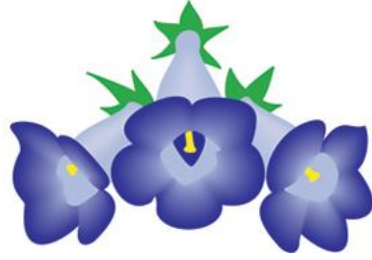


Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 1

January 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Alsobia species 'Chiapas'

Hoarders – One Man's Unnatural Obsession to Try to Grow it All

Jim Roberts

As you all know, I have a fairly substantial collection of plants growing under lights in the basement of my home. Currently the collection includes close to 800 different varieties of *Gesneriads*, plus some *Begonias*, succulents and miscellaneous other tropical plants. Oh, and that doesn't count a few hundred *Saintpaulia* hybrids. This talk has been given to the New York and Long Island Chapters of the Gesneriad Society and I figure it's about time I share it with everyone at our NCAC chapter!

NCAC meetings are held at ***BEHNKES NURSERIES***
11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

Behnkes opens at 8:00am if you would like to browse and shop before the meeting. We gather at 10am to get set up with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet usually the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues

January 11, 2014 One Man's Obsession to Try to Grow it All! by Jim Roberts

February 8, 2014 Show Preparation:
Cleaning your Plants for the Show & What the Judges are Looking For by Jim Roberts

March 8, 2014 NCAC Show March 8th and 9th

Gesneriads come from all over the world. Every continent except Antarctica has plants from this family (Mexico is considered part of North America so they're found on our continent too). They grow in all types of conditions from dry, rocky cliffs with winter temperatures near or below freezing to cloud forests with 100%+ humidity to temperate forests with conditions not much different than those found in Maryland. Yet, I grow them all under almost the same conditions under lights.

Experience a tour of my set-up with a brief description of the various genera and how I adapt them to my conditions. I am sure you will enjoy the talk and learn a lot of information that will help you grow your own *Gesneriads*. See you Saturday!

Ask Mr. Gesneriad !

From Joyce Carpenter

Growing and blooming *Kohlerias* is easy, but growing them really well seems quite difficult. I



have trouble with leaves turning down, lower leaves dying, etc., even with lots of light. Can you give us a definitive guide to growing great *Kohlerias*? Is it O.K. to let them grow all the time or should I force a dormancy, if necessary, to get the best-looking plants?

Mr. G's answer:

Kohleria require lots and lots of light. Even a six-tube fixture is barely enough for some species. They tend to get tall and leggy. The best way to get good looking show plants is to either re-root the flowering top of the plant or use a procedure called "rolling." Rolling involves letting the plant go slightly dry and then knocking it out of the pot. Roll the bottom length of the stem around the root ball to shorten the exposed portion of the stem. Put the plant back into the pot and put a fresh layer of soil on the surface. The plant doesn't go through any re-rooting stress and will look great in a couple of weeks.

The curled leaves and brown edges are generally the result of low humidity. Some varieties are better at tolerating low humidity. Try some of the hybrids by John Boggan, such as 'Gunsmoke', 'Rattlesnake', or 'Silver Feather'. The leaves are decorative even when the plant is not in bloom. They do not need a dormant period. The flesh rhizomes don't like to dry out at all. They generally start to grow as soon as they're formed.

Growing Begonias Indoors, the Violet Grower's Way

By: Andrew Norris

As you may have guessed, by the title, I am first and foremost an African Violet and Gesneriad grower. I have been active in my local chapters and the national organizations for both, Gesneriads and

Violets, for the past several years. I enjoy growing a large number of plants, indoors and exhibiting them, judging, giving lectures, and contributing to our local and national publications.



Begonias caught my eye, as another varied group of plants with show potential and I have met several begonia enthusiasts, which are also gesneriad enthusiasts. It was only a matter of time before my wandering eyes, set my acquiring impulses into motion and once it was decided I'd grow begonias, I amassed a collection of 83 varieties and species, in a mere 3 months time! I joined the Begonia society and the Buxton branch, with plans to join and attend the meetings, of the Potomac Branch. Having been invited to judge the Gesneriad show, I was treated to the beautiful display of begonias, exhibited by the Buxton branch members, who were also holding their show and sale. Of course, I came away with several begonia and gesneriad treasures, from my time there, and that was the real start of what promises to be a new and rewarding addiction.



Begonia 'Cook's Curl'

Typical of my modus operandi, I turned to the internet and began reading all that was available, regarding indoor growing of *Begonias*.



Begonia 'Beau Rouge'

My fellow grower and partner also happened to have a stash of back issues of [The Begonian](#), as well as Millie and Ed Thompson's "[Begonias: the Complete Reference Guide](#)". I was immediately struck by the omission of common gesneriad growing practices, such as wicking, and also by the very contradictory information, regarding lighting. I decided to just roll up my sleeves and apply what I already knew, from growing gesneriads and see how I did. I started by potting up plants, knowing I intended to wick the plants. For those not so inclined, wicking is a method of watering, where an adsorbent wick (I use cheap, 4-ply, acrylic yarn) is inserted into the pot bottom and left to dangle in a water and fertilizer solution. The plants are placed on grids, set over trays, which are kept constantly full. This has many benefits, including raising humidity, providing constant feeding, and allowing the grower to take time away, for travel.



Begonia 'Little Darlin'

This method does, however require the right growing mix, to avoid overwatering and rot. I tailor my mix to what I am growing. For my rhizomatous and Rex *Begonias*, I favor a mix of medium leca stones, coarse perlite (grade 3 or 4), long-fibered sphagnum moss, and whatever orchid mix or bark I have on

hand, added to a base of Pro-mix. I use the same mix for canes and hanging plants, but I use more Pro-mix, since they prefer a bit more moisture.

begonias prefer slightly acid conditions of around 6.5, though probably don't complain about neutral conditions.

I have grown rexes under various lighting schemes and find that all begonias will grow well under a 3 tube, T8 set-up, with a reflector, about 10'' above the plants. Plants also will not burn under 6 tube fixtures and I am growing most under 3 or 4 tube fixtures, on for 16 hours, per day. I use 6500k bulbs and I am sure 5000k bulbs or a cool/warm white combination would serve adequately. I find many of the species will do fine under 2 tubes, though I grow them closer to the tubes. I try to place plants that like it warmer on higher shelves and plants that like it cooler in lower shelves.



Begonia 'Pink Minx'

For tuberous and semi-tuberous varieties, I use very little Pro-mix and add Turface, which is a kitty litter-like clay aggregate, used to aerate clay soils. I grow species that like a lot of humidity and require enclosures, in long fibered sphagnum moss and coarse perlite, at about a 50/50 ration. I grow very few plants enclosed, since my ambient humidity stays between 60-80%, year round, due to the hoard of plants and the evaporation from so many open trays of water. With this method of watering, I use mostly shallow, pan type, plastic pots, except for canes and hanging plants. It also important to note, I do not place the wicks in the reservoirs, until the plants have a root system that nearly fills the pots. I top water young plants and newly repotted or semi-dormant plants, to prevent rot. I use a water soluble fertilizer, at 1/8 tsp per gallon and I use a fertilizer that lowers the pH, since our water test at about 7.2 pH and



Mix of terrarium *Begonias*

Temperatures are fairly constant, with about 65F night-time lows and 74-78F day-time highs. I utilize portable air conditioners and several fans to circulate

the air and keep heat from building up, with the many fixtures in use. I have not seen any powdery mildew and if that were a problem, I would reverse my light cycle to run my lights at night, thereby eliminating the temperature drops at night, that powdery mildew favors.



Jim's light stand as he will share with us during the January program of "One Man's Unnatural Obsession to Try to Grow it All"

Below one of Jim's plants for his presentation:

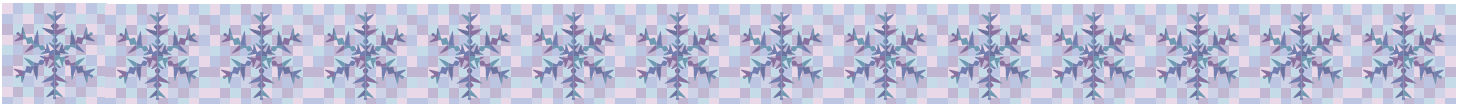


Begonia 'Curly Fireflush'

So far I have very successful, in my approach and hope others can utilize the wicking technique, to their advantage. I look forward to the upcoming year and hope to have my first begonias to enter, in some of the affiliate shows.



Jim Robert's *Gesneria schafferi*





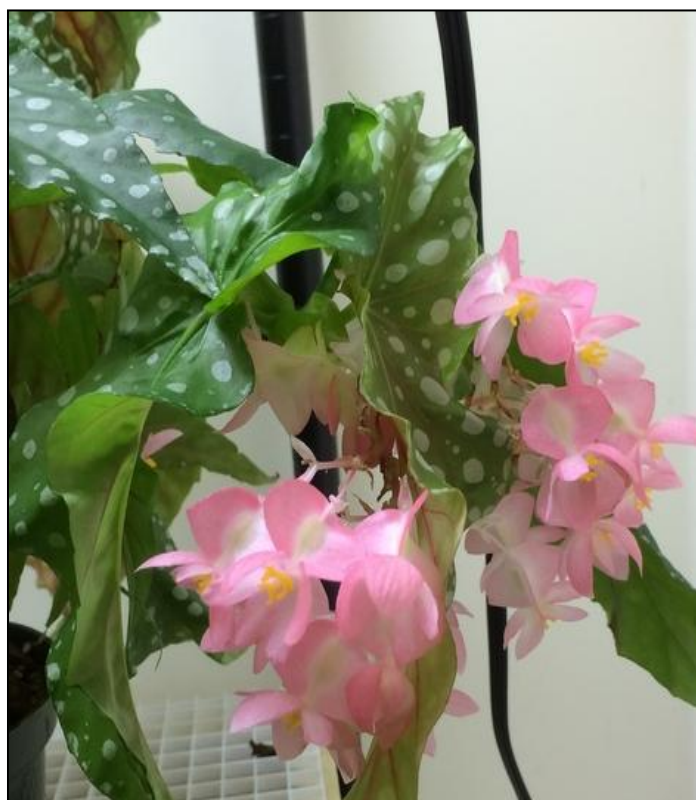
Andrew's *Begonia* 'Moonlit Snow'



Andrew's *Begonia* 'Chocolate Cream'



Andrew's *Begonia* 'Thelma O'Reilly'



Andrew's *Begonia* 'Flamingo Queen'

Bloomin' Now:



Johanna Zinn's *Amalophyllum clarkia*



Johanna's *Amalophyllum clarkia* bloom

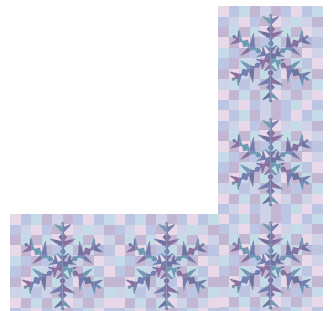


Johanna's *Aeschynanthus*



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus* close up

Donna's *Petrocosmea* species #5 Bloomin' Now





Gesneriads Go to the Movies

Plant Show and Sale
Sponsored by the
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER
of
THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY

March 8 & 9, 2014
Behnkes Nursery
11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705
Beltsville, MD

Friday, March 7, 2014
Entries: 1 p.m. to 5 pm

Saturday, March 8, 2014
Entries: 8am to 9:30am
Judging: 10am to 1pm
Show & sale: 1pm to 5pm
Lecture: *Sinningia* in Brazil by Dave Zaitlin 2pm
Awards Dinner: 5:30pm

Sunday March 9, 2014
Show & sale: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lectures: What is a Gesneriad? By Jim Roberts 10am
Gesneriad Propagation By Brian Connor 1 pm

SHOW RULES

- Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
- Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society.
- Entries will be accepted only during hours specified, unless approved by the Show Chair.
- 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.
- Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by Show Chair after entries close.
- No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes.

- 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 of Division II or Commercial or Educational exhibits in Division IV.
- 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.
- All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including educational exhibits as well as entries for exhibit only.
- 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.Honorable Mention may also be awarded.
- 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.
 1. 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.
 2. Judges and Clerks who wish to enter may remove their plants at the end of Saturday, but must first notify the 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.

Many Thanks to the Committee Members who helped with the Arrangements for this Show:

Show Chair: Jim Roberts
Show Co- Chair: Brian Connor
Judges and Clerks: Barbara Stewart
Entries: TBD
Classification: Andrew Norris
Staging: Corey Wickliffe
Placement: Corey Wickliffe
Hospitality: Harold Belcher
Awards: Donna Beverin
Plant Sales: Barry Wolfe
Publicity: Ken Moore

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 tuberous Gesneriads

SECTION B

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Rhizomatous

Class 8 *Achimenes*, *XAchimenantha*

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 *Columnnea* (*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 Qualities Other Than Flowers

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 leaf variegation

Class 35 *Primulina* species

Class 36 *Primulina* hybrids

Class 37 Other gesneriads with green-and-white leaf variegation

Class 38 Other gesneriad species

Class 39 Other gesneriad hybrids

SECTION F

New Gesneriads

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

Class 43 Species in flower

Class 44 Species not in flower

Class 45 Hybrids or named cultivars in flower

Class 46 Hybrids or named cultivars not in flower

SECTION G

Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

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

Class 47 In flower

Class 48 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 card with identification of plants. In Class 50, exhibitor must provide educational information on the card.

