

GloxNews

The publication of the Greater New York Gesneriad Society

Volume 59, Number 2 – October 2023

<http://www.greaternygesneriad.org>

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Saturday, October 21, 2023

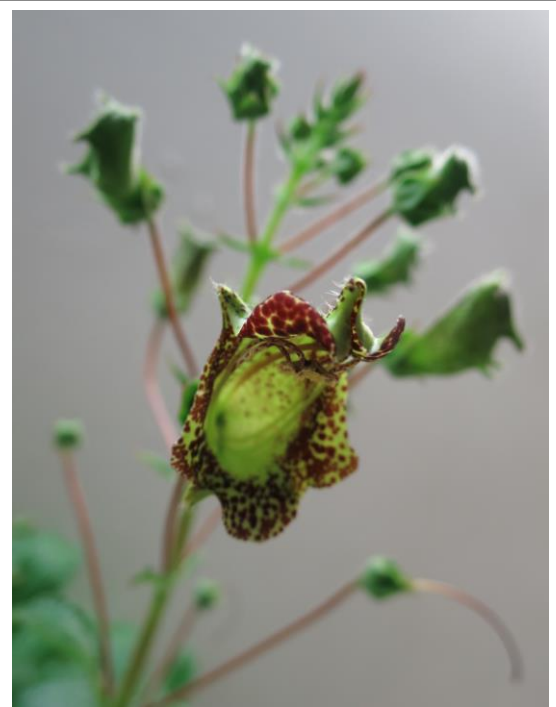
11am-2pm at the LGBT Community Center, 208 West 13th Street, New York

Gesneriad Conservation

October's program will highlight some of the ways that we as gesneriad growers can participate in making sure that the plants we love will be available for future generations. We will hear stories about how some of our own members are responsible for specific plants being available in cultivation. We will talk about how the Gesneriad Society and its members facilitate the maintenance of species and hybrids in the hobby. And we will also look at several online resources that can be very helpful in identifying, locating and sharing information about gesneriads. As usual, discussion/participation is welcomed and from fellow members during programs, so start to ponder your thoughts on how you might already contribute to gesneriad conservation, or how you might be able to amplify your contribution.

As always, we'll have a fantastic plant sale, raffle, judged Little Show, education, refreshments and camaraderie. Please join us for this wonderful occasion. Guests are welcome. Hope to see you then!

Members, please remember to send photos of your plants to your editor at piabinha@yahoo.com, as well as articles, wanted ads/requests (of plants or supplies), questions, etc. Deadline is two weeks before meeting date.



We had a tremendous Little Show and plant sales last month (see more photos on p. 4-5). Top, *Sinningia brasiliensis* flower (photo by Ed Hittig), which Joel Egan brought for show and tell. Below, a *Sinningia richii* 'Robson Lopes', which was grown by Carolyn Ripps for the plant sales table (photo by Tsuh Yang Chen).

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<u>Corresponding Secr.</u>	Carol Smith
<u>Recording Secr.</u>	Megan Nelson
<u>Membership</u>	Brigitte Lifschitz 222 West 83rd Str., # 7C New York, NY 10024
<u>Historian</u>	Joel Egan
<u>Directors</u>	Gussie Farrice, Al Romano

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<u>Education/Outreach</u>	vacant
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<u>Plant Sales</u>	Gussie Farrice
<u>Program</u>	Joel Egan
<u>Propagation</u>	Carolyn Ripps
<u>Hospitality</u>	Al Romano
<u>Raffle</u>	vacant
<u>Past President</u>	Megan Nelson
<u>Ways & Means</u>	Carolyn Ripps
<u>Editor, <i>GloxNews</i></u>	Tsuh Yang Chen (email piabinha@yahoo.com)

GLOX NEWS is the official publication of the Greater New York Gesneriad Society, a chapter of **The Gesneriad Society** (formerly AGGS). It is published monthly, except July and August. GNYC annual dues are \$30 for individuals, platinum memberships are \$40, and family memberships are \$60. Send dues and address changes to the Membership Chair. Article submissions should be emailed to the Editor.

Dues for the Gesneriad Society are separate from the NYC chapter dues. Membership to the Gesneriad Society includes subscription to GESNERIADS, the society's journal. For more information, visit gesneriadsociety.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Usage of material from the GLOX NEWS is permitted with the provision that credit is given to the publication and the original author and that no editing is done without permission from the original author.

PRINTING SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to the GLOX NEWS is the Saturday two weeks before the chapter meeting. Electronic submissions are encouraged and can be emailed to piabinha@yahoo.com.

