

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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December 2020



Our new member, Brenda Davis's *Sinningia* 'Owlsees Red Hot'. Brenda received a young plant sent to Donna to share at our September plant swap by Alcie Maxwell in LA who hybridized and started the plant from his cutting.

President's Message:

As our year and my second term as president comes to a close, I like to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. It goes without saying that this has been a unique and challenging year. It started out normal enough. With plans for a show in September, we viewed a webinar in January on growing show plants. In February, we had our traditional propagation workshop, again to get a start on sale plants for the show and share our surplus seedlings and cuttings. However, our plans for a mini show in March were canceled as everything went into lock down due to the pandemic, and our planned show was postponed for another year. We did not have another meeting until we started using Zoom in June, although we continued to stay connected and enjoy a beautiful issue of *Petal Tones* each month.

NCAC November meeting is Saturday,
December 12, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time
Program: Mary Schaeffer's
22 ways to Propagate Gesneriads
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87019974261?pwd=TVE5aE1HK3Q5MEI5ai9GaC8rc2VKUT09>
Meeting ID: 870 1997 4261
Passcode: 614931

To Join or renew your membership to NCAC please send a check to our Treasurer, Andy Meier. His address is located on our Membership list or you can send the editor an email at petaltones@gmail.com. Dues are \$10 per calendar year. Alternatively you can send your payment via PayPal using the email address: ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com

Our first Zoom meeting went well, and for June and July we just learned how to use Zoom and shared our plants and growing tips. After that, we had members step up and give great programs (Minh on lighting and Donna on Kohlerias). In October we viewed a webinar on miniature African violets, and in November, Janet and Donna collected growing tips from members and shared them on a PowerPoint. We reached out to other clubs to join our meetings and programs and had good participation throughout the year. Attendance has ranged from 11-16 each month with quite a few guests, several of whom joined the club. While many other clubs have lost members, NCAC has managed to maintain a pretty solid and active membership. (You may recall this was one of my main goals as president.) As we close out our year (unfortunately without a holiday party and luncheon), and get ready for a new year, I hope our club will continue to thrive and grow under new leadership, as it has the past 4 years. It really takes the contributions and participation of all members and the support of our officers and directors to make our chapter successful. Our chapter is closing in on 50 years of operation (wow!), so we must be doing something right! We have a lot of knowledge and experience among our members, so there is a lot to share. Don't forget to renew your membership this month, and if you are not a member of the Gesneriad Society, I encourage you to consider joining and supporting our parent organization.

It has been rewarding to serve as your president for the past 4 years, and I look forward to continuing to serve in a new position. See you on Zoom!

Barbara

I wanted to take a moment to thanks everyone for helping me out during this past two years of being VP of NCAC. I have learned a lot over these two years. I appreciate all the ideas and volunteers who suggested and hosted various programs we have held at our meetings and especially ideas for our Zoom meetings.

Two years ago when Jim retired to Florida we all were not sure if our group would be able to continue since we had a small group of members. That is when I was convinced to be the VP, even though I had my hands full with Petal Tones and the Propagation committee; however, since then our group has really grown and we have many amazing new members. Barb Stewart worked to grow our membership and was very successful in meeting her goal!

I sure hope in 2121 we shall be able to meet in person again once the Covid vaccine is administered and it will be safe to meet in groups again. It will be fun to be able to share our gesneriads on the raffle table, see one another in person and have a show!

This month we vote on our Nominees for NCAC's leadership for the next two years. Please plan on attending the meeting and voting for the NCAC officers for the next two years. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee: Bill Schmidt, Johanna Zinn, and Peggy MacDonald. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers at the November meeting.

Minh Bui : President	Director: Peggy MacDonald
Barb Stewart: Vice President	Director: Donna Beverin
Dave Anderson: Treasurer	
Secretary: Carol Hamelink	

Donna's new seedling from GHA seed fund

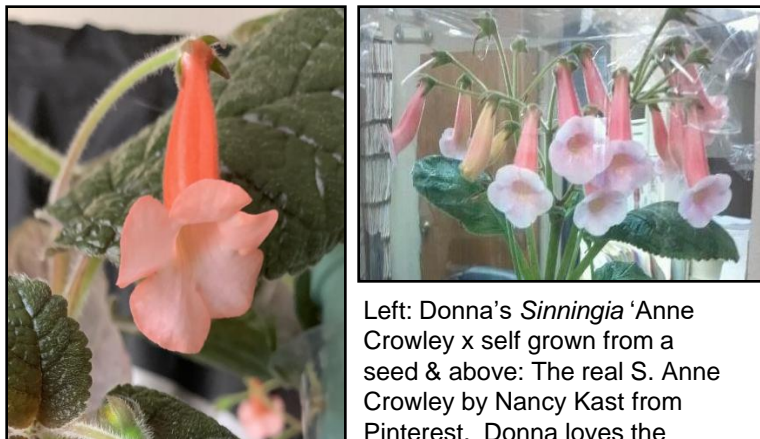
Bloomin' Now



Brenda's beautiful *Streptocarpella* 'Good Hope'. "It has gotten so big I just moved it onto a free standing plant stand. Made room on my other plant counter! Yay!"



