

Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 1

January 2012

Meeting Schedule:

Meetings will be located in the trailer at the National Arboretum unless noted.

Saturday, February 11th

Barb Stewart "Dish Gardens"

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am

Saturday, March 10th

Propagation and Plant Swap

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am

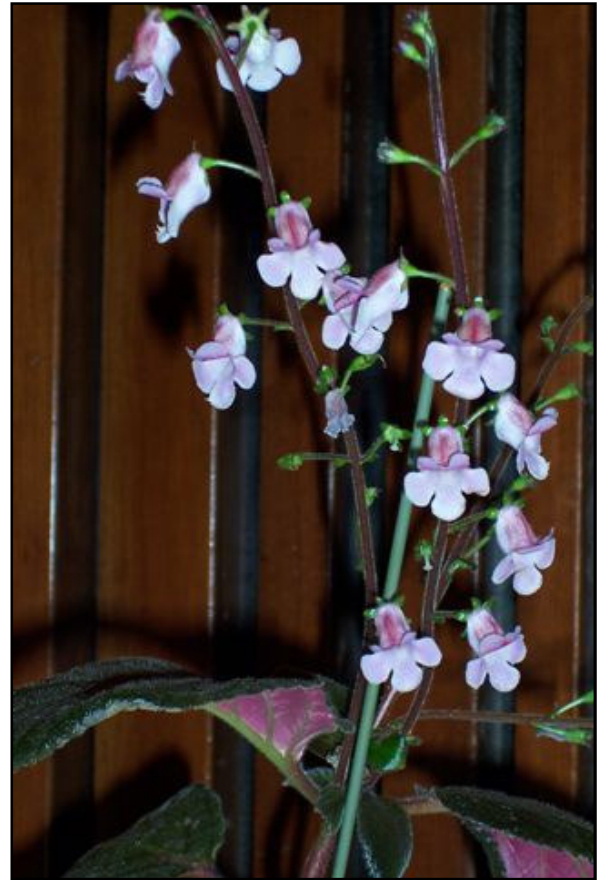
Saturday, April 14th

Michael Riley, "Epiphytes in the Concrete Jungle"

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am

Meeting dates for 2012

May 12th, Summer picnic, September 8th, October 13th,
December 8th



Gloxinia 'Dragonsong'-hybridized and grown by Jim Roberts

GLOXINIA 'DRAGONSONG'

By Jim Roberts from 2007 Petal Tones

Gloxinia 'Dragonsong' is not a new hybrid, but it hasn't been seen very often in shows like my other popular hybrid, *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts'. However, it still holds a special place in my heart. I really like the plant! 'Dragonsong' is a hybrid of *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Red Satin' x *Gloxinia perennis*. Both of these plants had been in cultivation for quite some time, and both had good and bad features. However, I saw some very nice similarities between the two and thought (at the time) that these two species might make an interesting cross. At the time that I made the cross the *G. erinoides* 'Red Satin' was classified with the genus name *Koellikeria*, so I had no idea if the hybrid was even possible. However, there were many other "intergeneric" crosses being done and I figured that I had nothing to lose.

I decided to use the *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Red Satin' as the seed parent in the hybrid. I did this for several reasons. First, *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Red Satin' rarely self-seeded for me, so I figured that if a seed pod did develop from the crossing the chances were good that the pod was going to contain hybrid seed. *Gloxinia perennis* would self-seed almost half of the flowers that opened, so I would have to plant seed from many different pods to see if any contained hybrid seed. Second, the flower size between the two plants is dramatic. I wasn't sure that pollen collected from

G. erinoides would be able to travel the entire distance required to fertilize the seed in *G. perennis*. So it made more sense to use the ample pollen produced by *G. perennis* on the smaller *G. erinoides*. The third reason is that there was always plenty of available pollen on the *G. perennis*, whereas the *G. erinoides* pollen was hard to come by. If there was any loose pollen in those tiny flowers it was hard to collect.



Gesneriad erinoides

So, I had the direction of my cross chosen. I applied pollen on several *G. erinoides* flowers and to my delight all swelled nicely and were showing signs of a successful pollination after just a couple of weeks. It's been too long for me to remember how long the pods took to ripen, but the seed all turned out to be viable. Knowing that the seed was the result of a cross between two species I did not expect any seed to seed variation and just grew on a few of the seedlings. The rest were tossed in the trash. The results of my efforts: a perfect blend of the two parents. As anyone who grows or has grown *G. perennis* knows, this is no light garden plant. It can easily reach 3-4 feet tall. It generally only gets a single flower spike per stem, although a pot with many stems can be a spectacular site. The pale lavender flowers don't open very far, but emit a slightly sweet minty smell. This is one of the very

few scented *Gesneriads*. *G. erinoides* is much more manageable in the light garden. It can reach 1-1 ½ feet tall, but that's still smaller than many of the *Kohleria* that we find a way to squeeze in. The plant has attractive reddish leaves covered with silver spotting (the *G. perennis* has dark bronze, glossy leaves). The plant produces many flower spikes per stalk, but it takes several stalks to make the plant showy. The flowers are very small, two toned red and white slippers. And it too has a subtle scent. You have to get your nose right down in the flower, but it's also a little minty. The hybrid retained the multiple flower stalk trait of the *G. erinoides*, a flower in good scale to the plant which is mid-sized between the two parents, and has the two tone effect in lavenders instead of red and white. It also carried over the scent of both parents. When the plant is sitting in a light garden and the air is undisturbed you can actually smell it from several feet away.



Euglossine bees visiting Gloxinia perennis. Photo Anton Weber

G. perennis produces huge rhizomes. They often curl around the bottom of a 6" pot several times. *G. erinoides* produces very small rhizomes. The hybrid produces manageable, easy to find rhizomes closer to the size of the *G. perennis* parent. This makes sharing this plant easy. As most of you know, from a single large rhizome you can get hundreds of plants quickly by simply breaking off all the individual scales and planting them on the surface of the soil. Cover the moistened pot or enclose it in a plastic bag. Within just a few weeks the scales will push themselves out of dormancy and start growing.

I named the plant *XGlokeria* 'Dragonsong' and registered it with AGGS. I had been reading all the Anne McCaffrey Dragon books and the teeth on the bottom lips of the flowers and the airy feel of the plant brought to mind the flying dragons in her series. It is now simply a *Gloxinia* due to the reclassification of the genus *Koellikeria* to *Gloxinia*. I don't have either of the parents at this time, but would like to get them both back. I've tried to self the plant, but haven't been successful so far. Perhaps the hybrid is sterile. Or maybe it just doesn't produce very good pollen. I'd like to continue to try to hybridize with this plant, crossing it with *G. erinoides* to try get the spotting back on the leaves. And I'd also like to try crossing it with *G. perennis* 'Insignis,' a smaller growing variety of *G. perennis*, to try to increase the flower size a little. I encourage anyone interested in hybridizing to give it a try. Find some closely related plants with traits you like and see what you can do.

Bloomin' Now

Barb's



Trip to White House for Barb!

Bloomin' Now

Johanna's



Saintpaulia 'Shiawasse Trail'



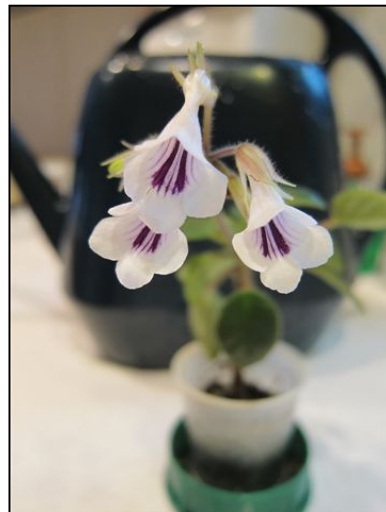
Chirita 'New York'



Smithicondonia
'Heartland's Joy'



Achimenes



Primulina
tamiana

Bloomin' Now

Bev's



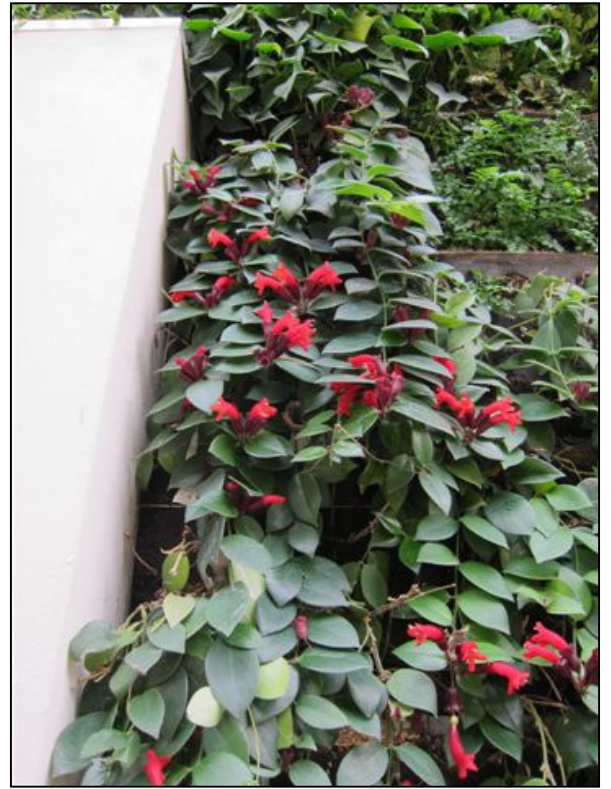
Saintpaulia Ionantha



Johanna visited Longwood & found some Gesneriads!



A beautiful *Streptocarpus* 'Concord Blue'



Photos from the MAAVS show
By Barry Wolfe



Kohleria 'Periadot's Spots n Dots'



Petrocosmea 'Shortnin' Bread'



Primulina 'Stardust'

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Harlequin Blue'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Rose Halo'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Niphimenes</i> 'Lemonade'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia malayana</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia</i> ANYTHING!...;;.....	Brian Connor
<i>Pearcea hypocyrtiflora</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Episcia lilacine</i> 'Panama'.....	Jim Roberts
<i>Streptocarpus kentaniensis</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Columnea orientandina</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Bristol's Goose Egg'.....	Donna Beverin
<i>Begonia schmidtiana</i>	Donna Beverin
<i>xAchimenaantha</i> 'Dutch Treat'.....	Donna Beverin
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Li'l Georgie'.....	Lee Stradley
<i>Chirita</i> 'Veracunda'.....	Barry Woolf
<i>Kohleria warszewiczii</i>	Barry Woolf

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

"The purpose of the chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in Gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of Gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."

(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of *Petal Tones*, the website, or contact one of the people below from the raffle table.

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 NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
 NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>

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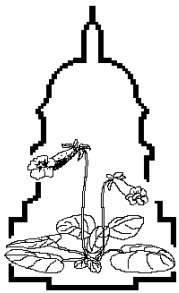
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Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 3

March 2012

President's Message – March 2012

This past weekend I was forced to attend a Board of Director's Meeting in Miami, FL. A tough job but someone has to do it. The weather down there was great, but we really can't complain about the weather we've had here either. The USDA has changed the climate zones for our area; but this doesn't happen just because of a single warm winter. We're warming up and there's just no way to get around that fact. Global warming is here.

And what does that do to our plants in their natural environment? There was the start of a discussion at the board retreat, which will continue in Seattle, on Gesneriad Conservation. Little is known about how these plants we have growing under lights in our gardens are doing in their natural environments. If their natural environments even still exist.

Education is part of the key to preserving our plants. The more the public knows about them the easier it will be to work towards protecting their environment. We can do one small part by keeping the rare plants in cultivation alive and shared and healthy so that we can keep them alive long enough to get them back into their natural world. *Gasteranthus atratus* is no longer found anywhere in the wild. It is however, thriving in our light gardens and could be reintroduced into the wild at some future date.

We have a large regional show coming up in September. One of the ideas discussed at the retreat was to encourage more educational labeling at shows. This is a quick and easy way to help the public know more about the plants they are admiring. This can be something as simple as "This plant comes from the cloud forests in Ecuador" to something as detailed as

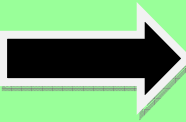
Meeting Schedule:

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Saturday, March 10th

Propagation and Plant Swap

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am



Saturday, April 14th AFTERNOON MEETING

Michael Riley, "Epiphytes in the Concrete Jungle" Michael grows a wide assortment of plants in his Manhattan apartment. That in itself is not so amazing. Many growers grow plants in the city. It is the way that Michael grows his plants that will amaze you! Does anyone have a camcorder and tripod to video this presentation for those who cannot attend in the afternoon? Meeting begins at 1:00pm

Meeting dates for 2012

May 12th, Summer picnic, September 8th, October 13th, December 8th

"This plant is an endangered species native to a single mountain in Southern Yunnan Province in China. There are currently only 50 known plants left in the wild." I would like everyone to think about adding an educational label to their entries at the show.

This month's meeting is our Propagation Workshop. Bring pots, soil, labels, baggies, and other supplies. Bring plants to share: seedlings, cuttings, rhizomes, large stock plants to cut up. Anything extra. Especially anything that can be grown into a show plant between the March meeting and the September show.

See you all on Saturday! Jim



African Violet windowsill by Johanna Zinn



Columnea raymondii photo by Johanna Zinn
US Botanic Garden's Production Facility



Columnea gloriosa Photo by Johanna Zinn
US Botanic Garden's Production Facility

Helpful Tips

Lee Linett

- a watering with Epsom salt will give your plants a boost into springtime (1 Tbs/gal water)
- start up or pot up sprouting rhizomes (*Kohleria*, *Achimenes*, *Smithiantha*) for summer bloom
- stem and leaf cuttings taken now will root quickly to produce plants in time for the MAGS event in September
- sort through your liquid fertilizers and pesticides and dispose of any that have been sitting around a year
- now that it's official, erase *Chirita* on your labels and write in *Primulina* or *Dryas*. Mourn the possible loss of a *Chirita* 'Rita' and think of a possible *Primulina* 'Carolina'
- NCAC members always have been generous in sharing their plants, so do you really need more than two of the same plant, unless you're growing for sale? Bring those extras to the meeting along with your labels and
- baggies to take home something new from the plant exchange.

An Invitation:

The Richmond African Violet Society would like to invite the members and friends of the National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society to its show and plant sale, Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th, 2012 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond, Virginia. Our show theme this year is "European Violet Express." The show opens to the public after judging on Saturday, April 14th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm and Saturday, April 15th from 9:00 to 3:00 pm. However, The Gardens will be open to the public from 9:00 to 5:00 pm on both days and we would like to encourage everyone to come early to enjoy their annual Festival of a Million Blooms. There is no charge to enter the African violet show, however, there is a fee to tour the gardens. The fees are as follows: Adults - \$11.00 Seniors (55 +) - \$10.00 AAA Members - \$1.00 off the price of admission. Also, for the month of April, The Garden is offering two for one admission for entrants presenting a current Public Broadcasting Membership Card.

For more information about Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, please visit their website. The address is <http://www.lewisginter.org>. Please join us! It is about 2.5 hours from the Washington, DC area. If there are any questions, I will be happy to attempt answers. My email address is EEQUAT@aol.com. Directions are below:

From Washington, D.C. (I-95 South)
From I-95 South take Exit 83B, the Parham Road Rt. 73 West exit. (Right before this exit you will see the brown Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden sign.) On Parham, quickly get into your far left lane. At the second stoplight, take a left onto Brook Road (also known as Route 1 South). At the third stoplight, take a right onto Lakeside Avenue. (At the light you will see a brown Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden sign.)



Strep seedpod

Regional Show News

Jim Roberts

Plans are progressing nicely for our Show in Delaware in September. Plan on seeing the schedule in the April issue of Petal Tones. There was a lot of discussion at the Board Retreat about our Regional Show. Many of the Board members have volunteered to come out to judge the show, including judges from southern California, Washington State, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts and New York; and all without even sending out an invitation yet! Saturday will be filled with interesting speakers (yes, volunteers for that too). We will have an awards banquet on the Saturday night after the judging ends and the judges have finished shopping. Lots of planning still going on and I'll be looking for more volunteers at the meeting on Saturday.

Mr. Gesneriad



Barry Woolf's Strep 'Suzie'

Dear Mr. G: This Strep is growing on the same window sill as Strep 'Heartland's Peacock' and Suzie is flowering normally. At its flowering peak, it had 9 open flowers. Found a "stink bug" on one of the flowers. This was the only strep in flower in the house at the time. The bug met a timely death, but soon after, where the flower had been, what appears to be a seed capsule grew. My question is: Where can I find information about the genetics of Strep Suzi? And assuming this is a self fertilized seed pod is their any way to know what the progeny might look like and is it worth the effort to sow the seed?

Answer:

Finding background genetics on unregistered hybrids is a real challenge. The first place I usually look is at the International Register for Gesneriads found on the www.gesneriadsociety.org website. Naturally Suzie is not listed there. The second option is to just try "Googling" the name to see what turns up. There I found a listing for *Streptocarpus* 'Suzie' in Dave's Garden. It shows that the plant was hybridized by Oglevee with parentage unknown. The Oglevee website is down and points to www.ecke.com. This doesn't help any. But I wouldn't give up if you really want to know. Try writing to Ecke Ranch. They may have details on the plants produced by Oglevee's. Most *Streptocarpus* hybrids have a wide genetic makeup, so the selfings are often quite variable. So yes, it is worth growing on some seedlings to see what you get. Be picky. Only grow on the seedlings that grow nice plants (nice evenly distributed leaves that don't curl, brown at the edges, or have other non-desirable traits). When the plants do flower, look for high bud count on each peduncle, good strong color and patterning, and flower sizes in proportion to the leaf size.

Dear Mr. G: Attached is an image of Sinn. Texas Zebra x bullata #1. I was able to find some information on the *Sinningia bullata*, it has dark orange red flowers. As well as limited information on *Sinningia* 'Texas Zebra' which has pale striped flowers and is 'California Gold' {(*S. eumorpha* hyb by Dale Martins) x (*eumorpha* x *striata*)}. I was able to find that *Sinningia bullata* has dark orange red flowers and has very interesting foliage that is rather textured, pebbly, quilted leaves in a nice shade of green.



Also, the upper leaves and stems (and even flower buds and stems) are quite hairy. The lower leaves, not so hairy. Flower habit, size, color, etc.? Should we consider this plant a dead end or continue the line by selfing it and hoping for darker colors with deep stripes? Flowers do open orange but they lighten with age and has very faint spots/stripes in the throat.

Answers:

Is this basically a eumorpha x bullata hybrid?

Well, yes-but-not-totally. Texas Zebra is 75% eumorpha, but is light purple/lavender and more strongly striped (the *striata* influence). Eumorpha has many variants, but is usually very pastel colored-whitish flower with very light markings inside the flower.

Yes, the flowers seem to have lost the stripes and dark color of the parents. TRUE!

What was the hybridizer looking for?

Don't know for sure. Jim Steuerlein was the hybridizer. He seems to make very careful choices of parents for his hybrids. Trivia=he went to college with John Boggan.

Flower habit, size,color, etc.?

I imagine he was looking for a bright orange flower with strong striping (purple stripes?). He has used *S. bullata* a lot as a parent. Perhaps he was also trying to incorporate some of the interesting foliage features of *bullata* into some offspring.



Sinningia 'Texas Zebra x bullata #1

Should we consider this plant a dead end or continue the line by selfing it and hoping for darker colors with deep stripes? Selfing could be interesting, if someone in our chapter was motivated enough [I don't mean that to sound negative, everyone in our chapter seems very busy with multiple plant groups and their personal lives]. If the off spring are not

more interesting, then maybe give-up.
Flowers do open orange but they lighten with age.
 True! Although, I like the pale orange (like a
 creamsicle), a darker color would be more striking
Very faint spots/stripes in the throat. If stripes (or
 spots) were prominent, it might make a much showier
 flower.



At Behnke's, as part of Brian's show propagation demo, he gave many of us small +/-2 inch cuttings of *Columnea columbiana*. I think it was Jim who generously provided us with clear plastic cups with domed lids. When I got home, I put the cutting on the kitchen window sill where it has stayed till earlier today. About a month ago I removed the lid to acclimate the plant to a lower humidity. It took a while for my piece to root, but when it did, it took off. As per Brian's advice, when the growth reached the top of the cup, I pinched a piece and reinserted the cutting into the mix. Currently there are 7 or 8 stems in the pot. As the days are getting longer I can see an increase in growth rate. It seems to like bright light. My plan is to keep one cutting in the cup (just in case...) and replot the rest into a more traditional pot to see if I can get it to bloom. Hopefully, in the future, I can return Brian's generosity by provide pieces for the raffle.
 -Barry Woolf

Hi NCAC members--- Brian Connor

There are plenty of horticultural events to keep plant people of the Mid-Atlantic region busy and interested in 2012. I shall be attending as many of these events as I possibly can in March through the early Spring.

1. Philadelphia International Flower Show
 (Hawaii Islands Of Aloha) \$27 - \$32 per day
 March 4-11
 PA Convention Center (right downtown)
 12th and Arch streets, Philadelphia, PA
 Sun March 4 8:00 a.m.-9:30p.m.
 Mon March 5 thru Fri Mar 9 10:00 a.m.-9:30p.m.
 Sat March 10 8:00 a.m.-9:30p.m.
 Sun March 11 8:00 a.m.-6:00p.m.

2. Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society (African Violets Go to The Races)
 March 30 & 31
 Boscov's Department Store, 2nd Floor auditorium
 Christiana Town Center
 361 West Main Street
 Christiana, DE 19702
 Fri Mar 30 Plant Sale only 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sat Mar 31 Show and Sale 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 NOTE- Gary Hunter will have plants for sale and he sells to Longwood gardens
 Very easy to get to from 95 (see google maps/mapquest)

3. Richmond African Violet Club (European Violet Express)
 April 14 & 15
 Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
 800 Lakeside Avenue
 Richmond, VA 23228
 Sat Apr 14 Show and Sale 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
 Sun Apr 15 Show and Sale 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
 The Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens will be open to the public from 9:00 to 5:00 pm on both days and we would like to encourage everyone to come early to enjoy their annual Festival of a Million Blooms. There is no charge to enter the African violet show; however, there is a fee to tour the gardens. The fees are as follows: Adults- \$11.00 Seniors (55+) - \$10.00 AAA Members- \$1.00 off the price of admission. Also, for the month of April, The Garden is offering two for one admission for entrants presenting a current Public Broadcasting Membership Card. For more information about Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, please visit their website. The address is <http://www.lewisginter.org/>

4. Baltimore African Violet Club (Symphony Of Violets)
 May 11 & 12 Mothers' Day Weekend
 The Shops at Kenilworth in Towson
 800 Kenilworth Drive
 Towson, Maryland 21204
 Fri May 11 Show 1:00 a.m. - 05:00p.m.
 Fri May 11 Sale 9:00 a.m.- 05:00 p.m.
 Sat May 12 Show and Sale 9:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.

USDA Hardiness Zones change!

There are new 2012 USDA zones of hardiness zones case you did not know (I am sure many of you did). In southern Baltimore City , I have left zone 7a in the cold (bad pun intended). I am now living it up in the more sultry, tropical 7b zone (hey, we're getting there).

Should I not be happy about this in case global warming is really coming true? Go to this web-site and you can plug in your zip code and see if your zone of hardiness has changed for the warmer:

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/#>

Brian Connor

Chapter Desperately Seeking

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<i>Chirita</i> 'Veracunda'.....	Barry Wolf
<i>Kohleria</i> <i>warszewiczii</i>	Barry Wolf
<i>Columnnea</i> <i>glicensteinii</i>	Barry Wolf
<i>Columnnea</i> <i>linearis</i> 'Purple Robe'.....	Barry Wolf
<i>Koelikeria</i> <i>erinooides</i> "Starry Night".....	Barry Wolf
<i>Columnnea</i> <i>glicensteinii</i>	Dr. Leon Glicenstein
<i>Columnnea</i> <i>linearis</i> 'Purple Robe'.....	Dr. Leon Glicenstein
<i>Saintpaulia</i> <i>magungensis</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia</i> <i>tonguensis</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia</i> 'House of Amani'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia</i> <i>diplotricha</i>	Lee Linett

Joyce's Show and Tell at February Meeting



Sinningia leucotricha 'Max Dekking' x *bullata*.

