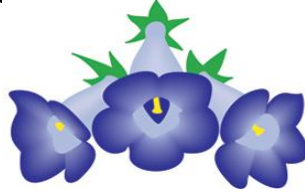


# Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 48 Number 8

August 2017



Barb's Kohleria 'An's Nagging Macaws'

## President's Message:

Barbara Stewart

We had a great picnic last month and enjoyed getting together with the Begonia Society members. With no meeting, we did not discuss the plant of the month, so this month we will focus on both *achimenes* and *petrocosmeas*. Also, with a program on *saintpaulia* species, feel free to show off one of your nice violets and share some leaves of species. I still have gesneriad seedlings to share, so hopefully we shall have a good selection on the raffle table. Garden plants were also popular at the raffle table last month. In addition to the plant of the month, Show and Tell is a chance to bring in any plant you have questions about and get other opinions on how to grow it. Hope to see everyone there!

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 the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues.

August 12<sup>th</sup>: Peggy is hosting at her home 10:30am  
Educational Webinar: Growing the Saintpaulia  
Species by Jeff Smith

September 9<sup>th</sup>: Jim and Drew's Ecuador Trip:  
Gesneriads in the Wild

October 14<sup>th</sup>: Judges School at Jim Robert's home.

Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society

Annual Begonia Show & Sale  
Green Springs Garden Park  
4603 Green Spring Road  
Alexandria, Virginia

August 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 9-4:30

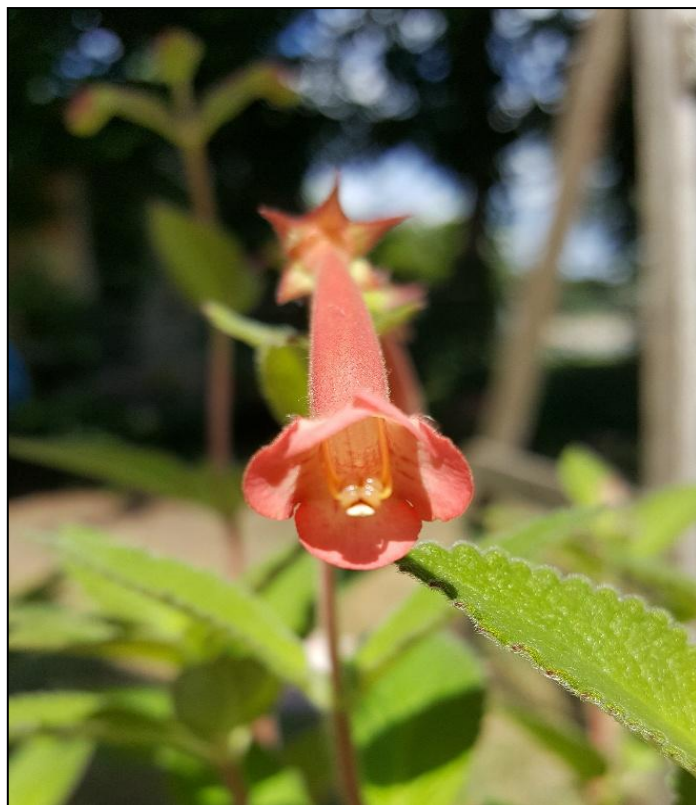
August 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 12-3:30

Wonderful chance to see many Begonia species and hybrid plants shown by local begonia enthusiasts. Sale includes a wide variety of begonias and the hard to find subtropicals!

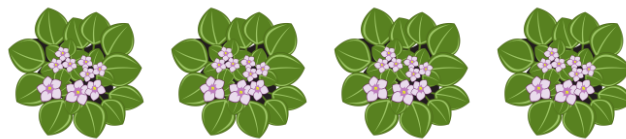
## Bloomin' Now



Kitty's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet'



The Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society will be holding its 2017 Convention and Show in Fredericksburg, Virginia at the newly renovated Fredericksburg Hospitality House, October 26th - 28th. This year's show theme is "Timeless Violets."

