

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Gesneriads

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Fourth Quarter 2015



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Henckelia ceratocypus, grown by Bill Price, part of the collection that was awarded Best in Show at the 2015 Gesneriad Society Convention.
Photo: Bob Clark

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"Lombard Street" arrangement by Laura Buckner, Best in Artistic, 2015 Gesneriad Society Convention.
Photo: Winston Goretsky

The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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

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

President's Message



New President Julie Mavity-Hudson with Immediate Past President Paul Susi.
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

Without retaining members and attracting new ones, our Society cannot continue into the future.

IT IS AN HONOR TO BE SERVING AS your new president. Following in the footsteps of Paul Susi is going to be very difficult. I thank him for all the hard work he has done the past four years, leaving things in good shape so that I have a good start for my tenure.

I am writing this shortly after a very successful convention in Oakland, California. The hotel was great, the location excellent, the trips fabulous, and there was so much to learn from all the fantastic talks given by so many interesting and knowledgeable people. It was especially heartwarming to hear the talks given by the students, who are, after all, our future. I attended a wonderful judging workshop and learned a great deal. One of the highlights of every convention is the Gesneriad Hybridizers

Association meeting where we see pictures of new hybrids that are coming down the pipeline. The Board of Directors also did some important work during the convention to ensure the financial stability of our society for the future. While attendance was down a bit from recent conventions, the quality of the show was quite high, and it was wonderful to see all the beautiful and interesting exhibits. Thanks so much to the San Francisco Gesneriad Society for doing such a great job hosting this terrific convention!

We learned a very interesting and heartening fact this year from the talks by Alain Chautems and Mauro Peixoto. The "type" specimen of the genus *Sinningia*, *S. helleri*, long thought to be extinct, has been rediscovered. As someone on Gesneriphiles stated, "it's great when a species is un-extincted." I certainly look forward to this important and really beautiful species coming into cultivation.

I also want to recognize Editor Peter Shalit, who has produced a fabulous journal, with this issue marking three full years for him in this job. I want to thank him personally (and I am sure I speak for all of us) for taking on this enormous task and doing it so well. Every issue has so much great info, and so many fabulous pictures. Thanks, Peter for all your hard work and creativity!

My first action as president was to appoint Paul Susi as Membership Promotion Chair. This is an important committee. Without retaining members and attracting new ones, our Society cannot continue into the future. Please give him your support.

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

From the Editor



WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL “CONVENTION Wrap-up” Issue of *Gesneriads*. You’ll find full coverage here of the 2015 Gesneriad Society Convention, held in Oakland this past July. In addition, there are YouTube videos of many of the flower show exhibits – just go to bit.ly/gescon15 to see them. Of course, there’s plenty more in this issue besides convention reports, so have a look around.

Conventions are the best way to meet other gesneriad friends and see all sorts of amazing plants. Make plans to attend the 2016 Convention in Wilmington, Delaware, and also consider attending the Northeast Regional Show and Sale in Morristown, NJ. See page 46 for details.

This issue marks the end of my third year as Editor. I’ve tried to make the journal as interesting and colorful as possible, and to include information of interest to novice growers as well as more experienced growers and those with a more scientific orientation. Sometimes that’s a challenge in 56 pages. So I have some good news. Your Board of Directors has approved funds in the 2016 budget to increase the size of *Gesneriads* to 64 pages starting with the next issue. I’m excited about having more room – and a little anxious about having the material to fill it.

So I have two favors to ask you as a Gesneriad Society Member. The first is: write and take pictures! If there’s a plant or topic that you’d like to write about, please be in touch. We’re always looking

for material for the journal. The second favor is: recruit! Our membership level is stable but it would be so great if our membership could increase. That way the cost of running the Society (primarily the publication and distribution of this journal) could be spread among more people; and more folks would join us in our enjoyment of this wonderful plant family.

Enjoy *Gesneriads*!

Peter

<gesnerieditor@gmail.com>
Seattle, WA, USA

Errata

Three of the photos in the 3Q15 issue may be mislabeled, according to Judy Becker, former Gesneriad Registrar.

Page 25: *Episcia* ‘Noel’ does not look like the description in the Register, which says “Christmas red flowers, bright green unmarked leaves.”

Page 47: The plant labeled *Sinningia micans* is far more likely to be *S. cardinalis* or a hybrid of it.

Page 48: The plant labeled *Sinningia canescens* appears actually to be *Sinningia leucotricha*.

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Convention Board Review 2015

Leonard Re, Recording Secretary ~ <Buffboy@socal.rr.com>
Fountain Valley, CA, USA

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY HELD ITS 59TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AT the Marriott Hotel in Oakland, California, USA from June 29, 2015 through July 4, 2015.

President Paul Susi presided at the meetings of the Society's Board of Directors on June 30 and July 3. The Annual Membership Meeting convened on Thursday, July 2, 2015. The Board elected the following officers to two-year terms ending in 2017: Julie Mavity-Hudson, President; Mel Grice, Second Vice President; Leonard Re, Recording Secretary. Also, Jo Anne Martinez was elected as First Vice President for a one-year term ending in 2016 (filling Julie Mavity-Hudson's term). The other officers continued in their current positions.

Mel Grice was appointed Chairperson of the Review Committee as Suzie Larouche had resigned this position. Also appointed to the committee were Anne Vidaver, Barbara Festenstein, Stuart Hammer, and Irina Nicholson. Peter Shalit completed his tenure on the Nominating Committee. Doris Brownlie succeeds Peter as Chair, and Paul Susi was appointed to the committee. Upon becoming President, Julie Mavity-Hudson appointed Paul Susi as Chairperson of the Membership Promotion Committee.

In other actions, the Board approved the Society's 2016 budget presented by Becky Fontes, Treasurer.

The Membership voted to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of Directors for the three-year term ending in 2018: Barbara Festenstein, Becky Fontes, Winston Goretsky, Mel Grice, Stuart Hammer, Irina Nicholson, Anne Vidaver. The membership also approved the three bylaw amendments that were presented (full text for each appears in the 2Q issue of *Gesneriads*).

Recipients of the fifth annual Student Convention Grants in attendance were François Lambert (Université de Montreal), Laura Clavijo (University of Alabama), Hong Xin (Anhui Normal University, China), Melissa Johnson (Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, in affiliation with Claremont Graduate University) and Jason Martin (University of Alabama).

Mark your calendars for the 60th Annual Gesneriad Society Convention to be held in Wilmington, Delaware from July 5-9, 2016 at the DoubleTree Downtown – Legal District.



Hybrid Seed Fund



If you did not come to Convention you missed a really good time.

AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE I HAVE JUST RETURNED from the wonderful convention in Oakland, California. The bus tours were lovely. The plants entered into the show were fabulous. I especially liked the unusual varieties of *Primulina*. If you did not come to Convention you missed a really good time.

On another note, I must get back to basics for ordering seed. To ensure that there is no delay for your order, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- ◆ Hybrids or species?
 - ~ Hybrid seed orders come to me.
 - ~ Species orders go to Carolyn Ripps.
- ◆ List your membership number. This is printed above your name on the address sheet accompanying your issue of *Gesneriads*.
- ◆ When listing the seeds you are ordering, be sure to list alternates.
- ◆ Most importantly, include a #10 business size (4" x 9-1/2") envelope. (We have received orders for 25 packets that are difficult to ship in a smaller envelope.)
- ◆ Make checks payable to The Gesneriad Society. If checks are made payable to either Carolyn Ripps or me, we must go to the trouble of depositing to our private account and then writing a check to the Society.

Following these guidelines, which are also listed in each issue of *Gesneriads*, will make filling your order easier and faster for both of us – and you'll get your seeds faster!

Donations from the following are helping the Seed Fund grow: Paulo Castello da Costa, Karyn Cichocki, Keith Dabney, Jill Fischer, Klaus Gilmer, Kenji Hirose, Leong Tuck Lock, Mary Helen Maran, Hung Nguyen, Nancy Kast, Mauro Peixoto, Carolyn Ripps, Jay Sespico, Betsy Sherwin, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Bob and Dee Stewart, and Dave Zaitlin. **All donations should be sent to Karyn Cichocki** (see page 45) and NOT to either of the Seed Fund Chairs (Gussie Farrice and Carolyn Ripps).

Send orders for hybrid seed to:

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

Seed Packets — \$2 each

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

Seed Fund – Hybrids

Achimenes (D)

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

Aeschynanthus (B)

- ‘Thai Pink’ × self
- hybrid, large orange/red

Chrysothemis (F,LM)

- *pulchella* hybrid mix
- hybrid mix

Columnnea (B)

- ‘Aladdin’s Lamp’ × self
- ‘Bold Venture’ × self
- ‘Fujiyama’ × self
- ‘Malissa’ × self
- hybrids (orange)

Episcia (H,L,B,F)

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

Eucodonia (D,F,P)

- verticillata* ‘Cecilia’ × *Eucodonia* hybrids
- reverse crosses
- hybrid 1
- hybrid 2
- hybrid 3
- hybrid mix

Gesneria (H,F,L)

- citrina* hybrid × self
- ‘Flashdance’ × self
- ‘Sundrop’ seedling × self

Kobleria (D)

- bondensis* hybrid × ‘Bermuda Red’
- hybrid mix

Microchirita

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

Nematanthus

- ‘Cheerio’ × self

Primulina

- ‘Dreamtime’ × self (sp. ‘New York’ × *flavimaculata*)

Seemannia

- ‘Medusa’ × self
- sylvatica* hybrid × self

Sinningia (D)

- (*aggregata* [yellow] × *sellovii*) × self
- (*bullata* × *leopoldii*) × self
- canescens* × *leucotricha* ‘Max Dekking’
- cardinalis* × *glazioviana*
- cardinalis* ‘Innocent’ × *iarae* (LM)
- (*cardinalis* ‘Innocent’ × *iarae*) × self
- (*cardinalis* × *iarae*) × self
- cardinalis* × double orange hybrid
- (*cardinalis* ‘Skydiver’ × *iarae*) × self
- conspicua* × *cardinalis*
- eumorpha* hybrids mix (F,R)

- (*eumorpha* ‘Saltao’ × *piresiana*) × *conspicua*
- glazioviana* × *leopoldii* F2 (LM)
- guttata* × *aggregata* (yellow)
- guttata* × *speciosa* ‘Cabo Frio’
- (*iarae* × *cardinalis* compact) × self
- leopoldii* × *iarae*
- (*leucotricha* × *bulbosa*) × self
- (*leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × *leopoldii* × self
- (*leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × self
- leucotricha* × *piresiana*
- sellovii* small pink hybrid × self
- (*sellovii* × ‘Apricot Bouquet’) × self
- sellovii* × ‘Peridots Sand Pebbles’
- (*sellovii* × *tubiflora*) × self
- (*tubiflora* × ‘Apricot Bouquet’) × (*sellovii* × *tubiflora*)
- (*tubiflora* × *incarnata*) × self
- ‘Anne Crowley’ × self (F,L)
- ‘Apricot Bouquet’ seedling × ‘Apricot Bouquet’ (LM)
- ‘Apricot Bouquet’ × self (LM)
- (‘Apricot Bouquet’ × self) × self (LM)
- (‘Apricot Bouquet’ seedling) × *conspicua* (F,L)
- (‘Apricot Bouquet’ × self) × (*conspicua* × *eumorpha*) (F,L)
- ‘Apricot Bouquet’ hybrids
- ‘Arkansas Bells’ × self
- ‘Beata’ × self (*leucotricha* × *leopoldii*)
- ‘Bewitched’ × self (F,L)
- ‘Bleu Ciel’ × self
- ‘Butterfly Kisses’ × self
- ‘Cindy-Ella’ × self
- ‘Claire’s Choice’ × self
- ‘Connect The Dots’ × self (mini)
- ‘Delta Fox’ × self (F,P)
- ‘Diego’ (red) (F,L)
- ‘Diego’ (pink)
- ‘Dollbaby’ × self
- ‘Doris’ F3 × self
- ‘Elin’ × *leucotricha*
- ‘Flamenco Apricot Bouquet’ × self
- ‘Fuzzy Bear’ × self
- ‘Good Pink’ × self (F,L)
- ‘Gyllenblom’ × ‘Raketbain’
- ‘Jubilee’ × self (F,L)
- ‘Krezdorn Yellow’ × self (L)
- ‘Krishna’ × self
- ‘Lavender Crest’ × self
- ‘Little Imp’ × self (F,P)
- ‘Little Redhead’ × self
- ‘Maiden’s Blush’ × self (F,P)
- ‘Mother of Pearl’ × self (F,P)
- ‘Mothers Day’ × self (F,L)
- ‘Ozark Pink Petunia’ × self
- ‘Pale Beauty’ × self (L)
- ‘Peridots Blazer’ × self
- ‘Piglet’ × self
- ‘Pink Pearl’ × self
- ‘Premier Pink’ × self (F,P)

