

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 50 Number 4

April 2019



Johanna's *Boea hygrosopia* in bloom

President's Message

With longer days and warmer weather, many of my plants are getting anxious to move outside. Donna will help us get our summer sinningias ready for the transition. Don't worry if you don't have any summer *Sinningias*, we shall have lots to share at the meeting. We are also featuring *Nautilocalyx* this month, so there will be cuttings and seedlings of several varieties. These are not rare and unusual gesneriads, and are very easy to grow. In fact, keeping some of them under control is more of an issue. We will share our advice and experiences during Show-and-Tell. Of course, feel free to bring in any other plant you want to exhibit to show off or ask for advice. We will not have a meeting in May due to the plant sale at Green Spring Gardens. At our April meeting, we will finalize plans to participate in this event to help promote our hobby. Hope you will join us.

Barb Stewart

MEETING LOCATION:

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road,
Laurel, MD 20723

We gather at 10:00am to get set up, with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet the second Saturday of the month. Calendar yearly dues of \$10 are due in January or whenever joining.

Renew by March to keep your Petal Tones subscription.

Attention: The Church is a "NUT FREE ZONE" due to children with allergies so do not bring any food items that include nuts or peanuts. The area is a day care.

April 13th 2019: Summer Sinningias by Donna Beverin

May 18th 2019: Green Spring Garden's Plant Sale, 9AM to 3PM, in lieu of meeting. Details on page 4.

June 15th 2019: African Violet Species by Brian Connor
Members should send list of African Violet species they are growing to Brian for prep. (meeting changed to 3rd weekend because of the AVSA convention)

July/August – Date TBA; No business meeting; picnic most likely with Begonia Society

September 14th – Rare & Unusual Gesneriads webinar

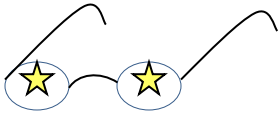
October 12th – Problem Identification – **need presenter;** topic to include "how to identify what exactly is wrong with my plant" and includes pests as well as cultural issues

November 9th – Pat Bowling's program on micro mini sinningias (pending)

December - Holiday Party – **need host**

Our Treasurer, Sharon Long is collecting 2019 dues. She will be sending an email to members who have not paid for this year. If you know you owe dues, you may mail them to her at 1546 Heritage Hill Drive
Henrico, VA 23238.
Dues are still only \$10.00. Thanks for all who are up to date.

May issue: Content due by Sunday am 5/12/19



Wishfully Seeking to Grow

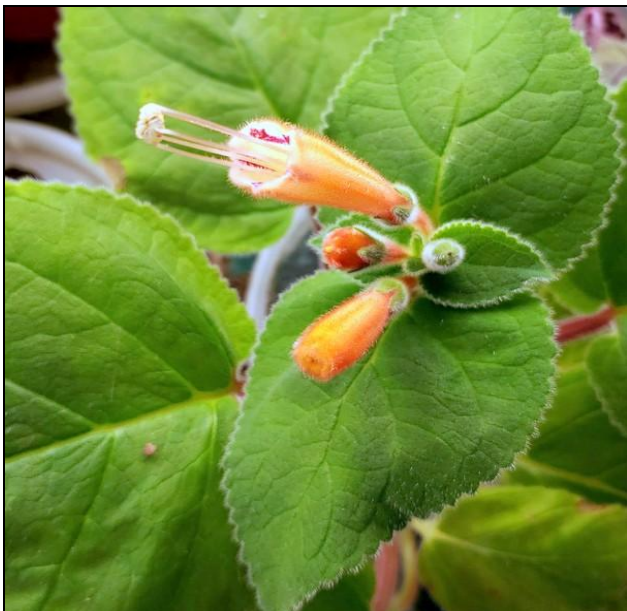
- Kitty Hedgepeth..... Episcias 'War Paint' and 'Black Mamba'
- Donna Beverin..... Liebigia speciosa
- Donna Beverin..... Sinningia 'Georgia Sunset' x Macrostachya
- Janet Carlton..... Streptocarpus 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant

MEMBER TIP BY JANET CARLTON

What a difference a move makes! On the left are the British Streptocarpus Society seedlings that Doug Bolt brought to our March 9th NCACGS meeting. I moved them for the first time from his container to my own incubator box a couple of days later. On the right, just over three weeks later, are the same seedlings. So big they need to be moved to solo cups ASAP! Thanks Doug! Move your seedlings everyone!



Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Sinningia cardinalis* ' Sky Diver' grown from seed.

Barb's *Petrocosmea flaccida*

Philadelphia Flower Show Winners

The Philadelphia Flower Show is the world's largest flower show and is held every March.

The plant labels are however often terrible.

25% it seems have "CV" as the hybrid or cultivar. = "Cultivated Variety" per W. H. Wells in Gophiles.



Leslie Anne Miller's *Sinningia* 'Arkansas Empress', which was outstanding and my picture doesn't do it justice

Photo: Karyn Cichocki



Leslie Anne Miller's *Sinningia* 'Arkansas Bells'

Photo Karyn Cichocki



In the Orchid area a garden with *Episcia* and unusual plants.

Photo by Karyn Cichocki



Effie Wister's *Streptocarpus* species

Photo Karyn Cichocki

Baltimore African Violet Show & Sale

Joppatown Flea Market

1000 Joppa Farm Road, Joppa, MD

Friday, May 11th – 9 am to 6 pm – Sale opens at 9

Show will open at 1 pm, after judging

Saturday, May 12th –

Show and Sale will run from 8 am to 3 pm.

Shirley Huffman at bshuffman2@aol.com



Dave's *Columnea scheidiana*



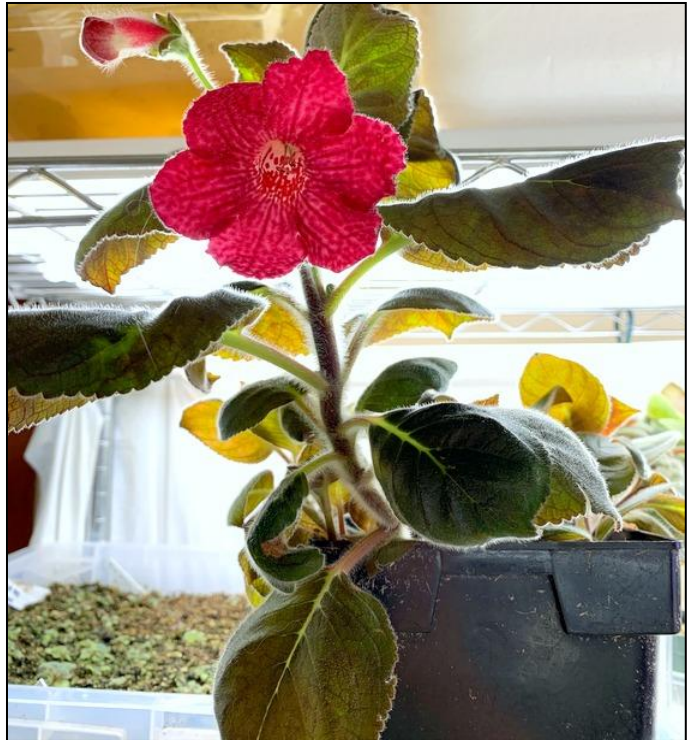
Dave's *Streptocarpella* in bloom



Green Springs Sale

No May Meeting for NCAC members Instead.....

