by the results.



Arleen Dewell's award-winning *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'. Photo by Dale Martens.



1998 AGGS Tee Shirt

The crowds at the runways of Paris and New York are abuzz about the newest fashion in casual wear — the 1998 AGGS tee shirt! In fuchsia, white, black and shades of green, the initials of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society blossom on an ash gray shirt of 100% cotton, available in large, extra large, and extra-extra large sizes. Only 100 will be printed, so order yours today! Send \$15 per shirt, and remember to include your size with your order.

Make checks payable (in U.S. Funds) to AGGS, Inc. To pay by credit card, specify Visa or MasterCard, include the credit card number, expiration date, and your signature with the order.

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Late Charge (if received after June 14, 1998) .	_____ @	\$25.00 =	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____

Judges Training School

The Training School for the 1998 Convention will be held on Wednesday, July 1. The sessions for beginning and advanced AGGS judges will be held from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. The examination will be given from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Members who are primarily interested in exhibiting, rather than becoming a judge, may register for the school. Taking the examination is optional unless accreditation is desired.

The registration fee is \$10.00, which includes a new or renewal subscription to *Appraisal*, the newsletter of the Judges Interest Group. Only one subscription (\$5.00) for *Appraisal* is needed for a single address. Checks should be made out to AGGS and sent to Ben Paternoster, Chairman of Shows and Judging, 14 Coptor Court, Huntington, NY 11743-2335 by June 10. Planning for a productive school is enhanced by compliance with this deadline.

There will be a meeting for the Judges Interest Group on Wednesday, July 1, from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. Current AGGS judges or those interested in becoming judges are welcome to attend this meeting. For the judges who participated in the flower show judging, there will be a critique by Frances Batcheller on Saturday, July 4, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Anyone who is interested in an assignment as a judge or clerk should write to Lee Linett, Judges Chairman, 12314 Sweetbriar Pl., Waldorf, MD 20602, for consideration.



1998 Convention Program

"Chicago Is... *Your* Kind of Town!"

Tuesday, June 30

- 1:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. AGGS Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. Convention Registration and Information

Wednesday, July 1

- 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. Convention Opening Breakfast. Greetings and Remarks:
Al Wojcik, Local Convention Chairman; Helen
Freidberg, AGGS Convention Chairman; Jon Dixon,
AGGS President
- 9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Judges Training, Session 1-A
Pre-registration and AGGS membership required
- 9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Judges Training, Session 1-B
Pre-registration and AGGS membership required
- 12:00 noon — 1:15 p.m. Chapter Presidents Meeting with Jon Dixon, AGGS
President
- 1:15 p.m. — 2:30 p.m. Judges Training Session 2, A & B
- 2:45 p.m. — 3:45 p.m. Judges Interest Group Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. Internet Communications Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. — 5:15 p.m. Round Robins Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. — 6:15 p.m. Newsletter Editors Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. Judges Test
- 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration and Information
- 7:45 p.m. — 10:15 p.m. Gesneriad Hybridizers Association Meeting (open to
everyone); Lecture: "New Collections of African Violet
Species" by Dr. Jeff Smith

Thursday, July 2

- 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Tour #1: Plant Tour to Oak Hill Gardens in the morning,
lunch at Rainforest Café, Hausermann Orchids in the
afternoon
Tour #2: The Heart of Chicago Tour; drop-off at the
Field Museum, lunch on your own, pick-up at the Field
Museum at 3:30 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m. Flower Show Entries; Frances Batcheller Endowment
Fund Auction donations accepted
- 8:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. Convention Registration and Information
- 10:00 p.m. — Midnight Plant Sales and Auction Viewing
- 

Friday, July 3

- 6:00 a.m. — 6:30 a.m. Flower Show late entries (only with written permission of Flower Show Chairman, Shirley Mitchell)
- 6:30 a.m. — 7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast for judges, clerks and show personnel who should include this meal with their registration
- 7:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. Flower Show Judging
- 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast honoring Special Interest Groups
- 9:15 a.m. — 10:15 a.m. Convention Registration and Plant Sales
- 10:30 a.m. — 11:45 a.m. Lecture #1: "Gesneriads in Neurological Disease Treatment: Ethnobotanical and Biochemical Research" by Dr. Ethan B. Russo, M.D.
- 12:00 p.m. — 1:45 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon, President Jon Dixon presiding; Awards of Appreciation; Election of Directors
- 2:00 p.m. — 3:15 p.m. Lecture #2: "Gesneriad Greenhouse Growing" by Bob and Dee Stewart
- 3:30 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Flower Show, Plant Sales, and Auction Viewing
- 3:45 p.m. — 5:45 p.m. AGGS Board of Directors Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour
- 7:30 p.m. — 10:30 p.m. Flower Show Awards Banquet; Master of Ceremonies: Elvin McDonald; Awards Chair: Colleen Turley; Auction Chair: Molly Schneider
- 10:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m. Flower Show, Plant Sales, and Auction Viewing

Saturday, July 4

- 6:00 a.m. — 7:00 a.m. Photographers only in Flower Show Room
- 7:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m. Flower Show Judges Critique (for judges and clerks who participated in the 1998 Flower Show)
- 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. Breakfast honoring Host Chapter, AGGS Chapters and Members-at-Large
- 9:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Flower Show, Plant Sales and Auction Viewing
- 9:30 a.m. — 10:45 a.m. Lecture #3: "The Legacy of Bill Saylor" by Dr. Laurence Skog
- 11:00 a.m. — 12:15 p.m. Lecture #4: "Anything But Green! Variegations on a Theme" by Al Wojcik
- 12:30 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. Luncheon honoring AGGS Commercial Growers, Friends-at-Large, et al. Live Plant Auction; Silent Auction Wrap-Up
- 2:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sales breakdown
- 4:00 p.m. — 10:30 p.m. Tour of Chicago Botanic Garden, Dinner at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant
- 10:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m. Social Get-Together, hosted by the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society

Sunday, July 5

- 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. AGGS Board of Directors Meeting

AGGS Convention Show Schedule

"Chicago Is... Your Kind of Town!"

July 3 and 4, 1998

Entries will be accepted on Thursday, July 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Late entries may be received on Friday morning, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. only with the written permission of and by prior arrangement with the Flower Show Chairman.

Division I — HORTICULTURE

Saintpaulia permitted only in Classes 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25

SECTION A — Tuberous Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids (upright or pendent flowers)
- Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (more than 10" in diameter)
- Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (between 5" and 10" in diameter)
- Class 4 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (less than 5" in diameter)
- Class 5 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (largest leaf less than 1" long)
- Class 6 Other tuberous gesneriads

SECTION B — Rhizomatous Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 7 *Achimenes*
- Class 8 *Gloxinia*
- Class 9 *Kohleria*
- Class 10 Other rhizomatous gesneriads

SECTION C — Fibrous-Rooted Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 11 *Aeschynanthus*
- Class 12 *Chirita*
- Class 13 *Codonanthe*, ×*Codonatanthus*
- Class 14 *Columnea*, *Dalbergaria*, *Pentadenia*, *Trichantha* species, hybrids or cultivars
- Class 15 *Episcia*, *Alsobia*
- Class 16 *Episcia* (largest leaf less than 2" in length)
- Class 17 *Gesneria*
- Class 18 *Nautilocalyx*
- Class 19 *Nematanthus*
- Class 20 *Petrocosmea*
- Class 21 *Saintpaulia* species
- Class 22 *Saintpaulia* standard hybrid or cultivar (limit one entry in either a or b per exhibitor, but not both)
 - a.) Dates hybrid (wasp blossoms and/or bustle foliage)
 - b.) other standard hybrid or cultivar
- Class 23 *Saintpaulia* miniature (6" or less in diameter) (limit one entry in either a or b per exhibitor, but not both)
 - a.) Dates hybrid (wasp blossoms and/or bustle foliage)
 - b.) other miniature hybrid or cultivar
- Class 24 *Saintpaulia* semi-miniature (8" or less in diameter) (limit one entry in either a or b per exhibitor, but not both)
 - a.) Dates hybrid (wasp blossoms and/or bustle foliage)
 - b.) other semi-miniature hybrid or cultivar
- Class 25 *Saintpaulia* trailer (limit one entry per exhibitor)
- Class 26 *Streptocarpus*, caulescent, stemmed (*Streptocarpella*)
- Class 27 *Streptocarpus*, acaulescent, rosulate
 - a.) plurifoliate
 - b.) unifoliate
- Class 28 Other fibrous-rooted gesneriads