Class 49 Plants of a single genus (species, cultivars or hybrids)

Class 50 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 51 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 52 Gesneriads in flower

Class 53 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 card. Reservations for entries in classes 54 through 62 should be made with Corey Wickliffe at cewickliffe@gmail.com by March 1, 2014. Limit of 4 entries per class.

SECTION L

Arrangement of Fresh Cut or Dried Plant Material

Class 54 "The Hobbit" Orcs and Dragons, Hobbits and Wizards. An arrangement centered around the golden ring at the center of it all. 4" x 4" x 4"

Class 55 "Jurassic Park" Sure, the dinosaurs were big. But they all hatched out of eggs. A primitive arrangement in an eggshell. 6" wide x 8" tall x 6" deep

Class 56 "Twilight" Vampires aren't all bad. An arrangement of good and bad, light and dark. Sinister but with love behind it all. 12" wide x 14" tall x 12" deep

SECTION M

Arrangement of Fresh Cut or Growing Gesneriads

Class 57 The Smurfs: There aren't any true blue gesneriads. A totally blue arrangement with the exception of the Gesneriad flowers. 6" x 6" x 6"

Class 58 The Little Mermaid: a magical realm under the sea. An underwater arrangement. A 12" square black ceramic base will be provided

Class 59 ET: An escape on a bicycle. What a perfect theme for a mobile arrangement. 12" x 12" x 12".

Arrangement must be suspended above the base and be able to move. Exhibitor must provide rod or other support mechanism.

SECTION N

Arrangement of Growing Gesneriads

Class 60 Chicago: Plants behind bars. An arrangement showing lots of activity and emotion. 14" x 14" x 14"

Class 61 Cast Away: An island theme with water or simulated water. 18" x 18" x 18"

Class 62 War Horse: A foliage only arrangement depicting the beautiful Irish/ English countryside. Decorative calyces and berries allowed, but no flower buds showing color or open flowers. 12" x 12" x 16" High

SECTION O

Arrangement of Growing Material – Artistically Balanced. Gesneriads must Predominate.

Class 63 Terrarium Straight Sided – Maximum 18" Length x Depth. No height restriction

Class 64 Terrarium Curve Sided – Maximum 18" Length x Depth. No height restriction

Class 65 Tray Landscape – No size restrictions

Class 66 Natural Garden—a planting in weathered wood, rock or other natural material

Class 67 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 68 Artistic entry suitable for any of the classes in Sections L, M or N. 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.

Class 69 Color print of Gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat

Class 70 Color print of parts of a Gesneriad (flowers, fruits, foliage, etc.)

Class 71 Color print of a whole Gesneriad plant

Class 72 Black and white print

Class 73 Digital display of gesneriad photo(s)

SECTION Q

Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 74 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)

Class 75 Textile (exhibitor must provide a card giving the source of the design)

Class 76 Other crafts

DIVISION IV COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

SECTION R

Commercial

Class 77 Display table with a grouping of 10 or more gesneriads

Class 78 Display table with a grouping of fewer than 10 gesneriads

SECTION S

Educational

Class 79 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion

Class 80 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 81-Gesneriads (computer exhibits) PowerPoint or other computer exhibit that provides educational information on gesneriads

Class 82 – Companion Plants. Plants which are grown alongside the gesneriads in this show. Exhibits will be judged by the public – not the gesneriad Judges. Educational card giving information about the plant family, where it grows in nature if a species, or where the hybrid originated and what gesneriads require similar conditions is required.

• **The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries should be removed between 4 and 5 p.m. on Sunday.**

National Capital Area Chapter Gesneriad Judges Schools

On April 19, 2014 the National Capital Area Chapter will be hosting two Gesneriad Society Judging Schools at the home of Jim Roberts in Marriottsville, MD. The schools will be held for both entry level (no judging status yet) and for advanced Judges who already hold Student, Senior or Master Judge Certifications. The Classes will be limited to 20 students total between the two groups, so make your reservations now.

The instructors for the classes will be Paul Kroll from New York, leading the Advanced Group and Jim Roberts leading the Student Group. Although the main purpose of the School is to train and qualify judges, and places for those attending the school to become judges or to learn more for their judge's certification will take priority, you can also attend just to learn more about how plants are judged in a show. Those wishing to just sit in will be notified by April 12th if a place is available for them. Participants are expected to bring the latest copy of The Gesneriad Society Manual for Judges and Exhibitors. The manual is free to Gesneriad Society Members or \$4.00 for non-members and can be ordered here:

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/Shop/misc.htm>

Fees for the School will be \$20 for members of NCAC and \$25 for non-members. The fee includes a light lunch and all other supplies. Make you check payable to NCAC , The Gesneriad Society. There will be lots of plant material to see, but it would be nice if each attendee were to bring a plant for practice judging. Registration forms will be available soon pending approval.

Upcoming Shows/Sales

April 12 Christiana DE

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's 2014 Annual Show and Sale

Theme: "Casting a Violet Spell"

Free admission and parking--handicapped accessible
Saturday, April 12, 2014 10 a.m. – 5 p.m

Boscov's Department Store Christiana Town Center
Delaware Route 273 Christiana, Delaware

Choice and rare patio and houseplants for sale!

For more information, contact: Quentin Schlieder or visit our website:

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

April 5-6 Morris County NJ

African Violet Club of Morris County

19th Annual show & plant sale

Haggerty Education Building

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave.,
Morristown, NJ 07960

April 5 1:30pm – 4:30pm; April 6 11:00am – 3:00pm

Additional information: Karyn Cichocki,
kdc05@ptd.net or 973-579-7914

NCAC website:

www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

NCAC Blog:

<http://dcgesneriads.blogspot.com/>

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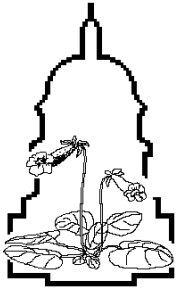
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

<http://dcgesneriads.blogspot.com/>

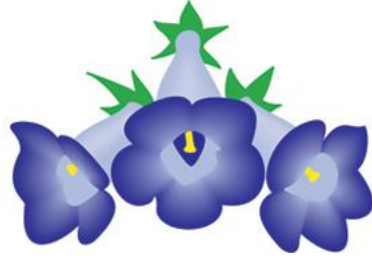
dcgesneriads -at- gmail.com

The Gesneriad Society website:

www.gesneriadsociety.org



Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 2

February 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Saintpaulia 'Tina's April Fantasy'

(Swedish Reg. #S-2206/2005, Tina Elfstrom)

This is a fantasy leaf with spots and streaks like the fantasy blossom. The dark red spots in the leaf areas are not a virus, pest, or cultural issue but are caused by a "jumping gene" in the cytoplasm of the leaf cells. This small standard *Saintpaulia* propagates true from a leaf and was grown by Barb Stewart. (ref: www.bloomlovers.com).

Preparing Your Plant for Show by Jim Roberts

Many newer growers grow excellent plants and then don't bring them to the Show because they "are novices" and don't really know if their plants are good enough.

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Behnkes opens at 8:00am if you would like to browse and shop before the meeting. We gather at 10am to get set up with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet usually the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues

February 8, 2014 Show Preparation:
Cleaning your Plants for the Show & What the Judges are Looking For by Jim Roberts

March 8, 2014 NCAC Show March 8th and 9th.
See details later in this newsletter

April 12, 2014 TBA

Bring your plants to the meeting and let our panel of Judges (Jim, Brian, Barbara and Drew) let you know what needs to be done between now and March to make them Blue Ribbon Winners. Sure, not all will make it. Gesneriad shows are judged competitively, and there can only be one blue ribbon per class. But knowing that your plant scored in the 90+ range should be encouraging. The Program will review the score sheets for In Bloom and Grown for Qualities Other than Bloom (foliage). You will learn how many points can be lost for a dirty pot or dirty leaves. Does it matter if the plant isn't "perfect?" How much bloom is needed? What constitutes a good plant for the decorative foliage

classes? *Petrocosmea* used to do well here. They even had their own class for a while. But now they compete with all other plants grown for foliage. Can *Petrocosmea* plant make the grade? Also included will be tips on cleaning your pot, last minute grooming, shaping and staking. We all have show quality plants on our stands. You just have to learn what the judges are looking for and supply their needs.

Bloomin' Now

Barb Stewart's plants



Smithiantha 'Pat's Pet Donkey'



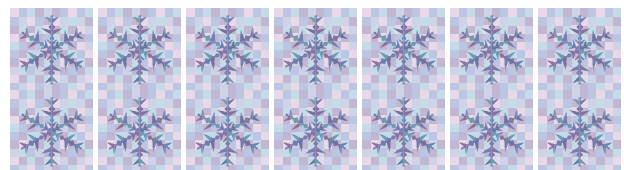
Smithiantha 'Pat's Pet Donkey' close up



Kohleria 'Manchu'



Kohleria 'Red Ryder'





Eucadonia Andrewsii produced bunches of rhizomes all along the stem, in addition to filling the pot with rhizomes.



This is Sinningia TZ x PB blooming straight out of the tuber as the older stem, which bloomed summer into fall, starts to finally fade. A couple of seedlings can be seen coming up beside the tuber, one of which is already forming its own tuber.



Here is a close up of the blossom. I believe I have finally figured out what this cross is. After doing some more online research, this looks like Sinningia 'Texas Zebra' x Sinningia 'Peninsula Belle'. Sinningia 'Texas Zebra' is a hybrid of Sinningia 'California Gold' x (eumorpha x striata) by Dale Martens. S. 'Peninsula Belle' is a hybrid of S lineata x reitzii by Alan La Vergne around 1980. (info from Sinningia and Friends website <http://www.burwur.net/sinns/sinns.htm>)



This is an interesting mutation of *Streptocarpus* 'Midnight Flame'. (The top blossom is the normal color.)



This is *Sinningia* 'Flair' that bloomed recently.



This is a miniature unnamed *Sinningia* currently blooming.

Cure the Winter Blues with a Gesneriad Fairy Garden by Barbara Stewart

Fairy gardens are everywhere these days, and can be created for any season. Behnke Nurseries had some cute dish gardens for sale at Christmas, which inspired me to think about making a fairy garden with gesneriads. So when the polar vortex brought us a bit

of snow, I had several snow days to stay home and make a fairy garden. Dish gardens are challenging yet fun to make, and the possibilities are endless, so here is my method for creating one. I have made many dish gardens with basic round, oval, square or rectangle shapes, but now I look for containers with different and unusual shapes to give myself a new challenge. I recently found this leaf-shaped dish at a local thrift shop. I start with a shallow layer of drainage material, in this case leca stones which are light weight and hold water to help keep the dish from drying out so fast.



Next, I cover the stones with some plastic mesh (used for needlepoint), to keep soil from getting mixed up with the stones and inhibiting the drainage.



Rather than using my usual gesneriad soil which is

loaded with perlite (and floats to the top when the soil is watered), I use my heavier houseplant potting soil. This also helps retain more moisture; however, it still has some perlite in it which detracts from the overall appearance, so I cover the soil with a layer of Coir coconut fiber. Coir is fairly heavy and gives the soil a nice covering that does not wash out of place (as peat moss does).

The biggest challenge for me is the next step which is finding the right gesneriads to use. I search my plant stands for a variety of gesneriads with different textures, colors, and bloom (one advantage of having too many plants). I pull out several tall plants, some short bushy plants, and some small plants such as young *Episcia stolens*.

Now comes the fun part – creating my landscape design. A good design needs some variation in height which can be achieved with wood, rocks, etc, as well as plants of different heights. In a shallow dish or tray, tall plants need some support. If necessary, I would hot glue some floral pins to the bottom of the dish before filling it with soil.

This is used to anchor the wire-wrapped roots of my taller plants. (Of course, this requires my landscape plan to be well thought out before starting.) However, this dish has some depth to it, so pins are not necessary (and I can design as I go). I rummaged through my collection of driftwood to find a piece that just fits this dish, and not only gives some height but also supports my taller plant (in this case an *Alsobia San Miguel*) which I place in an opening just behind the wood. This plant fits nicely, but is a little



sparse, so I fill in with a blooming *Kohleria Manchu*, which has some additional new sprouts coming up to

fill in more space in the coming weeks. Then I add some short bushy plants, a young *Primulina Brassicoides* ‘Marble Leaf’ and a variegated *Saintpaulia*, being careful not to go overboard with variegated plants which might clash with each other. *And sometimes it helps to get the advice of an impartial observer (Spooky)...*



Now that the landscape plan is starting to take shape, I add some gravel for a path which leads to my fairy hut, and then fill in an empty space with a *Kohleria Silver Feather*, which has ornamental foliage but no blooms. At this point, I usually take a break and wait until the next day to fine tune my garden by adding small *Episcia stolens* or other miniature plants along my path. I also touch up my Coir ground cover and make my gravel path a little neater. When the snow in my yard melts, I will get some moss to cover the base of my tall plants which will help them stay moist, hold the soil down, and give a nice finish to the back of the design.



Plantings in shallow dishes or trays are very difficult to maintain, so I put mine in a covered terrarium to keep it from drying out. (Otherwise, it needs daily attention.) Hopefully it will last until spring when I will spruce it up and enter it in a show. (Although Spooky likes the fairy hut, gesneriad judges probably won't, so the fairies will be temporarily relocated until after the show.) Hopefully winter is almost over, but if not, then my next snow day may result in a fairy terrarium.