- 'Pure Pink' × self (F,P)
- 'Purple Crest' × self
- 'Raketbain' × self
- 'Romanza' × self
- 'Ruby Red' × self (F,P)
- 'Scarlet O'Hara' × self
- 'Scarlet Sunset' × self (F,P)
- 'Super Orange' × self
- 'Tampa Bay Beauty' × self (L)
- 'Ted Bona' × self (F,P)
- 'Treva McDaniel' × self
- 'Vevette' × self
- 'Winkie' × self
- 'Xanadu' × self F2
- hybrid (peach) × self
- Super Mini F5
- 'Georgia Sunset' hybrid mix
- "Hummingbird Mix"
- miniature hybrid mix (F,P)
- miniature hybrid mix (lav/purple) (F,P)
- pink hybrid mix
- peloric hybrid mix
- peloric hybrid mix, red

Sinningia speciosa hybrids (F,R)

- blue × self
- mini
 - lavender
 - pink
 - purple
 - red
 - rose
 - white
 - white × red
- pink & rose pink
- pink dwarf
- purple peloric
- purple w/spots
- purple × pink
- red w/spots
- red w/white edge
- white w/red spots
- white/lavender
- "California Minis"
- Chiltern hybrid
- blue slipper
- blue slipper × self
- lavender & pink slipper × self
- lavender slipper
- pink slipper
- red slipper
- AC1503 × *speciosa* 'Regina'
- blue mix
- orchid/purple mix
- pink mix
- pink/white mix
- pink & white slipper
- pink and white × purple
- purple
 - purple × red
 - red mix
- slipper mix
 - Charles Lawn hybrid mix
 - Empress Mixed

Jack Evans purple mix

'Regina' hybrid

Small's dwarf mix

mixed hybrids

Smithiantba (D)

- 'An's Sognare Firenze' × self
- 'An's Sognare Firenze' × *zebrina*
- 'Big Dots Rule' × 'Vivian's Gift'
- 'Jan's Surprise' × 'Tropical Sunset'
- light orange hybrid × 'An's Antique Print'
- 'Little One' (F,L)
- 'Sassy Redhead' × 'An's Sognare Firenze'
- 'Vivian's Gift' × self

Streptocarpus

- 'Amy' × self
- 'Bethan' × self
- 'Black Panther' × self
- 'Bristol's Charm' × self
- 'Bristol's Daisy Jane' × self
- 'Bristol's Gum Drop' × self
- 'Bristol's Hey Mei' × self
- 'Bristol's Hot Rod' × self
- 'Bristol's Ice Castle' × self
- 'Bristol's Luv It' × self
- 'Bristol's Popsicle' × self
- 'Bristol's Ripe Melon' × self
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × self (V)
- ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Bristol's Leopard Skin') × self
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Charlotte'
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Coral Flair' (V)
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Emily's Song'
- 'Cape Beauties' × self (F,P)
- ('Cape Essence' × 'Iced Pink Flamingo') × unnamed hybrid
- 'Charlotte' × self
- 'Charlotte' × 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon'
- 'Crystal Wonder' × self
- 'Demeter' × self
- 'Electric Blue' × self
- 'Elegance' × self
- 'Ella Mae' × self
- 'Ella Mae' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Falling Stars' × self
- 'Fancy Pants' × self
- 'Fernwood's Cherries Jubilee' × self
- 'Fernwood's Fairy Princess' × self
- 'Festival Wales' × self
- 'Fleischle Princesse' × self
- 'Fleischle Roulette Cherry' × self
- 'Franken Dainty Lady' × self
- 'Franken Jane Elizabeth' × self
- 'Franken Stacey' × self
- 'Good Vibrations' × (*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed)
- 'Hera' × self
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Guidelines'
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Bristol's Leopard Skin')
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Paper Moon'
- 'Jane Elizabeth' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Jenny' × self

- 'Ken's Purple' × self
 'Keri's Purple' × self
 'Kim' × self
 'Kitten Face' × self
 'Midnight Flame' × self
 'Mini Pink Fu' × self
 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × self
 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × 'Iced Amethyst Showoff'
 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × 'Velma'
 Pale lilac netted × self
 'Park's Holiday Hybrid' × self
 'Party Doll' × self
 'Passion Pink' × self
 'Pegasus' × self
 'Persephone' × self
 'Piment Ornamental'
 'Pink Ice' × self
 Polish Mini #2 × self
 'Royal' (red)
 'Royal' (white/pink stripes)
 'Sandra' × self
 'Scarlet Glitter' × unknown
 'Somerset Purple Ice' × self
 'Spooky' × self
 'Stacey' × "Blue Variety"
 'Stonewashed' × self
 'Sue mini' × self
 • 'Suzie' × self
 'Texas Hot Chili' × 'Burgundy Ruffles'
 'Thalia' × self
 • 'The King' × self
 'Velma' × self
 'Wow' × self
- (*confusus* ssp. *confusus* × *polyanthus* ssp. *verecundus*) × self
 • *johannis* × unknown
 • (*montigena* × *rexii*) × self
 (*polyanthus* ssp. *polyanthus* × *prolixus* JT04-11) × self
 (*primulifolius* × *rexii*) × self
 • *rexii* × *gardenii*
rexii hybrids
 • Wiesmoor hybrids
 hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines
 • hybrid, lg purple
 hybrid, lg white
 hybrid, lg mixed colors
 hybrid, pink/pink
 hybrid, red
 hybrid, red × self
 hybrid, white/pink × self
 hybrid mix
 Dibleys Dragon Mix
 Dibleys Pink Bouquet Mix
 New Zealand hybrid mix
- Streptocarpella* Subgenus**
- hybrids
 - 'White Butterfly' × self
- Intergenerics**
- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia macropoda* MP 944
- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia reitzii* MP 949
- × *Gloximannia* 'Circe' × self
- Mixed gesneriad hybrids**
- denotes LIMITED quantities

Seed Fund Key

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

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Gesneriads by the Golden Gate – California, Here We Are!

Sally Robinson ~ Poulsbo, WA, USA ~ <sm_robinson@me.com>



WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN STATE! GESNERIAD travelers arrived in Oakland to cheerful greetings at the Marriott Oakland City Center Hotel and Convention Center. Everyone associated with our visit to Oakland, including bell captains, taxi drivers, desk staff, housekeeping, servers, and hosts for our events was positive, kind, and happy to help make our convention experience a good one. Of course, I enjoyed complimenting the championship achievements of the local NBA basketball team, the Golden State Warriors. The smiles back were electric.

Our convention host chapter, the San Francisco Gesneriad Society, did a masterful job of getting us oriented to major Bay

Area attractions and the marvelous public transit options. Local Convention Chairperson Alan LaVergne wrote a very thorough introduction to the Bay Area in the attractive program booklet, which had been skillfully designed by Hung Nguyen. It was also fun to read name badges and be able to identify the 15 “first timers” (out of a total of 142 registrants) for this convention.

Convening on Monday morning for a day-long field trip we encountered TehShan Lee, trip leader along with Tommy Liu, hauling cases of drinking water to the bus and van. She is a great communicator and alerted us to the need to keep hydrated. We would need this advice. As we set off, the San Francisco skyline seemed shrouded in the “marine layer,” but not to worry. Treated to the fast lane over the Bay Bridge, we had a very

comfortable visit to the Strybing Arboretum, the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park. Our docents were truly experts and we were fortunate in having Don Mahoney, Curator Emeritus, with one of the groups. Don has had a long and distinguished career with the Garden. Some of us took the opportunity to visit the nursery facility as well. Then, after a great box lunch in the sunshine, we were off to the National Park Service viewing site for a photo op at the Golden Gate Bridge where iconic images were recorded. Many of us were pleased to see all of the options that were afforded park visitors, from shopping to biking.

The second half of the trip took us over the Golden Gate Bridge, past towns in Marin County, and we crossed the Bay again, this time headed east on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge on our way to Annie’s Annuals Nursery near Richmond for more amazing horticulture. It seemed like acres of outdoor plants under various degrees of



On the bus. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

**From first-time attendee
Keith Dabney:**

The recent Oakland Convention was my first. Seeing and meeting various other members I have also known about for a couple of decades was amazing. It was like attending the Oscars for me! ALL of the members I was able to meet and chat with were great! The lectures and workshops were well run, informative, and entertaining. I learned a lot, came home with great plants, rhizomes, and seeds, and was able to enjoy giving away and donating plant material to the sale, too.



Eager buyers line up outside the plant sale.
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

shade cloth, all ready for planting in the USDA Zones of your choice. The establishment was so well organized that it was easy to follow the guidance of a very nice catalog. Back in Oakland in time for dinner, groups formed to find restaurants in the community where many good international choices were nearby.

The 59th Convention began officially on Tuesday, June 30, with a morning meeting of the Board of Directors. That afternoon we boarded the buses bound for the Ruth Bancroft Garden near Walnut Creek. Inland areas around the Bay are much warmer, and a drought had stressed everything, so it was fortunate that Mrs. Bancroft had chosen succulents as her specialty. As our docents walked us around and told the history of the garden and planting designs, they also explained that, at 107 years of age, Mrs. Bancroft still lives in her home on the property. Apparently she was actively supervising the garden and planting choices until about ten years ago – food for thought.



Dolly Yeh, Olive Ma Robinson, Kenji Hirose, Vivian Lu, Lan Wu.
Photo: Dale Martens

Speaking of food, the chefs and staff at the Marriott did very well by us all week, beginning with the welcoming buffet dinner on our return from Walnut Creek. After dinner, two convention programs were in store. First, a tuber talk, “Confessing Our Sins,” was moderated by Alan LaVergne with panelists Dale Martens, Peter Shalit, Ruth Coulson, and Bill Price. An interesting aspect of gesneriad growing is how plants respond to differing horticultural conditions. The second program, on social media, was moderated by Paul Susi with an emphasis on outreach to all gesneriad enthusiasts.

On Wednesday morning, July 1, Mary Helen Maran and her crew continued convention registration. Did you know there were 18 Canadian members celebrating Canada Day with us? We also enjoyed meeting members from Australia, Brazil, China,



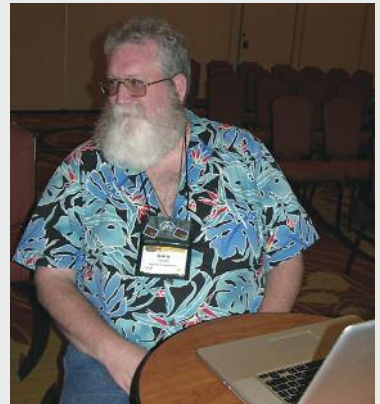
Julie Mavity-Hudson presented her photography lecture
Photos this page: Stephen Maciejewski



Professor Wei Yi-Gang presented his lecture



Convention Committee: Jeanne Katzenstein, Jo Anne Martinez, and Mary Helen Maran



Gary Turner ran the presentations from his laptop

Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, and Taiwan. Judges training sessions for all levels were scheduled for the morning, conducted by Arleen Dewell, Dale Martens, and Paul Kroll. The luncheon between class sessions honored chapters and members, with time to also acknowledge those chapters providing table favors. Each meal had a special flair; Calgary took good care with Canada Day. Congratulations to Table Favors Chairperson Debra LaVergne and the volunteers. After lunch, session two of judging school and the Judges Interest Group meeting were led by Arleen Dewell. We adjourned to hear Alain Chautems and learn more about Brazilian Gesneriaceae. It is always fun to hear from Alain, who, I believe, reassured us that there are no major classification changes to report ... for now. We also learned that *Sinningia helleri*, the type specimen for the genus and thought to be extinct, had been rediscovered last April (not very far from "Reserva Biológica do Tingua" at less than 50 miles in a straight line from the city of Rio de Janeiro).

Wednesday evening Dale Martens did her usual great job at the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association meeting with an update on hybridizing around the world. Dale acknowledged all those who provided plant material for the GHA raffle for the attendees to choose from and grow on. The GHA meeting was followed by the Conservation Committee meeting, hosted by co-chair Stephen Maciejewski. Fifteen-minute presentations on gesneriad conservation efforts were given by Professor Wei Yi-Gang (the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China), Mauro Peixoto (Brazil), Hong



Growers Forum: Bill Price, Ruth Coulson, Peter Shalit, Dale Martens. Photo: Bob Clark



The Swedish Contingent: Ingrid Lindskog, Lena Klintberg, Maike Lundberg. Photo: Peter Shalit



Carolyn Rippis at the Seed Fund Sales Table. Photo: Bob Clark

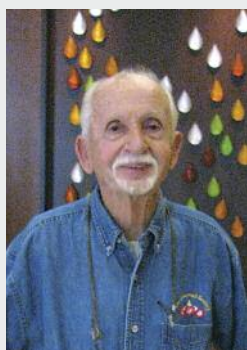
Xin (China); Mary Jo Modica (Ecuador), and Melissa Johnson (Fijian Islands). Overheard near the elevator: “this was one of the best conservation meetings ever.”

