



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XIII, No. 10
June 2011

DAVS Participates in Cherry Hill, AVSA Convention

By Mary Schaeffer (with additions by the Editor)

Members of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society were well represented this year at the AVSA convention held in Cherry Hill in May. Members of the club worked on the show, entered plants, won ribbons, and the club had a special trip for those who were not able to attend the entire event.



*Pam Orris was awarded a coveted Best in Class for her *Saintpaulia nitida*, in the species class.*

Exhibitors entering plants were guided into the entries room by Terry Celano and Barbara LaFashia. Once their plants had been inspected and the classification checked, Carol Callaghan keyed entries information into the computer. This is more complicated than it sounds. Libby Behnke chose to clerk instead of judge as she entered plants in the show. And, when the judges were finished, Mary Schaeffer worked with the team tabulating and cataloguing the awards. The Chapter also donated shopping tablets for the “goody bags” and a cash donation for the hospitality room.

All the plants entered by Libby, Pam and Mary won blue ribbons with Pam snagging a coveted Best in Class for her *Saintpaulia nitida*, in the species class. Not everyone was able to spare the time needed to attend the entire event, so the club had one of its field trips and two carloads came to see the extravaganza.

And, what a show it was. Not only were the exhibits breathtaking, but the camaraderie, lectures, sales room and Internet Buddies dinner were simply put, a lot of fun. Everyone has their own favorites but for me the gardens grown in natural containers were at the top of the list.



DAVS day trippers enjoy lunch in Ember's Wood Fire Grill, restaurant at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia/Cherry Hill. Pictured from left to right: Bill Moody, Bobbie LaFashis, Geno Iubatti, Quentin Schlieder, Gary Hunter, Diane Abramson and Carol Moody. Other members who attended the Convention included Libby Behnke, Carol Callaghan, Terry and Fiore Celano, Pam Orris, Mary Schaeffer and Maria Walueff.

As previously mentioned, Pam Orris received both a Blue Ribbon and Best in Class for her species *Saintpaulia*. Libby Behnke received blue ribbons for her lovely plants of *Chirita* ‘Crossroads,’ *Chirita tamiana*, *Streptocarpus* ‘Heartlands White Gold,’ *Saintpaulia* ‘Cerelda’ and *Episcia* ‘Cleopatra.’ Mary Schaeffer received blue ribbons for her *Sinningia amambayensis*, *Kohleria* ‘Manchu’ and *Kohleria* ‘Jardin de Monet’ *Kohleria* ‘Gunsmoke’, *Sinningia eumorphia* ‘Saltão’, *Chirita tamiana*, *Saintpaulia* clone *grotei* Silvert, and *Saintpaulia* clone *grotei* sport. Mary also presented a program on Friday afternoon titled “African Violets in Print: Taking the Mystery Out of Writing and Publication.” Congratulations to Springfield for a great Convention!

Gesneriad Society to Meet in Historic Philadelphia in July

This summer, the City of Brotherly Love adds gesneriads to its long list of attractions when the annual Gesneriad Society Convention begins its run at the Loews Hotel 1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.. Hosted by the Liberty Bell Chapter, the 55th annual Convention, to be held July 5 through 9, will be a showstopper. Convention plans include time to socialize, a blend of scientific and how-to presentations, a garden tour to Chanticleer, one of the great gardens of the region, and dinner with dinosaurs at the Academy of Natural Sciences.



Dinosaur Hall at the Academy of Natural Sciences will be the venue for Saturday evening's buffet dinner

As a result of feedback in the yearly convention surveys, the Gesneriad Society has revised the convention program this year to make more efficient use of the hotel space and, more importantly, to give all convention attendees some slack time to digest all the information obtained in the lectures and other activities.

One major change involves the move of the usual Thursday trip to Tuesday afternoon, at the beginning of convention rather than in the middle. This change adds time for the new conservation training program and lightens up the Thursday schedule. Since there is no excursion outside the hotel, entries and other activities are now spread throughout the day rather than being compressed into the late afternoon and early evening.

Throughout the convention the organizers have also added several short "basics" and "beginners" sessions that will focus on sharing information useful to novice and experienced growers. One of the highlights is the Gesneriad Hybridizers Meeting.

