

# Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 47 Number 1

January 2016



Johanna Zinn's *Henckelia* 'Moonwalker'

## President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you have all survived the horrible weather we've been having! Could you ever have imagined 75 degrees on Christmas Day? Looks like things are getting back to normal now with daytime highs and nighttime lows being just about where they're supposed to be.

Anyone make any Resolutions pertaining to your plant collections? Hopefully they involve taking more time with them, adding more to your personal collections and sharing both at meetings and in *Petal Tones*. Writing an article for *Petal Tones* or even just submitting pictures of your plants will now earn you raffle tickets! And one of my resolutions is to make sure that there is always something interesting on the raffle table. All of you should be working on show plants by now. The show is in just two months, and unlike the last show we held in September of 2014, it looks like we're going to have good participation from the membership as a whole, not just a few of us.

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 usually the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues

January 9<sup>th</sup>: Propagation Workshop: Preparing your plants for show by Brian Connor  
February 13<sup>th</sup>: Primulina, Petrocosmea, African Violet & Streptocarpus Panel with 4 growers  
March 12<sup>th</sup>: Show discussion and Plant Preparation for Show  
March 18 – 20, 2016 NCAC Show at Behnkes

Remember, Gesneriad Shows judge with a competitive scoring system, so no two plants in a class can achieve the same score, and the highest scoring plant gets the blue ribbon (if it scores at least 90 points). Size isn't one of the factors that judges are looking for. A perfectly grown plant that's only filling a three-inch pot can easily beat a humongous plant in a 10" pot with a lot of flaws in it. The more plant there is, the more possibility for damage to the leaves or a crooked stem to show up somewhere in the display.

To encourage participation, I'm even offering a \$5 prize to every blue ribbon in the show. There are over 80 classes. Surely there will be something that you can enter in one of the classes. And if you don't have plants growing at home, buy an African Violet at your local Home Depot or Lowes, and put together an arrangement. Or put together an Educational display on soil mixes or starting from seed or about your favorite Gesneriad. Another idea is as simple

as an entry of the Begonia that you grow in a window that would also be an ideal spot for a Gesneriad (the Companion Plant Class in the Educational Section). Unfortunately, I won't be at the January meeting. I agreed to present a talk to the Richmond African Violet Club on Sinningia. That probably means that the Virginia crowd won't be at the meeting either. Our January program will be a Propagation Program. There's plenty of time to get plant cuttings and rhizomes started for the March show sales table. Of course, you can also keep cuttings for yourself, but the idea is to each bring home as much as you can grow on for the sale. I'll send plants with Brian to be chopped up, and hopefully others of you will too. The judges were really disappointed at the lack of sale plants at our last show; let's give them something to talk good about this time around! Jim

### NCAC Meeting Program Schedule for 2016

January 2016: Brian Connor, Propagation Workshop

February 2016: Panel Discussion:

Drew Norris: Saintpaulia  
Barbara Stewart: Primulina  
Jim Roberts: Sinningia  
Karen Allen: Streptocarpus.

March 2016: Show Discussion and Preparing plants for show and sale

March 18, 19, 20<sup>th</sup>: Spring Show

April 2016: Plant Hunters:

This will be a group participation program. In March, 5 ransom people will be selected (more to come on how, in March ) and asked to submit a few paragraphs or 15 minutes worth of information, on a botanist, growing technique, historical facts regarding horticulture, or a personal Gesneriad related trip to see Gesneriads in situ or large herbarium collections. If chosen, club member(s) chosen does not wish to present before the group, Drew will take the information and present on the member's behalf.

May 2016: Review of NCAG and Baltimore AV Spring Shows (labeled slide show) and there will be a presentation of cultural recommendations, from growers outside the club (mostly and hopefully), pertaining to the care of an exceptional species/variety, or a single Gesneriad genus. The Presenter is to be determined.

