



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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December 2010

Spring Show Planned

The 2011 Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad society Annual Show and Sale will be open to the public on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the second floor Auditorium of the Boscov's Christiana Town Center Department Store in Christiana, Delaware. Setup and entries will take place on Friday, April 15th and the plant sale also will be open that day from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. The greatest change is that the show and sale will only be staged on Saturday, and **not** Sunday this year.

“African Violets Salute the Oscars” is the theme of this year’s show. Tentative design classes include rhythmic mini arrangements with the title “Sound of Music;” a designs in a yellow niche 10" high, 8" wide, and 6" deep. With a background is the designer's choice .with the title “Gone with the Wind;” a design in a basket staged on a pedestal with the title “My Fair Lady;” and artistic plantings incorporating driftwood with the title “On the Waterfront.” The Committee also considered titles like “Casablanca,” “Chariots of Fire,” “An American in Paris,” “Terms of Endearment,” and several others. The Design Chairman for this year’s show is Bobbie LaFashia, and if you have suggestions, please let her know as soon as possible since the show schedule is being prepared so that it can be submitted to AVSA for approval.

The Chair people for this year’s show include:

- Chairman - Barb Borleske
- Co-Chairman - Nancy Murray
- Schedule - Quentin Schlieder
- Awards - Ann Petrucci and Carol Moody
- Judges - Libby Behnke and Terry Celano
- Publicity - Geno Iubatti
- Theme - Quentin Schlieder and Elizabeth Varley
- Ribbons and Clerks - Diane Abramson and Maria Walueff
- AVSA/ Educational Exhibit - Pam Orris and Pat Barbarita
- Entries - Carol Callaghan and Mary Schaeffer
- Sales plants/ supplies - Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer
- Passing/ Classification - Carol Moody, Angie Celano

Finally, Anne Petrucci is collecting money for show awards. She will accept cash, but if you would like to pay by check, please make it payable to Anne. If you can’t make the meeting, you can contact Anne at (302) 652-8839.

Society Supports Research

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society voted to donate \$360.00 toward the *Sinningia* research of Dr Jon T. Lindstrom, Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas. This donation brought the total to \$1,000.00 to support the ornamental plant breeding restricted to Dr. Lindstrom’s work with Gesneriads and primarily with *Sinningias*.

Lindstrom’s hybridization projects that have produced *Sinningia* ‘Arkansas Bells,’ and many other primary hybrids from *Sinningia* species that have potential as commercial garden plants. It is rare that a university supports work on Gesneriads and is why Gary Hunter, who was named Commercial Liaison at the Chapter’s November meeting, was able to recruit members to donate money to support his project. Individuals and groups who contributed included:

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Elizabeth Varley | Barb Borleske |
| Diane Abramson | Nancy Murray |
| Carol Callaghan | Betsy Gottshall |
| Libby Behnke | Steven Maciejewski |
| Quentin Schlieder | Charlene Marietti |
| Bobbie LaFashia | Bayard Saraduke |
| Maria Walueff | Judy Smith |
| Mary Schaeffer | Russ Strover |
| Geno Iubatti | National Capital Membership |
| Carol Moody | Nancy Bruhns |
| Gary Hunter | Bill Wasson |

It is with deep sadness that we note the death on November 22, 2011 of Fiore M. "Mike" Celano Sr., beloved husband of member Angie Celano, father-in-law of member Terry Celano and brother-in-law of member Anne Petrucci. Fiore attended many of the annual holiday parties, June picnics and flower shows. He was an avid outdoorsman, and his family requested memorial contributions may be made to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120.. We will vote on sending a memorial contribution at our next meeting. We extend sincere sympathy and condolences to his family.

November Show & Tell

Submitted by Elizabeth Varley

November's Show and Tell featured *Chiritas*, *Nematanthus*, *Streptocarpus* and *Sinningias*. Barb Borleske brought in *Chirita* 'Silver Surfer' and *C.* 'Souvenir' as well as *Streptocarpus* 'Blueberry Butterflies.' Libby Behnke exhibited a very floriferous *Chirita* which she and Barb thought was also 'Silver Surfer.' Carol Callaghan showed off a well grown specimen of *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana' in a basket and a Logee's catalog featuring many *Streptocarpus* hybrids. Gary Hunter had three *Sinningias* including, 'Susan S,' a Marty Mines hybrid name for Susan Schlieder, and two he had purchased from Meadowbrook labeled as *S. kautskyi* but were obviously not as they looked more like *S.* 'Dollbaby.' Thanks to all for sharing their plants!