Donna's Light Gardens

I figured I better be an example of what Barry and I were suggesting at the February meeting regarding asking you all to tell us about your plant set up and how you became a plant person.

I got into plants as a young kid. Around 3rd grade, I went around and picked all the summer's flowers seeds from my mom's and my next door neighbors' gardens, packed them up into little paper containers made with scotch tape and sold them to all the other ladies in my neighborhood. The next year I had requests for more seeds and I remember being really surprised. But I did it only that one time. Then at around 16, I sent away for a package of cacti seeds for \$.25 from the back of a magazine. I planted them and then left home for awhile and when I got back, my cacti seeds had all germinated and I had tiny plants even though I had left them horribly abandoned. I was so excited! Tiny miniatures of the parent plants.



I really don't remember the exact way I got into gesneriads...I roamed all the local greenhouses as a pastime, as soon as I could drive. There were several local nurseries: Red Mill Nursery, Almart Greenhouse were the main two. It was so relaxing to walk among the plants and see the variety and how they were growing. I lived relatively close to Longwood Gardens which used to be free and I went there all the time during my teens and early 20's. I did dream of going to Cornell, but could not see a path to take to afford my education. I had no clue about financial aid! I loved African Violets and would grow a few of them. I really started by hanging up 4 foot florescent light fixtures and grew plant under lights. I started my tomatoes & peppers under lights every spring and then ended up keeping the lights up all year 'round and growing other things. A voracious reader, I worked at

the local library and gorged on plant books and with my employee discount purchased a lot of plant books. I probably read Charles Marden Fitch's book about growing plants under lights and found out about the Indoor Light Gardening Society in the back of the book and then later joined the local chapter. I was excited to have him autograph my copy of his book when he spoke locally, at Longwood, I think. So I ordered some plants from Kartuz, who was on the east coast at that time. Mike substituted *Sinningia pusilla* for something else I ordered and I was hooked! He wrote a little note and said not to throw it out if it looked dead because it had a tiny tuber. With my bohemian life style of moving around a lot I guess gesneriads suited my lifestyle because if things died I could save the tubers and rhizomes and it was not a total loss! And I always loved propagation, especially from seeds. Hmm, I wanted to grow my own Bird of Paradise plant and someone told me about Park Seed Company and then I kept finding new seed / plant companies, like Merry Gardens in Maine, Thompson/Morgan and of course Burpee and lots of other seed catalogues. So I would experiment with all kinds of plants seeds. Then when computers and the internet was born I found Chiltern seeds and other great sources of plants and seeds. And of course I belonged to the American Gesneriad and Gloxinia Society and bought seeds from the fund.



One of my favorites: *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red'

Meanwhile I dropped out of the Indoor Light Gardening Society right before a show I was helping with, because I was going through some personal changes and I am sure was a disappointment to my friends, at the time. Off and on over the years I was just a member of the Society thru the monthly magazine and growing seeds from the seed fund. Then a few years ago I really was excited that the National Show was going to be at Silver Springs so decided to attend. I was really impressed with the organization of the NCAC chapter and thought maybe it would be worth a trip to the meeting once in awhile.

Living now on the Eastern shore in Maryland, it was about the same time to drive to DC as it was to drive to northern



Delaware. So I joined and all the rest is apparent. I love our group of members and everyone is so kind, educational and helpful! It was so good for me because I was too much of a workaholic and was not doing enough for my own self. As far as my growing conditions; I buy the wire type racks that are available at all the home improvements stores like Lowes, Home Depot, Target and Kmart; then hang four foot florescent light figures on each shelf. I started with the 3 foot wide racks, but graduated to the 4 foot, which are better because the lights are 4 feet long and each of the shelves are deeper and they hold up to around 300 pounds. The light's balasts provide bottom heat for seed propagation containers.



I have 2 light shelf units in my living room, one in my back room and I have several shelves in the basement. In the basement, I have one shelf of *Petrocosemas* along with a working area for planting and storage of the potting mixes and pots that need cleaning. Also downstairs, I have plants that I overwinter near the lights: brugsmania, plumeria, hibiscus, amaryllis and lotus. The shelving in the living room also receives supplemental light from my front window. Various

windows around the house hold my Christmas cacti, which I enjoy growing from seed.



A beautiful Christmas cactus bloom

They like the little bit of chill near the window which induces blooming. One winter when I moved without many plants, I had one Christmas cactus. I kept it in a window and would turn it every week or so and it kept setting buds on the side closest to the drafty window all winter. During winter it is so rewarding to have beautiful blooms to cheer the spirit when we miss the sunshine. I would love to add a greenhouse onto my house someday. But for now I am happy and busy with my plants on shelves with lights. I am working on better labeling and pronunciation of plants; as well as , looking forward to our March meeting and bringing lots of things to share that I have grown from seeds. Thanks for welcoming me to the group!



My kitchen counter light area.



I discovered this little baby one day when checking my baggies! Has still not bloomed yet.

I grow a lot of plants in containers and plastic covered pots, to avoid loss from lack of watering when I get busy.



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(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of *Petal Tones*, the website, or contact one of the people below from the raffle table.

The Gesneriad Society website: www.gesneriadsociety.org
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NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>
Website & Blog: Kyoko Imai
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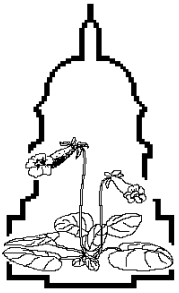
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Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 4

April 2012



Saintpaulia 'Ozio'

President's Message

Jim Roberts

Well, it's official. There will be no winter during the 2011-2012 December through March period. Spring arrived in February after a slightly chillier than normal fall finished up at the end of January. I'm not sure what the people attending the Cherry Blossom Parade in DC on April 14th are going to see on the trees. Certainly not flowers! Maybe some baby cherries?

I strongly urge as many of you as possible to come to this month's meeting. Michael Riley, our guest speaker from New York City, has been growing Gesneriads even longer than I have. He has been on a number of plant-hunting expeditions and even has a *Columnea* named after him: *Columnea rileyi*. Michael grows a wide variety of plants in his Manhattan apartment (Gesneriads, Orchids, Aroids, Begonias, etc.), as do many NY growers. But Michael does things in a most unusual way. He developed his unusual growing methods based on what he saw in the wild. There should be a number of good take-aways for us all.

Meeting Schedule:

Meetings will be located in the trailer at the National Arboretum unless noted.

Saturday, April 14th AFTERNOON MEETING



Michael Riley, "Epiphytes in the Concrete Jungle" Michael grows a wide assortment of plants in his Manhattan apartment. That in itself is not so amazing. Many growers grow plants in the city. It is the way that Michael grows his plants that will amaze you!

Meeting begins at 1:00pm

1:00-2:00: Set up, raffle, snack

2:00 Michael's Presentation

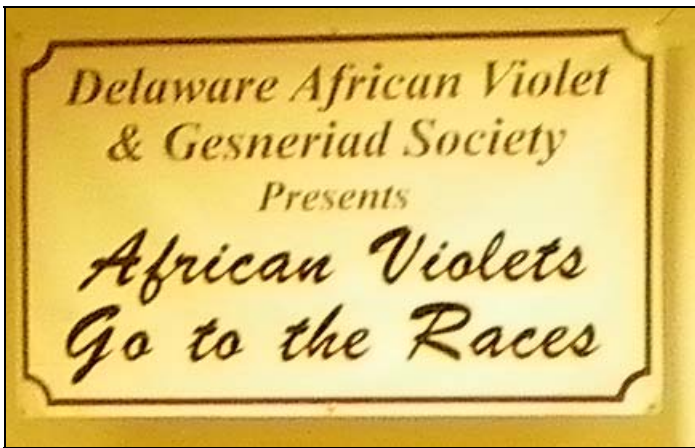
Meeting dates for 2012

May 12th, June 9th Behnke's Social Day, June Summer picnic, September 8th, October 13th, December 8th

I know the calendar shows that our meeting starts at 1:00 this month, but I'm repeating that in my message. Please don't show up too early. There is another group meeting in "our" room and it's not scheduled for us until 1:00. We normally start our meetings with the speaker, then a lunch break and raffle, followed by the business meeting. Because we can't get in until 1:00, I would like to use from 1:00 until 2:00 to get everything set up, including our speaker, and start off with our food and raffle selling. At 1:30 we can hold the raffle and have Michael speak at 2:00. We'll follow that with our short business meeting. The time change comes with some pleasant benefits. A few people who have not been able to attend morning meetings have stated that they will be coming to this one. Let's make them feel welcome (never a problem with our group).

If all goes well we will be in our new meeting space in the Administration Building next month. I'm going to miss the temporary room. In many ways it was much better than the permanent space we had in the big building. See you all on the 14th!

Here is a link where you can enjoy an article by Michael Riley: http://www.hortmag.com/gardens-and-gardners/garden-visits/the_life_of_riley#walls



by Brian Connor

At the end of March, I was fortunate enough to exhibit plants with the Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society (DAVS), who put on an outstanding sale and show with nearly 200 entries on Saturday, March 31st at Boscov's. Since the event was on only one day the judges had to work while the event was open to the public. It did propose some unique challenges being in the Boscov's community room which was not very large. However, it was great to consolidate the activities to one day for the benefit of everyone's schedules. Members blocked off the aisles while the judges worked in certain classes and the judges had their work cut out for them. They gave four awards of Special Merit in addition to the Best in Class awards.

A number of lovely gesneriads were on display, featuring some intriguing crosses by Betty Cessna. Betty, you may already be aware, is well known for hybridizing *Episcia* 'Pink Smoke.'



Streptocarpus 'Harlequin Blue'

Three *Streptocarpus* to watch out for: *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Blue' and *Streptocarpus* 'Bristols Very Berry,' both shown by Mary Schaeffer and the beautiful and unique fantasy *Streptocarpus* 'Liberty Bell' was exhibited by Quentin Schlieder and hybridized by the aforementioned Ms. Cessna. If you find any of these three *Streptocarpus*, please buy them and then share a leaf with me please!



Streptocarpus 'Liberty Bell'

The *Kohleria* were even better than the *Streptocarpus*! It was surprising to see 15-20 different *Kohleria* entered by various chapter members at a local show.



Mary Schaeffer grew *Kohleria* 'HCY's Jardin de Monet' to perfection and was awarded Best Gesneriad in Show. One of the Special Merit awards was a Betty Cessna cross of *Kohleria* 'Luciani' x *Kohleria* 'Peridot's Kitilope,' #16, also grown by Mary. The flower color transitioned from a glowing burnt orange near the calyx to a hot pink color on the flower limb. It was striking! In Mary's *Kohleria* collection, there was yet another plant from the same cross with very fat, pink bell shaped flowers.

The *Episcia* were dominated by Angie Celano, although Mary entered yet another Betty Cessna hybrid, *Episcia* 'Thad's Pink Flamingo' x *Episcia* 'Alice's Aussie.'

I always enjoy seeing what Libby Behnke is growing. As it turned out, a wonderful *Columnnea*, a great *Saintpaulia* 'Rockin Robin' and delightful *Sinningia* (like S. 'Kiddo,' an excellent old Beslisle hybrid, I believe). As if Mary Schaeffer had not accomplished enough, she entered a Charles Lawn florist gloxinia grown from seed.

Overall, I felt good about most of my gesneriads, but not so much about my *Saintpaulia* entries, which were just starting to bloom. My *Primulina* 'Rachel' won Second Best Gesneriad in Show, which was very exciting, as I had never won that award before.



Episcia 'Karlyn'

In Baltimore, my *Saintpaulia* are sadly used to sharing the showroom with those grown by Marie Burns and Rodney Barnett. I had hoped Delaware would give my poor little semi-minis and standards a reprieve, but they didn't stand a chance next to Bobbie LaFashia's plants! Bobbie won Best in Show and Second Best in Show with 'Precious Red' and 'Optimara New Jersey' respectively. Both were covered in flowers. My violets have about 6 weeks until the Baltimore AV club show (May 11 & 12); will they put out enough bloom in time? Stay tuned!



Bobbie LaFashia's *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara New Jersey'



Brian's *Primulina* 'Rachel' nestled among other beautiful plants

The designs at the DAVS show were lovely and I can't say enough good things about the plant sale, featuring plants grown by Gary Hunter. Gary supplies Longwood Gardens with gesneriads where he is selling around 75 *Streptocarpus* a week! He offered a variety of small begonias, ferns, moss and other small terrarium plants along with large *Sinningias*, *Streptocarpus* and *xSinvana* for sale. Quentin Schlieder had several boxes off to the side of the popular sales table for Gesneriad enthusiasts to peruse among and select some unique gesneriads for sale. Donna found Jim's hybrid *Gloxinia* 'Dragonsong', *Episcia* 'Jim's Daphne's Choice', *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberry Cream, and *xVanvonna* harlequinade. All in all, a good time was had by all at an outstanding event! And it was great to speak with so many knowledgeable members of various gesneriad groups. If northern Delaware is accessible to you, check out the DAVS web-site for meeting times.

<http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/>

Bloomin' Now Donna

This begonia was grown from the bulbils received from John



Boggan when he spoke at our October meeting on Testing the Limits with Hardy(ish) Gesneriads and Begonias. Had a chilly winter in my frig! So beautiful! Hope for late summer blooms!

Ask Mr. Gesneriad



Question:

The *Streptocarpus* plant is located near an insulated window. The flowers on the leaf closest to the window are a solid color purple. This solid colored purple flower is not the exact same shade of the bi-colored flower.



Streptocarpus 'Roulette Azure'

The flowers opening away from the window side of the plant have the typical white flower with the purple border. Are *Streptocarpus* very temperature sensitive? Is this a regular occurrence? I plan to propagate leaves from both sides of the plant to see if the color forms are stable. Any insights and suggestions would be greatly appreciated! Barry Woolf

Answer:

The *Streptocarpus* 'Fleischle Roulette Azur' and 'Fleischle Roulette Cherry' both have this unstable characteristic of producing solid colored as well as several variations of the white flower with a colored border. It has nothing to do with temperature. You will probably find that some leaves produce solid colored flowers and others produce the correct coloration. There isn't much that can be done to prevent this except to remove the leaves that produce the solid colored flowers and hope for enough leaves that produce the "ringed" flowers to give a nice full showy plant.



Please send questions to Mr. Gesneriad
c/o Donnabeverin@gmail.com

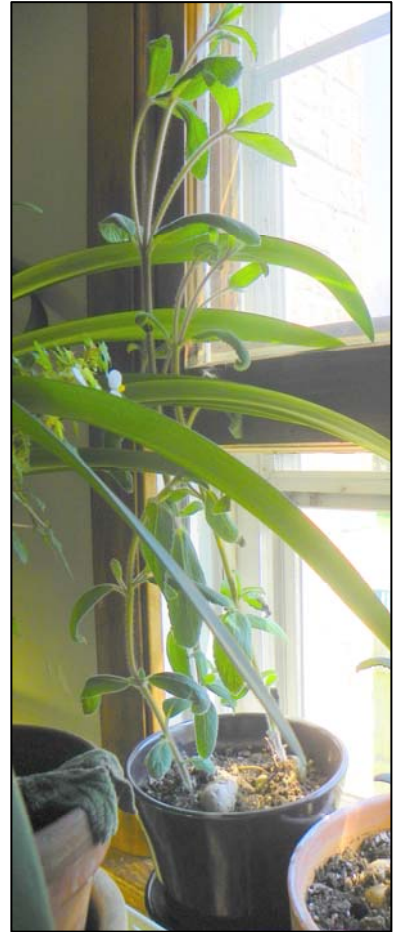
Dear Mr. Gesneriad,

Question:

Do you recommend tip nipping on *Sinningia tubiflora*? I have one started on my southern windowsill and it is zooming skyward and is about 2 feet so far. Ditto for Arkansas Bells? Except I have to let it go now because AB is full of buds! Donna

Answer:

No, I don't recommend tip cutting or pinching of *Sinningia tubiflora*. Many of the *Sinningia* will only flower on that original long spike. Pinching will cause branching, but the plants may not have enough time to send up enough growth to get flowers before the fall.



Jim's Trip to Fairfield Gardens, Florida



Just a small planting of Episcia as a groundcover at Fairchild Gardens



Nautilocalyx species growing in patches in the greenhouse



Seemannia species growing outdoors by a pond at Fairchild Gardens



John R. Clark and Jeanne Katzenstein on the jungle path at Fairchild Gardens



Not just plants at Fairchild Gardens!



Really nice Columnnea hybrid growing in the greenhouse at Fairchild Gardens



Rhytidophyllum tomentosum at Farichild Gardens growing outdoors and at least 7 feet high and wide



Jerry and Nancy Kast - at Fairchild Gardens

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Harlequin Blue'	.....Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Rose Halo'	.....Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'	.....Brian Connor
<i>Niphimenes</i> 'Lemonade'	.....Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia malayana</i>	.....Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia</i> ANYTHING!.,,;	.....Brian Connor
<i>Begonia schmidtiana</i>	.....Donna Beverin
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Li'l Georgie	.....Lee Stradley
<i>Chirita</i> 'Veracunda'	.....Barry Woolf
<i>Kohleria warszewiczii</i>	.....Barry Woolf
<i>Columnnea glicensteinii</i>	.....Barry Woolf
<i>Columnnea linearis</i> 'Purple Robe'	.....Barry Woolf
<i>Koelikeria erinoides</i> "Starry Night"	.....Barry Woolf
<i>Columnnea glicensteinii</i>	.....Dr. Leon Glicenstein
<i>Columnnea linearis</i> 'Purple Robe'	.....Dr. Leon Glicenstein
<i>Saintpaulia magungensis</i>	.....Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia tonguensis</i>	.....Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia</i> 'House of Amani'	.....Lee Linett
<i>Columnnea picta</i>	.....Lee Linett
<i>Nautilocalyx picturatus</i>	.....Lee Linett
<i>Petrocosmea forestii</i>	.....Lee Linett

Plans for Regional Show Continue to Unfold

The Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium, a collaborative event of the Delaware, Liberty Bell and National Capital Area Chapters of The Gesneriad Society, will be held in Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, 531 South College Avenue, Newark DE from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 30, 2012. Newark, Delaware is about a ninety minute ride from Washington, DC and the University is located just off Interstate 95.

The show, with the theme “Gesneriads Across the Globe: An International Family,” and plant sale are free and open to the public. The show and sale set up will be on Saturday, September 29, 2012 in the morning with judging in the afternoon. Brian Connor developed the theme and the flower show schedule which has been sent to The Gesneriad Society for approval. The Flower Show Banquet will be held Saturday evening at Timothy’s Restaurant in Newark.



Dr. John L. Clark documenting gesneriad specimen’s on a recent expedition.

In addition to the Show and Sale, there will be two wonderful presentations on Sunday. The first will feature John L. Clark from the University of Alabama who will give a presentation on "Searching for Gesneriads in Cuba".

John is an Associate Professor in The University of Alabama's Department of Biological Sciences. His research focuses on the diversification and taxonomy of the flower plant family Gesneriaceae in the New World Tropics. Since 2006 he has participated in eight expeditions to Cuba for ongoing research on the Flora of

Cuba Project. His research has facilitated the rediscovery of plants that had not been documented since the 1800s, some of which have been recently introduced into the horticultural community. John will discuss recent taxonomic changes that affected the names of commonly grown Gesneriaceae from the Caribbean. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see Gesneriads growing naturally in their habitats.

The second presentation will feature Bob and Dee Stewart live in Stowe, MA where they maintain an extensive collection of exotic gesneriads in their greenhouse. Bob and Dee began growing gesneriads almost 25 years ago, starting on windows, moving to light, then to more elaborate lights, and then to the greenhouse. They grow a wide variety of species, including a lot of epiphytes and cool growers. Bob and Dee have won many awards for their plants, and lectured on the greenhouse culture of gesneriads at the AGGS 1998 Convention. They have been members of AGGS (now The Gesneriad Society) for over 25 years. Bob is the botanical reviewer for Gesneriads and is a fabulous photographer. Dee is a wonderful grower. They were featured in the February issue of Gleanings, a free-newsletter from The Gesneriad Society.

Space is limited and registration will be required for the Symposium. Watch future issues of the newsletter for more details, and if you are planning to attend and are able to help, please let Quentin Schlieder, who is the event Chairman, or Jim Roberts, who is Flower Show Chairman, know.
Quentin

Up and Coming Shows/Sales of Interest

1. Richmond African Violet Club (European Violet Express)
April 14 & 15

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
800 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, VA 23228

Sat Apr 14 Show and Sale 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Sun Apr 15 Show and Sale 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

The Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens will be open to the public from 9:00 to 5:00 pm on both days and we would like to encourage everyone to come early to enjoy their annual Festival of a Million Blooms. There is no charge to enter the African violet show, however, there is a fee to tour the gardens. The fees are as follows:
Adults- \$11.00 Seniors (55+) - \$10.00 AAA Members- \$1.00 off the price of admission. Also, for the month of April, The Garden is offering two for one admission for

entrants presenting a current Public Broadcasting Membership Card. For more information about Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, please visit their website. The address is
<http://www.lewisginter.org/>
NOTE- I saw nothing but good reviews for Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (seriously they were all 4.5 to 5 star reviews, like 50 of them).

2. Baltimore African Violet Club (Symphony Of Violets)

May 11 & 12 Mothers' Day Weekend

The Shops at Kenilworth in Towson
800 Kenilworth Drive
Towson, Maryland 21204

Fri May 11 Show 1:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.
Fri May 11 Sale 9:00 a.m.- 05:00 p.m.
Sat May 12 Show and Sale 9:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.

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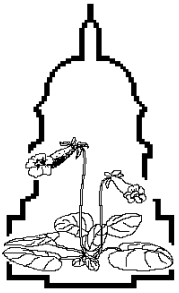
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Membership: Kyoko Imai
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Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 5

May 2012



Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Goose Egg'

President' Message

Just a brief note this month! I hope to see many of you at our meeting this month, but also hope that many of you will be able to attend the Baltimore African Violet Club's Spring Show at The Shops at Kenilworth in Towson. They always have some beautiful Gesneriads on display, and of course our VP, Brian, will be one of the exhibitors.

Spring is always show time somewhere, and we have to start thinking about our show next spring. But not full time thinking - we still have our Regional Show in September coming up. Hope you all have started to shape up and prepare some plants for this one. With participation from three active groups the show should not only be larger than our local show, but is probably going to show off some plants we

Meetings are held at the National Arboretum. Doors open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am the second Saturday of the month.

Next meeting: Saturday, May 12, 2012

"Gesneriads in the Wild" with recorded narration by Ron Myhr. Please meet in the FONA conference room in basement of Arbor House across from trailer where we meet now.

Meeting dates for 2012

June 9th Behnke's Day, June 23rd Summer picnic, September 8th, October 13th, December 8th

have not seen in our local group; both on display and in the sales room.

I was pleasantly surprised to see my *Sinningia tubiflora* sprouting this weekend. I had left it and 5 other "hardy" *Sinningia* out in their pots on the patio until the end of December. The weather just wasn't cold enough to worry about the tubers freezing. Yes, they likely would have survived a freeze, but because they were in pots and not in the ground, I worried a bit about leaving them outside the entire winter.