May 18th our NCAC group will offer plants for sale at Green Spring Gardens annual Plant Sale from 9am to 3pm. Johanna has made arrangements for us to secure a booth area and there we shall place a tent to sell plants. Our concentration will be on Gesneriads with some educational hand outs and information about NCAC membership. We are hoping our request to be next to the Potomac Branch of the Begonia Society will be granted since some members could work both booths. Parking is at the shopping center. There is no shade provided; Andy offered to set up tents for club use the day before the sale. Also Sharon & Andy offered the use of a Credit Card scanner using Pay Pal. Members who expect to participate are: Barb K., Barbara S., Diane, and Brian. Karen, Johanna and Donna will participate with the Begonia Society and NCAC as they are able so members will have time to shop as they rotate in to help at the table. Johanna and Donna are looking into purchasing some plants from Gary Hunter. Please prop your plants so our sale is a success. You can offer other plants for sale as well. Should be a fun day for all of us to enjoy seeing the gardens, buying and talking plants! 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA



Dave's *Kohleria* on the left. Donna's *Kohleria* from Dave's donation to the raffle table on the right. For some reason Donna's has 6 petals in a bloom that is two inches across on large plant! Second blossom is normal. Possibly, Red Ryder per Jim and Google pics. Dave received his from the raffle table also!

JANET'S HYBRIDIZING EXPERIENCE

My very first intentional *Streptocarpus* cross (of *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslippers® Red Rose' X *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslippers® Harlequin Lace') was pollinated in June 2018, sowed in November 2018, and started blooming in late March 2019. The hope was for a blend of the Harlequin Lace pattern with reddish coloring. The first 9 seedlings have opened, at least partially, (though #2 was tossed for never getting past the "crunchy" stage) and at least 4 more are in hot pursuit. Although I was very surprised by the violet/pink coloring of the first flower, I've been told that is normal from a reddish parent. Several have very intense coloring and unusual patterns and I'm delighted there is such variety. Watching the seedlings unfold has been magical and although it takes dedication, I'm totally hooked on co-creating with the *Streptocarpus* Diva!



BLOOMIN' NOW



Bill's *Sinningia reitzii*



Bill's *Episcia viridifolia*



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Pewter Bells' Best Semi-Miniature in The Richmond Show.



Barb's Miniature *Sinningia* NOID



Barb's *Microchirita involucrata* with red leaves. Most are usually green.

[Good, good, good . . . good vibrations . . .](#)

By Janet Carlton ©

Some tips for pollination from our busy experts . . . the bees!

Its springtime and love is in the air! Flowers are blooming and the urge to procreate (um, pollinate) can be strong.

But before you romance your lovelies, you'll need a good quantity of that powdery gold at the ready. The more pollen you pack onto the stigma of the mama flower, the better your chances of creating a fat pod with lots of seeds. And who doesn't like a fat little baby, eh? While you can rub anthers directly onto a stigma, I've found this doesn't reliably provide enough loose pollen to stick and stay.

Fortunately, our friendly bees have evolved a technique that entices flowers to give up their pollen in quantity. Rather than simply rubbing their bodies against anthers as they go about their buzziness, once inside a flower they vibrate their bodies rapidly. For many types of flowers, including *Streptocarpus* and African Violets, this action causes the flower to spurt forth its pollen onto the bee's body. Kablooiie! Achoo!

Now, you don't actually have to start shakin' your bootie for your plants. Various vibrating tools can be repurposed to mimic these good vibrations so that copious amounts of pollen can be collected from multiple flowers whenever they are open. You simply touch your tool to the outside base of the flower to transfer the vibrations and catch the pollen onto a dark spoon so you can see it. It can then be used immediately or stored (wrapped in dark paper, in a sealed and labeled container, in the fridge) for use on blooms that open up to several months later, giving you additional options for your crosses. To pollinate a flower, pour the saved pollen back onto a spoon and dip the stigma into it a couple of days in a row. Voilà! Time for a toast!

