

Clivia Quarterly

From the President's Desk

A message from Malcolm R. Shrimplin, NACS President & CQ Publisher

Again this year, we had different late winter weather than we typically have had in north Central to Southern California. It was much wetter and cooler than usual. This caused the blooming season to arrive later than expected and also caused concern about having enough blooms for the show on the west coast!

However, in the end, there were plenty of blooming clivia on hand to make for a very nice display at the sixteenth annual show and sale at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Of special note this year was the addition of an expanded category for floral arrangements. There were around 15 of these entries. Those will be highlighted in the next issue of the newsletter. Likewise, on the eastern side of the continent, again this year, as the photos in this issue illustrate, the display at the show at Longwood Gardens was also quite impressive!

Many thanks to all the volunteers at this year's events, including **Ashley Clayton**, Longwood Show Chair, and **Norman Nakanishi**, Huntington Event Chair, for making both of them successful.

Outside of these events, I and others also had the great pleasure to speak about clivia to a local garden club and another gathering here in Southern California. In early April, **Norman Nakanishi**, NACS First Vice President, and I spoke at the 2019 Pacific Region Convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. in Van Nuys, CA. NACS Director, **Alexander Mikbalevitch**, also joined us to help with the talk. In late April, I spoke to The Compulsive Gardeners at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. As was done previously, bare root clivia were for sale for both talks. The two and three year old seedlings were graciously provided by a member of the NACS Board of Directors, **Julie Gleason**.

All of them sold quickly with the proceeds of the sales benefitting NACS. Norman was also kind enough to donate a mature clump of blooming yellow clivia for my talk at the arboretum. After I divided it, the offsets were also sold to the attendees with the proceeds benefitting NACS. Thanks to both!

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**RESULTS FROM THE
CLIVIA SHOW AT
LONGWOOD GARDENS IN
KENNETT SQUARE, PA**

*by Ashley Clayton, 2019 Show Chair and
Research Specialist, Longwood Gardens*

The Longwood Gardens Clivia Show was held March 16th and 17th, 2019 in the Conservatory Ballroom. The attendance for the weekend was over 10,000 guests. Three competitors entered a total of 72 entries. Competitors included Longwood Gardens (Pennsylvania), Damon Smith (Maryland), and Roger Cairns (Pennsylvania).

The show was set up Friday afternoon with the help of Sara Westhafer and Damon Smith. They organized and displayed the clivia in their respective classes, while Holly Cairns took photos. This year the show was not judged by NACS members, but instead guests were asked to vote on their favorite entry in each of the four categories: flowering plant, foliage plant,

umbel, and flower. Guests could vote from 9am on Saturday up until 12pm on Sunday. Ballot passers included NACS members Marc Hamel, Ed LeSage, Susan Page, and Damon Smith. Phil Hearne assisted with tallying the ballots. Marc Hamel and I photographed the event and entries for use in the NACS newsletters.

At the entrance of the Ballroom, David Loysen offered NACS and Clivia Society memberships for sale, as well as NACS bookstore books. He, Damon Smith, Marc Hamel, Mike Sokolow, and Peggy Carras answered questions about clivia at the information table. There was also an education table set up inside the Ballroom where guests could learn how to grow clivia from Peter Zale and Kevin Zuidervliet.

On both Saturday and Sunday, an educational lecture was offered in the Ballroom. David Loysen and Damon Smith demonstrated how to repot and care for clivia. They interacted with the audience by answering their questions about growing media and the proper time for dividing.



*Longwood Show Chair, Ashley Clayton, at The Education Table
(photo courtesy of March Hamel)*



*NACS Vice President, Damon Smith,
Demonstrates How to Repot and Care for Clivia
(photo courtesy of Ashley Clayton)*

Guests were enthused about voting on their favorite clivia. Over 900 votes were cast. For Best Flowering Plant, Longwood Gardens received first place for its orange-red clivia with 201 votes. Roger Cairns received second and third

for his green (138 votes) and green throat clivia (125 votes). For Best Foliage Plant, Damon won first, second, and third place for his broad-leaf (194 votes), striped variegated (141 votes), and textured clivia (106 votes). Longwood Gardens ran unopposed in the Umbel and Flower categories. This year the awards for Best Flowering Plant and Best Foliage Plant were flambeaux vases crafted locally by Bill Campbell in Erie, PA. The awards for Best Umbel and Best Flower were \$20 gift cards to the Longwood gift shop.