So I brought all the pots into the garage and just left them to sit dormant for the winter in their pots. I put them back out 3 weeks ago and watered them all. *Sinningia tubiflora* is the first to sprout, and I'm hopeful that the others will not be far behind.

With any luck I'll have flowers by the summer. What an easy way to grow large potted plants (and these guys are NOT for the light garden) and not have to worry about where to put them when it's time to bring them in.

Just let the frost kill off the tops and stick them in a cool/ cold dry location. No water from December until April...easy!

See you on Saturday. Jim

Dear Mr. Gesneriad



Question: Barry Woolf
My current gesneriad mix includes horticultural perlite, vermiculite, and Peat. In researching the origins of some of my gesneriads, I find that

they are found on or near limestone outcroppings.

1. Should I be adding dolomite or another form of slow release limestone to my mix?
2. Are there particular genera in which limestone should be included and others where its presence will be harmful?

Answer:

There is a relatively simple rule to follow in this one. In general the epiphytes (tree dwelling) varieties such as *Columnnea*, *Nematanthus*, *Aeschynanthus* do fine in the mix you describe without the addition of limestone. The ground growers such as *Primulina*, *Petrocosmea*, *Gesneria*, and even *Episcia* like their mixes a little higher in Ph. Many of the plants that grow "on the ground" actually grow on limestone rock cliffs and walls.

Question: Ken Moore

I want to grow some gesneriads outside this summer, particularly some *Sinningia*. Do you have any suggestions on which ones might do well in DC?

Answer:

Look for the upright growing varieties such as *Sinningia tubiflora*, *Sinningia aggregata*, *Sinningia sellovii*, and their many hybrids. These plants love the heat and humidity of DC – reminds them of home- and they enjoy as much sun as you can give them. The low growing rosette types are a bit more sensitive to sunlight, and suffer leaf damage with heavy rains.

Question: Ken Moore

What type of sun/water would they need that's different from indoor growing?

Answer:

They are really pretty resilient. They will flower heaviest if given full sun for at least half the day. The tuber will prevent wilt unless the plant has been dry for several days. Indoors you have to be careful not to overwater tuberous plants, but in outdoor conditions with good drainage you'll find that the sunlight on the surface of the soil will keep the tuber

from sitting in too-moist soil and the plants will do fine even with watering every day.

Question: Ken Moore

Also, if I wanted to grow plants in pots outside for the regional show in September, do you have any suggestions for ones that would do well?

Answer:

Any of the above *Sinningia* should be in flower in September and make for a great display. Other genera to consider are *Seemannia*, *Achimenes*, *Gloxinia*, *Chrysothemis*, *Nematanthus*, *Codonanthe* and *Columnnea*. Again, most of these are high light plants and will enjoy the sunlight. *Columnnea* and *Codonanthe* did better with some light shade, but they still prefer the extra light that even a shady spot outdoors provides over growing indoors on a windowsill or under lights.

New Member: Sherri Arnaiz

I was totally inspired by the April meeting. I had such a wonderful time meeting everyone and the presentation was outstanding. I have been busy building terrariums thanks to Johanna Zinn for sending me her instructions from a past presentation! They make great gifts that are inexpensive and so elegant. Thought I'd share a couple photos. I have east facing windows in my bedroom and dining room, plus a nice west facing window in my kitchen. I have mounted orchids in the kitchen which has a humidity range of 35-60% or more depending on the weather. Pretty humid right now! I also have a light cart.





Kitchen windowsill, west facing window gets about 2 hours of angled sunlight. The right side of the window gets more light than the left. I have a *Sinningia pusilla* in a tiny bottle terrarium on the far left. I just transplanted the little guy from my main plant. Hope this one is happy here. My main plant has started blooming again, since I repotted it.



Chirita tamiami in a 10 1/2" glass cylinder. The plant is from Ken! It is really happy in its new home. This is an east facing window so it gets 2-3 hours filtered morning light.



A few glass terrarium possibilities here. I get these from thrift stores for a buck or two. I go on the sales days for even better bargains.



Sweet little flowers



African Violet in its new home, a glass globe. East facing window, receiving about 2-3 hours of filtered morning sun.

Thanks Sherri for sharing!

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia tubiflora*



Sinningia 'Orange Raindrop'



Kohleria unnamed variety



Streptocarpella unnamed variety

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Harlequin Blue'	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Rose Halo'	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'	Brian Connor
<i>Niphimenes</i> 'Lemonade'	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia</i> <i>malayana</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia</i> ANYTHING!.,;.	Brian Connor
<i>Sinningia</i> x 'Lovely'	Donna Beverin
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Li'l Georgie'	Lee Stradley
<i>Chirita</i> 'Veracunda'	Barry Woolf
<i>Kohleria</i> <i>warszewiczii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Columnea</i> <i>glicensteinii</i>	Barry Woolf
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<i>Nautilocalyx</i> <i>picturatus</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Petrocosmea</i> <i>forestii</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Sinningia</i> <i>leucotricha</i>	Ken Moore
<i>Sinningia</i> <i>miniatures</i>	Ken Moore

Baltimore African Violet Club (Symphony Of Violets)

May 11 & 12 Mothers' Day Weekend

The Shops at Kenilworth in Towson

800 Kenilworth Drive

Towson, Maryland 21204

Fri May 11 Show 1:00 a.m. - 05:00p.m.

Fri May 11 Sale 9:00 a.m.- 05:00 p.m.

Sat May 12 Show and Sale 9:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

"The purpose of the chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in Gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of Gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."
(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of *Petal Tones*, the website, or contact one of the people below from the raffle table.

The Gesneriad Society website: www.gesneriadsociety.org
NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>
Website & Blog: Kyoko Imai
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

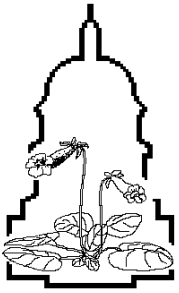
President: Jim Roberts 2408 Henson Dr. Marriottsville, MD 21104 (410) 227-2324 jim-roberts@hughes.net	Vice President: Brian Connor 3003 E. Monument St. Baltimore, MD 21205 (443) 845-3423 Brian_Connor@bd.com
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Treasurer: Barry Woolf 1301 Malus Court Fallston, MD 21047 410-879-1654 Woolfphoto1@comcast.net	Secretary: Harold Belcher hbelher2@verizon.net 301-733-3006
--	---

Directors: Aarti Shah, Kyoko Imai, Donna Beverin
Committees:
Hospitality: Lee Linett
Membership: Kyoko Imai
Programs: Brian Connor

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin
editor@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
Donnabeverin@gmail.com
Petaltones@gmail.com
or
Donnabeverin@gmail.com

Website and Blog: Kyoko Imai
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org



Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 6

June 2012



Saintpaulia 'Roulette' by Eric Mason

Hello,

The year 2012 is flying by too fast! Summer is almost here. Our annual picnic will be June 23 at Greenbelt Park, in the Sweetgum picnic area. The start time is officially 11:00 a.m. We will be having a business meeting too, beginning around noon. (<http://www.nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/directions.htm>)

This is the season we devote attention to the outdoor garden. Have you tried growing gesneriads outdoors? *Achimenes* is a natural candidate for a part sun/part shade location. Just keep them lightly moist and feed them and they will reward you with blooms from summer into the early fall. Dig up the rhizomes before frost. You will have more for next year (and a surplus to share with friends). For a sunnier spot, try *Seemannia sylvatica*, *Nematanthodes* 'Medea' or some John Boggan hybrids like 'Little Red' or 'Red Prince.' *Sinningia* is also a fantastic choice for a

June 23rd Join us at the Sweetgum Picnic area of Greenbelt Park with set up at 11am. Business meeting begins at 12 noon. Bring raffle plants of all kinds.

Future meetings: September 8th, October 13th, December 8th. Topics to be announced. Meetings are held at the National Arboretum. Doors open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am the second Saturday of the month.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show and Sale: September 29-30, 2012. (Info attached.)

garden that gets several hours of direct sunlight. The elegant flowers of *S. tubiflora*, *S. sellovii* and their hybrids could grace your garden this summer. This is an easy way to grow some of the "high light" *Sinningia* species that can be a challenge indoors. My outdoor gesneriads accompany Phlox, Begonias, Snapdragon, Coleus, Fern, Astilbe, hardy Geraniums, Bleeding Heart, Oxalis and Sweet Potato Vine. And everything grows in containers, since I have the cement yard typical of a Baltimore row house. What gesneriads have you grown successfully outdoors?

Not that I want to encourage neglecting all of the wonderful gesneriads in the indoor plant collection. Our regional show with the Delaware and Liberty Bell Chapters is little more than 3 months away! Think about what you could enter. Start some indoor *Sinningias*. Three months is plenty of time to have a blooming plant. Disbud *Streptocarpus* and *Saintpaulia* so that they are peaking by September 30. You can plan for some artistic entries or photographs. I am looking forward to a wonderful show that highlights the gesneriads of summer and early fall.

Brian Connor

NOTICE
Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

This issue of *Petal Tones* includes proposals to amend our Bylaws. The specific proposals, and commentary on the proposed amendments, are appended to this issue. Discussion and voting will take place at the meeting on June 23, 2012. The estimated start time of the business portion of the meeting is 12:00 noon.

Dear Mr. Gesneriad

Question from Barb Stewart:

My pink *Episcia* (unnamed) dropped a leaf which rooted in my matting. I decided to try rooting some more leaves in soil. One of the pink leaves put up a plantlet, but it is green and bronze with no pink. Do pink *Episcias* come true from leaves, or is it just an immature plantlet that will develop the pink as it grows?



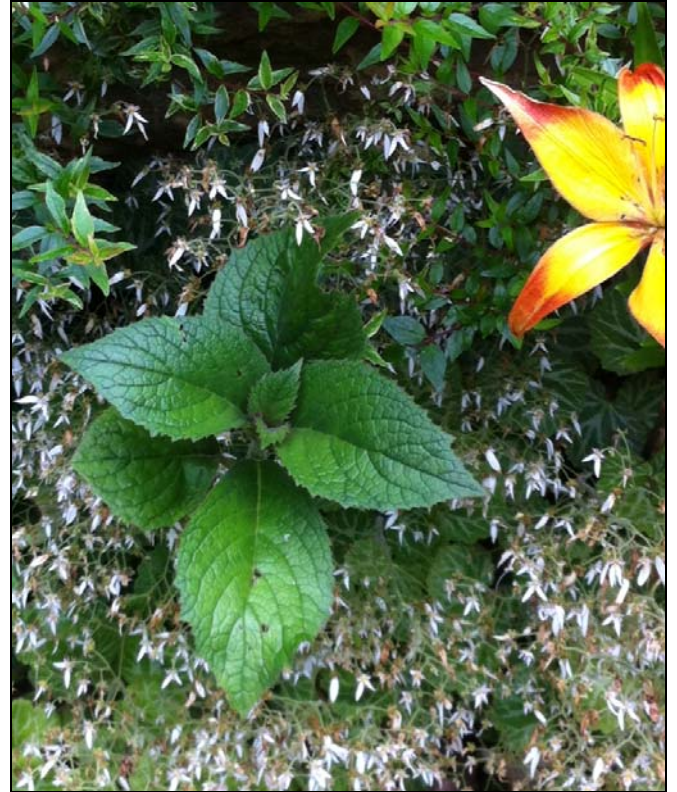
Mr. G: Pink-leaves *Episcia* will sometimes revert to all green forms. The pink variegation seems to be connected to something in the stem tissue. Whenever green stolons appear on a pink-leaved plant they must be removed. Leaves do not have enough, if any, of the stem tissue attached to be able to carry on the pink trait. So leaves will generally only produce plants that look like the original species or hybrid that mutated to the pink form.

Bloomin' Now

Jim's *Titanotrichum oldhamii*

Once again this plant is found well in the garden. It hasn't been moved in 5 years. This stem is about 20"

tall, poking up through the saxifrages. I encourage everyone to try it in their garden. It will bloom later in the season.



Bloomin' Now

Bev's Strels & an African Violet are exploding in blooms on her windowsill.





Bev's *Streptocarpus* 'Branwen'



Streptocarpus 'Silvia'



Bev's *Streptocarpus* 'Ellysa'



Bev's *Saintpaulia* 'Watermelon Bug'

Barb's Bloomin' Now



Sinningia can anyone ID? Small blossom 1 ½ inches



Barb's cat, Freddie knows where to get his attention!



Barb's *Pearcea* sp.



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Rebel's Splatterkake'



Barb's dish garden won best in design at Richmond African Violet Show April 15th



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Pink Tiger x *S. bullata*'

Bloomin' Now for Donna



Sinningia sellovii: hummingbird magnet



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Party Dude'



Donna's *Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite'



Donna's *Sinningia pusilla*

Bloomin' Now for Harold & Pat Belcher

Here is a picture of one of our blooming African violets: *Saintpaulia rupicola*



My Visit to the Symphony of Violets

Donna Beverin

Baltimore African Violet Club, May 11 & 12, Mothers' Day Weekend at The Shops at Kenilworth in Towson



Exquisite African Violet grown by Marie Burns I was lucky enough to purchase. Marie had so many beautiful plants in the show. Quite an expert!

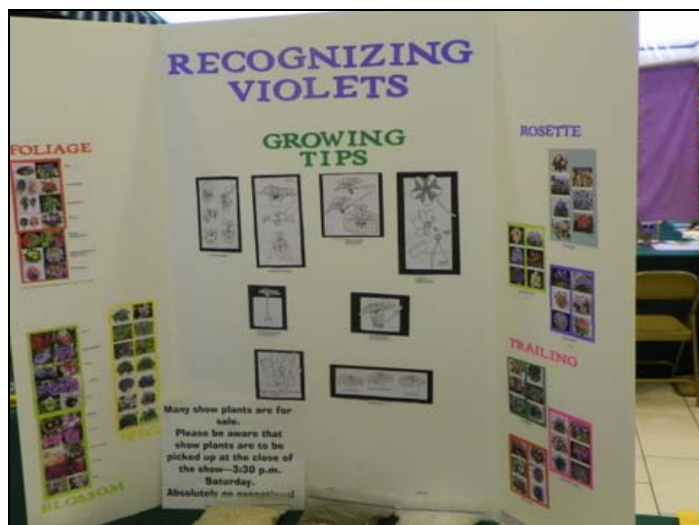
On my light shelf, it is still doing well.



Saintpaulia 'EK – Goluboglazaia Rossiia'



Show tables in the front lobby. Overhead sky lights enabled easy viewing of all the beautiful plants.



Nice educational exhibit



Sinningia 'Munchkin Kisses' blooms can look very different



Marie Burn's *Saintpaulia* 'Lil Ballerina'



Saintpaulia 'EverGrace' by Marie Burns



Kohleria 'Brimstone' by Shirley Huffman



Disco Fever with *S.* 'Kristi's Spunk' by Brian Connor



Saintpaulia 'Emerald City' (Marie Burns)



The *Streptocarpus* table had an amazing number of varieties



Brian Connor's *Sinningia* 'Yma'



Streptocarpus 'Dibley's Gwen' by Marie Burns



Shirley Huffman's *Codonanthus* 'Aurora'

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Harlequin Blue'	Brian Connor
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<i>Petrocosmea</i> <i>forestii</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Sinningia</i> <i>leucotricha</i>	Ken Moore

Plant Feature: *Columnea orientandina*

by Kyoko Imai

Columnea orientandina makes a stunning exhibition plant: it always seems to have berries and flowers, the sturdy branches are architectural, and the red markings on the leaves give it some extra flair. Here is a photo of the plant exhibited by Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses at The Gesneriad Society's 2009 Convention:



This photo of Carol Hamelink's plant, also exhibited at the 2009 Convention, shows a closer view of the flowers:



According to the World Checklist of Gesneriaceae (<http://botany.si.edu/gesneriaceae/checklist/>), the species is from Ecuador (Morona-Santiago, Napo, Pastaza, Sucumbios, Tungurahua, Zamora-Chinchipec) and Peru (Cuzco, Junín, San Martín).

It seems to be a fairly easy grower, and the challenge for most home growers is finding the space it needs: it's a bit tall for light shelves that are set up for African Violets, for example, and a bit wide for a windowsill.

It can be propagated easily from cuttings, but if you don't want to ruin the shape of your plant, you can also harvest seeds from the berries.



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The Gesneriad Society website: www.gesneriadsociety.org

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>

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Committees:

Hospitality: Lee Linett

Membership: Kyoko Imai

Programs: Brian Connor

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin

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Petaltones@gmail.com

or

Donnabeverin@gmail.com

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Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

June 2012

by Kyoko Imai

Background

The National Capital Area Chapter has been discussing the possibility of “e-motions” at least since around the time of the spring 2010 Show. According to the minutes of the September 2010 meeting, this matter and the need to review our Bylaws was discussed. At the December 2010 meeting, the Chapter decided that language for amending the Bylaws should be developed and published in *Petal Tones*. Discussion continued in 2011, and although proposed language was discussed, no formal proposal has been published in *Petal Tones*.

E-voting on motions would be especially helpful during the summer and winter when we do not meet every month. Also, e-voting would be helpful prior to shows when there is no intervening meeting.

NCAC has been relying on email for communications with members for several years. As noted in the meeting minutes for September 2011, the Chapter has approved email as a method of communicating about society business. *Petal Tones* also has been distributed only in electronic form only for several years, although in recent months we have provided a printed copy to one member.

Below is a list of proposed amendments for discussion and vote at our next meeting. Although this round of discussions began with the issue of e-motions, proposals to amend other provisions are also included. A redline copy of the Bylaws also follows.

Procedure for Amending the Bylaws

Article VIII of the Bylaws states as follows:

Proposed amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at any membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that written notice of such proposed amendments shall have been given to the membership prior to the meeting.

As noted above, the possibility of amending the Bylaws to allow for e-motions has been discussed at several meetings. In addition to publishing the proposed amendments in this issue of *Petal Tones*, earlier drafts were circulated to members by email on June 7 and June 13, 2012. Members were invited to comment, and also to submit alternative proposals to *Petal Tones* for publication. The proposals below incorporate as many comments as possible without losing clarity.

Commentary on Proposed Amendments

Proposal 1: Article II, Section 2 - copies of the newsletter for Family Memberships

The current Bylaws state that “A Family Membership shall cover two people residing in the same household who shall be entitled to two votes but shall receive only one copy of the Chapter newsletter.” The proposal is to delete “but shall receive only one copy of the Chapter newsletter” because our newsletter is currently sent by email.

I note that we are currently mailing the newsletter to one member, at a postage cost ranging from \$0.65 to \$1.05 per issue. The question of whether it is feasible to continue offering mailed newsletters at the same membership fee as email-only newsletters has been raised before. If the cost of printing the newsletter -- especially in color -- is added, the expenses for 10 issues would exceed the annual membership fee.

However, there is currently no proposal to add a paper membership category to the Bylaws. Perhaps this can be discussed before the end of this year.

Proposal 2: Article II, Section 2 - Honorary Memberships

The current Bylaws state that honorary memberships may be granted upon (1) recommendation by the Board of Directors and (2) vote of approval by the membership.

The proposal is to allow an honorary membership upon (1) recommendation by any member and (2) a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting. Specifically, the last sentence of the section would be replaced with: "Honorary memberships, with full membership rights, may be granted upon recommendation of any member and a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting."

Proposal 3: Article V, Section 2 - Vice-President

The proposal is to specify that a responsibility of the Vice-President is to schedule and prepare interesting and stimulating programs for the regular membership. Specifically, the following sentence would be added to the end of the section: "The Vice-President shall schedule and prepare interesting and stimulating programs for the regular membership meetings."

If accepted, the Bylaws should also be amended to delete the Program Committee. (See below.)

Proposal 4: Article V, Section 10 - Program Committee

If programming is incorporated into the Vice-President's responsibility, the Program Committee would be redundant and Article V Section 10 should be deleted from the Bylaws.

It is noted that Article III Section 3 provides that the President may appoint additional standing committees when necessary.

Proposal 5: Article V, Section 11 - Propagation Committee

Propagation is a part of our meetings and programming, and therefore a standing committee for propagation is unnecessary. The Bylaws could be amended to delete Article V Section 11.

Again, it is noted that Article III Section 3 provides that the President may appoint additional standing committees when necessary.

Proposal 6: Article V, Section 12 - Ways and Means Committee

Ways and Means is generally the concern of all members and specifically the Board of Directors. A standing committee may be considered unnecessary. The proposal is to delete Article V Section 12 from the Bylaws.

Again, it is noted that Article III Section 3 provides that the President may appoint additional standing committees when necessary.

Proposal 7: Article VI, Section 3 - Quorum for electronic voting

In connection with allowing for e-voting, the proposal is to add the following sentence to the end of this section: "A quorum for purposes of electronic voting shall be those members with email addresses."

Proposal 8: Article VII - electronic voting

The proposal is to number and entitle the current paragraph as "Section 1. Rules." and to add the following:

"Section 2. Electronic Voting. The purpose of this Section is to allow for timely decision making through e-mail in situations where decisions should be made before the next scheduled meeting. To decide any matter other than amendments to the Bylaws, any member, with the approval of at least one member of the Board of Directors, may move for an electronic vote by sending to all members with email addresses, an email stating with specificity the matter to be discussed and voted upon. Discussion via email shall be open for no less than seven calendar days. Following discussion, the motion or question shall be stated and put to the vote. Voting shall be open for no less than seven calendar days, and may be conducted either by email or through an online survey. The results of the vote shall be announced to the membership by email and recorded by the Secretary."

The proposal is to allow for e-voting for anything other than amendments to the Bylaws. The proposed amendment seeks a balance between convenience and ensuring adequate discussion and voting procedures.

E-voting may be initiated by any member, but at least one member of the Board of Directors must approve of deciding the matter via e-mail.

Because members may not check email daily, discussion must be open for a minimum of seven days. Voting also must be open for a minimum of seven days.

The proposal allows for use of a survey website to vote: counting the votes will be much easier this way. However, votes may be taken by email instead.

Robert's Rules provides that a motion passes if the majority of the votes cast (and not the quorum) are in favor.

Proposal 9: Proposed New Article - No Lobbying

The proposal is to add the following Article:

"ARTICLE IX –NO LOBBYING

"The Society may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates nor may its earnings inure to any private member or individual."

Proposal 10: Proposed New Article - Dissolution

The proposal is to add the following Article:

"ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

"The National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. may be considered dissolved by a three-quarters vote of all members in good standing, or when the membership falls below five and there have been no activities for one calendar year. In the event that the National Capital Area Chapter of The

Gesneriad Society, Inc. should be dissolved, all assets at the time of dissolution shall be donated to the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund of the Gesneriad Society, provided that it has a tax exempt status recognized by the Internal Revenue Service. In the event that it does not have the requisite tax exempt status or no longer exists, the members may donate the assets to a charity of their choice qualified under the Internal Revenue Code.”

Proposal 11: Alternative to Proposal 9 - no lobbying amendments to Article I

This is an alternative to Proposal 9 (which proposes to add Article IX - No Lobbying).

This proposal seeks to amend Article I to include language similar to the terms in Article I Section 1 of the Bylaws of our parent organization, The Gesneriad Society:

First, to add the following sentence to the end of Article I, Section 1 (Name):
"The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a nonprofit and non-partisan corporation."

Second, to add the following sentence to the end of Article I, Section 2 (Purpose):
"No substantial part of the activities of this Chapter shall consist of the publication or dissemination of materials with the purpose of attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or for or against any cause or measure being submitted to the people for a vote."

Proposal 12: Proposed New Article - Nondiscrimination

This proposal seeks to add the following Article

“ARTICLE XI - NONDISCRIMINATION

“The officers and board members of the chapter will not permit any restrictions or limitations whatsoever based upon race, color, creed, gender, national origin, or employment status in the conduct of the chapter’s affairs.”