Donna's new *Sinningia* seedling is similar to *S. Anne Crowley* x self; however looks more like the true *S. Anne Crowley*.



Left: Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley x self grown from a seed & above: The real *S. Anne Crowley* by Nancy Kast from Pinterest. Donna loves the orange seeding the best!

Bloomin' Now



Jim Robert's *Sinningia* 'Rio 16' on his lanai in Florida. This is the first *Sinningia helleri* hybrid of the modern era. The seed parent is *Sinningia guttata*. Hung Nguyen is the hybridizer.

***Sinningia* 'Rio 16'** 2017, IR171355, Hung Xuan Nguyen, California (*Sinningia guttata* x *S. helleri*). Cross made December 2015, seed planted March 2016, first flowering August 2016. Fertile. Growth is tall, upright, and tuberous. Leaves green with some red coloration on the back, 200mm long x 300mm wide with 50mm petiole, elliptic with cuneate base, crenate margin and acute tip. Calyx leafy, mixed red and green with touch of red, 60mm, pedicel 20mm with 1 flower per axil. Corolla salverform, 90mm long by 40mm wide, white with purple dots. Mixed red and green calyx and upward facing white flower with dots are distinctive. Picture below.



Sinningia guttata is called such because of its spotting (*gutta* = spot, drop or speck). Plants can bloom even when they are relatively small. Some clones are reported to be fragrant. Easily grown from seed.

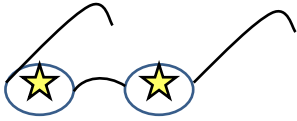


Sinningia helleri discovered in 1825, but was lost to cultivation for 100+ years and believed extinct, before a small threatened population was discovered around 2012 with seeds becoming available 2015 by Mauro Peixoto of Brazil Plants.

<https://gesneriads.info/gesneriad-genera/>

<https://www.gesneriadsociety.org/registry/sinningia-rio-16/>

<https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/SinningiaSpecies>



Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa*, *Primulina leprosa*, *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts'
- Janet Carlton.....*Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Barry Woolf..... *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Innocent' & *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'
- Johanna Zinn..... *Pearcea sprucei* and *Nautilocalyx x pictus* 'Jade'
- Nadya Warther-Gibson *Streptocarpus* :fresh pollen from a fantasy type and/or green edged (DEM hybrids)
- Barb Koski *Drymonia variegata*
- Kitty Hedgepeth.....*Streptocarpus* 'DS Rediska'

Bloomin' Now



Barb's Mini *Sinningia* NOID



Barb's *Sinningia speciosa* x self grown from seed



Dave's mini *Sinningia* 'Laura' x self



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

BARB'S PLANTS



Barb: "Some plants are extremely easy to propagate from seed. This small pot of *Sinningia musicola* has many seed pots. The seeds are now sprouting all over the matting and already have tiny tubers. I put a few in a Christmas ornament. Jim Roberts gave a program on how to do this in 2017. I still have the one I created in that workshop."

"This interesting species (*Sinningia musicola*) is a relatively new introduction, found in the vicinity of Rio das Pedras, in Brazil, hence the original temporary descriptive name. It is one of the small group of micro-miniature Sinningias, along with *S. pusilla*, *S. concinna* and their forms and hybrids. Note the patterned and scalloped leaves, unlike those of *concinna* or *pusilla*. Overall, *S. musicola* is somewhat larger than the other micro-minis. It has been crossed with several other species and hybrids, and is proving to be a useful species in the quest for ever more interesting hybrids." Previous name: *Sinningia* sp. "Rio das Pedras". **musicola** means *growing on (-icola) moss (muscus)*. www.burwur.net



Barb's xSmithicodonia 'Heartland's Joy'
The rhizome ball is xSmithicodonia 'Heartland's Joy'. They grow fast, propagate heavily making a lot of large rhizomes. These rhizomes were reotted into 4 pots.