National Capital Area Chapter Gesneriad Judges Schools

On April 19, 2014 the National Capital Area Chapter will be hosting two Gesneriad Society Judging Schools at the home of Jim Roberts in Marriottsville, MD. The schools will be held for both entry level (no judging status yet) and for advanced Judges who already hold Student, Senior or Master Judge Certifications.

The instructors for the classes will be Paul Kroll from New York, leading the Advanced Group and Jim Roberts leading the Student Group. Although the main purpose of the School is to train and qualify judges, and places for those attending the school to become judges or to learn more for their judge's certification will take priority, you can also attend just to learn more about how plants are judged in a show. Those wishing to just sit in will be notified by April 12th if a place is available for them. Participants are expected to bring the latest copy of The Gesneriad Society Manual for Judges and Exhibitors. The manual is free to Gesneriad Society Members or \$4.00 for non-members and can be ordered here:

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/Shop/misc.htm>
Fees for the School will be \$20 for members of NCAC and \$25 for non-members. The fee includes a light lunch and all other supplies. Make you check payable to NCAC , The Gesneriad Society. There will be lots of plant material to see, but it would be nice if each attendee were to bring a plant for practice judging. Registration forms will be available soon pending approval.



Gesneriads Go to the Movies

Plant Show and Sale
Sponsored by the
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER
of
THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY

March 8 & 9, 2014

Behnkes Nursery

11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705
Beltsville, MD

Friday, March 7, 2014

Entries: 1 p.m. to 5 pm

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Entries: 8am to 9:30am

Judging: 10am to 1pm

Show & sale: 1pm to 5pm

Lecture: *Sinningia* in Brazil by Dave Zaitlin 2pm

Awards Dinner: 5:30pm

Sunday March 9, 2014

Show & sale: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lectures: What is a Gesneriad? By Jim Roberts 10am

Gesneriad Propagation By Brian Connor 1 pm

SHOW RULES

- Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
- Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society.
- Entries will be accepted only during hours specified, unless approved by the Show Chair.
- 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.
- Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by Show Chair after entries close.

- No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes.
 - 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 of Division II or Commercial or Educational exhibits in Division IV.
 - 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.
 - All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including educational exhibits as well as entries for exhibit only.
 - 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.
- Honorable Mention may also be awarded.
- 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.
1. 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.
 2. Judges and Clerks who wish to enter may remove their plants at the end of Saturday, but must first notify the 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.

Many Thanks to the Committee Members who helped with the Arrangements for this Show:

Show Chair: Jim Roberts
 Show Co- Chair: Brian Connor
 Judges and Clerks: Barbara Stewart
 Entries: TBD
 Classification: Andrew Norris
 Staging: Corey Wickliffe
 Placement: Corey Wickliffe
 Hospitality: Harold Belcher
 Awards: Donna Beverin
 Plant Sales: Barry Wolfe
 Publicity: Ken Moore

DIVISION I HORTICULTURAL

SECTION A

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Tuberous

- 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 tuberous Gesneriads

SECTION B

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Rhizomatous

- Class 8 *Achimenes*, *XAchimenantha*
- 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*, *xCodonanthus*
- 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 Qualities Other Than Flowers

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 leaf variegation

Class 35 *Primulina* species

Class 36 *Primulina* hybrids

Class 37 Other gesneriads with green-and-white leaf variegation

Class 38 Other gesneriad species

Class 39 Other gesneriad hybrids

SECTION F

New Gesneriads

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

Class 43 Species in flower

Class 44 Species not in flower

Class 45 Hybrids or named cultivars in flower

Class 46 Hybrids or named cultivars not in flower

SECTION G

Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

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

Class 47 In flower

Class 48 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 card with identification of plants. In Class 50, exhibitor must provide educational information on the card.

Class 49 Plants of a single genus (species, cultivars or hybrids)

Class 50 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 51 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 52 Gesneriads in flower

Class 53 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 card. Reservations for entries in classes 54 through 62 should be made with Corey Wickliffe at cewickliffe@gmail.com by March 1, 2014. Limit of 4 entries per class.

SECTION L

Arrangement of Fresh Cut or Dried Plant Material

Class 54 "The Hobbit" Orcs and Dragons, Hobbits and Wizards. An arrangement centered around the golden ring at the center of it all. 4" x 4" x 4"

Class 55 "Jurassic Park" Sure, the dinosaurs were big. But they all hatched out of eggs. A primitive arrangement in an eggshell. 6" wide x 8" tall x 6" deep

Class 56 "Twilight" Vampires aren't all bad. An arrangement of good and bad, light and dark. Sinister but with love behind it all. 12" wide x 14" tall x 12" deep

SECTION M

Arrangement of Fresh Cut or Growing Gesneriads

Class 57 The Smurfs: There aren't any true blue gesneriads. A totally blue arrangement with the exception of the Gesneriad flowers. 6" x 6" x 6"

Class 58 The Little Mermaid: a magical realm under the sea. An underwater arrangement. A 12" square black ceramic base will be provided

Class 59 ET: An escape on a bicycle. What a perfect theme for a mobile arrangement. 12" x 12" x 12".

Arrangement must be suspended above the base and be able to move. Exhibitor must provide rod or other support mechanism.

SECTION N

Arrangement of Growing Gesneriads

Class 60 Chicago: Plants behind bars. An arrangement showing lots of activity and emotion. 14" x 14" x 14"

Class 61 Cast Away: An island theme with water or simulated water. 18" x 18" x 18"

Class 62 War Horse: A foliage only arrangement depicting the beautiful Irish/ English countryside. Decorative calyces and berries allowed, but no flower buds showing color or open flowers. 12" x 12" x 16" High

SECTION O

Arrangement of Growing Material – Artistically Balanced. Gesneriads must Predominate.

Class 63 Terrarium Straight Sided – Maximum 18" Length x Depth. No height restriction

Class 64 Terrarium Curve Sided – Maximum 18" Length x Depth. No height restriction

Class 65 Tray Landscape – No size restrictions

Class 66 Natural Garden—a planting in weathered wood, rock or other natural material

Class 67 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 68 Artistic entry suitable for any of the classes in Sections L, M or N. 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.

Class 69 Color print of Gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat

Class 70 Color print of parts of a Gesneriad (flowers, fruits, foliage, etc.)

Class 71 Color print of a whole Gesneriad plant

Class 72 Black and white print

Class 73 Digital display of gesneriad photo(s)

SECTION Q

Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 74 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)

Class 75 Textile (exhibitor must provide a card giving the source of the design)

Class 76 Other crafts

DIVISION IV COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

SECTION R

Commercial

Class 77 Display table with a grouping of 10 or more gesneriads

Class 78 Display table with a grouping of fewer than 10 gesneriads

SECTION S

Educational

Class 79 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion

Class 80 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 81-Gesneriads (computer exhibits) PowerPoint or other computer exhibit that provides educational information on gesneriads

Class 82 – Companion Plants. Plants which are grown alongside the gesneriads in this show. Exhibits will be judged by the public – not the gesneriad Judges. Educational card giving information about the plant family, where it grows in nature if a species, or where the hybrid originated and what gesneriads require similar conditions is required.

• The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries should be removed between 4 and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Upcoming Shows/Sales

April 12 Christiana DE

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's 2014 Annual Show and Sale

Theme: "Casting a Violet Spell"

Free admission and parking--handicapped accessible Saturday, April 12, 2014 10 a.m. – 5 p.m

Boscov's Department Store Christiana Town Center Delaware Route 273 Christiana, Delaware

Choice and rare patio and houseplants for sale!

For more information, contact: Quentin Schlieder or visit our website:

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

April 5-6 Morris County NJ

African Violet Club of Morris County

19th Annual show & plant sale

Haggerty Education Building

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960

April 5 1:30pm – 4:30pm; April 6 11:00am – 3:00pm

Additional information: Karyn Cichocki,

kdc05@ptd.net or 973-579-7914

NCAC website:

www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

NCAC Blog:

<http://dcgesneriads.blogspot.com/>

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Woolfphoto1@comcast.net

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Membership: Kyoko Imai

Programs: Jim Roberts

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin

editor@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

or

Petaltones@gmail.com

or

Donnabeverin@gmail.com

Website and Blog: Kyoko Imai

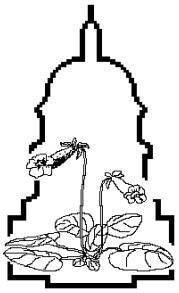
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<http://dcgesneriads.blogspot.com/>

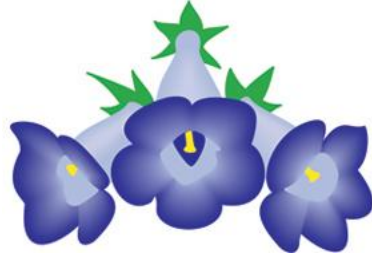
dcgesneriads -at- gmail.com

The Gesneriad Society website:

www.gesneriadsociety.org



Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 5

May 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Kohleria 'An's Nagging MacCaws' (DAVS show Kenneth Moore)

President's Message

April showers brought May flooding this year, but flowers are on the way! While avoiding flooding and sinkholes lately I've seen a distinct difference in my Gesneriad collection over the past month. Spring has truly sprung as all my dormant rhizomes are back and growing like crazy! It's only been a month and most of them already need to be broken up and repotted again – as always the Gessies are keeping me busy. Many of these will make it to this month's meeting to be broken up and shared, and included in this are *Gloxinia*, *Gloxinella*, *Kohleria*, *Amalophyllum*, *Phinaea*, and a few uncommon intergeneric hybrids. Besides the Rhizomatous, the warm up has all the warm weather plants are going bonkers with a particular flush in growth of the *Episcia*.

NCAC meetings are held at *BEHNKES NURSERIES*
11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

Behnkes opens at 8:00am if you would like to browse and shop before the meeting. We gather at 10am to get set up with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet usually the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues

May 10, 2014 Behnkes: Propagation Meeting, bring your seedlings, cuttings, rhizomes, tubers, baby plants, plants to repot and share, as well as your questions!

I've been gearing up for this month's Propagation Workshop with various cuttings and starters - you may be shocked at what you can start from leaf! The Propagation Workshop should be a lot of fun with a variety of plants, and if you have a plant you're not sure how to propagate feel free to bring it in or remember to bring questions. Gesneriads tend to be tricksters in my experience, so some may be a little tricky to propagate but it's possible – and some that may be tricky to grow can be surprisingly easy to propagate!

As the weather warms up even more, it is also time to start thinking about our June BBQ event and we also have been invited to Behnkes' Garden Party happening the week before. June should be an exciting month! Corey Wickliffe

The State of the Chapter by Jim Roberts



What's happening to our Chapter? Why are we cancelling meetings and then having them anyway? Where has all the interest in Gesneriads gone? Are we in trouble? Should we "disband?"

The answer to all of the above is "Stop Worrying!" Yes, we had to cancel our show. But to be fair, we only had two months' notice that we were even going to have a show (decided in January for a March show). We were only able to round up two panels of judges (and 2/3rds of one of them would have ended up cancelling on us). Some of our growers had plant problems caused by a very harsh winter. Stuff happens and the show just didn't.

Is the club too small now to hold a show? NO!!! Membership in the National Capital Chapter is strong. We have a number of members who grow great plants. Many more than the Chapter of 10 years ago that was struggling to even have programs at their meetings. Yet even that struggling Chapter held its shows spring one year, fall the next, skip a year then back to spring and fall...always. When we lost our venue at the National Arboretum we lost that schedule, but we need to establish a new one that we totally commit to.

Spring shows are always tough. Plants suffer over the winter months. Even under lights, the humidity is lower and the night temperatures get cool in most home environments. A few plants like the cool nights, but most of our Gesneriads do much better over the summer months. I would like to propose the following schedule for National Capital Area Chapter Shows:

On even numbered years (yes, including this year) we hold a fall show in September or October (we'll decide at the May meeting). This show could be at Behnke's if we stay there, or at a mall or other venue. But the show will be held on every even-numbered year. The venue will be the only unknown until we find one we really like. Guest judges will get to learn this schedule and save room on their calendars. Just like the second Saturday in April is ALWAYS the Long Island Chapter's show. Drew and I would have been there if the Cleveland invite hadn't come in first.

On odd-numbered years we will participate in a regional show with the Delaware and Philly Chapters. Delaware is willing to do this with us and I think Philly will be able to work with us too. This year Delaware is hosting MAAVS, and in 2016 will be hosting the National Convention, so 2015 sounds like a good year for the regional show. It doesn't always have to be in Delaware. In fact, it shouldn't always be there. Why not find a venue in the Baltimore/DC area, or in Philly? That of course requires a MAGS organization to be formed, with a budget and show committees. I'm willing. Is anyone else?

Okay, so much for shows; but what about the April meeting. Again, we slipped a bit. As a person with a lot of interests in Gesneriads and lots of things to do with the Society I'm not always going to be around to run the programs. We are scheduling several outside speakers this year and can't spend money on guest speakers whenever I, (or Barry or Drew or Barb) am out of town. There are slide programs and other types of events that the Chapter can host without having a "Presenter." In April we canceled the meeting, only to find out that our meeting was listed in Behnke's newsletter as a re-potting workshop. Thanks to those who showed up! Drew and I were judging a Gesneriad Show in Cleveland, Barry had an Orchid event, and Barb had her Richmond African Violet Show that day. We had outsiders show up so I really appreciate the fact that the club continued on without me.