Thursday, July 2, was the time for Flower Show entries and Auction donations. It was a busy time for the Flower Show Chairperson Paulo Castello da Costa and his team. The show was staged with 178 high-quality entries from 33 exhibitors in the categories of Horticulture, Artistic, the Arts, and Education. The afternoon brought the first of two presentations (the others took place on Friday afternoon) by the students whose attendance at convention was made possible by grants from the Students and Speakers Convention Fund. They presented their findings about a variety of genera, namely, *Drymonia*, *Resia*, *Cremospermopsis*, *Gesneria*, *Cyrtandra*, and *Primulina*. Ron Parsons then presented the first full lecture, “Botanical Adventures in Colombia and Ecuador.” Ron’s talk highlighted the challenges faced and resolved by field explorers in photographing and identifying plants.

The Annual Membership Meeting is always interesting and important. This is the time for Society officers, committee chairpersons and staff members to bring the membership up to date on Society activities. This year the membership was asked to discuss and vote on three amendments to the bylaws. President Paul Susi, who was completing his term in office, was feted appropriately by Molly Schneider who presented him with a hand-painted plate of *Kohleria* ‘Silver Feather’. Awards of Appreciation were presented to and graciously accepted by Mel Grice and Alan LaVergne.



Local Convention Chair,
Alan LaVergne. Photo:
Stephen Maciejewski



Michael Kartuz. Photo:
Stephen Maciejewski



Mauro Peixoto and Alain Chautems
Photo: Peter Shalit



Student Speakers: Hong Xin, Jason Martin, Laura Clavijo, François Lambert, Melissa Johnson
Photo: Peter Shalit

From first-time attendee Melissa Johnson:

I had a really great experience at my first Gesneriad Society conference. Everyone was very welcoming and friendly, and the audiences at both of my talks were enthusiastic and asked some really good questions. One of the highlights for me, aside from talking with folks about my research, was serving as a clerk at the flower show. It gave me the opportunity to learn more about other gesneriads, as well as the criteria for judging. I also really enjoyed the variety of presentations given on conservation, field collections, and even photography. Thank you again for inviting me as a presenter this year! I had such a wonderful time, and I can't wait to see everyone again at the next conference!

The dinner meeting was adjourned and we went to hear Lena Klintberg and friends talk to us about “Gesneriads with a Swedish Accent.” Lena gave a splendid presentation of gesneriads in various European botanical gardens and her style and refreshing sense of humor truly held the audience’s attention. It is not easy to keep everyone happy and interested with early plant sales numbers ready to pounce on the sales room!

Speaking of Plant Sales, Mel Grice and Betsy Gottshall did a great job in setting up the room and Leonard Re made sure that the flow of members into the room was kept under control. If it was seeds you wanted, Carolyn Ripps and Gussie Farrice were there to assist, cheerfully and accurately, as usual.

When Friday dawned it was time for breakfast and Bob Clark’s instructions for the judges and clerks; then on to judging the show. I found this a special experience since there is so

much for a Student Judge like me to learn and enjoy. The show itself would open in the afternoon for all to view. The Board of Directors held a brief meeting to finalize the budget and elect officers, among them Julie Mavity-Hudson as the new president of the Society. The evening program was the Flower Show Awards Banquet, where it is always fun to see us all dressed up. Mike Kartuz was the MC and he treated us to an informative and entertaining trip down his memory lane of experiences in the world of gesneriads. Paul Lee, Awards Chairperson, presented class and special awards to the many deserving exhibitors. As soon as the awards ceremony ended, it was on to the show room for opportunities to congratulate everyone.

When I get the chance to judge or clerk, I always enjoy the early Saturday morning Judges Critique. There is a lot to be learned in every class, with questions and comments in order. There were two more intriguing presentations on Saturday.

**From first-time attendee
Mary Jo Modica:**

In a word, I was inspired:

- ~ By the quality and beauty of the plant material;
- ~ By the commitment of the members to insure the conservation and distribution of these beautiful plants;
- ~ By the amazing discoveries and work the students, explorers and conservationists are doing;
- ~ By the teamwork and tireless effort of the Society members to organize an interesting and seamless convention;

But most of all, I was inspired by the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere offered by each person I met. I felt perfectly comfortable and at home during all events.



Dale Martens at the GHA Meeting
Photo: Peter Shalit



Local members Tommy Liu and TehShan Lee
Photo: Peter Shalit

Julie Mavity-Hudson's talk on how to "Take Great Pictures of Your Gesneriads" was another excellent, educational, and entertaining presentation. Perhaps, I really can do this. Also, it is always interesting to imagine the challenges faced by Mauro Peixoto in his explorations to find and conserve his "Brazil Plants and Plants in Brazil." He is another wonderful resource person. It should be noted that host chapter member Gary Turner volunteered to operate the audiovisual equipment for all the convention presentations. He did a great job and we all owe him a hearty "thank you!" The final luncheon at convention followed, with lively entertainment. Auctioneer Bill Price and friends held forth coaxing people to covet the delights of owning award-winning plants and to make generous bids in order to win them!

One quick final view of the show and then the various committees-in-charge broke down all the props, then packed the boxes and vehicles. Anticlimax? Not really, because the Vancouver Chapter table favors provided us with light sticks for the July Fourth celebration on the top floor of the Marriott Hotel that evening. A clear night and a cordial group of friends with whom to unwind while fireworks from all around helped us once more celebrate **Gesneriads by The Golden Gate!**

Flower Show Awards

Paul Lee, Awards Chairperson ~ <evelyn.lee2@yahoo.ca>
Fergus, Ontario, Canada

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THIS WAS MY LAST YEAR AS CONVENTION flower show Awards Chair. Paul Susi will be taking over the position for next year, and I wish him good luck in his new position.

Everyone has been so generous with their donations, which has made my job a little easier as I have not had to split the donations to fit the number of awards that I needed. I will miss taking part in the awards banquet where people are so grateful to receive their well-deserved awards, to their surprise and delight.

This year a few donated awards were not used, because in some classes there were either no entries or no blue ribbons awarded. The names of those individuals and chapters whose donations were not presented this year appear at the end of this article.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way. It has been an honor.

SPECIAL AWARDS

SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Bill Price with 17 blue ribbons, an award from the New England Chapter in memory of Jessie Crisafulli, and an award from Karyn Cichocki

RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Arleen Dewell with 3 blue ribbons, an award from Paulo Castello da Costa

BEST IN THE HORTICULTURE DIVISION – to Bill Price for his Selection of Asian Genera Collection, an award from the Long Island Chapter in honor of Paul Susi in appreciation for his dedicated service to the chapter and to The Gesneriad Society, and an award from the Liberty Bell Chapter in honor of Stephen Maciejewski and Russell Strover

RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN THE HORTICULTURE DIVISION – to Bill Price for his *Primulina* Collection, an award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in honor of past and present members, and an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Paul Kroll and Paul Lee, best friends forever

SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC – to Laura Buckner with 3 blue ribbons, an award from Mel Grice in honor of Paul Kroll, and an award from Winston Goretsky

BEST IN THE ARTISTIC DIVISION – to Laura Buckner for her design “Lombard Street”, an award from Winston Goretsky

RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN THE ARTISTIC DIVISION – to Laura Buckner for her design “Jack London Square”, an award from Jo Anne Martinez

BEST IN THE ARTS DIVISION – to Hung Nguyen for his scratchboard picture of *Petrocosmea barbata*, an award from Elizabeth Gottshall in honor of Stephen Maciejewski, and an award from the Heart of America Gesneriad Society in honor of Susan Grose

Class 53 – “Flower Power” exhibited by Judy Zinni. Photo: Winston Goretsky





Class 19 – *Sarmienta scandens* exhibited by Bill Price. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN THE ARTS DIVISION – to Paul Susi for his monochrome print of *Alsobia* ‘Cygnet’, an award from Dale Martens in honor of Alan LaVergne and his *Sinningia* and Friends website, and an award from Julie Mavity-Hudson, in honor of her BFF Carol Ann Bonner

BEST IN THE COMMERCIAL/EDUCATIONAL DIVISION – to Alan LaVergne for his exhibit ‘Jim Steuerlein’s *Sinningia* Hybrids’, an award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Stan Schwartz

BEST IN SECTION A – to Bill Price for *Sinningia tuberosa*, an award from Julie Mavity-Hudson in memory of Robert O’Daniel, and an award from The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society who invite you to the First State for the 2016 Gesneriad Society Convention

BEST IN SECTION B – to Hung Nguyen for *Amalophyllon* sp. RM2006, an award from Connie Leifeste in memory of Richard Holder

BEST IN SECTION C – to Arleen Dewell for *Episcia cupreata*, an award from Elizabeth Varley in memory of Hans Wiehler and in honor of Michael Riley and Molly Schneider

BEST IN SECTION D – to Bill Price for *Primulina* ‘Maxtimer’, an award from the San Francisco Gesneriad Society in honor of Harriette Poss, and an award from Paul Kroll in honor of Judy Zinni

BEST IN SECTION E – to Barbara Elkin for *Episcia* ‘Pink Smoke’, an award from the Grow and Study Gesneriad Society, and an award from Paul Kroll in honor of Karyn Cichocki

BEST IN SECTION F – to Bill Price for *Primulina lobulata*, an award from the Culver City Gesneriad Society, and an award from Julie Mavity-Hudson in memory of her father, Kenneth Mavity

BEST IN SECTION G – to Bill Price for *Primulina glandulosa* var. *yangsbuensis*, an award from Alan LaVergne in appreciation of his *sinningia* mentors Alain Chautems and Mauro Peixoto, and an award from Susan Grose in honor of Alan LaVergne, 2015 Local Convention Chair

BEST IN SECTION H – to Bill Price for *Primulina obbiopogoides*, an award from Sally Robinson in honor of M.J. Tyler, and an award from the Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society

BEST IN SECTION J – to Bill Price for his *Primulina* Collection, an award from Alan LaVergne in appreciation of the many workers on the 2015 Gesneriad Society Convention, and an award from Tom Bruning in appreciation of the long-time support and dedication to the Society by Judy Becker

BEST IN SECTION K – to Judy Zinni for her design ‘Flower Power’, an award from Alan LaVergne in honor of Ingrid Lindskog for her many years of devotion to gesneriad enthusiasts, and an award from Tom Bruning in memory of Marcia Belisle

BEST IN SECTION L – to Paul Kroll for his design ‘Kelp Forests’, an award from Tom Bruning in memory of Monte Watler, and an award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in memory of Monte Water

BEST IN SECTION M – to Laura Buckner for her design ‘Lombard Street’, an award from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society, and an award from Judy Zinni in honor of all her floral design friends whose creativity she admires and who make entering the flower show so much fun!



