

Gesneri-Eds

Volume 33

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Gesneriad Society

Issue 9

Next meeting:
Annual Show &
Sale Sept. 18 -
Sept 19.
Cheekwood's
Botanic Hall.
Setup:
Friday, Sept 17,
Botanic Hall
workroom

A Message from the President

Well, here we are - another annual show just a few weeks away now!

There are certainly challenges every year to having a good show, one of them being folks deciding that they will bring plants that may not win a ribbon. But we have a good history of impressive shows, shows which demonstrate both the beauty and diversity of this plant family. I doubt very seriously that anything that I bring this year will push into the ribbon category. Things that I'm eyeing with thoughts of bringing are mostly from plants that have been outside for the last few months. They are for the most part lopsided, scruffy looking, with leaves half chewed by grasshoppers and other herbivores. But they are also, for the most part, plants that no one else will be bringing to the show. So I'll pull off dead leaves here and there, prop 'em up a bit, and

bring them along. They will increase the diversity of the show, letting people get a better sense of just how large and impressive this family can be. I hope that everyone will try to bring a plant that they think looks neat, but definitely won't win any ribbons. Maybe the foliage is special, or maybe it just has two or three blooms where it should have twenty-five. But will it improve the looks of the show? Will it provide folks with a better understanding of what this family is all about? Then bring it along! I'm always surprised by some of the plants that come in - generally because I had no idea anyone in our chapter was growing this plant or that. I look forward to being surprised again this year. And, when ribbons do get handed out - maybe you'll be surprised as well! Looking forward to seeing you on the 17th! --

Jonathan

From the (co-) Editor

Our annual show and sale will take place September 17-19th at Cheekwood Botanical Garden. This is our big event of the year and not to be missed. It's a time to bring out the plants you've been growing and show the public what Gesneriads look like, and a time to see what others have been growing, too. Winning ribbons is fun, but not the most important thing by a long shot. Don't hesitate to bring plants that you may not think are the best that can be grown, because most of the time plants are better than you think, and we need lots of plants to make the show look good. You may be surprised to hear others gasping over the plant you thought wasn't all that great. You may also be surprised what a little (or a lot!) of grooming will do. Our club needs to attract new members so we can continue to be a strong club in the future (none of us is getting any younger, remember), so we need to show people what fun they are to grow.

There will also be two talks, one Saturday at 2 p.m. and one Sunday at 2 p.m. I hope you will support us by attending these talks, or at least one of them.

Please bring your show and sale plants to Botanic Hall on Friday the 17th as early as you can after 1 p.m. We need to get the show set up and judged as quickly as possible, because Cheekwood is probably going to charge us for the guard who will remain in the building until we are through judging, a fee we have not had to pay before. We could really use some help that

afternoon and evening. If you have never assisted in the judging before you should try it. It's a great way to learn stuff that will help you win shows in the future, and to learn about the different gesneriads. It's also lots of fun.

There aren't a lot of things blooming at my house, just the usual suspects, with one exception. I am pleased to report that *Pearcea abunda* 'Rendezvous' is blooming. Such cute little flowers, similar to *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora* except smaller. I selfed one blossom and crossed the other with *Pearcea* "Carol Ann" but I don't know if it will take. I did the cross the other way, too. I will keep my fingers crossed (pun intended). I have never had any luck selfing *P.* "Carol Ann."

See you at the Show!--Julie



The new AGGS screensaver is available on CD from Carol Ann for \$12. Not only can you decorate your desktop with 289 virtual gesneriads, you can open the individual files to use the disk as a handy reference.

GESNERIADS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

The 2004 Tennessee Gesneriad Society Flower Show

Division I - HORTICULTURE

SECTION A --Tuberous Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids
- Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species with rosette growth pattern greater than 6" in diameter
- Class 3 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with rosette growth pattern greater than 6" in diameter
- Class 4 Other *Sinningia* species with upright growth pattern greater than 6" in diameter
- Class 5 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with upright growth pattern greater than 5" in diameter
- Class 6 *Nautilocalyx* and other tuberous gesneriads, including species and hybrids

SECTION B --Rhizomatous Gesneriads in Flower

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

SECTION C -- Other New World Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 11 *Alsobia*
- Class 12 *Codonanthe*, x*Codonatanthus*
- Class 13 *Columnea*, including *Dalbergaria*, *Pentadenia*, and *Trichantha*
- Class 14 *Episcia*
- Class 15 *Gesneria*
- Class 16 *Nematanthus*
- Class 17 Other New World gesneriads