The lineup of speakers for the Philadelphia convention is an impressive one. There will be both scientific presentations and those that will be informative and less scientific for those who have requested them. Here is the schedule:

Wednesday, July 6- Gesneriad Hybridizers Association Meeting (open to all) "Gesneriad Hybrids from the University of Arkansas" by Jon Lindstrom (University of Arkansas)

Thursday, July 7 - Lecture #1: "The Phylogenetics of the genus *Petrocosmea*" by Michael Kotarski, Ph.D. (Niagara University, Lewiston, New York)

Thursday, July 7 - Lecture #2: "Ask the Experts: A Growers Forum" This forum, features a panel of expert growers from all over North America, will be interactive with attendees. Paul Kroll will moderate this discussion. Learn how different growers grow and produce their spectacular show plants. Questions may be sent in ahead of time to Paul Kroll at pfkroll@roadrunner.com.

Friday, July 8 - Lecture #3: "*Gloxinia* and *Seemannia*" by John Boggan (Smithsonian Institution, Department of Botany, Washington, DC) This talk will cover the history, taxonomy, and culture of the genera *Gloxinia* and *Seemannia*, including hybrids and hybridizing potential in these genera as well as their potential as bedding and container plants.

Saturday, July 9 - Lecture #4: "Genetic Diversity in *Sinningia speciosa*: History and Origins of the Florist *Gloxinia*" by David Zaitlin, Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)

One of the highlights of the Convention is always the Show and Sale. Registrants get to see the show and shop the sale the evening before it opens to the public. This year Show Room and Sales Room Open to the Public on Friday, July 8, 2011 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. The Lowe's Hotel is opposite the Market East Train Station and near the popular Reading Market. If you drive, the Park America is a self-park facility about a quarter block down 12th Street from the Loews, less than a five minute walk.

Members Gary Hunter and Mary Schaeffer are Co-chairs of the Plant Sale; Elizabeth Varley is Educational and Commercial Chairman; Stephen Maciejewski is Special Events & Transportation Chairman and Quentin Schlieder is Table Favors Chairman.



Our Condolences...

Carol C. Cattlett passed away on May 21, 2011 at the St. Francis Hospital. She was a longtime member and past president (1981-1984) of the

Delaware African Violet Society. She survived by her children, Diane Cattlett Magyar, Samuel Cattlett and his wife Joanne, Alan Cattlett, William Cattlett Jr. and her grandchildren, Michael Magyar, April, Alyson and Carrie Cattlett. The family suggests contributions to the American Lung Association of DE, 630 Churchman's Road, Suite 202, Newark, DE 19702 or the Tinari Endowment Fund African Violet Society of America, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.

We also learned that member, Sandra Hill, recently lost her son Timothy. The Society expresses deepest sympathy for their losses.

Bylaws to be Considered at June Meeting

The Bylaws were discussed at the May meeting and will be voted on at the June Picnic. Additions were made to reflect requirements of the IRS and our parent organizations, as well as to more efficiently conduct the business of the Club. Changes submitted by Paul Susi and Peter Shalit of the Gesneriad Society requiring officers to be members of The Gesneriad Society have been included, as have corrections received from Bobbie LaFashia and Elizabeth Varley. The new bylaws are needed for preparation of the Club's yearbook which is printed over the summer. Changes were made to reflect requirements of the IRS and our parent organizations, as well as to more efficiently conduct the business of the Club.

A New Product to Control Houseplant Pests

One of the great opportunities available at a Convention is to learn about new plants and products. The Violet Gallery was selling a new product to control insects, mites and diseases on gesneriads and other houseplants called Bayer Advanced 3 in 1 Insect, Disease, & Mite Control. It's 24 ounces and ready to use and it is listed for killing aphids, spider mites, white flies and other insects including thrips. It also controls powdery mildew, black spot, rust, etc.



The first listed ingredient is imidacloprid which is the main ingredient in Marathon, which is great for controlling soil mealy bugs.

They claimed that it doesn't affect blossoms on blooming violets, and I have tried it and had the same result. This is a great general purpose, ready to use, insecticide, miticide and fungicide. I found it more effective than Conserve SC in eliminating thrips on flowers

and since it is premixed in a spray bottle it is easy to use encouraging early intervention before a problem gets out of hand. It also is affordable!

Autumn Trip to the 2011 MAAVS Convention Proposed

We have been conducting both a spring and autumn trip for members the past several years. The trip to the AVSA Convention in Cherry Hill last month was a great experience for all who participated and now we are planning the trip for autumn.