May is another tough month. The second Saturday is always the Baltimore African Violet Society's show and sale. I'm skipping the show this year to be at our Chapter meeting. But Brian Connor is Show Chair for that show so he'll be absent. Hopefully some members of the Chapter will go up to see the show after our meeting on May 10. Our meeting this month will be a Propagation Workshop. Let's all bring plants to share. I have some pots of seedlings (from Mauro) that really need to be divided up with members who want them. I have Kohleria and Smithiantha rhizomes to break apart and share. And I have many other plants that could use a haircut. Hopefully others have the same problem: plants that are outgrowing their space. We will all go home with more plants than what we came with, but they'll be new to our collection and will be small enough to sneak in between some of the bigger ones.

Okay. Well, enough of my ramblings. Let's have a good meeting in May. I've missed the last two meetings so I've missed seeing many of you. Hope you all can come.
Jim

Bloomin' Now for Barb Stewart!



Seemannia nematanthodes 'Evita'



Aeschynanthus 'Thai Pink'



Amaryllis



Kohleria 'Strawberry Fields'



Primulina 'New York'

May 9-10 —Towson, MD

The Baltimore African Violet and Gesneriad Club
61th Annual Mother's Day Show & Sale at The Shops at
Kenilworth, 800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson MD
Friday, May 9th Sales 9AM-7PM Show 1pm-7pm
Saturday, May 10 Show & Sale 9AM-5PM

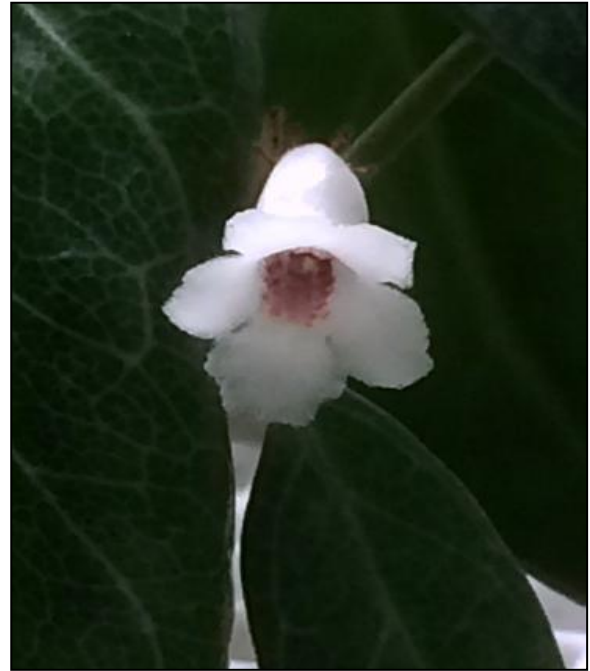
Our show will feature many unbelievable and unusual plants. The sale tables will hold hundreds of beautiful African violet, gesneriads, and other exotic houseplants. Also available will be leaves, cuttings, and many growing supplies including soil mix, plant rings, self-watering pots and much more. Experienced growers will be there to answer your growing questions.

This event is free to the public and is handicapped accessible.

Bloomin' Now cont' Drew's Blooms!



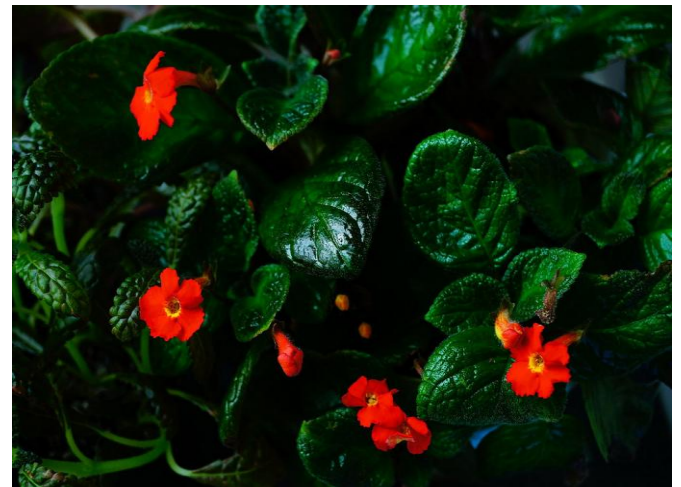
Nematanthus pynophyllus



Codonante venosa



Nancy Kast's plant of *Paradrymonia hypocyrta*



Corey's *Episcia cupreata viridifolia* & *Primulina tamiana*



Desperately Seeking

Achimenes rhizomes, any...Barb Stewart

Gloxinia perennis.....Donna Beverin

Kohleria 'Longwood' at Longwood Gardens



The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's 2014 Annual Show and Sale was held on April 12th with the Theme: "Casting a Violet Spell"

Here are some pictures of their amazing entries. Names of growers were not available as judging was in progress at the time of the photos were taken.



Sinningia 'Orange Raindrops'



Kohleria 'Manchu'



Close up of *Kohleria* 'Manchu' (KM)



Saintpaulia 'Ode to Beauty'



Streptocarpus 'Cherry Roulette'



Saintpaulia 'Playful Spectrum'



Saintpaulia 'Rhapsodie Rebecca'



Saintpaulia 'Ma's Midnight Spell'



Streptocarpus candidus (KM)



Streptocarpus 'Jason' (KM)



Streptocarpus 'Heartland's White Gold' (KM)



Streptocarpus candidus (KM)



Saintpaulia 'Hocus Pocus' Display

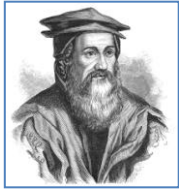
Mid Atlantic African Violet Society
"Diamonds are Forever"
November 13 – 15, 2014
Crowne Plaza Hotel
630 Naamans Road
Claymont, Delaware
Contact: Quentin Schlieder
<http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters.DAVS>

Happy Birthday Conrad Gessner

Adapted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Written by Quentin Schlieder, used with permission & originally printed in the April 2014 issue of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's Newsletter

In 2016, the Gesneriad Society Annual Convention will be held in Delaware on the 500th anniversary of the birth of Conrad Gessner, for whom the family Gesneriaceae is named. It seems appropriate to review the life of this remarkable man!



Conrad Gessner, who also was known as Konrad Gesner, Conrad Geffner, Conrad von Gesner, Conradus Gesnerus, Conrad Gesnerwas, and was a noted Swiss naturalist and bibliographer.

Gessner was born on March 26, 1516 in Zürich, Switzerland, he was the son of Ursus Gessner, a Zürich furrier. Gessner's father realized he was very bright and sent him to live with a great uncle, who grew and collected medicinal herbs for a living.

Here Gessner became familiar with many plants and their medicinal purposes which led to a lifelong interest in the field of natural history. Gessner first attended the Carolinum, then he entered the Fraümünster seminary. There he studied Latin classics. In school, he impressed his teachers so much that a few of them helped sponsor him so he could further his education at universities such as Strassburg and Bourges (1532–1533). One even acted as a foster father to him after the death of his father at the Battle of Kappel (1531).

After the passing of his father he left Zürich and traveled to Strasbourg, where he broadened his knowledge of ancient languages by studying Hebrew at the Strasbourg Academy. In 1535, religious unrest drove him back to Zürich, where he made an imprudent marriage. His friends again came to his aid and enabled him to study at Basel (1536). Throughout his life Gessner was interested in biology and collected specimens and descriptions of wildlife through travel and extensive correlation with other friends and scholars. His approach to research consisted of four main components: observation, dissection, travel to distant lands, and accurate description. This rising observational approach was new to Renaissance scholars because people usually relied completely upon Classical writers for their research. His great zoological work, Historiae Animalium is a 4,500-page

encyclopedia of animals that appeared in four vols. (quadrupeds, amphibians birds, fishes) folio, 1551–1558, at Zürich, a fifth (snakes) being issued in 1587 (there is a German translation, entitled Thierbuch, of the first 4 vols., Zürich, 1563). This book was considered to be the first modern zoological work. It built a bridge between ancient, medieval and modern science. He combines data from old sources, such as the Old Testament, Aristotle, Pliny, folklore and medieval bestiaries and he also adds his own observations. He created a new, comprehensive description of the Animal Kingdom. This was the first attempt by anyone to describe many animals accurately. The book unlike many works of its time was illustrated with hand-colored woodcuts drawn from personal observations by Gessner and his colleagues.

There was extreme religious tension at the time Historiae Animalium came out. Under Pope Paul IV it was felt that the religious convictions of an author contaminated all his writings, and since Gessner was Protestant, Historiae Animalium was added to the Roman Catholic Church's list of prohibited books. Even though religious tensions were high Gessner maintained friendships on both sides of the Catholic-Protestant divide. In fact, Catholic booksellers in Venice protested the Inquisition's blanket ban on Gessner's books, and some of his work was eventually allowed after it had been "cleansed" of its doctrinal errors.

To his contemporaries he was best known as a botanist. Gessner wrote a similarly comprehensive survey to Historiae Animalium about plant life, but his notes and about 1,500 wood engravings of plants and their important flowers and seeds were used by other authors for two centuries after his death. Although his botanical manuscripts were not published (in Nuremberg, 1751–1771, 2 vols. folio) until long after his death, Gessner was known for his love of mountains for botanizing and exercise and to enjoy the restorative value of these surroundings.

Despite his extensive travels and the job of maintaining his own gardens, Gessner probably spent most of his time inside his own library. He listed among his History of Animals sources more than 80 Greek authors and at least 175 Latin authors, as well as works by German, French, and Italian authors. He even attempted to establish a "universal library" of all books in existence. He died of the plague, the year after his ennoblement

on December 13, 1565. At the time of his death, Gessner had published 72 books, and written 18 more unpublished manuscripts.

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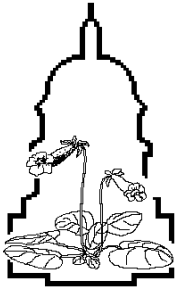
The Gesneriad Society website:

www.gesneriadsociety.org



Barb Stewart's blooming now from April is sure worth a look...so beautiful: Sinningia hybrid possibly Pink Tiger x Bullata?





Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 6

July 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Nashville claim..... Best firework show in the country!

President's Message Corey Wickliffe, Chapter President

Happy 4th of July, and I hope this newsletter finds you keeping it cool as our summer heats up! As amazing as it sounds, when I'm not beating back the *Episcia* with a stick (heat and humidity? They are in love!) I'm already gearing up for fall – its show season for us! We will be hosting our Fall Show in October and it's time to start cleaning up some potential show plants while propagating some fun plants to share.

Before we get to that though we will be enjoying a talk by Johanna this month with a subject close to my heart and an ideal project for our Chapter – she will be talking about the Save our Species project with experiences from her work applying it to *Begonia* and how we can use it with our Gesneriads. With so many of our tender plants endangered in the wild (and at least one well known plant believed extinct in the wild – I'll be bringing an example of *Gasteranthus atratus* to show) this is a project that is much needed. Hybrids are fun and exciting, but we must not remember our species! I'll be there with some unusual species for sponsoring, and I encourage bringing in species plants for show and tell, as well as for the raffle. See you Saturday!

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11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

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July 12 th	Plant Adoption with Johanna Zinn
August 9 th	Dr. Jeremy Keene discussing rhizomatous plants.
September 13 th	Drew educational seminar on plant lighting
October 11 th	Karyn Cichocki relives her trip to Ecuador.
November 8 th	Field trip to the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) Show in Delaware
December 13 th	Holiday Party celebration

Plant Adoption this Saturday at our July Meeting!

Many plant [and animal] species are at risk because of over-collecting and habitat destruction secondary to agricultural, housing and commercial development. Adopting species, especially ones that are threatened or endangered will give those species a chance to survive if their habitats become a parking lot, mine, apartment building or tea plantation. On Saturday, I will talk with you about adopting a gesneriad species. Perhaps you have favorite species that you could adopt, propagate, and spread around. If you would prefer to focus on a threatened or endangered species, search for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Once on the site, click on Go to the list and put Gesneriaceae into the search box. Some of the plants listed are being grown by our members, and might be available for adoption.

Please bring in species cuttings or small plants for the raffle table. It would be great if a few members brought in a species plant and spent a few minutes telling us about it for a species show and tell.

Johanna Zinn

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Nautilocalyx* 'Jade'

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*



Johanna's *Gasteranthus atratus*



Barb's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'El Crystal'



Barb's *Aeschynanthus speciosa*



Aeschynanthus speciosa close up



Barb's *Columnnea* 'Janelle'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Heartland's Blackberry Butterfly'

Which way is up?

Planting Vining Gesneriad Cuttings

By Corey Wickliffe



Photo 1 – This *Columnnea* cutting is all topsy turvy ... which end would you stick in the dirt?

It never fails if you work with vining Gesneriads... at some point you will take a bushy plant, give it a “hair cut”, and you end up with sections that don’t have the end of the vine on them. You know you should follow the direction the vine was growing in, but which direction was it? D’oh! Now you don’t know if you’re sticking the wrong end in the dirt!

As I dabble more and more with the rambling lovelies that are vining Gesneriads - such as our example plant here, a *Columnnea* hybrid from the Chapter’s recent Propagation meeting, or the extra feisty *Drymonia* I’ve recently fallen for - I’ve run into this issue time and again in my hunt for a bushy pot of cuttings to work with. A couple of cuttings never seem to thrive and then I realize I stuck the wrong end into the pot. With plants chasing the light and such varying habits, how to you tell? Jim touched on this subject at the propagation meeting in the spring and shared some tips.