Photographs of all the top entries from the show, courtesy of Marc Hamel, are on the following page. (Due to the lighting in the show area, the pictures are slightly off color.) More photos and descriptions of other placing entires may be found on the landing page of the NACS website at <http://www.northamericancliviasociety.org/index.php>. To access these photos, scroll halfway down beyond the photos of the top entries from The Huntington Show.



The 2019 Longwood Show Floor (photo courtesy of March Hamel)



Below: Best in Flowering Division:
Blooms -
'Hirao' -
Entered by Longwood Gardens



Above: Best in Foliage Division:
Non-Variegated C. miniata -
'Broad Leaves #1' -
Entered by Damon Smith



Right: Best in Flowering Division:
Umbels -
(no name provided) -
Entered by Longwood Gardens



SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL HUNTINGTON CLIVIA SHOW AND SALE IN SAN MARINO, CA

*by Malcolm R. Shrimplin, 2019 Huntington
Show Secretary and Classification Chair*

The weekend of March 16th and 17th, The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens again provided a fitting backdrop for the sixteenth annual show and sale that was co-sponsored this year by the NACS Southern California Clivia Club and The Huntington. Special thanks to The Huntington for continuing to be such a gracious host!

Included in this issue on the following pages are photos and descriptions of the show's top prize winners: Best in Category Blooming, Best in Category Foliage, and People's Choice Award. More photos of winning entries from the show, including at least Best in Division entries, along with more information about the number and type of all entries will be included in the August newsletter. Some of these other photos may be found on the landing pages of the NACS website. A full gallery is available at <https://votografie.client-gallery.com/gallery/clivia-2019?fbclid=IwARiUMqFoqsnFueaonrcQJLH0spq6Iah4xaEZWo0MDwKR-HCWtPaxMHfO7no>.

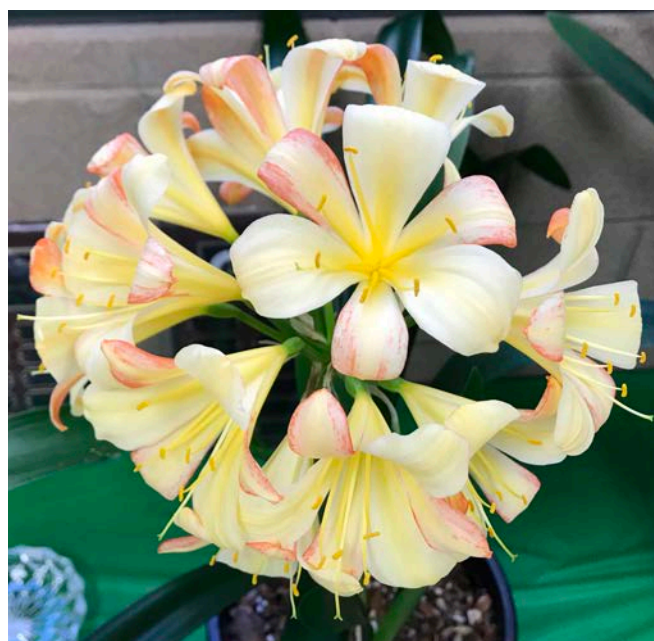
Congratulations to all who entered: Ken & Ann Byrne, Quyen Cao, James Comstock, Lynn McIlwain, Alexander Mikhalevitch, Manuel Morales (Plant Horizons), Norman Nakanishi, Marilyn Paskert, Cary Schneider, Malcolm Shrimplin, Eileen Slattery, and David Wang. The society owes a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers who made this year's event possible. Without the

many hours of advanced planning, attention to detail, and willingness to go the extra mile, it would not have been nearly as successful as it was!

Event Chair, Norman Nakanishi, and I extend our sincere thanks to those who made it all possible. We look forward to working with all of you again as next year's event approaches!



