

PETAL TONES



Volume 50 Number 2

February 2019



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Kevin Garnett'

President's Message

We had a great start to the new year in January, with record attendance and 5 new members! This month you will get a boost to your plant collection when you pick up lots of new plants from the propagation workshop.

Gesneriads are so easy to propagate and they multiply quickly. We shall have lots of goodies to share and tips for successful propagation. Weather is always a gamble this time of year, but with record cold last week and record heat this week, we are hoping for the best. The good news is that Punxsutawney Phil is predicting an early spring (although his record for accuracy is poor). This is a popular program you don't want to miss, so hope to see you there.

Barbara 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.

February 9th 2019: Propagation workshop. No raffle this month, just bring lots of plants, seedlings, stems, leaves, rhizomes, tubers and all things 'plant' to share during our Propagation Meeting..

March 9th 2019: Design Workshop

April 13th 2019: Summer Sinningias

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.



Bloomin' Now



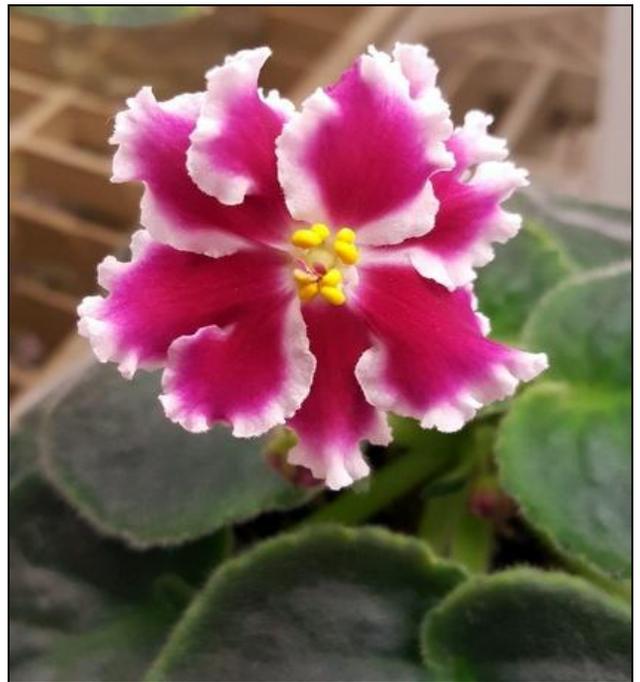
Mike Salapka's *Streptocarpus* 'Grape Ice'



Mike Salapka's *Primulina* NOID



Bill Schmidt's *Saintpaulia* 'Tomahawk'



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Amadeus'



Wishfully Seeking to Grow

Donna Beverin..... African Violet: "Royal Child" leaves
Kitty Hedgepeth..... Episcias 'War Paint' and 'Black Mamba'
Barb Stewart.....Gasteranthus, any
Donna Beverin..... Liebigia speciosa
Janet Carlton.....Streptocarpus leaf of any variegated hybrid
Andy Meier.....Streptocarpus leaf of Streptocarpus 'Spin Art'
Donna Beverin..... Eucodonia andrieuxii 'Woolly Morrión' rhizome or leaf

February Propagation Program

Members: On Saturday, February 9th we shall enjoy our Meeting with the topic of Propagation of Gesneriads (and we may sneak in some begonias, annuals, perennials etc!!)

Please bring cuttings, baby plants, seeds and anything else to share with the other members as we have a working meeting getting our hands dirty! The Emmanuel United Methodist Church is allowing us to use another room that has a floor w/o carpet so we can clean up easier. This is a joint venture as we have many very experienced members as well as members who have never propagated. Please bring your questions. It will be an exciting discussion and everyone will go home with a lot of plants and seed trays. You may want to bring a container and / or plastic baggies to take home your newly acquired plant material especially in this cold winter weather. You also can bring any plants that you would like help with repotting.

