


VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

July 2017 - No. 41

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Our calendar:

July 18, 2017.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of July 24.

May 25-26, 2018.

AVSA/AVSC Convention Show.

In Buffalo, New York, at the Adams Mark Hotel. Jointly held national conventions of African Violet Societies of America and Canada!

Mark your calendar! This is *the* event of a lifetime. Exhibitors and vendors from across North America will be there. We will have showplants, display, and sales booth. For more info: www.avsa.org or www.avsc.ca

Free stuff and how to get it!

2018 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections
1st place: \$200
2nd place: \$100

Write a review.

Write a review before ordering, good or bad, we'd like to know. Get a free plant added to order.



(Some of) What's "New":

Bristol's Blue Bonnet. Very free-blooming and compact growing streptocarpus. Lilac-blue double blooms with dark blue throat and veining on lower petals, borne on short, stiff, bloom stalks above well-behaved foliage. Easy growing and very dependable bloomer.

Marskoi Priboi. New Russian semiminiature with single, pink semibell stars with light raspberry edging and spotting. Pointed, green and white variegated foliage. Limited quantities.

N Blue Blues. (not pictured) Another new Russian semiminiature with large semidouble medium blue semibells. Pointed, green and white variegated foliage. Limited quantities.

What's News:

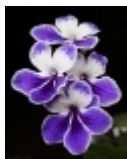


Photo contest winners!

First prize, and a \$50 coupon, goes to Hyn Patty for her photo of streptocarpus *'Bristol's Water Bug'*. 2nd prize, and \$10, goes to Alexandra Kravtsov for her photo of *'Ma's Pillow Talk'*.

Honorable mention awards went to Donna Guiliano and Holly

VanVoorhis. Their photos, and some others of note are shown on our website pages. It would be difficult to show them all! Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all who entered. We will conduct another contest in the future.



Gesneriad Society Convention.

As this issue goes to press, Olive is returning from the recent convention in Omaha, Nebraska. Shown at left is the Best in Show, Kohleria *'Bud's Little Gollum'*. Don't have this one yet (first time we've seen it), but will be sure to. We always bring back lots of new plant material--much of which will appear in our catalog at some point.

Contact us:

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Our shop and glasshouse at:
7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512
Open Tuesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

For those attending the 2018 AVSA/AVSC convention, we are a 2 hour drive from Buffalo.

Are you a member?

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up through our website and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

There were many beautiful entries. We'll post them on our ['facebook'](#) page as we have them to show....and speaking of kohleria, why not....

Give a kohleria a home!

We grow a lot of [kohleria](#). Mostly, because it's one of our favorite genus of plants. They're nearly indestructible and bloom easily with little special care. They also have a way of taking over. They are difficult to kill and exceedingly easy to propagate. To begin with, they're rhizomatous. Pull one out of its pot and you'll find rhizomes, likely lots of them. Not only will the rhizome produce more plants, each segment, or scale, of the rhizome has the potential to produce another plant!

They grow quickly, too. They can get tall if never pruned, which one can be reluctant to do when the plant is blooming. No worry, just lop the top off, put in a vase, and enjoy the flowers there. Of course, it will root (giving you another plant). What's more, the stump left behind will branch, creating an ever fuller plant. You'll also find more stems coming up from the rhizomes beneath the soil surface (even more plants!). Before long, your one plant in the window is many plants demanding the entire window.

For more tips on [propagating kohleria](#), view our plant care pages.

This month's question:

I'm disappointed in the *Sinningia glazioviana* that I received from you. It looked like a 3" rooted cutting with a few leaves and some flower buds. I slipped it out of the pot to check the roots and the root ball fell apart exposing a long stem about 12" long that was wound around the pot in the potting mix.

This was a proper plant. In fact it was a VERY mature plant (tall, with a long stem), with a substantial tuber. The long stem rolled up in the pot was the proper means of growing this plant--it will, in fact, stimulate the growth of more tubers. This particular species grows this way--long and stemmy. To grow it properly, it needs to be "rolled" occasionally, which is what we did prior to shipping. This can be done with many plants, and is common with the taller growing gesneriads. Episcias and kohleria are often rolled. A illustration of [how this is done](#) with episcia appears on our plant care pages--the process is the same with sinningia. Basically, you wind the stem around the tuber (or root ball) like you would a ball of yarn. This does a few things--shortens the plant (stem above soil line), encourages stiffer, sturdier growth and, in the case of sinningias, will encourage tuber formation along the buried stem.

Sinningias are tuberous, like a potato. As the plant matures, the tuber will become larger and/or multiply. The tubers on a couple of our older sinningias are softball sized! The microminiatures will have very small, pea-sized, tubers. What's nice about tubers? Like a potato, so long as you have the "eye", it will resprout! This is how sinningias survive long periods of drought in nature. Even if the top of the plant is pruned, removed, or "dies", the tuber should resprout!

Note: Very sorry but, except for the microminis, we haven't any sinningias to sell at this time (we're behind on our propagation)--we'll have more soon!

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