###

BYLAWS
National Capital Area Chapter
Of
The Gesneriad Society, Inc.
(Revised ~~April, June~~ 201208)

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name. This nonprofit organization shall be known as the National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a nonprofit and non-partisan corporation.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars. No substantial part of the activities of this Chapter shall consist of the publication or dissemination of materials with the purpose of attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or for or against any cause or measure being submitted to the people for a vote.

Article II. Membership and Dues

Section 1. Eligibility. All persons interested in gesneriads shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Classes of Membership. There shall be three classes of membership: Individual, Family, and Honorary. A Family Membership shall cover two people residing in the same household who shall be entitled to two votes ~~but shall receive only one copy of the Chapter newsletter.~~ Honorary memberships, with full membership rights, may be granted upon recommendation of ~~the any member Board of Directors~~ and a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting~~vote of approval by the membership.~~

Section 3. Dues. Annual dues for each class of membership, payable in advance for the calendar year, shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and voted on by the membership. Membership shall terminate if dues are not paid by March 1. Dues shall be prorated for new members who join after June 1.

Section 4. National Membership of Members. All members of the Chapter should become members of the parent organization, The Gesneriad Society, within one year after joining the Chapter.

Section 5. National Membership of Officers. All officers of the Chapter must be members in good standing of the parent organization.

Article III. Government

Section 1. Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two or three Directors, each being a different person. The officers shall perform

the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter. The officers shall hold office for two years or until their successors are elected. No officer, other than the treasurer, shall be eligible for more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 2. Board of Directors. The Chapter shall have a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers and the chairmen of the standing committees.

Section 3. Standing Committees. The standing committees, whose two-year terms shall correspond to the terms of the elected officers, shall be Hospitality, Membership, Publications, Program, Propagation, and Ways and Means. Additional standing committees may be appointed by the President when necessary.

Section 4. Special Committees. Special committees to perform specific tasks shall be appointed by the President.

Article IV. Elections

Section 1. Officers. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the December membership meeting of the election year and shall take office at the close of the December meeting.

Section 2. Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint a chairman of the Nominating Committee in October of the election year and the Board of Directors shall appoint two additional members. At least one of these members should be selected from outside the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to be published in the December issue of Petal Tones. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the December meeting with the consent of the nominees.

Section 3. Vacancies. The Board of Directors, at a scheduled Board meeting, shall fill any vacancy among the officers for the unexpired term of office.

Article V. Duties of Officers, Board of Directors, and Committees

Section 1. President. The President shall act as general executive officer of the Chapter and shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors; shall appoint the chairmen of all committees; shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and shall keep informed of all work of the Chapter and report thereon to the membership.

Section 2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall schedule and prepare interesting and stimulating programs for the regular membership meetings.

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings; prepare official correspondence; and compile, maintain, and have custody of the Chapter's historical records. The Secretary shall file with the Recording Secretary of the parent organization a copy of the Chapter's bylaws and all subsequent amendments; the names and addresses of all Chapter members, and of all new members; and the names and addresses of all Chapter officers immediately following their election.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipts and deposits of all monies of the Chapter and shall make authorized disbursements to cover the expenses of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies that are received or disbursed and shall render financial reports when required.

Section 5. Directors. The Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity, shall serve as committee chairmen, and shall perform other duties requested by the President.

Section 6. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall plan Chapter activities, shall make recommendations for action to the membership, and shall transact Chapter business between regular membership meetings. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Chapter and none of its acts shall be in conflict with actions of the Chapter.

Section 7. Hospitality Committee. This committee shall make arrangements for refreshments at the membership meetings.

Section 8. Membership Committee. This committee shall handle membership applications, collect dues, introduce new members and guests, provide name tags, and compile an annual roster of officers and members.

Section 9. Publications Committee. The chairman of this committee shall be the Editor of the Chapter's newsletter, Petal Tones, and shall be responsible for editing and publishing Petal Tones in accordance with the policies of the President.

~~Section 10. Program Committee. This committee shall schedule and prepare interesting and stimulating programs for the regular membership meetings.~~

~~Section 11. Propagation Committee. This committee shall propagate gesneriads and have them available for distribution to the members.~~

~~Section 12. Ways and Means Committee. This committee shall be responsible for fund raising, including the sale of plants and supplies at Chapter meetings.~~

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Membership. Membership meetings shall be held monthly, September through May, unless otherwise ordered by the Chapter or the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Board of Directors. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the President at least four times a year.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall be those present at a scheduled meeting. A quorum for purposes of electronic voting shall be those members with email addresses.

Article VII. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Rules. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt. The bylaws of this Chapter shall not conflict with applicable bylaws of The Gesneriad Society.

Section 2. Electronic Voting. The purpose of this Section is to allow for timely decision making

through e-mail in situations where decisions should be made before the next scheduled meeting. To decide any matter other than amendments to the Bylaws, any member, with the approval of at least one member of the Board of Directors, may move for an electronic vote by sending to all members with email addresses, an email stating with specificity the matter to be discussed and voted upon. Discussion via email shall be open for no less than seven calendar days. Following discussion, the motion or question shall be stated and put to the vote. Voting shall be open for no less than seven calendar days, and may be conducted either by email or through an online survey. The results of the vote shall be announced to the membership by email and recorded by the Secretary.

Article VIII. Amendments

Proposed amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at any membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that written notice of such proposed amendments shall have been given to the membership prior to the meeting.

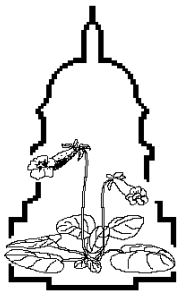
ARTICLE IX –NO LOBBYING

[NOTE: this is an alternative to amending Article I]

The Society may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates nor may its earnings inure to any private member or individual.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

The National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. may be considered dissolved by a three-quarters vote of all members in good standing, or when the membership falls below five and there have been no activities for one calendar year. In the event that the National Capital Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. should be dissolved, all assets at the time of dissolution shall be donated to the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund of the Gesneriad Society, provided that it has a tax exempt status recognized by the Internal Revenue Service. In the event that it does not have the requisite tax exempt status or no longer exists, the members may donate the assets to a charity of their choice qualified under the Internal Revenue Code.



Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 7

September 2012



Barb's *Primulina* (formerly *Chirita*) 'Diane Marie':

President's Message

Greetings NCAC members and Petal Tones subscribers!

We have a lot to discuss at the September meeting: the upcoming regional show, whether to have a spring show, chapter committees and elections. I hope everyone is considering attending the Mid-Atlantic Gesneriad Society Show, Sale and Symposium in Newark, DE on September 29 and 30. It would be awesome if every chapter member in attendance had at least one exhibit for show. You may feel that you grow plants solely for your own enjoyment and this is an end in itself (and that is true!). Why bother growing gesneriads for show? I promise, if you show a couple of plants a year, over time, you will practice new horticulture techniques and your plants will benefit. As a bonus, flower shows promote the joy and desirability of gesneriads to the public. It also makes our club visible. If you asked 100 people off the street to define a gesneriad, few would know. Therefore, flower shows serve an important purpose not only to enlighten and delight

NCAC meetings are held at the National Arboretum.

Doors open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am on the second Saturday of the month.

September 8th: Getting the Most Out of Your Show Plants

September 29th-30th: **Gesneriads Across the Globe: An International Family**

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show and plant sale

October 13th: What Happened to Chirita, I Mean Primulina? (a pass through the former genus)

November 10th: field trip to MAAVS

December 8th: Holiday party and elections

us, but to get the word out about these wonderful plants and our society.

That being said, we need to seriously consider whether to have a flower show & sale in March 2013, which is soon approaching. Our last show was September of 2011. The chapter has always held shows on an 18 month schedule in March and September; however, it has been an unusual year for the club. This March we can either have a judged show, a non-judged exhibit or do nothing. I am not in favor of the latter, but we need to carefully consider these options. Elections for officers will take place at the end of the year. Per our bylaws, I cannot serve as Vice President again and Lee cannot continue as Hospitality Chair. If you would like to serve the chapter in some capacity, now is the time to be thinking about it. We will need to form a Nominating Committee in October. The Nominating Committee will publish the candidates for office in the December Petal Tones. Additional candidates can be nominated from the floor at the December meeting. It is a much simpler process than the Electoral College!

President's Message cont'

Finally, there are a number of other committees in the bylaws. We have a Propagation Committee, a Programs Committee, Membership Committee, Ways & Means Committee and more. Can we use these committees to better accomplish our goals? For instance I love the randomness of our raffle table. But in addition to the raffle, could a Propagation Committee help distribute highly sought after plants? Or even gesneriads you were 'Desperately Seeking'? Would that be too much to expect? Stay tuned and come to the September meeting for more discussion. Brian Connor

Fragrant Gesneriads

Reprinted with permission

by John Boggan

Part 1:

Gesneriads as a family are not known for fragrant flowers. This reputation is turning out to be undeserved. Admittedly, most gesneriads do not have highly fragrant flowers, including the vast majority of those that have been in cultivation since before the 1980's. One reason for this lack of fragrance is that many gesneriads are bird-pollinated, and birds do not rely on their sense of smell to find flowers. While these species have beautiful, often brilliantly colored flowers, they are devoid of any floral scent. However, many of the gesneriads that are pollinated by other creatures do, indeed, have fragrant flowers. Most do not have strongly fragrant flowers; their fragrances are usually subtle and will not be detected unless you stick your nose right into the flower! It is likely that these flowers, and even those we can't smell at all, are powerfully fragrant to their natural pollinators; after all, the scent did not evolve to attract people! In a sense, we are eavesdropping on a sexual conversation between the plants and the animals that pollinate them.

Like many other plant characteristics, fragrance varies from individual to individual within a species, and this variability is genetic. This variation is most apparent when selfing newly collected species; these individuals still retain some of the natural heterozygosity which is eventually lost through several generations of self-pollination in cultivation. This is significant because wild-collected individuals will have the most potential for selecting for

fragrance as well as for other characteristics. It is also significant because fragrance is a trait that can be selectively bred by plant hybridizers.

In the list that follows, some will find plants they do not consider fragrant, or unpleasantly so. Smell is perhaps our most subjective sense; people differ in how well they can smell particular fragrances, and in their reaction to those fragrances. For example, many people enjoy the scent of *Sinningia conspicua*



and describe it as "lemony". I can barely smell this species, and what I do smell I do not consider especially pleasant, much less lemony. On the other hand, some fragrances that I enjoy, like that of *Nematanthus* 'Santa Teresa', others find offensive.



Because of this subjectivity, it is very difficult to accurately describe fragrances. The intensity of a scent may also vary with time of day, or if plants are growing in an enclosed space. The accompanying descriptions are from my own observations, as well as those of many others. I am greatly indebted to the

members of the Gesneriphiles Internet discussion list for much of the information that follows. Many thanks for additions to the list, comments on fragrances, and much stimulating discussion. Oddly enough, there are very few members of the Old World subfamily (Cyrtandroideae) on the list, although this subfamily is largely pollinated by insects and should have many fragrant species. It may be that as more Old World species are brought into cultivation and are more widely grown, they will be discovered to be fragrant. In fact, the botanical literature describes certain species of *Didymocarpus* and *Cyrtandra* as having sweetly fragrant flowers, but none of these fragrant species are in cultivation. In addition, the New World species *Anethanthus gracilis*, *Besleria insolita*, and *Drymonia lanceolata* have been described on herbarium specimen labels as having sweetly fragrant flowers, but are not known to be in cultivation.

Achimenes has several fragrant species. *Achimenes dulcis* has very pretty pure white flowers that are midway between a slipper and a trumpet, not flat-faced like most of the more familiar species and cultivars.



I first saw *A. dulcis* blooming in the Smithsonian greenhouses and thought it an attractive plant, but only later got to wondering why it was named "dulcis", meaning "sweet." The original description gave no explanation of the name. When I saw it blooming again in the greenhouses, I stuck my nose in, and sure enough, it had a pleasant sweet scent. *Achimenes dulcis* is a small plant (although tending to trail) with good-sized flowers, and could easily be grown under lights. It would be worth checking its close relative, *A. mexicana*, for a similar scent; the flowers are quite similar but purple. Also reported as fragrant by Patrick Worley are *A. fimbriata* and

Achimenes glabrata. He adds that hybrids with these species, unfortunately, did not inherit any fragrance.

Capanea is a genus of epiphytic, bat-pollinated species. The plants require a well-drained soil and may grow quite large, tending to climb or trail. *Capanea* has been described as lacking scaly rhizomes, but *C. grandiflora* will occasionally produce scaly rhizomes in cultivation. The flowers are large, hairy, green with brown speckles, and pendulous. I did not think to check for a scent when my plant bloomed, but Patrick Worley reports a cabbage-like odor on *Capanea* (probably *C. grandiflora*) in Costa Rica.

Chiritopsis is a genus of about ten species, all restricted to southern China. Only one species is in cultivation in North America. *Chiritopsis repanda* has only recently been discovered to have fragrant flowers, although it has been in cultivation for several years. This is probably because it also has fragrant foliage, which obscures the scent of the small white flowers. According to Monte Watler, "the blossoms as well as the foliage are highly scented and at night pervade the plant room with a very strong odour which some people may find unpleasant. I find it rather pleasant and normally I have an aversion to strong-smelling plants such as the hyacinth and lily of the valley" ("*Chiritopsis repanda* var. *guilinensis*," 1997, *The Gloxinian* 47(4): 32).

Codonanthe species grow epiphytically in association with ant nests. There are several species distributed throughout South and Central America and the West Indies. All are more or less trailing, and make good hanging baskets. According to Patrick Worley, most species are fragrant to some degree, with *C. digna* (as *C. 'Frances Batcheller'*) being one of the most fragrant. In my own experience, I have found only *C. carnososa* to be fragrant. *Codonanthe carnososa* was described as the "gingerbread-scented gesneriad" in an article by Anne Crowley several years ago ("*Codonanthe*", 1985, *The Gloxinian* 35(2): 18). The beautiful white flowers are deliciously sweet, with a somewhat spicy undertone.

Drymonia species are of easy culture and have attractive flowers; unfortunately, most are too large for indoor culture. Most are lianas, but a few are upright growers, and many have attractive, often

patterned, leaves. The flowers may be pollinated by large bees, or possibly even bats. Most seem to have faintly, but not always pleasantly, fragrant flowers. *Drymonia alloplectoides*, a trailer, has been reported to have a faint sweet scent. *Drymonia killipii* is an upright grower with handsome foliage and waxy, oddly scented red-purple flowers.



The fragrance reminds me of a purple trillium, a scent I appreciate but others do not. Two other species I have found to be faintly fragrant are *D. mortoniana*, with a sweet scent, and *D. serrulata*, with a slightly musky scent. *Drymonia serrulata* is a widespread and variable species, and the various collections differ in their floral scents. One collection in the Smithsonian Institution greenhouses has a pungent scent aptly described as "stink bug" by Christian Feuillet. For an excellent survey of the cultivated species, see David Turley's 1994 article "*Drymonia*: As I See It," *The Gloxinian* 44(2): 23-27.

Next month this article will continue with fragrant gesneriads that begin with the letter "G".

Chapter Desperately Seeking

Streptocarpus 'Harlequin Blue'.....Brian Connor
Streptocarpus 'Rose Halo'.....Brian Connor
Streptocarpus 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'.....Brian Connor
Niphimenes 'Lemonade'.....Brian Connor
Henckelia malayana.....Brian Connor
Henckelia ANYTHING!..... Brian Connor
Sinningia 'Li'l Georgie' Lee Stradley
Chirita 'Veracunda'Barry Woolf
Kohleria warszewiczii..... Barry Woolf
Columnnea glicensteinii.....Barry Woolf
Columnnea linearis 'Purple Robe'Barry Woolf

Chapter Desperately Seeking cont'

Koelikeria erinoides "Starry Night"Barry Woolf
Tricantha dodsoniiBarry Woolf
Columnnea glicensteiniiDr. Leon Glicenstein
Columnnea linearis 'Purple Robe'Dr. Leon Glicenstein
Saintpaulia magungensisLee Linett
Saintpaulia tonguensisLee Linett
Saintpaulia 'House of Amani'Lee Linett
Columnnea pictaLee Linett
Nautilocalyx picturatus.....Lee Linett
Petrocosmea forestiiLee Linett
Sinningia leucotricha.....Ken Moore
Pearcea hypocyrtifolia.....Corey Wickliffe
Nautilocalyx lynchii.....Corey Wickliffe

Bloomin' Now

Mike Salapka's photos of *Aeschynanthus micranthus* or a hybrid of same from Craven's Nursery in Virginia.



Barb Stewart's Bloomin' Now



This photo of *Smithiantha* 'An's Secret Code' was entered in the NCAC show last year. It was recently entered in the Chesterfield County Fair and won a blue ribbon (best in class) for photos of flowers.



Barb's *Alsobia* 'chiappas'



Barb's unnamed *Episcia*



Barb's *Sinningia* 'pink tiger x bullata'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Freckles'

Growing Gesneriads Outdoors: Some Considerations

By Brian Connor

I have discovered the joys of growing gesneriads outside this year. It has not always been smooth sailing. First, my backyard faces south and is all cement. If the sun is shining, there is very strong light from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm during the summer.

Fortunately, the house next door contributes a brick wall border around the western perimeter that blocks some light. Later in the afternoon shadows begin to creep across the yard. This is a welcome relief during the Baltimore summer. I shall not discuss *Achimenes*, because many of you are familiar with growing them outdoors. I do enjoy *Achimenes* in containers on the north side of my rowhouse.



Brian's *Sinningia* 'Lovely'

Sinningia species and hybrids- High light *Sinningia* such as *S. aggregata*, *S. bullata* and hybrids of *S. tubiflora* and *S. sellovii* have thrived. They are potted in a 50-50 mix of peat/perlite with a handful of surface and orchid bark tossed in. All are on wicks or automatic watering pots. Some were potted in a large tub with a hardy hibiscus and get a minimal amount of shade from the taller plant. I also am trying a pot of *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley,' which needs a bit less light. I have not attempted *Sinningia speciosa* and *S. eumorpha* or their hybrids in this environment. They might be better suited for a nice sun porch with some shade.

Seemannia- John Boggan's new hybrids, 'Little Red' and 'Red Prince' were tested, along with an unknown *Seemannia*. All were started inside for several months before making the move outside. On a sunny, hot 95 degree day, the older foliage burned and



Can you spot the lone flower of *Sinningia* 'Scarlet O' Hara' in lower right of *Hibiscus*? It has a bunch more flowers now. It likes the sun but gets just a little shade from the *Hibiscus*.

wilted, but recovered. The attractive new leaves came in thicker and more sun tolerant. I shaded them with translucent material over the tops and they are growing and budding better than last year, when they were indoors. These plants are wicked and are grown in 50-50 peat/perlite with surface (no orchid bark).



Brian's *Seemannias*. *S.* 'Little Red' is the large one.

Nematanthus/*XCodonatanthus*- I put a couple of neglected plants outside, to see what would happen. Older leaves burned, but new thicker, darker foliage has appeared on *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana,' which has flower buds. I remember someone (Michael Riley?) saying that some *Codonanthe* can take a lot of light, but the leaves become more rounded and thicker. That is exactly what *XCodonatanthus* 'Sunset' has done. These epiphytes get the same soil mix and treatment as the *Sinningia*.

Columnnea hirta 'Light Prince' - This beautiful plant



has done fairly well, but needs to avoid full sun. Growth slows down a little when it is over 90 degrees, so careful watering is important in July and early August. It hangs underneath an awning that is over the back door, where it gets some bright sun, but is shaded. *Kohleria* 'Peridots Rolo'- I can't kill this compact little *Kohleria* (not that I want too). There always seem to be rhizomes of it sprouting somewhere and often I have an extra pot of it lying around. Out a tiny hanging basket went, next to the *Columnea*! When I grow it indoors, the leaves are a dark olive green to bronzy-grey. Outside, the leaves became light green with some of the veins flushed in a purple color. It is a little reminiscent of *Smithiantha* and I like this outdoor foliage better. I tried giving it more sun and promptly burned a few leaves. A little shade and even moisture are essential, at least in my backyard.

There are other elements-aside from sun and heat that conspire against perfectly grown gesneriads. Excessive rain, wind and hail can trash a formerly beautiful plant. Whether you live in the city or the country, there are animals that delight in devouring your prize plants. I am trying to keep pots raised or hanging, away from urban herbivores. These varmints have bitten several *Sinningia* leaves, chewed on epiphytes and devastated one of my *Seemannia*. The *Seemannia* has recovered nicely, so I am trying to look at it as a little constructive pruning by the critters. Next year I may try constructing a little shade house to grow more gesneriads and better protect them outdoors. In spite of a few drawbacks, the gesneriads grown outside seem to be exceptionally robust and are a pleasing addition to the outdoor garden.

End of Summer Reminders by Lee Linett

If you've summered any plants outdoors and plan to bring them inside for the winter, prepare pots and mixes ahead of time so there's not a last-minute rush. It would help to check the long range or predicted weather, especially night temps. While daytime temps might be comfy, cold dips at night can be shocking to plants. If you can, take cuttings, pot them up and isolate for a month in a clear plastic bag just to be sure you didn't bring in any unwanted creatures. It's much better to prevent or catch early rather than have to douse everything with chemicals. If pots have been sitting on the ground, there's every likelihood that nematodes have found a home. Take cuttings and clean the tuber or rhizomes of any mix then isolate them in baggies. Epsom salt your plants whether or not they've been outside with one tablespoon of Epsom salt per gallon of water. They'll appreciate the boost. After you've taken care of the plants, "winterize" the outdoor equipment to be ready for next year and as protection: clean everything thoroughly with soap & water, dry thoroughly, and apply a light coating of 2-in-1 oil to the metal parts. Wipe again and store until next year. Check the dollar stores, \$5 and under stores, The Container Store, Home Depot type stores. They all carry storage containers --- plastic with lids to keep out moisture. Pick up a few so that you're not left with a dining room table that has plant stuff all over it. Peruse catalogues and online plant and plant-related offerings and enjoy making lists of needed, aka wanted, items. If you do order plants, add their names to your carefully kept-up records. The keys to less stress are keep your plants clean, have supplies ready, don't try to do everything at once --- if you span the end of summer stuff over a few days, you're less likely to forget something. Check lists are useful.

A Convention Visit to Seattle by Barb Stewart

Ronnie and I took a few extra days to tour the Seattle area before the convention. We spent a day hiking around Mt. St. Helens to see how the landscape is recovering from the eruption years ago, and learn about a fascinating natural event that we don't get to experience here on the east coast. We spent another day driving to the coast to stick our feet in the chilly Pacific Ocean and hike where Lewis and Clark

camped for the winter on their first expedition west.



Sunset view of the Space Needle from the top of the hotel before fireworks on the 4th

It took a good day to drive halfway around Mt. Ranier, which we never could fully view because of the cloud cover. However, we saw beautiful views of the neighboring peaks, many waterfalls, plenty of melting snow, and a variety of wildlife. However, once we got to Seattle, we had lots of good views of the mountain towering above the city.



