

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 51 Number 2

February 2020



Peggy's *Saintpaulia* 'Senk's Try the Decaf'

MEETING LOCATION:

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

Please No peanut products permitted in the meeting room since the area is a child care room of the church.

February 8th: Propagation: Donna & Barb with the expertise of all members. Bring plants, cuttings, seeds, rhizomes, tubers 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 21th:

December 12th: Holiday Party TBA

Reminder! Time to pay the NACA \$10 yearly dues

President's Message

"We are enjoying a lot of lovely spring weather this winter. Actually, I think winter is missing in action. At this point, we should just move on. I am ready to start planting seeds for my outdoor gardens. Meanwhile, I have lots of gesneriad seeds popping up, and more to plant. I think propagation is the really fun part of growing plants (which is why I am on the Propagation Committee). The problem is, what to do with all those extra plants. I like to try different ways of propagation, although I don't quite have the patience or time for hybridizing yet. This month, we will be sharing our surplus plant material, as well as our different techniques for propagation. This is always a fun and interesting program. Hope to see you there."

Barbara



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Pig'



Bill's terrarium at NCAC's January meeting



Bill's design won a blue



Barb Stewart's *Primulina* 'Chastity'



Barb Koski's *Primulina* 'Piccolo'



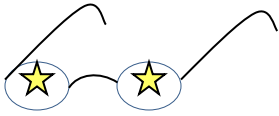
Close up of *P. Piccolo* grown by Barb Koski.



Barb Stewart's *Diastema vexans*



Nadya Warther-Gibson's *Streptocarpus* hybrid



Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Donna Beverin.....*Liebigia speciosa, Primulina leprosa, Achimenes pedunculata.*
- Janet Carlton..... *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Sharon Long.....*Streptocarpus cyanandrus*
- Kitty Hedgepeth.....*Saintpaulia* clone *tongwensis Uppsala 3397* (Karyn is giving Kitty a start! Thanks Karyn)
- Johanna Zinn.....*Pearcea sprucei.*

Bloomin' Now



This is Janet's *Kohleria* 'Manchu', received from a NCAC member and grown for the first time. It's putting up a nice display of flowers to brighten up her January.

Hi Mr. Gesneriad, I have another question re: *Boea hygroskopica*. I started to water again as you suggested. The plant is doing well, but has a rather long neck and quite a few smaller leaves at the base of the plant. Should I cut it off and try to root the top part of the plant or replant it deeper in the container and trim off some of the roots? The third option would be to let it grow without intervention. Thank you, Johanna



Yes, Johanna, the top of the plant should be cut off and re-rooted. You can also try rooting some of the leaves on that tall stem. I'm not sure how difficult *Boea* is to root, but I do know that a small piece of *Boea hemsleyana* shipped to a location in Northern Europe in February last year survived in the box for 10 days in the middle of a cold snap. It was one of two plants that didn't freeze (the other was *Saintpaulia goetziana*) and it even rooted when my friend got it. *B. hygroskopica* is a different animal entirely. I would root it in long-fibered sphagnum (good orchid quality sphagnum)

I hope you are successful. If one of the leaves roots and sends up pups I know someone who would love to try it! *Henckelia* 'Moon Walker' is a hybrid of *H. moonii* and *H. walkerae*. Even in good, bright light it can get a bit rangy, and can grow into a large plant, but it is still worth growing because of its silver-haired leaves and large purple blooms. It responds well to pinching or pruning, but it needs to grow for several months after a rigorous pruning to begin blooming again.

Mr. Gesneriad



Dear Mr. Gesneriad,
Help!! Any tips on growing *Primulina medica*? ...light, fertilizers, humidity?
All tips would be greatly appreciated.
Thanks, Barb Koski

Barb, Are you new to *Primulina* in general or having problems with this one in particular? I don't treat it any differently than any of my other *Primulinas*. Medium light - two fluorescent tubes for 10 hours. *Primulinas* like this one and other plain green forms grow towards the ends of the tubes. Use a very porous soil mix. At least 50%, maybe even 60% perlite. Light, constant feed with a good fertilizer rotation. I can't offer much to say on flowering since my hasn't flowered yet either. But a healthy plant will do it eventually. Mr. Gesneriad

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Deinostigma tamiana*



Donna's *Sinningia* 'High Voltage'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'

Prudence Risley with a little vining companion, *Tinantia pringlei* or Panther Mexican Dayflower, a volunteer that appeared in one of my pots. This small Prudence is a young plant I started from a cutting. Same with SimSim. A stem cutting rooted easily and full of buds and blooms after a few months.



