

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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December 2019



One of Janet's favorite Streptocarpus seedlings (informally known as LRRxHL #3) is blooming nicely. Can anyone suggest an appropriate name?

President's End of Year Message

Barb Stewart

As our year comes to a close with our annual holiday luncheon, I would like to look back on how our club has fared through the year. A while back, we surveyed the reasons people attend meetings. One of the reasons is to learn more about gesneriads through the programs we present. This year we learned about hybridizing and propagation, using color in design, summer Sinningias, Saintpaulia species, rare and unusual gesneriads, and managing a variety of cultural issues. People also come to meetings to socialize and learn from each other about growing gesneriads. This year our average attendance was 15, with the largest attendance of 21 in January when we picked up a number of new members. Our members have a lot of horticulture expertise, and there is a wealth of information we can learn from each other.

MEETING LOCATION:

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

For our Holiday Party we shall meet at 11am in Johanna's living room for a brief business meeting. Festivities with Food, Fun, Socializing, Raffle 12-2.

December 14th : Holiday Party – Johanna Hosting

January 11th: Webinar : Growing Show Plants

February 8th: Propagation: Donna & Barb with the expertise of all members. Bring plants, cuttings seeds to share. Discuss Mini Show

March 14th : Mini Show Bill

April 11th: Design, Companion Plants

May 9th: No Meeting. Field trip to BAVS

June 13th: Propagation for Show plants

July No Meeting. National Convention

August 8th: Meeting on Show/Sale Prep

Sept 11, 12 13th: NCAC's Show and Sale

October 10th:

November 14th:

December 12th: Holiday Party TBA

Programs may change with agreement of members.

We also attend meetings to get new plants from the raffle table, which has been overflowing this year. Because our club has grown, we are continually making adjustments to the meetings and procedures to serve the needs of all members attending. As always, suggestions and feedback from members is welcome and helps keep our club thriving and growing.

Hope to see you at the luncheon, and I hope everyone has a great holiday season.

Bloomin' now



Dave's *Sinningia* 'High Voltage'



Petrocosmea parryorum from MAAVS show photo by Barb Stewart



Barb's *Primulina lobulata yangshuensis*



Barb's *Primulina lobulata yangshuensis* close up of the small flowers



Judging Tip of the Month

by Barbara Stewart

One of the exhibits at our meeting in October was a Halloween design which I created. The judges awarded this design a blue ribbon. One comment was that it had a clear and simple line, which was created by two stems of a Nematanthus and a piece of dried material. In artistic arrangements, odd numbers of things are generally considered more interesting and therefore more pleasing to the eye than even numbers, (although creative arrangements can still be done with even numbers).

The line is one of the most important elements of a design, as it generally determines the shape and form of the arrangement. Also, if you are new to creating artistic arrangements, it is good to remember that less is better in design. A smaller arrangement is good to practice with, as it tends to encourage fewer materials and simpler designs. Also, as with anything else, your skills improve with practice, so bringing a design to a meeting and having it critiqued will give you confidence to enter a good design in the next show.

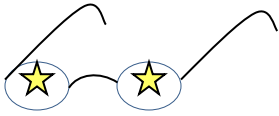


Barb's Halloween design



Barb's design from AV meeting using *Sinningia reitzii*.





Wishfully Seeking to Grow

Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa* & *Achimenes pedunculata*. Has *S. tubiflora* to share.
 Janet Carlton.....*Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
 Sharon Long.....*Streptocarpus cyanandrus*
 Kitty Hedgepeth..... leaf or small start of *Saintpaulia* clone *tongwensis Uppsala 3397*
 Johanna Zinn..... *Pearcea sprucei*.



Mr. Gesneriad:

The photos all depict *Boea hygrosopica* growing in a terrarium. The plant bloomed for months, then the blooming stopped. After that, the bottom layer of leaves died. I thought that it might be going dormant, so I removed the dead leaves and didn't water it for a several weeks. It doesn't appear to be going dormant. Does it need a period of dormancy, or shall I repot it and start watering again? Johanna

Mr. G: Like *Petrocosmea*, *Primulina* and many other SE Asian plants, there is a semi-dormant period where the plants loose bottom leaves and just stop growing for a while. In nature *Boea hygrosopica* shrivels up to a dry set of leaves that bring to mind resurrection plants. I found the same thing with some of the *Paraboea*. When collected they were just masses of dried leaves. Upon watering the plant didn't produce new leaves right away. Instead, the "dead" leaves greened back up and then the plants sent out new leaves and flowers. I was watering with softened water back then and the plants didn't survive the salt for more than that one season. RO water certainly would have helped. As to Johanna's plant. Beautifully grown and doing what *Petrocosmea* often does at this time of year. It's expecting the dry season and sheds its bottom rows of leaves. I don't suggest letting it dry as much as those in nature, but a slight drying out won't hurt it. Repot it into fresh soil and gradually start increasing the watering frequency until new growth becomes evident



BLOOMIN' NOW



Peggy's first strep hybrid is a cross between S. DS Sultan x Harlequin Lace. Congratulations !



