

C R WORDS S S

The Gesneriad Hybridizers Association
(An affiliate of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.)

NEWSLETTER

Volume IX, Issue 2, 1985

The GHA meeting at the AGGS Convention in Toronto was well-attended by many members and visitors. The brief business meeting produced several motions which were voted on and carried:

- A \$100 donation was made to the AGGS Convention Fund for our use of the meeting room at the Convention.
- To provide a simpler way for GHA to acknowledge outstanding hybrids, a \$25 cash award for the "Best Registered Gesneriad" will be sponsored by GHA at all future AGGS conventions.
- A special donation of \$50 was sent to the Gesneriad Research Foundation in Sarasota, Florida, in support of the work being done there.

Following the business meeting, a lively discussion began on a wide range of gesneriad topics. I promise that next year I will bring along a tape recorder so that all members won't miss any of the excellent tips and suggestions discussed during the meeting.

Next year in Denver, the convention will be starting earlier than usual in order to avoid scheduling conflicts that prevented people from attending some of the lectures and meetings. The GHA meeting will be held on the first day (a Wednesday) from 8:30 p.m. until at least 10:00 p.m. This extra time will allow the GHA to conduct its very first hybridizing workshop. If anyone has suggestions about what area

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of hybridizing the workshop should concentrate on, please drop me a note with your thoughts.

In other news, our new AGGS president, Michael Riley, has taken steps to get the hybrid registration procedure back on track and running smoothly. Our present Registrar, Patrick Worley, has agreed to continue in that capacity. To relieve Patrick of some of the burden, Mike has formed a Registration Committee composed of Patrick, Frances Batcheller, Jimmy Dates and myself. Frances and Jimmy have already begun work on the new Kohleria Register. I will be receiving all new registrations and coordinating the search process with the other members of the committee.

In this issue, I have included a gesneriad hybrid registration form. Complete details on how to register a hybrid are included elsewhere in this issue. I strongly urge anyone considering registering a hybrid to read Patrick's excellent article on the proper way to name a hybrid (also included in this issue). Above all, we request your patience. The process for conducting a search on a proposed hybrid name will take time, since the name must be carefully researched both here and overseas to avoid name conflicts. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who offered kind words and encouragement to me at the GHA meeting. It was most gratifying to hear that "CrossWords" is read and enjoyed by so many people.

- Al Wojcik

GHA FINANCIAL REPORT

Meg Stephenson, Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Sept. 30, 1984-June 30, 1985

PREVIOUS BALANCE:		\$2777.81
INCOME:	Dues	1147.09
	Interest	112.43
TOTAL:		1259.52
NEW BALANCE:		4037.33
EXPENSES:		
Mines Press-	CW Vol. VIII, #2	249.14
Postage & Printing	CW Vol. VIII, #3	272.59
Al Wojcik - photo conversions		6.00
Anne Crowley - phone calls, typesetting		34.64
Meg Stephenson - renewal postage		28.82
TOTAL EXPENSES:		591.19
PRESENT BALANCE (June 30, 1985)		\$3446.14

MORE SINNINGIA HYBRIDIZING INFORMATION

John Boggan, Ithaca, N.Y.

In the short time since my hybridizing article was published, I have obtained a large amount of new information. I am especially indebted to Dr. Hans Wiehler for a very informative letter filling in my missing information on nectary glands. He also hinted that the section delineations of the genus *Sinningia* are due for a complete overhaul. In addition, I have had several species bloom for me for the first time, and I have been able to examine the flowers myself. Finally, I have referred to the *Sinningia* Register, a resource I did not previously have available. Not all sources agree, so it would be interesting to hear other people's observations on their own plants.

Gland Characteristics:

concinna: definitely has 5 equal glands, but the two on the top are very close together, looking fused (my observation).

cooperi: two large separate glands (Wiehler).

guttata: two large united glands, three separate glands. Section *Sinningia* (Wiehler). I have observed that the two top glands separate very easily and don't seem to be completely fused.

incarnata: according to the register, has 5 large separate glands.

pusilla: has two large separate glands, but mine, at least, consistently produces three smaller but distinct glands in addition.

regina: register says two large separate glands, three smaller.

reitzii: generally has only two large separate glands, but I have observed from one to three additional smaller glands on some flowers.

schiffneri: mine is definitely producing five separate glands.

sulcata: two large glands, three smaller (Wiehler).

tuberosa: two large united glands, three very small additional glands (Wiehler).