Here are a few clues to keep in mind:

- The leaves follow the light, no matter what the stem is doing. They will twist to face the light and completely disregard everything else. Ignore them, and they will reorient themselves in time.



Photo 2 – Revisiting that *Columnnea* cutting... the blue arrows represent the vine growth direction, the orange show the twisting leaf petioles as they search for sun, and the yellow stars show developing buds.

- The stem follows the growth habit of the plant – in some cases this is an upright bush that may eventually hang due to its own weight (some *Aeschynanthus*, *Nematanthus*, *Columnnea*), rambling along a surface (some *Columnnea* like *C. minor*, most of the *Drymonia*), or a truly pendent plant whose vines hang like limp rope (many of our most popular *Aeschynanthus* and *Columnnea* hybrids). While all forms are tricky when you’ve cut off the obvious growth tip, the “limp rope” pendent plants (like our example *Columnnea* hybrid) can be some of the most misleading in direction with leaves facing the opposite direction of the growth of the vine.

- Where the leaf petiole meets the stem is where you want to concentrate your observational efforts, and a magnifying glass may help on some of the smaller plants. The leaf petiole comes off the vine pointing in the direction the vine grows (“up” for your cuttings) and any forming buds will clearly point the way no matter how much the leaf petioles twist.

Revisiting our example *Columnea* hybrid cutting, you may notice that while the leaves are facing “up” in the original photo, the stem and buds are pointing down. You’d want to remove leaves from the stem at the top of the photo and poke that end in the soil. Photo 2 gives you a diagram over the photo to help illustrate how this particular vine is growing. Sneaky vine, but we know how to grow you now! ☺ CW

A Vacation to Convention 2014, Nashville, TN

By Barb Stewart



What could be more fun than driving to a gesneriad convention for vacation? Weeks before the convention, I thought I could manage 5 designs, 3 photos, a handful of small show plants, and several trays of plants to sell at the plant sale. Didn’t seem like that much at the time.



Barb’s Blue ribbon winner: “See Rock City”

The sale plants had been potted up several months earlier and just needed to be priced. The show plants were just to fill space, as nothing on my shelves would be in contention for any top awards.



Barb’s Blue Ribbon “Downtown Presbyterian Church”

My designs included 3 container gardens which could be created well ahead of time (or recreated from the last show I entered). A small arrangement would be easy and the only challenge I expected was an underwater design which is always suspenseful to create.



Barb’s Blue ribbon winner “Tray Landscape”

Well, nothing ever goes as smoothly as we plan, and with a time crunch I ended up trying to pull it all together the week before leaving town. I started with the photos which had to be printed and framed. My

artistic talent is not in taking good photos, but in making them show worthy by cropping, matting, and finding the right frame (without spending a fortune). I like the look of an oval frame, but learned that no two oval frames are alike, so I ended up having to get a piece of glass custom cut for the frame I wanted to use. In design, it is always fun to try something new, so I planned a natural garden on a rock.



Primulina angustifolia by Barb Stewart

That went fairly well, although I usually like to spend several days tweaking my container gardens after making them. I was going to update a nice terrarium from a violet show several months ago, but some cat knocked the whole thing off the table, breaking the whole bowl, so I had to start from scratch. My dish garden just needed to have foliage plants replaced with gesneriads, as the basic design was already there. The plants were hastily stuffed into trays with a little prep before packing. Potential design materials and tools were tossed into a box and everything was packed tightly for the road trip. All three container gardens held up remarkably well after being transported on a 2 day trip to Nashville with a detour to Ashville, NC to see the Biltmore. Fortunately, the weather was not too hot and somewhat overcast, and we found a shady parking spot so the plants didn't cook.

After arriving in Nashville, we had to make several trips to Walmart for things we forgot. The designs were tested in the hotel room before being reassembled at the show. Shortly before the

convention, I received an e-mail asking if I would be willing to do another arrangement to fill one of several empty classes. I chose one that I had previously considered, but had decided the niche size was challenging. It was precariously assembled, but fortunately it held up and earned a blue ribbon. The judges also favored my dish garden and small design, giving me enough blue ribbons to win sweepstakes in artistic.

It was a very stressful 2 weeks, but turned out well. Although not a relaxing vacation, we managed to squeeze in a side trip to see the fabulous Biltmore mansion, tour the Holtkamp greenhouses, enjoy the downtown street festivities on the 4th, spend an evening at the Grand Old Opry, and view the spectacular Nashville fireworks while sitting in a gridlock of traffic on I-40. My award money all vanished in the plant sales room, but I have lots of new plants to grow for the next show and share with my gesneriad and violet friends. Now to relax and get back to growing!

[More great photos from Barb's Convention experience!](#)



Best in Show: *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Canary' hybridized and grown by Dale Martens



Best in Artistic – natural garden by Jill Fischer



Aeschynanthus longicaulis in the conservatory at Biltmore



Biltmore mansion, Asheville, NC



Smokey Mountain vista



Conservatory at the Biltmore



Nashville skyline



Tour of Holtkamp Greenhouse



4th of July festivities in downtown Nashville

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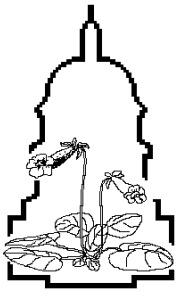
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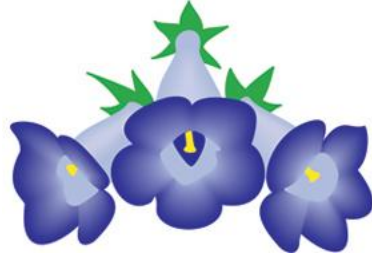
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The Gesneriad Society website:
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Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 7

August 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Johanna's *Gasteranthus atratus*

President's Message

Last month we were learning about Endangered Gesneriads and submitting to the Save Our Species Program with Johanna. I'm a huge species fan, and in writing up some profiles I was getting itchy fingers to write up about one of my favorite plants in my collection... *Monopyle* sp. Ecuador, and a member of the group that will be talked about at this month's meeting. Sadly all too many of these species are already under threat (4 species of the genus are listed by IUCN as Vulnerable to Critically Endangered, as well as some of their related *Diastema* genus), so as you learn about new species it's worth keeping in mind their conservation needs. Like many of the Gesneriads, the genus *Monopyle* and its close relatives are currently under taxonomic review to see what tricks they may have been playing on taxonomists over the years. We are lucky to have the man involved coming to speak to us about how the puzzle is working out, and learning about some of the lesser known jewels! I'll be working to grow out some of the *Monopyle* sp. Ecuador for our show in October if my latest batch of seed works out, so keep in mind that while members may want higher humidity than the show table may like a clear plastic cover can go a long way!

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September 13 th	Drew educational seminar on plant lighting
October 11 th	Karyn Cichocki relives her trip to Ecuador.
November 8 th	Field trip to the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) Show in Delaware
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So we welcome to Dr. Jeremy Keene from Missouri State University's Dept. of Biology's visiting Scholar for Plant Systematics (Gesneriaceae: Gloxiniinae). We are privileged to have him coming to our meeting on August 9th to discuss "Monopyle and all the Others in the Room (Clade)"



Monopyle flava (photo John Boggan grown at Smithsonian greenhouses)

phylogeny, including habitat, species in the wild, species in cultivation, conservation of the species and how to grow the plants.

Happy growing! Corey

His talk, accompanying a power point presentation, will encompass *Monopyle* and all the genera closely related to it in his current

Bloomin' Now

Lots of blooms midsummer! Enjoy!
Blooming for Jim Roberts below:



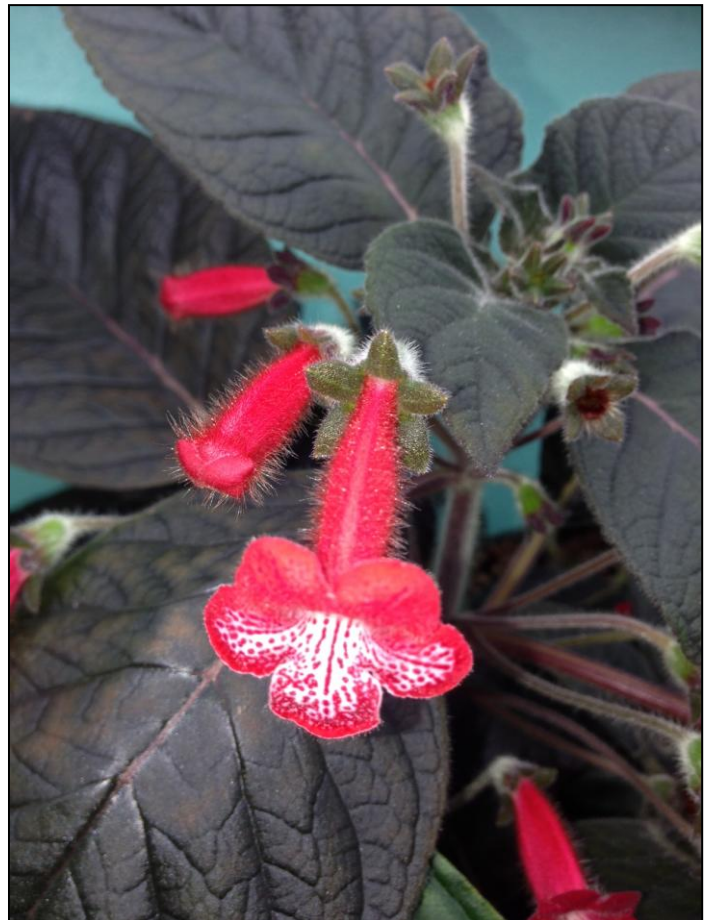
Jim's *Paliavana prasinata*



Jim's *Primulina* 'Loki'



Jim's *Nematanthus* 'Jason'



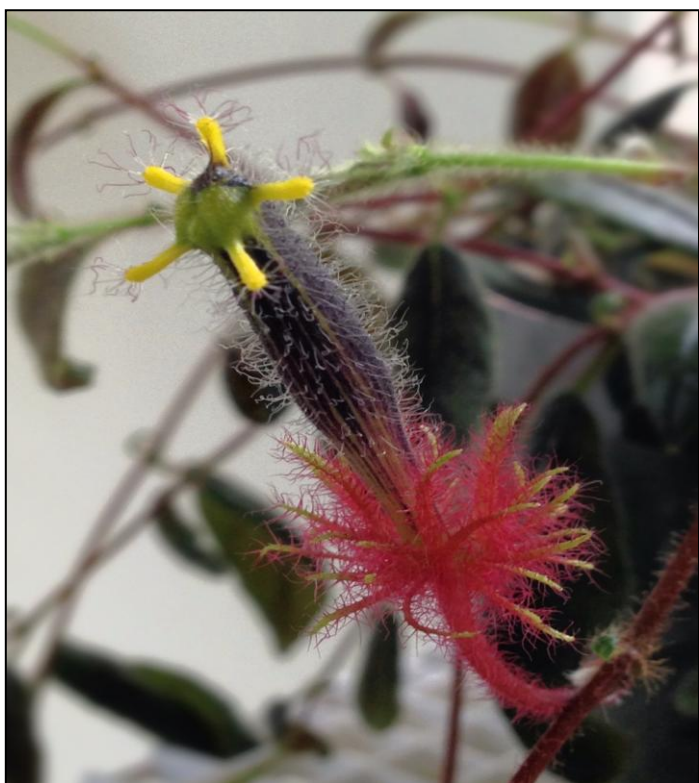
Jim's *Kohleria* 'Jewel'



Jim's *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*



Jim's *Alsobia* species RM2010-1



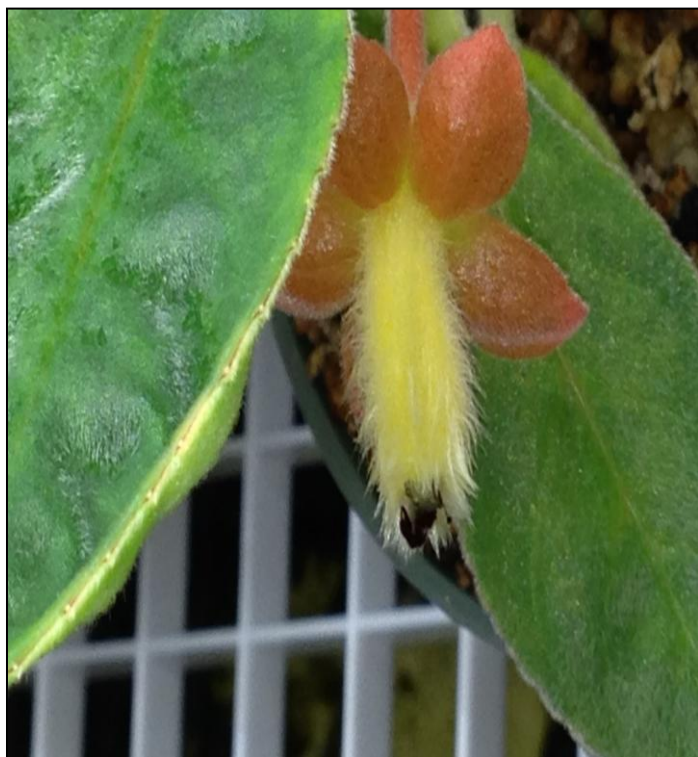
Jim's *Columnnea minor*



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'



