

# Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from chapter newsletters, our journal **Gesneriads**, and original sources)

Volume 14, Number 2

February 2023

This issue includes Austin Grevious' unusual experience with streptocarpus leaves, Alex Yu's photos of gesneriads growing in Costa Rica, and coming events.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings!**

Mel Grice, Editor



*Episcia* 'Jim's Daphne's Choice' bloomed for me this week. It is a hybrid created by the late Jim Bodnar from Toronto, Canada. Jim let several people from his chapter select their favorite plants from crosses he made. This was the choice selected by the late Dr. Daphne Yaremko, hence the name.

Mel Grice photo



# My Streptocarpus Leaf Experience

Austin Grevious

A couple of months ago I found the back of a streptocarpus leaf with what appeared to be translucent spots. I wasn't sure what this was, and with so many viruses about, I tossed the plant, thinking it was a single issue as it was only on one plant.

Then this happened again about a month later, so I took the plant to the Washington State University Plant Clinic. The person who checks for viruses was puzzled but said it wasn't a virus. The inspector I have worked with shared the plant with others in her department, and so far, no one who works in the plant clinic is aware what this is. I was told they deal mainly with outdoor plants, so indoor problems are not their specialty.

When my latest plant order from Ukraine arrived, one of the plants had some of this, but a lot less than the picture. The hybridizer and seller, Dmytro Demchenko, told me:

"This is a result of hydration and being in the dark. Capillaries in the leaf were damaged, so some areas of the leaf are filled with water. It's not scary, they will disappear. You don't need to do anything additional." The plant did just as Dmytro said.

Then around the same time, I found two more plants with this on multiple leaves, and within a few days they were back to normal. I found Dmytro's explanation plausible, but I wanted to check this out some more.

I attend Zoom meetings once a month where people from the west coast to the east coast discuss gesneriads. I shared the photo of the leaf, and all were puzzled and didn't have a clue as to what it might be. However, Irina Nicholson thought the



plant was overwatered, or sat in water. Unfortunately, two people who grow a large variety of gesneriads were unable to attend the meeting.

Although Irina didn't share her thoughts with the group, she spoke with someone she knows and came back to me with: "This happens, sometimes the leaf heals itself in a day. Looks like the plant was watered and drank more water than usual, and there is water between the cells.

I had it happen too, and sometimes if I get a limp leaf to pot, I wrap it in a wet towel. Usually it rehydrates fast, but every so often I see the transparent leaf, if caught in time reverses itself. It is specific to *Streptocarpus*, but if an AV leaf gets transparent, it is compost.

I am thinking it is some kind of mechanism of adjustment to the climate in South Africa where they have a dry season. The leaves abscise, and come the wet season, the leaves get soggy. But, the leaves survive both seasons."

A follow up from Irina: "Let's say plants are absolutely healthy but some of them develop PMS after watering." Irina has a wicked sense of humor!

Penny Allen shared an email from someone who I think is from New Zealand who was also experiencing this and was asking if it could be edema. The description I saw on the internet was: "Edema is swelling caused by excess fluid trapped in your body's tissues." Which sounds like the comments from Dmytro and Irina, except of course regarding plants, not the human body.

A question I have is why now after 30 years of growing streps? Also, the plants on my stands haven't been damaged, and the growing area hasn't changed since moving into my current house six years ago. Maybe the extreme weather we had this summer is a contributing factor? I have had plants fall from the top shelf land on their heads, and no visible damage can be seen, except for broken leaves and flowers.

If anyone else has experienced this, please share.