SECTION D -- Old World Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 18 *Aeschynanthus*
- Class 19 *Chirita* species with rosette growth pattern
- Class 20 *Chirita* hybrids with rosette growth pattern
- Class 21 *Chirita* species or hybrids with upright growth pattern
- Class 22 *Petrocosmea*
- Class 23 *Saintpaulia* species
- Class 24 *Saintpaulia* hybrid or cultivar more than 10" in diameter (limit two entries per exhibitor)
- Class 25 *Saintpaulia* hybrid or cultivar between 6" and 10" in diameter (limit two entries per exhibitor)
- Class 26 *Saintpaulia* hybrid or cultivar less than 6" in diameter (limit two entries per exhibitor)
- Class 27 *Saintpaulia* trailer (limit two entries per exhibitor)
- Class 28 *Streptocarpus*, caulescent (ssp. *Streptocarpella*)
- Class 29 *Streptocarpus* species, acaulescent, rosulate, plurifoliate
- Class 30 *Streptocarpus* hybrids, acaulescent, rosulate, plurifoliate
- Class 31 *Streptocarpus* acaulescent, unifoliate
- Class 32 Other old world gesneriads

SECTION E--Gesneriads Grown Primarily for Foliage or Fruit

Decorative fruit is permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture, or growth habit to be entered in this section.

- Class 33 *Episcia*
- Class 34 *Episcia* with pink leaf variegation
- Class 35 *Chirita*
- Class 36 Other gesneriads

SECTION F--New Gesneriads

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

- Class 37 Species in flower
- Class 38 Species not in flower
- Class 39 Hybrid or named cultivar in flower
- Class 40 Hybrid or named cultivar not in flower

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

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

Class 41 In flower

Class 42 Not in flower

SECTION H – Collections

Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit and provide a card with identification of the plants.

Class 43 Grouping of three to five gesneriads of a single genus (either species, hybrids, or combination.)

Class 44 Gesneriad with two companion plants.

Demonstrate the fact that gesneriads grow well beside other plants by displaying one gesneriad and two non-gesneriads that grow under the same conditions.

SECTION I --Novice

Anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in a gesneriad flower show. Novice status may not enter other Horticulture classes with exception of Classes 23-27.

Class 45 Tuberous gesneriads in flower

Class 46 Rhizomatous gesneriads in flower

Class 47 Fibrous-rooted gesneriads in flower

Class 48 Any gesneriad grown for foliage

SECTION J --Commercial

Class 49 Display table with groupings of gesneriads

Division II - ARTISTIC

Gesneriads must predominate. No artificial plant material allowed; other live and dried plant material permitted.

Accessories optional. Plant material used should be identified on an accompanying card.

SECTION K --Arrangement of Fresh Cut Plant Material

Class 50 "Grow like an Egyptian" — Ancient Egyptian civilization flourished between 3100 and 332 BCE, creating architecture and art still admired and familiar to us today. Use the characteristic formal Egyptian style to arrange cut *flowering* material between 12-16 inches wide and 12-16 inches tall.

Class 51 "The Hanging Gardens of Babylon" — The famous hanging gardens were reported to have been built by King Nebuchadnezzar II around 600 BCE, or perhaps they are just a myth since the Babylonians never mentioned them. The term "hanging" is actually based on a mistranslation of the Greek word for "overhanging" as in a terrace or balcony. Create a terraced arrangement of *nonflowering* material at least 24 inches tall.

Class 52 "The Floating Gardens of Tenochtitlan" – The capital city of the Aztecs was built at the center of Lake Texcoco beginning in 1325 C.E. When the population outstripped available land, farmers created gardens atop mud-slayered rafts of twigs. Create your own floating garden of *flowering* material no larger than 8 inches in any dimension although your "lake" can be larger.

SECTION L – Arrangement of Growing Gesneriads

Class 53 "The Indus River Valley"—Between 2600 and 1500 BCE, carefully planned cities thrived around the Indus River in what is now Pakistan and western India. These communities were remarkable for their precisely engineered public baths and sewers systems which have been interpreted by archaeologists to indicate a love of water. Incorporate water in a formal arrangement of *flowering* gesneriads no more than 12 inches high and 16 inches wide.