Jim's *Aeschynanthus humilis*



Jim's *Cobonanthus caloclamys*



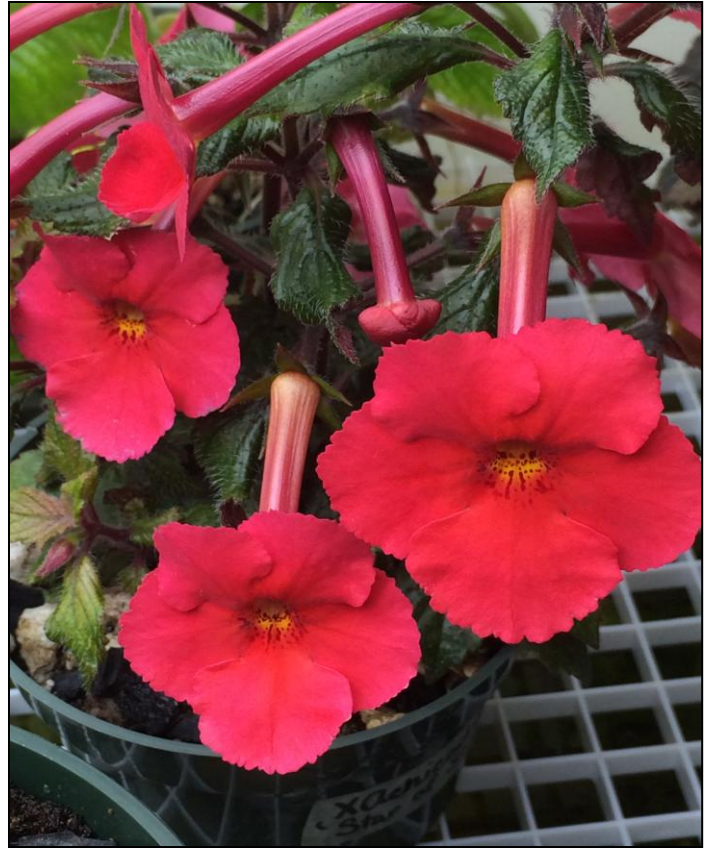
Jim's *Gloxinia erinoides*



Jim's *Amallophyllon* 'RM Belize'



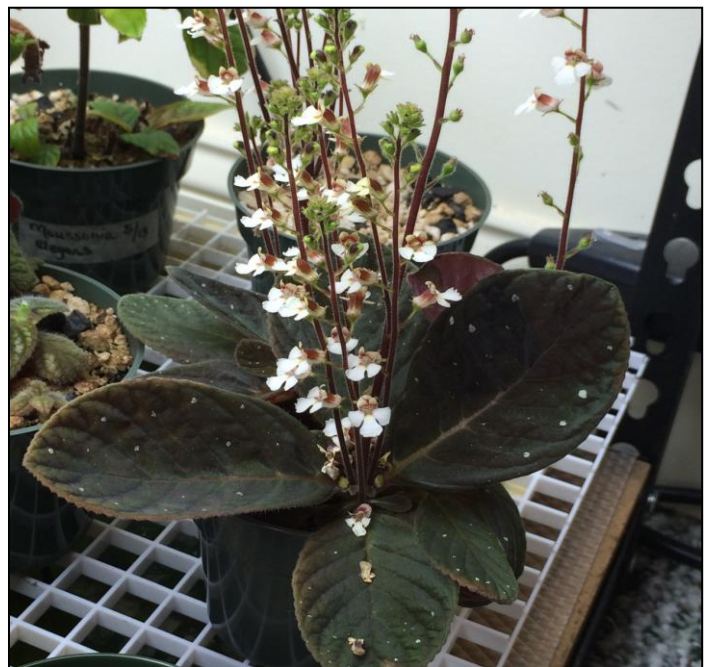
Jim's *Streptocarpus* 'Spin Art'



Andrew's Bloomin' Now: *Xachimenantha* 'Star of Stars'



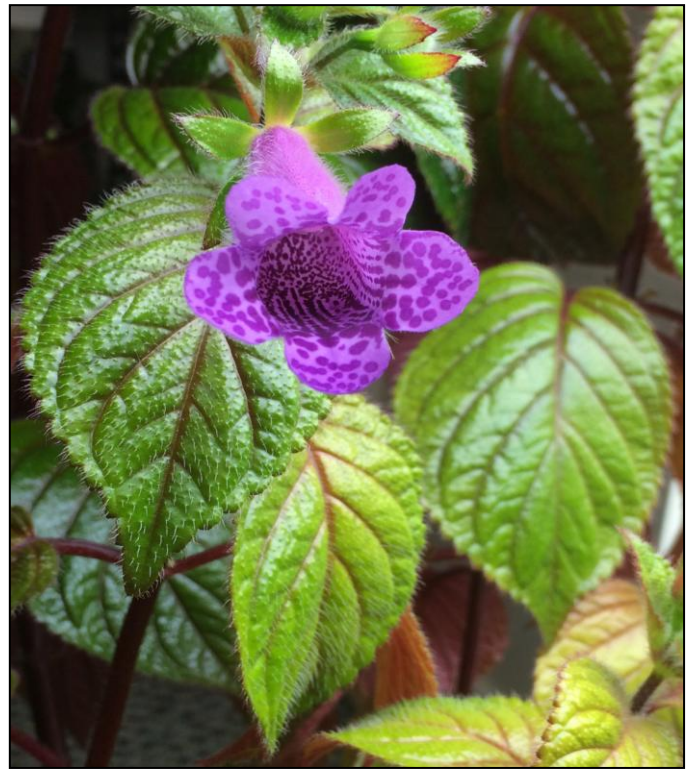
Jim's *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'



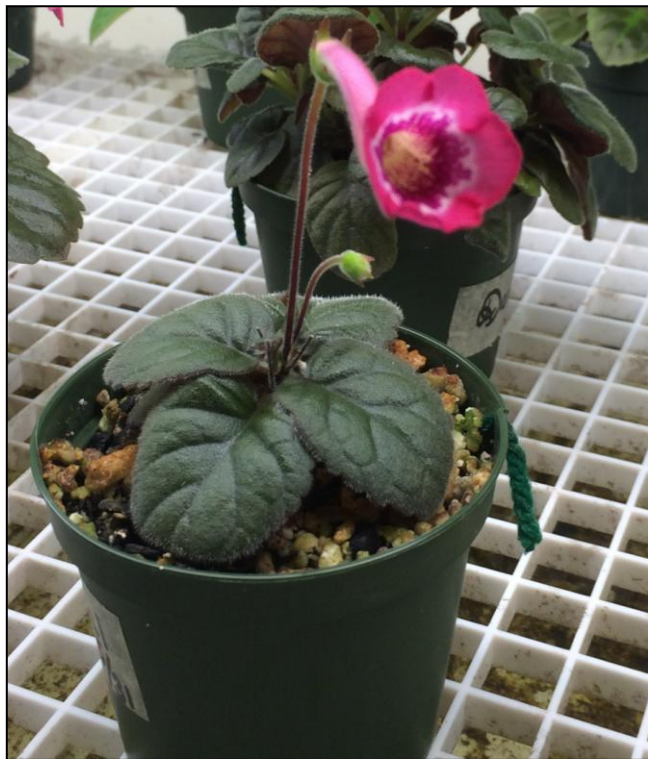
Andrew's *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Red Satin'



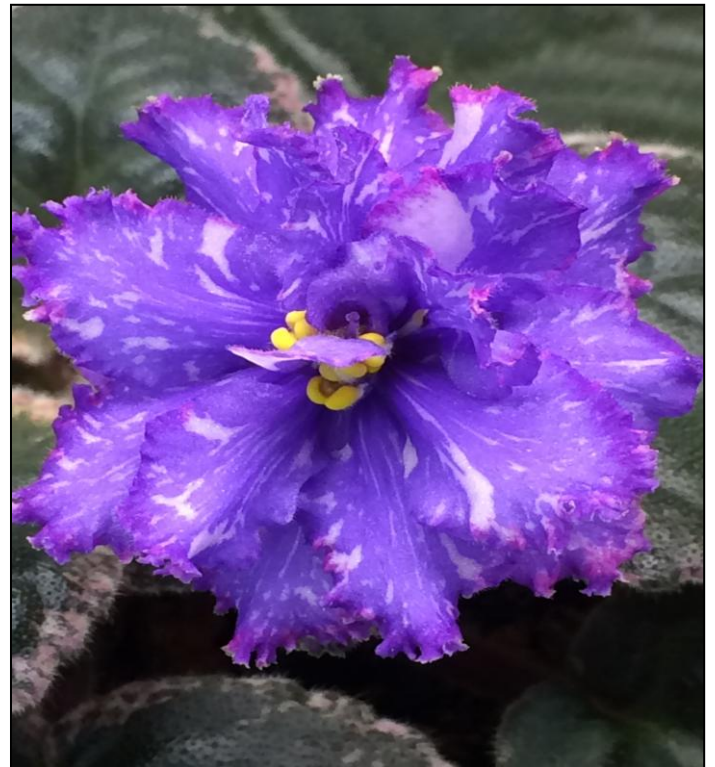
Andrew's *Smithiantha* 'Big Dots Rule'



Andrew's *XGloximania* 'She's Dancing'



Andrew's *Sinningia* 'Scoundrel x self'



Andrew's *Saintpaulia* 'EK Scarab', a Russian violet



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Blizzard's Bing Cherries'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Souvenir'



Barb's *Smithicodonia* "Heartland's Joy"



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Party Girl'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Sylvia'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Chastity'



Primulina 'Chastity' closeup

Gasteranthus atratus Grown in a Terrarium

Johanna Zinn

While I was repotting *Gasteranthus atratus*, I noticed the tiny seedlings around the base of the plant.



It had 4 blooms on it 2 months or so ago, and the seed from those blooms must have set seed and then germinated on the moss. I decided to pot them up for our October show...or perhaps our NCAC group may want to adopt this species as an adopt-a-species project!



How *Lysionotus* Showed Me the Light: Rhizomes in Gesneriads

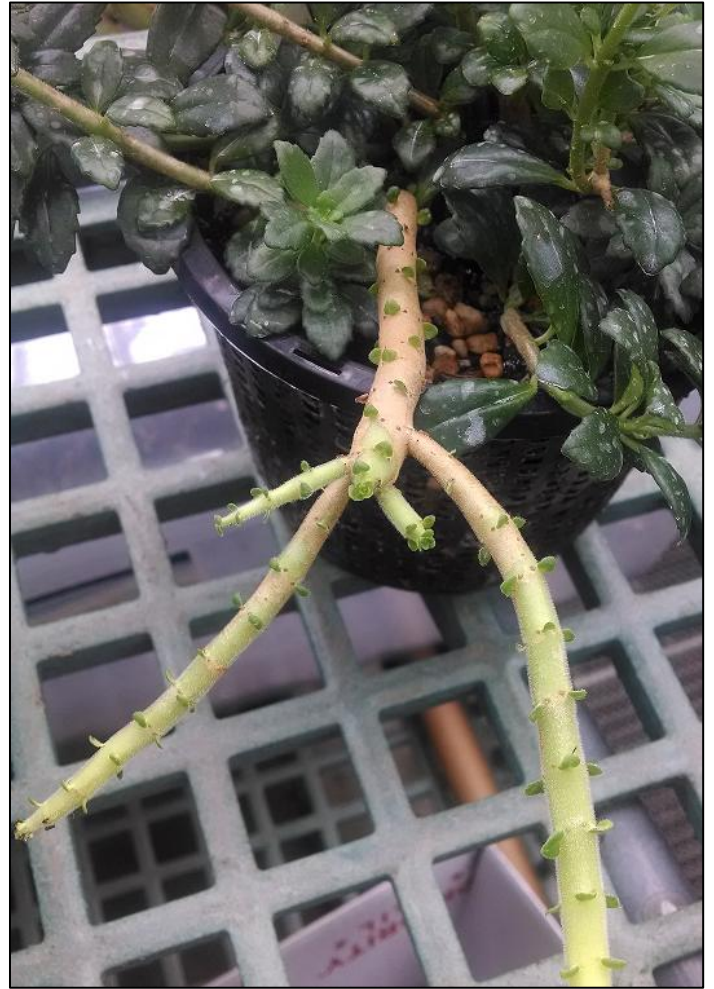
By: Corey Wickliffe

I'm still a newbie to the world of rhizomatous Gesneriads, but not to the word itself. Geez, does it get confusing! I went from growing rhizomatous Begonias and Ferns (and thinking I knew a thing or two) to growing rhizomatous Gesneriads and not knowing what those weird wormy looking things in my pots were really good for. So, why all the confusion?

Let's take it back to the root of the definition – which is true in call cases of the word – **a rhizome is a modified stem**. Beyond that is where you start getting confused between various plant types, and even within Gesneriads. Sometimes these are known as creeping stems, creeping rootstalks, or just rootstocks – and while they do often creep, they aren't roots. You almost always see them defined as being underground, but aerial rhizomes are more typical for Begonia and Ferns (which are the “creeping stems”) and even some of our popular Gesneriads like *Gloxinella lindeniana*.