SECTION D — Gesneriads Grown Primarily for Foliage or Fruit

Decorative fruit is 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 29 *Episcia*
- Class 30 *Episcia* with pink-and-white leaf variegation
- Class 31 *Chirita*
- Class 32 Other gesneriads with variegated foliage
- Class 33 Other gesneriads

SECTION E — New Gesneriads

This section is for introductions made within the last two years, but not previously entered in an AGGS Convention show. A card must accompany each entry, giving information for educational purposes, such as, name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

- Class 34 Species in flower
- Class 35 Species not in flower
- Class 36 Hybrid or named cultivar in flower
- Class 37 Hybrid or named cultivar not in flower

SECTION F — Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

A card must be supplied by the exhibitor giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural requirements.

- Class 38 In flower
- Class 39 Not in flower

SECTION G — Collections of Gesneriads

A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for foliage, or in combination. Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit since this is a consideration in judging this section. Exhibitor should provide a card with identification of plants and in Class 41, educational information.

- Class 40 Plants of a single genus, either species, cultivars or hybrids
- Class 41 Kinship group
 - a.) Intergeneric hybrid/hybrids with one or more parents
 - b.) Interspecific hybrid/hybrids with one or more parents

SECTION H — Novice

Anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in a gesneriad flower show. An exhibitor wishing Novice status may not enter other Horticulture classes with the exception of Classes 21, 22, 23, 24, or 25.

- Class 42 Tuberous gesneriad in flower
- Class 43 Rhizomatous gesneriad in flower
- Class 44 Fibrous-rooted gesneriad in flower
- Class 45 Any gesneriad grown for foliage (no flowers or buds showing color)

Division II — ARTISTIC

GESNERIADS MUST PREDOMINATE. Other live and dried materials are permitted, but artificial plant material is not allowed. Plant material used should be identified on an accompanying card. Accessories are optional unless required by the class description. Table covering will be a neutral color. White niches will be provided except in Class 48 and all classes in Section K. Exhibitors may provide additional draping. Reservations for Sections I and J may be sent to Jane Miller, 120 S. Iowa Ave., Addison, IL 60101-3819, telephone 630-834-9492. Reserve by June 14, 1998. Each class limited to 6 entries per class. Please reserve early.

SECTION I — Arrangement of Fresh Cut Plant Material

- Class 46 "The Great Chicago Fire" — On October 8, 1871, a small fire started in Mrs. O'Leary's cow barn on the west side of old Chicago. By the time it was over, 29 hours later, the firestorm had destroyed all the buildings in a 73-square-block area (except for the famous Water Tower, which still stands). Less than 19 years later, Chicago had completely rebuilt itself into the second-largest city in the U.S. The design should be 24"H x 20"W x 16"D and have red, orange, and yellow flowers predominating.
- Class 47 "The Loop" — Named for the elevated train tracks that form a large closed loop around the heart of downtown Chicago, The Loop is home to Buckingham Fountain, Grant Park, the Sears Tower, and many other famous Chicago landmarks. Vining gesneriad material should predominate. 26"H x 20"W x 16"D.
- Class 48 "Chicago Lakefront" — The clear blue waters of Lake Michigan lap at the heart of downtown Chicago. Skyscrapers nestle beside sandy beaches and marinas, while luxury apartments and magnificent homes of the rich and famous grace the shoreline north of downtown. An underwater arrangement no larger than 12"H x 12"W x 12"D.
- Class 49 "The Lady in Red" — In 1934, legendary gangster John Dillinger was the target of one of the largest manhunts in U.S. history. Dillinger was finally fingered by a notorious Chicago madam named Ana Cumpanas, who notified the FBI of Dillinger's planned visit on July 22 to the Biograph Theater on N. Lincoln Ave. That evening Ana, dressed in red from head to toe, accompanied Dillinger to the theater where he was gunned down by government agents. 12"H x 10"W x 8"D.
- Class 50 "Wrigley Field" — Built in 1914 for the Chicago Whales and named for chewing-gum tycoon William Wrigley, Jr., Wrigley Field has been home to the Chicago Cubs since 1920. This venerable ballpark features ivy-covered outfield walls, a manually-operated scoreboard and some of baseball's most ardent fans. 20"H x 20"W x 18"D. Ivy should be used in the arrangement.

SECTION J — Arrangement Using Growing Gesneriad(s)

- Class 51 "Chicago Blues" — No other musical genre is as closely associated with Chicago as the blues. Such well-known artists as Muddy Waters, Bobby Bland and Howlin' Wolf helped propel the blues from its early Cajun and African-American roots to new and innovative heights. From downtown to the suburbs, Chicago is dotted with blues clubs where legendary and aspiring artists alike play to appreciative audiences. 22"H x 20"W x 16"D. This class is open only to novices, who've never experienced "the blues" (ribbons, that is).
- Class 52 "Play Ball!" — When it comes to outstanding ball clubs, Chicago can't be beat! The Bulls, the Bears, the Cubs and the White Sox are just a few of the Chicago sports teams whose electric performances on the field generate excitement whenever and wherever they play. 15"H x 18"W x 12"D. Pick a Chicago ball team and design an arrangement around it.
- Class 53 "The Roaring 20s" — From Prohibition in 1920 to the stock market crash of 1929, the Roaring 20s in Chicago were a wild mix of bathtub gin, speakeasies, gangsters and flappers doing the Charleston to the accompaniment of Big Bands. Presiding over the revelry were the likes of Al Capone and Bugs Malone, who ruled the city in a reign of terror and violence. 20"H x 20"W x 16"D.
- Class 54 "O'Hare International Airport" — If you've flown anywhere in the U.S., you've probably spent some time at O'Hare. Originally a military base called Orchard Field (hence its official airport code ORD), farsighted Chicagoans saw the potential for air travel and purchased the base from the government in 1946. Expanded and enlarged over the years, O'Hare still retains the title "World's Busiest Airport". 24"H x 20"W x 16"D. Innovative growing containers (model airplanes, luggage) could be incorporated into the design.

SECTION K — Growing Material in a Planting (Artistically and Horticulturally Balanced)

- Class 55 Terrarium, straight-sided
- Class 56 Terrarium, curved
- Class 57 Tray landscape
- Class 58 Trained or sculptured gesneriads — bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style
- Class 59 Other container, not the usual form of plastic or clay pot
- Class 60 Novice (Anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad flower show) — Entries suitable for any of the classes in Section K.

Division III — THE ARTS

All entries must feature gesneriads in some form. Limit, one entry per exhibitor per class, and not previously exhibited in any AGGS Convention Show. Each entry must have been made by the exhibitor.

SECTION L — Photography

Must have been taken by the exhibitor. Prints must be mounted. The subject should be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8" x 10". Mats not to exceed 11" x 14". Exhibitors must provide an easel for prints 5" x 7" or over. Slides must be mounted for projection in a standard carousel projector.

- Class 61 Color transparency
- Class 62 Color print
- Class 63 Black and white print

SECTION M — Crafts Representing Gesneriads

- Class 64 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)
- Class 65 Textile (a card must accompany each entry, giving the source of the design)
- Class 66 Other crafts

Division IV — COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

SECTION N — Commercial

Reservations may be sent to Jane Miller, 120 S. Iowa Ave., Addison, IL 60101-3819, telephone 630-834-9492. Please reserve early, by June 14, 1998, latest.