June 2016: Hands on Hybridizing by Jim Roberts

July 2016: Summer picnic

July 2016: National Convention Wilmington, DE

August 2016: Hands on Terrarium Workshop, with materials provided to set up and maintain a small terrarium Gesneriad. Presenter TBA

September 2016: Episcias: Varieties, Culture, and botanical History, presented by Drew Norris

October 2016: Karyn Cichocki will discuss her Gesneriad Collecting Trip to Ecuador. Nominating panel for election of new officers will be determined.

November 2016: Meeting at the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Show with Jim Roberts and Drew Norris discussing setting up grow light stands.

December 2016: Holiday Party  
New officers are elected

January 2017: MAAVS Slide Show and discussion, Presenter to be determined.  
New Officer Installation

### Bloomin' Now



Brian Connor's windowsill full of Streps & AV's





Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Zlotko'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Hawaiian Party'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Felis Jogkini'

#### Gesneriad Society Webinar Information

Each webinar (live or anytime) will cost \$9.95 and may be ordered at <http://shop.gesneriadsociety.org/>

#### Information for live webinars

All live webinars will begin at 9 p.m. EST (or, 8 p.m. CST, 7 p.m. MST and 6 p.m. PST). Orders received within 24 hours of the event may not be able to be accommodated and the person will be advised as to options. The viewing link will be sent within 24 hours of the order, and a reminder email will be sent one hour before the presentation. Please note that, while you can have as many people as you want in the room listening, you cannot share your link with others. You will be able to ask questions.

#### Information for anytime webinars

"Anytime webinars" will be available the day after the live webinar. The viewing link will be sent within 48 hours of placement of the order. Please note that while you can have as many people as you want in the room listening, you cannot share your link with others. You will not be able to ask questions. The anytime webinar will be available for one month following the live webinar.

**January 26, 2016**

#### Growing and Showing Episcias: Listen to a Pro from the Comfort of Your Home

Have you always admired the foliage of a well-grown Episcia? Would you love to grow those delicate pink ones? Would you like to know how to grow them but don't know where to start? The Gesneriad Society is now offering you a unique opportunity to listen to one of its own members, Thad Scaggs, as he shares his considerable expertise on this subject. The "any time" viewing period will be January 27- February 27. Thad Scaggs has won many prizes and hybridizes Episcias, African violets, Smithianthas, and gesneriad intergenerics. Now, you'll have the opportunity to listen to him discuss how he grows his mouth-watering Episcias.

**February 9, 2016**

#### Growing and Showing Miniature Sinningias: Listen to a Pro from the Comfort of Your Home

Miniature sinningias are not nearly as difficult to grow as you might imagine. These delicate looking plants can be quite accommodating. Would you like to know how to grow them better? Are you not quite certain where to start? The "any time" viewing period will be February 10- March 10. Dale Martens, 2014 winner of Best Streptocarpus and Best in Show at The Gesneriad Society's annual convention, discusses growing and showing miniature sinningias. Perhaps you've seen Dale Martens postings on several discussion groups or read her articles in *Gesneriads* journal. Now, you'll have the opportunity to listen to her discuss how she grows show-stopping specimens of this genus.

**March 1, 2016**

#### Growing and Showing Primulinas: Listen to a Pro from the Comfort of Your Home

Primulinas, formerly known as Chiritas, are a great plant for any gesneriad grower to have in his or her collection. If the foliage is ornamental enough you don't have to worry if it isn't in bloom come show time. Would you like to know how to grow them better? Are you not quite certain where to start? The Gesneriad Society is now offering you a unique opportunity to listen to one of its own members share his considerable expertise on this subject. The "any time" viewing period will be March 2- April 2. If you enjoy the *Gleanings* publication, you are in for a real treat. Its editor, Mel Grice is our expert this month. He participates in shows across the country and regularly walks away with a basketful of ribbons. A generous man with both his time and his knowledge, he has agreed to share his considerable growing expertise with our webinar attendees. Now, you'll have the opportunity to listen to him discuss how he grows his award-winning show specimens.