Paul Lee gives Laura Buckner her award for Best Artistic Arrangement. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

BEST IN SECTION N – to John Wrightson for his Natural Garden, an award from Arleen Dewell remembering Monte Watler, a true gentleman, and an award from Carol Ann Bonner in honor of our hosts, the San Francisco Gesneriad Society, for their hard work

BEST IN SECTION P – to Paul Susi for his monochrome print of *Alsobia* ‘Cygnet’, an endowed award from the Crisafulli Family in memory of Jesse and Anthony Crisafulli

BEST IN SECTION Q – to Hung Nguyen for his scratchboard picture of *Petrocosmea barbata*, an award from Fay Wagman in honor of Peter Shalit, and an award from Rosemary Platz in honor of Arleen Dewell and Paul Kroll

BEST IN SECTION S – to Alan LaVergne for his educational exhibit “Jim Steuerlein’s *Sinningia* Hybrids”, an award from Terri Campbell in memory of Celine Chase, and an award from Sylvia Svitek in honor of Paul Susi for his outstanding leadership in her chapter, the Long Island Gesneriad Society, and the Greater New York Gesneriad Society

JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT – to Bill Price for *Sarmienta scandens*, an award from Judith Fox

JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT – to Bill Price for *Streptocarpus* ‘Blueberries ‘n Cream’, an award from Joan Wood in honor of Jacquie Eisenhut

JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT – to Bill Price for *Primulina ophiopogoides*, an award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Arleen Dewell

JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT – to Stephen Maciejewski for his educational exhibit “*Oreocharis dayaobanioides*”, an award from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in memory of Robert O’Daniel

BEST RECENTLY REGISTERED HYBRID – to Hung Nguyen for *Streptocarpus* ‘Heartland’s White Gold’, an award from the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association

BEST GESNERIAD EXHIBITING FRUIT – to Bill Price for *Cyrtandra* species “Java”, an endowed award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans

BEST SCENTED GESNERIAD – to Bill Price for *Henckelia ceratocypbus*, an award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Jo and Doug Hawley

BEST GESNERIAD SPECIES NATIVE TO BRAZIL – to Bill Price for *Sinningia tuberosa*, an award from Jeanne Katzenstein in recognition of the gesneriad conservation efforts in Brazil by Mauro Peixoto and Alain Chautems

BEST GESNERIAD SPECIES NATIVE TO ECUADOR – to Arleen Dewell for *Episcia cupreata*, an award from Jeanne Katzenstein in recognition of the gesneriad conservation efforts in Ecuador by Mary Jo Modica, J.L. Clark, and David Neill (note that this award was not acknowledged at convention and the cash award will be donated to the Conservation Fund)



Class 1 – *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Merry Christmas’ exhibited by Arleen Dewell. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson



Class 57- "Dim Sum"
exhibited by Laura Buckner.
Photo: Winston Goretsky



Class 31 – *Streptocarpus* 'Little Kan' exhibited by Cindy Eastman. Photo: Winston Goretsky



Class 35 – *Episcia* 'Pink Smoke' exhibited by Barbara Elkin. Photo: Bob Stewart



Class 74 – Scratchboard picture of *Petrocosmea barbata* exhibited by Hung Nguyen.
Photo: Winston Goretsky

BEST GESNERIAD SPECIES NATIVE TO SOUTH CHINA – to Bill Price for *Henckelia ceratoscyphus*, an award from Jeanne Katzenstein in recognition of gesneriad conservation efforts in South China by Stephen Maciejewski and the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China

BEST PETROCOSMEA – to Cindy Eastman for *Petrocosmea sericea*, an award from the New England Chapter in honor of Mary Bozoian

BEST PRIMULINA – to Bill Price for his *Primulina* Collection, an award from John Wrightson in honor of Ferris Fordham Murdy

BEST SINNINGIA – to Bill Price for *Sinningia lineata*, an award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Diantha and Al Buell

BEST STREPTOCARPUS – to Bill Price for *Streptocarpus candidus*, an award from the Greater New York Gesneriad Society in memory of Irwin Rosenblum

BEST SINNINGIA SPECIOSA HYBRID – to Arleen Dewell for *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Merry Christmas’, an award from Dave Zaitlin in honor of Bill Price

BEST PERIDOTS HYBRID – to Bill Price for *Kohleria* ‘Peridots Kitlope’, an award from Iain James

BEST PETER SHALIT HYBRID – to Bill Price for *Primulina* ‘Loki’, an award from Bob Clark

BEST TAIWAN HYBRID – to Lan Jiun Wu for *Sinningia* ‘Fu’s Love at First Sight’, an award from Ying-Hua Liu

SECOND BEST TAIWAN HYBRID – to Lan Jiun Wu for *Sinningia* ‘An’s Nyx’, an award from Ying-Hua Liu

BEST CRAFTED ENTRY DEPICTING GESNERIADS – to Hung Nguyen for his scratchboard picture of *Petrocosmea barbata*, an award from Wallace Wells in memory of Marcia Belisle

BEST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – to Paul Susi for his monochrome print of *Alsobia* ‘Cygnet’, an award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans and the many other members past and present who have guided the chapter well over many years

BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY A FIRST-TIME CONVENTION EXHIBITOR – to Vu Thien Tran for *Lysionotus pauciflorus*, an award from the Liberty Bell Chapter in honor of Stephen Maciejewski and Russell Strover



Class 59 – “Kelp Forests” exhibited by Paul Kroll. Photo: Winston Goretsky

CLASS AWARDS

SECTION A – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Tuberos

Class 1 – *Sinningia speciosa* ‘Merry Christmas’ – to Arleen Dewell, an award from Nancy Kast in memory of their son, Mark

Class 2 – *Sinningia tuberosa* – to Bill Price, an award from Norah Otto in memory of Emma Lahr, and an award from Judy Zinni in honor of Vincent Woo

Class 3A – *Sinningia bullata* – to Alan LaVergne, an award from Judy Zinni in honor of Arleen Dewell, and an award from Carol Ann Bonner in memory of Robert O’Daniel, a valued member of the Tennessee Gesneriad Society

Class 3B – *Sinningia lineata* – to Bill Price, an award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Paul Kroll

Class 4 – *Sinningia* ‘Amizade’ – to Lan Jiun Wu, an award from Judy Zinni in honor of Bill Price and in memory of Monte Watler

Class 5A – *Sinningia* ‘Peridots Harvest Glow’ – to Bill Price, an award from Irina Nicholson in honor of Paul Kroll, our generous mentor and friend, and an award from Paul Kroll in honor of Betty Tapping

Class 5B – *Sinningia* ‘Texas Gift’ – to Alan LaVergne, an award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Frances Batcheller

Class 6 – *Sinningia* ‘Li’l Georgie’ – to Wallace Wells, an award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in honor of Quentin Schlieder

SECTION B – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

Class 8 – *Achimenes* ‘Aimie Saliba’ – to Hung Nguyen, an award from Judy Zinni in honor of Paul Kroll

Class 9 – *Kohleria* ‘Peridots Kitlope’ – to Bill Price, an award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Mel Grice

Class 13 – *Amalophyllon* species RM2006 – to Hung Nguyen, an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Mel Grice, editor extraordinaire

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

Class 15 – *Columnnea birta* ‘Light Prince’ – to John Wrightson, an award from the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers in honor of present members



Class 49 – *Primulina lobulata*, part of the *Primulina* Collection, exhibited by Bill Price.
Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

Class 16 – *Episcia cupreata* – to Arleen Dewell, an award from Sue and Patrick Smith in memory of Monte Watler

Class 17 – *Rhytidophyllum* ‘Ako Cardinal Flight’ – to Bill Price, an award from Laura Buckner in honor of Arleen Dewell and in honor of the great speakers for this convention

Class 19 – *Sarmienta scandens* – to Bill Price, an award from Paul Susi in honor of Leonard Re, our dedicated recording secretary

SECTION D – Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 21 – *Petrocosmea kerrii* – to Ben Paternoster, an award from Bonita Hutchinson in honor of Miriam Denham who still gently teaches us

Class 22 – *Primulina minutimaculata* – to Bill Price, an award from the San Francisco Gesneriad Society in honor of Sam McKenna

Class 23 – *Primulina* ‘Maxtimer’ – to Bill Price, an award from the San Francisco Gesneriad Society in honor of Sam McKenna

Class 25 – *Saintpaulia* ‘Rob’s Chilly Willy’ – to Leonard Re, an award from Judy Zinni in honor of Doris Brownlie, and an award from the Gateway West Gesneriad Society

Class 26 – *Saintpaulia* ‘Morgan’s Chutney Popcorn’ – to Lori Barrington, an award from Molly Schneider in memory of her plant-loving mother, Loys Marsden

Class 28 – *Saintpaulia* ‘Broadway Star Trail’ – to Leonard Re, an award from Paul Kroll in honor of Mel Grice and in memory of Frances Batcheller

Class 30 – *Streptocarpus candidus* – to Bill Price, an award from the Gateway West Gesneriad Society

Class 31 – *Streptocarpus* ‘Little Kan’ – to Cindy Eastman, an award from Sally Robinson in memory of David B. Tyler

Class 33 – *Henckelia walkerae* – to Bill Price, an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Ben Paternoster and Bill Price

SECTION E – Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers

Class 35 – *Episcia* ‘Pink Smoke’ – to Barbara Elkin, an award from Paul Kroll in honor of Ben Paternoster

Class 36 – *Primulina wentsaii* – to John Wrightson, an award from Paul Kroll in honor of his wife Judy and their 50th wedding anniversary, which he is missing to be at convention

Class 38 – *Columnea* ‘Goldheart’ – to Terri Campbell, an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Rosemary Platz, best roomie ever

Class 39A – *Streptocarpus* ‘Blueberries ‘n Cream’ – to Bill Price, an award from Bonita Hutchinson in memory of past members of the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers, and an award from Eileen McGrath

Class 39B – *Petrocosmea sericea* – to Cindy Eastman, an award from the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society



Class 78 – “Jim Steuerlein’s *Sinningia* Hybrids,” educational display by Alan LaVergne.
Photo: Bob Stewart



Judy Zinni works on her arrangement.
Photo: Bob Clark



Class 8 – *Achimenes* 'Aimie Saliba' exhibited by Hung Nguyen. Photo: Winston Goretsky

SECTION F – New Gesneriads

Class 40 – *Primulina lobulata* – to Bill Price, an award from Susan Grose in honor of Mary Helen Maran, convention registrar and board retreat coordinator, and an award in honor of Treasurer Becky Fontes in appreciation of her hard work on the Society budget and accounting

Class 41 – *Primulina cordata* – to Bill Price, an award from Barb Borleske

Class 42 – *Sinningia* 'WSL's Might' – to Lan Jiun Wu, an award from the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society in honor of current members M.J. Tyler and Sally Robinson for their many contributions to the chapter

Class 43 – Miniature *sinningia* variegated seedling – to Arleen Dewell, an award from Susan Grose in honor of Karyn Cichocki and Jill Fischer for the special judges workshops, and an award in honor of Mel Grice for editing *Gleanings* and *Appraisal*

SECTION G – Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

Class 44 – *Primulina glandulosa* var. *yangshuoensis* – to Bill Price, an award from Sally Robinson in honor of M.J. Tyler

SECTION H – Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads

Class 46 – *Primulina ophiopogoides* – to Bill Price, an award from Sally Robinson in honor of M.J. Tyler

SECTION J – Collections of Gesneriads

Class 49 – *Primulina* Collection – to Bill Price, an award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Bill Price

Class 51 – Selection of Asian Genera – to Bill Price, an award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Mary Bozoian

SECTION K – Arrangements of Fresh-Cut, Dried, and/or Growing Gesneriad Material

Class 53 – "Flower Power" – to Judy Zinni, an award from the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society in honor of current members M.J. Tyler and Sally Robinson for their many contributions to the chapter, and an award from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society

Class 54 – "Muir Woods" – to Judy Zinni, an award from the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society

Class 55 – "Jack London Square" – to Laura Buckner, an award from Barbara Festenstein, and an award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Mary Bozoian

SECTION L – Arrangements of Fresh-Cut Gesneriad Material

Class 56 – "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" (Challenge Class) – to Paul Kroll, an award from Bill Price in honor of Dave Zaitlin



Monochrome print of
Alsobia 'Cygnet'
exhibited by Paul Susi.
Photo: Winston Goretsky

Primulina 'Loki'
exhibited by Bill Price.
Photo: Winston Goretsky



Episcia cupreata exhibited
by Arleen Dewell.
Photo: Winston Goretsky



Above: Best in Show, Bill Price's collection of five Asian gesneriads.
 Left to right: *Cyrtandra* sp. "Java," *Primulina liboensis*, *Aeschynanthus humilis*,
Petrocosmea 'Tiny Tim', *Henckelia ceratoscyphus*. Photo: Bob Stewart

Below: Bill proudly shows off his award-winning collection. Photo: Peter Shalit





Runner-up to Best in Show: *Primulina* collection entered by Bill Price.
Back row, left: *P. drakei*, Back row, right: *P. ophiopogoides*, Center: *P. atropurpurea*
Front row, left: *P. yungfuensis*, Front row, right: *P. lobulata*. Photo: Bob Stewart

Class 57- "Dim Sum" – to Laura Buckner, an award from Barb Festenstein

Class 59- "Kelp Forests" – to Paul Kroll, an award from Irina Nicholson in honor of Bill Price, the Gesneriad Whisperer

SECTION M – Arrangements of Growing Gesneriads

Class 61 – "Lombard Street" – to Laura Buckner, an award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Paul Kroll

SECTION N – Plantings of Growing Gesneriad Material

Class 65 – Tray Landscape – to John Wrightson, an award from Judith Fox

Class 66 – Natural Garden – to John Wrightson, an award from Joan Wood in honor of Jacquie Eisenhut, and an award from Paul Susi in honor of Leonard Re, our dedicated recording secretary

SECTION P – Photography

Class 68A – Color print (parts of a plant) of *Monopyle* species GRE12131 – to Dale Martens, an award from Lan Wu

Class 68B – Color print (parts of a plant) of *Agalmyla parasitica* – to Stephen Maciejewski, an award from Sally Robinson in memory of David B. Tyler