The Mid Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) will hold its convention from Thursday, November 10 through Saturday, November 12, 2011 in Timonium, MD at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This is the 21st Annual Convention and Show for the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society. Ken Barbi is convention Chair and Marie Burns is Show Chair. The Show theme is "Violets in Birdland."

Why Birdland? Baltimore pronounced locally as Bawlmer, is referred to as Birdland predominately due to the use of bird references in the city's culture. The baseball team is the Orioles, the football team is the Ravens, and Cal Ripkin's organization in Aberdeen is the Ironbirds. Many of the streets are bird oriented such as Holabird, Bird River, and Ravenwood. And, of course, there is the Flamingo which frankly is as "Baltimorese" as you can get.

While some members will undoubtedly want to participate in the entire event, it is proposed that DAVS conduct a daytrip to see the show and sale on Friday or Saturday. This is a great opportunity to buy plants and supplies, as well as to see award winning plants in a rather large show. We also will see if we can find another stop or two along the way. If you have any suggestions, please talk to Quentin Schlieder or bring them up at the June meeting.






Final Meeting of the Season...




Tuesday, June 8, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.

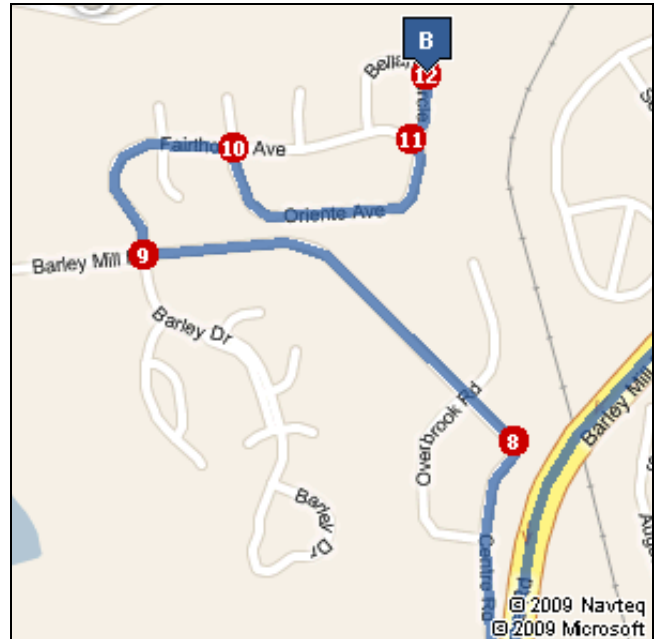
(Note earlier time!)

***Potluck Dinner and Picnic at the Borleskes' garden,
116 Bellant Circle, Greenville, DE 19807***

Everyone is invited to bring their significant other or a guest and your favorite dish. If you didn't sign up at the May meeting and still want to attend, call Barb Borleske at (302) 691-8487 and let her know what you will be bringing. Installation of Officers and a brief business meeting follow dinner. Also don't forget to pay your dues for next year! The directions below are from Rockland Place where we hold our monthly meetings...

-  1. From Childrens Drive go to light and turn left onto SR-141 / Powder Mill Rd
-  2. Take SR-141 South / Powder Mill Rd 0.2 mi
-  3. Keep straight onto SR-141 South / Powder Mill Rd 2.9 mi
-  4. Turn right, and then immediately turn right onto Centre Rd 0.2 mi
-  5. Road name changes to Barley Mill Rd 0.5 mi

-  6. Turn right onto Fairthorne Ave 0.2 mi
-  7. Turn right onto Oriente Ave 0.3 mi
-  8. Turn right onto Bellant Circle 0.1 mi
- 12. Arrive at 116 Bellant Cir, Greenville, DE 19807-2267. The last intersection is Fairthorne Ave



Map to the Borleskes' from Barley Mill Road

The \$10 annual dues are now payable to Carol Callaghan, the Chapter's Treasurer. Make checks payable to DAVS and give them to her at either the June meeting or mail them to her. A preaddressed envelope was enclosed for your convenience in the May Newsletter, except for new and honorary members.

If you have sales plants for the Gesneriad Society Convention in Philadelphia, make arrangements with Quentin Schlieder at the June picnic meeting to make appropriate arrangements for him to take them to the hotel. If you're not attending the June meeting, contact him by telephone at (302)-653-6449.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

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

First Class Mail

Time Value/ Please Expedite!