Class 54 "The Oracle at Delphi" — From 1400 BC to 400 CE, the priestess of Apollo at Delphi in Greece foretold the future of those who offered her gold. Supplicants hoping for favorable predictions sent gifts of art, and scholars gathered there to argue about the meaning of her cryptic messages. Evoke this center of classical Greek civilization in a small arrangement of *flowering* gesneriads no more than 6 inches wide and 8 inches tall.

Class 55 "Angkor Wat" The world's largest religious building, Angkor Wat in Cambodia was built 800 years ago. Three levels constructed of bricks and stone are crowned by five central towers, and the whole compound, 1300 by 1500 meters, is surrounded by a moat 200 meters wide. Depict this ancient temple in an arrangement of *nonflowering* gesneriads 24 - 30 inches wide.

SECTION M – Growing Material in an Established Planting

Artistically and horticulturally balanced, the plant material should have been grown *in situ* for some time, not just arranged for the show.

Class 56 Terrarium, straight-sided

Class 57 Terrarium, curved

Class 58 Dish or tray garden

- Class 59** Trained or sculpted gesneriads: bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style
Class 60 Other container, not the usual form of plastic or clay pot

Division III--THE ARTS AND EDUCATION

SECTION N --Photography

Entries must be mounted and identified with the name of the subject.

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

SECTION O --Crafts Representing Gesneriads

- Class 64** Painting or Drawing
Class 65 Textile
Class 66 Other crafts

SECTION P --Educational

- Class 67** Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research, or plant culture

Exhibitor's Information

Please bring a list of all plants to be entered. An entry tag will be prepared for each plant. Remove any visible labels. (However, it is wise to have your name somewhere on the pot, perhaps the bottom.) Groom plants and make sure they are free from insects. A protective cover may be used to shield delicate plants from dry air or cold drafts. Any grower of gesneriads is invited to enter plants, crafts, or educational exhibits in the show, but special awards are reserved for TGS members only.

We encourage new members (and some of you who may have lapsed!) to enter *something* in the show. The most important criterion to consider when trying to decide whether a plant is worth showing is, "Will it make the show a better show?" Please remember that we have a novice section for those who have never before won a blue ribbon in a gesneriad flower show, and since we have several new members, we hope to see several entries. Also, plants can be entered for exhibit only, not to be judged. This is especially appropriate if you have a nice plant that you haven't owned for the required 90 day minimum. — CA

AGGS EXHIBITOR'S INFORMATION

The exhibitor should prepare a list of all plants and other exhibits with the appropriate Section and Class numbers to facilitate the work of the Entries Committee. The Flower Show Committee will assist in identifying material unknown to the exhibitor.

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

Foil covering should be avoided. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.

Growing materials established *in situ* should present a practical horticultural method of growing, not a temporary insertion for display only. This section covers entries such as terrariums, dish gardens, bonsai, and material grown in containers other than the usual plastic or clay pots. Straightsided terrariums are composed of flat pieces of glass or plastic; curved terrariums are composed of round pieces. The class for a collection of gesneriads of one genus stresses horticulture primarily, but as this serves to focus attention on a specific group, there should be some degree of presentation. Uniform type and color of container would be a first step toward unity. Simple staging to provide different levels may be provided by the exhibitor. The plants might be grouped in a basket or on a tray.

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

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

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of AGGS or TGS.
3. Entries will be accepted only during hours specified. Plants arriving after entries close will be placed for exhibit only and will not be judged.
4. All exhibits for competition will be approved by the Classification Committee. Nonconformity to the schedule may bring disqualification.
5. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided

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Exhibitor's Information *(continued from page 4)***Sunday, September 19**

each entry is a different species, cultivar, or hybrid, unless otherwise prohibited.

6. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated at the discretion of the Show Chairman after entries close.

7. No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes.

8. All plants must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in artistic arrangements in Division II.

9. All entries will be staged in the showroom by the Placement Committee. Artistic arrangements and collections will be executed in the showroom by the exhibitor in the space designated, and during the stated time for entries.

11. All plants must be free of insects and disease.

12. AGGS standard competitive judging will be used.

13. Awards will be made according to the following point scores: 1st, blue ribbon, 90-100; 2nd, red ribbon, at least 80; 3rd, yellow ribbon, at least 70. Honorable Mention may also be awarded.

14. Special Awards (more than a class ribbon) will be reserved for TGS members only, unless otherwise offered to non-members. An exhibit must score 90 or above to be considered.

15. An exhibitor must win a minimum of 3 blue ribbons to be eligible for the Sweepstakes Award.

16. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division (excluding *Saintpaulia*) is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award.