Class 69A – Color print (whole plant) of *Sinningia* 'Salad Days' – to Ruth Coulson, an award from Barb Borleske and from Terri Campbell in memory of Gordon Smith

Class 69B – Color print (whole plant) of *Primulina eburnea* × *Primulina medica* – to Stephen Maciejewski, an award from Judith Fox

Class 70 – Color print (native habitat) of *Primulina spadiciformis* – to Hong Xin, an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Ben Paternoster and Bill Price, and in honor of Mel Grice, editor extraordinaire

Class 71- Monochrome print of *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' – to Paul Susi, an award from Paul Kroll in loving memory of Monte Watler and in honor of Bill Price

SECTION Q- Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 72 – Drawing of *Primulina longgangensis* – to Vivian Liu, an award from Molly Schneider in memory of her plant-loving mother, Loys Marsden

Class 74 – Scratchboard picture of *Petrocosmea barbata* – to Hung Nguyen, an award from Laura Buckner in honor of Bill Price and Paul Kroll

SECTION R – Educational Exhibits

Class 77 – "Finding 'New' Plants in China" – to Stephen Maciejewski, an award from Bill Price in honor of Arleen Dewell

Class 78 – "Jim Steuerlein's *Sinningia* Hybrids" – to Alan LaVergne, an award from Mary Jane Tyler in memory of David B. Tyler

Class 79 – "*Oreocharis dayaoshanioides*" – to Stephen Maciejewski, an award from Bill Price in honor of Paul Kroll

Class 80 – "Gesneriads in the Landscape" – to Stephen Maciejewski, an award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Paul Susi for his service as President of The Gesneriad Society



Sinningia tuberosa exhibited by Bill Price.
Photo: Winston Goretzky

Donated awards from the following were not allocated this year: Patricia Apgar; Lan Wu; Ben Paternoster in honor of Mel Grice; the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers in honor of past members; Arleen Dewell in honor of the 2015 Convention Flower Show Committee; Paul Kroll in honor of Arleen Dewell; Bloomin' Violets and Gesneriads of Palm Beach; Laura Buckner in honor of Barbara Festenstein; Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society; Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society; Irina Nicholson in honor of Thad Scaggs, hybridizer with the magic touch; Sue and Patrick Smith in memory of Monte Watler; Sylvia Svitek in honor of Eileen McGrath who has inspired her over the years with her glorious exhibits; Dariane Joshlin in memory of Monte Watler; Bill Price in honor of John Wrightson; Bill Price in honor of Ben Paternoster.

My Experiences as Awards Chair

Paul Lee ~ Fergus, Ontario, Canada ~ <evelyn.lee2@yahoo.ca>

(Editor's Note: Watching Paul give the Flower Show awards at the Convention Banquet, it seems so easy. Just hand out the awards. But it turns out there is an incredible amount of prep work involved. Here Paul explains what the Awards Chair does in advance of the award ceremony.)



Paul Lee gives Bill Price the Sweepstakes award. Photo: Julie Mavity-Hudson

DURING MY THREE YEARS AS Awards Chair, many questions have arisen regarding this job. I would like to try and answer some of these questions, as well as give some transparency to the whole process. This seems especially pertinent, since I discovered, after doing this job for a while, that it was an important job that hardly anyone knew very much about. I even wrote such to my boss, Arleen Dewell, describing it as a “lonely job!”

To begin with, I start the year off at the end of September by writing an appeal letter for convention awards that will be published

in the January issue of *Gesneriads*. In addition, I make a physical inventory of the ribbons and rosettes by the end of the year, and order more if necessary.

The convention registration information regarding award donations starts arriving in January, and I take note of these as they come in. Furthermore, around the end of January, I write a note to all the Gesneriad Society Chapters requesting them to donate an award, if possible. These donations usually come randomly in the mail; I forward the checks to Becky Fontes, our Treasurer, at the end of each month for deposit. Donations made on our website come to me from “Shopify,” and can arrive at any time. This means that I am not really busy at any particular time, but constantly working on things. I put all the pertinent information (e.g., donor name, address, email, award amount, dedication, plus any special requests for certain awards) on a spreadsheet and keep it up to date.

After registration and awards donations close in June, I get busy sorting out the special request awards, whether they are a division, section, or special award. Endowed awards also have to be entered appropriately. I take the total of awards money, deduct all the above, and see what is left. There are 80 classes that need awards of 10 dollars for BIC, which totals \$800. The section awards, set at about \$30, makes \$570. Because donors have been very generous during my tenure, I have been able to give more awards. Because my goal is to use all the awards money I receive, there are times when I may need to split some donations to even out the awards, so that everyone gets the same amount, more or less. One thing that can be done to help this process is for members to donate in even numbers like \$10, \$20 or \$50. Fifteen and \$25 are a bit of a nightmare to work with, as you would have for \$25 a \$10, \$10, and a \$5 split.

Just prior to convention, I print out the award labels that are placed on 3 × 5 cards. This then gives me every award from Best in Show to Class 80 all in order. I also have to bring all the ribbons and rosettes that I will need to the convention. I take the ribbon box as my carry-on if I am flying, with the cards in my backpack, as I do not want to lose anything. Then, if my luggage is lost I can buy all I need, without losing the important material.

All is quiet until Thursday, after entries close. Around late afternoon, when all the splitting of classes and rearranging is done, I walk around taking note of split classes and also classes where there are no entries. I head back to my room and work on my cards and master sheet, moving the class cards with no entries to a split class, and making notes of where they were moved to and from on my sheet. This becomes very important when I am back home and preparing the Awards List for *Gesneriads*.

Friday is judging day! I put out the ribbons for distribution, and observe the intense activity of people judging. This is when I am often asked if there are any funds available for various judges awards of merit, etc. Knowing what classes were not filled means that I can say yes or no. When some results of judging are in, I get a list of blue ribbon winners and start writing in each plant name on my cards. Then I place them back in the box in order. Once judging is finished, I head to my room and write all the plant names on the rest of the cards. I place each one in an envelope with the winner's name on it, noting the prize money amount on the outside. There are usually a hundred of these or more. That is why I like to do some when the judging is still going on.

When I have finished, I total the award money up and then give the information to Becky so she can write out the checks. Once that is done, I can relax until the show room closes. Then I have to distribute the section and other rosettes. After the meal at the banquet on Friday, I have the honor of presenting all the awards.

I have been asked several times by people why they did not hear their names mentioned as an awards donor. This is because every donation is already allotted to begin with, but not all are given out. This happens when no blue ribbon is awarded in the class/classes selected, and so an award cannot be given out.

I hope this helps to give you an idea of the behind-the-scenes workings of the Awards Chair's job. It probably sounds complex, but I have enjoyed the experience, and it has given me great pleasure to hand over your generous donations to all the well-deserving winners. Thank you to everyone who has helped me, and especially Arleen Dwell, who brought me clarity when I needed it.

Growing and Hybridizing Streptocarpus: Listen to a Pro from the Comfort of Your Home

Do you grow *Streptocarpus*? Would you like to know how to grow streptocarpus species or hybrids better? Or maybe you'd like to try your hand at hybridizing streps but don't know where to start? The Gesneriad Society is now offering you a unique opportunity to listen to one of its own members share her considerable expertise on this subject. Join us online on either October 21 at 9 PM EDT or October 24 at 2 PM EDT as Dale Martens, 2014 winner of Best Streptocarpus and Best in Show at The Gesneriad Society's annual convention, discusses growing and hybridizing *Streptocarpus*.

The Society will launch this modestly priced (\$9.95) venture with one of its best growers, hybridizers and educators. Perhaps you've seen Dale Martens' postings on several discussion groups or read her articles in the journal *Gesneriads*. Now you'll have the opportunity to listen to her and ask her questions through the chat feature incorporated in the technology we'll use to hold this talk.

You can [register](#) anytime up until the day before the live event. You'll receive your unique login link the day before the live event as well as a reminder notice one hour before the event starts. You must be present to listen to the session. Please note that while you can have as many people as you want in the room listening, either through your computer (recommended) or on a speaker phone (where long distance charges may apply), you cannot share your link with others. The unique login link will only admit one computer. We hope to "see you" there.

You can register and pay for the event at the [Gesneriad Society Shop](#).

— Mary Schaeffer

Awards of Appreciation

Molly Schneider, Chair, Awards of Appreciation ~ <molly608sch@comcast.net>



Molly Schneider honors Paul Susi for his four years as President.
Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

AT CONVENTION, THE AWARDS OF APPRECIATION Committee was proud to present a special gift to Paul Susi as he was leaving the presidency of The Gesneriad Society after serving two terms. An active, responsible, reliable president, Paul has contributed to the growth and success of our Society over the past four years.

In 2009 Paul received an Award of Appreciation. At that time he stated that his objectives were to ensure that The Gesneriad Society would have a steady stream of donations in order for the Society to continue to fund gesneriad research and education. All this and more Paul has accomplished during his presidency. As a token of our gratitude and affection, we presented Paul with an Elisabeth Schaefer hand-painted porcelain plate depicting *Kobleria* ‘Silver Feather’. (In 2011 Paul had won a class award with this plant at convention.)

All past recipients of Awards of Appreciation present at the Annual Meeting were asked to stand and be recognized.

Of all those standing, Michael Kartuz had received his award the earliest, back in 1982. Our website lists all the recipients since the awards were started.

Awards of Appreciation 2015 – The criteria for the selection of recipients as stated in our Standing Rules are importance of service rendered, length of service, chair of projects, diligent behind the scenes workers, faithful contributors of gesneriad articles in publications, and any other duties of merit. This year the committee (Arleen Dewell, Michael Riley, and Molly Schneider) gathered ideas and suggestions for potential awardees from all members of the Society. Two deserving individuals were chosen for having spread their knowledge of and enthusiasm for gesneriads in their own way, thereby encouraging membership in The Gesneriad Society. Arleen and Michael each introduced one of the awardees.

Award of Appreciation – Mel Grice

by Arleen Dewell



Mel Grice. Photo: Peter Shalit

IN THE EARLY 1970'S WHEN MEL DISCOVERED our Society, then AGGS, he immediately signed up for life. Today, he's pretty much indispensable.

It wasn't until after his retirement in 2006 that Mel was able to attend his first Gesneriad Society Convention, and since then hasn't missed one. He gives unflinchingly of his time as the Editor of *Gleanings*, our Society's free E-zine. He also edits *Gesneriad News*, the Long Island Chapter's monthly newsletter. Before that he was in charge of Subscriptions and Distribution for *Appraisal*, the Judges Interest Group publication. Then in 2013, Mel added its editorship to his repertoire. He has written many articles for these and many other publications, including the "Family Portrait" column for AVSA's *African Violet Magazine*.

And as if all that weren't enough, Mel is a Master Gesneriad Society judge and recently co-taught his first judging school. He is the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association Seed Fund distributor and currently is growing seedlings from China for the Conservation Seed Growers Committee. He has chaired or co-chaired plant sales at every convention since 2011 and assists the convention's Photography Committee, helping to capture many of the lovely flower show entries for all of us to enjoy.

Mel was a Library Media Specialist during his working life, teaching grades 9 through 12. He served as Media Coordinator for eight schools, supervising all the librarians within the district. He lives in Ohio, where he serves as "personal valet" to four cats. We learned during his presentation in Nashville last year that his home is literally full of gesneriads – all happily prospering everywhere you look.

On behalf of the Gesneriad Society, it is indeed a pleasure to present Mel with an Award of Appreciation in grateful recognition of his many contributions as a Director, Master Judge, Publications Editor, Author, Committee Chairperson, Photographer, and Exhibitor.

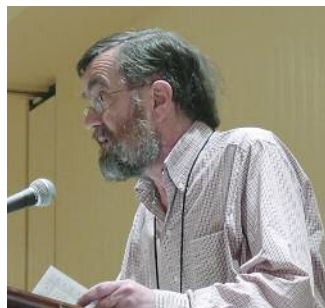
Award of Appreciation – Alan LaVergne

by Michael Riley

WHEN ASKED "WHAT AWARDS HAVE YOU won", our second recipient remarked that he did not win the Nobel, nor the Pulitzer, nor an Oscar, but we might argue with his qualifications for the Most Valuable Player Award. However, our title, is – Award of Appreciation to Alan LaVergne.

Better known as "Farmer Al," Alan is a member of three chapters: about 35 years in the Peninsula Gesneriad Society, about 35 years in the San Francisco Gesneriad Society, and at least ten years a member of Gesneriasterna, although he seldom gets to meetings in Sweden. Alan was a Director of The Gesneriad Society for four years and a speaker at the 2012 Convention. He is a Senior Judge and participated in the Gesneriad Research Foundation trip to Brazil in 1999. He has been Chair of Plant Sales at three conventions, and for this convention Alan is the Local Convention Chair.