- Class 67 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (10 or more plants)
- Class 68 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (less than 10 plants)

SECTION O — Educational

- Class 69 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion
- Class 70 Exhibit of plant material
- Class 71 Exhibit of photograph(s)

This class is for photographs of gesneriad plant material seldom seen in shows and of botanical interest. The class is appropriate for plants which are seasonal or are rare in cultivation. A card must be supplied by the exhibitor giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural information, and reason for inclusion in this class.

RULES

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of AGGS.
3. Entries will be accepted only during hours specified. Entries arriving after classes close will be placed for exhibit only, and will not be judged.
4. All exhibits for competition will be approved by the Classification Committee. Non-conformity to the schedule may bring disqualification.
5. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid unless otherwise prohibited.
6. In fairness to amateur growers, institutions may not make more than two entries in the Horticulture, Artistic or Arts Divisions of the flower show. The same restriction applies to commercial growers who have employees who assist with the culture and grooming of potential entries.
7. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by the Show Chairman after entries close.
8. No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes. All entries must be checked out through the Show Committee.
9. All plants must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in artistic arrangements in Division II.
10. All entries will be staged in the showroom by the Placement Committee. Artistic arrangements and collections can be executed in the showroom by the exhibitor in the space designated, and during the stated time for entries. Cut blossoms or plant material may be placed in artistic arrangements on Friday morning from 6:00 to 6:30 a.m. by previous arrangement with the Artistic Reservations Chairman.
11. Exhibitors will be permitted to indicate the front of a horticultural entry.
12. All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including commercial and educational exhibits.
13. AGGS standard competitive judging will be used.
14. 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 Mention may also be awarded.
15. Special Awards (more than a class ribbon) will be reserved for AGGS members only unless otherwise offered to non-members. An exhibit must score 90 or above to be considered.
16. There will be two Sweepstakes Awards: one for the Horticulture Division; one for the Artistic Division. An exhibitor must win a minimum of 3 blue ribbons to be eligible for this award. Reserved for AGGS members only.
17. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division (excluding *Saintpaulia*) is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. Reserved for AGGS members only.
18. AGGS will endeavor to protect all entries but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

EXHIBITOR'S INFORMATION

The exhibitor should 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.

No particular type of container is specified for the Horticulture Division. Whatever is used should be clean. Foil covering should be avoided. 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.

Growing material established in situ should present a practical horticultural method of growing, not a temporary insertion for display only. This section covers entries such as terrariums, dish gardens, bonsai and material grown in containers other than the usual plastic or clay pots. Straight-sided terrariums are composed of flat pieces of glass or plastic; curved terrariums are composed of rounded pieces.

The class for a collection of gesneriads of one genus stresses horticulture primarily, but as this serves to focus attention on a special group, there should be some degree of presentation. Uniform type and color of container would be a first step toward unity. Some simple staging to provide different levels may be provided by the exhibitor. The plants might be grouped in a basket or a tray.

Photography: The photographer is being judged on the skill, technique and composition displayed, not on the quality of the plant material chosen as a subject.

Educational exhibits may be entered by institutions, chapters, study groups, or individuals. Any project relating to gesneriads may be presented with illustrative material which may or may not include live plant material.

Convention Chairmen

<i>AGGS Convention</i>	Helen Freidberg (781-891-9164) 11 Arrowhead Rd., Weston, MA 02193
<i>AGGS Auction</i>	Molly Schneider
<i>AGGS Awards</i>	Colleen Turley
<i>AGGS Shows & Judging</i>	Ben Paternoster
<i>Local Convention</i>	Al Wojcik (313-388-4405) 9693 Carter Ave., Allen Park, MI 48101-1338
<i>Accommodations</i>	Nancy Maybloom, Renee Lasky, Bob Nicholson, Karen Makila
<i>Artwork & Poster</i>	Bob Nicholson
<i>Convention Packet</i>	Susan Bradford
<i>Hospitality</i>	Karen Makila
<i>Plant Sales</i>	Susan Bradford, Bob Nicholson, Al Wojcik
<i>Publicity</i>	Gloria Strong
<i>Registration</i>	Nancy Maybloom (847-882-4652) 1955 Fairway Court, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195
<i>Social Get-Together</i>	Darleen Thompson, Karen Makila
<i>Speakers</i>	Al Wojcik
<i>Special Events/Transportation</i>	Bob Nicholson
<i>Table Favors</i>	Susan Bradford
<i>Flower Show</i>	Shirley Mitchell (970-482-7486) 2200 Stanford Rd., Ft. Collins, CO 80525
<i>Artistic Schedule & Reservations</i>	Nancy Maybloom, Al Wojcik, Jane Miller
<i>Classification</i>	John Boggan, Peter Shalit
<i>Educational & Commercial</i>	Jane Miller (630-834-9492) 120 S. Iowa Ave., Addison, IL 60101-3819
<i>Entries & Tag Writers</i>	Nellie Sleeth
<i>Judges & Clerks</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Placement</i>	Libby Watkins
<i>Plant Maintenance</i>	Bill Krewer, Elaine Gordon
<i>Show Schedule</i>	Al Wojcik
<i>Staging</i>	Shirley Mitchell

Additional Convention Information

Hotel reservations must be received by June 8, 1998 to ensure room availability.

Reservations for Thursday's tours and Saturday's tour and dinner must be received by June 14, 1997. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged after this date in addition to the registration fee and the cost of the tours which will be on an "as available" basis.

Reservations for arrangements in Division II Artistic Sections I and J and for Commercial exhibits in Division IV must be made before June 14 by contacting Jane Miller, 120 S. Iowa Ave., Addison, IL 60101-3819 (630-834-9492). Space availability is limited. Please reserve early.

If you have items you wish to donate to the auction to benefit the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund, contact Molly Schneider, 608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205.

To sponsor an award for the flower show, contact Colleen Turley, 6118 Windsor Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-5058.

There shall be a minimum of 50 plants a vendor may bring to sell at the Convention plant sales. Rhizomes, tubers, cuttings and stolons in labeled plastic bags are welcomed. Potted plants for sale should be well rooted. Contact Al Wojcik (313-388-4405) for space availability. Donation of plant material in any quantity for the sales table by individual members, chapters, or organizations is always appreciated.

Hotel Directions

From O'Hare: East on the Kennedy Expressway to the River Road South exit.

From Downtown Chicago: Northwest on the Kennedy Expressway to the River Road exit.

From the North: Northwest Tollway (90) or Tri-State Tollway (294) to O'Hare exit. Proceed west to Mannheim Road South exit and then immediately re-enter 190 to Chicago in order to proceed east approximately 1/2 mile to the River Road South exit.

From the South: Tri-State Tollway (294) to River Road exit. Turn right (south).



Chicago Is ... *Your Kind of Town!*

To help you plan your trip to Chicago, here are some excellent sources for tourist information, maps, places to see, etc.

Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau: (312) 567-8500

<http://www.chicago.il.org/>

Chicago Office of Tourism: (312) 744-2400

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Tourism/>

Illinois Bureau of Tourism: 1-800-2CONNECT

<http://www.enjoyillinois.com/>

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.
42nd Annual Convention — 1998

Room Reservation Form

Mail to: **Holiday Inn O'Hare International**
5440 North River Road
Rosemont, IL 60018

Phone: **1-800-HOLIDAY or 847-671-6350.** Be sure to mention that you are attending the AGGS Convention July 1-4, 1998. In order to guarantee reservations, please enclose a check for the amount of the first night's room and tax or fill out the credit card information listed below.*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Time _____

Departure Date _____ Number of Persons sharing room _____

and Names _____

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m. Rates: \$79.00 Single or Double
\$89.00 Triple or Quad

Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon

The above rooms are subject to all applicable taxes. Reservations must be received by June 8, 1998. Convention rates apply for three days before and after the convention, BASED ON AVAILABILITY!