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# Gesneriads in Costa Rica

Alex Yu

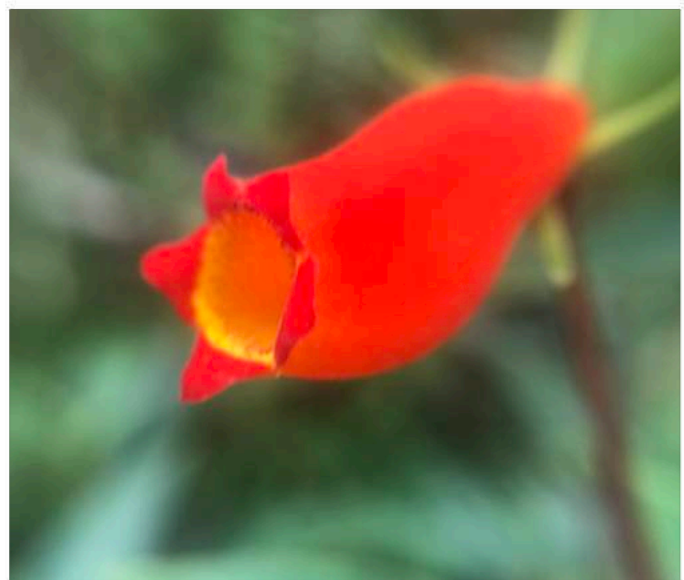
The following photos are from the Monte Verde cloud forests in Costa Rica.



Probably various forms of  
*Moussonia elegans*?