View of the city from the Space Needle

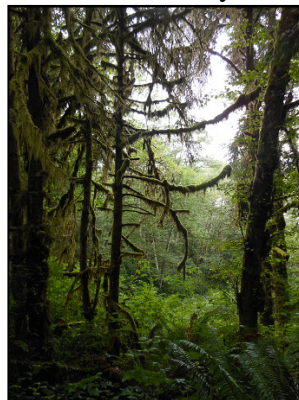
We took the Saturday night dinner cruise arranged by the Gesneriad Society, which consisted of a ferry ride

to an island Indian village. There we dined on salmon and other native foods while being



Mt. Rainier towering above the Seattle landscape

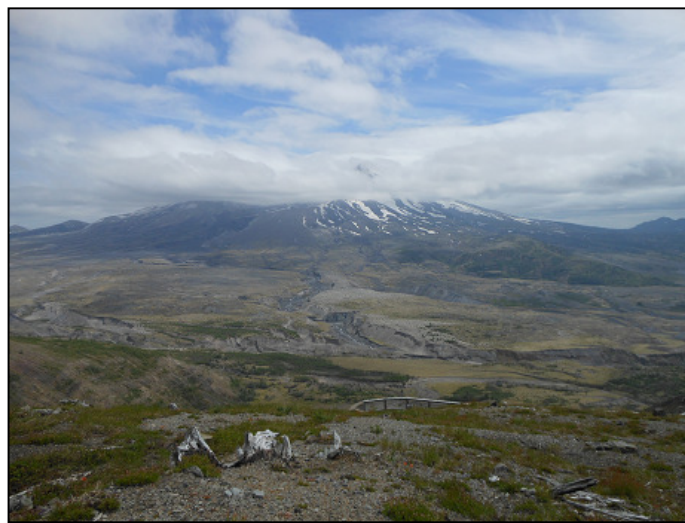
entertained by native dancing and storytelling. Of course, the convention and show were outstanding as usual, but the best photos will be found on the Gesneriad Society website.



Rain forest hike



Coastal scenery



View of Mt. Saint Helens

NCAC Elections in December 2012

No officer, other than the treasurer, shall be eligible for more than two consecutive terms in the same office. ie: based on this rule, Brian Connor cannot be re-elected as Vice President or as Program Chair; and Lee Linett cannot be re-elected as Hospitality chair.

Elected Officer Positions:

1. President. The President shall act as general executive officer of the Chapter and shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors; shall appoint the chairmen of all committees; shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and shall keep informed of all work of the Chapter and report thereon to the membership.

2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings; prepare official correspondence; and compile, maintain, and have custody of the Chapter's historical records. The Secretary shall file with the Recording Secretary of the parent organization a copy of the Chapter's bylaws and all subsequent amendments; the names and addresses of all Chapter members, and of all new members; and the names and addresses of all Chapter officers immediately following their election.

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Upcoming Shows to Attend and Enjoy Gesneriads

Mid Atlantic African Violet Society presents

South Sea Violets

22nd Annual Convention Show

Sheraton Richmond Park South Hotel
9901 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, Virginia 23235

Friday and Saturday, November 9-10, 2012

Friday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See what 100 years of selective hybridization have done with this import from the equatorial mountains of eastern Africa. The show will also include other interesting gesneriads.

Learn how to grow these plants yourself. Vendors from up and down the east coast will have new and unusual plants for sale. Show and sales room open free to the public. For more information and convention registration:

www.MAAVS.ORG and click on 2012 Richmond
(This event will be the site of our November 10th meeting)

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC)
A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

"The purpose of the chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in Gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of Gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."
(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of *Petal Tones*, the website, or contact one of the people below from the raffle table.

The Gesneriad Society website: www.gesneriadsociety.org
NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>
Website & Blog: Kyoko Imai
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**The Mid Atlantic Regional
Gesneriad
Show, Sale and Symposium**
*Gesneriads Across the Globe:
An International Family*



Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30, 2012
**Townsend Hall, 531 South College Avenue, University of
Delaware, Newark DE**

The Mid Atlantic Regional Gesneriad Show, Sale and Symposium, a collaborative event of the Delaware, Liberty Bell and National Capital Area Chapters of The Gesneriad Society, will be held in Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, 531 South College Avenue, Newark DE from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 30, 2012, Newark, Delaware is about a ninety minute ride from Washington, DC and the University is located just off Interstate 95. The event evolved from a desire to provide an affordable event to stimulate the interests and cater to the needs of both accomplished and novice members of the three Chapters. Since many of the members either are unable to participate in weekday events or the time and cost to participate in events far away, a weekend similar to the Winter Study Weekends of the American Rock Garden Society was envisioned. Although the original concept was a one day event, the mechanics of a flower show necessitated a two day event. It was the desire of the Committee to have this event compliment other activities which are offered by The Gesneriad Society, the African Violet Society of America and their affiliates, like MAAVS. There have been a few bumps in the road, like scheduling around Blue Hens Football and who knew that a NASCAR event 50 miles away would complicate hotel availability. It has been a learning curve, but we hope we have achieved our original vision. The show, with the theme "*Gesneriads Across the Globe: An International Family*," and sale are free and open to the public on Sunday, although the University may assess a modest parking fee. The Show and Sale set up will be on Saturday, September 29, 2012 in the morning with judging in the afternoon. Brian Connor developed the theme and the flower show schedule (see full schedule below) which has been approved by The Gesneriad Society. The Flower Show Banquet will be held Saturday evening at Timothy's of Newark. The cost of the Banquet is \$35.00 per person. In addition to the Show and Sale, there will be two wonderful presentations on Sunday. Early registration is \$25.00 per person and includes a box lunch.

Featured Presentations
Searching for Gesneriads in Cuba

John L. Clark is an Associate Professor in The University of Alabama's Department of Biological Sciences.



His research focuses on the diversification and taxonomy of the flower plant family Gesneriaceae in the New World Tropics. Since 2006 John has participated in eight expeditions to Cuba for ongoing research on the Flora of Cuba Project. His research has

facilitated the rediscovery of plants that had not been documented since the 1800s, some of which have been recently introduced into the horticultural community. John will discuss recent taxonomic changes that affected the names of commonly grown Gesneriaceae from the Caribbean. Plan to attend his lecture to learn more about the natural history of Gesneriaceae and the ecosystems where they are native.

Rare and Unusual Gesneriads and How We Grow Them



Bob and Dee Stewart live in Stowe, Massachusetts, where they maintain an extensive collection of exotic gesneriads in their greenhouse. Bob and Dee began growing gesneriads almost 25 years ago, starting on windows, moving to light, then to more elaborate lights, and then to the greenhouse. They grow a wide variety of species, including a lot of epiphytes and cool growers. Bob and Dee have won many awards for their plants, and lectured on the greenhouse culture of gesneriads at the AGGS 1998 Convention. They have been members of AGGS (now The Gesneriad Society) for over 25 years. They recently constructed a new greenhouse. An informative article and photos of their project appeared in a recent issue of *Gleanings* (<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/gleanings/DOCS/Gleanings2012.02.pdf>).

Event Schedule

Saturday, September 29, 2012 - Townsend Hall

8 a.m. – Noon -Entries
 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. -Plants Accepted for Plant Sale
 Noon – 1 p.m. -Judges/Clerks Luncheon/instructions
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. -Judging
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. -Sales and Shop Open to Exhibitors, Judges, Clerks and Volunteers
 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. -Awards Dinner at Timothy's of Newark

Sunday, September 30, 2012 – Townsend Hall

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. -Show and Sale open
 Noon-1 p.m. -Lunch for registrants
 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. -*Searching for Gesneriads in Cuba*, a presentation by Dr. John L. Clark
 2 – 2:30 p.m. - Break with Refreshments
 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. -*Rare and Unusual Gesneriads and How We Grow Them* a presentation by Bob and Dee Stewart
 4-5:30 p.m. -Dismantle Show

Plant Sales Procedures

The plants available for sale at the Regional Meeting are the same as those used at the Convention. An invitation to participate as either a donor or vendor is extended to all Gesneriad Society members who adhere to the guidelines. Any amount of donated plant material is greatly appreciated. Donated plants do not need to be priced in advance, although it would be helpful. All potted plants for sale should be well rooted, clearly labeled, and insect/disease free. Rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, and stolons in labeled plastic bags are also welcome. All plants should be delivered to the plant sales area by Saturday, September 29, 2012 no later than 2 p.m. The earlier they are delivered, the better. Each item coming into plant sales must be labeled per the instructions detailed on the

Society's website www.gesneriadsociety.org. To be considered a vendor (commercial, chapter, or individual) at the Regional Meeting, you must bring a minimum of 50 plants in order to receive a portion of the sales revenue. The Sale organizers retain 30% of the total sales price of each vendor plant sold. Plants are dual tagged to ensure that sellers receive proceeds from their plants, buyers go home with correctly named plants, and the sales process is efficient. If you plan to donate and/or sell plants at convention, please inform the Plant Sales Chair as soon as possible. Send your name, address, and the ID and tag color (example: "M.S." on blue tag) you will use on your tags to Mary Schaeffer, 171 Haut-Brion Avenue, Newark DE 19702. You can contact her by telephone at (302) 836-0540 or by e-mail at schaeffermary@yahoo.com. The vendor's share from plant sales will be mailed to vendor shortly after the event.

Overnight Accommodations



The event is centrally located for members in the three participating Chapters. Most members of the sponsoring Chapters live within an easy drive to University of Delaware, but several members have inquired

about hotel availability. ***The weekend of September 29 and 30, 2012 is the NASCAR event in Dover, DE, about 50 miles away, but hotels raise prices and have minimum stays. If you plan to stay at a hotel, we encourage you to be certain to book early!!!***

The Sleep Inn® University hotel was selected as the hotel for this event since they have no minimum stay requirement and have offered a price of \$89.00 per night plus a \$5.00 hotel fee. ***A limited block of rooms has been reserved for the regional show, but to get the special rate, you must book no later than September 6, 2012 and you must specify that you are booking for the Gesneriad Society event. You MUST make your reservation directly with the hotel by calling 302-453-1700. Request an e-mail confirmation of your reservation. Here is the link <http://www.sleepinn.com/hotel-newark-delaware-DE015?source=bingmap>.***

The Sleep Inn® University hotel is conveniently located on Route 896 on South College Avenue, across the street from the University of Delaware a short walk to Townsend Hall. It is also close to area attractions like the Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, Longwood Gardens horticultural showplace, Delaware Park thoroughbred race track and casino, and the Hagley Museum and Library. Visitors can also enjoy Delaware's tax-free shopping at the nearby Christiana Mall. Guests are invited to enjoy many amenities, including free deluxe continental breakfast, free local calls, free *USA Today* and coffee in the lobby 24-hours a day. Modern conveniences like free Wi-Fi Internet access throughout the property and computer hookups are provided. Check in time is 3:00 PM, check out time is 11:00 AM. All guest rooms include refrigerators, irons, ironing boards, microwaves, hair dryers and coffee makers with 95 percent of guest rooms being non smoking. There are laundry facilities and valet cleaning services available for guest convenience. There is a TGI Fridays within the complex of hotels at this location, a McDonalds a short distance away and many other restaurants nearby. We will send a brochure about Newark, Delaware and the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens when we confirm your registration. Homewood Suites By Hilton® and Embassy Suites are located in the same complex, and while these are newer with better amenities, they

are far more expensive and have minimum stay requirements since the NASCAR will be in Dover, Delaware that weekend. Since Newark is a “university town”, there are many other hotels in the area, but these three are the most convenient.

The National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, a group of gesneriad enthusiasts in the Washington, D.C. area, meets almost every month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. For directions, visit <http://www.usna.usda.gov/>. For more information, please visit the Chapter’s website at <http://www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org> or the Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com>.

The Liberty Bell Chapter of The Gesneriad Society, the Philadelphia area Chapter, meets on the third Tuesdays, September through May at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral Village, 600 E. Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA, 19128. For more information, visit the chapter website: <http://www.libertybellgesneriads.org>

The organizers would like to officially express their appreciation to the staff of the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens for their assistance in making this event possible. For more information about these wonderful Gardens, visit their website at <http://ag.udel.edu/udbg/index.htm>.

The registration form appears below. Please print and make certain that you fill out both pages of the form. The Lecture Hall has a limited capacity, and reservations will be accepted on a first come first served, space available basis. Registrations for the Symposium will be confirmed by USPS. Make certain that you book hotel reservation separately by telephone (see above) as soon as possible if you plan to stay overnight. Unfortunately we are unable to accept credit card for general registration for the symposium. There is no charge for the show and/or sale. The University may assess a modest parking fee. If you have any questions, please contact Quentin Schlieder by telephone at 302-653-6449 or by e-mail at qcsjr@comcast.net. We will be happy to send hard copies of the registration package upon request.

SHOW RULES

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society.
3. Entries will be accepted only during hours specified, unless approved by the Show Chair.
4. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid unless otherwise prohibited.
5. Pre-entry forms will be distributed to all 3 Chapter’s members and are expected to be submitted to Karyn Cichocki by Friday, September 29. There is no penalty for not pre-entering a plant; it just makes Entries a lot easier. There is also no commitment. You can withdraw or not enter any plant at the last minute. Non-members of the Chapter can also preenter.
6. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by Show Chair after entries close.
7. No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes, unless entered by a Judge or Clerk and

arrangements have been made to remove the exhibit at the end of Saturday.

8. All exhibitors who wish to enter may remove their plants at the end of Saturday, but must first notify the Flower Show Chair or Judges Chair of that intention. Plants which will be removed early will be eligible for Class ribbons but will not be eligible for any special awards.

9. All plants in the Horticultural classes must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in arrangement classes in Division II or Educational exhibits in Division IV.

10. No particular type of container is specified for the Horticulture Division. Whatever is used should be clean. Foil covering should be avoided. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.

11. All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including commercial and educational exhibits as well as entries for exhibit only.

12. The Gesneriad Society standard competitive judging will be used. Awards will be made according to the following point scores:

~1st, blue ribbon, 90-100 points;

~2nd, red ribbon, at least 80 points;

~3rd, yellow ribbon, at least 70 points.

13. Honorable Mention(s) may also be awarded.

14. Awards for Best in Section may be awarded to exhibits scoring 90 points or over.

15. There will be a Sweepstakes Award for the Horticulture Division and a Sweepstakes award for the Artistic Division. An exhibitor must win a minimum of 3 blue ribbons in that division to be eligible for the award.

16. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. Winner must be a member of The Gesneriad Society or a chapter member.

17. The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries must be removed between 5 and 6 p.m. on Sunday.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURAL SECTION A - New World Gesneriads in Flower — Tuberos

Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids (upright or pendent flowers)

Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species with rosette growth pattern

Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species with upright growth pattern

Class 4 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with rosette growth pattern

Class 5 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with upright growth pattern

Class 6 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (largest leaf less than 1" long)

Class 7 *Chrysothemis*, *Nautilocalyx*, and other tuberos Gesneriads

SECTION B New World Gesneriads in Flower — Rhizomatous

Class 8 *Achimenes* and x *Achimenantha*

Class 9 *Gloxinia*, *Seemannia* and their intergeneric hybrids

Class 10 *Kohleria*

Class 11 *Smithiantha*

Class 12 Other rhizomatous gesneriads less than 5" in any dimension

Class 13 Other rhizomatous gesneriads

SECTION C New World Gesneriads in Flower — Fibrous-Rooted

Class 14 *Codonanthe*, *xCodonatanthus*

Class 15 *Columnea* (*Dalbergaria*, *Pentadenia*, *Trichantha*)

Class 16 *Episcia*, *Alsobia*

Class 17 *Gesneria*

Class 18 *Nematanthus*

Class 19 Other fibrous-rooted gesneriads

SECTION D Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 20 *Aeschynanthus*

Class 21 *Petrocosmea*

Class 22 *Primulina* species

Class 23 *Primulina* hybrids

Class 24 *Saintpaulia* species

Class 25 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as miniatures (max of 6" diam.)

Class 26 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as semi-miniatures (max of 8" diam.)

Class 27 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as standards (more than 8" diam.)

Class 28 *Saintpaulia* trailer

Class 29 *Streptocarpus*, caulescent (ssp. *Streptocarpella*)

Class 30 *Streptocarpus* species, acaulescent

Class 31 *Streptocarpus* hybrids, acaulescent

Class 32 Other Old World gesneriads

SECTION E - Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental

Characteristics Other Than Bloom Decorative fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

Class 33 *Episcia*

Class 34 *Episcia* with pink-and-white variegation

Class 35 *Primulina*

Class 36 Other gesneriads with green-and-white leaf variegation

Class 37 Other gesneriad species

Class 38 Other gesneriad hybrids

SECTION F - New Gesneriads

This section is for introductions made within the last five years. Exhibitor must provide a 3" x 5" card giving educational information such as name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

Class 39 Species in flower

Class 40 Species not in flower

Class 41 Hybrids or named cultivars in flower

Class 42 Hybrids or named cultivars not in flower

SECTION G - Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

Exhibitor must provide a 3" x 5" card giving educational information such as habitat, source, and special cultural requirements.

Class 43 In flower

Class 44 Not in flower

SECTION H - Collections of Gesneriads

A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for ornamental qualities, or in combination. (*Saintpaulia* must be in flower.) Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit since this is a consideration in judging this section. Exhibitor must provide a 3" x 5" card with identification of plants. In Class 48, exhibitor must provide educational information on a 3" x 5" card.

Class 45 Plants of a single genus (species, cultivars or hybrids)

Class 46 Kinship group — Hybrid(s) with one or more common parents; common parent(s) should be in the group

SECTION I- Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads

An educational 3" x 5" white card should be included, stating what training the exhibit received and how the exhibit is to be viewed (all sides or from the front).

Class 47 Bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style

SECTION J - Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the horticulture division of a Gesneriad flower show.

Class 48 Gesneriads in flower

Class 49 Gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than flowers (no flowers or buds showing color allowed)

DIVISION II - ARTISTIC

Gesneriads must predominate. No artificial plant material allowed. Other live and dried material permitted. Accessories are optional. *Saintpaulia* permitted in all classes. Plant material used must be identified on an accompanying 3" x 5" card. Reservations for entries in classes 50 through 61 and class 70 should be made with Brian Connor (Brian_Connor@bd.com) by September 1, 2012. Limit of 4 entries per class.

SECTION K - Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Plant Material

Class 50 "Sydney, Australia" The Sydney Opera House is one of the landmarks of modern architecture and one of the busiest centers of the performing arts. Create a dramatic arrangement of plant material in a modern style. 8" X 8" X 8"

Class 51 "Mexico City, Mexico" The Aztecs who founded Mexico City had a rich imagination. Powerful beasts were prominent in their beliefs. Your interpretation of a mythical creature using textured and brightly colored foliage. No flowers or buds with color. 12" X 12" X 12"

Class 52 "Jakarta, Indonesia" Capital of the Indonesian archipelago, Jakarta lies near the equator and the rainy season lasts most of the year. Create a design that evokes a lively, tropical rainstorm in this city surrounded by water. 8" X 8" X 8"

Class 53 "Havana, Cuba" Havana is one of the most beautiful cities of the western hemisphere. Adjacent to the city seawall, the Malecon is an avenue known for its sunset views. Create a floral arrangement in a warm color palette that suggests a magnificent sunset over the harbor. 10" X 10" X 10"

Class 54 "Nairobi, Kenya" Cosmopolitan Nairobi is the safari capital of the world. Nairobi National Park is one of the few urban parks on any continent where giraffes and big cats roam naturally. Create the wildest design of your imagination! 12" X 12" X 12"

SECTION L

Arrangement of Fresh Cut Gesneriads

Class 55 "Rio de Janeiro, Brazil" Rio's famous Carnival (Carnaval) has introduced the world to new musical styles like Bossa Nova and Samba. A design with a sultry Latin rhythm in festive colors. 12" X 12" X 12"

Class 56 "Athens, Greece" Ancient Greece was the cradle of western civilization. The Acropolis and Parthenon are highlights of Athens 3000 year history. Create a classic design to be viewed from all sides. No special size restrictions. Pillars and Columns encouraged.

Class 57 "Tokyo, Japan" Fast paced, fashionable Tokyo is one of the world's premier cities. Tourists experience modern skyscrapers, old temples and some of the world's best shopping and restaurants. A mobile design that soars to the top of the niche and is not attached at the bottom. 16" X 16" X 16"

Class 58 "Bangkok, Thailand" Lined with canals, Bangkok is an important business center that remains one of the treasures of the Orient. An underwater arrangement with an Asian feel. Container not to exceed 12" X 12" square base will be provided.

SECTION M - Arrangement of Growing Gesneriads

Class 59 "Capetown, South Africa" Table Mountain forms a striking backdrop for Capetown, which is one of South Africa's hot spots of biodiversity. Use an impressive background to highlight a distinctive arrangement of plant material.

10" X 10" X 10"

Class 60 "Quito, Ecuador" Quito is noted for its beautiful, well preserved old city center (one of the first official UNESCO world heritage sites). However, the city is ringed by active volcanoes. Create a tranquil arrangement with just a hint of danger. 8" X 8" X 8"

Class 61 "Beijing, China" If Beijing is the heart of China, the Forbidden City is the heart of Beijing. Several popular gardens and parks surround this remarkable imperial palace. Your interpretation of an imperial Chinese garden. 8" X 8" X 8"

SECTION N - Planting of Growing Material (Artistically and horticulturally balanced)

Class 62 Terrarium, straight-sided not to exceed 18" in any dimension

Class 63 Terrarium, curved not to exceed 18" in any dimension

Class 64 Tray/dish landscape not to exceed 12" in any dimension

Class 65 Tray/dish landscape not to exceed 24" in any dimension

Class 66 Natural Garden—a planting in weathered wood, rock or other natural material not to exceed 12" in any dimension

Class 67 Natural Garden—a planting in weathered wood, rock or other natural material not to exceed 24" in any dimension

Class 68 Recycled container

Class 69 Other container, not the usual form of plastic or clay pot

SECTION O - Artistic Entry by a Novice

A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad show.

Class 70 Artistic entry suitable for any of the classes in Sections K, L or M. Exhibitor must identify, on a 3"x 5" card, the name of the class chosen and the plant material used.

DIVISION III - THE ARTS

All entries must feature gesneriads in some form. Each entry must have been made by the exhibitor.

SECTION P - Photography. The subject must be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8" x 10"; mats should not exceed 11" x 14". Exhibitors must provide an easel for prints 5" x 7" or over. Limit of 2 entries per class per exhibitor.

Class 71 Color print of Gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat **Class 72** Color print of parts of a Gesneriad (flowers, fruits, foliage, etc.)

Class 73 Color print of a whole Gesneriad plant

Class 74 Monochrome print

Class 75 Digital display of gesneriad photo(s) (i-pad, computer or electronic picture frame)

SECTION Q - Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 76 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)

Class 77 Textile (exhibitor must provide a card giving the source of the design)

Class 78 Other crafts

DIVISION IV - COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

SECTION R - Commercial

Class 79 Display table with a grouping of 10 or more gesneriads

Class 80 Display table with a grouping of fewer than 10 gesneriads

SECTION S - Educational

Class 81 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion

Class 82 Exhibit of plant material. Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural information, and reason for inclusion in this class

Class 83 E-Gesneriads (computer exhibits) PowerPoint or other computer exhibit that provides educational information on gesneriads

*The Mid Atlantic Gesneriad Show,
Sale and Symposium*
A Collaborative Event of the Delaware,
Liberty Bell and National Capital Chapters of
The Gesneriad Society Saturday, September 29
and Sunday September 30, 2012

Registration Form

Complete form and return with a check payable to DAVS to:

Quentin Schlieder, Registrar
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431
Email inquiries to gcsjr@comcast.net
Please print:

Name(s) _____

[as you want them to appear on your name badge(s) and attendees list]

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date arriving: _____

During judging on Saturday, I would like to [] judge [] clerk []
either. You will be contacted by the Judges chairperson regarding an
assignment.

Early registrations must be postmarked by September 1, 2012 to
take advantage of the discount Registrations made after
September 1, 2012 will be at the full rate for all selections. The
registration fee includes the two lectures, refreshments during
the break and a picnic luncheon. There is no charge to enjoy
plant sales and the Show which are open to the public. There
may be a parking fee assessed by the University.