Circle One: American Express Diner's Club Master Card
Discover Visa Carte Blanche

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

My check for one night deposit is enclosed \$ _____

Non-Smoking Room Smoking Room

*Cancellation must be made by 4:00 p.m. on the date of arrival in order to receive a deposit return.

Hotel parking is free. Complimentary shuttle service from the airport is provided.

Thursday and Saturday Convention Tours

Thursday Plant Tour #1:

Buses will leave the hotel at 8:30 a.m. and head out to West Dundee, the home of Oak Hill Gardens. The proprietor, Hermann Pigors, is a renowned orchid hybridizer and a specialist in the tissue-culturing of orchids. His greenhouses are filled with a vast assortment of tropical plants, ranging from Alocasias to Zebra Plants. The selection also includes a number of the more popular gesneriads.

Next, it's off to lunch at the Rainforest Café at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg. This unique theme restaurant recreates a tropical rainforest through a combination of live birds, animated wildlife and special effects like rolling thunder and lightning flashes.

Following lunch, it's on to Orchids by Hausermann in Villa Park. One of the largest producers of orchids in the world, Hausermann's features an incredible selection of exotic orchids for home and greenhouse growing. They are also one of the world's leading orchid hybridizers with over 500 named varieties attributed to them.

Buses are scheduled to return to the hotel by 4:30 p.m.

Thursday Heart of Chicago Tour #2:

Head downtown for a full day of touring and eating. Buses will drop passengers off at the Field Museum at approximately 9:30 a.m. Spend the next 30 minutes (most museums open at 10:00 a.m.) exploring the area and figuring out what to visit first. Maps and brochures will be provided. The Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium, the Chicago Art Institute, the Shedd Aquarium and the Museum of Broadcast Communication are all within easy walking distance. Lunch is on your own, but there's plenty to choose from. Highly recommended is "A Taste of Chicago", a moderate walk (or very short cab ride) away, where you can eat your way through the various specialties and ethnic cuisine of over 65 of Chicago's favorite restaurants. Most museums also have cafés and small restaurants available. Buses will pick everyone up back at the Field Museum at 3:30 p.m. and arrive at the hotel by 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Tour of the Chicago Botanic Garden and Dinner at the 94th Aero Squadron:

Buses will leave the hotel at 4:00 p.m. and head out to Glencoe where the horticultural wonders of the Chicago Botanic Garden await us. Self-guided tours include the Japanese Gardens, the formal English Walled Rose Garden, the Aquatic Garden, the Prairie, and the Garden of Eatin' fruit and vegetable test gardens. Indoor conservatories contain tropical plants from all over the world, with assorted gesneriads scattered throughout the displays.

Buses leave the Botanic Garden at 7:00 p.m. and take us next to the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant in Wheeling. This unusual aviation-themed restaurant features a full buffet, set in a unique French provincial farmhouse atmosphere.

We'll be arriving back at the hotel around 10:30 p.m., just in time for the Social Get-Together hosted by the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society. Join us as we wind down after a hectic convention week and relax among friends while enjoying light refreshments.

Flower Show Awards

Colleen Turley <awards@aggs.org>
6118 Windsor Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407-5058

It is that time of year again! Although it is cold outside, start making your July plans to attend and participate in this year's Convention. One of the easiest ways to participate (and this counts even if you are unable to attend the actual event) is by donating an award for the flower show.

One of our Convention's highlights is the Friday banquet when the flower show participants are recognized for their high quality plants and exhibits. The winning exhibitors, myself, and the society as a whole appreciate the generosity of the individuals, commercial members, chapters, and friends-at-large who donate these awards.

I am soliciting donations for the 1998 Convention. Any member or chapter who wishes to donate an award may forward the award to me at the address above. Checks or money orders should be made payable to AGGS. I may also be contacted via email at awards@aggs.org.

As in the past, preference is for unspecified awards. This allows for fair distribution to all deserving entries. Special requests will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If there are no eligible entries, or the category's award has already been filled, the award may be transferred to another class or section. Should there be fewer eligible entries than awards, then the balance of award donations shall be used to sponsor a color picture in THE GLOXINIAN of the "Best Gesneriad in Show".

Acknowledgement of all award donations will be printed in TG and on the AGGS web site. Thanks for your past support and for your consideration for this year's Convention.

Convention Auctions

Molly Schneider
608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205

The 13th Gesneriad Auctions, live and silent, for the benefit of the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund will take place during the Chicago Convention, July 1998.

Contribute plants for our rare plant auction, art work, crafts, gift certificates, books... especially with gesneriad contents. Use your imagination! All donations will be most welcome, and receipts will be given upon request. Contact Molly Schneider, the Fund Chair, with any questions. If you are unable to attend the Convention or cannot carry your auctions items with you, mail or ship them to Nancy Maybloom, 1955 Fairway Court, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195.

And then, remember, when packing up for the Convention trip, bring your checkbook and reserve extra space for all the terrific items that you will not be able to pass up at the live and silent auctions. *First donate — then bid!*

Collecting *Rhabdothamnus*, a Gesneriad from the South Pacific

Nick and Elizabeth Miller <millern@wave.co.nz>
91 Te Akau Road, R D 4, Rotorua, New Zealand

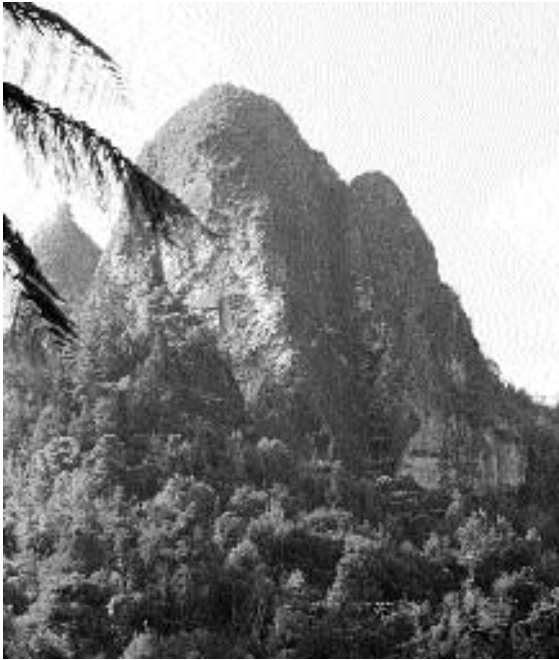
Rhabdothamnus solandri is New Zealand's only native gesneriad. The genus *Rhabdothamnus* contains only one species, and that species is confined to the North Island of New Zealand, together with some offshore islands. The natural range of this species extends from about 34° South to 41° 40' South. It is unlikely to be the southernmost gesneriad in the world, as it seems probably that the Chilean species *Mitraria coccinea* may extend further south. Perhaps some reader may care to enlighten us upon this matter.

Rhabdothamnus, which has the Maori name of taurepo, is a slender, much-branched shrub, often rather straggly, which grows to one or two metres high. The leaves are broad-ovate to orbicular, 50-90 mm long by 30-70 mm wide and are described as "scabrid" meaning rough in texture (like sandpaper, in fact). The flowers, which are 20-25 mm long, are nodding, light-orange to tomato-red with red veins, and have a corolla which flares out in a manner reminiscent of, for example, kohlerias. The flowers are produced on and off throughout the warmer months. The plant in our garden has a few flowers open at the time of this writing (September, early spring) when most of the garden colour comes from camellias, rhododendrons and magnolias. At this early season, *Rhabdothamnus* flowers are paler in colour than they will be later on.

Rhabdothamnus is in cultivation as a garden plant in New Zealand but is not widely known. It is grown by the native plant enthusiast rather than the general gardener as it is attractive but not spectacular. It is seldom seen in garden centres, but a few specialist nurseries list it. A yellow-flowered variety has been collected occasionally, and presumably is still in cultivation, although we have been seeking a plant of it for several years. From photographs that we have seen, it is very attractive. We may have tracked down a source of it at last. Here's hoping! Perhaps one day we may have a photograph of our own plant for THE GLOXINIAN.