More hybrids

In addition to this information, I have more hybrids to list. The register lists *S. speciosa* X *R. warszewiczii* (*S. incarnata*), and *S. verticillata* X *S. cooperi*. Dave Zaitlin has produced a fertile hybrid of *S. 'Pink Eumorpha'* X *S. magnifica*. Jim Steuerlein has produced *S. 'White Sprite'* X *S. reitzii*; the plants were weak, dark-leaved and never bloomed. Peg Conner wrote to tell me she has crossed *S. verticillata* X *S. macrorrhiza* to produce a large, floriferous plant which I presume to be fertile. She has also produced a fertile hybrid and F2 generation from *S. aggregata* 'Pendulina' X *S. sulcata*. The F1 and most of the F2s were intermediate, but one F2 produced a compact plant with yellow flowers. She also reports a "surprisingly compact" cross between *S. 'April Doll'* and *S. peruviana*.

I would finally like to point out that a sentence was inadvertently left out of my previous article. The last paragraph on page two should read, "...produce at least partially fertile hybrids. Crosses between cenospecies are more difficult and invariably sterile."

I would very much like to hear about any crosses you have made which aren't listed, and I'll pass along new information as I get it. Special thanks to Peg Conner and Hans Wiehler for sending additional information. ★

REPORT ON THE GHA MEETING

Peg Belanger, Warwick, R.I.

The annual meeting of GHA held in Toronto during the 1985 AGGS Convention was a most satisfactory and pleasant experience in several ways. It was evident that the purpose for which GHA was originated 9 years ago is being achieved: a true exchange of information about gesneriad hybridizing attempts, failures and successes.

It was a pleasure to meet personally with people who previously were only voices on the phone or writers of interesting articles. Because of the hectic schedule, in-depth discussions proved difficult in some instances (especially after the meeting). Trying to carry on a six-sided conversation before any of the six people disappeared was quite a challenge.

Convention time also offers the opportunity to meet once again with the staff of "CrossWords." Without this dedicated group, the newsletter would not exist, and I'm sure that the other members of GHA join me in extending thanks for a super job to Al Wojcik, Martin and Zelda Mines, Meg Stephenson and David Zaitlin.

An excellent way to show our appreciation and assure the continuance of "CW" would be for each member to write something each year. Not necessarily an "article," just a question, or an expression of interest in a subject related to hybridizing would do. A few words from you could result in an article by one of our member experts. If you have any ideas for improving the newsletter, I'm sure that Al is open to suggestions and would welcome yours.*

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of "CrossWords" may be obtained from
Zelda Mines, 2206 East 66th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

Volume I (1977), 4 issues	Volume V (1981), 4 issues
Volume II (1978), 4 issues	Volume VI (1982), 3 issues
Volume III (1979), 4 issues	Volume VII (1983), 3 issues
Volume IV (1980), 4 issues	Volume VIII (1984), 3 issues

All Back Issues are \$5.00 Per Volume

Individual issues of the current volume
may be obtained for \$1.50 each

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO GESNERIAD HYBRIDIZERS ASSOCIATION

GHA SEED FUND

David Zaitlin, 103 Maplewood Dr., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

John Boggan has been remarkably diligent the last two months, as his prodigious production of seed shows. He will have moved as of early August, so write to him at this new address: 1686-2 Slaterville Rd., Ithaca, New York 14850.