Donna : Discussing seed sowing

- container of soil mix
- Ten 3.5 oz clear plastic containers with clear dome lid for seed starting & supplies for discussion
- A few packets of various seeds (summer sinningia and whatever extras I have)
- Sharpie markers.
- Rooting hormone

Johanna: Discussing seed sowing

- Light potting mix good for seeds and first transplants
- Small cups for planting and Ice pick for making holes
- Two plastic table cloths for work stations

Janet: Discussing transplanting Streptocarpus babies and supplies for discussion

- Orange stick(cuticle stick) and toothpicks
- Roomy lidded container for transferred seedlings
- Dry prepared soil ready for use in container – I want to show folks how “much” to wet it
- Plastic mat or tray on which to work
- Small bowl for sorting seedlings out
- Filtered water (warmish) for sorting seedlings
- Old towels – it’s messy
- Solo cups (in case we don’t have seedlings – the small plants can go into solos)
- Long spoon
- Bag of containers w/lids – I found a lot and thought I’d bring them in case people want to take any

Barbara S:

- Potting soil
- White electrical tape
- Some seeds
- Zip lock bags
- Cuttings of various plants
- Watering (bottles, sprayers, watering can)

Brian: Discuss various methods of propagation

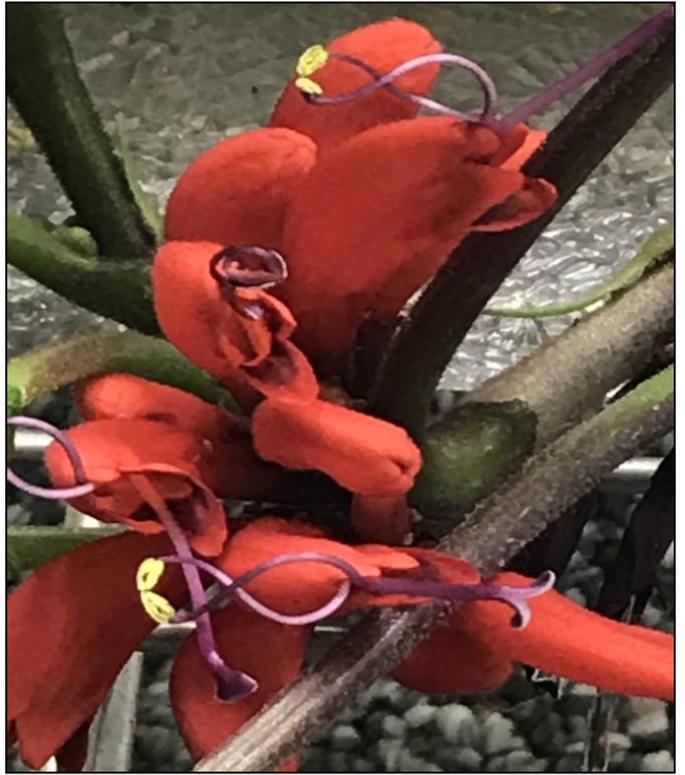
Barb K: Sharpies



Bloomin' Now



Jim Robert's *Mandirola ichthyostoma*
Forgot I even had this. Discovered it with its first flower today as I was moving plants around. Love the little teeth or "sharp points like you'd find on a fish's fins (ichthyo = fish)



Jim Robert's *Agalmyla parasitica*



Dave's mini *Sinningia* 'Laura'



Karen Allen's *xAchimenesantha* 'Dale's Clownfish'

Bloomin' Now



Kitty Hedgepeth's *Sinningia cardinalis*, one showing buds with tiny red "hairs" on the surface and the other showing the plant with open blossoms



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Apis'



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Black Tie Affair'

Bloomin' Now



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Picnic'



Bill's *Streptocarpella*'s beautiful blooms!



Janet Carlton's bouquet of *Streptocarpus* flowers in an arrangement with other plants.