Donna's *Sinningia* 'SimSim Salaviem'

Donna's *Sinningia Speciosa* seedlings from GHA seed fund



First bloom of this plant with purple with dots on the bloom. Will wait and see what next blooms look like before deciding about keeping this one. Not sure I like the dots. But I do love the slipper style blooms.



Jay Sespico's Cross: JS 17-11 (*Sinningia speciosa* 'Sentsational Pepperpot' x *Sinningia speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa') x (*Sinningia speciosa* 'Sentsational Pepperpot' x *Sinningia speciosa* 'Thad's Gas Planet') — A peloric red onto a blue nodding flower that had a strong scent. I was hoping for a fragrant red.

After germination I planted the babies January 21, 2019, then potted up on March 26th and then again on May 10th. Over summer they were on a plant rack on my deck in shade with ambient light. With storms and wind last spring I thought I lost them. I had about 12 plants that survived out of 16 or so. Some tubers drown from rainstorms. In autumn the tubers calmed down and sprouted and have been growing strong ever since indoor under lights. I would not put them outdoors in the future. Too delicate. They are doing pretty good now, except some vast fluctuations in temperature and humidity in my plant room have made some discolorations on the leaves and lately a lot of leaf curling. All plants are full of buds and some did blast. I should put these in larger pots. My first red bloomer I potted while in bud as directed by Jim to make a same size hole in the soil in a bigger pot and try not to disturb the roots. It worked great and I should do this with the other plants. I gave the first, a red, away on the holiday raffle table. They are all wicked and drink a lot of water in the warm plant room. I have not detected fragrance but Dale did say with those parents I should. So far 2 reds, but this second red is very deep almost maroon, very close in color to S. 'SimSim Salavim', and now 3 purples including one with dots. There are several other babies coming along and it is nice to have a staggering of blooming *Speciosas* to adorn the plant shelves! Donna

Bloomin' Now



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Fred's Riverdance'

Janet has been growing *Streptocarpus* 'Fred's Riverdance' for several years. It's barely survived much of that time. It has been brought back from the brink of death more than once and is the most difficult *Streptocarpus* she's ever grown and has been revived from a tiny nib on more than one occasion. It's finally looking relatively robust at the moment, even showing a touch of green and captured on film to prove it! It is growing in a 2" Oyama pot under T-12 lights and she is not even sure why it is doing as well as it is right now, but this is the best it's ever looked. Although putting up many blooms, it STILL doesn't have the nice green edging for which it is known. The first picture is January 15th and the second picture is about two weeks later on February 1st. Abundance blooming in just two weeks.



Donna's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red'. Notice all the seed pods forming. To the right is *Sinningia conspicua* x *bullata* x *leucotricha* 'Max Dekk'



Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Freckles'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Mark Twain'



Dave's hybrid *Sinningia* 'Sue Bear'



Dave's *Sinningia bullata*



Poison dart frog with *Episcia*. Photo taken in Costa Rica by Johanna Zinn



Primulina huangii, a new species of Gesneriaceae from the limestone area in Guangxi, China! Minnesota Gesneriads on FB.

Sinningia nordestina

Johanna Zinn



Johanna's *S. nordestina* plant

Close up of flower (burwur.net)



Donna's comment: I have found they put out a lot of pollen. The above picture is from the internet and I do not know for whom to give credit. I just want to show how tall *S. nordestina* can get. Looks like it may be in a greenhouse. I gave away many baby plants early last year and have seeds planted in hopes of germination. I believe mine have either re-sprouted from tubers or grew from seeds. Once the buds rise and open I shall investigate the soil for a tuber. Some advice from Hung Nguyen.: "After the blooming season, it will go dormant for a long time until August next year. You can give it some water once a month, and if you repot, be careful as the tubers are very small compare to other *Sinningias*."

Daniel Steele's *S. nordestina* in greenhouse.(from FB). His *Sinningia nordestina* was coming into bloom on Jan 5th. This is the second year where it didn't flower until winter. One of the growths came from the drainage hole. Leads him to believe it forms satellite tubers like *tubiflora* and some others.(*Sinningias*)



Ginny Heatter's plant (burwur.net)



Continued on next page

Sinningia nordestina Continued:



Daniel's *S. nordestina* full bloom



Sinningia nordestina is an unusual member of the genus in several ways. The flowers look more like those on a *Smithiantha* or *Kohleria* than a typical *Sinningia*, and the stems are often lax and sprawling except in very bright light. It was first discovered in Northeastern Brazil, specifically Pernambuco in 1996 by George S. Baracho and Jose A. Siqueira Filho. *Sinningia nordestina* grows in really tropical conditions much closer to the equator (about 8 degrees latitude south of the equator) than most *Sinningia* species. It is therefore unlikely that it can tolerate cold temperatures, even if it does not freeze. The unusual growing period (sprouting in mid-summer) is due to the difference in the dry season between northeastern Brazil and the southern states where most other *Sinningia* species grow. Mauro Peixoto introduced this species to North America by distributing seed at the 2002 AGS convention. Mauro mentions it has a "rudimentary" tuber and has small but very striking red-and-yellow flowers with green leaves that are somewhat "sticky" like *S. amambayensis*.