Professionally, Alan has a PhD in Mathematics from Stanford University and is a retired software developer. Reading Alan's website "Sinningia and Friends" <<http://www.burwur.net/sinns/sinns.htm>> (don't miss the section on nutrition with recipes for baked tubers with sour cream!) one might think that sinningias are his full-time passion, but he says that his number one interest is his wife, Debra. Beyond that, he considers his interests in piano and writing and ... procrastination. Not to procrastinate any longer, Michael presented a certificate of appreciation to Alan LaVergne in grateful recognition of contributions to the growth and success of The Gesneriad Society while serving as Director, Web Author, Senior Judge, Hybridizer, Plant Sales Chair, and Life Member. Alan's goals ... "Just survive, baby – it's what I tell my plants!"



Alan LaVergne acknowledges his Award of Appreciation.
Photo: Peter Shalit



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2015 Auction – Oakland, California

Paul Susi and Tom Bruning



Tom Bruning announces the auction. Photo: Stephen Maciejewski

THIS YEAR'S LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS netted \$2318 for the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund. Forty donors contributed 67 items to both auctions, which were won by 37 members. Thank you all for another successful auction and we look forward to next year's auction at the 60th Convention of The Gesneriad Society in Wilmington, Delaware.

Donors

Lori Barrington, Carol Ann Bonner, Pam Braun, Emma Bygott, Karyn Cichocki, Ingrid Crews, Keith Dabney, Jon Dixon, Betty Fenerty, Judy Fox, Stuart Hammer, Kenji Hirose, Paul Kroll, Mike Kartuz, Nancy Kast, Connie Leifeste, Stephen Maciejewski, Dale Martens, Irina Nicholson, Hung Nguyen, Norah Otto, Mauro Peixoto, Bill Price, Michael Riley, Carolyn Ripps, David Ruland, Molly Schneider, Peter Shalit, Bob Stewart, M.J. Tyler, Elizabeth Varley, Fay Wagman, Beth Weissman, Wallace Wells, Hong Xin, Wei Yi Gang, Dave Zaitlin, the San Francisco Botanical Garden, California Carnivores, and the Convention Committee.

Winning Bidders

Carol Ann Bonner, Terri Campbell, Paulo Castello da Costa, Alain Chautems, Susan Grose, Rohm Gustafson, Stuart Hammer, Kenji Hirose, Mollie Howell, Nancy Kast, Norma Kunzel, Alan LaVergne, TehShan Lee, Connie Leifeste, Stephen Maciejewski, Mary Helen Maran, Dale Martens, Jo Anne Martinez, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Marianne Moore, Irina Nicholson, Norah Otto, Ben Paternoster, Bill Price, Leonard Re, Michael Riley, Olive Ma Robinson, Jay Sespico, Peter Shalit, Dee Stewart, Elaine Stutt, Sylvia Svitak, Tricia Taylor, Elizabeth Varley, Gil Wood, Joan Wood, Lan Jiun Wu. Jo Anne Martinez won the chance to spend 15 minutes in the plants sales room before it opens next year.

In Memoriam

Sue Hill passed away on Friday July 26, at the age of 95. She was a founding member of the Heart of America Gesneriad Society in the 1970s and a long-term member of The Gesneriad Society.

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Lianka in Cascada del León – Villa Rica

GESNERIACEAE DIVERSITY IN PERU: FROM FIELDWORK TO THE LAB

Lianka Cairampoma Barrós ~ <liankacb@gmail.com>

Editor's Note: The author was a recipient of an NDSSEF grant from The Gesneriad Society. This grant helped fund her work in the field (collecting specimens in Peru) and in the laboratory (at Molecular Phylogenetics and Genetics at the Botanical Garden of Geneva), as part of her Master's project.

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH GESNERIADS WAS IN THE YANACHAGA Chemillén National Park, an isolated chain of mountains from the Andes where I could observe the large diversity of Gesneriaceae and its notable change along an altitudinal gradient from lowland to mountain cloud forest. Later, interested by the interactions that these plants have developed with animals, I documented the pollinators of *Seemannia sylvatica* in the field (Cairampoma & Martel 2013). Through these experiences, I learned that gesneriads are an ideal plant group to monitor diversity and to stress the importance to preserve Peru's natural landscape.

According to the latest inventory (Kvist et al. 2005) 28 genera and 150 species of Gesneriaceae occur in Peru, among which 36 are endemic (Salinas & León 2006). However, the limited knowledge of species boundaries in large genera like *Besleria* and *Columnea* make these estimates rather tentative. Peru is less explored and fewer botanical surveys have been published than neighboring Ecuador. Therefore, increasing collection efforts and applying modern molecular toolkits in systematics are two key steps toward a better knowledge of the Peruvian gesneriads. Thanks to the support from the Nellie D.

Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund I was able to start working on both aspects for my Master's thesis project.

Between August and December 2012, I organized three field trips to the eastern slopes of the Andes where gesneriads are the most species-rich. During these field trips, three departments of Peru (Cusco, Huanuco and Pasco, see map in Figure 1) were visited and a total of 33 Gesneriaceae species and 13 genera were collected. The most collected genus was *Columnnea* (8 species), followed by *Besleria* (5 species), and *Drymonia* (5 species).

My first trip (and the hardest one) started from the coast of Lima (sea level) to the small village of Quincemil (department of Cusco), representing a 1271 km bus drive

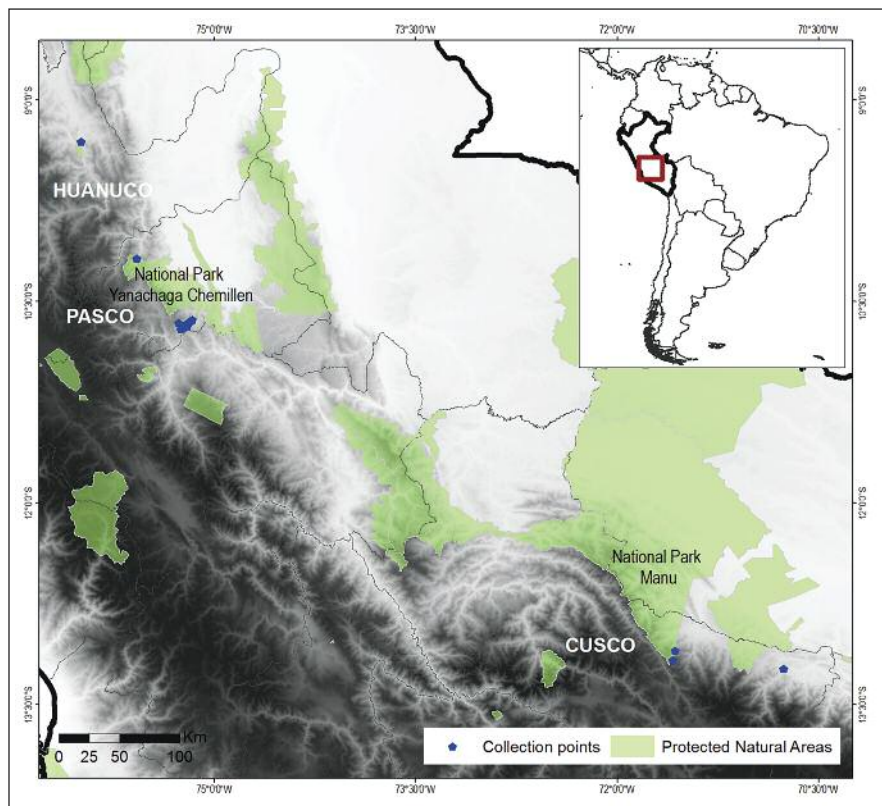


Figure 1. Protected natural areas in central (Huanuco and Pasco) and southern (Cusco) Peru. Blue dots indicate where gesneriads have been collected.

along the curvy roads including a high pass at 4725m (Abra of Pirhuayani) and then a descent to a lush tropical rain forest at 900 m. There, we explored a lowland forest with gaps of secondary forest and hot pepper crops. *Euterpe precatoria* is the most common palm there; also the vegetation includes several species of *Psychotria* (Rubiaceae) and *Siparuna* (Siparunaceae) as well as numerous epiphytes including gesneriads like *Columnnea guttata* and *Drymonia coccinea*. In the understory we collected *Seemannia sylvatica* and species of *Nautilocalyx* and *Monopyle*, but unfortunately most plants were sterile and difficult to identify with certainty.

My second trip to Huanuco was a short visit to the National Park Cordillera Azul, a well-known protected area, located at an elevation of 750 m, with dominant vegetation

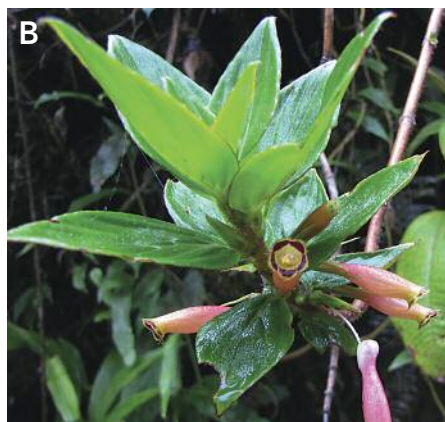


Figure 2. **A.** Mountain forest in Bocaz, Villa Rica (Oxapampa). **B.** *Columnea* indet. in Bajo Bocaz, (L. Cairampoma and D. Martel 93). **C.** *Columnea* indet. in Bajo Bocaz (L. Cairampoma and D. Martel 97). **D.** *Columnea* indet. in Bajo Bocaz (L. Cairampoma and D. Martel 105). **E.** *Besleria* cf. *racemosa* in Cascada León, Oxapampa (L. Cairampoma and D. Martel 107).

of *Ceroxylon* palm trees. The hilly topography of the area harbors many species such as *Columnnea* aff. *peruviana*, *Corytoplectus speciosus*, *Drymonia urceolata*, *Pearcea bilabiata*, and *Seemannia sylvatica*.

The last trip was from Lima to Oxapampa (Pasco). The highest pass along this 396 km bus drive is at 4818m (Ticillo Mountain). At this altitude, even endured travellers may experience altitude sickness, which is due to hypoxia causing dizziness and headaches. In Oxapampa, I visited the mountain forest of Bocaz and Cascada Leon, near the National Park Yanachaga Chemillen. The Bocaz locality (Figure 2A) is a secondary forest, with heavy sloped topography, numerous epiphytes, especially orchids, ferns and of course several *Columnnea* species, among which some are still unidentified (Figure 2B). I also collected other terrestrial gesneriads such as *Kohleria peruviana*, *Corytoplectus speciosus*, *Monopyle* cf. *flava*, and an unidentified *Columnnea* (Figure 2C). I also collected a *Besleria* (Figure 2D), that has thick calyx lobes, a feature I have not observed in other species. Despite an overall similarity with *Corytoplectus*, preliminary molecular results confirm its affiliation to *Besleria*.

In Cascada Leon, a small forest located at 9 km from Villa Rica, I could observe that *Besleria* species are frequent along river banks. At this place, during our search for Gesneriaceae, my field assistant (Deivis Sanchez) and I walked along a trail in search of Gesneriaceae under heavy rain. After a long walk along a river without success, we saw on the opposite bank a group of plants with orange flowers. In the distance, I could not recognize if they were gesneriads. Deivis and I decided to take the chance to cross the river (which because of the rain, had a strong flow). We were very pleased to find a different species of *Besleria* in flower, which could be related to *B. racemosa* (Figure 2E).

The third locality visited in Oxapampa was the Sector Huampal of the National Park Yanachaga Chemillen in the District of Pozuzo (Province of Oxapampa). It is a very dense humid forest, a transition between Mountain Forest and Lowland Forest, with presence of epiphytic plants. Here I found several individuals of *Monopyle* and *Diastema*, as well as *Gloxinia perennis*, *Drymonia longifolia*, *Drymonia* cf. *semicordata*, and *Columnnea purpureovittata*.

After this fieldwork, I could then start the second part of my project that required me to temporarily leave the warmth of the tropics for the winter-cold of Switzerland. I landed in Geneva on the 29th of January 2013 and during the same night I tasted my first Swiss cheese fondue with Alain Chautems and Mathieu Perret. I started my training in the lab of the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens of Geneva the following day. I learned how to use different instruments and various chemicals to decrypt gesneriads DNA, with the help of Régine Niba, the lab technician. In two and half months, I was able to obtain DNA sequences of several regions for most of the specimens I had collected. Phylogenetic analyses of these data are still underway and will contribute to a global project on Neotropical Gesneriaceae coordinated by Mathieu Perret. Beside lab work, I also dedicated time to identify the specimens and exchange pictures with John L. Clark (University of Alabama) who provided help. So far, there are still several unnamed collections in *Besleria* and *Columnnea*. I hope that my ongoing phylogenetic and morphologic investigations will soon provide some clues to resolve these issues and improve our understanding of the diversity of our loved gesneriads.