Event cancellation and refund policy: Full or partial
cancellations of convention registrations made before
September 15, 2012 will be honored with full refunds. Refunds
for full or partial cancellations cannot be guaranteed if requested
after September 15. All prices are in US dollars.

Please list any special diet needs below:

Early Registration before 9/1

No. ____ @ \$20.00 ea. = \$ _____

Late Registration after 9/1

No. ____ @ \$25.00 ea. = \$ _____

Sunday Picnic Lunch choice (cost included in registration)

[] Turkey Wrap No. _____

[] Roast Beef/cheese Wrap No. _____

[] Roasted Vegetable Wrap No. _____

Saturday, September 29 Flower Show Awards Banquet.

Salad, dessert, coffee and/or tea included. Cash bar.

Please indicate entrée choice below:

[] Chicken Marsala with Oven Roasted

Potatoes, Fresh Steamed Vegetables.

No. ____ @ \$30 (**\$35 after 9/1**) = \$ _____

[] Queen Prime Rib finished with a Cabernet

Reduction Sauce with Oven Roasted

Potatoes, Fresh Steamed Vegetables.

No. ____ @ \$30 (**\$35 after 9/1**) = \$ _____

[] Vegetarian option

No. ____ @ \$30 (**\$35 after 9/1**) = \$ _____

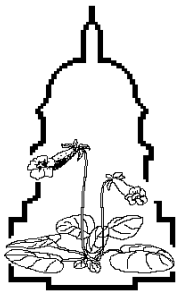
Flower Show Award Sponsorship \$ _____

in honor of in memory of

Grand total \$ _____

**Make check or money order (payable in US\$ on a
US bank) to: DAVS and return to:**

Quentin Schlieder, Registrar
**The Mid Atlantic Gesneriad Show, Sale and
Symposium**
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431



Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 8

October 2012



Andrew Norris's *Episcia* 'Showtime'

President's Message

1. First Congrats to all who exhibited at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Show last weekend. What a Show! **Andrew Norris** won Sweepstakes in Horticulture and Best *Episcia* (*Episcia* 'Show Time') and **Marie Burns** won Best *Streptocarpus* (*S.* 'White Gold'). **Donna Beverin** won Best Novice and Best *Petrocosmea* (*P.* 'Momo'). Several other NCAC members who are fairly (or completely) new to exhibiting at Gesneriad Shows won ribbons including **Ken Moore** (*Gloxinella lindeniana*), **Barry Woolf** (*Primulina dryas* 'Hisako') and **Corey Wickliffe** (an *Episcia* and a terrarium!). Please congratulate them. It was a fine showing by NCAC members and all 3 Chapters. I hope everyone will consider entering a plant or two (or ten) in the future!

There were many other interesting plants on display such as Nancy Kast's incredible *Gasteranthus* collection that won Best in Show. Nancy also entered a *Creosperma* species. She is truly an exquisite grower of unusual gesneriads! A lovely *Peracea hypocyrtiflora* was exhibited by Dee Stewart. Meanwhile, husband Bob Stewart showed *Drymonia punctulata*. One of my favorite seldom seen plants, *Gesneria* 'Lemon Drop,' was shown by Francisco Correa.

NCAC meetings are held at the National Arboretum. Doors open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am on the second Saturday of the month.

October 13th: What Happened to Chirita, I Mean Primulina? (a pass through the former genus)
FONA Conference Room at the National Arboretum

November 10th: field trip to MAAVS

December 8th: Holiday party and elections

In the Arts and Artistic sections, Jill Fisher's beautiful straight edged terrarium, Karyn Cichocki's delightful underwater design (Bangkok) and Stephen Maciejewski's photos and educational exhibit were outstanding.

The talks were very interesting and well attended. The judging was excellent. Many of the judges brought an exhibit or two, which added a great deal of variety. I hope this event becomes a permanent fixture for the clubs involved.

2. Next Saturday meeting (Oct 13) we need to vote on the changes to our bylaws. Please read the bylaws and voting documents and be ready to discuss and vote. It's not that bad and will not take that long to read. These changes are our guidelines for the future, so please look them over. We have pretty much dealt with Article VI and VII, quorum for e-voting.

3. NCAC elections are coming at the end of the year. Of course this is also important to the future of our club. We need to form a Nominating Committee in October and we will select new officers from their nominees in December.

4. Our program is **What happened to Chirita-Primulina!** If possible, bring a *Primulina* with you so we can examine a variety of these plants. OR bring a *Liebigia* or *Microchirita* with you (HA!). Of course, anything of interest can be brought for Show & Tell. Brian



Stewart's *Primulina* 'Diane Marie'



Corey's Straight sided terrarium with beautiful *episcias*



Marie Burn's *Saintpaulia*



Barry Woolf's *Primulina* 'Hisako'



Andrew Norris's *Saintpaulia* 'Painted Silk'

Gasteranthus is still a poorly known genus, but many species are now in cultivation. They are generally difficult to grow and bloom, requiring low light and high humidity. One



species, *G. atratus*, has yellow flowers with a sweet lemony fragrance. Others will surely be found to be fragrant as well.

Gesneria has at least one species with fragrant flowers, *G. humilis*. Elisabeth Funkhouser described it in her 1984 article "Success with *Gesneria humilis*", *The Gloxinian* 34(6): 10-11, "It is a strange odor, not exactly unpleasant, but reminding me of a snuffed-out candle.... When I smell *G. humilis*, I think of the bayberry candles we used to burn on Christmas Eve, letting them burn down and go out by themselves." The pollinator of this odd little plant is still unknown. There are several other species of *Gesneria* which might have fragrant flowers as well, particularly those with white or greenish flowers, which are presumably pollinated by bats.

Gloxinia has at least two fragrant species.

Gloxinia perennis is one of the familiar fragrant gesneriads. I find the frequent



comparisons of its pleasant minty scent to toothpaste to be unfair. Unfortunately, this species is too tall for most of us to grow under lights. If you have room in a greenhouse, sun porch, or patio, the plant is most impressive. The selection 'Insignis' is a little more compact, and I have bloomed it under lights. One compact *G. perennis* hybrid, *G. 'Arion'*, is also reported to carry the minty fragrance. The other fragrant species, *G. lindeniana*, is quite unlike *G. perennis*. The silver-veined dark velvety leaves make it look

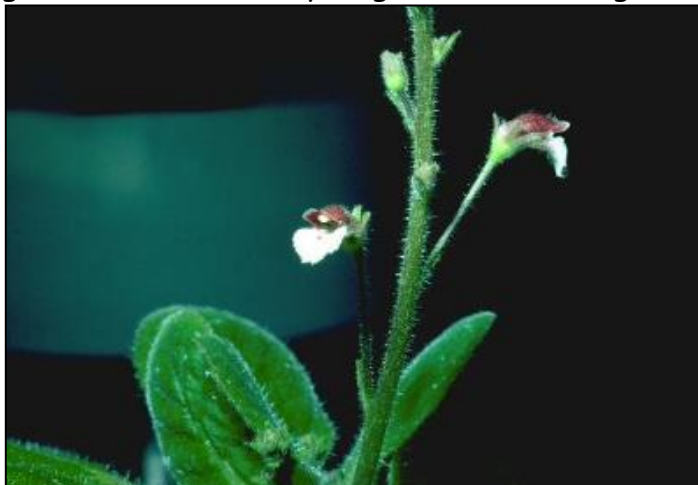


more like a kohleria, and indeed it was formerly classified as *Kohleria lindeniana*. David Turley describes the scent as minty, but to me it has a distinct rose scent, sweet but with a slight undertone of decay, like a flower

that's past its prime. Other species of *Gloxinia* are to be expected to be fragrant, including *G. racemosa* and *G. sarmentiana*. These species lack a nectary disk, and without nectar, must use another enticement to attract pollinators. However, they may

produce compounds that are fragrant to their pollinators but not to us!

Koellikeria erinoides is one of my favorite gesneriads. It is easy to grow, small enough



for lights, a dependable bloomer, and has an unusual scent: a delicious spicy smell of coconut, which I discovered on my plant of *K. erinoides* 'Red Satin' quite by accident several years ago. The fragrance is intermittent, but at times is quite strong on a heavily blooming plant. The pollinator is



presumed to be a small bee. *Koellikeria erinoides* has entered into intergeneric hybrids with *Kohleria* to produce *xKoellikohleria rosea* and *xKoellikohleria 'Goblin'*. Neither of these is known to be fragrant. However, a cross with *Gloxinia perennis* by Jim Roberts has produced a



fragrant intergeneric hybrid: *xGlokeria 'Dragonsong'* is reported by David and Colleen Turley to have a spicy scent unlike that of either parent.

Lietzia has recently been synonymized under *Sinningia*, and *Lietzia brasiliensis* is now *Sinningia brasiliensis*. However, for convenience I will discuss this species separately. One collection has been distributed with the unpublished (and therefore invalid) name "*Lietzia glandulosa*." However, this intriguing plant is well worth growing if you are interested in unusual gesneriads. This collection is distinguished by its narrow, deeply serrate, and extremely sticky leaves which are strongly and unpleasantly fragrant. The flowers, on the other hand, have a sweet honey-like fragrance. They are a pale yellow-green with tiny purple speckles on opening, and fade to a creamy white. They make me think of a

yawning dragon. Other collections of *S. brasiliensis* have larger flowers, often more heavily marked with purple, but the scent is less pleasant. The individual flowers last only two or three days, but the bloom period is long, and the plant produces many side shoots which will continue to bloom. All collections of *Sinningia brasiliensis* are tall growers that require high light levels, and even then they may need staking. Their cultural requirements are similar to those of *S. tubiflora*, except that they tolerate underpotting quite well. They are easily grown from seed, but may not bloom until their second or third year. A form with pure white, unspckled flowers has arisen in cultivation, and may prove useful to hybridizers. For more information on *Sinningia brasiliensis*, see Dave Zaitlin's article "Experiences with a New Species of *Lietzia*," 1990, *The Gloxinian* 40(4): 9-12.

Napeanthus is a little-known genus. The plants are small growing, require terrarium conditions, and the small white flowers open early in the morning and drop off by early afternoon. Patrick Worley notes that *N. costaricensis* has fragrant flowers. *Napeanthus jelskyi* may also be fragrant, but the flowers are so tiny it's hard to tell!

Nautilocalyx has had one species previously reported as fragrant, *N. pemphidius*.



However, I have never noted any fragrance on this species' small white flowers. *Nautilocalyx punctatus*, a much larger species, has purple-speckled pale yellow flowers with a faint sweet scent. I would not be surprised to discover that other species in the genus are fragrant.

Nematanthus 'Santa Teresa' is a still-undescribed species completely unlike any other member of the genus, and its large orange-speckled white flower is more reminiscent of a *Codonanthe* on steroids! This is probably the most powerfully fragrant gesneriad, with a single flower perfuming a good-sized greenhouse. The scent has been



described as a combination of fine olive oil and oranges, as drying paint, as rotting tangerines, and as more unmentionable things! The fragrance is obviously not for everybody, and a plant in full bloom in an enclosed space can be a bit overwhelming. The flowers seem to open all at once, with a plant producing several flushes of bloom each growing season. 'Santa Teresa' is an epiphyte with lax stems and velvety leaves. It makes an attractive hanging basket and requires the same culture as *Codonanthe* and *Nematanthus*: bright light and a well-drained soil that is allowed to dry out slightly between waterings. It has a semi-

dormant period in the winter, when it can be kept cooler and drier. The flowers are produced in the axils of last year's growth, so any pruning should be done immediately after flowering. There is another collection of the same species in cultivation, with even larger flowers. I have attempted to cross 'Santa Teresa' with *Codonanthe carnososa*, without luck; however, other crosses between *Codonanthe* and *Nematanthus* have resulted in the hybrid genus *xCodonatanthus*, and if a cross with 'Santa Teresa' is ever successful, the fragrance may be dominant! (Next month this article will continue with fragrant gesneriads that begin with the letter 'N'.)

A Sinningia That Loves To Grow!



Barb's tuber tower for *Sinningia* 'Pink Tiger' x *S. bullata*

While getting ready for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gesneriad show, I noticed *Sinningia* Pink Tiger x *S. bullata*) warping its pot, so with some difficulty I managed to pull it out of the pot that it was stuck in. It turned out to be a stack of 5 tubers instead of 1. They were split apart and several were sold at the show. If you bought one, this plant blooms frequently with a pale pink/salmon blossom (which is very hard to photograph because of the way it hangs down.) I grow it on my top shelf where I can see the blossoms as the stem rambles all over and hangs off the shelf. Perhaps someone could give me advice on how to grow this plant well. It tolerates quite a bit of neglect.

Barb Stewart

Announcement

Propagation Committee of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society **Committee Design and Purpose**

The purpose of the Propagation Committee shall be to supply new, rare, and otherwise desirable species and hybrids of the Gesneriaceae to the local chapter members and to do the same in large volumes for periodic shows and sales.

The Propagation Committee shall be self-sustaining financially.

The Propagation Committee shall provide plants to both the raffle table so that all members have an equal chance at new plant material, and to a sales table that will allow new plant to be purchased on a first come basis.

The Propagation Committee shall consist of a Chair, who will provide instructions and supplies to other committee members, and a team of at least two or three growers who will provide growing space to keep propagated material growing and make it ready for distribution.

Procedures

Members who obtain new plant material that would be of value to the other members of the Chapter are strongly encouraged to provide a cutting, rhizome, tuber or seed (in the case of species) to a member of the Propagation Committee. The Committee will also seek out new hybrids and species to pro-actively provide material to the Chapter.

The Propagation Committee will obtain seed from the Brazil Seed Fund, The Gesneriad Society seed fund, and other seed sources (Chilterns, Thompson and Morgan, etc.) and provide established seedlings to the Chapter.

All materials propagated by the Propagation Committee will be divided into two distribution channels at the meetings. The first will be a sales table where all plant material will be available at a very affordable rate to members of the Chapter only. The sales table will open immediately after the end of the monthly program, when a break is called. The second method of distribution will be the Chapter's Raffle Table, where the plants can be won by either Chapter members or members of the public who have purchased raffle tickets. All plant material will be evenly divided between these two channels. In the case of uneven numbers, the extra material will go to the sales table. Pricing of the plants brought in by the Propagation Committee shall be well below fair

market value, with the maximum price for any plant being set at \$5.00 maximum.

All proceeds from the Propagation Sales Table shall be kept in a separate ledger account by the Treasurer of the Chapter, and used to supply necessary items to the Committee such as growing mix, pots, labels, plastic bags and other necessary items to grow the materials. These funds shall also be used to purchase plants and or seed that would be desirable to the Chapter. The Chair of the Propagation Committee shall have the sole responsibility of determining where funds shall be spent. The original supplies, to get the Committee started, have been donated to the Committee.

The Propagation Committee shall provide a list of all materials currently being grown and a list of plants being sought for propagation and publish this in Petal Tones monthly.

NCAC Elections in December 2012

No officer, other than the treasurer, shall be eligible for more than two consecutive terms in the same office. ie: based on this rule, Brian Connor cannot be re-elected as Vice President or as Program Chair; and Lee Linett cannot be re-elected as Hospitality chair.

Elected Officer Positions:

1. President. The President shall act as general executive officer of the Chapter and shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors; shall appoint the chairmen of all committees; shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and shall keep informed of all work of the Chapter and report thereon to the membership.

2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings; prepare official correspondence; and compile, maintain, and have custody of the Chapter's historical records. The Secretary shall file with the Recording Secretary of the parent organization a copy of the Chapter's bylaws and all subsequent amendments; the names and addresses of all Chapter members, and of all new members; and the names and addresses of all Chapter officers immediately following their election.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipts and deposits of all monies of the Chapter and shall make authorized disbursements to cover the expenses of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies that are received or disbursed and shall render financial reports when required.

5-7. Two or Three Directors. The Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity, shall serve as committee chairmen, and shall perform other duties requested by the President.

8. Hospitality Committee Chair. This committee shall make arrangements for refreshments at the membership meetings.

9. Membership Committee Chair. This committee shall handle membership applications, collect dues, introduce new members and guests, provide name tags, and compile an annual roster of officers and members.

10. Publications Committee Chair. The chairman of this committee shall be the Editor of the Chapter's newsletter, Petal Tones, and shall be responsible for editing and publishing Petal Tones in accordance with the policies of the President.

11. Program Committee Chair. This committee shall schedule and prepare interesting and stimulating programs for the regular membership meetings.

12. Propagation Committee Chair. This committee shall propagate gesneriads and have them available for distribution to the members.

13. Ways and Means Committee Chair. This committee shall be responsible for fund-raising, including the sale of plants and supplies at Chapter meetings.

Upcoming Show to Attend and Enjoy Gesneriads

Mid Atlantic African Violet Society presents

South Sea Violets 22nd Annual Convention Show

Sheraton Richmond Park South Hotel

9901 Midlothian Turnpike

Richmond, Virginia 23235

Friday and Saturday, November 9-10, 2012

Friday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See what 100 years of selective hybridization have done with this import from the equatorial mountains of eastern Africa. The show will also include other interesting gesneriads.

Learn how to grow these plants yourself. Vendors from up and down the east coast will have new and unusual plants for sale. Show and sales room open free to the public. For more information and convention registration:

www.MAAVS.ORG

(This event will be the site of our November 10th meeting)

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Amalophyllon clarkii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Chirita</i> 'Veracunda'	Barry Woolf
<i>Columnea glicensteinii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Columnea linearis</i> 'Purple Robe'	Barry Woolf
<i>Henckelia</i> Any variety	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia malayana</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Koelikeria erinoides</i> 'Judy'	Barry Woolf
<i>Koelikeria</i> 'Strawberry Fields'	Andrew Norris
<i>Kohleria warszewiczii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Nautilocalyx lynchii</i>	Corey Wickliffe
<i>Niphimenes</i> 'Lemonade'	Brian Connor
<i>Pearcea hypocyrtifolia</i>	Corey Wickliffe
<i>Primulina</i> 'Diane Marie'	Barry Woolf
<i>Primulina tobacum</i>	Andrew Norris
<i>Primulina</i> 'Cynthia'	Andrew Norris
<i>Saintpaulia</i> 'Optimara Colorado'	Mike Cagley
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Li'l Georgie'	Lee Stradley
<i>Sinningia concinna</i>	Ken Moore
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Orange Raindrops'	Mike Cagley
<i>Smithiantha cinnabarina</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Smithiantha aurantica</i>	Andrew Norris
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Cape Essence'	Mike Cagley
<i>Tricantha tricantha dodsonii</i>	Barry Woolf

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC)

A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

"The purpose of the chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in Gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of Gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."

(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of *Petal Tones*, the website, or contact one of the people below from the raffle table.

The Gesneriad Society website: www.gesneriadsociety.org

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

NCAC Blog: <http://petaltone.blogspot.com/>

Website & Blog: Kyoko Imai

web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

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Fallston, MD 21047

410-879-1654

Woolfphoto1@comcast.net

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Committees:

Hospitality: Lee Linett

Membership: Kyoko Imai

Programs: Brian Connor

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin

editor@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

or

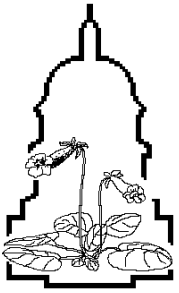
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Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 9

November 2012



Jim Roberts is growing this beautiful specimen of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* in his garden. It has bloomed repeatedly for him in his outdoor garden. Johanna has a beautiful specimen as well and is anticipating her first blossom.

This month on November 10th some NCAC members went to the MAAVA show and thus our Acting President, Brian Connor as been very busy, growing and showing!

NCAC meetings are held at the National Arboretum. Doors open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am on the second Saturday of the month.

December 8th: Holiday party and elections

Meetings for 2013:

February 9	March 9	April 13	May 11
September 14	October 12	December 14	



Johanna says this *Titanotrichum oldhamii* in the bottom left foreground has not bloomed or changed in the 3 or so months it has been in the pot, then the ground. At the top of the photo there are a few leaves of a beautifully patterned Asian May Apple. To the right is *Begonia boliviensis* 'Bonfire', and a leaf of *Begonia grandis* ssp *grandis*.

Next month please attend the December 8th Holiday Party at the Arboretum meeting room. Bring a nice gift to exchange and some yummy food. We shall be voting on our new officers! See you there. Donna

Growing *Episcias* for Maximum Blooming

By Andrew Norris

I am no *Episcia* expert, in fact, I only started to try growing them seriously in May of 2012. What I can offer in this article is how I grow them and what they seem to like in my growing situation. The *Episcia* 'Show Time', I exhibited in our September show at the University of Delaware, was a mere stolon gleaned from an African Violet Club friend's show plant this past May! Evidently, the *Episcias* are fond of my methods and what I have to say will bring you great success with your *Episcias*.



I want to cover lighting and temperature first, since to me, those two things are closely related and the most important factors in successful growing. My plants are grown about 6-8" from one T8 40 watt 3000k bulb and one 40 watt T12 6500k bulb. My bulbs are a few years old and what I have found with t8's is that they are too intense for my plants. I was primarily a violet grower until the fall show, which are better suited to the less light hungry plant's needs, after a year or more of burn in time. I usually buy t8 bulbs in lower wattages now and don't bother with the 3000k bulbs, just sticking to two 6500k bulbs. For those

wondering, a very simplified explanation of "k", relating to light bulbs, is the color temperature



Episcia 'Silver Dust'

of the bulb in degrees Kelvin. The higher the k rating, the more blue rays are emitted, the lower the k rating, the more red. A Kelvin rating of 6,500 is your closest representation of sunlight, encompassing the colors in the proportions given off by the sun, at the equator, at noon. It is thought that red spectrums help with flowering and blue/green spectrums are best for foliage. The same results are found by the use of one cool and one warm white bulb as using the 6,500k bulbs. Since sunlight is certainly adequate, I find the use of anything other than 6,500k bulbs to be obsolete. I still have some 3000k bulbs in use, so mention them, since I just choose not to replace them until they are no longer adequate. Lights run between 9-12 hours, 10 in this case.



Episcia 'Pink Acajou'

I grow my *Episcias* on the top shelf of my stands. This is the warmest location, benefiting from the heat rising from the ballast below and the lights above them. They receive temps of about 76-78F, with

lights running and down to 65F, at the lowest, with the bulbs off. I run my lights at night, keeping cost



down by having cooler temps during summer's daytime heat and warmer temps during winter's frosty nights. This also helps win the battle with powdery mildew, during mildew seasons. *Episcias* like it warmer, but also don't resent a drop to the low 60sF, at night.

I run an ultrasonic humidifier, on low, just so you can barely see the output, all year round. While I don't measure the humidity, I can tell you that over 300 plants and the humidifier running, means no static electricity building up in my 1 bedroom apartment!

After light and temperature, the next most important item is the soil mix. I have struggled with my wicking mix for the 4 years I have been growing violets and gesneriads. The pH was a sneaky problem and one hard to measure, hard to understand, and hard to solve. Many gesneriads grow on limestone, but still want a slightly acid pH, while others seem to

require lime. I try every plant in the mix I will give you here, only adding a pinch of lime for gesneria and Chinese terrestrials, so far with great success. My mix is a base of a 10 quart bag of Burpee eco friendly Seed Starting Mix. It is coir based, which was not something I was looking for, but also decided, isn't bad either. Burpee test their products, so the problems of other coir products is eliminated, with some considerations. Epsoma has a similar, suitable product, which may or may not be coir based. To this, I add 1 1/3 cup of Epsoma HollyTone, and about 60% 1/4"-1/2" perlite. HollyTone lowers the pH and provides a biologically active mix. Which is working in my favor, I don't know, but since switching to this formulation, my violets are superior and my plants are better than ever before. It has been about a year since the switch and other than finding a less visible alternative to perlite, I am very pleased with my results. I will add that this mix test out to a very low 5.5, but with 7.0 watering and Miracid as a fertilizer, it stabilizes quickly to around 7.0 in a short time. No plants have resented the mix so far and my testing equipment is also, not the greatest, being a simple probe from a Lowes shelf.