President's Message – October 2023

Last month, Joel gave us an in-depth dive into soil and the potting mixes we use. I learned a lot that I hope to incorporate into my potting practice. This month, Joel has prepared another very educational program, from which we can all learn a lot. We are going to discuss conservation, one of the biggest crises facing the natural world. Come to hear how we, as individual growers, can help in saving the species of Gesneriaceae that are threatened around the world.

We had a very big and showy Little Show and show & tell table last month, and I hope that that we'll have just as big as one this month. Please have all entries in place by 11:30 so that the Little Show judging can finish expeditiously.

Remember to also bring your contributions to the plant sales table and raffle, and the hospitality table as well. Looking ahead to November, get ready for our annual Bake Sale, which will be as usual, delicious, mouth-watering and guaranteed to elicit frenzied bidding wars.

See you all at the meeting.

Gary

Hospitality Committee by Al Romano

Thanks to everyone who visited our refreshment table last meeting. And speaking for the membership: *Special Thanks* to the two members who were thoughtful enough to think of the rest of us and bring in something special for all of us to enjoy: Carol Smith for the great cookies and Ed for the very refreshing watermelon. Good Stuff!!!!

Please remember to sign the donation sheet when you bring in something for the table.

Suggestions, as I've always said, are welcome and please see anyone on the Hospitality committee with your thoughts on how we can improve, and what you think we can add to the table.

September Little Show by Michael Riley (photos on p. 4 and 5)

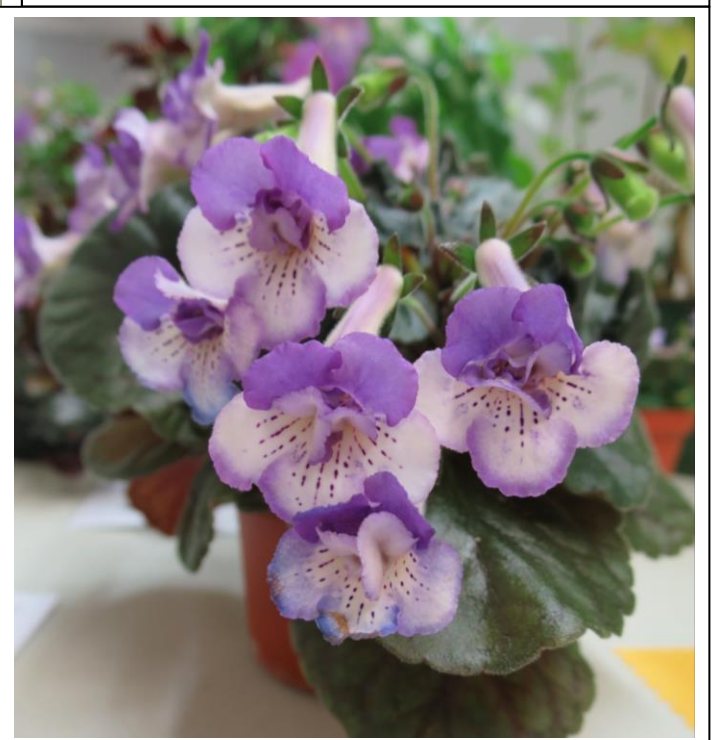
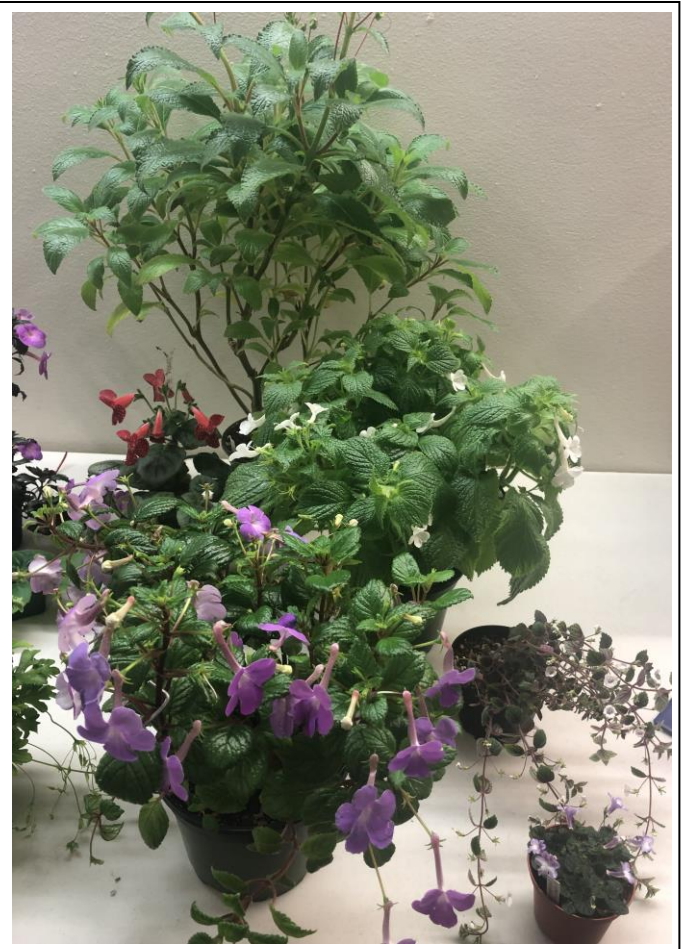
Sinningias seemed to predominate our Little Show table last week - many species and hybrids come into flower about this time of year and Joel Egan brought a few of his large collection. His plant of *Sinningia concinna* 'Seropédica' is a somewhat new collection of this tiny species from the locale, Seropédica in Rio Janeiro State. Joel says that the multiple crowns on this plant all come from one central tuber and beautifully filled the little pot. There were some spent flowers that could have been removed (or were they left intentionally to produce seed for the Gesneriad Society Seed Fund?) The judges would know the intent of that situation if a small card was provided with that statement and then judges and the public would look more favorably on the horticultural merit. We know Joel's intentions were honorable! 93 points earned the plant a Blue Ribbon. This variation of the species has fewer dots in the corolla than the previous collection, but the flower is larger and is being used for hybridizing in that regard.

