



AVSA Convention Cookbook Assistance Needed

The 2011 AVSA Convention is planned for May 15-22 in the Philadelphia area. AVS of Springfield, Delaware County is hosting the convention and would like to print a cookbook for a fund raiser. The cookbook, containing tried-and-true recipes from AVSA members, will be for sale at the 2010 AVSA Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Do you have a very special recipe that you would like to share? AVSA of Springfield would love to use it in their cookbook. The target number is 300+ recipes so please help them put together a big cookbook.

AVSA of Springfield has asked that this request be shared with our members. To meet their printing deadline, please have the recipes to Peggy Mooney by November 15, 2009. You can send it by e-mail or USPS as soon as possible and the committee will incorporate it into the cookbook. Please put "Violet Cookbook" in the subject line of your e-mail. (Please provide a phone number in case there are questions.) See the sample recipe format listed below.

Peggy Mooney, Cookbook Chairman
1016 Broadway Ave.
Secane, PA 19018
pm1016@rcn.com

Sample Recipe Format

Category _____ (Appetizers & Beverages - Bread & Rolls - Cookies & Candy - Desserts - Main Dishes - Soups & Salads - Vegetables & Side Dishes - This & That)

Recipe

Title _____

Submitted By _____ Your Name, City and State

Ingredients: List

Directions: _____

Notes _____

Instructions

List all ingredients in the order of use.

Include container size, e.g., 16oz pkg., 24oz can.

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Secrets of Sinningias

The Society's October program will feature Liberty Bell Chapter member Betsy Gottshall who will discuss her unique way of growing Sinningias, especially the microminis. I had the opportunity to attend this presentation in Philadelphia earlier this year and I found it to be one of the best programs on the subject. I have even adopted her approach on awakening other Gesneriads, including some rhizomatous types like *Phinaea multiflora* 'Tracery,' which I routinely lose in dormancy. You will not want to miss this presentation, and she is even bringing plants for you to take home! In light of the subject, I thought it would be appropriate to review some of the micro miniature Sinningias currently available in the trade.

Sinningia concinna: (Nichols) the flowers on this plant are light to dark lilac/purple/lavender with a spotted throat. This plant is rare in cultivation and is temperamental, setting seed reluctantly. *S. concinna* is one of the micro-miniature sinningias, the whole plant often being 5 cm (2") or less across. It is similar in size and general form to *S. pusilla*, although it has a rosier color and decorative purple spots. It has been used to create a large number of hybrids and is a parent of *S. 'Cindy'*, one of the first of the widely grown miniature sinningias. The hybrid of *S. concinna* with *S. pusilla*, *S. 'Wood Nymph'*, is very popular, as is *S. 'Bright Eyes'*, the backcross of 'Wood Nymph' to *S. pusilla*.



Sinningia 'Lil Georgie' is one of the first hybrids of Sinningia sp. Rio das Pedros

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...Recipe Request continued from page 1...

Keep direction in paragraph form - not in steps. Use name of ingredients in the directions, e.g. "Combine flour and sugar." **DO NOT** use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients." Include temperature and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times. You may add a personal note with your recipe. (Recipe from my Grandmother) (My husbands favorite cake) (Great for Pot Luck Dinner).

MAAVS Show next Month

MAAVs will be November 12 - 14, 2009 in historic Williamsburg . MAAVs is an association of African Violet Clubs throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, so it's a high quality combined show. If you have a chance, go!!! In those dark days of late October, November you will be jonesing for a great plant sale and flower show.

A substantial percentage of the show plants are gesneriads, although over 50% will be AVs. Plant vendors include Lyndon Lyons and Robs Violets, who have fantastic gesneriads for sale as well as AVs. There are other vendors present and sometimes you even find other plants for sale like begonias. Cape Cod Violetry will be selling also, they carry supplies and pots (and he usually has AVID, CONSERVE and MARATHON if you ask him and you have the need---not to make this sound like an illicit drug deal!)