Member Tips by Janet Carlton



Not everyone realizes that Streptocarpus blooms are versatile and can be enjoyed both on the plant and as cut flowers. They often last two to three weeks in water and can be mixed with other flowers or greenery to make delightful tiny bouquets. Don't waste those blooms you take off of seedlings – enjoy them in small vases in your office any other location where they can add “happy” to your day. A great place to buy small vases is at your local thrift store where you can often find an assortment for just a few dollars.

Janet's Bouquet of Strep flowers: Harlequin Lace, Dibley's Alissa, Lucky Strike, and a couple of unnamed seedlings.



Plastic markers are useful for labeling plants and can be easily transferred to the new pot when you size up. To minimize waste, I cut up gallon sized plastic milk and soap jugs and make my own, using a white one that came with purchased 2” pots as a template. Names written with permanent marker stay on well under normal use, yet can conveniently be scrubbed off with a Dobie pad for reuse. First, cut large sections of plastic from the jug to make a flatter sheet, then outline your pattern onto the sheet with a pencil. Cut with strong scissors. I like the fact that this reuses plastic that would otherwise go into a landfill and is something you can make in about 30 minutes or less.

Janet Carlton

Favorite Plant Spotlight



Janet Carlton's *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Lace'

I've been growing (Dibley's) *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Lace' for over a year and find it to be an extremely strong grower and producer of beautiful blooms. This plant has been growing in a shallow 3" pot under lights and started blooming in December 2018. The plant now has about a dozen open blooms with more buds still forming and opening! Blooms remain on the plant for many weeks (dare I say months?) and also make excellent cut flowers.

The second photo is an unusual 4-petaled peloric bloom that opened on this plant and is quite a fun surprise! Harlequin Lace is easy to start from leaves and, although female sterile, produces abundant pollen. I successfully crossed it with 'Ladyslippers™ Red Rose' (Dibley's 'Ruby' per Dale Martens) this past fall, and am currently raising up a bunch of strong growing seedlings in hopes of obtaining a reddish colored bloom with the patterning, strength, and blooming characteristics of Harlequin Lace. Janet Carlton

Hybridizing



Members of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association (a subgroup of the Gesneriad Society) are able to periodically request seeds from their seed fund. As a new member drunk on the concept of "free seeds," I planted several sets and have been a bit overwhelmed with my nursery of young *Streptocarpus* seedlings. One set came from a 'selfing' of a fantasy plant and while it produced over a dozen viable plants, disappointingly, none were fantasies themselves.

My latest bloomers are from a Dale Martens cross of 'Double Scoop' (a mostly white double flower with slight lavender lines) X 'Dale's Midas Touch' (a bi-color of lavender and yellow). 'Al's Pal' is in the heritage, as are 'Heartland's White Gold' and 'Harlequin Blue.' Dale mentioned she was aiming for a double bi-color and it's going to be fun to watch the genetics play out in the offspring. The first seedling (labeled DM16-03.01) appears to carry forward the purple lacing of 'Al's Pal' while the second (DM16-03.02) is reminiscent of 'Double Scoop' with a primarily white background and light purple markings. Both are beauties and I'm eager to see what the rest hold in store for us! Janet Carlton