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Gesneriad Registrations

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



***Streptocarpus* 'Katherine Jeanne'**, 2015, IR151286, hybridized by Bobby G. Nicholson, registered by Jane Laystrom, IL, (*S.* 'Bristols Red Typhoon' × unnamed seedling). Cross made Jun. 2012, planted Oct. 2012, and first flowered Apr. 8, 2015. Reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves medium dark green, 6-7 in. long × 3-4 in. wide with 2 in. petiole, linear with slightly undulate margin, cuneate base, and acuminate tip. Calyx split, green, 0.2 in. Pedicel 0.5 in. with 2 flowers. Corolla salverform, 1 in. long × 2 in. wide, maroon with white picotee edge.



***Sinningia* 'Celestial Mist'**, 2015, IR151287, Sharon Crochet, LA, (*S.* 'His Majesty' × self). Cross made Apr. 28, 2014, planted Jun. 5, 2014, and first flowered Dec. 31, 2014. Reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette, slightly trailing. Leaves medium green with light veining and red underside, 2.25 in. long × 2 in. wide with 2 in. petiole, ovate with crenate margin, cordate base, and acute tip. Calyx split, green, tipped red, 1/4 in. Pedicel 3-4 in. with 1-2 flowers. Corolla salverform, 1.5 in. long × 1.75 in. wide, light bluish purple.



***Streptocarpus* 'Simon's Snowdon'**, 2015, IR151288, Simon Jones, UK, (*S.* unnamed seedling × *S.* 'Bridie'). Cross made May 20, 2012, planted Oct. 2012, and first flowered May 19, 2013. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves dark glossy green, bullate, 23 cm long × 8 cm wide with 1.5 cm petiole, linear with slightly entire margin, cuneate base, and acute tip. Calyx fused, brown/dark purple, 7mm. Pedicel 5 mm with 3 flowers. Corolla salverform, with slight ruffled edges, 5 cm long × 6 cm wide, pure white with lemon yellow lower throat, faint pink lines emerging from the lower throat.



***Primulina* 'SCBG Crown'**, 2015, IR151289, Kang Ming, Liu Juan, Li Dong-Mei, Ning Zu-Lin, Guangdong, China, (*P. fengkaiensis* × *P. lutea*). Cross made Apr. 2013, planted Jul. 2013, and first flowered Mar. 2014. Reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves medium green, hairy, 10-15 cm long × 6.5-10 cm wide with 3.5-6 cm petiole, ovate with entire margin, cuneate base, and acute tip. Calyx split, purple, 1.2-1.8 cm long. Pedicel about 2 cm with 7-10 flowers. Corolla salverform, 4.5-5.6 cm long, tube about 3 cm

long × 3.5-4 cm wide, yellowish, throat with purple marks and 2 yellow stripes, lobes pink or pinkish purple. Bracts broadly ovate, green, 3-3.6 × 2-3 cm, apex acuminate, margin glandular crenulate.



Primulina 'SCBG Rainbow', 2015, IR151290, Kang Ming, Li Dong-Mei, Liu Juan, Ning Zu-Lin, Guangdong, China, (*P. species* × *P. eburnea*). Cross made Apr. 2013, planted Aug. 2013, and first flowered Mar. 2014. Fertile, but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves medium green, hairy, 9-16.5 cm long × 6-12 cm wide with 3-5 cm petiole, ovate with serrate margin, cuneate base, and acute tip. Calyx split, white, about 1.2 cm long. Pedicel about 2 cm with 9-20 flowers. Corolla salverform, 4.2-4.5 cm long, tube about 2.5 cm long × 2.5-2.8 cm wide, purple, throat with yellow and dark purple stripes, margin of corolla lobes dark purple,

middle of corolla lobes pale purple, light yellow, or white. Bracts broadly ovate, green, 2.5-3 cm × 2.5-3.5 cm, cymes 1-2 branches with 9-20 flowers.



Primulina 'SCBG Red Butterfly', 2015, IR151291, Ning Zu-Lin, Li Dong-Mei, Liu Juan, Kang Ming, Guangdong, China (natural variation of *Primulina eburnea* found in Jianghua county, Hunan province). Fertile, but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves deep green, hairy, 8.5-15 cm long × 4.2-8.5 cm wide with 1.5-4 cm petiole, ovate with entire margin, cuneate base, and acute tip. Calyx split, linear-lanceolate, red-purple, 8-10 mm long. Pedicel 1-1.5 cm with 4-5 flowers. Corolla salverform, 3.8-4.5 cm long, tube

2.2-2.5 cm long × 2.8-3.2 cm wide with 1.2 cm orifice, violet, outside densely glandular villous, bracts broadly ovate, bright red, 3.5 cm × 2-3.8 cm.



Primulina 'SCBG Purple Cloud', 2015, IR151292, Li Dong-Mei, Ning Zu-Lin, Liu Juan, Kang Ming, Guangdong, China, (*P. species* × *P. heterotricha*).

Fertile, but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves medium green, hairy, 9.5-12 cm long × 2.5-3.5 cm wide with 2-3.5 cm petiole, narrowly elliptic with entire margin, cuneate base, and acute tip. Calyx split, green, 2-2.2 cm long. Pedicel 1.5-1.8 cm with 5-7 flowers. Corolla salverform, 4.2-5 cm long, tube 3-3.2 cm long × 2.2-2.5 cm wide, lilac to pinkish

purple, inside tube with two light yellow stripes, base of upper lip with one bright yellow patch. Cymes 2-3 branches with 5-12 flowers.



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Botanical Review No. 41

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



***Petrocodon confertifolius* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Guangdong, China.** Hui-Qin Li and Ying-Qiang Wang. Ann. Bot. Fennici: 27-32 30 January 2015.

Many of our members will be scarcely cognizant of the existence of the genus *Petrocodon*. Those who have been to certain conventions may recall the beautiful *Calcareoboea coccinea* grown by Bill Price; this plant has recently been renamed to *Petrocodon coccinea*. Before your heart starts to beat too fast, let me hasten to add that this new species seems to be somewhat less decorative, though certainly of interest to someone who likes the new and unusual.

The plant produces a rosette of 10-30 mm (4-12 inch) long ovate-oblong leaves somewhat reminiscent of a *Paradrymonia* species on a very short stem. It produces several branched flower stalks each bearing 10-67 white flowers. The flowers are tubes that are swollen in the middle, however they are only about 5 mm (0.2 inch) long.

The new species is related to *Petrocodon dealbatus*, and grows in similar habitat, on limestone rocks at the foot of hills at low altitude in South China.

***Primulina cardaminifolia* (Gesneriaceae), a rare new species from limestone areas in Guangxi, China.** Wei-Bin Xu, Yan Liu, Yoshiko Kono, Hsuan Chang, Ching-I Peng, and Kuo-Fang Chung. Botanical Studies 2013, 54:19.

The authors collected an interesting plant with imparipinnate leaves. You will recall that a pinnate leaf is one that is divided into sections right down to the main vein, so that it looks rather like several leaves paired along a stalk. An imparipinnate leaf, often known as odd-pinnate, is a pinnate leaf with an unpaired terminal leaf at the end. The species name memorializes the leaf shape; if you have grown *Cardamine* as a garden plant you will recognize the shape.

In order to ensure proper choice of genus for the new plant the authors did careful DNA studies. They found that it fit into the genus *Primulina*, and they also found evidence suggesting that its ancient origin was as a hybrid. Like the other species in the genus it has chromosome number $2n = 36$.

The plant was found on a moist limestone rock face in a valley at low altitude in southern China. So far it is only known from the original location.

The plant forms a basal rosette of leaves 10-20 cm (4-8 inch) long, with the unusual shape already mentioned. The flowers are white to pale purple about 3.3 cm (1-1/4 inch) long. The floral lobes are distinct and somewhat rectangular, reminiscent of some of the unifoliate *Streptocarpus* species.

The new species somewhat resembles *Primulina pinnata*, but has rounder leaves differing from the more pointed leaves of the previously described species. The older species also has flowers of a somewhat redder shade of purple, and with a shape more like the *Primulina* (formerly *Chirita*) species common in cultivation.

There are several informative photographs in the paper.

***Columnnea rangelii* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from the Serranía de los Paraguas in the Colombian Andes.** Marisol Amaya-Márquez and Oscar Humberto Marín-Gómez. *Caldasia* 34(1):69-74. 2012.

This is a new species of *Columnnea* from the Chocó region of Colombia, a region of high botanical diversity for Gesneriaceae and several other plant groups. The altitude is about 2300 meters (7000 feet) so it will probably prefer cool humid conditions. It seems to be quite rare in habitat.

It is a climber with a stem 0.5-2 m long (18 inches to 6 feet). The leaves are strongly unequal in the pair, with the larger leaves up to 58 mm (24 inches) long. The leaves are green above and strongly red-purple below. The flowers are in the axil of the larger leaf, and are bright yellow 2-5 cm long (0.8-2 inches) and about 2.5 cm (1 inch) wide over the lobes.

The photographs in the paper suggest that if it ever becomes available for cultivation the colors will probably make it attractive to those who can deal with a rather large and possibly fussy plant.

A phylogeny and study of floral traits in the neotropical genus *Gasteranthus* (Gesneriaceae). Cassandra Lynn Coleman. Thesis. University of Alabama. 2012.

“Gaster” comes from a Greek word meaning stomach, or belly, or potbelly. The “pot-bellied flower” shape is often referred to as “hypocyrtoid,” which derives from the genus name “*Hypocyrtia*” (“curved below”) which was submerged into *Nematanthus* several years ago.

Either of these words is a good description of the flower shape of the first species in the genus (the “type species”) *Gasteranthus quitensis*, but it turns out that many members of the genus have a non-pouched campanulate funnel-form flower shape.

It is also interesting that the pouched forms are red, orange, or pink colored while the funnel forms are yellow to white.

Plants in the genus *Gasteranthus* are currently best recognized by clustered stomata (rather than evenly dispersed) and a semi-fleshy capsule fruit (rather than a fleshy berry).

The author has carried out extensive DNA studies that show that the ancestors of the present plants have switched back and forth between the two shapes several times. I can remember many years ago Dr. Hans Wiehler pointing out that flower shape is subject to strong selective pressures and may be quite flexible, and is therefore not necessarily a good criterion for assigning a plant to a genus; it seems that he was onto something.

The author has several other conclusions from the DNA work.

One result of the analysis is that *Gasteranthus dressleri* should be transferred to *Cremosperma*.

A second result is that the plants classified as subspecies under *Gasteranthus calcaratus* do not have a recent common ancestor, and should be split into separate species.

Two rather different plants that were both labeled as *Gasteranthus pansamalanus* based on dried material should apparently be separated again, resulting in the resurrection of the name *Gasteranthus magentatus*.

There are several other results that could have implications for species names, mostly for plants not in wide cultivation. I recommend this thesis to those with a particular interest in the genus.

Comparison of Photosynthetic Pigment Contents of the Resurrection Plants *Ramonda serbica* and *Ramonda nathaliae* of Some Different Populations from Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia. Bekim Gashi, Kasamedin Abdullai, and Efigjeni Kongjika. American Journal of Plant Sciences, 2012, 3, 1588-1593.

“Resurrection plants” are extremely desiccation-tolerant. They are adapted to places with extended periods of considerable dryness followed by periods of sudden availability of water. These two gesneriad species can dry out to looking brown and shriveled and can then “return to life” when they get water. These species preserve most of their chlorophyll during dry periods; some types of resurrection plants break down their chlorophyll during drought and re-create it when water is available.

For those of you who have not grown these plants, they are completely hardy as outdoor garden plants in most regions of the northern USA. They are reported to not do well in the southern USA, probably because of excessive heat or perhaps lack of winter cold. They generally do not do well indoors. We find that they do better when they get some shade during the hottest part of the day. As with most gesneriads they do better with reasonable drainage.

The authors have studied the concentration of chlorophyll and the ratio of two different forms of chlorophyll in leaves from populations growing in different conditions. They found that populations in shadier circumstances had a higher total chlorophyll concentration and a higher ratio of type b to type a chlorophyll than plants from sunnier locales. This is consistent with results in other plant groups and indicates a general response of many types of plants to shadier environments.

***Codonoboa personatiflora* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Peninsular Malaysia.** Ruth Kiew, Yen-Yen Sam. PhytoKeys 18: 61–66. 2012.

As you can guess from the species name, this plant has personate flowers. “Personate” was a new word for me. It means that the flowers have upper and lower lips, with the throat obstructed. Think of the flowers of a snapdragon. This new species is unique in the genus for having this type of flower. In this case the lower lip is directed upward to obstruct entrance to the flower.