Following a request for seed of this species for the AGGS Seed Fund, we decided to travel to an area that we knew of where *Rhabdothamnus solandri* grows well. One of us (Nick) conducted a botanical survey of the Puriri Scenic Reserve in 1984 and observed a sizeable population of this plant just outside the boundary of the reserve. A large-flowered form was seen at that time, but cuttings of it unfortunately failed to strike. It was decided to revisit this area, collect seed, take photographs and search for the large-flowered form.

On a fine day in early April 1997, we made a family trip to the little farming settlement of Puriri, which is a few kilometres inland from the coastal town of Thames, in the northeastern part of North Island (latitude 37° South), about two hours drive from our home. Puriri consists of a few houses, a service station and a pub (country hotel). We then drove up an extremely bad road for several kilometres through good, then neglected farmland to an area where we could park on the roadside near the track leading to the habitat of *Rhabdothamnus solandri*.



The dramatic rocky stacks of Puriri Scenic Reserve rise from the temperate rainforest.

Puriri Scenic Reserve is located on very rugged terrain, dominated by a pair of dramatic rocky pinnacles — the remains of ancient volcanoes. The reserve is covered by dense "bush", the local term for rainforest, dominated by podocarps and a variety of hardwood trees. A number of rare and unusual plants occur in this reserve, and we had previously found it a fascinating place to survey. The main stand of *Rhabdothamnus*, however, is outside the boundary of the reserve.

The old bulldozed track leads diagonally down a steep hillside through abandoned farmland, scrub and patches of bush to reach the attractive stony Puriri Stream which runs down to the sea from its origins higher in the reserve. We crossed the stream by "boulder hopping" and set off up a short climb to the place where this species grew, thirteen years earlier. It was much as we had remembered, and *Rhabdothamnus solandri* still grew there.

The plants grow there, amongst other shrubs and ferns, on a steep slope at the base of a sheer rock face. The site is shaded by a broken canopy of trees, nikau palms (*Rhopaloxtylis sapida*) and tree ferns. Some direct sunlight penetrates through the canopy, ensuring that the plants flower freely. As the canopy trees mature and more understory vegetation grows up, this site may become less suitable for *Rhabdothamnus*. The plants grow as tangled shrubs, with thin wiry stems, reaching a height of two metres or more in favoured sites.

They grow in a thin layer of soil, mixed with organic debris, which has washed down off the rock faces above. Naturally, drainage is excellent, but



The rocky habitat of *Rhabdothamnus*, hidden under this canopy of trees, palms and tree ferns.

at the same time sufficient moisture must also come down from the rock to keep the plants growing. Certainly the preferred sites for these plants is on rocky slopes, well drained but moist. The soil itself may sometimes be clay-based, but the sloping, rocky sites make for good drainage. Almost every time that we have found *Rhabdothamnus* plants in the wild, they have been growing near a stream, waterfall or the sea, so humidity seems to be desirable. The rainfall in this area is high, about 2.5 metres (100 inches) per year, spread throughout the year, but usually drier in summer.

We soon found that the main flowering season was over, with only scattered flowers to be seen, which made searching for a particular clone difficult. However, there was a plentiful supply of ripe seed pods. Whatever pollinators visit these flowers (and they are believed to be bird pollinated) had been doing a good job. We collected pods off some ten plants which were within reach, and these mixed seeds are currently available through the AGGS Seed Fund.

During the course of the day, clouds had begun to build up over the Coromandel range (of which Puriri Scenic Reserve is a part), and the wind had freshened, moving the plants about and making natural-light photography difficult. This scenario is fairly typical of the New Zealand climate. We had not thought to bring a flashgun. However, we managed to photograph in a fleeting patch of sunlight.

Despite a thorough inspection of every plant that still bore any blooms, we were unable to locate the large-flowered clone. Either this plant is no longer with us, or it is still eluding the prospect of cultivation. We bumped our way back down the road with a firm resolve to return earlier in a future flowering season and have another try.

We understand that Jon Dixon exhibited a fine pot-grown specimen at the 1997 AGGS Convention in Denver, so he is probably better equipped to give hints on the cultivation of *Rhabdothamnus solandri*. However, well drained, moist conditions would be a good starting point. Light shade with perhaps a little direct sunlight in morning or evening, freedom from heavy frosts, and avoidance of extreme heat are also important factors.

The plant in our garden is growing about halfway up a vertical retaining wall made from tree fern trunks (a common garden building material in this district). The wall is about two metres high, and the soil behind it is a light, well-drained but water-retentive pumice soil. Light overhead shade is provided by a mature kowhai tree (*Sophora microphylla*, a semi-deciduous tree belonging to the legume family), and adjacent shrubs and tree ferns. In the late afternoon, and during the winter, our plant of *Rhabdothamnus solandri* is exposed to direct sunlight.

Hopefully this article, and the availability of seed from the AGGS Seed Fund, will encourage some readers to try this charming plant. Those living in wetter areas of California and the Pacific Northwest might well have success with it as a garden plant. Possibly those living in the mildest parts of the United Kingdom might also be able to grow it outdoors, in a suitably chosen site. Those wishing to grow *Rhabdothamnus solandri* as a pot plant will find it is quite different to the gesneriads with which we are commonly familiar.



The tangled, shrubby growth of *Rhabdothamnus* is unlike that of most gesneriads. The large-leaved shrub is a member of the daisy family.

Growing *Rhabdothamnus solandri* in Northern California

Jon Dixon <jond@hooked.net>
55 Tum Suden Way, Woodside, CA 94062

I first grew *Rhabdothamnus solandri* when Dave Masterson, then president of the San Francisco Chapter of AGGS, raised seedlings from seed sent to him from New Zealand. Dave had set out to get all of the related sub-tropical species in the group to which *Rhabdothamnus* belongs. They include the monotypic species, *Mitraria coccinea*, *Sarmienta repens*, *Asteranthera ovata*, *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, *Negria rhabdothamnoides*, and *Fieldia australis*. Of these, the first three are from Chile, *Rhabdothamnus* is from New Zealand, *Negria* is from Lord Howe Island, and *Fieldia* is from Australia. At one time I grew all of these species, which come from climates not too dissimilar to that of mild coastal California.

After failing in a diligent search of American and European seed sources, Dave finally acquired his seed of *Rhabdothamnus solandri* by advertising his request in a New Zealand horticultural magazine. The resulting seedlings were distributed as favors at our chapter's Christmas banquet. Although many plants were distributed both to members and to local arborists, eventually they all were lost and the species went out of cultivation.



Rhabdothamnus solandri exhibited by Jon Dixon at the Denver Convention.
Photo by Dale Martens.



Rhabdothamnus solandri

About two years ago I finally found a new seed source when Maryjane Evans put out a packet for sale at the seed table at the AGGS Convention. From those seeds I grew three plants, two of which survive today.

From this description it may seem like this is a difficult plant to grow; but in actuality it is reasonably easy although it does have a fatal flaw. It is absolutely intolerant of drying out. Plants grow well here in Northern California when grown outdoors in bright shade. It appreciates the more humid climate found along the coast where it will make a beautiful dense pot of intertwined wiry stems with small scalloped scabrous papery leaves, and profuse delicately striped orange flowers. Cuttings root fairly easily during the spring and summer when put down in long-fibered sphagnum moss or perlite and vermiculite mix. Avoid high heat when rooting and growing this maritime species. Outside of the subtropics this species should be grown in as cool a temperature as possible. In warm humid summers it would do best indoors in an air conditioned room although it may do well outdoors in shade. To keep this plant in cultivation requires that new plants be continuously propagated from either cuttings or seed. When grown for several years in the same soil it is subject to rotting so repotting into fresh mix is necessary.