**April 5, 2016**

#### Meet the Gesneriad Family: Learn about the African Violet Sister Plants

While the names of some gesneriads might be difficult to pronounce, growing them is just a matter of knowing what to do. Many are quite accommodating and grow in the same conditions as African violets. In fact, most violet growers have at least one or two other gesneriads in their collection. Are you not quite certain where to start? The Gesneriad Society is now offering you a unique opportunity to listen to one of its own members share her considerable expertise on this subject. The "any time" viewing period will be April 6-May 6. The Society launched this modestly priced venture with one of its best growers, hybridizers and educators, Dale Martens, the Back to Basics columnist for the *Gesneriads* journal. She is the 2014 winner of Best in Show at The Gesneriad Society's annual convention, and she discusses growing and showing a variety of gesneriads. Perhaps you've seen Dale Martens postings on several discussion groups. Now, you'll have the opportunity to listen to her discuss how you can grow all sorts of gesneriads. This promises to be an information-packed hour that will open your eyes to the beauty of the "other gesneriads."



Brian's *Saintpaulia* 'Ness Mini- Sota'



Brian's series of miniature *Saintpaulias*



Brian's *Saintpaulia* 'Rebel's Splatter Kake'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Vanda'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Kacey' & 'Byzantine Mosaic'



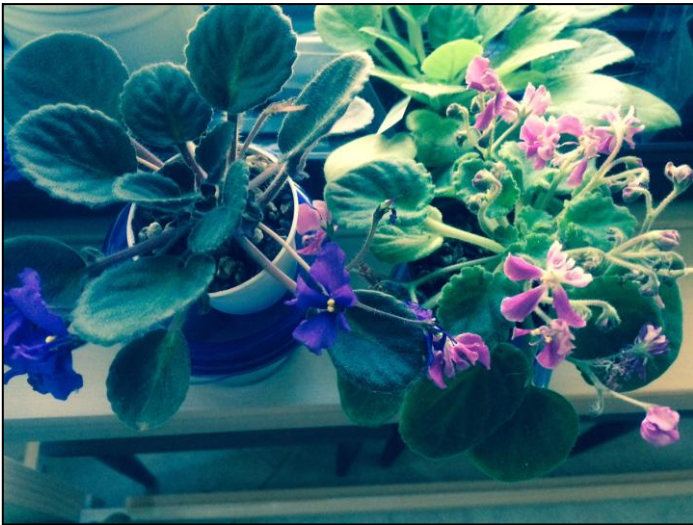
Johanna Zinn's *Gasteranthus atratus*



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Drako'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS-Crystal Lace'



Brian's Saintpaulia 'Imps Wasp', 'Inky Squid' & 'Lil Deathcap'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS-Furry Little Arctic Fox'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'CF-Diane'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Bonnaventure'



Barbara Stewart's *Streptocarpus* 'Lena'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Hawaiian Party'



Barb's *Smithiantha* 'Pat's Pet Chimp'



Johanna's *Henckelia* 'Moonwalker' : This wonderful plant looks good even when not in bloom, but the blooms make it look great. A few days ago, this plant was covered with 34 blooms with several buds forming! In Johanna's indoor greenhouse!



Barb's terrarium, interesting root formations



Johanna's *Streptocarpus*, a new addition blooming!



Johanna's *Sinningia pusilla* in a small glass container

Note from the Editor: To encourage members to contribute content to our Petal Tones newsletter the following incentives have been approved at our last meeting:

- 5 raffle tickets with a 3 month expiration will be given to each member who submits an article with 3-5 paragraphs in length on a specific topic.
- 3 tickets with a 3 month expiration will be given to each member who submits 5 pictures
- \$25 gift certificate of the winner's choosing will be given for best article of the year
- \$10 gift certificate will be given for best photo of the year, to be voted on at the end of the year.

Also I would be glad to "clean up" any photographs before publishing in Petal Tones if you would like. Please share you experiences with your plants in a short article, or a visit to a green house or to another plant lover's collection. You'd be surprised how other folks will enjoy reading about your experiences! Thanks so much! Donna

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