Where?

Williamsburg Woodland Hotel and Suites
105 Visitor Center Dr
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Phone: 757-220-7960

When?

Friday November 13 and Saturday, November 14 are the days to visit because.....the Plant Sale will be open to the public!!!!

Plant sales are open 9:00-5:00 on Friday, November 13, and 9:00-4:00 Saturday, November 14 (Azalea room) The show will be open 1:30- 5:00 Friday, November 13, and 9:00-4:00 Saturday, November 14, Flower Show Open- (Oak room)

Our Condolences

Barb Borleske's and Pat Barbarito's father, Henry Lesh, passed away on Sunday September 20. Carol Moody sent an e-mail to members, but since some members do not have e-mail, it seems appropriate to mention it here. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to them and their families.

Website Launched

One of the great things about plant society conventions are the people you meet. At the Silver Springs Convention of the Gesneriad Society I attended a meeting of Chapter Presidents and spoke with Julie Mavity-Hudson who advised that the Gesneriad Society could host the Delaware Chapter's website. The website, while still under construction, has actually been up for a while and can be viewed at: <http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/index.htm> It will be linked to the Gesneriad Society's chapter page after the photos are added.

...Secrets of Sinningias continued from page 1...

Sinningia pusilla: The flowers are tiniest of all. Miniature lilac-blue nodding flowers with a white throat and lilac/violet lines in middle of throat. The foliage is half-inch oval leaves veined dark green. Always in bloom. Needs terrarium culture. It is a species plant which sets seed easily. *S. pusilla* was the first of the "microminiature" sinningias to enter into common culture. It is truly tiny, the pot in the picture below is about the size of a quarter. It has been much used in hybridizing, and along with *S. concinna* has been the source of the miniaturization resulting in hundreds of hybrids known as "Miniature Sinningias".



Sinningia concinna



Sinningia pusilla

S. pusilla requires high humidity, and does best with low light. It is the ideal subject for an enclosed container at the edges of a fluorescent light stand. Soil should be moisture retentive but well drained, and the pot should not be too much larger than the spread of the plant. *S. pusilla* grown with several plants in a common pot, preferably a small shallow bonsai-type ceramic pot makes a great display.

This species, like all Sinningias, will go dormant, although it sometimes stays in active growth for a long time. If dormancy occurs, the pea-sized tubers can be replanted in new soil. It is also easily grown from seed, and if allowed to will self-seed vigorously, resulting in many tiny seedlings sprouting from every soil surface around.

***Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite'**: The flower is pure white and is a sport of *Sinningia pusilla*. It is very free flowering and usually comes true from seed which is set freely. Terrarium culture is recommended. Unfortunately, the white flower characteristic is not transmitted to its hybrid progeny, as there is a reversion to the lavender color of *S. pusilla* when crossed with other species.



Sinningia pusilla
'White Sprite'



Sinningia 'Snowflake'

Sinningia 'Snowflake': (Clayberg) This hybrid resulted from a cross by Carl Clayberg of *S. pusilla* 'White Sprite' x unnamed mutant. The flower is white with three lobes on each petal and is propagated by cutting, although it will set seed.

***Sinningia* sp. Rio Das Pedras**: Light to dark lilac, white flower. Tiny stripe pointed edges leaves. This interesting species and is a relatively new introduction, as yet without a formal name -- it was found in the vicinity of Rio das Pedras, in Brazil, hence the temporary descriptive name. Note the patterned and scalloped leaves, which are quite different from those of *S. concinna* or *S. pusilla*. Overall, *S. sp.* "Rio Das Pedras" is somewhat larger than the other micro-minis. . Newest species, prolific, sets seed so well it usually selfs before a cross can be made.