In overall appearance I find *Rhabdothamnus* most closely resembles *Asteranthera* in both foliage, and flowers, possibly indicating a link between the Old and New World at least so far as this group of gesneriads is concerned. In the past it has been suggested that intergeneric hybrids in this group are possible, but so far no one has succeeded despite the mention in literature of a nineteenth-century cross of *Mitraria* and *Sarmienta* named "sarmiétraria kewensis". Perhaps one day we will not only be growing *Rhabdothamnus* but "asterthamnus", "rhabdomienta", or "rhabdofieldia" or... well, it boggles the mind.

Gesneriad Register

Judy Becker, Registrar
432 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068

The following Registrations should be added to the Registered Gesneriads List Found in Appendix C of the 1990 Gesneriad Register:

<i>Sinningia</i> 'Country Bittersweet'	IR96489	Marcia Belisle
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Country Snowflake'	IR96490	Marcia Belisle
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Evelyn Ruth'	IR96491	Marcia Belisle
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Fantasy Tau'	IR96492	Marcia Belisle
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Happy Holiday'	IR96493	Marcia Belisle
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Leah'	IR96494	Marcia Belisle
<i>Achimenes</i> 'Mozelle'	IR97512	Keith Jacobson
<i>Smithiantha</i> 'Caroline'	IR97513	Margaret Cass
<i>Smithiantha</i> 'Clarissa'	IR97514	Margaret Cass
<i>Smithiantha</i> 'Red King'	IR97515	Margaret Cass

The descriptions are as follows:

***Sinningia* 'Country Bittersweet'**, 1996, IR96489, Marcia Belisle, Wisconsin, (*S.* 'Super Orange' × *S.* 'Foxfire') F3. Cross made about 1991, first bloomed 1992, comes true from seed. Miniature basal rosette, everblooming. Leaves bright green, ovate, with rounded tip, crenate margins, 1.4" long, 1" wide, with 0.75" petiole. Corolla bright orange, dark red center, 0.9" long, 0.8" wide, salverform. First commercial listing Belisle catalog, 1993.

***Sinningia* 'Country Snowflake'**, 1996, IR96490, Marcia Belisle, Wisconsin, (*S.* 'Snowbird' × *S.* 'Tai Pan' F2). First bloomed 4/13/93. Fertile but does not come true from seed. Miniature, leaves in basal rosette. Leaves green, red backed, ovate with crenate edges, 1.45" long, 1.25" wide, with 0.30" petiole. Calyx green, pedicel 1.4" long with 1 flower per axil. Corolla white, spotted red around throat, salverform, 0.95" long, 0.9" wide. Nearly everblooming. First listed Belisle catalog, 1994.

***Sinningia* 'Evelyn Ruth'**, 1996, IR96491, Marcia Belisle, Wisconsin, (*S.* 'Dolly's Pink' × *S.* 'Abbey's Mother'). Cross made 4/4/91, planted 5/12/91, first bloomed 11/91. Compact rosette, everblooming. Ovate leaves with acute tip, crenate margin, 3" long, 2.9" wide, with 0.75" petiole. Pedicel 1.5" long with 2 flowers per axil. Corolla peach, salverform, 1" long, 1.1" wide. Pollen fertile, but only vegetatively reproducible. First listed 1992, Belisle catalog described "large bright pink flower with purple throat".

***Sinningia* 'Fantasy Tau'**, 1996, IR96492, Marcia Belisle, Wisconsin, (*S.* 'Bonnie' × *S.* 'Tintpulver'). Cross made 12/90, planted 1/29/91, first flowered 9/7/91. Miniature rosette, everblooming. Vegetatively reproduced. Ovate, dark green leaves with red back and veins. Calyx green, pedicel 0.95" long, with 1 flower per axil. Corolla salverform, white, edged pink with pink center, 0.95" long, 1" wide. First listed Belisle catalog, 1993.

***Sinningia* 'Happy Holiday'**, 1996, IR96493, Marcia Belisle, Wisconsin, (*S.* 'Minnie Pearl' × *S.* 'Beauty'). Vegetatively reproduced. Miniature, basal rosette. Leaves medium green with red veins on back, ovate

with acute tip, 0.9" long, 0.65" wide, with 0.2" petiole. Pedicel 0.9" long with 1 flower per axil. Corolla purple with yellow throat, salverform, 0.9" long, 0.8" wide. First listed Belisle catalog, 1995.

***Sinningia* 'Leah'**, 1996, IR96494, Marcia Belisle, Wisconsin, (S. 'Cherry Dumplin' × S. 'China Seas'). Cross made 11/30/90, first bloomed 12/31/91. Vegetatively reproduced. Miniature with leaves in basal rosette. Leaves dark green with red veins, ovate with rounded tip, margin crenate, 2.5" long, 2.0" wide with 0.45" petiole. Pedicel 1.85" long, with 1 flower per axil. Corolla salverform, light pink with darker center, 0.94" long, 1.05" wide. Everblooming. First listed Belisle catalog, 1993.

***Achimenes* 'Mozelle'**, 1997, IR97512, Keith Jacobson, North Dakota, (A. 'Red Elfe' × A. *grandiflora* 'Pink Lady'). Cross made July 23, 1995, seed planted March 3, 1996, first flowered July, 1996. Plant fertile but reproducible only from vegetative cuttings. Plant growth compact, upright. Leaves green with red reverse, 8 cm long, 5 cm wide with 1 cm petiole, elliptic with acute tip and cuneate base, serrate edges. Calyx green, split and star-shaped, 1 cm long, on 2 cm pedicel, with one flower per axil. Flower salverform, corolla with wine-red limb, reddish brown spots in white and gold throat, 5 cm long, 4 cm in diameter. A compact plant with long lasting (4 to 6 weeks) flowers, eventually drying up while still attached to the plant.

***Smithiantha* 'Caroline'**, 1997, IR97513, Margaret Cass, Pennsylvania, (S. 'Maggie' × S. 'Halloween'). Cross made January 1993, planted and first bloomed in 1994. Plant fertile but reproducible only from vegetative cuttings. Plant growth medium size with tendency to produce multiple crowns. Leaves mottled green and red, ovate with acute tip and cordate base, crenate edges, 15 cm long, 12.8 cm wide on 5 cm petiole. Calyx split, green, 3 mm long. Flowers from top of growth. Flowers salverform, top of tube Azalea Pink (38A), bottom of tube and interior Amber Yellow (18C), with pink spots usually in form of rings extending into the throat. Flowers 4.5 cm long, 2.4 cm in diameter, usually with extra petal-like formation on each side of the tube.

***Smithiantha* 'Clarissa'**, 1997, IR97514, Margaret Cass, Pennsylvania, (long line of un-named crosses). Plant reproducible only from vegetative cuttings. Plant growth erect, medium sized with tendency to produce multiple crowns. Leaves medium green, ovate with acute tip and crenate edges, 12.7 cm long, 16.5 cm wide, with 5 cm petiole. Calyx split, green. Corolla salverform, tube rose-pink (Spinel Red 54B) with darker spots and rim around lobes (Fuchsia Purple 67A). Usually an extra petal appears on each side of the tube. Plant material has been given to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.

***Smithiantha* 'Red King'**, 1997, IR97515, Margaret Cass, Pennsylvania, (S. 'Maggie' × S. 'Halloween'). Cross made 1992, planted in 1993 and first bloomed in 1994. Reproducible only from vegetative cuttings. Medium sized erect plant with tendency to form multiple crowns. Leaves dark green covered with red hairs giving a red-brown appearance, ovate, with acute tip and crenate edges, 11 cm long, 12 cm wide with 5 cm petiole. Calyx split and green. Corolla salverform, 2.75 cm long, 2.54 cm in diameter. Top of exterior corolla red (Union Jack 46B), bottom of corolla and interior of tube mottled yellow and red with red spots (Currant Red 46A) on lobes and inside tube. Usually an extra petal appears on each side of the tube. Plant material has been distributed to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses and Belisle's Violet House.