Watering and fertilizing is next on the list. Watering here is by wick, once the plants are established. My water is 7.0 in pH and I collect it from a mountain spring to avoid the additives in city water. I fertilize with Miracid (the azalea, camellia, rhododendron formulation, by MiracleGrow is the same), at 1/16th a tsp per gallon, every watering. On occasion, I also add a few drops of Super Thrive. I wait until a newly potted plant needs its reservoir refilled (I wick on individual deli containers), before fertilizing, to allow for the fertilizers in the HollyTone and Seed Starting Mix to be used.

Finally, it's the artistry of growing show plants! Here are some tips on the grooming, potting, and shaping of the plants into a specimen that is not just well grown, but worthy of display. Most stolons should start in a 3" or 4" pot. They will quickly move up a pot size, often in a few weeks or month. While the stolon grows, I remove all marred, dying, or unattractive leaves and stolons. I continue to remove stolons until the main plant is well established. I then allow stolons to grow, allowing 3 at the most and removing any leaves that crowd or block light from the stolons. I place the stolons evenly inside the pot, rooting them in place and leaving them attached to

the mother plant. When you no longer have room to place your stolons, or they are crowded, pot up to a 5" or 6" pan pot. I resume and keep pinching off stolons, until the pot is full of large, robust plants. I then allow a few to trail over until my sense of aesthetics is achieved. Continue removing overlapping leaves and potting up to accommodate the larger crowns, eventually into a 8"-10" pot. A maximum of 5 stolons will provide a full pot without appearing crowded and then, one or two stolons from each established crown can be allowed to trail over and gain some size. Too many stolons allow to trail or root rob the plant of energy for flowering and detract to the judges. Flowering should have begun in your 5"-6" pot and will continue indefinitely. Remove spent flowers and leaves every few days, as the blooms are short-lived and can get messy, if not tended to. I will add that new plants are best started from stolons, as I have found many varieties to slow or cease stolon production at flowering size. Always have a non-flowering stolon to continue with for best results. Hope you find my methods helpful and I hope to see some bloom covered *Episcias*, gracing our future show tables.



Ask Mr. Gesneriad

Andrew Norris: My question is what could be causing the curling of newer leaves on *Columnnea spathulata*? Both are well rooted, flowering, free of drafts, and have adequate humidity. My suspicion was they were too close to the T8s, but there is no blanching or brown areas.

Mr. G:
The curling on the leaves can be caused by a couple of things. You're right about the light being one of the

possible issues. Many of the upright growing *Columnnea* (especially those that were once considered *Dalbergaria*) grow in lower light areas, under the tree canopy. Too much light can cause the leaves to react negatively. The plant is likely to recover however, if these new leaves were already starting to form when the plants were put under the T8's. *Gesneriads* are highly adaptable. New leaves formed when under the T8's should be fine. Other possible causes: too low humidity, a cool draft, or the soil drying too much between watering.

Joyce Carpenter: Older books say *Streptocarpus* dislikes acid soil. Lately, I've heard that this isn't true and that it actually prefers acid. Which is correct?
Mr. G:

Both are correct. *Streps* come from a wide area in Africa, and while some grow on limestone rock faces, others grown in shadier spots where the soil is actually acidic. I think that if you keep the soil near a neutral pH (such as an African Violet mix) you'll do fine.



Evergrowing *Sinningia bullata*: closeup of Johanna's plant

I thought all larger *Sinningias* had a dormant period. I've been growing *Sinningia* 'Prudence Wisley' for over a year and a half. It has never gone dormant and has never been out of bloom. Is this normal for this hybrid? If so, are there any more like it? Mr. G: There are a number of *Sinningia* species that never seem to go fully dormant. They will send up new sprouts from the tuber before the old ones have fully died back. Others, such as *Sinningia bullata*, just keep growing and growing and growing. They never go dormant. I don't have any explanation as to why some don't go dormant, but you might want to out the *Sinningia* and Friends website and Alan's explanation of dormancy:

<http://www.burwur.net/sinns/3dorm.htm>

In the event of a power outage, would a propane heater be a good method to prevent the loss of plants during cold weather? Maybe Mr. Gesneriad can give me some suggestions or tell me more about propane heaters.

Mr. G:

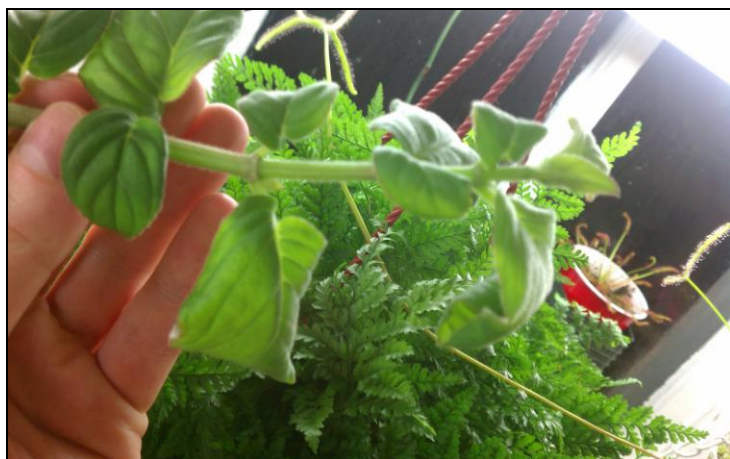
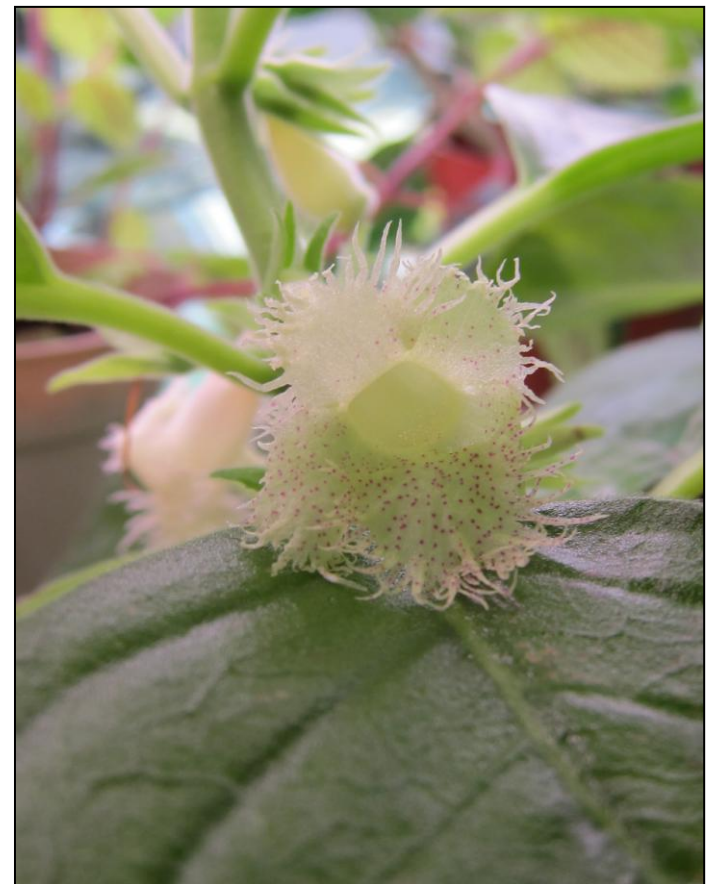
Sorry, but I don't know enough about propane heaters to offer any suggestions there. I heat my whole house with Propane, but of course the furnace is properly vented. If you live in an area with frequent outages you might buy a stock of heat packs. These are chemical packs that many growers use to ship plants during the cold Fall and Spring months, when it's not normally safe to do so. They don't give off a lot of heat, but by wrapping your plant stands in plastic (or blankets) and liberally spreading heat packs around, you might be able to avoid a complete loss of plants. I might even collect the plants that you know are the most susceptible and put them in cardboard boxes with the heat packs. Homes are insulated, so it generally takes several days for the temperatures to drop below freezing inside, even with the worst of

conditions outside. Fifty degrees feels very uncomfortable for us, but many of the *Gesneriads* can take that temperature for a few days without problem. *Episcia*, *Drymonia* and other heat lovers will object and might die, so they're the candidates for the box and heat pack.

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Alsobia* species 'Chiapas'



Bloomin' Now cont'



Johanna's *Sinningia bullata* trailing on her light stand

Fragrant Gesneriads by John Boggan

Reprinted with permission

Part 3

Paliavana is a small genus of shrubs from southern Brazil with large, waxy flowers. *Paliavana* is closely related to *Sinningia*, but does not produce tubers. Two species are in cultivation, *P. prasinata* and *P. tenuiflora*. Both are fragrant, but in entirely different ways.

Paliavana prasinata has campanulate green flowers speckled with purple, which have an unpleasant carrion-like odor. It is presumably pollinated by bats. *Paliavana tenuiflora*, on the other hand, has lovely deep lavender blooms, much like the wild types of *Sinningia speciosa*, and they are sweetly fragrant. *Paliavana prasinata* and *P. tenuiflora* may be induced to bloom at a smaller size by keeping them underpotted; both require high light levels and must be watered frequently while actively growing.

Paradrymonia has at least two fragrant species. One species that has bloomed in the Smithsonian greenhouses, *P. fuquaiana*, is reported to have a pleasant scent by Leslie Brothers. I find it to have a slightly pungent spicy or medicinal fragrance. Smithsonian collection 94-220, collected in Ecuador by Rick Dunn, has also been identified as *P. fuquaiana*, but has a much stronger scent. It has been distributed through the AGGS Seed Fund as "*Paradrymonia* sp. aff. *fuquaiana*." The other fragrant species has been offered in the AGGS Seed Fund as "*Paradrymonia* sp. (*costaricana* ined.)". Its scent has been compared to cloves.

Rhynchoglossum is unusual in that it is the only genus in the family with species occurring in both the New World and Old World. The plants have pretty flowers that are as close to true blue as any gesneriad comes. Several species are in limited cultivation, but so far only *R. gardneri* (previously grown as *R. notonianum*) has been reported to have fragrant flowers. Patrick Worley describes the fragrance as a "sweet orange-blossom scent" although I have never noticed this on my own plant. Several other species of this interesting genus are now in cultivation, and it

would be worth checking them for fragrance as well.

Rhytidophyllum species are probably pollinated by bats. Although I did not note the species, the flowers of one plant in the Smithsonian greenhouses had a rank scent reminding me of an animal cage at the zoo. However, other species may have different (and possibly more pleasant!) fragrances.

This article was originally published in slightly different form in The Gloxinian, Third Quarter 1996 (V. 46, No. 3).

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

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The Gesneriad Society website: www.gesneriadsociety.org
NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>
Website & Blog: Kyoko Imai

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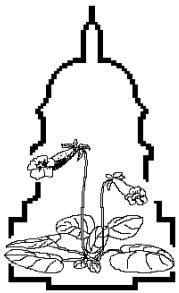
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Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Amalophyllum</i> <i>clarkii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Chirita</i> 'Veracunda'	Barry Woolf
<i>Columnea</i> <i>glicensteinii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Columnea</i> <i>linearis</i> 'Purple Robe'	Barry Woolf
<i>Henckelia</i> Any variety	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia</i> <i>malayana</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Koelikeria</i> <i>erinoides</i> 'Judy'	Barry Woolf
<i>Koelikeria</i> 'Strawberry Fields'	Andrew Norris
<i>Kohleria</i> <i>warszewiczii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Nautilocalyx</i> <i>lynchii</i>	Corey Wickliffe
<i>Niphimenes</i> 'Lemonade'	Brian Connor
<i>Pearcea</i> <i>hypocyrtifolia</i>	Corey Wickliffe
<i>Primulina</i> 'Diane Marie'	Barry Woolf
<i>Primulina</i> <i>tobacum</i>	Andrew Norris
<i>Primulina</i> 'Cynthia'	Andrew Norris
<i>Saintpaulia</i> 'Optimara Colorado'	Mike Cagley
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Li'l Georgie'	Lee Stradley
<i>Sinningia</i> <i>concinna</i>	Ken Moore
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Orange Raindrops'	Mike Cagley
<i>Smithiantha</i> <i>cinnabarina</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Smithiantha</i> <i>aurantica</i>	Andrew Norris
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Cape Essence'	Mike Cagley
<i>Tricantha</i> <i>tricantha</i> <i>dodsonii</i>	Barry Woolf



Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 10

December 2012



MAAVS Second Best in Design – natural garden,
exhibited by Barbara Stewart, Richmond AVS

President's Message

I have just returned from MAAVS 2013 and the show and convention were wonderful. I found a *Diastema comiferum* on the sales table and perhaps our new Propagation Committee will be able to propagate it in the future!

Our next meeting, the Holiday Party is Saturday, December 8 in the Arboretum classroom beginning at 10:00am, featuring the 'Thieving Gesneriphiles Gift Swap.' If you would like to participate, bring a gift in a brown paper bag and don't feel shy about thieving a gift!

On a serious note, we shall also select new officers to lead NCAC in 2013. If you would like to run for an office, you can still be nominated December 8th.

NCAC meetings are held at the National Arboretum.

Doors open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am on the second Saturday of the month.

December 8th: Holiday party and elections

Meetings for 2013:

February 9 March 9 April 13 May 11
September 14 October 12 December 14

Harold Belcher and Barry Woolf have agreed to continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Jim Roberts is nominated for Vice President and I shall run for President. We still have one Director position to be filled.

It has been an interesting year and 2013 promises to be equally stimulating. I am very pleased the club is even more dedicated to propagating plants for our members, thanks to the Propagation Committee. In September with our neighboring Mid-Atlantic chapters, Delaware and Liberty Bell, we were able to hold a highly successful regional show. The challenge now is to work out where and how we duplicate this event and how that could impact our September flower show. The NCAC chapter normally has a fall show every year and a half. We shall have to address the NCAC show schedule further in 2013. On March 9, 2013 we shall be attempting a new idea to have a Flower Show Exhibit (and sale) that is focused on education. Since this show is only 3 months away please propagate some plants for the sale and grow some beautiful plants to exhibit. Lee has written some wonderful designs with the theme: **A Rainbow of Gesneriads**. Please voice your opinions about these events so that the club moves in a direction that satisfies most of the membership. If there is a program you want to hear, let someone know. The more everyone contributes, the fresher our club will stay in 2013.
Brian Connor

Thieving Gesneriphiles Gift Swap

Brown Bag Gift Exchange

(modified from the Yankee Swap official rules)

- Everyone gets a randomly drawn number when they bring an unlabeled brown paper bag wrapped plant, or plant related item.
- Don't mark the bag with your name or with what's inside.
- Nobody leaves until it's over.
- The person who picks first, also gets to pick last.
- The person with the lowest number goes first. He or she chooses a paper bag, opens it, and takes it back to their seat.
- Each person in order then gets the choice of either picking an item already opened by someone else (Thief!), or choosing a new bag to open.
- The person whose item is stolen then gets to either steal from someone else or open a new bag. You cannot steal back an item stolen from you in the same turn.
- Choosing or swapping continues until all bags have been chosen.
- Finally, the person who picked first gets to choose from everything opened, or keep the gift that they already have.
- Please bring an appropriate gift that you know a fellow plant lover will enjoy. The value should be around \$15.



Ask Mr. Gesneriad

Barb Stewart asks:

I purchased one of the *Diastema comiferums* plants at MAAVS sale. Can Mr. G. provide some cultural information with tips on how

to grow it? Rob says it doesn't really need terrarium culture, but I can't find much online except some spectacular photos. Looks like it can get pretty big.

Mr. G:

This is a great plant. It doesn't get much larger than 12" tall or wide. It doesn't require especially high humidity. And the flowers are a really nice red in fairly large numbers. Standard soil mix and relatively low light will do fine with it. Have fun with it.

Barb Stewart asks:

I repotted my *Sinningia reitzii* and found a bunch of small tubers clustered together. I looked on line and found a picture which said it had "multiple lobes". Are "multiple lobes" the same as multiple tubers? Should I keep them together or separate them and grow them individually?

Mr. G:

The multiple lobes are indeed multiple tubers. You can separate them from the mother tuber and just wait for them to sprout. I would plant them near the very top of the soil mix until they sprout, unless you can actually see the eye of the tuber and make sure you're planting it right side up.

Barry Woolf asks:

Regarding Mini Sinningias: How do you tell when the seed pod is ready to be harvested? Is there a best time/stage to harvest? Do the seeds need any special treatment?

Mr. G:

Just wait until the capsule has turned brown and has just started to split. The seed won't spill completely under lights or in a greenhouse unless the seedpod is getting blown around with a fan. Not likely the case with the mini Sinningia. Many of the mini seeds have a very short period of viability. Plant them within a couple weeks of harvesting them. Just sprinkle over the surface of a moist, sterile potting mix (I microwave mine to kill any moss or fungus spores in the soil as they can easily out-grow and cover the small seedlings) and enclose the pot in an airtight container (ziplock baggies work great) under light. The seed needs light to germinate, and must not dry out during the early stages of growth.

South Sea Violet Show

MAAVS 2012 (*South Sea Violets* in Richmond) was a feast for the eyes, as it always is. Please congratulate NCAC's Barbara Stewart, for not only winning Best Design in Show but also 2nd Best Design in Show for her flat sided terrarium and natural garden.



Best in Design – straight sided terrarium, exhibited by Barbara Stewart, Richmond AVS

Barbara gave the group an excellent program last February on how to create a dish garden (now try to recall her tips!). NCAC's Kitty Hedgepeth won best *Saintpaulia* species with my favorite species, *Saintpaulia 5cl clone tongwensis*. (Wish it was mine!) Kitty also won Best in Class for *Primulina* 'Decco', '*Primulina species*. USBRG 98-083 and a new *Streptocarpus* hybrid, 'Kitty's Blue Monday'. David Dick of Richmond AVS showed us that you only need to bring one plant to show- if you are a genius grower. His lone *Saintpaulia* 'Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler' won Best in Show! The *Streptocarpus* classes were very competitive. The charming Linda Abplanalp won Best Strept and Best Gesneriad in Show with *Streptocarpus* 'Targa.' I had seen photos of 'Targa' before and it never made my top *Streptocarpus* wish list, until seeing Linda's exhibit of the rich, deep purple, grapey blossoms of S. 'Targa'. Now it is a must have *Streptocarpus*! Linda won the horticultural sweepstakes with 58 blues (that's right!) and Linda best *Saintpaulia* mini 'Jolly Orchid' and semi-mini 'Rob's Dodo Bird'.



Best Species – *S. tongwensis*, exhibited by Kitty Hedgepeth, Richmond AVS

Josane Wagner won best first time MAAVS exhibitor with *Streptocarpus* 'Butter Blues' and *Streptocarpus* 'Nightmare' was stunning with deep purple veined flowers accentuated with a touch of an amazing orange in the throat. 'Nightmare' was hybridized by Nancy Block, who has developed unique looking *Streptocarpus* hybrids. Best Vintage African Violet went to Vickie Carr, for 'Happy Harold' one of the oldest variegated African Violet hybrids around. It was nice to see it in a show.



Best in Show – Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, exhibited by David Dick, Richmond AVS

I (Brian) won a couple of Best in Class with *XSmithico-donia* 'Heartlands Joy', *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' and *Sinningia bullata*. Try pinching 'Prudence Risley.' More leaves means more flowers. All in all, it was a wonderful plant filled weekend.

Brian Connor photos by Barb Stewart



MAAVA's Best in Class - *Columnea* Firebird



Streptocarpus 'Targa' MAAVA's Best Streptocarpus and Best Gesneriad grown by Linda Abplanalp. Photo courtesy of Josane Wagner.



Third Best in Design – exhibited by Sharon Long, Richmond AVS



Best in Class – underwater design, exhibited by Carol Van, Tidewater AVS



Barb's dish garden RAVS 2012

Barb's Tips on her Dish and Natural Gardens

This dish garden is one I used in our local violet show last spring which won best in design. I have kept it going by keeping it in a covered terrarium. Several plants still had to be replaced, though. Usually I have to break them down right after show because the plants can't survive in the shallow dish.



MAAVS 2012

The natural garden in the driftwood (picture on first page) was thrown together at the last minute. This is where smaller is better. With a small piece of wood, I couldn't put much on it, so it went together quickly. I currently have it in a terrarium, because, like dish gardens, it won't last in the open. In a natural garden,

the plants are really abused. I have them wired, wrapped, pinned, and stuffed into small holes. I usually put my container gardens together the weekend before the show and just keep them fresh by covering them with a dry cleaning bag and regular misting.

It was a really fun dish to work with!

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Primulina</i>	'Cynthia'	Andrew Norris
<i>Smithiantha</i>	<i>aurantica</i>	Andrew Norris
<i>Petrocosmea</i>	<i>kerrii</i>	Barb Stewart
<i>Koelikeria</i>	<i>erinoides 'Judy'</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Kohleria</i>	<i>warszewiczii</i>	Barry Woolf
<i>Primulina</i>	'Diane Marie'	Barry Woolf
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<i>Pearcea</i>	<i>hypocrytifolia</i>	Corey Wickliffe
<i>Gasteranthus</i>	<i>villosus</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Smithiantha</i>	<i>multiflora</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Xgloxseemannia</i>	<i>She's Dancin'</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Smithiantha</i>	<i>zebrina</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Sinningia</i>	<i>Aurora Borealis'</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Rhytidophyllum</i>	<i>leucomal</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Gesneria</i>	<i>rupincola</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Sinningia</i>	<i>concinna</i>	Ken Moore
<i>Sinningia</i>	'Li'l Georgie'	Lee Stradley
<i>Saintpaulia</i>	'Optimara Colorado'	Mike Cagley
<i>Sinningia</i>	'Orange Raindrops'	Mike Cagley
<i>Streptocarpus</i>	'Cape Essence'	Mike Cagley

Fragrant Gesneriads by John Boggan

Reprinted with permission

Part 4

Sinningia was represented until recently by only one fragrant species: *Sinningia tubiflora*. This species is not widely grown because it is a tall grower and requires lots of light to bloom, but it is well worth the effort for the large, intensely fragrant pure white flowers. Although the pollinator of *S. tubiflora* is unknown, it is most likely a long-tongued sphinx moth. *Sinningia tubiflora* is hardy, as gesneriads go; it has been reported to overwinter successfully in northern Florida. Some people consider the powerful lemony fragrance overwhelming, but I have met at least one person who could not smell it at all!

How things have changed! There are now several other fragrant *Sinningias* in cultivation, as a result of hybridization and introduction of new species. One of the first "other" fragrant sinningias was Peg Conner's 'Apricot Bouquet'.

This hybrid of *Sinningia aggregata* 'Pendulina', *S. tubiflora*, and *S. warmingii* has flowers with a toned-down version of the scent of its *S. tubiflora* parent; and as a bonus, has lemon-scented leaves from its *S. aggregata* parent. It is unknown whether the compounds responsible for the scented leaves and flowers are chemically similar. However, the fact that the fragrance came through in 'Apricot Bouquet' suggests that it is a dominant characteristic, and should alert hybridizers to the possibility of producing other fragrant hybrid sinningias! There is another plant in cultivation in the Smithsonian greenhouses, unfortunately without a name,

that probably represents another of Peg's hybrids. It is obviously a *S. tubiflora* hybrid, but is more compact, has large pale yellow flowers with a pleasant lemony scent, and slightly fragrant leaves as well.