He has, or will have, fresh seed of the following:

- 1) Sinningia aggregata
- 2) S. schiffneri
- 3) S. hirsuta
- 4) S. aggregata X S. aggregata 'Pendulina'
- 5) S. aggregata X S. eumorpha
- 6) S. aggregata X S. 'Pink Eumorpha'
- 7) S. aggregata 'Pendulina' X (S. tubiflora X S. sceptrum), selfed.
The parent plant was originally obtained through the Smithsonian Institution and is compact with pink flowers.
- 8) S. eumorpha X S. macrorrhiza, selfed
- 9) S. cardinalis X S. macrorrhiza self of compact and floriferous F2 plant.
- 10) S. eumorpha X S. 'Pink Eumorpha'
- 11) S. 'Cindybaby' X S. 'Laura,' selfed. The parent has large, dark purple speckled flowers.
- 12) Achimenes cettoana, selfed
- 13) Diastema vexans, selfed
- 14) Aeschynanthus micranthus X A. 'Kew Pink'
- 15) A. micranthus X A. longicaulis
- 16) Kohleria boqotensis X K. villosa
- 17) Nematanthus fritschii X N. perianthomequs, selfed

Jerry Fay read in the last issue about Sinningia 'Big Venus,' and wrote regarding a similar plant that he grew from mixed Bona seed. He says that it is quite similar, and he sent me a large amount of seed from selfing this plant. I also have seed from a self of 'S. 'Scarlet Red' X 'Super Red' and 'Pink Eumorpha' X S. macropoda (lineata?) that I will be happy to distribute. (Please include a stamped, self-address envelope when requesting seed).

Just in the nick of time, Ted Bona sent me some seed, as he promised at the Toronto AGGS Convention in July. There is a limited amount of mixed miniature S. speciosa hybrid seed, as well as a copious quantity of seed described as being mostly S. 'Cherry Chips' hybrid F2s.

Larry Hodgson (114 Ave William, Sillery, Quebec G1S 4G5) is interested in obtaining a tetraploid Sinningia 'White Sprite' and Streptocarpus kentaniensis. If anyone has knowledge of either of these plants, please let him know.★

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. HANS WIEHLER

In March of this year, I had the pleasure of visiting Hans Wiehler at the Gesneriad Research Foundation in Sarasota, Florida. In addition to providing a pleasant respite from a miserable Winter, the trip gave me a chance to conduct this interview. Dr. Wiehler is responsible for many of the new gesneriad species and genera that we all enjoy. His collecting trips to the jungle have provided a wealth of new material, and his work on the classification of gesneriads has won him international fame.

-Al Wojcik

How did you first get involved with gesneriads?

I lived in an intensive community for quite a number of years in Connecticut and the community had quite a few acres of acid bog that had a lot of gentians growing. I was teaching school at that time. And with some of the school kids we harvested gentian seed and sent them to the Pierce Seed Co. in Morristown, N.J. They usually sent us money, but one year they didn't send us money, they send us rare plant seed instead. Quite a few of those were gesneriads. Some gloxinias, some smithianthas, some columneas - gloriosa, microphylla - all mixed. I tried to identify some of those, and I went to all kind of books to try to help, but found discrepancies in names, what they were called, etc. This was in 1957. We had a greenhouse where we grew a lot of these seeds. Later on, when I left the community after 7 1/2 years I went straight to Cornell University and grad school. In the meantime, I'd gotten the book ("African Violets and Their Relatives") from Hal Moore, which had just been published. I went to Cornell and asked them if they would accept me in grad school. They had quite a collection of gesneriads. So right away, I had a very convenient grad school project. And I've been doing it ever since. After that I got so involved with it - the taxonomy - that I finished getting a master's degree at Cornell. That was only 1978 - not so long ago, it seems.

Then you went on to get your doctorate at the University of Miami.

Yes, I had done everything I could at Cornell. I had done all my class work and I wanted to get into pollination studies. That, for me, was the key to understanding the classification of gesneriads. Hybridization and pollination, both. And Dr. Cal Dodson was there as head of the botany department. He was an orchid specialist, orchid pollination. I was only interested in gesneriads. So I just moved a copy of my whole collection at Cornell to Miami. By that time, Hal Moore was interested in palms. The big gesneriad collection at Cornell had no future whatsoever. The work in gesneriads was being neglected, and they needed the space for hibiscus and whatever else they had. So I was wise enough to take a copy of everything, grown in four inch pots, and they were nicely grown by that time. And that was the beginning of this collection. The rest of it I collected myself or had other people collect it for me.

When and where did you go on your first gesneriad-collecting expedition?