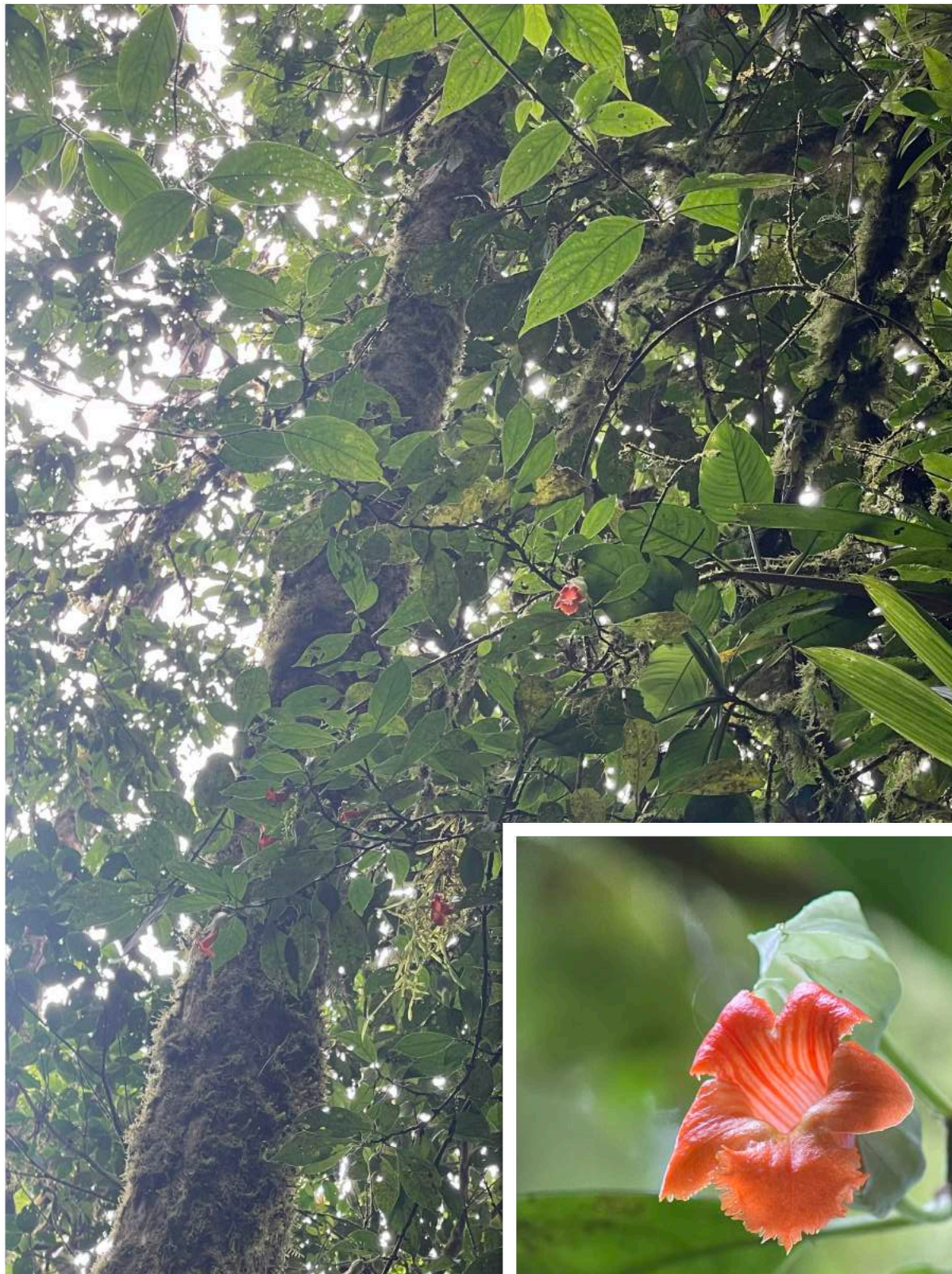


*Kohleria spicata*



*Seemannia sylvatica*





*Drymonia rubra*







*Besleria notabilis*, each node smothered with bloom





Pink and white berries on  
*Columnnea microcalyx*

All photos by Alex Yu

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## Streptocarpus

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The Virtual Education Program on Streptocarpus took place on Saturday, February 18, 2023, 3:00 Eastern time zone.

This is an opportunity to learn about Streptocarpus from award winning growers Terri Vicenzi, Stephen Covolo-Hudson and Dale Martens.

Terri who won “Best Streptocarpus” for her entry of *S.* ‘Little Kan’ will show photos and discuss how to grow a show plant. Stephen will instruct on how to hybridize. Dale who won “Sweepstakes in Horticulture” will show photos of propagating, repotting and discuss other culture issues.

**Available now on The Gesneriad Society website**

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/virtual-education-programs/streptocarpus/>

# Coming Events

## **March 18-19, 2023 — Glencoe, IL Display & Plant Sale**

The Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society  
Chicago Botanical Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Contact: [gesneriadlady1@aol.com](mailto:gesneriadlady1@aol.com)

## **March 31 - April 2, 2023 — Richmond, VA Flower Show & Plant Sale**

Richmond African Violet Society  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA 23228  
SHOW: April 1: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
April 2: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
SALE: March 31: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
April 1: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
April 2: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Free admission to show and sale.  
Contact: [slong15781@aol.com](mailto:slong15781@aol.com) 804-740-5322

## **April 1, 2023 — Christiana, DE Display & Plant Sale**

Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Boscov's Department Store, Christiana Town Center, I-95 exit 3A, Christiana, DE 19702  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Featuring rare primulina plants and African violets from Fancy Bloomers  
Contact: [rlafash@comcast.net](mailto:rlafash@comcast.net)

## **April 2, 2023 — Toronto, ON Show & Plant Sale**

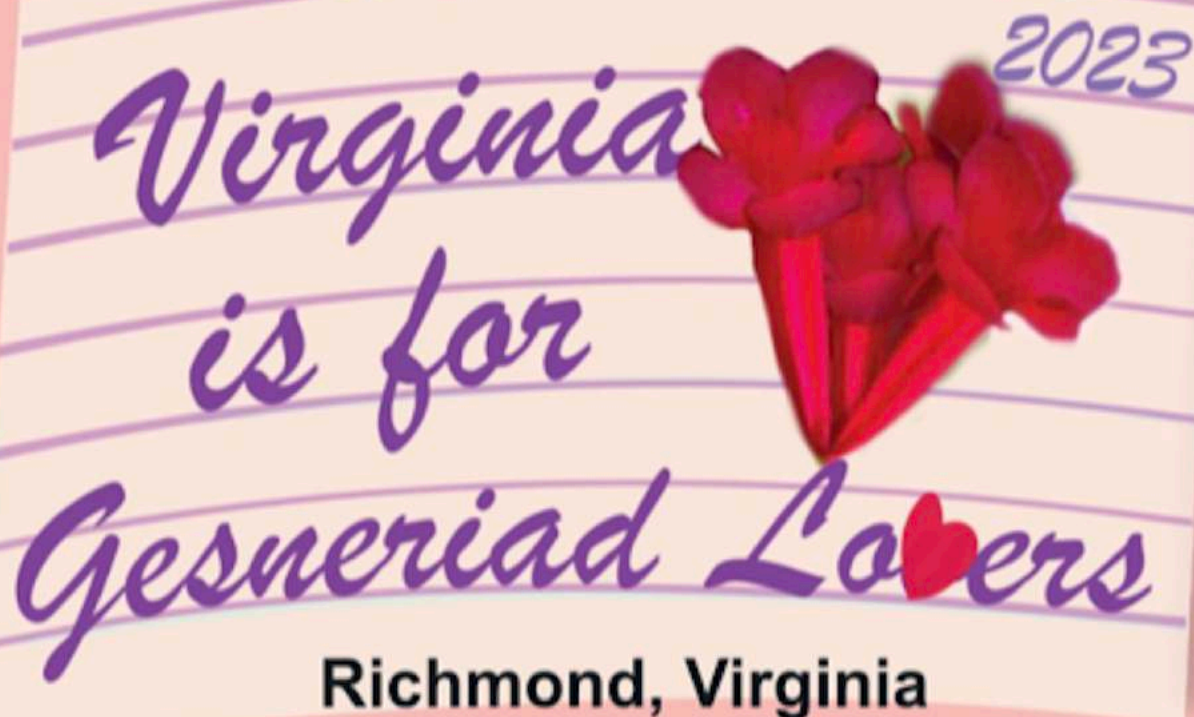
Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto, ON, Canada  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Admission: \$2.00  
Contact: [jmthompson50@xplornet.ca](mailto:jmthompson50@xplornet.ca)