Mauro recommends planting in a pot with shredded tree fern fiber and sphagnum moss and grown in a terrarium or area with very high humidity. It was speculated that this species was probably intolerant of drying out, and that the tubers would not re-sprout after a prolonged dry period. Reported experience with cultivated seedlings suggest that even young dormant tubers given very occasional watering (e.g., once a month) will eventually sprout. The fact that the tubers sprout so late in the growing season in situ would certainly make it seem as if the plants were never going to come back. Most *Sinningia* tubers do not require any water at all during dormancy. Research also noted a number of seedlings near the wild plants, and suggested that this species relies on abundant seed production for survival, much like an annual. The plants readily set seed, and the seeds germinate in profusion. Seeds generally take up to two months to germinate and should flower within 12 months. Takes a while for the flower stalks to shoot up to bloom from the base of the plant. Sources: Gesneriad Reference Web, Brazil Plants, *Sinningia* and Friends, FB and personal experiences)



Dale Marten photos for hybridizers



Donna's Nordestina seedlings Oct, 2018

Bloomin' Now



Janet's Strep bouquet; You know how I love my tiny bouquets! All *Streptocarpus* blooms – top left is DS-Mysticism (a color changer), bottom left is the deep purple NOID that may be a parent to Janet's Wino, and the others are several of my own unnamed seedlings. Cool leaves are *Kohleria* cuttings.



Streptocarpus 'Janet's Wino', putting on a nice show to brighten the winter. I hybridized this one before I knew anything about pollination. So I don't know the heritage, although I am guessing one parent is first Strep I ever received, a deep purple NOID with similar white edging. This is one of my favorite Streps because, just like holding up a glass of red wine to the sunlight, the petals reflect many burgundy colors.



Janet's unnamed *Streptocarpus* seedling (temp ID PD13-03), which is still being evaluated, puts up a nice cluster of blooms with bright color in the throat, but tends to fade to white with purple. The first picture is from

Show News from Bill

Hope you are thinking about the plants and designs you plan to prepare for our practice mini-show next month at our March meeting! This is a Mini-show and not an official gesneriad show. This is your opportunity to bring plants that you may not be comfortable putting in an official show. We want to see a variety of plants and hope that all members will participate.

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Aeschyanthus augustifolia*



Bill's *Nautilocalyx* 'Burle Marx'



Jim Robert's *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio' on his Lanai in Florida.



Close up of Jim's *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio'

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Nematanthus crassifolius* 'Bijou'. The plant has more than 60 blooms at different stages of growth. Photos cannot do it justice! I'm going to enjoy this plant for quite some time!



Johanna's *Henckelia* 'Moon Walker'



Johanna's *Henckelia* 'Moon Walker' close up of bloom

This hybrid of *Henckelia moonii* and *Henckelia walkerae* was made by M. Yamagata. It is a free-ranging plant, and can grow quite large. The flowers are huge and attractive, but not produced in great profusion. *H.* 'Moon Walker' is an excellent plant for a sunny window if room allows, or for a greenhouse. While it grows well under lights, it will soon crowd out everything else on the shelf. If the growing points are pinched out from time to time it will branch from the stems and from the base. Gesneriad Reference Web

Dave will bring some plants (below photos) for sale: \$4.00 each



Raffle Table

At every meeting our members bring items to share on 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. Each person puts their free ticket into the "pot" and everyone gets a chance to select one item from the raffle table. Then the raffle continues by pulling the purchased tickets. Here's what you'll see on the table at a meeting: Gesneriad plants, rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, seeds, magazines, pamphlets, containers, lights, gardening supplies and other plants we love to grow like begonias, orchids and other companion plants. We get a great selection of items for the raffle table from our generous members. 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.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society will hold their plant sale at Boscov's

Saturday, April 4, 2020, from 10am - 4pm
Boscov's : 361 W Main St, Christiana, DE 19702

Richmond African Violet Society

Judged Show and Sale:

April 4th 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. and April 5th 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Sale:

April 3rd 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. and April 4th 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

April 5th 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Venue: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue

Richmond, VA 23228 United States

Free Admission to show and sale

Adults \$13/Seniors \$11 to enter the Garden's venue

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bstew771@verizon.net

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Publications: Donna Beverin

Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership: Peggy MacDonald

Ways and Means: Brian Connor

Show: Bill Schmidt

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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