In 1970 to Panama. I think on that first trip, roughly a third, or 75%, of all the gesneriad material I found were new species. For example, on that first trip I collected Columnea mira (now Trichantha mira), Codonanthe luteola, and so on. The sad part of it is a year later when we returned to the Santa Rita Ridge area, for example, halfway up from Panama City to the Caribbean side, a nice area where we found lots of gesneriads, it was sad to see that for miles, the whole area was bulldozed down, only a few solitary palms that were too hard for the chainsaws to cut. It was just barren and dry, and you can just imagine the erosion that took place in no time at all. And that was the end of that area for gesneriads.

You also made a trip with Dave Masterson to Quito, Ecuador, correct?

Yes, but that was the very last one. I've been, in the meantime, to Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Venezuela and two trips to Colombia. Then four trips to Ecuador. Colombia and Ecuador - those were kind of the pinnacle of gesneriad collecting. That's rich territory.

Which of all the gesneriads you brought back with you are you the most excited about?

Well, one of them was very likely Trichantha brenneri. And also Trichantha tinensis. The first time I saw them hanging down from a tree branch ... it was red on the underside, then with the purple stripes on the flowers. I saw that early in the morning one day, getting up one day after camping overnight in a sand pit, and that was something. But I love them all. It's hard to say which one of your children you like the best. The one that I wish I would have seen, but didn't, was Trichantha dodsonii. Cal Dodson was the one who first found it. He became the director of Selby Gardens. He went from University of Miami to Selby, along with me. He was interested in orchids, I in gesneriads, and since they are both epiphytes ... he probably knows Ecuador better than anybody. He discovered Trichantha dodsonii in the wild and he brought back only small cuttings. They were already in bud, and the first time in a greenhouse. About a year later, he had a tall plant with about 15 buds on it. Bright red. But we lost the plant after awhile. I had seed of it, but none of it ever germinated. Cal went back several times to find it, but he never has. The area was again bulldozed down. But I know where the area is.

After the University of Miami, you moved on to Selby Gardens in Sarasota?

Yes, I moved my whole collection over there. At Miami, I had fairly tight quarters. A kind of makeshift greenhouse on the campus that I had built myself. You can imagine the joy at bringing the collection over to Selby. Everything was in tip-top shape. There were over 1,300 plants in baskets. In Ryder trucks we brought them over here. We brought them into this new greenhouse that no plant had ever been in. It was a magnificent greenhouse, 30 by 105 feet. Lord and Burnham construction. Top of the line. That was the first greenhouse filled with gesneriad research plants at Selby Gardens. That was kind of a spectacular thing to see. Every week I would come from the University of Miami to check things out. I laid the

PVC water lines myself. But the sad part of this story is that three weeks after we had the plants there, all of a sudden, leaf drop started. The tables and the floor were thick with fallen leaves. The tips of the plants started to rot. We lifted the plants out of their pots, and sure enough, the root system was shot. It took us more than half a year to figure out what was really the problem. It was the city water here. It's terrible. In Miami, we had Lake Okechobee water, which was good. It was very good for plants. But here we had Sarasota city water. It kills plants very fast, and people very slowly. We had to get a reverse osmosis filtration system for another \$16,000. All the plants were severely set back. It was strange, nematanthus and aeschynanthus wasn't affected, but everything else was. At first I thought it was only gesneriads being affected, but I found out soon that the ferns were in trouble, the begonias were in trouble, orchids were in trouble. Pretty soon it was everything.

After working at Selby, then you started the Gesneriad Research Foundation. What is the main purpose of the GRF?

If you had to put it in a nutshell, it's for the study of the New World gesneriads, involving about 1,500 species. Studying them in every



way possible: taxonomically, genetically, anatomically, any kind of study that can be done on them. Another purpose is to maintain a live collection as a gene pool for future work. And also, having them as a museum of threatened or endangered species. But in some ways we are not sure how threatened some of the species are. Every once in awhile, you find a rare species that you think grows only on one particular mountaintop. Later you find that, 150 kilometers away, there is another collection of this same species. But there are no roads going to it, and no way to physically get to them. So

it's kind of hard to say what is endangered and what is not. We cannot indefinitely preserve gesneriads in greenhouses or botanical gardens. Sooner or later, they will die.