If you're interested in showing, either African violets, other gesneriads, or if you are interested in entering any of the various design classes, you must be a member of MAAVS.

Annual dues for membership are \$15.00 individual and \$20.00 joint.

You do not have to be a MAAVS member to attend the Show, but you do have to be registered with the Convention to attend the programs that will be offered. Also, there will be a commercial sales room featuring several notable vendors open to the public, good for anyone who would like to day trip for a little shopping and to view the Show.

So save the date. For updated Show information and a copy of the Show Schedule, please visit the website at [maavs.org](http://maavs.org). If you have questions, please feel free to call Kitty Hedgepeth at 804-358-1879 or you may email her at [EEQUAT@aol.com](mailto:EEQUAT@aol.com).



Jim put this together last weekend and has it hanging in his office. *Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes' and has received a nice welcome from his co-workers.



Our May show: Barb's Natural Garden



Our May show: Jim's *Primulina USBRG: 98-083*



Our May show: Barb's *Primulina 'Destiny'*



Our May show: Bill's *Saintpaulia 'Cirelda'*



Our May show: Jim's *Sinningia 'HCY Taurus'*



Judges in action!

## NCAC's May 2017 Show Report

Jim Roberts

Our show this year had 54 Horticulture entries, 13 Artistic entries, 9 entries in the Arts and 2 Educational exhibits. The quality of the plants and design was up to our usual great standard. Johanna Zinn won **Best in Show** with her *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*. That plant also won Best in Section A and Best Nautilocalyx.



### Horticulture Sweepstakes

Barb Stewart with 6 Blue, 5 Red and 4 Yellow

### Sweepstakes Runner Up

Jim Roberts with 4 Blue, 4 Red and 1 Yellow

### Sweepstakes in Design

Jim Roberts with 5 Blue and 1 Red

### Sweepstakes Runner Up in Design

Barb Stewart with 4 Blue and 2 Red

### Sweepstakes in the Arts

Jim Roberts with 4 Blue

No Runner Up in the Arts



Barb's Membership Table Educational Display

## Best in Section A

*Nautilocalyx pemphidius* – Johanna Zinn



## Best in Section B

Achimenes Glory – Bill Schmidt



**Best in Section C**

Episcia Pearl Drops – Bill Schmidt



**Best in Section Fb**

Kohleria 'Gunsmoke' – Barbara Stewart



**Best in Section E**

Primulina 'Jade Moon' – Jim Roberts



**Best in Section I**

Petrocosmea collection – Jim Roberts



**Best in Section Fa**

Episcia 'Pink Acajou' – Kathryn Hedgepeth



**Best in Section L**

Jim Roberts



**Best in Section M**

Barbara Stewart



**Best in Section O**

Barbara Stewart



**Best in Section Q**

Jim Roberts (photo Columnnea 'Louise Harris')