What vibrating tools, you ask? Be creative - try an electric toothbrush at high and low settings, a hand-held back massager, random tools from the basement, or even a tuning fork (bees vibrate at up to 400Hz which is close to the A4 key on a piano). A tool, called a VegiBee, is specifically devised for this purpose and is available online. For more info, click

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKmrTlloJ9o> to see a video showing buzz pollination performed by a bee and a tuning fork, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEvnD9EqSUQ> for a video about the VegiBee. Happy spring and happy pollinating! Photo of *Gloxinia perennis* with a bee is from Gesneriad Web Reference <http://www.gesneriads.info/gesneriad-genera/gloxinia/>



National Gesneriad Convention

July 2 to July 6, 2019

You are invited to attend The Gesneriad Society's 63rd Annual Convention – **Cincinnati Celebrates Gesneriads**. The convention will be held at the newly renovated Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel. Located in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, the hotel is a masterpiece of 1930's French art deco design. Convention rates are in effect three days before and three days after the convention dates, so plan to explore this vibrant city and region. To broaden your gesneriad knowledge, we have a varied line-up of speakers: Lynne Dibley will talk about the history of *Streptocarpus* cultivation and her UK nursery's contribution to the breeding of award-winning specimens; Stephen Maciejewski will describe the recent group trip to Cuba in search of new gesneriads; Master Electrician Bruce Williams will explain the basics of lighting and LED technology; commercial grower B.J. Ohme will offer a practical program on maintaining a collection of plants when time is limited. Early entry to plant sales on Thursday night from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. is for convention registrants only and is based upon your registration number. Plant sales are open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available on Thursday evening. <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2019-convention-cincinnati-ohio/>



Kitty Hedgepeth won Best in Show for her *Saintpaulia* 'Pixie Blue'.



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Pewter Bells', Best Semi-Miniature



Barb Koski's *Sinningia* 'Gorgeous'



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Canary'



Sharon Long's Best in Interpretive Flower Arrangement



Barb S. Second Best Container Garden



Barb S. Third Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement



Kitty's *Sinningia pusilla*



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Cirelda' Best in Container

Mr. Gesneriad,

What is the procedure for naming seedlings from a cross? I have seedlings from a cross done by someone else, and the name which includes the two parent plants is quite long. Do I keep the cross name until I have a distinctly new plant that I want to name? Can I give my seedlings new names even if they are not distinctly different from the parents? Barb Stewart



My added question would be...if you get the seeds from Hybridizers' Association wouldn't it be a good idea to let them know? Most hybridizers are searching for certain results.

Donna

Mr. G: Named hybrids should be distinctly different than either parent and all other hybrids in that genus. While no one can obviously know everything in cultivation, past and present, it should be something that would be recognized in a crowd.

There are way too many mini- *Sinningia* *Episcia* hybrids out there that don't meet that criteria. All hybrids between two species should, in theory, look alike. But even there, there can be slight differences. For example *Petrocosmea* Momo, Imperial Butterflies and Asa Blue are all from the same two species (the same seed pod). They are all distinctly different.

Any new hybrid grown from hybrid seed obtained through, for instance, the GHA, should be passed through the original seed donor before naming it. He or she may have an exact duplicate from the portion of seed that wasn't donated.

But once permission has been granted and you're sure it's unique, prop it through 3 generations for a stability check. Share it with a few close friends to make sure it's not your soil mix or water supply giving you bright orange blossoms on a *Saintpaulia* hybrid. THEN, and only then, register it with the Gesneriad Society.

There are too many unregistered hybrids out there. The registration helps growers know something about the genetics of the hybrid, and therefore a bit about the growing conditions it might like.

It's exciting to have something new from seed. But 99% of the seedlings in a pod look very much alike. Make sure you pick the best. And good luck with your plant's future success in the market.

Summer Sinningias with emphasis of *Sinningia tubiflora*

Join us on Saturday, April 13th for a program on **Growing Summer Sinningias** outside. We shall be talking about the many *Sinningia* varieties that are very successful growing in pots on a deck, patio or another part of your outdoor garden. Some summer sinningias are: *Sinningia tubiflora*, 'Carolyn', 'Towering Inferno', 'Bananas Foster', 'aggregata', 'Butter and Cream', 'Arkansas Bells', 'Apricot Bouquet', *S. sellovii*. I shall be sharing tubers and seeds.



