

Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 47 Number 11

December 2016



Sinningia bullata grown from seed by Donna

President's Message

It's that giving time of year. The time to prepare and wrap little gifts for friends and family. Why not give them something plant related? Not everyone can grow plants out in the open in their home or apartment, but just about anyone can find the space for a little bubble bowl with a micro *Sinningia*. These little wonders will flower year round with low light and almost no extra care if set up in a sealed container. I've got a small cookie jar type container

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. Please pay now for 2017.

December 2016: Holiday Party. Johanna Zinn's home. Bring a \$15 gift for the exchange of presents in a "Pirate Gift Trading Game" along with food items for the luncheon. Election of new officers. 10 free raffle tickets to all attendees this Saturday! Bring lots of plants & things to share!!

January 2017: Growing in Feather Rock

February 2017: Propagation Workshop



that I think I've only watered once in the past 10 years. It contains an epiphytic *Begonia* and some *Sinningia muscicola*. It has been placed on all sorts of locations in the house, but never under lights. These make perfect gifts for a co-worker's desk. This kind of gift may even whet their appetites for other colors and sizes of *Sinningia*. And from there, who knows?

This season I'm giving Drew's pair of Parsons chameleons a new, bigger cage. The new habitat will be 16 feet long, 4 feet deep and 7 feet tall. Naturally, placing something this big in the basement required the removal of a number of plant stands. Plants are all over the place in the plant room. Many look pretty bad, getting little light and irregular watering; however, once finished and lit, it will be a huge tropical environment for *Begonia*, *Gesneriad* and other plants. It's hard to grow some *Gesneriads* to their full potential under lights. They just get too tall

or wide. But when they are planted "in the ground" with ample light and a misting system that hits them several times a day, they really take off.

One looks through the glass doors and sees the jungle. With some green monsters walking around in the ficus trees or resting next to a gardenia flower.

Thanks to Johanna Zinn for hosting our Holiday meeting this Saturday, December 10th at 10:30am. Johanna loves Begonias and has quite a collection. It will be a fun meeting playing "Pirate" where we can steal, trade or otherwise coerce the gift of our choice from other members! Just love visiting Johanna's! For those who can't make the party, the very best holiday wishes to you and your family from Drew and me. Jim

Gesneriads in Costa Rica

By Johanna Zinn

In the last few years, my husband and I have traveled to Costa Rica twice. One trip was with a group of gardeners and it focused on visits to gardens and tropical rainforests from the lowland tropical



Beautiful skies of Costa Rica

rainforest at La Selva Biological Research Station to the cloud forest of the Montverde Biological Reserve. Most of the gesneriads [and begonias] we saw were in the mid-level forests or in the gardens around the lodges where we stayed. In the forests, many were several yards off the trail, down or up a hill or up a tree, and not clearly seen or easily photographed with my point and shoot camera. If I had had better jungle vision, I would probably have seen many more.



Another amazing cloud formation in Costa Rica

I was surprised that we saw so few, but we walked along trails that overlooked streams or waterfalls, but did not get on the banks of or in the streams or off any of the trails. Also, I am fairly new to *Gesneriad* growing, and might not recognize the unusual and less frequently grown gesneriads. I wish I had



What looks like a variety of *Chrysothemis* in Costa Rica

known about the book Donna has about gesneriads of Costa Rica before we left. (Side note, Donna did not know I was going to Costa Rica and brought the book to the meeting as a coincidence...thinking that Karyn's talk may have some reference to the plants in the book!)



Our second trip to Costa Rica centered on animals.



A beautiful Toucan in a Costa Rican tree

Among other places, we visited jaguar and sloth rescue centers and Tortuguero Park where, by the light of the moon, we watched a sea turtle lay eggs and the next morning watched a baby turtle make its