**Best in Section N**

Jim Roberts



**Best in Section S**

Donna Beverin: Light Stand Educational Exhibit



## Best Streptocarpus in Show

Streptocarpus 'Fernwood's Minuet' – Sally Leonard

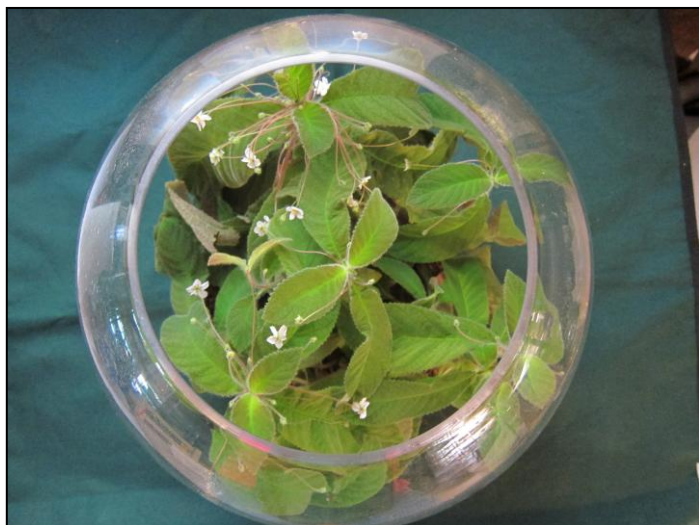


Many Thanks to the Committee Members who helped with the Arrangements for this Show: Show Chair: Jim Roberts Show Schedule: Jim Roberts Judges: Brian Connor Speakers: Barbara Stewart Entries: Kitty Hedgepeth Classification: Jim Roberts Staging: Peggy MacDonald Placement: All Members Hospitality: Johanna Zinn Awards: Jim Roberts Plant Sales: Donna Beverin Publicity: Jim Roberts



## *Amalophyllon macrophyllum* Johanna Zinn

*Amalophyllon macrophyllum* is a rhizomatous gesneriad from Columbia. It grows on rocks, cliffs, and at cave mouths at 300- 800 meters. I don't remember where or when I found it, but my first photos of the small plant were taken last November. *A. macrophyllum* is a rhizomatous plant that should have a dormant period, but has not had a period of dormancy for me, perhaps because I haven't been growing for very long.



Because of the low humidity in my growing area, my plant is growing in a terrarium. It is a little over 10 inches tall and more than filling a 12 inch bubble.



The terrarium is placed on the top shelf of a plant stand under one warm white bulb and one full spectrum bulb which are on for 12 hours each day. It is growing in chopped sphagnum moss, mixed with a small amount of bonsai soil, slow release fertilizer and Azomite. Azomite is a ground volcanic rock that is rich in minerals. Leaves are lanceolate, 8 inches [20 cm] long, and 3 inches [ $>7$ cm] wide with unevenly notched margins that are lined with soft, white hairs. Under lights, the leaves are a bronze

green with chartreuse veins. Younger leaves have a small amount of chartreuse coloration bleeding out from the veins near the petiole attachment. The leaf surface is slightly rough, almost sticky, and covered with short, soft, white hairs. The leaves are soft, stick to each other, and are easily torn.



Blooms are white, slightly more than ½ inch [1.3 cm] in size, and are held on 2.5 inch to 3.5 inch long curving Medusa-like pedicels. [see photo] Pedicels tend to straighten as the bloom matures and the pedicel elongates. Some seed pods are forming, but I have not been doing any hand pollinating, so I don't know if the seeds will be fertile. The plant has been blooming since June. Plants grown in soil in a greenhouse or other area with high humidity might have leaves that are larger, less fragile and perhaps a deeper green in color. I have really been enjoying growing this plant.

Footnotes:

*Selbyana* 29(2): 157–176. 2008.

A REVIEW OF THE NEOTROPICAL GENERA *AMALOPHYLLON*, *NIPHAEA*, AND *PHINAEA* (GESNERIACEAE-GLOXINIEAE)

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ERIC H. ROALSON

School of Biological Sciences and Center for Integrated Biotechnology, Washington State

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(1909), the two genera have remained confused

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Buckeye Colossal'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Nemenis'



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Texas hot chili'