In the Primulina class, Joel entered a nice plant of *P. bipinnatifida* in quite heavy flower and excellent lush growth. There were many of the tiny white flowers and again, a few too many spent flowers or seed pods (intentionally?) remaining on the plant for show purposes. Looking for that label about seed, the judges still awarded a Blue Ribbon for a well-grown plant.

The class for what some call "miniature" sinningia hybrids and cultivars is guided by a leaf size maximum of 2.5" in length. It is a difficult way to classify any group of plants, particularly when these small hybrids are often multiple crowns and/or multiple tubers shown in the same pot. Nevertheless, the plants all present themselves well for judging as long as those considerations are taken into account. Joel brought in three hybrids with considerable variation in the size of the plants, so they were judged on their individual horticultural merit and potential as well as between each entry. In a larger flower show, there are often twenty or more such entries which presents a different challenge and the class is frequently split to make judging and awards more equitable. The 93-point Blue Ribbon went to *Sinningia* 'SRG's Heart Breaker', which was noted for its consistent horticultural merit as well as the large pink and white flowers. The second place Red Ribbon went to *Sinningia* 'HCY's Gemini' with large purple flowers on two large mature crowns which scored 92 points. And the third-place Yellow Ribbon went to *Sinningia* 'Stone's Moulin Rouge' at 89 points. The latter hybrid was well grown and had brilliant red flowers but the leaves were all different shapes and a bit twisted so it did not display the skill of the grower as well. The judges wondered if the inconsistency was inherent to the genetics of the hybrid but perhaps time will tell, when we see this hybrid exhibited in the future.

The job of judges is not to make absolute decisions about what they like or don't like, but rather to be objective in their observations of horticultural merit, and learn to qualify their decisions among themselves and to the general public. This team of Gary Vellenzer, Francisco Correa and myself, were challenged to this task with these excellent entries. Thanks Joel and everyone who brings us plants for Little Show.

Top two photos of the Little Show and show and tell table (by Tsuh Yang Chen). Bottom left, *Sinningia* 'SRG's Heartbreaker' and at right, S. 'HCY's Gemini', both grown by Joel Egan (photos by Ed Hittig).