Barb Borleske discusses one of her prize winning *Chiritas*
Photo by Carol Callaghan

Thank you to the following donors to the November sales table which raised \$105.00:

Quentin Schlieder	Barb Borleske
Barb Borleske	Charlene Marietti
Mary Schaeffer	Nancy Murray
Carol Callaghan	

Looking for...

Mary Schaeffer is looking for two *Kohlerias* – 'An's Nagging Macaw' and 'HCY's Jardin de Monet.' She is willing to either pay or trade. She has about a dozen *Kohlerias* or more - and a few aren't Boggan hybrids.

Quentin Schlieder would like to thank Bobbie LaFashia for the leaf of 'Tommie Lou' and Nancy Murray for the leaf of 'Blue Eyed Russia' African Violets.

Nomenclature Update

Karyn Cichocki reports in the December 2010 issue of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter's newsletter that there have been some recent species name changes in the genus *Sinningia*. When these species were first collected they were assigned temporary names which denoted the location from which they were originally collected. They now have been studied and assigned species names, so if you are growing these, she suggests that you bring your labels up to date. Here are the changes:

Sinningia spp. "Florianopolis" now designated *Sinningia bullata*
Sinningia spp. "Santa Teresa" now designated *Sinningia helioana*
Sinningia spp. "Rio das Pedras" now designated *Sinningia muscicola*

The Genus *Nematanthus*

Editor's Note: This article is adapted from the slide script which accompanied the slide presentation titled "The Companion Genera from the Gesneriad Society which was shown at the October 12, 2010 meeting. Much of the information in the script was based information made available to participants at the Gesneriad Research Foundation seminars on the Biology of Codonanthe and the Biology of Nematanthus as well as during the GRF Study trips to Central and South America by Dr. Hans Wiehler. This is part 2 of a 3 part article.

Nematanthus is a genus of about 25 species, all found only in Brazil. The name comes from the greek "nema" meaning thread, and "anthos" meaning flower. *Nematanthus corticola*, with peduncles up to 8" long, is the type species of the genus and was first described in 1821. In their native habitats, *Nematanthus* usually grow epiphytically. They often can be found growing high up in a tree, displaying beautiful red-backed leaves or with the undersides of their leaves marked in red like *Nematanthus fritschii*. The purpose of the red is to attract pollinators, which, for *Nematanthus*, are hummingbirds.

Nematanthus flowers come in various colors and sizes, but there are two general types. The common pouch shape associated with *Nematanthus* explains some of the common names like candy-corn plant and goldfish plant. These flowers are an inflated tube with a deep pouch, at the end of which is a little opening with tiny lobes. A second type has up-side-down twisting of the flower so that the inflation or pouch is on the top. These flowers are called resupinate.



Nematanthus corticola, with peduncles up to 8" long, is the type species of the genus and was first described in 1821.

The group with resupinate flowers includes *Nematanthus brasiliensis*. It is very showy with large dark red star-shaped calyx accenting the red-striped yellow flowers and is also a large grower. *Nematanthus crassifolius* has large fiery red flowers which hang from long peduncles. Another large grower in this group is *Nematanthus fluminensis*. It is a rare species in Brazil and is unusual for its large yellow corollas and different shaped leaves. *Nematanthus fissus* is usually a more upright grower with long narrow red corolla tubes and was formerly known as *Nematanthus selloanus*. *Nematanthus hirtellus* displays attractive bright yellow flowers and very dark maroon calyces. *Nematanthus jolyanus* has almost the same flower color combination but is even showier. It is one of the exciting new species recently brought into cultivation. *Nematanthus striatus* is a very floriferous species with many calyces on the plant. Its striped flowers closely resemble those of *Nematanthus tessmannii*, which was formerly known as *Nematanthus perianthomegus*. This species was used in several early hybrids including *N. 'Tropicana'*.

Nematanthus villosus is characterized by its spreading dark-purple calyx. Like the genus *Codonanthe*, some *Nematanthus* like the species *villosus* also have been

reported to have medicinal properties. This species has been used against snake bite.

The next group of *Nematanthus* represent those species with the typical pouch-shaped flower. The first three species just recently come into cultivation due primarily to the efforts of Alain Chautems of Switzerland who spent a great deal of time over the last ten years researching gesneriads in Brazil with the assistance of Mauro Peixoto). One of these is *Nematanthus australis* with flower color which can vary from yellow to orange to red. Others are *Nematanthus sericeus*, and *Nematanthus bradei*. These new species are already being used to develop some interesting new hybrids.

