

GloxNews

The publication of the Greater New York Gesneriad Society

Volume 61, Number 6 – February 2026

<http://www.greaternygesneriad.org>

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org>

Saturday, February 21, 2026

11am – 2pm

@ the LGBT Community Center
208 West 13th Street, New York City

Gesneriad Society Webinar 'Rare and Unusual Gesneriads'

Gesneriaddicts, please join us this month as we present the GS Webinar on “*Rare and Unusual Gesneriads*”, with the one and only, Bill Price. Bill has been a legendary grower in the gesneriad world for decades and in this webinar, he will show us how to grow over 30 very rare species to perfection, as only he can conjure up! This program is a perfect antidote to the recent winter blues we have been experiencing.

As usual, we'll have coffee/refreshments, a fantastic sales plant, a judged Little Show, raffle, education, camaraderie and more. This meeting is not to be missed! Guests are welcome. Hope to see you then!



From top: Three beautiful blue-ribbon entries in the Little Show in January, by Joel Egan: *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, a small, rosette-growing species from Venezuela; *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina-type'; *Seemannia sylvatica*, a widespread rhizomatous species from S. America (photos by Gary Vellenzer).

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<u>Editor, GloxNews</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 – February 2026

Greetings gesneriphiles!

Living on the Upper West Side has some perks, like being close to Central Park, the Lincoln Centre and Zabar's. Another bright side is my daily view of the Hudson River, which for the last two weeks of deep freeze has been in differing states of glacial. I keep expecting to see a polar bear on one of the slowly moving gigantic chunks of ice flowing lazily down the river! As I'm sure is the case for everyone reading this, during these frozen times our plants are the refuge that warm our hearts and fire our imaginations. After walking home and braving the frost bite on my nose and climbing the 'Avenue Alps' of frozen grey snow along the curbs, I look forward to a cozy time indoors with my plants, or with seed catalogs, books and *Gesneriads* magazines planning my future plant delights.

However, these cooler temperatures could also be a boon for some select gesneriad species if placed in a cool windowsill. While most New World gesneriads will need to be moved away from the cool sill, old world genera like *Glabrella*, *Petrocosmea*, *Oreocharis* and especially *Primulina*, love a seasonal dip down in temperatures. This cooling off will actually stimulate blooming! Some of these above mentioned gesneriads will require a cold snap to initiate flowering and could be the missing ingredient for some frustrated growers lacking blooms. Special note - going below freezing is not always necessary or recommended unless you're sure the specific species can tolerate it.

I hope to see you all at our February meeting for a cozy time together enjoying a webinar from a truly wonderful human being, incomparable grower and friend of mine, Bill Price. Bill truly is one of the best gesneriad growers - period. He has won countless awards for his plants, mentored and stewarded other growers to win countless awards and over the decades has effected an immeasurable impact on the growing, showing and enjoyment of gesneriads. Please join us this February to learn from and celebrate the successes of a very special member of our gesneriad community. Get excited to see the best of the best because Bill has the Midas Touch and his plants are a delight to view. This will be a fantastic webinar.

Happy growing,

Joel

From the Hospitality Chair Thanks once again to Gussie for her homemade thimble/thumb print cookies; to our infamous and famous editor, Tsuh Yang, for the nougat; our VP, Bruce, for the cookies, and of course, Nancy, who is becoming famous for the various cheeses and crackers, and in addition also generously donated a fruitcake! And of course, Thanks to all members who donated \$\$\$; it's well appreciated.

Al Romano

Correction In the January issue, the plant on p. 1 should be *Sinningia* 'Gone Salmon Fishing'.

Plant Sales Many thanks to all of the donors to the plant sales table in December (*Joel, Tsuh Yang, Brigitte and Gussie*) and January (*Joel, Tsuh Yang, Brigitte and Gary*).

January Little Show by Gary Vellenzer

Once again, Joel brought in a great bunch of plants. First off, a young *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, with good healthy foliage. It would have got a better score with more flowers, but still got a blue ribbon. Then there were two *Gesneria* species, *G. pedicellaris* and *G. reticulata*. The *G. pedicellaris* was a fully developed show specimen and got a very high blue ribbon; competing in the same class, the *G. reticulata* was less developed and gained a red ribbon.

Then he showed a *Primulina longgangensis* with an unusually large number of flowers on its one fully developed pedicel. A few somewhat scraggly leaves detracted from the effect, but the judges awarded a blue ribbon. His *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina-type' with its deep purple flower got a red. The judges admired its wonderful leaf variegation but recognized some cultural issues that lowered its score.

Best in Little Show was Joel's final entry, a *Seemannia sylvatica* with seven blooming growths and multiple flowers on each. The judges were awed and gave it a very high score and a blue ribbon.

A first-time entrant, Nancy Moore, showed a very pretty African Violet hybrid with beautiful deep purple flowers. The judges noticed that the new growth was significantly healthier and more vigorous than the older leaves, suggesting that there was a lot of potential for future glory. They awarded it a red ribbon.

The judges (Gary Vellenzer and Michael Riley) recognized that Joel indicated, for several of his plants, that he was letting them develop seed for the TGS seed fund.

below left: *Primulina longgangensis*; right, *Gesneria pedicellaris* (photos by Gary Vellenzer)





Clockwise from top left: Meredith Carr's *Sinningia* 'Peninsula Belle', a hybrid of *S. reitzii* x *lineata* made by Alan LaVergne, and her *Sinningia iarae*, blooming at home; our master propagator Carol Smith has gotten a heads up on the propagation meeting -- these are 6-week old seedlings of *Sinningia leucotricha*, one of her favorite species; *Sinningia sulphurea*, from Tsuh Yang Chen, a rare species from the rainforests of Bahia, NE Brazil; also from Tsuh Yang, this *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Concord' bloomed while being rooted in a plastic up. Check out our Facebook page for more photos.

Glox News

Greater New York Gesneriad Society

36 Crooke Avenue #F7
Brooklyn, NY 11226-1149

Attention: Next Meeting:
February 21, 11 am – 2 pm
(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>

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I would like *GloxNews* via printed copy ____
or email _____ (via email is faster)