17. TGS will endeavor to protect all entries, but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

Schedule of Events

(Note that Cheekwood has changed its opening time again so you can sleep a little later on Saturday)

Friday, September 17

1:00 p.m. - Arrive at Cheekwood's Botanic Hall to arrange tables, put on tablecloths, set up registration area

2:00 p.m. - Begin Registration

7:00 p.m. - Registration closes

7:30 p.m. - Judging begins

? -9:00 p.m. ? - Ribbons awarded and we go home

Saturday, September 18:

9:15 a.m. - Set up cash box for sales

9:30 a.m. - Show and Sales open

2:00 p.m. - Lecture

5:00 p.m. - Cheekwood closes for the day

10:45 a.m. - Setup cash box for the day

11:00 a.m. - Show and Sales open

2:00 p.m. - Lecture

4:00 p.m. - Regular TGS monthly meeting at which awards are announced

5:00 p.m. - Close of Show; Break down

Q&A

Last month the club held an informal information exchange session in which members asked their most vexing plant questions and received a variety of answers. Here is a selection.

Q: Do you let your *Sinningia* bulbs go dormant or do you keep watering till it puts up new growth? Also when you repot, do you divide the multiple tubers or leave them together?

A: CAB doesn't completely stop but puts them where they get less water, she leaves the foliage on till it goes completely dead or even till new foliage comes. Some plants will stay dormant forever, others never go dormant. RH removes any extra tubers -leaves only one in a pot. In his experience the plant may rot otherwise.

Q: Which gesneriads do you pinch back? *Achimenes*, etc.?

A: *Achimenes*, *Eucodonia*, a lot of trailers some *Kohlerias* (tall growing ones) and *Columneas* among others. Consider the size you can deal with; you may need to cut some plants back for size reasons. Some trailers like *Dalbergarias* you do not pinch normally as they naturally grow a long stem with foliage on the end.

Q: Could you give me suggestions on how to care for the new plants I purchased at the auction?

A: *Trichantha minor*--grow like *Columneas* but they are more temperamental, they need fairly high light, a well drained mix, and good humidity. No guarantees. *Lysionotus pauciflorus* -keep moist, it has smooth rhizomes but don't try to get it to go dormant. New growths may come out the bottom of pot, easy to grow.

Q: *Chirita moonii* -Do I treat this *Chirita* different than any other *Chirita*?

A: Yes, keep moist, it's more cold sensitive, shrubbier -- you can cut it back, start cuttings.

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Officers of TGS:

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Q&A *continued from page 5*

A: What about neem oil products?

Q: Bioneem (Safers) is the only Neem product JE has found to be effective. Especially good for whitefly. Use once a week 6T/gallon for a month.

Q: What is the difference between powdered horticultural lime and dolomitic lime?

A: One breaks down slower-dolomitic lime is slower and that's better.

Q: What is pellet type lime?

A: Pellets are usually dolomite. Mix it into your potting mix. If you need quick results use some of the powdered agricultural lime for a kick start but it won't last so put in the dolomite pellets too.

Q: Should you cut back Kohlerias when they get ratty?

A: Yes, root tips and check the pot for rhizomes.

Q: Why do the edges of Chiritas and Streptocarpus turn brown?

A: RH says he has seen this due to a lack of lime.

Q: How often do you transplant Chiritas? Diane has one with a long trunk with blooming plant at end.

A: Cut the top off and re-root, or bury stem before it gets so long, just like AVs. Put down a leaf to insure that you don't lose plant if it dies.

Q: *Episcia* 'Pink Panther' which has pink flowers, is the foliage very dark or light? Diane's is at least 20 yrs old, always been dark.

A: Some members have seen both. May be genetic drift, even selected that way over the yrs, also could partly be way it's grown.

Q: Mixing soil - what do you do, JE?

A: JE does not like perlite. He used to use a mix with charcoal and composted bark (Metromix 500) and completely avoided perlite. He has had a hard time getting that and now uses Faffard Professional Blend which has no perlite and has composted bark. He now adds perlite and composted bark for most uses but avoids perlite for terrariums with frogs especially. He says horticultural charcoal (in paper bags from OFE) is a good replacement. It's more expensive though. He's also gotten from tropiflora.com. Peggy bought a bag at Bates Nursery (right off of Trinity lane). JE uses 4 parts Fafard professional/1pt perlite/1pt charcoal. If for a terrarium leaves out perlite and puts in double charcoal. Consensus of those present is that this mix will not work for wick watering.



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