*Marilyn Paskert (above) after being presented
with The People's Choice Award for her
C. miniata 'Andrew Gibson' (below)*





***Above:** Best in Category Foliage entered by David Wang*

***Below:** Best in Flowering Division entered by Manuel Morales of Plant Horizons.*



**SPOTLIGHT ON KEVIN
AKINS' BREEDING
PROGRAM**

by Mike Riska and Damon Smith

Our friend Kevin Akins and his very supportive wife, Mary Alice, live in Plain City, Ohio on six acres just outside of Columbus. Kevin works for Scotts Miracle Grow Company and Mary Alice works for Public Broadcasting at Ohio State University. Kevin is a gentle giant who graduated from Ohio State University where he still holds the Ohio State and Big Ten indoor and outdoor shot put records at over seventy feet.

Kevin has extensive plant and horticulture interests, but his main focus is hybridizing clivias that he grows in his large greenhouse. See photo one with Mike and Kevin in his greenhouse ablaze with clivia umbels. Some of Kevin's

hybridizing successes are shown in the five pictures included in this article. He obtains clivia plants and seeds from promising crosses worldwide and also sells his plants worldwide to support all his plant interests. We both have many of Kevin's mature plants as well as his seedling crosses and those include some of the best in our collections. Damon relates: "Kevin is among the best clivia hybridizers in the United States". He is most proud of his pastel green throat series that originate from 'TKO' X 'Helliboris'. 'Helliboris' produces a wide range of pastels with green throats and is compatible with group two greens and yellows. He is also proud to be one of the earliest to produce variegated blushes from "Light of Buddha" to striated of high quality. His variegated blush, grown and exhibited by Marilyn Paskert, was the 2018 People's Choice at the Huntington Clivia Show.



Mike Riska (front) and Kevin Akins (back) in Kevin's Greenhouse

In three years, Kevin believes it is reasonable for him to produce variegated greens and multi-tepal blushes with nice leaves. Kevin would eventually like to produce a true brown and purple umbel. To accomplish this he believes these color forms will have to have interspecific genes. Kevin is young enough and has the knowledge and experience to achieve his goals.

Kevin has regularly made the nine hour one way road trip to the Longwood Gardens Clivia Show in Kennett Square, PA where he has consistently won top awards. He likes to show unusual color and leaf forms to promote wide interest in clivias. Kevin, Damon, and Mike consistently exchange information on problems, solutions, fertilizers, soil mixtures and all other aspects of clivia culture. We have both visited Kevin and Mary Alice several times. What a treat that is! If you can make the trip to Ohio during clivia blooming time, we promise it will be worth the effort.



TKO x 'Helliboris' (above)

Variegated Blush (below)





Unusual Coloration (above) and an Attractive Variegated Cream (below)





Interspecific with Green Tips (above) and Another Variegated with Attractive Flowers (below)



INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Malcolm R. Shrimplin, Publisher

During the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 17th, two current members, Quyen Cao and David Loysen, were elected to their second three year term to the NACS Board of Directors. Three new members were also elected to the board. To introduce themselves, the new board members, Byron Gwinn, Mike Sokolow, and Dick Storch, have each submitted the following information about themselves, along with a photo.



Mike Sokolow

Mike Sokolow has been raising clivias since the early 1970s. He spent more than 29 years as a lawyer for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection before retiring in 2015. He and his wife, Denny, have two grown children and have lived in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania since 1986.

(This article continues on page 12.)



Byron Gwinn

Byron Gwinn is a gardener in the Horticulture division at the U.S. Botanic Garden. He has a Masters in Sustainable Landscape Design from The George Washington University and loves to garden both indoors and outdoors. He currently managing the U.S. Botanic Garden clivia collection and to him they are some of the most beautiful flowering plants in the world!





Dick Storch

Dick was a marine and is a Vietnam Vet. After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he settled in North San Diego County. He has worked for several companies and built a consulting group. Dick has been breeding clivia (poorly) since 1975. Currently, he and his wife Quyen, are sole proprietors of Clivia Hill Nursery in Fallbrook, California.

WHAT'S COMING IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF CQ

by Malcolm R. Shrimplin, Publisher

The August edition of CQ will feature full results from The Huntington Show, along with photos of the top winners. There will also be articles by Marilyn Paskert on her C. miniata 'Andrew Gibson' and the floral arranging demonstration at The Huntington Show.

There will be another article on the spring 2018 trip to Japan by Cary Schneider entitled, "Casual Notes on Visiting Japan".

If you have something you'd like to contribute or an article you'd like to see us reprint, please let me know! You can reach me at malcolm.shrimplin@me.com or by calling (480) 399-5388.



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