How can the average gesneriad grower help the GRF?

Well, it will have to be a two-way situation. I hope that all gesneriad growers are interested. This will be the place where the new gesneriad species will be coming from. Other folks are collecting too, but a good number of them will be coming from here. I would love to see more

individual memberships, for example. And club memberships, too. That's the biggest help we can get. Now that we are established here, I'm starting to rattle the drums around here. We need to distribute this material, too. We will have some kind of mail-order business, but I don't think that's going to be the big money-making business we at first thought it would be. It's very expensive. But we definitely don't want to compete with the commercial growers. We are tax-deductible and non-profit. We will only deal with the things that we ourselves will distribute. I will still be pushing things like Codonanthe elegans, because that was something that we distributed. Same thing for Codonanthe luteola 'Pigmy'. A few odds and ends like that. But that's possibly just a momentary situation. We have hopes of a list of 15 to 20 new species available. Also hybrids. We are just starting a hybridizing program. So far, I have some nematanthus hybrids, and so on.

You're starting with one greenhouse now. Do you hope to expand?

Yes, we are not going to be viable as a research organization with the present space. We have about 100 square feet. We need to at least triple this space. Hopefully this summer or fall we hope to buy the adjoining property. It will be up for sale soon, and as soon as we have the money, they will sell to us. Then we could triple the greenhouse space in no time at all. We hope to have an herbarium and office space and laboratory space, too. We would like to have a grad student, also. I hope in the long run not to be by myself. This organization can be more viable when more than a few people are involved. We would like to get students more involved, in the same way that I was able to get involved years ago. I have one grad student in Geneva, Switzerland, Alain Chaupems. Alain is working on nematanthus. He has made two trips to Brazil. We would like to be able to provide housing for an intern or grad student like Alain.

This must be exciting to be involved with the GRF at this early stage.

It is, yes. I'm at the same time nervous about it. I'm stretched right now to the ends. All of my personal funding is involved with this right now. As you know, the greenhouse was made possible partially from a loan from Bea Gold and Michael Riley. We're right now just starting to pay off those loans. That was a big help, though. Because of them we were able to start this whole thing. We had some problems starting the GRF at our first site. We still had only one greenhouse, but none of us felt good about the situation. The economic condition was very uncertain. Then we had the big freeze. It was almost a blessing. Now we have everything here, though in a somewhat smaller version. We have almost everything we had in that greenhouse, and those things that are still missing, I know where to get them. I hope to make a trip to California to raid Dave Masterson's greenhouse.

You've done some excellent work in hybridizing, too. What was the first hybrid you did?

I remember, not the first hybrid I made, but the first one published was Koellikohleria rosea. It was an intergeneric between Kohleria spicata and Koellikeria erinoides. I think I like Columnnea 'Aflame' quite a lot. Also xColtrichantha 'Miami Sunrise' and xColtrichantha 'Sarasota Sunset.' The later does collect whiteflies for us down here though. The hybrids have never been that important. They were more offshoots of my main research. Quite often, it was only after other people came to the greenhouse and saw the material that they thought it was worth distributing. I had no intention of ever releasing any of my hybrids. Most of them were never that spectacular anyway. The amateur hybridizers still have a lot of work to do yet. Before that, I had done hybrids between nautilocalyx and, what was at that time called episcia. That led to a whole revamping of that section. I crossed Nautilocalyx villosus and Episcia mellitifolia. I predicted that the hybrid should be completely fertile. Hal Moore and Bob Lee said that it wouldn't be. So finally I said to them, look here, it's 90 or 95% fertile. It proved to be the death of Episcia mellitifolia, as we knew it. It was then transferred to nautilocalyx. I produced hybrids between what was then called Achimenes gymnostoma and other gloxinia species. One of the greatest challenges ... it took me three growing seasons of trying to get a hybrid between Gloxinia perennis and what was called Seemania latifolia. After the third try, I had nearly 100% germination. That was also the end of seemania.

So you got involved with hybridizing in order to determine whether some plants are properly classified, and not just to create something different.