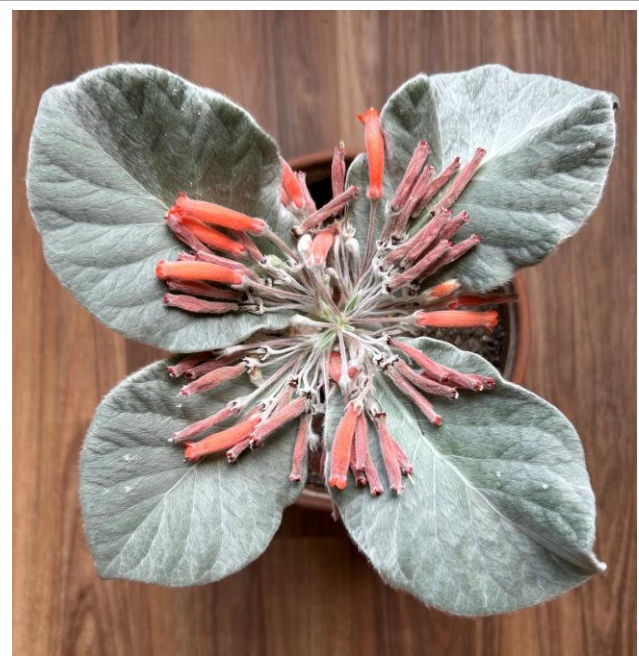
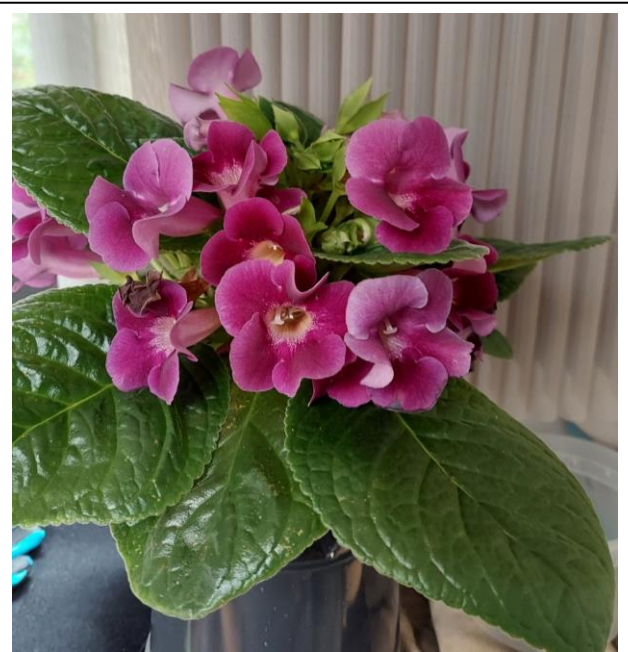


September meeting (clockwise from top left, all photos by Ed Hittig except *Primulina*): all plants were entered by Joel Egan -- *Sinningia concinna* "Seropédica"; *Primulina bipinnatifida* (photo by Tshu Yang Chen); *Achimenes skinneri* (for show and tell); *Sinningia* 'Stone's Moulin Rouge'; the Little Show judges in action.

Correction: In the September issue, the *Streptocarpus* pictured on p. 5 is ‘Haru no Mizu’, not ‘Mizu no Hara’. It’s a Toshijiro Okuto hybrid, and it means ‘Spring Stream’.

Plant Sales: Many thanks to the following for their donations to the plant sales table in September – Amy, Carol, Carolyn, Claudia, Ed, Gary, Joel and Vincent.

Below, top left: Joel presents one of his entries in the show and tell in September (photo by Brigitte Lifschitz); top right: Gary grew and bloomed this *Sinningia* ‘Ozark’s Sentimental Journey’ at home; bottom, Sally Freeman, our longtime member and former Historian, who has moved to Baltimore to be with family, sent Michael these photos of her well-grown *Sinningia leucotricha* that adorns the common area of her group home, and which elicits lots of admiration and comments from the other residents.



Glox News

Greater New York Gesneriad Society

36 Crooke Avenue #F7
Brooklyn, NY 11226-1149

Attention: Next Meeting:
October 21, 11am-2pm
(see first page)

Bulletin Board

Please contribute to *GloxNews* Members, please send articles, photos, questions, requests for plants/information and other submissions to your editor at piabinha@yahoo.com. Deadline is always two weeks before meeting date. Got suggestions, cultural questions or any requests for plants or supplies? Send them along as well. We also need photographers to take pictures at the meetings. Please see your editor at the meeting to volunteer.

Reminder Please check our society's FB page with more regular updates (including recent photos of members' plants and of our meetings) at: <https://www.facebook.com/NYGesneriad>. Please remember to send photos of your plants to your editor at piabinha@yahoo.com to be posted there. (You don't have to join FB to view our photos or posts.)

Gleanings *Gleanings* is a free monthly e-newsletter from The Gesneriad Society and includes articles and photos selected from chapter newsletters, the journal *Gesneriads*, and original sources. You can subscribe via email or download them from this page: <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/current-gleanings>.

Membership Application – The Greater New York Gesneriad Society

I would like to _____join or, _____renew my membership.

Annual Dues: \$30 - Individual \$40 - Individual Platinum (plant sale priority)
 \$45 - Family \$60 - Family Platinum

Please make check payable to **GNYGS** and mail to:
 Brigitte Lifschitz, Membership Secretary
 222 West 83rd Street, # 7C
 New York, NY 10024

Or via Paypal (with credit card) at:
<http://www.greaternygesneriad.org/join-us>

Name: _____

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I would like *GloxNews* via printed copy ____
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