They can often be adaptations for plants to be able to perennate (“survive an annual unfavorable season” – typically a dry one for our Gesneriads) – but some are stronger about this than others. In some plants (such as water lilies, many ferns, and the rhizomatous Begonias) the Rhizome is the only stem on the plant, with the leaves and flowers growing out from there – but in Gesneriads this is not the case, and they may not even be present all year around! In the end you end up with a horizontal stem that can grow new shoots up, and new roots down, and the rest is up to nature.

As usual, Gesneriads do something a little different. What really threw me off about Gesneriads are the little things known as “scales”. The only time I'd had a reference close to that was with “scaly rhizomes” of some ferns, meaning they were rough in texture. Now if your first experience with a Gesneriad rhizome is a *Kohleria*, *Smithiantha*, or *Achimenes* you may be as confused as I was by the rhizome being a “stem” covered in small “leaves”. How could all those scales be itty bitty leaves?! The issue ends up being the realization that you're looking at an evolutionary end result without having an in-between to give context. Enter *Lysionotus pauciflorus*.



Lysionotus pauciflorus grown by Jim Roberts, shown off at our recent Propagation meeting

Lysionotus pauciflorus is a great example of an aerial rhizome that gives you some of the in-between context you need to visualize what is going on in Gesneriad rhizomes. Horizontally creeping stem? Check! Little leaves all over those stem? Check! You can even tell they are actually miniature leaves of the original plant. Now if you compact this rhizome even more, cover it even more with leaves... ahhhhh! I get it now! And even the “scales” make more sense... Gesneriads are known the world over for being able to be propagated from leaves.

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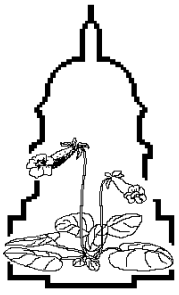
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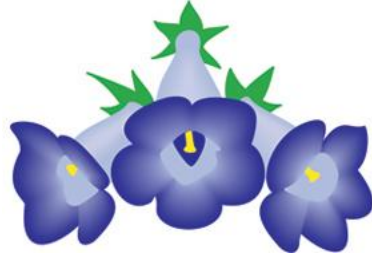
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Directors: Andrew Norris, Barb Stewart, Donna Beverin



Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 8

September 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Titanotrichum oldhamii

President's message:

The kids are back in school, and while we are still baking in the heat some days I'm starting to notice the cooler nights. This is one of my favorite times of year even if it means I'll be spending more time indoors with the days growing shorter - I have plenty of seed to grow out this year and cuttings to work on. I had to break down my collection and restart a lot to finally rid myself of the dreaded foliar meales and look forward to seeing the plants bounce back and thrive, and much of the seed I have relates to my Sinningia hybridizing projects. Spring should bring many surprises and plants to share!

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11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

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September 13th Drew's educational seminar on plant lighting

October 4th & 5th: NCAC Plant Show at Behnkes. No meeting on the 11th. (Behnkes open Friday, Oct. 3rd til 8pm and opening on Sat. Oct 4th at 7am for us.

November 15th Field trip to the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) Show in Delaware

December 13th Holiday Party celebration

This month's topic will also be something I'll be playing with this winter - lighting. With the variety of plants I've grown it's been a challenge to make everyone happy AND blooming, so I'm excited to hear Barry speak. I've seen him present for the Orchid society and his presentation left me thinking hard and with many ideas to fiddle with that have paid off in plant growth. I can only imagine what changes I'll be making after hearing him speak this time.

Fall is also show season for us, with our show and sale happening next month! I encourage everyone to enter a plant, even if not culturally perfect. I'm aiming for plants that are interesting to see, and hoping some will actually be blooming when I plan them too. More than anything it is the people that have always drawn me to shows... so much to learn, to share, to chat about, to oogle, and even a few plants to buy and see how well they like my conditions. What great fun!

Corey Wickliffe



Titanotrichum oldhamii was grown by Johanna Zinn, who planted this specimen in the early summer of 2012 when it produced only vegetation the first year. Johanna also had another *Titanotrichum* plant in a pot that she took in for the winter. That plant hung on until shortly before it could go out for the summer, when she thinks that she let the soil dry out. The one planted in the garden survived, increased in size, and in 2013 produced lots of propagules, but no blooms. This year, 2014, the now larger plant has finally bloomed. Amazingly this plant survived the terrible winter of 2013-2014 to produce beautiful blooms this August!

Bloomin' Now

By Barb Stewart



Episcia 'Jim's Canadian Sunset', given to Barb's mother-in-law for Mother's Day 2014



Barb's *Eucadonia* 'Adele'



Barb's *Achimenes* 'Stan's Delight'



Barb's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara Dali'

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society August 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Our August meeting was held in the classroom at Behnkes in Beltsville, MD. Eight members attended, Johanna Zin, Jim Roberts, Barbara Stewart, Barry Woolf, Donna Beverin, Carol Masler, Kitty Hedgepeth, and Harold Belcher.

We enjoyed good food, good company, and conversation as we always do when we get together. We also had four visitors; Joyce, Bruce, Merrill and one whose name I didn't get.

Our speaker was Dr. Jeremy Keene and the topic was "Monopyle and all the others in the room". While I took notes of Dr. Keene's presentation, the condensed power point presentation of his talk e-mailed to the NCAC Members by Jim Roberts does a far better credit to Jeremy's presentation than I ever could. The presentation began at 10:40 A.M. and ended at 11:50. At the conclusion of Dr. Keene's talk, we took a break for refreshments and to conduct the raffle drawing. It was my lucky day. I got exactly the plants I wanted and gave away the rest of my picks.

There were a few talking points before our meeting.

*Johanna talked about adopting a species and will scan and sent the information to Members.

*A question was raised about the Brazilian Seed Fund. Is anyone ordering? And, do we want to continue? Yes it will.

We began our business meeting at approximately 12:27 P.M.

Barry gave the Treasurer's Report which was accepted by the Members present. There was no Treasurer's Report as I missed the meeting and no minutes were taken.

The discussion next moved to our upcoming Show and Sale. Barry mentioned that we need an advertising budget. Ken Moore has handled it in the past. I volunteered to reach out to Kathy Jenz who publishes the Washington Gardiner. I contacted her and offered information from our last Show and Sale but it's difficult to get a firm estimate of the cost to publish if there isn't an exact copy of the current information. We may be able to get an announcement in the Washington Gardiner News but it's getting a little late for that.

Jim offered to get some cost data for the Awards Banquet. He currently has the ribbons and awards. Jim has commitments for two speakers at our Show and Sale. One of them, Karen Allen of Fredericksburg, VA, will grow plants and show them as well as provide a talk.

The business meeting concluded at 12:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Harold Belcher

Mid Atlantic African Violet Society

"Diamonds are Forever"

November 13 – 15, 2014

Crowne Plaza Hotel

630 Naamans Road

Claymont, Delaware

Contact: Quentin Schlieder

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

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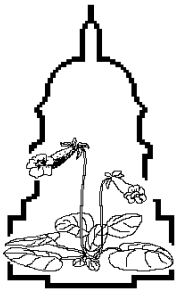
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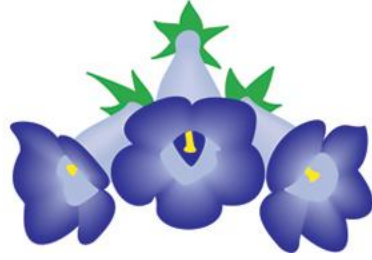
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The Gesneriad Society website:

www.gesneriadsociety.org



Petal Tones



Volume 45 Number 9

December 2014

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society



Gasteranthus imbricans, a rare plant brought back from the edge of extinction!

Gasteranthus

Jim Roberts

Gesneria and *Gasteranthus* are two of my favorite genera. Sure, they require special growing conditions - 100+% humidity for the *Gasteranthus* - but if grown enclosed their care is really minimal.

I currently have 7 or 8 species of *Gasteranthus* growing, and really should start propping them for sale. It's important to get them growing by multiple people in various locations since many are extinct or approaching extinction in the wild.

Two years ago Drew and I judged the Long Island Chapter show and sale in April. One of the plants in the sales table was simple labeled *Gasteranthus* sp., the grower had lost the name tag and couldn't remember what it was it where it came from.

It took 2 years, but the plant finally flowered for me. Lovely orange pouches with orange calyxes. I hadn't seen anything like it before, and it didn't look like any of the

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December 13th Holiday Party celebration This is the time of year when we all have something to celebrate: Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza or even just time off from work! Let's all share something special from our kitchens. Everyone should bring in a food item such as a salad, main dish, dessert or side dish for sharing!

Fellow members, bring one of your favorite gesneriads to the next meeting for "show and tell", and let us know a little bit more about it and why you like it.

Gasteranthus on John Clark's photo library. I was stumped. So I put a photo up on the Gesneriphiles site and got a really nice surprise. Jonathan Ertelt recognized the plant as *Gasteranthus imbricans*, a species he had collected years ago in Costa Rica. I sent him some cuttings (with flowers) and he's "almost" positive I have what he thought had been lost to cultivation. He's growing it on to get fresher flowers for a positive ID.

There are now three of us growing this exciting and beautiful species. It's larger than the familiar *Gasteranthus atratus*, but still worth growing. I hope it turns out to be as easy to propagate as the other *Gasteranthus* species.



A Few of My Favorite Things...

By Barbara Stewart

“Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens...”

(Or maybe, “large purple flowers and cat hairs on foliage”...)

This is the time of year when we think about all our favorite things, past, present and future. We start on turkey day, giving thanks for all the wonderful things that we



have in our lives, then move in to the holiday season thinking of all the additional things we want, and finish off with bright hopes for a new year.

Well, in that mode of thought, here are some of my favorite gesneriads. Besides the ever beautiful *Saintpaulia* at the top of my list, my favorite “other”

gesneriads include many of the rhizomatous plants in the family. This “furry” plant in the photo (with hairy leaves



that are magnets for cat hair), is one of my favorites, *Gloxinia perennis*, sometimes called Canterbury Bells because of its large lavender bell flowers. It is a new world gesneriad found in Central and South America, but primarily in the Andes. It was named for Benjamin Peter Gloxin (1765-1795) who was a German physician and botanical writer. Perennis is latin for

perennial, as these plants are dormant in winter and return in the summer. In its native habitat, *Gloxinia perennis* would be experiencing summer as we approach winter, hence mine is now opening its first blossoms of the season. It blooms one or two flowers at a time, with buds opening progressively up the stem.

The flowers are scented from the production of a perfume rather than nectar, which attracts male euglossine bees in its natural habitat. Although in nature it prefers the shady and humid forest, growing on rocks and river banks, in Virginia it grows happily in my sunny bay window

overlooking my patio after it grows too tall for my light stand. This is a very easy plant to grow, returns faithfully from dormancy every year, and reproduces easily from seed. I enjoy the beautiful glossy dark foliage and wine colored stems. It is exciting to see it get taller each day and watch as the buds quickly grow then suddenly open into beautiful purple bells (although very short lived).

Some of my other favorite rhizomatous plants include the



fast growing *Kohlerias* with so many beautiful blossoms, many of which never go completely dormant, *Smithianthas*, and *Niphaea oblonga* with its striking bright green leaves and dark veining.

And in spite of their many conflicts with plants, my 3 shedding cats are also at the top of my list of favorite things!

(Want to know how I cleaned off all those cat hairs? A lint roller called “Sticky Master” did the job, and works great on *Saintpaulias* as well.)

NCAC's October 2014 Show Report

by Jim Roberts, Show Chair

We had a successful show in October at Behnke's and I want to thank everyone who helped out with the setup and especially thank those who entered plants. There were a total of 116 entries in the show, which is pretty amazing for a small Chapter. However, the entries were divided up between 5 of our members and two non-members (a judge and his friend). It would have been nice to see entries from some of the other members who I know grow beautiful plants. However, schedules don't always cooperate and we lost the entries of several growers to another meeting going on that same day. The judges took all of 4 hours to complete the judging. We had three great talks.

Andrew Norris: 49 entries Best in Show with *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, 2nd Best in Show with *Nematanthus* 'Heart Throb', Sweepstakes in Horticulture with 19 Blue Ribbons, Best New World with *Nematanthus* 'Heart Throb', Best Old World with *Saintpaulia pendula*,

Best for Ornamental Foliage with *Henkelia* 'Ako Sky', Best New Gesneriad for *Sinningia* 'Solstice', Best Lesser Known for *Chrysotheria xantha*

Jim Roberts: 60 entries Best in Artistic for "Twilight", Sweepstakes in Artistic with 9 Blue Ribbons, Runner up to Sweepstakes in Horticulture, Best Collection for *Alsobia* Collection, Best Arrangement for Twilight, Best Arrangement of Growing Material for Cast Away
Corey Wickliffe: Best in Crafts for her Stained Glass, Best Novice Arrangement for Little Mermaid and a really nice Educational Display about hybridizing with *Sinningia bullata*. Brian Connor and Johanna Zinn also had some nice entries!

Stephen Maciejewski swept the Photography classes and won Best in the Arts with his photo of *Hemiboea subcapitata* var. *pteroaulis*. This also won him the award for Best Photograph. He entered 3 really nice Educational Displays and won Best Educational Entry with his Gesneriad Conservation Projects in China.