Yes, that was pretty much the whole avenue of approach. I have oodles of hybrids that never went outside the greenhouse. I didn't consider them horticulturally worthwhile. There was one, a hybrid between smithiantha and moussoniantha, I understand that's still around. It was called xMoussoniantha cornellian, or something like that. Tall, with white flowers. It was a cross between Smithiantha multiflora and Moussoniantha elegans 'Mexican White.' The intergeneric hybridizing was great fun. Of course, some turned out not to be intergenerics at all. But this work at least, for the first time, clearly established generic lines. That was always one of the criteria we used for making decisions about which plants belonged where. If they produced fertile hybrids, they most likely belong in the same genus. But that didn't always work. For example, people have tried for a long time to cross alsobia and episcia. Henry Peterson, the Buells and Lyndon Lyon all reported they couldn't cross Alsobia dianthiflora (then considered an episcia) with the rest of the episcias. Well, now we have so many other genetic criteria, miles and miles of them, that we know we'll never get a hybrid between them. The flower looks so similar that you wonder, if you go by flower structure alone, they should be all in one genus.

(CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)

For more information about joining the Gesneriad Research Foundation, write to:

G.R.F, 1873 Oak Street, Sarasota, Florida 33577

WHY REGISTER GESNERIAD HYBRIDS?

Patrick Worley, The Plant Kingdom
Box 7273, Lincoln Acres, CA 92047

Why register gesneriad hybrids? What is the point? What possible difference could it make?

When a hybrid is propagated and released to other growers it enters the world of international horticulture. Plants are bought and sold and passed from hand to hand on global level and registration helps keep the pedigree of the plant available to anyone who would study, grow and propagate that single clone.

In the past, records either weren't as well kept, or were guarded as secrets. The formulae for many of our oldest hybrids are lost to us because there was not a systematic way of keeping track of the information.

Serious hybridizers, both amateur and professional, take the time to register and properly name their hybrids. Registration also helps insure the uniqueness of any gesneriad name. Two hybrids of different backgrounds with the same name have caused much confusion in the past and registration insures that the registered name, if it is unpublished, belongs to just one clone.

It is conceivable and highly likely that two hybridizers could do identical crosses with nearly identical results. With proper registration the unhappy accident might be avoided. The detailed information submitted on the registration form gives a distinct hybrid its history.

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants has systematized and codified, in a clear and concise manner, the basic rules for naming plants. The hybridizer or discoverer of a new plant or plant form can easily name their plant in a consistent, well-thought-out manner that will not cause confusion in the present and will stand in posterity as well.

For our purposes, the terms "variety" and "cultivar" are synonymous. The word cultivar is derived from cultivated variety. Cultivar means, simply, that the plant may be clearly distinguished from all other plants, and, when reproduced by any means, keeps its unique characteristics. If two cultivars are indistinguishable from each other (even if they come from different sources) they must be called by the same name. The cultivar that was produced first has priority and its name takes precedence. All other names are reduced to synonymy.

There are many characteristics and combinations of features that can make a plant distinctive from all others; significant differences in growth habit, flower and foliage color, shape and size of the flower and the plant, quantity of bloom; these are characteristics that individually or in combination might qualify a plant for a cultivar name. Vegetative mutations or sports or changes that occur spontaneously in plants might also make a plant significantly different from its progenitor, qualifying the plant for a cultivar name. The mutations must be reproducible by seed or vegetatively by cuttings or grafting. It would be pointless to clutter the literature with names of plants that could never be grown by others.

Sterile hybrids that are made fertile spontaneously or chemically may be registered as cultivars. Often, the name of the new cultivar

will indicate the relationship between the two forms, i.e., Sinningia 'Cindy' and Sinningia 'Cindy Ella,' the former being the sterile F₁ of the cross Sinningia concinna X Sinningia eumorpha - the latter the fertile tetraploid form of the cross. By convention, the female parent is listed first in hybridizing formulae.

Is it really different?

Unfortunately, there are no provisions for professional testing of cultivars before their release. This course is recommended where possible but has seldom been practical. The reason for this is that many of our hybrids are produced by the home grower rather than the large, commercial concerns and field testing is out of the question. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, hereafter referred to as the Code, states that acceptance of a name for registration of a cultivar does not necessarily mean that a judgement has been made as to the horticultural merits or the distinctiveness of a cultivar. Testing is left in the hands of the growers. During the time of testing it is of the utmost importance to weed out the weak cultivars, the look-alike cultivars and the cultivars that are difficult to grow or reproduce.