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Sinningia 'Country Snowflake'



Sinningia 'Happy Holiday'



Sinningia 'Fantasy Tau'



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Return to Wahrenonga

Martin Kunhardt, Wahrenonga
Box 144, Merrivale 3291, Natal, Republic of South Africa

Being away for two months is a long time, but the streps during their winter break have remained static except for two species that are flowering now — *Streptocarpus kentaniensis* and *S. polyanthus*. A few seed capsules remain on *S. fasciatus* and *S. rexii*, but most have been reaped and are now in the Seed Fund. Small seedlings that I sowed before I left in June are almost ready to prick out, but the space on the shadehouse tables needs to be increased somehow. I guess that we still have another two months of cool weather before the plants show real signs of growth so I should be able to "make a plan" meanwhile.

Nothing of major significance has happened in the time that I have been away, and I guess that is a blessing. Remember the frantic appeal this time last year when all the shadehouses were smashed under the freak snowstorms? So far this winter there have been two falls of snow that fortunately have been mild and have been above freezing except for one frost in July, but the most notable feature, weatherwise, has been rain in the middle of winter. This has meant that the watertable has been kept very high and the veld plants have started to grow after the veld was burned in late July. Although I have yet to visit some of the wild colonies of *Streptocarpus* species, I'm sure they are showing signs of growth. A couple of nights after I returned to Wahrenonga we had more gentle, soaking rain that has dropped the temperature slightly and has reminded me that we are in winter still. As the family was settling in the sitting room and lighting the log fire in the grate, I was called from where I was going through paperwork in the office. There, curled up next to the wood box in the sittingroom, was a large puffadder that was enjoying the warmth of the fireplace. These reptiles are slow because they are coldblooded and their metabolism slows down so they hibernate during the colder months and appear when the weather warms up. This snake had probably emerged from its lair because the wet weather had reduced the temperatures and made the long sleep unpleasant. Having a household full of people, six dogs and three cats, the danger is that someone would be bitten if we shared the living quarters with creatures like the puffadder. Now it is "sharing" the aquarium with the mice and is safely out of harms way.

The other crisis that I'm sure many people heard about was the disaster that the cyclamen crop suffered after using a toxic potting soil when repotting the entire crop of over 7000 plants. The sale of plants this winter has been slow because the quality of the saved plants has been depressingly low, and I have been unwilling to lower my standards. The legal battle that I hope will result in a cash settlement is still uncertain because as far as I know, nobody else has tried to claim in a similar case to mine, in South Africa anyway. The lawyers don't seem to realise that I want this behind me before I can plan my future crop. The winter months are when the streps are mostly dormant and the cyclamen plants bring in the necessary income. As it is this year, the damage that my plants suffered is depressing and demoralising.

As spring brings an improvement in the growing conditions of everything, streps included, I will be trying to prepare next year's crop of cyclamen.

men and hope that I don't have more hassles to make life difficult. To be honest, I have difficulty staying optimistic when I work to improve my growing areas and the marketplace dwindles as people either emigrate or do not have the money to spend on potplants.

Finally the collection of species *Streptocarpus* is thriving and increasing in number with a least two undescribed species in the seedling stage. During this past year I have applied myself to ensuring that the unique *Streptocarpus* collection is safe against the vagaries of the weather and is now housed under very strong shadehouses. In these "African growing houses", the plants can grow in conditions nearly the same as in their natural habitat.

Wahroonga Update

Martin Kunhardt, Wahroonga
Box 144, Merrivale 3291, Natal, Republic of South Africa

When I was rereading the pile of letters and cards that accompanied the donations and wellwishes from everyone in response to my unfortunate circumstances in July 1996, I had every intention of writing to individuals. However, the problems that I was facing before I came over to Convention in Denver are still with me, as I will try to explain. Each day when I go through the new shadehouses and look at the numerous species that are breaking dormancy, I remember what scenes of utter devastation greeted my eyes on that fateful July morning. There are still signs everywhere that show that all the rebuilding has only recently been completed. Even the streps haven't yet experienced a full growing season without the disruptions caused by the frantic rebuilding efforts around them. This year should see a return to normality, whatever that may be with the weather changing the way it is and changes on the home front.

Without the unselfish contributions from individuals and groups, the *Streptocarpus* collection would not have survived, let alone grown to include some exciting new species and forms. All the frantic efforts to rehouse the collection and replace the cyclamen houses has now staggered to a halt as spring is felt in the air and the new season's crops are prepared. The most depressing outlook that I face is the legal battle I have to recoup the losses I suffered after using a "toxic" potting soil. The reason this saps my energy is that I have had very little support from any quarter within South Africa, and the company responsible has said that it is not willing to settle my claims. This episode has affected my confidence and enthusiasm in growing cyclamen and has led to depression because of the financial implications involved. At each institution that I have approached to either test or to do a report on the "toxic" medium, I have had limited success; most say that any reports they do are not allowed to be used in litigation. This means that it is my word against a heavyweight national company that has limitless financial backing — they can afford to bide their time and hope I will give up and go away.

Without the compensation I am expecting, I have been unable to budget too far in advance. In fact, my income from the cyclamen crop that I am



The shadehouse at Wahroonga in 1989.

sowing now can only be realised this time next year. The streps will provide a limited income as the number of hybrids I sell is few because of the small market in the Natal midlands. The collection keeps my interest stimulated and bolsters my enthusiasm to face each day.

At Wahroonga there have been huge changes in the last year and a half, all helping me to make radical decisions that are affecting my future and that of the "nursery" my father started as a hobby seventeen years ago. After the shock of my father's death and my return to Wahroonga, I searched for a way to turn this nonpaying hobby into a commercial venture. This was achieved by enthusiastically expanding the number of plants, starting to breed my streps and searching for new markets for cyclamen. The reason cyclamen is a valued crop is because there are virtually no growers capable of producing plants accustomed to the climatic conditions in this area. The gesneriad collection my father had built up had suffered because of excessively cold snaps, and I subsequently donated the plants to the University in Pietermaritzburg where they are kept in sophisticated greenhouses. Not long after the gesneriads were rehoused, the freak weather patterns last winter dumped eighteen inches of wet snow on Wahroonga. You are all aware of the damage and devastation that followed and the rebuilding efforts that have taken place here. No matter how many hours I spend with the chain-saw, the garden still resembles a warzone with broken branches hanging from the tree trunks and dead vegetation bearing testimony to Nature's ferocity. At least what I set out to do — to re-establish the *Streptocarpus* collection — has been very successful and the total number of species growing here is greater than anything in the past.

Between the disaster and confusion of the past year and a half there have been other lighter happenings. One is that my mother was remarried in

September 1996, and she and her husband have built themselves a new house a hundred yards from the main house here. This has left my sister Rose, her twins and myself to fend for ourselves. I suppose the added responsibility and financial implications are that I now have to ensure that I can generate an income to keep Wahroonga running smoothly. As with anything there are unforeseen costs, which in my case have made the decision to leave Wahroonga for the next six to seven months and work on the book I have had floating around in my mind, easier to justify.

In October last year, barely four months after the shadehouses were flattened and I had rebuilt the new strep houses, I entertained twenty-three Danish growers at Wahroonga. This was a preplanned visit for the growers to see for themselves the fantastic potential of the wildflowers of the veld, the indigenous grassland. I have always welcomed visitors to Wahroonga where my enthusiasm for what I do can be shared and enjoyed. Highlights of that day were a barbecue and a walk over the hills on Wahroonga to see the spring flowers that are stunning. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate and instead of warm sunshine, the day was cold, wet and misty. The barbecue was a real taste of Africa because the "piece de la resistance" was a marinated porcupine. These creatures weigh about thirty-five pounds and dress out at twelve pounds of succulent pork-like meat. The usual outdoor barbecue had to be brought into the double garage where everyone had an African "Braaivleis" with a difference.