In snapdragons the flower obstructs the entrance of small insects, opening only for heavy bees landing on the lip. The authors assume that the new species has similar behavior.

The plant is up to 65 cm (2 feet) tall on a woody stem, but it can flower at a quarter of that height. The leaves are 15-34 cm (6-14 inches) long and are attention-getting, being red toward the base when young and having whitish veins. It produces large numbers of flowers on long stalks from the upper leaf axils. The flowers are pendant and are up to 20 mm (0.8 inches) long, pale cream colored with pale pink lobes.

It grows in shaded areas at very low altitude so it probably prefers high temperature. The habitat is threatened by logging.

A new species of *Microchirita* (Gesneriaceae) from Yunnan, China. Jia-Mei Li, Zhi Xia. Journal of Systematics and Evolution Vol. 50 No. 6. 2012.

The genus *Microchirita* now contains what used to be known as “annual chiritas.” This new species has been dubbed *Microchirita prostrata* because the stems lie along the ground and form adventitious roots. The leaves are alternate, which is unusual in the family. The leaves are about 3-5 cm (1-2 inches) long and are broad. The flowers are 2.8-3.8 cm (1-1.5 inches) long, white with light purplish red. The flowering period in habitat is July to September (the rainy season). It grows on steep banks along streams or at the base of steep cliffs.

***Henckelia pradeepiana*, a new species of Gesneriaceae from the southern Western Ghats, India.** K.M. Manudev, A. Weber, and Santhosh Nampy. *Rheedea* Vol. 22(2) 119-123. 2012.

The genus *Henckelia* as recently redefined by Weber et al. includes about 56 species from the wet parts of India, up through southern China, northern Vietnam, and neighboring countries. They are usually found on shady, cool (by Indian standards), humid, moist rock crevices, among mosses and ferns.

This new species is quite a novelty. It produces flat tubers, from which develops one leaf (or sometimes a few in older individuals); the first leaf is the enlarged cotyledon. A flower stalk develops from the leaf base. It combines features that we usually associate with *Sinningia* and unifoliate *Streptocarpus*.

The tuber is about an inch (2.5 cm) in diameter and 0.2 inches (0.5 mm) thick, and grows attached to rocks or to tree bark. The leaf is 5-17 cm (2-6.5 inches) long and rather broad.

A flower stalk can produce up to 20 flowers. The flowers are formed in pairs, as is typical for gesneriads, but the pedicels (flower stems) are unequal length in the pair. The latter feature is apparently common in *Henckelia* species from South India and Sri Lanka, but otherwise not seen.

The flowers are about 1 cm (0.4 inches) across; the shape is campanulate (bell-shaped). The flower is white with some purple on the lobes. The stigma is bright yellow and is quite prominent.

It has been found on streamside damp rocks and on tree trunks, at medium altitude. The flowering season is July to October (the rainy season).

If it ever becomes available for cultivation it should be of considerable interest to those who like the unusual. It should also offer scientists an opportunity to do comparative genetics of tuber formation and cotyledon-leaf development.

***Primulina purpurea* F. Wen, B. Zhao & Y.G Wei (GESNERIACEAE), a new species from China.** Fang Wen, Wenlan Li, Bo Zhao, Gui-You Liang and Yi-Gang Wei. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* 19(2): 167-172, 2012 (December).

The genus *Primulina*, as recently enlarged by the reclassification of the “rosette chiritas”, already has at least 145 species, and more are being found every year. Many (but by no means all) follow the general pattern of the species that have been common in cultivation, with various modest differences, and this is another one.

Primulina purpurea forms a small rosette, with leaves about 3.5-7 cm (1.5-3 inches) long. A flower stalk produces numerous purple flowers of a reasonable size for the plant. It should be of interest to hybridizers looking for “small” results, if it becomes available.

It grows in cracks in limestone hills at low altitude. Flowering is April to May, the very beginning of the rainy season in its habitat.

***Primulina yangshuoensis*, a New Species of Gesneriaceae from Guangxi, China.** Fang Wen, Feng Wang, and Yi-Gang Wei. *Taiwania*, 57(1): 55-61, 2012.

This species forms a rosette of 2-5 cm (0.8-2 inches) round leaves densely covered with long erect hairs. The leaves have a purplish look on the younger leaves toward the center. The flower tube is relatively somewhat shorter than in many species that we are acquainted with but the lobes open well and are light purple. There are two prominent yellow lines in the bottom of the throat. There are usually at least 8 flowers per stalk.

The flowering season is from the second half of October through November, which should be the end of the rainy season or beginning of the dry season. The rainfall in this region averages about 1550 mm (almost 60 inches) per year, mostly in summer.

Unfortunately this species is used in traditional Chinese medicine, so it has been collected to the verge of extinction. The species is currently only known from one limestone cliff, growing under evergreen broadleaf bushes.

***Primulina jianghuaensis* sp. nov. (Gesneriaceae) from a limestone cave in southern Hunan, China.** Xiu-Zhen Cai, Ren-Yuan Yi, Lei Zhou, Ren-Ping Kuang, and Ke-Ming Liu. *Nordic Journal of Botany* 32(1): 70-74, 2014.

The authors have discovered a new species that would once have been classified as a *Chiritopsis*, but now belongs in *Primulina*. It produces a large number of leaves with relatively long petioles. The leaf blades are broadly ovate and often prominently serrated. The veins are silver-white. It produces large numbers of small white flowers with two conspicuous dark red stripes inside the tube.

Many species in Asia are listed as “from caves.” This does not mean that they grow in the dark like a mushroom. Caves in the limestone regions of Asia often have very large entrance holes (capable of swallowing a house, for example). The immediate vicinity of the entrance thus consists of “cliffs” with numerous cracks, and this is the usual habitat for gesneriads. As with so many gesneriads, they grow in areas of limited soil volume but reasonable availability of water. The environment is moist and shady. Cave mouths also frequently have a slight excess of carbon dioxide, which could be beneficial for the plants.

A new species of *Opithandra* (Gesneriaceae) from Guizhou, China. Zhen-Yu Li. *Bot. Bull. Acad. Sin.* (2003) 44: 73-75.

This genus was established by Burt in 1956 with the type specimen *Opithandra primuloides* from Japan, which is occasionally seen in cultivation. Nine Chinese species have since been added, which are probably not in general cultivation.

We now have another new species called *Opithandra wentsaii*. It is a rosette plant with leaves about 6-13 cm (2.5-4 inches) long of which the petiole is almost half. The upright flower stalks are about twice as long as the leaves. The lilac-colored corolla is a tube about 2.9 cm (1¼ inches) long with small limbs.

It grows on shady cliffs in sandstone (not limestone) hills in evergreen forest at medium altitude.

Editorial note: In 2011 this species was re-published as *Oreocharis wentsaii* in *Phytotaxa* 23: 1-36.

A new unexpected record of *Sinningia bullata* Chautems & M. Peixoto (Gesneriaceae) in Southern Brazil. Gabriel Emiliano Ferreira, Alain Chautems & Jorge Luiz Waechter. *Rodriguésia* 65(4): 1037-1042. 2014.

Sinningia bullata is an attractive plant with dense white hairs under the leaves and conspicuous orange flowers. It grows on rocks, with the tuber exposed.

It was originally found on granitic rocks at relatively low altitude in a humid shaded location. The new discovery is more than 200 km (120 miles) further south on dry rhyolitic outcrops in full sun and occasionally strong wind at over 1000 meters (3000 feet) altitude. (Rhyolite is a magma rock, like granite but often of much finer crystal texture and lower density.)

The plants in the new location have shorter stems and smaller leaves than the original collection. It is apparently not yet known whether the difference is a simple response to light levels or whether there has been a genetic adaptation to the different environment. It certainly suggests that this species has considerable flexibility in growing conditions, which should encourage potential growers.

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 - *Columnnea rileyi*
 - *Moussonia deppeana*
- Primulina flavimaculata* (L,R)
Sinningia curtiflora (yellow)
Sinningia eumorpha 'Clenilson'

Deletions:

- Aeschynanthus* sp. NAPE008/Mt Japfu
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Gesneriad Society Events



October 2–4 – Morristown, NJ North East Regional Show and Sale, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, sponsored by the Greater New York, Frelinghuysen Arboretum and Long Island Chapters of The Gesneriad Society. Entries: October 2, 4 p.m.

– 8:30 p.m.; Judging: Oct 3, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Show and Sale: Oct. 3, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Oct 4, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For additional information: Karyn Cichocki, kdc05@ptd.net.

October 21, 9 p.m. – 10 p.m. – EDT
Online Webinar “Growing and Hybridizing Streptocarpus” with Dale Martens. A one-hour online lecture with time for questions from the audience. Sponsored by The Gesneriad Society (\$9.95).

October 24, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. EDT – Online Webinar “Growing and Hybridizing Streptocarpus” with Dale Martens. A one-hour online lecture with time for questions from the audience. Sponsored by The Gesneriad Society (\$9.95).

July 5–9, 2015 – 60th Annual Gesneriad Society International Convention, DoubleTree Wilmington – Downtown Legal District, Wilmington, Delaware. Hosted by the Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society. For additional information, see the Society website in January and the First Quarter 2015 issue of *Gesneriads*.

Other Events of Interest to Gesneriad Society Members

October 3–4 – Lomira, WI Wisconsin African Violet Council Show and Sale, Trinity United Methodist Church, 300 Church St., Lomira, WI. October 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., October 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Additional Information: 920-426-3764 or kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net

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kohleria mutation. I set it up in a glass cylinder with a wick and small reservoir. To prevent root rot, the soilless mix is around 50% perlite, and for the wick I used only one strand of the 4-ply acrylic yarn.

Throughout the year I collect clear, plastic containers to re-purpose. My family members know I want the taller containers that used to have ice cream sundaes or shakes in them, so each has a dome lid with a hole. While the tip cutting or leaf is rooting, I cover the hole with clear food wrap. Much later when I want to acclimate it to room air, I remove the food wrap to expose the rooted plant/leaves, but continue to make sure each has enough water.

I met Hyn Patty through Facebook. She posted a photo that caught my eye. She has a large east-facing window with dappled sunlight. Hyn fastens string from one side of the window to the other and then hangs plastic bags with Solo cups of leaves being propagated. She is still experimenting with this method, but at the moment uses Scotch tape to secure the bags to the string, then puts staples through both the bag and tape. I mentioned clothespins, but she found they don't hold the slippery plastic bags well. This method could only be used in a window without direct sun beating on the bags and cooking the plants.

Nancy Kast is the queen of terrarium growing. If a container is too short for some of the tall species she grows, she finds a plastic container that fits on top of the glass. At the 2014 Nashville Convention she entered several gesneriads that required 100% humidity.

I GOT HOME FROM THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY convention with a box full of newly acquired plant material. Many of the plants will need extra humidity to root, and all will need to be isolated until I can determine they are free of disease or hitchhiking critters. When there are several plants to take care of, I get all the materials ready including rubbing alcohol that I wipe onto the utensils I'm using such as scissors and knives. Each stem or leaf cut has the potential to spread insects or disease; therefore, each tool is wiped with alcohol before going onto the next plant. I wash my hands between each planting. A new sheet of wax paper is placed on the table and then thrown away every time I reach for new plant material.

There are many methods of increasing humidity. One is simply to put a couple of plastic straws or coffee stir sticks in the pots and then place a sheet of clear food wrap on top. The straws/sticks prevent the plastic wrap from sitting on top of leaves. Here is another example: A dear friend gave me a variegated



Straws/coffee stir sticks can hold plastic food wrap off leaves

Photos by author except where noted.



Glass cylinder with tip cuttings of *Streptocarpella*.



Bill Price with Nancy Kast and her tall high-humidity containers.

Hyn Patty's leaf propagation system. Photo: Hyn Patty



I have seen some growers place heavy plastic, similar to shower curtains, on the sides of plant stands. I did that once using a staple gun to attach plastic to my wooden plant stand. I was going to be gone for a month, so I removed all flowers and filled quart-size reservoirs. When I returned home, my plants were quite lush. I didn't continue with this arrangement because it was a hassle to push back the plastic curtain to water and groom plants.



Phinaea albolineata is a species that needs high humidity to set seeds, but not necessarily 100% humidity. I placed the pot on top of a water reservoir and then placed the whole thing in a 6-inch wide glass cylinder. I did not put clear food wrap on top of that cylinder, because I wanted the soil to dry out enough so that the roots would drink the fertilizer water in the reservoir daily. I was rewarded with flowers and with fruit.

The reward of high humidity:
Phinaea albolineata fruit and seeds.

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

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