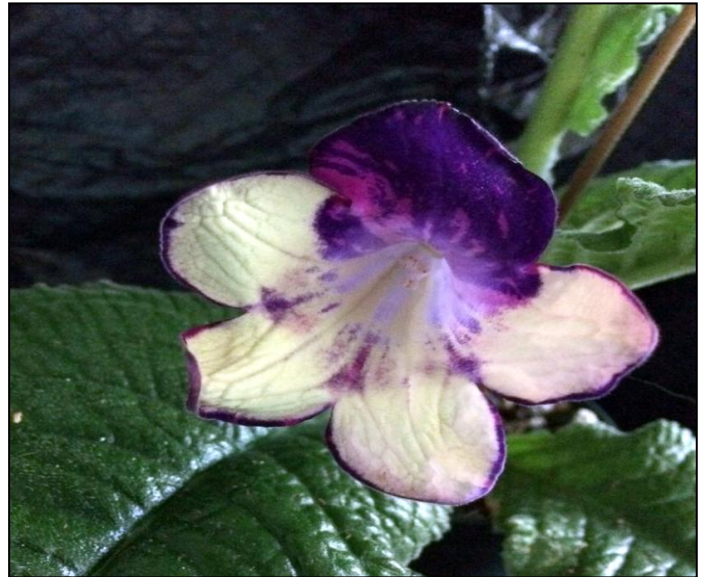
Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Curly Forelocks'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Star'



Brian's *Achimenes* 'Strawberry Lemon'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Joy Sport'



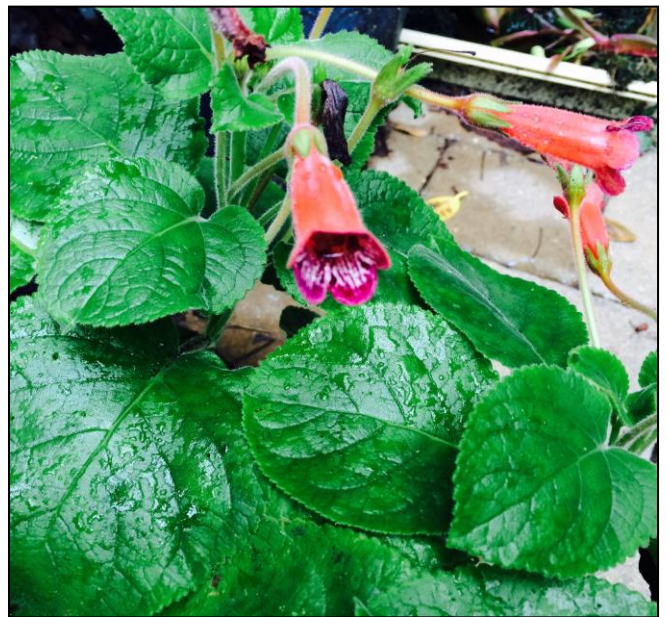
Brian's *Achimenes* 'Last Dawn'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Fireworks'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS First Kiss Close'



Brian's *Sinningia* 'Tomorrow'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Who R U'



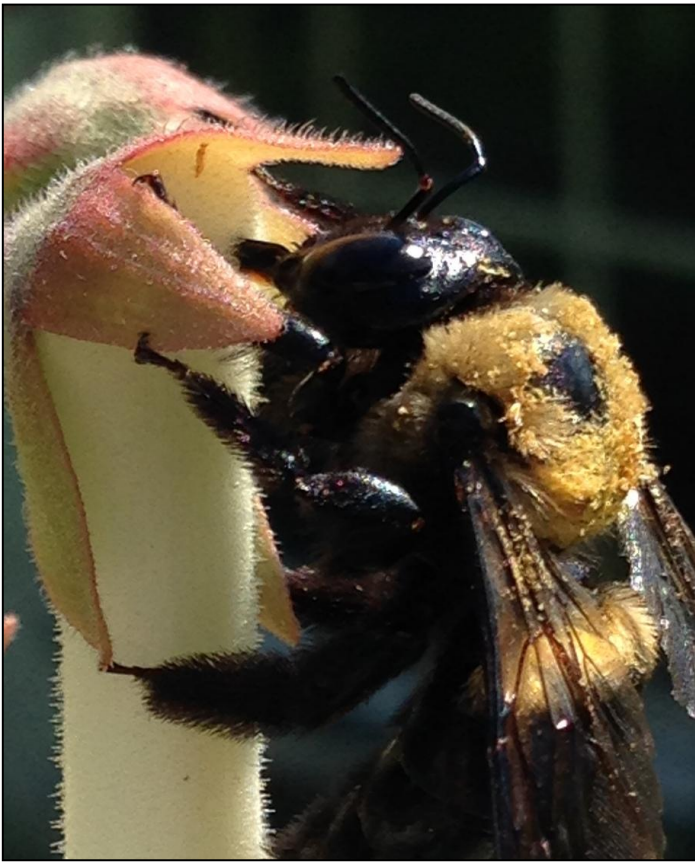
Sharon's *Saintpaulia* 'Adventurous Owen'