Barb's *S. 'Arkansas Bells'* sending up sprouts



Donna's *S. tubiflora* blooms



Johanna visited Bob and Dee Stewart's home and their greenhouse recently. The first photo shows the cuttings she received from the Stewarts and some small plants and a cutting that she received at the Buxton Begonia Branch meeting. The second and third photos show a cutting of *Nematanthus brasiliensis* with a reddish purple flower color. The color isn't quite right because she was taking the photo at night without a flash, but it certainly is different from the Stewarts' greenhouse, it looked almost lavender.



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Freckles'



Sally Leonhard's *Streptocarpus* No name mentioned.

BLOOMIN' NOW



Dave's Mini *Sinningia* NOID or could be *S. macropoda*



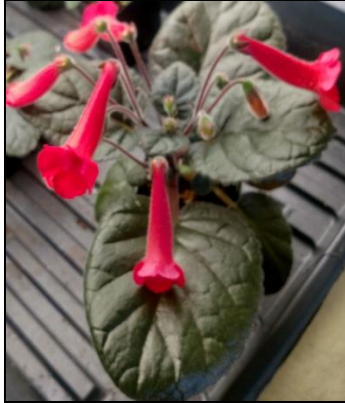
Barb's *Nipnaea oblonga* 'Lindl



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming' at Richmond Show. Pristine!

Plant Sales at Meetings: Sales are allowed at meetings (as long as plants are pest-free), as previously decided at the meeting of March 2015. Members can “offer” plants for sale in Petal Tones so that they know what/how many to bring if someone wants to purchase plants. The seller will split their sales with the club 75/25%.

Dave Anderson has Mini Sinningias for sale at \$4.00 each. 'Mark Twain" and 'Roxy" Let him know so he can bring them to the next meeting.



DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!

At every meeting our members bring extra plants, cuttings, growing supplies, magazines, books , seedlings and donate them to the raffle table. Tickets for the raffle are only 3 for a dollar and everyone who attends the meeting gets one ticket just for showing up (including guests). Here's what you'll see on the raffle table at a meeting: Gesneriad plants, rhizomes, seedlings, tubers, leaves, cuttings, seeds, companion and/or garden plants, magazines, pamphlets , pots and gardening supplies and other plants we love to grow like begonias and houseplants.



Sally's Leonhard's *Primulina* 'Chastity' blooming at her new home in Tennessee! All her plants made the trip in good shape!

President: Barb Stewart
bstew771@verizon.net

Vice-President: Donna Beverin
Donnabeverin@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Long
slong15781@aol.com

Secretary: Sally Leonhart
Acting Secretary: Janet Carlton

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

Committees:
Hospitality: Peggy MacDonald
Publications: Donna Beverin
Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin
Membership: Peggy MacDonald
Ways and Means: Brian Connor
Show: Bill Schmidt

Directors:
Kitty Hedgepeth
Brian Connor
Ki Imai

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

NCAC Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174442276299173/?ref=bookmarks>

The National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society welcomes all interested Gesneriad growers. The most familiar Gesneriad is Saintpaulia, more commonly known as the African Violet.

Dues are \$10 per year (email copy of current year's newsletter).

Back issues from previous years available on website. Membership runs the calendar year and can be pro-rated.

The international Gesneriad Society is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the study, growing and enjoyment of the gesneriaceae. Membership dues are \$25 /year for individuals and \$26 for a family. Benefits include seed fund of hard-to-find plants, reference materials, yearly convention & cultural webinars.

Membership requests should be sent to Bob Clark, 1122 E Pike Street, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122-3916. Membership includes a subscription to the society journal, Gesneriads.

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

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