One of the best ways to test the merits of a cultivar is to rely on the help of other growers and friends who can make a valuable assessment of the plant. Choosing growers with widely varied growing conditions can give a better indication of hardiness, ease of growth and ease of propagation. Many plants are named in the first generation and reproduced thereafter by cuttings or divisions and rhizomes. These are the clones, pieces of the parent plant genetically identical in every way.

Developing a seedline is a long and sometimes difficult process. The process of crossing and back-crossing to produce a plant that reproduces its characteristics every time when grown from seed, can take from five to seven generations. Most of our miniature sinningias are products of a seedline.

I have come up with a winner, now what should I call it?

If trials have proved a plant and the cultivar is deemed ready for distribution, the originator or his agent, someone who has been given permission to name the cultivar, must choose a suitable name. The method of choosing a name is not the jurisdiction of the Code. Plants, in the past, have been named after friends and relatives, pets and racehorses. Some people prefer to give plants a poetic-sounding name or a name that they feel describes the plant in some way. The name that is chosen must be within the limits of the simple guidelines of the Code.

It would be meaningless to name and register a plant that is not intended for distribution. This has happened upon occasion, but most gesneriad hybridizers share the results of their work for the enjoyment of all. It is not permitted to give a name to a cultivar that does not exist, therefore there can be no reserving of names for

proposed hybrids. One may not name a cultivar against the expressed wishes of the originator.

The plant to be registered must be shown to be mature. It is generally accepted that when a plant blooms it is mature. Growing a plant for two or three blooming periods is a better course because the quality, color and quantity of the bloom may change. The habit is nearly impossible to tell in a relatively short period of growing a plant. Many gesneriads show mature growth after two to five years, depending upon the genus.

I have a good name, can I register it?

Here are the basic rules for naming a cultivar, simplified from the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (1980).

1. No latinized names may be used. The name Sinningia 'Rodentiana Variegata' may be wonderfully descriptive, but it is not suitable for a cultivar. This rule helps us to distinguish between the naturally occurring species and forms and the selected varieties of horticultural or hybrid origin.

2. The cultivar name must follow the species name, must appear in capitalized form and be enclosed in single quotes. Sinningia (the genus name) 'Pink Flare' (the cultivar name). Double quotation marks may not be used. The abbreviation "var." for variety is not to be used as it could be confused with "variegated." When the word variegated is used, it should be completely spelled out.

3. A cultivar name may consist of one or two (but no more than three) words. Too many words in a name would only cause confusion and would certainly be shortened by others. The name Sinningia 'Land of the Sky Tinted Water, Variegata' would not be permitted.

4. Cultivar names created by the combining of species names are not to be used. A cross between Gesneria cuneifolia and Gesneria pedicellaris would give us the somewhat unusual and unusable name of Gesneria 'Cuneicellaris' or Gesneria 'Pedicune.' Despite the confusion caused by such names, I think that they show a distinct lack of imagination.

5. A cultivar name that incorporates another botanical name or common name should not be used. Streptocarpus 'Peach' or 'Rose' are names that are not allowed. The names Streptocarpus 'Peach Glow' or Streptocarpus 'Rose Reflection' are descriptive and in accordance with the rules of nomenclature.

6. Cultivar names that consist of a series of letters or numbers should be avoided. Columnnea '1123' and Gesneria 'SAEQ' are examples of the types of names that should not be used.

7. Cultivar names that exaggerate the qualities of the cultivar or that might become inaccurate with the passage of time should not be used. Sinningia 'Very Best Yellow' or Columnnea 'Ultimate Blue' illustrate the kind of overwrought names that should be avoided.

8. Cultivar names that are very similar in spelling or phonetics should be avoided to prevent confusion. Columnnea 'Helen,' 'Ellen,' 'Helene' and 'Helena' are examples of names that could easily become confused. To really honor the person being named, I suggest using both the first and last names and make the honor a real one.