So, we had a success with one important failure: Sales was nearly non-existent. Drew and I had no room in the vehicles for sale plants on Saturday, and we had no time to go home and get any. We sold everything we brought on Sunday, but the judges were itching to buy and there was very little there! Thanks Barbara Stewart and Johanna Zinn for your plants and donations, but we really could have used a few hundred more plant on Saturday. This is something to work on for next time.

We also gained two new members, which is the most important reason for holding a show. We want to get the public interested in these plants and we want new members. I think we accomplished both. See all the beautiful show plants and displays photographed by Drew below. Sorry some are not named.



Columbia orientandina



Pearcea



Just a reminder confirming our December 13, 2014 Holiday Party meeting of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society. We want to invite members of the public to come in and visit with us. We will have extra food and drink available for everyone and have planned some events to help the public learn a bit more about Gesneriads.

- ❖ Food: Everyone bring something.
- ❖ Plant of the Month: Theme is “These are a few of My Favorite Things”. Bring your favorite gesneriad and explain why. Red flowering plants would be especially appropriate!
- ❖ Show and Tell: In addition to your favorite gesneriad, we always welcome a plant worth showing to the group: rare in flower, new plants, something in spectacular bloom that is not really “show” ready.
- ❖ Little Show: Bring up to two plants to be judged according to Gesneriad Society rules, meaning competition rather than merit judging. If the plants would not normally compete against each other in a standard judged show they will not be in competition with each other in the Little Show either. This means that every plant in a Little Show could win a Blue Ribbon if they are all from what would be a different Class in full show. Sinningia will not compete against Drymonia will not compete against Petrocosmea, etc. We will also include a design class at every Little Show. This month’s design title is “Frosty the Gesneriad Man.” An all-white design except for the Gesneriad leaves and flowers. We won’t supply niches but the design should fit a 12” x 12” x 12” niche if one was supplied.
- ❖ Gift exchange: Brown bag gift with a value of a maximum of \$15. Should be a gift that is plant related or something that would be of value to a grower. This should not be a “gag” gift.
- ❖ Raffle: Let’s have a big raffle this month so please bring gesneriads to share on the raffle table. Everyone receives three tickets for attending and are for sale at 3 tickets for \$1.00.

Our business meeting is also open to the public, but will be short – just our semi-annual election of officers. The proposal for officers is:

President: Jim Roberts

Vice President: Drew Norris

Treasurer: Barry Woolf

Secretary: Harold Belcher

Directors: Donna Beverin (and need 2 others)

We shall be meeting in the “houseplants” area of Behnkes Nursery greenhouse. See you Saturday, December 13th!



Saintpaulia



Saintpaulia pendula



Cobananthus calochlamys



Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Hollyhock'



Streptocarpus
Saintpaulia 'Optimara EverHarmony'



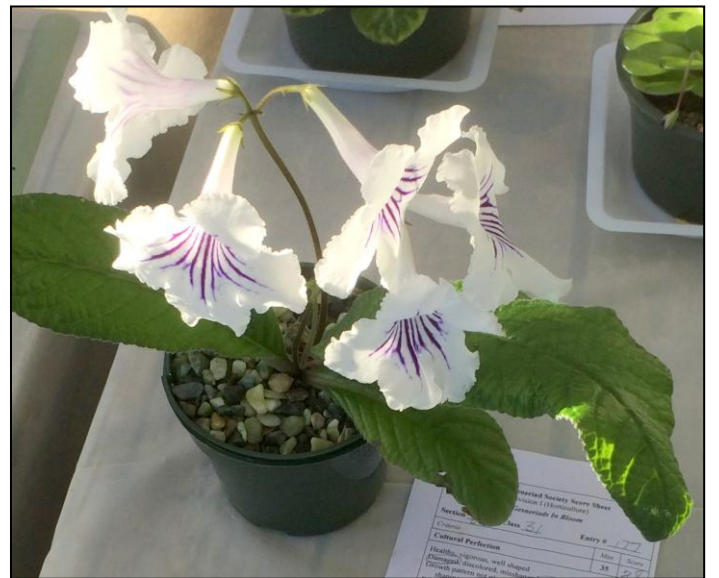
Saintpaulias



Streptocarpus



Achimenes 'Yellow Beauty' (left)



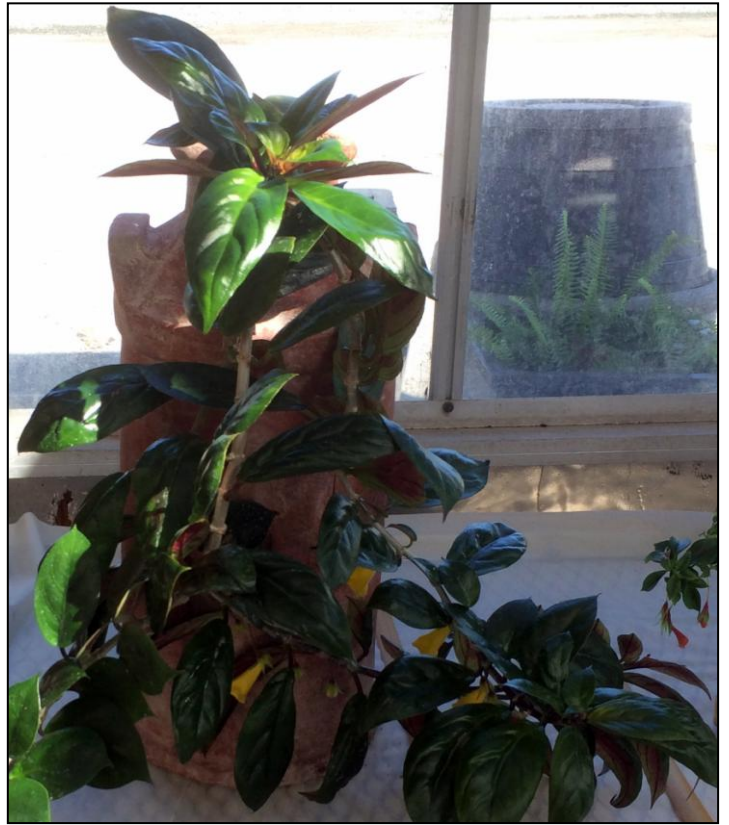
Streptocarpus 'Guidelines'



Saintpaulias 'EverHarmony' & EverSpecial (front two)



Nautilocalyx 'Gothenburg'



Nematanthus fluminensis



Kohleria 'Flirt', 'Silver Feather', 'Rattlesnake'



Henckelia 'Ako Sky'



Columnnea 'Louise Harris'



Show winner *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*



Streptocarpus



Sinningias 'Ozark Coral Freckles', 'Piglet', Lavender Eruption'



Smithiantha with yellow flowers!



Natural Garden



Smithiantha 'Sassy Redhead'



Straight sided terrariums



Streptocarpus 'Jaco's Gem'



Primulina repanda



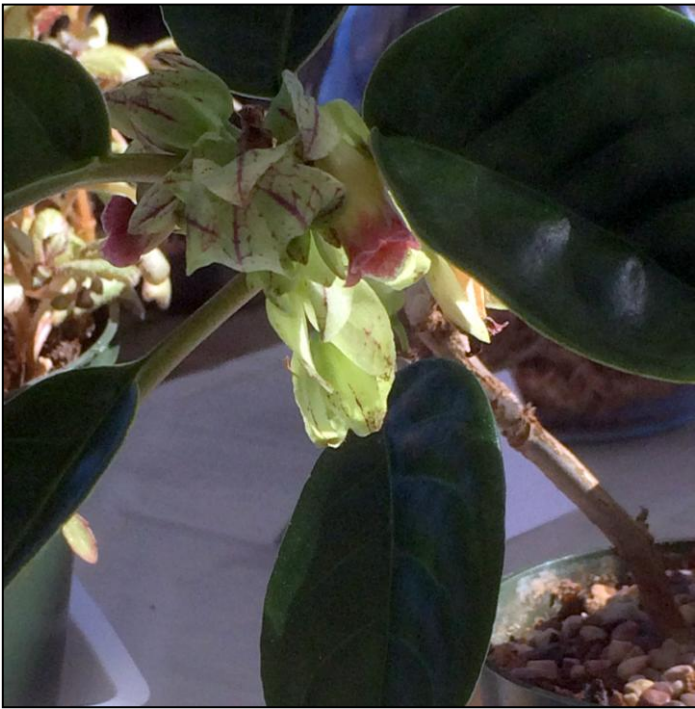
Gesneria 'Ako Cardinal Flite'



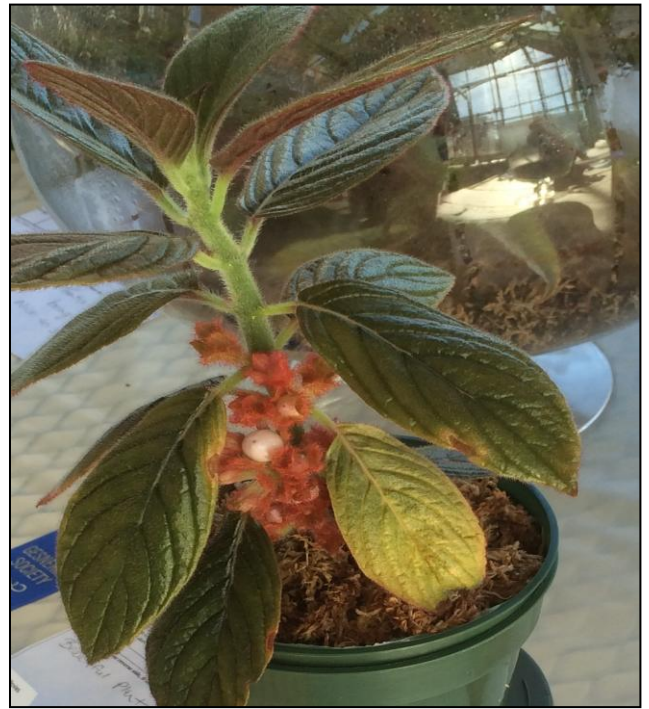
Flower close-up of *Primulina repanda*



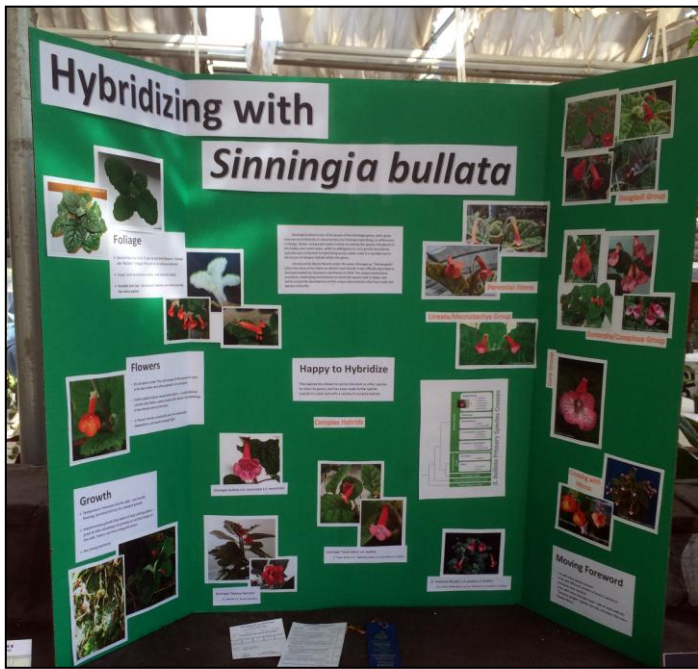
Flower close-up of *Gesneria* above



Drymonia rhodoloma



Columnnea calotricha



Display by Stephen Maciejewski



Display garden with *Sinningia bullata*



War Horse Display Arrangement



Sinningia insularis



Underwater display garden arrangement



Sinningia species aff reitzii

The Gesneriad Society 2014 Annual Appeal

Message from Paul Susi, Development Chairperson

Each year The Gesneriad Society undertakes an annual appeal to help support gesneriad research and education through its special funds. Due to your generosity, our past appeals have been very successful. Your donations have enabled the Society to distribute research and educational grants and to support students and speakers attending the annual international convention.

This year we are making a special effort to raise funds for the Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund.

The Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment

Fund (NDSSEF) supports the education of students interested in the Gesneriaceae. The Fund has designated one Sleeth Scholar on an annual basis. The Fund continues to grow through prudent investment of its principle, and only its income is used to provide scholarships to deserving students. Our eventual goal is to increase the Fund's principle in order to generate income sufficient to support two annual scholarships.

The Sleeth Scholar for 2014 is **Gabriel Emiliano Ferreira** from Brazil, who is undertaking a phylogenetic and taxonomic study of *Besleria*. This is being done through fieldwork in the Guiana Shield and includes the following aims, among others: 1) to study the phylogenetic relationships of the species of *Besleria* based on robust molecular phylogenies; 2) to determine the age and geographic origin of clades and the areas with higher species richness; and 3) to make a taxonomic study of the species occurring in Brazil and the Guiana Shield providing taxonomic status, synonyms, typifications, and environmental data, such as distribution maps, and reviews about ecology and geography.

Remember:

- The Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund is supported only by donations
- Your donation will ensure that the funds remain healthy and growing
- Your donation will help train the next generation of gesneriad researchers
- The full amount of a donation is tax-deductible for U.S. members:
<http://shop.gesneriadsociety.org/collections/frontpage/products/annual-appeal>

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors and all the other volunteers who help keep The Gesneriad Society vibrant, organized, and growing, I thank you for your support and wish you the very best for the year ahead.

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