The result of this foreign visit was an invitation to visit Denmark in January/February of 1997 where I was shown new opportunities and I met someone who shares my love of the wilds, streptocarpus and Africa. They say that everything happens for a reason, and I firmly believe that my move to Denmark at the end of September will change my life for the better. Linda, the reason I am taking a break in Denmark, lives in a seventeenth century castle in the Danish countryside. She and I are committed to the welfare of the strep collection, so much so that we have arranged for a young Danish grower to come out and take care of things in my absence. The plants will all be cared for and nurtured until I return sometime later in the year. By then the depressions that I have suffered and lack of confidence will be replaced by a clear picture of where we are headed. In developing the strep collection, I have never been faced with decisions that mean a change in my life such as I am facing now.

To repay the kindness and generosity that everyone has shown in my recent hardships, I hope that the *Streptocarpus* collection can be regarded as belonging to us all, not just the seed but the collecting data and growth habits of plants growing in their natural environment. It is unfortunate and sad that the importance of preserving this unique collection of *Streptocarpus* is not shared by people on the continent which is home to most of the species. However, what has kept me going as the standard-bearer and curator of this collection has been the enthusiasm generated by the Gesneriad "family" — people who have accepted me as "one of their own" and have welcomed me into their homes and hearts. My father would be proud of what we have all achieved and how *Streptocarpus* species and hybrids have become so accessible through the efforts of the Seed Fund in particular. My open invitation stands to everyone who shares my respect for this African gesneriad to accept the offer of an open house and all the different streps they could ever imagine. I may be away from Wahroonga for a while, but the streps will always be here.

Slide Programs

Marlene Beam
1736 S. Oakland St., Aurora, CO 80012-5249

Listed below are some of our most recent and popular slide programs. "Introduction to Gesneriads" is an ideal program to show to other plant organizations to entice potential new gesneriad growers. The videos from Australia would be ideal for smaller meetings held in members' homes. The latest program on the Convention '97 Flower Show will bring you up to date in case you missed our last Convention or simply want to re-live the show once again.

Several of the older programs are no longer being offered as they are missing slides, lack academic quality or precise photography. Promising new programs are planned and will be listed in THE GLOXINIAN as they become available. Sponsors are needed for new and creative programs. Would you or your chapter like to be a producer? Contact Marlene Beam at 303-750-9317 or at the address above. Botanical and photographic knowledge is progression. Growing and planting includes cultivating education.

Applause to all slide program fans for the speedy return of slides and to all those who plan ahead and promptly remit. For those who have not viewed the programs, give your chapter an educational treat. When planning, keep in mind that the peak rush times are September and April/May. New programs bring a surge of requests.

Achimenes (1996) 57 slides

Companion Genera: *Codonanthe*, *Nematanthus*, \times *Codonatanthus*
(Revised 1997) 77 slides

Convention '97 Flower Show (1997) 66 slides

Introduction to Gesneriads (1996) 56 slides

Sinningia speciosa (1997) Video #1 from Australia

Sinningia speciosa (1997) Video #2 from Australia

Streptocarpus by Chris Kunhardt (compiled by D. Trout) 89 slides

The Genus *Sinningia* (1995) 56 slides

To request any program, send a check payable to AGGS for \$20 to Marlene Beam at the address above. Specify the date when the program will be shown and give as much lead time as possible. Your request will be acknowledged, and the program will arrive at least one week in advance of your date. You must return the program via Priority Mail insured for \$100 within five days after your show date.

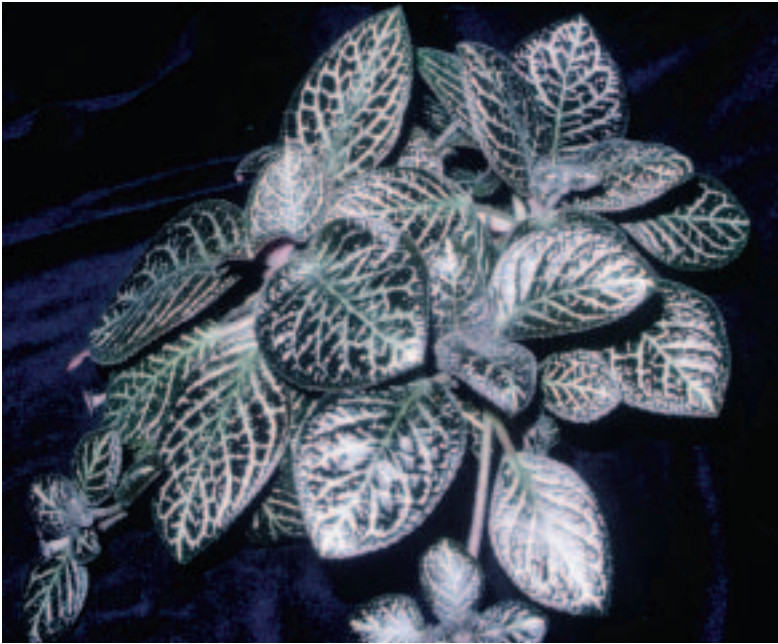
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Episcia 'Longwood Gardens' exhibited by Jean Miller at the Denver Convention.
Photo by Gerard Vriens.

Round Robins News

Suzie Larouche, Chairman of Round Robins

949, avenue des Erables, app.4, Quebec (Quebec) Canada G1R 2M6

Rejoice, you who deplore the way Round Robins disappeared a few years ago — they have come back and are showing every sign that they will grow up to be healthy and fun.

Since the Denver Convention, I have received several requests. It is my pleasure to announce that the first robin on General Growing is doing well and I just started another on the same subject. Among the newborns, there also is one on *Episcias* and Other Gesneriads Grown for Foliage. In addition, other robins are in the making. One more person is needed to start a robin on Rare and Lesser Known Gesneriads and one on *Streptocarpus*. Also, someone asked about a robin on mini-sinningias and other tiny gesneriads. Any takers?

If you are interested in any of those or want to suggest another, please write to me. I answer every letter as fast as I can. I would also like to know about people who are interested in directing a particular robin, which involves a small degree of responsibility and a greater degree of satisfaction for those who enjoy finding more than bills and junkmail in their mailbox.

Write now so that we get enough material to start a regular column in TG that would use the best highlights from all the robins.

Next GRF Study Trip to Amazon Backwaters—Low and High

Dr. Hans Wiehler, Gesneriad Research Foundation
1873 Oak St., Sarasota, FL 34236

Our 13th GRF expedition searching for gesneriads in South America will take us again to Ecuador, to places we have never been before. It is all in the newly named territory of Sucumbios in the northeast of Ecuador. We will be visiting two areas:

- The flat-land Amazonian River area of Rio Cuyabeno (which we will be traversing by motor-driven canoes, staying overnight in travel-agency-owned campgrounds), where the climate is hot and humid, and we will be looking for many gesneriads including the new epiphytic *Drymonia scarlatina* hanging from trees bending over rivers, hopefully displaying its bright red flowers;
- The cool and humid foothills of the Andes around the town of Lumbaqui, altitude of about 1000m, in the land of the proud Indian tribe, the Cofanes, trying to reach the gesneriad-rich area of La Bonita, previously visited by a GRF expedition, where there should be many new species of gesneriads to be found.



Five years ago the rainforest beyond La Bonita was inaccessible. The completed new road will hopefully lead to new gesneriad-rich areas.

The trip will start at the airport in Miami on Thursday, April 16, continuing on to Quito and the lush Hotel Sebastian. The next day an Ecuadorian plane will take us to Tarapoa in Sucumbios. Our agency tour guide and bus will be waiting there to take us to the river, then by canoes to the campgrounds. Five days later the same canoes will return us to our bus for the trip to Lumbaqui, and finally from there back via Baeza to Quito. For those interested in shopping, an excursion to Otavalo might be possible on the last days in Ecuador. We will be back in Miami on the afternoon of April 30.

The cost of the two-week trip is \$2,250 which includes airfare from and return to Miami, transportation, lodging and food in Ecuador. Please register early. For more information, itinerary, or reservation (latest by February 28), contact the GRF at the address above or by telephone or fax at 941-365-2378.

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