Older species with pouch flowers include *Nematanthus fornix* which has been called *Nematanthus nervosus* incorrectly in the past.

Nematanthus gregarius, also a member of this group, is a popular older species with an upright growth habit. It needs strong light to bloom well. One of the popular variegated forms of this species is *Nematanthus gregarius* 'Golden West,' which was introduced commercially in 1976. It is a shy bloomer and is usually grown for its beautiful colorful foliage.

Another variegated form named *Nematanthus gregarius* 'Dibley's Gold' was introduced from Dibley's Nursery in Wales into the United States by Maryjane Evans only a few years ago.

Nematanthus strigillosus is unusual in that it grows exclusively on rocks in its native habitat, at an elevation of almost 6,000 feet which means it is capable of withstanding lower temperatures than many other *Nematanthus* species. Most of what was in cultivation under the name *N. strigillosus* until recently is actually *Nematanthus serpens*.

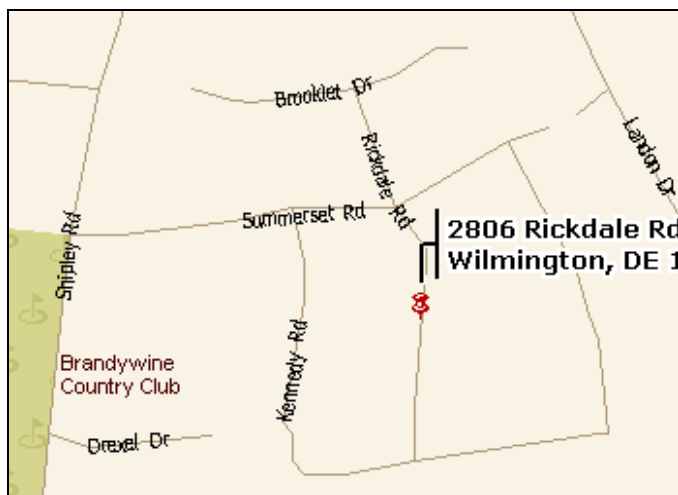
Nematanthus wettsteinii is a very desirable species. It can make an attractive small pot plant in the window or under lights, but also can be grown as a large basket plant. It was one of the parents of many of today's hybrids. The beautiful flowers whose shape and color account for the common name Candy-Corn Plant. Although it blooms best in the spring, with good culture it can be made to flower most of the year. *Nematanthus* has showy fruit which is not a berry but is a fleshy two-valved capsule. When ripe, the capsule splits open to make a beautiful display and reveal the seeds inside. Take the trouble to pollinate your species *Nematanthus* and you will be rewarded with beautiful display fruit as well as seed to share.

Next DAVS Meeting...

December 14, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. (Note earlier time!) Potluck Holiday Dinner and Auction at Carol Callaghan's home located at 2806 Rickdale Road, Wilmington, DE

Directions to Carol Callaghan's Home

These directions are courtesy of Expedia and originate at the Sunrise Assisted Living Facility where we have been holding our monthly meetings this past year. Carol lives nearby in the development named Talleybrook, which is located a few minutes north of Sunrise Assisted Living where we used to meet, just off Shipley Road. See directions printed to the right.



Map to Carol Callaghan's home.

Directions	Distance	Time
Start: Depart Start on Shipley Rd (North)	1.1	0:03
1: Turn RIGHT (East) onto Summerset Rd	0.1	0:01
2: Turn RIGHT (South) onto Rickdale Rd	0.1	0:01
End: Arrive End	< 0.1	< 1min
Total Route	1.3 mi	4 mins

Don't forget to bring plants, handicrafts, surprise box or something special from you kitchen for the auction! If you didn't sign up yet, contact Carol Callaghan at 478-4719 or mom.callag2@verizon.net

January DAVS Meeting...

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.
Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hostesses: Beverages – Pam Orris
Snacks – Elizabeth Varley

Program: - "Convention 101!" – This meeting will be devoted to an in depth review of what to expect at the upcoming nearby AVSA (May 2011) and The Gesneriad Society (July 2011) Conventions. A clinic on potting down is planned. A plant sale will conclude the evening. If you have surplus plants to share bring them. Don't forget to bring plants for the Little Show or Show and Tell!

With Best Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year!

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First Class Mail

Time Value/ Please Expedite!