Picture to right is xSmithicodonia 'Heartland's Joy' in full bloom. Photo by Dale Martens.
<https://www.gesneriadsociety.org/register/xsmithicodonia-heartlands-joy/>



Bloomin' Now



Brenda, who is our new member and new to Gesneriads, has her *Streptocarpus* '3S-Fernweh' blooming now!

Janet's Strep: " My *Streptocarpus* '3S-Fernweh' must have self-pollinated. I noticed a seed pod forming a few days ago and it's been getting noticeably larger every day! I really don't need more strep seeds, but this one should make interesting babies since it's a fantasy."

***Streptocarpus* '3S-Fernweh'**, 2016, IR161351, hybridized by Karen Allen, VA (S. 'DS-The Red and The Black' x S. 'Stained Glass Window'). Cross made 10.15.2014, planted 12.28.2014, and first flowered 06.25.2015. Fertile, reproduced only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves medium green, 9-12 in. long, 1.5 in. wide, with 1-1.5 in. petiole, linear with cuneate base, serrate margin and acute tip. Calyx split, green, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. long. Pedicel $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long with 5-7 flowers per axil. Corolla salverform, 2.5 in. long, 2 in. wide. Salmon pink with dark reddish purple fantasy markings overlaying. Black streaks and speckles coming out of lower throat onto lower three petals. Self-forming rosette of long narrow leaves. Floriferous with up to 8 flowers per stem up to 50 or more flowers per mature plant. Photo:

<https://www.gesneriadsociety.org/registry/streptocarpus-3s-fernweh/>



Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Diastema vexans*. “*Diastema vexans* is a low-growing herbaceous plant with pretty white and lavender flowers and softly hair leaves. It needs fairly warm temperatures and good humidity to thrive, but prefers lower light levels.” <https://gesneriads.info/gesneriad-genera/diastema/>



Donna's *Streptocarpus pallidiflorus* from Mauro Peixoto's seed. “I may have a small amount of thrip damage on my leaves. I am still working to rid my plants of these invaders. Could be watering damage, but my instinct is there are still a few thrips lingering around. Spraying with Bonide's Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew. I still have not transplanted this little one and so it is still growing in the seed propagation container.”

“The subgenus *Streptocarpella* consists of a large number of species which can be subdivided into the African and the Madagascan species. The African species are found primarily in Tanzania, Kenya, and in a few other locations in Central and West Africa. *S. Pallidiflorus* is an attractive species of *Streptocarpus*, subg. *Streptocarpella*, and can be grown in greenhouse beds to spectacular effect. It is one of the rare subg. *Streptocarpella* species to have been used in hybridizing, and is a parent with *S. caulescens* of the hybrid 'Epupa Falls'. The species is variable in color, and there are blue forms.” <https://gesneriads.info/gesneriad-genera/streptocarpella/>

BLOOMIN' NOW



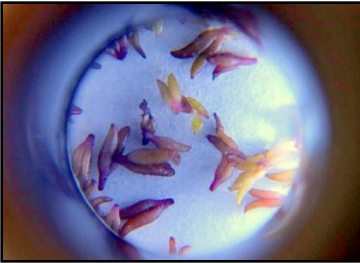
Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Salmon Sunset' grown via cutting from Terry Vincenzi purchased spring 2020 before Covid. "At least I have some success before transplanting on to pots. Many other varieties of Strep young plants coming into bloom. Lots to share."



Donna's prop box with *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' blooming. Plant in front is *Chrysothemis adenosiphon*.



Brenda's *Sinningia conspicua x bullata* blooming



Johanna's *Titanotrichum oldhamii*: "*Titanotrichum oldhamii* propagules forming on the end of an inflorescence. Usually the propagules have formed on a separate stem, but this year they formed above the dying blossoms. I was looking at them to see if they looked as if I gave them enough time to ripen. I still don't know, but they are interesting looking.

Plants for Sale

Dave Anderson's plants for sale. \$5.00 each with \$9.00 Shipping.
Contact Dave: Davidanderson1952@yahoo.com



Diastema vexans, *Sinningia* 'Mother of Pearl', *Episcia* 'Blue Nile', *Paradrymonia campostyla*, *Sinningia* 'Freckles', *Sinningia* 'Maiden's Blush'



Begonia eleagnifolia, *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio', *Pteris cretica* (fern)

Bloomin' Now for Dave



Dave's *Primulina* 'Maxtimer' above. Dave's *Sinningia* 'Mark Twain' below



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Brian Connor
Ki Imai

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web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

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

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 You can send your payment to NCAC into our Treasurer via PayPal using the email address:
ncacotqs-gesneriads@yahoo.com

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. You can subscribe on line also.

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

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