Several recently introduced *Sinningia* species are also fragrant, though not to the degree of *S. tubiflora*. *Sinningia guttata*, *S. villosa*, and *S. lindleyi*, all closely related to *S. helleri*, the type species of *Sinningia*, have fleeting, sweet fragrances. The scent of *S. villosa* has been described as "sweet minty" by Peter Shalit, and that of *S. lindleyi* as "key lime pie" by Jon Dixon. Like *S. tubiflora*, the long-tubed white, yellow, or pale green flowers of these species are suggestive of moth pollination. However, the fact that these species are most strongly scented during the day suggests a large, long-tongued bee instead.



Sinningia conspicua is another newly

introduced species with a sweetly scented flower. This is one species with a scent I don't find especially pleasant, although others do. The scent has been described as lemony. Plants from wild-collected seeds have proven to be quite variable with respect to growth habit, flower shape and color, and intensity of fragrance. Seeds from a fragrant selection



are available through the AGGS Seed Fund. *Sinningia conspicua* is a close relative of *S. eumorpha*, which has never been reported to have fragrant flowers, although I would certainly expect it to. Dave Zaitlin has been crossing the two species in hopes of producing plants like *S. eumorpha* but with the fragrant yellow flowers of *S. conspicua*.



Sinningia cardinalis



Sinningia leucotricha

Like *S. eumorpha*, *S. conspicua* will produce fertile hybrids with *S. cardinalis*, *Streptocarpus macropoda*, *S. leucotricha*, and all other members of this group of species. These hybrids will have smaller but more numerous flowers in shades of red, purple, pink, and orange, and will probably not be scented. However, back-crossing to *S. conspicua* should yield some very interesting plants with larger flowers in a wide range of colors, including yellow, with the possibility of recovering fragrance. *Sinningia conspicua*, like *S. eumorpha*, might be persuaded to make the occasional odd cross with the taller *Sinningia* species. While these crosses have little horticultural merit, it would be very interesting to produce a hybrid with *S. tubiflora* and see if it is fragrant! Crosses between *S. eumorpha* and *S. tubiflora* were produced by Carl Clayberg several years ago, but there is no indication that they were fragrant.

Smithiantha canarina has a slight lemony scent, appropriately enough for its bright lemon-yellow flowers.



Streptocarpus candidus

Streptocarpus species are among the few Old World gesneriads reported to have fragrant flowers, and even then only six species have been reported, all in subgenus *Streptocarpus*.



Streptocarpus fanniniae

Streptocarpus candidus, *S. fanniniae*, and *Streptocarpus wilmsii* are close relatives that are described as being sweetly honey-scented. Maryjane Evans describes *S. candidus* as having "an intense fragrance of warm honey." On the *Streptocarpus fanniniae* other hand, *S. vandeleurii*, *S. eylesii* and *Streptocarpus wittei*

are described as having a strong (but not necessarily unpleasant) scent like a mixture of honey and creosote. Most of these species are available from the AGGS Seed Fund; unfortunately, all are rather large growers, and not all selections of these species are fragrant. Martin Kunhardt has been distributing seeds from crosses with some of these species. One cross with *S. vandeleurii* yielded pleasantly scented flowers (see Peter Shalit's 1994 article "Fragrant *Streptocarpus* Hybrids—Really!" in *CrossWords* 18(3): 6), suggesting that this characteristic is dominant in crosses, and well worth working with. All these species should be crossed with more compact species and cultivars, in an effort to bring their fragrance into plants more suitable for indoor culture. The definitive reference on this large genus is Hilliard & Burt's *Streptocarpus: An African Plant Study* (1971, University of Natal Press), a treasure if you can find it.

Finally, there are several genera of gesneriads in which we would expect to find fragrant flowers, but none have been reported. This may be because they are rarely cultivated and poorly known, or because the fragrances are detectable to their pollinators but not to us. Two such genera are *Lembocarpus* and *Monopyle* both have flowers similar to those of *Gloxinia perennis* and like that species have no nectary, leading one to expect a fragrance to attract a pollinator. I have specifically checked for fragrance in the flowers of *Lembocarpus amoenus* and *Monopyle flava* and detected none. But maybe it's just my nose! This is by no means the last word on fragrance in gesneriads. There are sure to be many more fragrant species out there. There may even be some well-known species that we have overlooked. So the next time you have a plant blooming, stick your nose in and give its flowers a sniff.

This article was originally published in slightly different form in *The Gloxinian*, Third Quarter 1996 (V. 46, No. 3).

Bloomin' Now

Andrew Norris' many blooming plants!



Saintpaulia 'Arcturus'



Saintpaulia 'Rob's Combustible Pigeon'



Saintpaulia 'Icy Sunset'



Saintpaulia 'Outer Limits'



Andrew's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'



Andrew's *Streptocarpus* 'Kahori'



Andrew's *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Mars'

Barry Woolf has made a most excellent plant stand with lights for his gesneriads. (Has big greenhouse) He is willing to share the directions if you ask him. Here are some pictures. (Barry are you taking orders?) ☺





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 Membership: Kyoko Imai
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Donna's Bloomin' Now



Phinea ecuador purchased at our September show

A Rainbow of Gesneriads March 2013

DIVISION I HORTICULTURAL

SECTION A New World Gesneriads —

Tuberous and Rhizomatous

Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids

Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species and hybrids (largest leaf greater than 1" long)

Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (largest leaf less than 1" long)

Class 4 Other tuberous gesneriads (*Chrysothemis*, *Nautilocalyx*)

Class 5 *Kohleria*

Class 6 Other rhizomatous gesneriads (*Achimenes*, *Smithiantha*, *Gloxinia*, *Seemannia*)

SECTION B New World Gesneriads —

Fibrous-Rooted

Class 7 *Codonanthe*, *xCodonanthus* and *Nematanthus*

Class 8 *Columnea* (*Dalbergaria*, *Pentadenia*, *Trichantha*)

Class 9 *Episcia*, *Alsobia*

Class 10 Other fibrous-rooted New World gesneriads

SECTION C Old World Gesneriads

Class 11 *Aeschynanthus*

Class 12 *Petrocosmea*

Class 13 *Primulina*

Class 14 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as miniatures OR as semi-miniatures (max of 8" diam.)

Class 15 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as standards (more than 8" diam.)

Class 16 *Saintpaulia* trailer

Class 17 *Streptocarpus*

Class 18 Other Old World gesneriads

DIVISION II ARTS & ARTISTIC

Gesneriads should predominate. Live and dried material permitted. Accessories are optional.

Saintpaulia permitted in all classes. Plant material used must be identified on an accompanying 3" x 5" card. Reservations for entries in classes XX through XX and class should be made with XX by Feb 28, 2013. Limit of 4 entries per class.

SECTION D

Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Plant Material

Class 19 "Gesneriads on the Red Carpet" - a glitzy, glamorous arrangement that highlights the stars of the Show, gesneriads. Feathers, sequins, and glitter are encouraged to let your imagination soar! Niche Size: 12" H x 10"! x 10" D

Class 20 "Pot o' Gold" traditionally found at the end of the rainbow, this one holds a treasure of gesneriads. Niche Size: 10" H x 10" W x 8" D

Class 21. "Everglades" - this is a FOLIAGE ONLY arrangement that shows off the many shades of green in this national park that stretches across south Florida. Water or the appearance of water would enhance it.

Niche Size: 12" H x 10" W x 10" D

Class 22 "Blue Mountains of Australia" - as seen from a distance, these craggy cliffs and mountains west of Sydney appear blue due to the vast numbers of eucalyptus trees. This is a VERTICAL

ARRANGEMENT. Niche Size: 12" H x 8" W x 8" D

Class 23. "Double Rainbow" - this is a twin arrangement, no foliage, FLOWERS, BUDS, AND/OR CALYCES ONLY that combine to form a colorful representation of the range of hues that can be found within the gesneriad family. And, your luck and enjoyment is doubled!

SECTION E

Planting of Growing Material (Artistically and horticulturally balanced)

Class 24 Terrariums

Class 25 Tray/dish landscape or Natural Garden

Class 26 Recycled container

Class 27 Other container, not the usual form of plastic or clay pot

SECTION F

Photography. The subject must be identified on the entry card. Exhibitors should provide an easel for prints 5" x 7" or over. Limit of 2 entries per class per exhibitor.

Class 28 Color print of Gesneriad(s)

Class 29 Monochrome print

Class 30 Digital display of gesneriad photo(s) (i-pad, computer or electronic picture frame)

SECTION G

Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 31 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)

Class 32 Textile (exhibitor must provide a card giving the source of the design)

Class 33 Other crafts

DIVISION III EDUCATIONAL

SECTION H

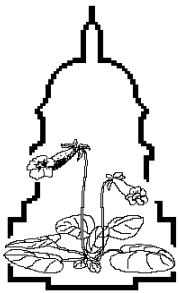
Educational Exhibits

Class 34 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion

Class 35 Exhibit of plant material. Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural information, and reason for inclusion in this class

Class 36 E-Gesneriads (computer exhibits)

PowerPoint or other computer exhibit that provides educational information on gesneriads



Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

Volume 43 Number 2

February 2012

President's Message

A belated Happy New Year to all of you. Hard to believe it's the end of January as I write this. We still haven't had a "Winter". I was slow at bringing in my pots of hardy Sinningia in the Fall. In fact, I didn't really worry about the outside temperatures until January 2nd when I finally brought the pots indoors. If they were in the ground they probably would still be alright; however, growing in pots exposed to the surrounding air is a bit risky for the hardy plants.

We've got an exciting year coming up this year. This is supposed to be our break year from shows, but instead we're going to go a bit overboard and participate in a regional show collaborating with the local Delaware and Philadelphia chapters. I don't have the dates in front of me, but I believe we'll be entering our plants on Sept. 29 and showing on Sept. 30. This will be very much like the MAAVS event that has been going on with African Violets.

And of course, let's not forget the Gesneriad Society Convention in Seattle this year. I haven't been to Seattle in years, but the green-ness of the city still sticks in my mind. The Pacific Northwest has some fantastic growers, on both sides of the border with Canada, and we should see impressive quality, quantity and sheer numbers of Gesneriads!

This will be my first Convention as Convention Chair. I could use some support out there in Seattle. So far Ki is the only NCAC member that has registered. Come on people! It's going to be fun!

We've got some great programs lined up for the next few months, and I'm sure Brian will come up with some more before much longer. In February our own Barbara Stewart will be presenting the dish garden program that she was too sick to present at the September Show. March will be the propagation program that we haven't had for a while. This will be our chance to share cuttings and seedlings and some of the rare stuff that we've picked up at shows and outside meetings. Then in April Michael Riley, long-time grower and Past President of the Gesneriad Society, will be here to talk about his VERY SPECIAL way of growing plants in New York City.

So let's all plan on a great 2012! See you at the meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

Meetings will be located in the trailer at the National Arboretum unless noted.

Saturday, February 11th

Barb Stewart "Dish Gardens"

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am

Saturday, March 10th

Propagation and Plant Swap

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am

Saturday, April 14th

Michael Riley, "Epiphytes in the Concrete Jungle"

Door opens at 9:30am Meeting at 10:00am

Meeting dates for 2012

May 12th, Summer picnic, September 8th, October 13th, December 8th

Bloomin' Now

Barb's Amaryllis from the Christmas Event. This is the second stalk of bloom!



Bloomin' Now

Shared by Johanna



Simningia 'Carangola' grown by US Botanic Garden staff



Johanna's *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Hallucination' 2 views



Bloomin' Now

Donna's basil



I threw a bunch of various basil seeds I pulled off of my summer plants into a pot on my counter. These babies grew perfectly under the light on my kitchen counter with some Chirita's I was keeping my eye on and a coleus cutting. Donna

Chapter Desperately Seeking

- Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Blue'.....Brian Connor
- Streptocarpus* 'Rose Halo'.....Brian Connor
- Streptocarpus* 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'.....Brian Connor
- Niphimenes* 'Lemonade'.....Brian Connor
- Henckelia malayana*.....Brian Connor
- Henckelia ANYTHING!...*.....Brian Connor
- Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Goose Egg'.....Donna Beverin
- Begonia schmidtiana*.....Donna Beverin
- xAchimenantha* 'Dutch Treat'.....Donna Beverin
- Simningia* 'Li'l Georgie'Lee Stradley
- Chirita* 'Veracunda'.....Barry Woolf
- Kohleria warszewiczii*.....Barry Woolf



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Hot Time Tonight' MAAVS First place

History and Culture of the Streptocarpus

by Brian Connor

Commonly known as the Cape Primrose, *Streptocarpus* is actually a diverse genus of gesneriads, remarkable for its exquisite flowers and botanical oddity. Genetically, *Streptocarpus* is divided into two sub-genera, that are closely related to *Saintpaulia* (African Violets). Subgenus *Streptocarpella* (probably a separate genus – the "*Streptocarpus* with stems") is less well known but has a wider geographical range in Africa and Asia. This article will deal only with the subgenus *Streptocarpus*: stemless rosette type plants native to South Africa. In nature, *Streptocarpus* is found along shaded river banks and hillside cliffs. The plants grow from gaps in the earth and crevices filled with moss, soil and pebbles. Even when there is a source of constant moisture, the roots are kept cool and well aerated. This is a crucial point to consider for indoor culture. The seedpods of *Streptocarpus* are characteristically twisted (*Streptocarpus* translates from Latin as "twisted seedpod"). Seedlings sprout as dicots, but then something bizarre happens. One of the cotyledons (seed leaves) dies and the other becomes the true leaf.



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For a few species such as *Streptocarpus dunnii* and *S. wendlandii*, this is the only leaf that is ever produced and it may grow 1 to 3 feet in length. These species are monocarpic and usually die after flowering.

Most species of *Streptocarpus* are perennials and produce multiple leaves after the single cotyledon in a stemless rosette.

Let me emphasize that most species and nearly all hybrids will not die after flowering.



© 2005 Kyoko Imai Unifoliate seedlings of *S. (polyanthus x prolixus)*.

Streptocarpus rexii (white, light blue to light purple flowers) was the first recognized species and the first to be cultivated around 1820. More species followed, including the red flowered *S. dunnii* in 1884. In the late 1880s, *S. rexii* was crossed with *S. dunnii*, *S. polyanthus* (white to blue-mauve flower with white to yellow throat) and *S. cyaneus* (white to blue flower with distinct lines in the throat). Their offspring gave rise to the *S. rexii* hybrids, with white, blue, purple, pink or

red flowers, often with a contrasting color or markings in the throat.



© Gustav Ciamaga
Wiesmoor hybrid *Streptocarpus*. Courtesy of <http://gesneriads.ca/>.

In the early 1950s, Fleischman introduced the Wiesmoor hybrids. The Wiesmoor hybrids were large plants with lovely flowers, 3 to 5 inches in diameter, often with ruffled edges. They were beautiful plants, but not easy to grow as houseplants and were often confused with (and mislabeled as) the *S. rexii* hybrids. Around this same time a little known hybrid in Great Britain was produced (with *S. johannis* as a parent) called 'Constant Nymph.' As it turned out, this hybrid was less showy than the Wiesmoors but was remarkably floriferous and flowered intermittently throughout the year. It wasn't until years later that horticulturists fully realized that 'Constant Nymph' was an important breakthrough in *Streptocarpus* hybridization.



© Ronald Myhr
S. johannis wall planting at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Courtesy of <http://gesneriads.ca/>.

Several other, very similar 'Nymphs' followed, all blue to purple flowered. Then the John Innes Institute began to extensively cross the Nymph series and *S. johannis* with other species and hybrids to create better, more floriferous plants in more vibrant colors. Plants such as 'Tina,' 'Fiona,' and 'Falling Stars' emerged in the 1970s and 80s and were marketed by Dibleys (<http://www.dibleys.com>).

The Dibleys became an important European hybridizer, introducing plants such as the lovely but ubiquitous 'Kim' and the Crystal series (using *S. kentaniensis* as a parent).



©2005 Kyoko Imai
S. 'Kim', shown at the 2006 NCAC Show.



©2008 Kyoko Imai
Hirsute leaves and buds of *S. kentaniensis*.



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S. 'Falling Stars'.

Plants such as 'Crystal Ice' grew very narrow strap like leaves in a more symmetrical rosette (the *S. kentaniensis* influence) and they are extremely floriferous under low light conditions. In Great Britain, Germany and Japan, *Streptocarpus* continue to be actively hybridized.



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S. 'Lavender Rosette', grown by Al Romero, GSNY. This is a hybrid by Dale Martens, registered in 1998.

Meanwhile, back in America, Jonathan Ford pioneered *Streptocarpus* hybridization and introduced such plants as 'Something Special' and the double 'Chorus Line.' Lyndon Lyon (<http://www.lyndonlyon.com>) and Rob's Violet Barn (the Bristol series, <http://www.violetbarn.com>) produced fantasy flowers such as 'Space Dust,' 'Bristol's Party Boy' and 'Bristol's Party Girl.'



©2007 Amy Ray
S. 'Bristol's Party Boy'.

Dale Martens ('Texas Hot Chili'), Lee Stradley (hybrids with *S. lilliputana*), Dennis Miller ('Neil's Strawberry') and others have produced an amazing array of innovative hybrids. However, the most prolific hybridizer in recent years has been David Thompson. He has burst onto the scene with 20-30 striking, free



©2008 Amy Ray S. 'Spin Art'.

flowering hybrids such as 'Purple Peppered,' 'Summer Parfait,' 'Spin Art,' 'Remembering John' and too many others to list. Two important trends in *Streptocarpus* hybridizing are variegated leaves and fragrant flowers. Plants such as 'Iced Pink Flamingo' and 'Iced Amethyst Showoff' have wonderful white and green variegated leaves. Offspring from crosses with *S. candidus* and *S. vandeleurii* may have scented flowers.



© Ronald Myhr
S. 'Crystal Ice', grown by Ronald Myhr. Courtesy of <http://gesneriads.ca/>.



S. Bristol's Goose Egg is fragrant, compact & very floriferous

History and Culture of *Streptocarpus*

Part II: Culture

For the most part, *Streptocarpus* culture is not terribly difficult. Most cultural problems begin with watering (especially wick watering) *Streptocarpus* and finding an appropriate soil mix.



© 2008 Kyoko Imai
Streptocarpus 'Iced Pink Flamingo,' 'Good Hope,' 'Spin Art,' 'Persian Carpet.'

LIGHT: *Streptocarpus*, like African violets, enjoy bright light but not many hours of direct sun. Of course, natural light can vary from window to window, depending on many factors. Usually, east and west-facing windows are the best because they tend to provide early morning/late afternoon sunlight. Plants may need to be placed several feet away from a southern exposure. Either 2-4 tube fluorescent fixtures give excellent results.

HUMIDITY: Moderate (30%), humidity doesn't need to be high for flowering

TEMPERATURE: Daytime temp of 65°-80° F and 55°-75° F nighttime temp is best. Temperatures above 85-90° F will cause some varieties to wilt.

WATERING: Here is a way *Streptocarpus* differ from AVs. *Streptocarpus* like to dry out more than AVs (surface dry, ¼

inch - dry) if you are watering by hand. If wick watering, use a MUCH lighter mix than for your AVs. I hate to admit it, but on rare occasions Streptocarpus have survived extreme wilting when plants have been “forgotten” or their wick has dried up or become dysfunctional.



© 2006 Kyoko Imai

Limp Streptocarpus (rexii x gardenii). Note how the leaves are so limp, they are hugging the pot.



© 2006 Kyoko Imai

The same Streptocarpus 36 hours after watering.

FEEDING: When wicking, I regularly use **half strength** (per label) 20/20/20 CONSTANTLY. I have used Miracle Gro Tomato (the pink powder) routinely. I have also used Schultz and Peters, AV fertilizers (half strength). And I add 2 tablespoons Hydrogen Peroxide per gallon of fertilizer to keep algae out of my wicking reservoirs. Once a month switch to a 12-36-14.

Lately I have been using some hydroponics type fertilizers that seem to work well.

If not wicking, feed at half strength at every watering or every 2 weeks at regular strength.

POTTING: Repot every 6 months to 1 year. Do not over-pot; under-potting is preferable.

SOIL MIX: If not wicking, a well draining AV mix with plenty of perlite will suffice (even the Cornell 1:1:1 mix). When wicking add extra coarse perlite, charcoal and diatomite. My wicking mix evolves and changes but it is 80-85% drainage material and very little “soil” (but that means regular fertilizing is necessary!).



Diatomite is a type of horticultural gravel composed of silica and is well known to orchid growers. Paradoxically, it provides drainage and aeration but absorbs water also. Diatomite comes in fine, small, medium and large grade. The fine grade looks like kitty litter and compacts too much (I think) for extensive use in my Strept Wicking mix. I am currently mixing the small with the medium grade diatomite. Also I insist on using coarse perlite in the wicking mix. This soil mix is an experiment in progress – so if you can improve it, please do so!

PROPAGATION: Seed, Division, Leaf Cuttings

Can propagate by seed which is very fine (1.8 million per ounce, according to Professor Moore)

Can also propagate by dividing multiple crowns

Leaf cuttings are the most rewarding method of propagation because you can get many offspring this way!

Cut leaf wedges or horizontal sections with the central rib removed. You can dust the cut side with rooting hormone powder if you choose

Bury the cut side of the leaf no more than ¼” in a well draining propagation mix

Like AVs, this process can take 2-4 months for babies to appear. Be patient!

Where each vein intersects the soil mix, a baby plant can potentially grow

Pot them up when they are large enough for you to handle



Streptocarpus 'Peachy Pink' baby, in Brian's mix.



© 2008 Kyoko Imai Streptocarpus leaf cuttings

• **GROW FOR SHOW:** Remove old flower stems as close to the leaves as possible. Trim (and shape) brown edges from leaves with pinking shears. This mimics the natural scalloped edges of Streptocarpus leaves, if done artfully. Disbud 9- 10 weeks before show and fertilize with 12-36-14 or another flower booster. About 4-5 weeks before show, stop disbudding and use 12-36-14 again. Streptocarpus are wonderful plants. There is more than one way to successfully grow a Strep! Try one!
Brian

Ask Mr. Gesneriad

Question:

I shared information from the latest issue of Gesneriads with folks in my violet club. The new names are given for a number of species. However, most of us are growing hybrids. How are they named? For example, Chirita sinensis is now Primulina dryas. What is Chirita sinensis "Hisako"? Is it now Primulina dryas "Hisako"?
Barbara

Answer:

Yes, Chirita sinensis 'Hisako' becomes Primulina dryas 'Hisako' (single quotes). Most hybrids are between two different species or a species and a hybrid and the species name is not needed to identify the hybrid. In the case of P. dryas 'Hisako' both parents were varieties of Primulina dryas so the species name is maintained.

Question:

I have a Hemiboea subcapitata that I was not brave enough to plant and leave out for the winter. Will it go dormant? If not, the foliage was damaged during one of the hurricanes; will the plant survive vigorous pruning in the spring?

Answer:

Hemiboea is a rhizomatous genus from S. China. It goes partly to mostly dormant over the dry winter season. If not forced into

dormancy it will send up additional stems when conditions improve in the Spring. When new growth pops up the old damaged stems can be cut back to the soil surface. The rhizomes in this genus can get quite large. I have personally dug rhizomes out of the garden that were 1 1/2 inches in diameter and over a foot long. Unlike the scaly rhizomes of new world Gesneriads, the old world rhizomes are smooth and look like underground stems with a few tiny leaves distributed along the length. Be brave this year. Plant at least part of the plant in some well-drained soil in the garden. The cold we get won't hurt them - it's pretty similar to their homeland. But excess moisture in the soil will drown them. The plants need to be dry when dormant.

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC)

A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

"The purpose of the chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in Gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of Gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."
(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of *Petal Tones*, the website, or contact one of the people below.

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NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>
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