Sinningia sp. Rio Das Pedras



Sinningia 'Bright Eyes'

***Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes'**: (Clayberg) The flower is larger, Purple slightly darker at edge of throat. This hybrid is sterile but if it produces seeds they will not be true. *S.* 'Bright Eyes' is a vigorous micro-miniature *Sinningia*, the product of Carl Clayberg's cross between *S. pusilla* and *S. concinna*, crossed back to *S.*

pusilla. It has become very popular because of its vigorous growth and floriferous nature.

***Sinningia* 'Little Wood Nymph'**: is a hybrid between *Sinningia pusilla* and *Sinningia concinna*. The flower is half way between the two species and upper two lobes dark purple, lower three lobes white light purple edging/light purple spotted throat. This plant is sought after by many collectors.



Sinningia 'Little Wood Nymph'



Sinningia Ruffled Wood Nymph'

***Sinningia* 'Ruffled Wood Nymph'**: is the result of a cross between *S. concinna* and *S. pusilla* (named 'Wood Nymph'), which was in turn crossed back to *S. concinna*. The resulting seedlings were generally distributed as 'Wood Nymph Improved', and one was selected and named 'Ruffled Wood Nymph'. Many of the plants in the 'Wood Nymph' series are hard to tell apart.



Sinningia 'Little Tiger'



Sinningia 'Mighty Mouse'



Sinningia 'Carefree Regina' *Sinningia* 'Freckles'



There are numerous other micro miniature *Sinningias* including those pictured above. The following website offers descriptions and photos of these: <http://minisinningias.com/micro-mini-sinningias-2.htm> A wonderful little 24 page booklet titled ***Gardening in Miniature*** by Linda M. Zillach is also a useful reference. We will acquire a copy for the Society's library.

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

***Sunrise Assisted Living, 2215 Shipley Road,
Wilmington, DE***

Host: Quentin Schlieder

Program: “**The Secrets of Sinningias.**” – Join us as Betsy Gottshall of the Liberty Bell Chapter demystifies this popular genus of Gesneriads. These tuberous plants are somewhat like “Sleeping Beauty,” in that they fall asleep and don’t wake up! But you will learn the “prince’s kiss,” and how to awaken them. Betsy will discuss the growing conditions in their natural habitats, how to grow and propagate them at home, and how to keep them growing. You won’t want to miss this special evening! 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! Learn how to make an inexpensive wick watering reservoir and take one home along with a special Gesneriad to enjoy at home.

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

***Sunrise at Wilmington, 2215 Shipley Road,
Wilmington, DE***

Hostess: Pat Barbarita

Program: “**How to select the best Gesneriad cultivar? What degree of sophistication matters to you?**” Gary Hunter will present the program on how to decide what characteristics of a Gesneriad are important to look for. If you like, bring a plant along and we will dissect it. (With words not scissors!).

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Saturday, October 17, 2009 – Noon - 5 p.m. and

Sunday, October 18, 2009 - 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AVSA of Philadelphia’s Annual Show/Plant Sale with the theme “Boo-tiful Violets” will be held at Lighthouse Fellowship United Methodist Church, 137 North Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038 The plant sale will feature Violets and gesneriads from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses and other commercial growers. For more information contact Carol Hastings by e-mail at sqcut2@aol.com or by phone 610-272-6961

Saturday, November 7, 2009 – 1:30-4:30 p.m and

Sunday, November 8, 2009- 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Tristate African Violet Society Annual Show/Plant Sale at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey. Contact Jill Fischer by e-mail at HF.JG.Fischer@comcast.net or by telephone at 908 464-4417

Friday, November 12, 2009 – Sunday, November 14,

2009 - The Mid Atlantic African Violet Society 19th
Annual Convention in Williamsburg, VA See details on page 2.

Friday, March 26, 2010 – Sunday, March 28, 2010-

The Delaware African Violet Society’s Annual Show and Sale at Boscov’s Christiana Town Center, Christiana, DE. The theme this year is “Legacy of the Brandywine Valley. Reserve the dates NOW and begin growing plants for show and sale!

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