

# GloxNews

The publication of the Greater New York Gesneriad Society

Volume 56, Number 6 – February 2021

<http://www.greaternygesneriad.org>

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org>

**Saturday, February 20, 2021**

**11 am, via Zoom**

## **The Peoples' Choice and More The Gesneriad Society's 2020 Virtual Flower Show**

This month we are lucky to be the first chapter to present this special program. The 2020 Gesneriad Society Annual Convention scheduled for St. Petersburg did not take place because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Flower Show did take place, albeit virtually. Even though the planning all took place literally at the last minute, 92 members from all over the world submitted over 300 entries which were all displayed on the society's website beginning in July of last year. Although the show was not judged, we did ask visitors to vote for their favorite and wound up with seven People's Choice winners. Join us on the 20th when we take a tour of the show and discuss some of the more outstanding entries. Don't miss it!

On this page, from top: Carolyn Ripps got a seedpod forming in her *Sinningia stapelioides*, a rare species from southeastern Brazil. She also sent us this pic of *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, an interesting small species that requires good humidity to grow. Tsuh Yang Chen's *Sinningia* 'Owlsee Red Hot' in bloom under lights. This was grown from a small cutting left over from our plant sales. This hybrid with double flowers has *S. bullata* in its ancestry and was made by Alcie Maxwell of Louisiana.



## Officers and Directors 2020 - 2021

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<u>Historian</u>	vacant
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<u>Plant Sales</u>	Gussie Farrice
<u>Program</u>	Megan Nelson
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<u>Past President</u>	Al Romano
<u>Ways &amp; Means</u>	Carolyn Ripps
<u>Editor, <i>GloxNews</i></u>	Tsuh Yang Chen (email <a href="mailto:piabinha@yahoo.com">piabinha@yahoo.com</a> )

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](http://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](mailto:piabinha@yahoo.com).

## President's Message – February 2021

February in New York can be the worst month for weather. This year was a good example, with a record setting snowfall that lingered for almost three days. We had more than sixteen inches on the ground, but the wind blew drifts into piles that exceeded three feet in many places. We had to shovel roadways in the snow so our dogs could find a relief area.

Even my indoor plants seemed to react poorly to the cloudy skies and icy weather outside. I wanted to take a couple of pictures for this newsletter, but there were literally no blooms to be seen most days. I've been planting seeds in the hope that we will have normal meetings later in the year and I will have new gesneriads to share. The Gesneriad Conservation Center of China (GCCC) has been distributing seed of new collections. Many of the plants are Asian species that may be difficult for us to grow in our home conditions, but one – a new collection of *Primulina eburnea* with pink flowers instead of the usual purple ones – sounds great. Hope the seeds germinate!

Please continue to be careful and enjoy your plants.  
Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021. *Carolyn*

**To join our Zoom meeting:** On the day before the meeting, we will email you a link for the GNYGS Zoom meeting. The email will have a meeting ID and the password you will need to join the meeting. (If you are not on our email list, i.e. only receiving the paper copy, please contact Gary [gvellenzer@gmail.com](mailto:gvellenzer@gmail.com)).

**WANTED/OFFER from Carol Smith:** I'm looking for a plant or tubers of *Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie'. I also have cuttings available of *S.* 'Salmon Gone Fishin'. Please contact me at [carolgsmith@verizon.net](mailto:carolgsmith@verizon.net). Thank you.

Members, please remember to send photos of your plants to your editor at [piabinha@yahoo.com](mailto:piabinha@yahoo.com), as well as your requests, inquiries, articles and questions.

## *Codonanthe* or *Codonanthopsis*? by Carolyn Ripps

Many of us grow these interesting plants that are perfect for a hanging basket. Most were originally distributed as *Codonanthe* species, but some interesting differences have long been noted between two groups of the plants. In 2013, Alain Chautems and Mathieu Perret, from the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens of Geneva, published a “redefinition” of the genus *Codonanthe* and established a new genus which they named *Codonanthopsis*.

Although both groups of plants exhibit an epiphytic habit and white (or pale yellow) funnel shaped corollas, there are differences in morphological and biogeographical features that can be used to separate them. Among the most obvious differences are the following:

### *Codonanthe* species:

- found only in the Atlantic forest of Brazil
- usually epiphytic and never associated with ant gardens
- lack foliar nectaries
- usually lack a corolla spur
- have yellow-orange or orange berry fruits which do not split
- form hybrids with *Nematanthus*

### *Codonanthopsis* species:

- found in Central America, Caribbean and South America away from the Atlantic forest
- epiphytic, often growing in ant gardens
- foliar nectaries present in some species
- have a corolla spur
- fruits are red, pink, purple, or yellow capsules, which split at maturity
- no known hybrids with *Nematanthus*

Still included under *Codonanthe* are the following eight species:

*Codonanthe carnosa*  
*Codonanthe cordifolia*  
*Codonanthe devosiana*  
*Codonanthe digna*

*Codonanthe gibbosa*  
*Codonanthe gracilis*  
*Codonanthe mattos-silvae*  
*Codonanthe venosa*

Included in the new genus *Codonanthopsis* are the following thirteen species:

*Codonanthopsis anisophylla*  
*Codonanthopsis calcarata*  
*Codonanthopsis caribaea*  
*Codonanthopsis chiricana*  
*Codonanthopsis corniculata*  
*Codonanthopsis crassifolia*

*Codonanthopsis dissimulata*  
*Codonanthopsis elegans*  
*Codonanthopsis erubescens*  
*Codonanthopsis luteola*  
*Codonanthopsis macradenia*  
*Codonanthopsis uleana*  
*Codonanthopsis ulei*

Codonanthe or Codonanthopsis, continued

Plants in either genus make good subjects for a hanging basket, although some are decidedly more compact and manageable than others. I have grown all of the *Codonanthe* species and many of the *Codonanthopsis* species and I find they are easily propagated from seed or cuttings and flower in natural or artificial light.

Hybrids between *Codonanthe* and *Nematanthus* plants are called *xCodonatanthus*. Some *xCodonatanthus* hybrids by Bill Saylor and Patrick Worley that are in cultivation are 'Antique Gold', 'Aurora', 'Barsoom', 'Fiesta', 'Springtime', 'Tambourine', and 'Vista'. They must be propagated from cuttings and are also worth growing.

Plants or cuttings of *Codonanthe*, *Codonanthopsis* and *xCodonatanthus* will often be available at plant sales and I recommend that you try them. Photographs of some of the flowers can be seen on Mauro Peixoto's Brazil Plants website ([www.brazilplants.com](http://www.brazilplants.com)) and the Gesneriad Reference Web (<https://gesneriads.info>). (Editor's Note: I have bloomed several species on a north window in my kitchen. Although some can take strong light, they'll do fine on a bright exposure with no sunlight.)



Above right, *Codonanthopsis ulei*, a vigorous species from the Amazon, photo courtesy of Mauro Peixoto; right, Neville Pope in Australia posted this photo on gesneriphiles of his 30-year old *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina'; above: *Smithiantha cinnabarina*, grown by Alcie Maxwell.

**Glox News**

**Greater New York Gesneriad Society**

36 Crooke Avenue #F7  
Brooklyn, NY 11226-1149

**Attention:** Next Meetings:  
February 20 via Zoom  
(see first page)

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**or email** \_\_\_\_\_ (via email is faster)