## **April 22, 2023 — Seattle, WA Flower Show & Plant Sale**

Puget Sound Gesneriad Society with the Seattle African Violet Society  
Volunteer Park Conservatory, 1400 E. Galer St., Seattle, WA 98112  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
The show can be viewed at the main greenhouse which will require a small entry fee.  
Sales will take place in the greenhouse behind the main building, to which admission is FREE.  
Contact: [mjtyler2@gmail.com](mailto:mjtyler2@gmail.com)



Join us for The Gesneriad Society Convention  
July 3 to July 8, 2023



Virginia  
is for  
Gesneriad Lovers  
Richmond, Virginia

## ***“Virginia is for Gesneriad Lovers”***

The Gesneriad Society’s 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
July 3 to July 8, 2023

Free admission to the Flower Show and Plant Sales:  
Friday, July 7 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, July 8 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Westin Richmond Hotel  
6631 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230

*For additional information, contact Mel Grice at [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com)*

Subscribe to *Gleanings*, the free monthly e-newsletter.

Join The Gesneriad Society and receive *Gesneriads*, our informative quarterly journal, and get access to the Seed Fund for gesneriad seeds.

***Register for Convention 2023!***

All this and more at [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)



**From the editor —**

I registered for The Gesneriad Society Convention in Richmond, Virginia this July. Keep the articles and photos coming.

If you have suggestions, comments, or items for possible inclusion in future issues, please feel free to contact me at [melsgrice@gmail.com](mailto:melsgrice@gmail.com)

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Austin Grevious  
4932 - 88th Avenue West, University Place, WA 98467 USA  
For additional information, contact: [<aagrevious@gmail.com>](mailto:aagrevious@gmail.com)

**Membership and Changes of Address**

The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary, Bob Clark,  
1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

**Changes of Address** — Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary [<gesneriadsocietymembership@gmail.com>](mailto:gesneriadsocietymembership@gmail.com) 90 days prior to moving to avoid missing an issue. The Society is not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late notification of address changes. Back issues may be ordered from The Gesneriad Society Publications.

**Renewals** — Send dues to the Membership Secretary. A Renewal Notice is sent two months prior to the expiration date of your membership. (The expiration date is printed on your mailing label/ membership card received with each copy of *Gesneriads*.) Please remit your dues prior to the expiration date to avoid missing an issue as we are not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late payment of dues. Back issues may be ordered from Publications.

**Application for Membership — *The Gesneriad Society, Inc.***

WELCOME — membership in our international society includes quarterly issues of *Gesneriads* — *The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*, a copy of *How to Know and Grow Gesneriads*, a packet of gesneriad seeds and a wealth of information about our chapters, flower shows, publications, research, programs and seed fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

**New Member** Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Renewal** Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

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1122 East Pike St., PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA**

For application online: [www.gesneriads.org](http://www.gesneriads.org)