Donna's Strep from seed bought from Otto on FB.



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Grable'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Roxy'



Donna's Mini *Sinningia* NOID seedling from Dave. I think he may call this April Star 2.



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Cat Dance'

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Tropical Nights' hybridized by John Boggan and purchased as a starter plant at the DAGVS Show in September 2019



Donna's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red'. I thought about cropping the dead leaves out of the picture; however, I was assuming the plant was going dormant and I was awaiting the fun of digging into the soil and finding the gems of rhizomes, and up popped some viable leaves so I left it on the light stand to see these cute little blooms! Hope I shall have some rhizomes to share once this little guy decides to take a rest!



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Manchu'

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Raffle Table

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 2 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, seeds, companion and/or garden plants, magazines, pamphlets , pots and gardening supplies and other plants we love to grow like begonias and houseplants. We are getting a great election of items for the raffle table. Please remember to label your plants and check for pests. Also, it is a good practice to isolate your new plants when you get home before adding them to your collection.

Show News from Bill

We will be deciding on a theme for our 2020 September show at our next meeting. Here are some suggestions from the Delaware folks: Games People Play (board games), Gesneriads Dance, Alice in Wonderland. What ideas do you have? Bring them to the meeting or email Bill. schmidt.wc@verizon.net

Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'



Doug's *Streptocarpus*



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Lois' cutting from a friend



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Niobe'

BLOOMIN' NOW



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Rubin'



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'NOID' from a BSS member in Reading



Columnea 'Light Prince' Winner of Best Other Gesneriad at MAAVS grown by LaDonna Hobson
Photo by Barbara Stewart



Barb's *Amalophyllon*



Dave's varieties of Mini *Sinningias* blooming now!



Bloomin' Now



I purchased this plant at one of the Merrifield locations. It was hanging up above my head so that I had a good view of the back sides of the beautiful leaves. I purchased it thinking that I would be content with looking at the deep cranberry red of the leaf backs even if I couldn't get it to bloom; however I am enjoying the large, pale peach colored, dangling blooms it is displaying. The plant has stiff, almost woody stems that are difficult to arrange and shape. I want to prune and shape the plant when it finishes blooming, and hope to get some advice from chapter members at the pot-luck on Saturday. Sometimes, a bad hair day plant can't be tamed, and will need to be enjoyed for its attributes, bad hair day and all. We'll see. Johanna Zinn



Bill's *Gloxinia perennis* 'Insignis'



On FB Dale Martens shared *G. perennis* 'alba'

Dale grew this white variant of *G. perennis* from seed. It does share the peppermint scent of original. See article in November 2019 Petal Tones with more information about *G. perennis*. And on line at: <https://gesneriads.info/genera/gloxinia-perennis-rbge/>

Janet's Streps Bloomin' Now



Streptocarpus 'Janet's Happy'



One of Janet Carlton's unnamed *Streptocarpus* seedlings (informally known as LRRxHL #25), blooming nicely. Grown under lights and now residing in a kitchen window.



Streptocarpus 'Fred's Riverdance' "This plant has been extremely difficult to grow and has almost died completely more than once. It's now doing pretty well, and for the first time it's definitely showing a green edge while growing under MY conditions! So happy! "



This is a Dale Martens *Streptocarpus* seedling, informally known as DM16-03 #6. It's a white double with slim purple lines and an ever-so-delicate yellow tinge in the throat. The flowers are getting larger on the more mature plant and you can barely see the yellow in the bottom flower.

Bloomin' Now



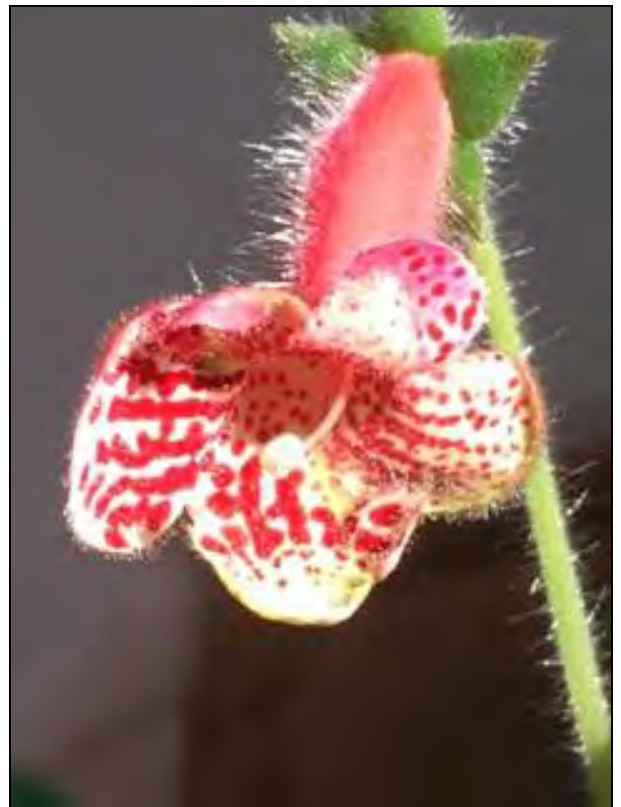
Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Canary'. Started blooming for the first time. Grown from a leaf received at a NCACGS meeting.