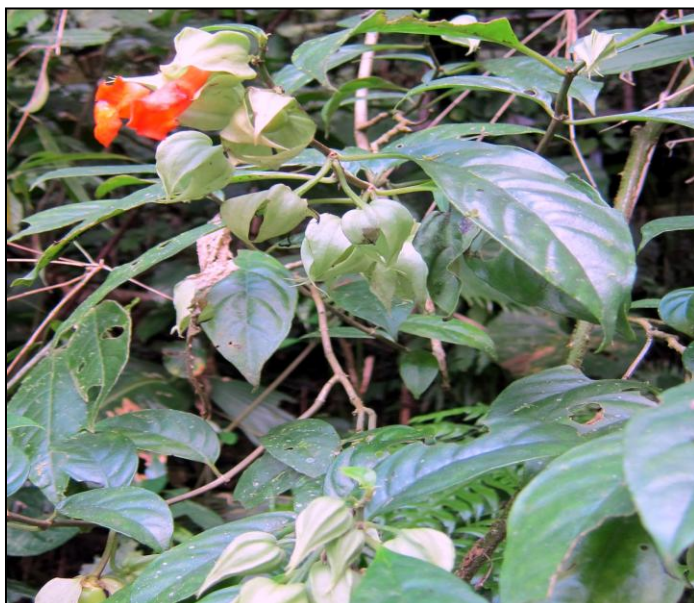


way to the sea. While we didn't see any *Gesneriads* in the rain forest, we did see them cultivated around some of the guest quarters, restaurants, and other buildings.

Episcias were very popular in the landscape. If we travel there again, I will certainly bring a copy of "Gesneriads of Costa Rica" by Ricardo Kriebel Haehner!



Columneas in Costa Rica



Plant of the Month: Seemannia

More information below from www.gesneriads.ca by Ron Myhr



Seemannia Photo: Barb Stewart

Seemannia sylvatica “Bolivian Sunset”

Seemannia is a rhizomatous Gesneriad from the Andes, ranging through Bolivia, Argentina, and Peru. (It was previously classified as *Gloxinia*.)

Seemannias can be grown outdoors and are hardy in zones 8-11. They prefer a good bit of light to keep from getting leggy and like humid conditions.

Pictured above is a young cultivar which is growing in my large terrarium under 2 T-8 bulbs on a wicking tub. Its bright red flowers and green leaves make it a nice plant for the Christmas season. It can be easily propagated from cuttings and rhizomes. Barb



Seemannia roots and rhizomes

Photos: Donna Beverin

The species in the genus *Seemannia* were formerly placed in *Gloxinia* until a revision of the group in 2005. The revision resulted in a number of other changes to the rhizomatous *Gesneriads*, in addition to the transfer of these species to *Seemannia*.

Seemannia is comprised of four species with primarily red or reddish tubular flowers. While similarities in appearance do not always indicate close relatedness, genetic analysis in this instance suggests that the morphological similarities do in fact reflect underlying relatedness. *Seemannia* is primarily an Andean genus, distributed through Bolivia, northern Argentina and southern Peru. *S. sylvatica* is known as far north as southern Ecuador.

The most widely grown of this group is *S. sylvatica*, which has also contributed to a number of hybrids. This is a variable species which can result in subtle differences in plants. All members of *Seemannia* have rhizomatous storage structures at the root, and typically die back seasonally, usually in response to drought, before re-sprouting when more favorable weather arrives. They are therefore easily

propagated from rhizomes, and can also be easily propagated from tip cuttings. Under some circumstances, these plants will produce long stringy/wiry aerial propagules, which can also be planted to produce additional plants.

All Ron Myhr copywrited materials:

<http://www.gesneriads.ca/genseemannia.htm>



Seemannia gymnostoma Photo: Ruth Zavitz

Other source materials about Seemannia on the internet are:

<http://dctropics.blogspot.com/2013/10/seemannia-gesneriad-with-commercial.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sN3BZ9SO2U>



Plants of the Month for 2017

January	<i>Alsobia</i>
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	<i>Mini Sinningia</i>
December	<i>Streptocarpus</i>

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Achimenes* 'Red Elf'



Barb's *Eucodonia* 'Adele'



Barb's *Nautilocalyx forgetii*

Bloomin' Now



Donna's obsession with *Sinningia bullata*! Gotta' love that fuzz! Babies to share at our meeting.