Sharon's *Saintpaulia* 'Tahitian Sunset'



Sharon's *Saintpaulia* 'Ma's Easter Parade'



Above/below: Bumble bee “nectar robbing” on Donna’s *Sinningia tubiflora* blooms



Donna’s *Sinningia tubiflora*



Donna’s *Sinningia* ‘Carolyn’



Barb’s *Kohleria* ‘Red Ryder’



Donna's *Sinningia Leucotricha* x Max Dekking



Barb's *Amalophyllon* NOID



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

#### Plants of the Month for 2017

February	<i>Lysionotus</i>
March	<i>Kohleria</i>
April	<i>Saintpaulia</i>
May	Show plants
June	<i>Nematanthus</i>
July	<i>Achimenes</i>
August	<i>Petrocosmea</i>
September	<i>Gasteranthus</i>
October	N/A
November	Mini <i>Sinningia</i>
December	<i>Streptocarpus</i>

#### Programs Planned for 2017

- January 14 - workshop on growing in feather rock.
- February 11 - Propagation Workshop
- March 11 - *Kohleria* - an interesting and easy to grow rhizomatous genus.
- April 8 - African Violets with unusual leaves or flowers (bustle leaves, spooned, girl, longifolia, chimera)
- May 13 - Show workshop - making sure everything is ready for the show on the 20<sup>th</sup>
- Show schedule: May 19 – 21, 2017  
May 19 - Show entries and set-up  
May 20 - last minute entries. Judging. Sales and show open until Sunday, May 21 at 4.
- June 10 - Growing Gesneriads outdoors for the Summer
- July 23 - Picnic with Begonia Society at Johanna's home 1:00pm
- August 12 – Peggy's home subject TBA
- September 9 - Jim and Drew's Ecuador trip PowerPoint
- October 21 (third weekend - Orchid Show on second weekend) - Judges School for new judges and Student judges
- November 11 - Miniature *Sinningia* - growing these small wonders in Glass Containers - GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!
- December - Holiday Party at a member's home.



Mr. Gesneriad is here to help you with your growing questions! Just send a message to the editor and our expert will answer your question in the next issue!

Photos are a help if you have

concerns about pests or other subjects when pictures can really help Mr. "G" understand your problem!

[petaltones@gmail.com](mailto:petaltones@gmail.com)

## **Desperately Seeking**

Jim Roberts.....Gesneria christii

Jim Roberts .....Gesneria ventricosa

Jim Roberts .....Gasteranthus eburnea

Karen Fontneau.....Primulina 'Loki' curly leaf

## **DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!**

At every meeting our members bring extra plants, cuttings, supplies 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 table at a meeting:

Gesneriad plants, rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, leaves, seeds, companion and/or garden plants, cuttings, potting supplies and containers.

President: Barb Stewart  
[bstew771@verizon.net](mailto:bstew771@verizon.net)

Vice-President: Jim Roberts  
[jim.roberts2408@gmail.com](mailto:jim.roberts2408@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Sharon Long  
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Secretary: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin  
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### **Committees:**

Hospitality: Irene Pittman

Publications: Donna Beverin

Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership: Jim Roberts

Ways and Means: Brian Connor

Show: Jim Roberts

### **Directors:**

**Victor Nicholas**

**Brian Connor**

**Ki Imai**

NCAC website:

[www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](http://www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)  
[web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](mailto: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.

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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