Janet's *Streptocarpus* Dibley's 'Alissa' blooming nicely under lights.



Jim Roberts: "The *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio' that Brian Connor left with us has not stopped growing or flowering out on the lanai. 82° today. Perfect Winter weather."

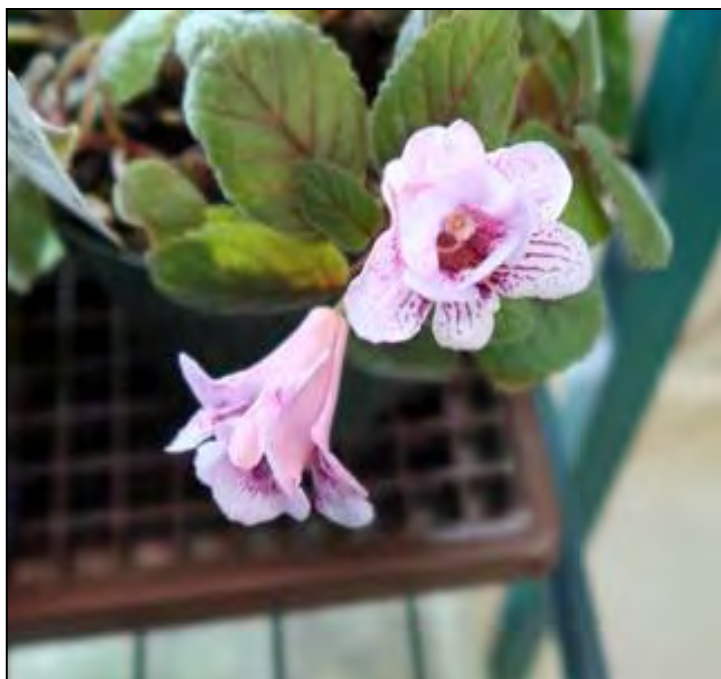


Janet's *Kohleria* 'Manchu' This is the first bloom on a plant grown from a cutting obtained at a NCAC meeting this year. It's not yet fully open but shows a lot of promise. The plant is large and is covered in buds, so next month there will probably be an updated photo.

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Primulina* (lost tag) and close up below left.



Johanna's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'



Johanna's *Achimenes*



Donna's *Achimenes* (begonia long shoot on right)



Brian Connor's *Achimenes* 'Harveyi'



Chris M. Anderson's *Achimenes Admirabilis*

The generous Johanna Zinn knew I was looking for *Begonia integerrima* (formerly *B. solanthera*) and early 2019 she gave me a small basket with a few pieces of *B. integerrima*. So I put the pot outdoors for the summer in a shady spot on my deck. Low and behold it began growing a long shoot (it is a fragrant climber) Then a baby begonia sprouted from seed that has grown into a furry leaf begonia with no name but looks a lot like *B. schmidtiana* or *B. 'Ikon'*. Then another sprout appeared looking like *Achimenes* with narrow leaves. And yes it grew and flowered with a small orangey-red bloom. I was surprised when I saw Johanna's basket of *Achimenes* at our November meeting for Show and Tell. I realized my plant was a dormant rhizome living with *B. integerrima*! We researched and thought it may be *A. erecta*, but *erecta*'s flowers are a bright red. Then Brian Connor said he was pretty sure it is *Achimenes* 'Harveyi' (its not a species, that's the cultivar name). *A. Harveyi* is more of an orange-red than *A. erecta* 'Tiny Red', which is more scarlet. Then during a conversation on our Facebook page, Chris Montgomery Anderson said it looked like her species *Achimenes* 'Admirabilis'. I think her picture is from Gesneriad Reference website and those leaves look wider than Johanna's plant. We are still not sure of the correct name! Time will tell!

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Cat Dance'



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Goose Egg'



Donna's miniature *Sinningia* 'SimSim Salaviem'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' should be resting but put up a shoot and buds. I just could not bear to disbud. It has seen better days. I shall force it into dormancy soon.

Dave will bring some plants for sale: \$4.00 each



Leong Tuck Lock in Malaysia, sharing a new cross on Gesneriophiles. One parent is *Sinningia* 'Butter and Cream'. He is hoping for a pure apricot that may be unique. Looks promising! Exciting news for a new Summer *Sinningia* lovers. (Donna's note)

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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 prorated.

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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