Bloomin' Now



Karen's *Seemannia purpurascens*



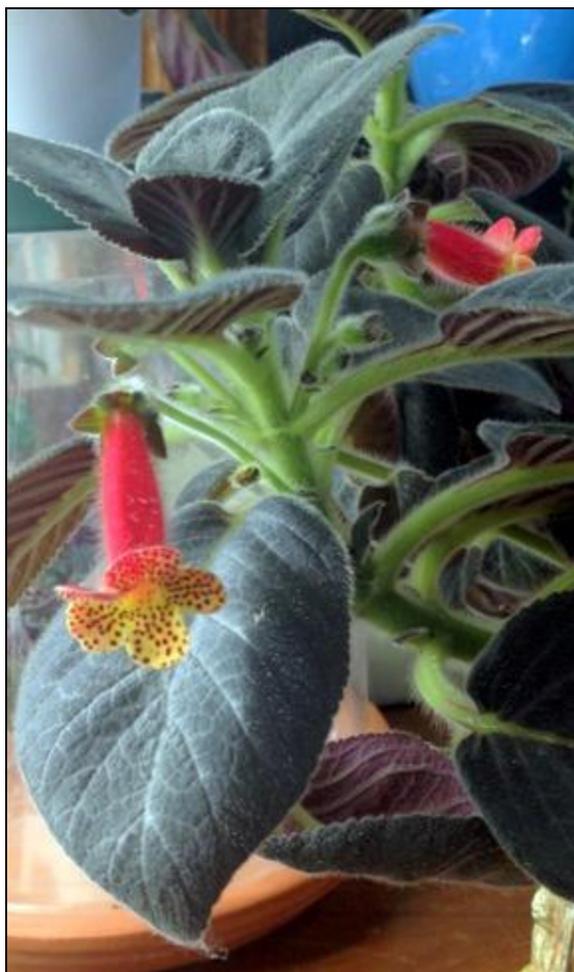
Karen's *Streptocarpus* 'Steffano's Lava Lights'



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'White Queen'



Donna's *Sinningia eumorpha* x self seedling



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather'

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Codonanthe devosiana*



Barb's *Microchirita micromusa* with bloom and seedpod



Barb's *Henckelia moonii*



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Hiroshige II'



In response to Mr. Gesneriad's advice, I took my *xRhytidoneria* 'Ako Cardinal Flight' off the wicking tub which lowered it from the lights. It is still in the terrarium, though, and now has buds. Thanks Mr. G. !!
Barb Stewart

More Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Saintpaulia* noid



Donna's *Sinningias carangolensis*, 'Apricot Bouquet', *Reitzii*, *Bullata x conspicua*, Clockwise from top left. Lots of pollen on this shelf...Pondering crosses I should take the opportunity!

Donna's mini *Sinningia* noid

An Interesting Plant by Johanna Zinn



Johanna's *Amalophyllon* plant grown in terrarium conditions, with rhizomes above and new buds forming below. Johanna is sharing some of her rhizomes at our next meeting!

Amalophyllon macrophyllum is a rhizomatous gesneriad from Columbia. It grows on rocks, cliffs, and at cave mouths at 300- 800 meters.

A. macrophyllum is a rhizomatous plant that should have a dormant period; however, in my growing conditions it has a very brief period of dormancy for me. The new shoots begin growing as the older foliage dies back. 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. 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch [1.3 cm] in size, and are held on 2.5 inch to 3.5 inch long curving Medusa-like pedicels. Pedicels tend to straighten as the bloom matures and the pedicel elongates.





Kohleria 'Bud's Little Pig'



Sinningia 'SimSim Salaviem' : This little mini blooms profusely in bright red with some interesting dot like striping in the center and photos just do not do it justice!



Two views of *Sinningia bullata* grown from seed, in bloom now. Love that fuzz! And surprise, a clivia blooming at the same time!

Programs Planned for 2019

January 12th: Webinar : Master Class Hybridizing Streptocarpus

February 9th: Propagation workshop

March 9th: Design workshop

April 13th: Summer Sinningia, tall sinningias

Members: All ideas for Programs are welcome!

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 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.

The Richmond African Violet Society 2019 Annual Show and Sale

"Violets Around the World"

April 5th (Plant Sales),

April 5th – 7th, 2019 (Show and Sale)

Sponsored by and held at:

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmond, VA

804-262-9887

<http://www.lewisginter.org/plan/index.php>

Admission to the show and sale is free; however, there is an admission fee for visiting the garden. **Adults \$13 Seniors (55+) \$11**

Show Hours

Saturday, April 6, 2019 **1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Sunday, April 7, 2019 **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Plant Sale Hours

Friday, April 5, 2019 **1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Saturday, April 6, 2019 **9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Sunday, April 7, 2019 **9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Info: Barbara Greenawalt

Email: barbgreenawalt@hotmail.com

Editor note: This show features Gesneriads also.

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Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership:

Ways and Means: Brian Connor

Show:

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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