9. Cultivar names including the words "cross," "crosses," "hybrid," "hybrids" or "grex" are not acceptable.
10. Cultivar names that use part of the species epithet are not allowed. Sinningia 'Baby Sin.' or Gloxinia 'Red Glox.' are two examples of the type of names to avoid.
11. In cultivar names using an initial article, the article must be dropped unless it is a foreign language that requires the article. One would name a plant 'Captain' rather than 'The Captain' or in Spanish 'El Capitan' rather than 'Capitan.'
12. Proper names must be spelled out, never abbreviated. Sinningia 'Jacob Johns' not Sinningia 'J. Johns,' and Columnea 'Mount Saint Helens,' not 'Mt. St. Helens.'
13. Names containing forms of address are not permitted unless they are used by national custom. Thus Fraulein, Herr, Mademoiselle, Miss or Mister or their equivalents in other languages, are not to be used in formulating new cultivar names. The abbreviation Mrs. and its equivalents in foreign languages may be used, e.g. Frau, Madame, Mrs. and Senora.
14. By common consent, it is permissible to use the same name for two gesneriads, as long as they belong to different genera: Columnea 'Inferno,' Gloxinia 'Inferno' and Achimenes 'Inferno' are all permitted.

There are a few more rules, but they are exceptional and are taken as they appear. If you have any questions or comments, contact me at the above address and I will answer your questions.*

HOW TO USE THE REGISTRATION FORM

- Fill out the form on the opposite page completely. Include as much detail in your descriptions as possible. It would be extremely helpful if the form could be accompanied by color photographs showing the overall plant as well as a closeup of the blooms, but it is not necessary.
- Mail the form(s), along with a check for \$2 for EACH registration form to:
Al Wojcik, Registration Committee
228 Glen Ellyn Rd., Apt. 202
Bloomington, Ill. 60108
(Checks should be made payable to AGGS)
- You will receive a notice that the registration form(s) have been received. A search will then begin to determine if the name you have chosen has ever been used before and if the cross has already been done. This will take time, so please be patient. If the name is approved, you will be notified.
- If you have in the past sent in a registration form and received nothing back, please DO NOT send in another form. The committee will be notifying those of you who have registrations pending as soon as possible.

Genus: _____



American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

File Number: _____

Gesneriad registration Record
For plant names in the Family *Gesneriaceae*
(excluding *Saintpaulia*)

Name of Cultivar: _____ Synonym (if any): _____

Derivation: Hybrid: _____ Chance seedling selection: _____ Seed or vegetative mutation: _____

Parent or Parents: Seed parent: _____ Pollen parent: _____

Is the Plant reproducible from seed? Yes ___ No ___ % true from seed: _____ Vegetatively reproduced? Yes ___ No ___

Name of Plant from which the mutation or sport is derived: _____

Date of cross: _____ Date seed was planted: _____ Date of first flowering: _____

Plant growth and habit: _____

Stems: _____

Leaves: _____ Trace an outline of the leaf as accurately as possible, on the back of this form

Color: _____ Shape: _____ Dimensions: _____

Margin: _____ Petioles (leaf stem): _____

Flower: _____

Color: _____ Shape and form: _____ Dimensions: _____

Pedicle: _____ Season of bloom: _____

Describe in detail how this cultivar differs from other of its type; i.e. how it is to be distinguished from plants now in cultivation:

Originator: _____ Address: _____

If photographs are submitted indicate nature: _____

If the name and/or description of the cultivar has been published in any periodical or price list please state: title, date and issue number, the page number on which the name, picture drawing or written description has been given:

Name and date of any award given the plant: _____

This variety has been inspected and/or tested and recommended for registration by:
Name: _____ Address: _____

If the plant is available to the trade, furnish the name and address of the propagator: _____

Date of registration: _____ Approved by: _____

"CrossWords" is published three times yearly by the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association, a non-profit organization established to facilitate the sharing of information about the hybridizing of gesneriads and to further the appreciation of the results of that hybridizing. Subscription is by membership in the G.H.A.

Membership fees are \$5.00 per year and application forms, along with checks, should be sent to Meg Stephenson at the address below.

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