<http://everbloominghouseplants.com/sinningia-bullata>

<http://www.burwur.net/sinns/4bulMain.htm>





Donna's *Sinningia conspicua* blooming again



Donna's NOID Mini *Sinningia*



Donna's Primulina 'Dreamtime', formerly owned and brought to bloom by Karin Fontneau and given to Donna at our last meeting. Karin grows amazing Primulinas! It is still blooming for me which is a miracle!



Another view of *Primulina* 'Dreamtime' on plant shelf with various assorted goodies! Notice it is in a tiny pot and I have not dared to repot!!! I think overwatering Primulinas may be my issue. I had hesitated to grow 'Dreamtime' as I heard it grows so large, but it is a nice size and still blooming!



Proposal 1

Article V: Duties of Officers

Current wording:

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

Proposal 1:

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

This changes the last word from “President” to “club”, as the president doesn’t have policies, the club does.

Proposal 2

Article VI: Meetings

Current wording:

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

Proposal 2:

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

This deletes “September through May, as we voted several years ago to hold meetings year round.

Proposal 3

Article VI: Meetings

Current wording:

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall be those present at a scheduled meeting. A quorum for purposes of

electronic voting shall be those members with email addresses.

Proposal 3:

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall be those **members** present at a scheduled meeting, **but no less than 5 members**. A quorum for purposes of electronic voting shall be those members with email addresses, **but no less than 5 responding members**.

This sets a minimum of 5 members for a quorum.

Proposal 4

Article VIII: Amendments:

Current wording:

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

Proposal 4:

Proposed amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at any membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. **The proposed amendment shall be presented at a regular membership meeting, e-mailed to the membership within 7 days, and published in the next newsletter for voting at the following membership meeting.**

This addition gives more time for members to consider the amendment and make comments before voting. Under the current wording, a proposal could be sent out the night before the meeting and be voted on the next day.

Proposal 5:

Article XII. Bylaws Review

A special committee shall be appointed by the President every 2 years to review the bylaws and propose any needed amendments.

This is a new amendment to be added to the bylaws so they are regularly reviewed.

Article II Membership and Dues

Current wording:

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

Proposal 6:

Section 3. Dues. Annual dues for each class of membership, payable in advance for the calendar year, shall be recommended **annually** by the Board of Directors. **At any regular meeting, the membership may accept the proposed adjustment of membership dues by a majority vote, to be effective at the start of the calendar year.** Membership shall terminate if dues are not paid by March 1. Dues shall be prorated for new members who join after June 1.

This amendment adds more specific wording to the procedure of changing dues.

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 20th

June 10 - Growing Gesneriads outdoors for the Summer

July & August - TBD (picnic?)

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.

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.

Nominated for 2017 office:

President: Barbara Stewart

Vice President: Jim Roberts

Secretary: Donna Beverin

Treasurer: Sharon Long

Directors: Brian Connor

Victor Nicholas

The two gallon aquarium in the picture to the right is a prime example of Jim's description in his message about how Mini *Sinningias* can grow without a lot of care in a container. These bulbs have been growing for a very, very long time...maybe 8 years or so. They rest and rebloom with a rare addition of water or a tiny bit of liquid fertilizer and occasion glass cleaning. I believe they are *Sinningia* 'Mother of Pearl' grown from seed a long time ago from the Gesneriad Society's seed fund. Since they also reseed so I always have plenty to share.



Sinningia 'Mother of Pearl'

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
NCAC Blog: <http://dcbgesneriads.blogspot.com/>
Website & Blog: Corey Wickliffe
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

President: Jim Roberts
Marriottsville, MD 21104
410-227-2324
jim.roberts2408@gmail.com

Vice-President: Andrew Norris
Marriottsville, MD 21104
extensionofgreen@yahoo.com

Secretary: Barbara Stewart
bstew771@verizon.net

Treasurer: Barry Woolf
1301 Malus Court
Fallston, MD 21047
410-879-1654
Woolfphoto1@comcast.net

Committees:

Hospitality: Harold Belcher

Programs: Andrew Norris
Membership: Corey Wickliffe
Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin
editor@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
Petaltones@gmail.com or
Donnabeverin@gmail.com

web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

Directors:
Victor Nicholas
Harold Belcher
Donna Beverin

The Gesneriad Society website
www.gesneriadsociety.org

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