

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 51 Number 1

January 2020



Peggy's *Sinningia bullata* blooming in perfect symmetry.

President's message:

Happy new year and happy new decade! I hope everyone had a good holiday season. We started last year with a great turnout of 21 members. Our average attendance for 2019 was 14, up from 9 the previous 2 years. Hopefully, our chapter will continue to be active and grow in 2020. Our main focus this year will be putting on a show and sale in September. The purposes of having a show are to educate the public about gesneriads and to challenge our members to grow better plants. It also serves to unite the membership through a common project that we all participate in. We have lots of informative programs this year to help us prepare for the show, starting with a great webinar full of tips on growing beautiful show plants. In February, we will get sale and show plants going by sharing cuttings and seedlings at the propagation workshop. Many chapters have monthly "mini-shows" which is essentially our judged exhibits. Our mini-show in March will be an expansion of the mini-show, and will provide a good opportunity to share feedback and advice on our more mature plants and get comfortable with exhibiting in the September show. Remember to renew your membership this month and join us at the meeting on Saturday.

Barbara

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.

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 21th:
December 12th: Holiday Party TBA

Judging Tip of the Month : Form

When judging *Saintpaulias*, symmetry is one of the main considerations. However, many gesneriads are judged on form rather than symmetry, particularly if they are multi-crowned plants or multiple plants in a pot. To have a good form, the main crowns should all be of similar size. A few smaller crowns may help fill in the pot, but the plant should not look overcrowded. Keep in mind that odd numbers of crowns are generally more pleasing to the eye than even numbers. If shown with bloom, the blossoms should be evenly distributed among the main crowns of the plant. Multi-crowned plants that show well are ones that have a spreading growth habit. Some commonly grown varieties include *Episcia*, *Eucodonia*, *Achimenes*, *Amalophyllon*, microminiature *Sinningia*, and compact *Kohleria*. The key to success is good planning and regular grooming. Barbara

Bloomin' now



Brian Connor's *Smithiantha* 'Little One' close up



Brian's *Smithiantha* 'Golden Lion' close up

Smithiantha 'Golden Leopard' and *Smithiantha* 'Little One', two of my favorites. The colorful flowers are very bright in person and better than my photos! Often the velvety leaves are veined with reddish-purple hairs. However, my *Smithianthas* weren't that great this year. Some years they grow without any effort and sometimes they struggle. This was a year of struggle. Native to Mexico, the rhizomes are usually planted in late Spring (maybe very early Summer) for blooms in the Fall and early Winter. I planted the rhizomes rather on the late side, so 'Little One' is just starting to flower. It's similar to growing a *Kohleria*, except *Smithiantha* seems to need higher humidity. *Smithianthas* make a terminal flower spike rather than flowering between the leaf axils. I don't believe they can be pinched successfully to become bushy. Its better to plant 1-3 rhizomes (I think no more) in a 3" pot. They will definitely go dormant after flowering and rhizomes can be harvested for the next season of growth. I believe 'Golden Leopard' is an old Dale Martens hybrid- enough said (its very nice!)! 'Little One' has been around for many years and resembles a more compact *S. zebrina*. In the 1970's Parks sold seed of 'Little One'----- this was awesome, but I've never seen any *Smithiantha* labeled as 'Little One' x self. Jim Roberts and Andrew Norris grew *Smithiantha* outdoors in Maryland successfully, like *Achimenes*, until frost. Brian Connor



Brian Connor's *Smithiantha* 'Little One'



Brian's *Smithiantha* 'Golden Lion'

Bloomin' now



Doug's *Streptocarpus* Franken BBS seedling



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Party Boy' from raffle table



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Niobe'



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Nightshade' from raffle table

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Primulina ophiopogoides* x *longgangensis*: first bloom



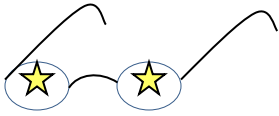
Primulina ophiopogoides x *longgangensis* close up. This cross was made by Barb Borleske and the seeds grown by Mary Schaeffer (both of DAVGS). Mary shared one of her seedlings with me. It is almost pure white with a tiny hint of purple with light yellow in the throat and hint of orange on the upper bloom. Still researching the parentage. My first success with a slender leaf *Primulina*!



Janet's best multicolor *Streptocarpus* 'DS Mysticism'



Dave's *xSmithicodonia* 'Heartland's Joy'



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*.



Dave's Mini *Sinningia* 'Freckles'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'April Snow' another mini!



Dave's Mini *Sinningia* 'Doll Baby'



Dave's *Sinningia* NOID

Show News from Bill

We have a signed agreement with Homestead Gardens and have chosen the theme "Gesneriads Dance" for our September show scheduled for September 11-13, 2020 schmidt.wc@verizon.net

BLOOMIN' NOW



Dave's *Sinningia reitzii*



Donna's *Sinningia speciosa* seedling from Jay Sespico's cross from GHA seed fund



Donna's *Primulina* 'Aiko'



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'NOID' from Otto's seeds

Bloomin' now



Holiday party: Johanna, Kitty, Barb, Andy, Karen, Minh, Bill, Dave, Donna, Janet (clock wise left to right)

**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**



Johanna's *Nematanthus* in her greenhouse is stunning



Bill's *Achimenes* 'Glory' at RAVS meeting



Barb Koski's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Musketeer' at RAVS meeting



Happy New Year!
Please ask me any questions you may have about Gesneriads!

Raffle Table

DON'T FORGET THE 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.

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Codonanthe devosiana* 'Paula'



Bill's *Streptocarpus saxorum*



Dave's *Sinningia bullata*



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

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



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

Proposal: Jim Roberts to be Honorary Member of NCAC
January 2, 2020

I would like to propose to make Jim Roberts an honorary member of NCAC . Jim served as President several times, as well as Vice President and Editor. Jim was the backbone of NCAC for many years and is a respected, very knowledgeable lifetime member at the National level as well. Jim has traveled to many countries to study and collect Gesneriads and is a contributor to the National Gesneriad magazine. Jim has been a sought after speaker for many Gesneriad chapters.

I joined in 2009 after the National Convention in Silver Springs, MD. I was so impressed with the group working so well together to run such a big convention, that I wanted to join. Jim was very welcoming and I enjoyed learning so much from Jim. Jim also has always been very generous in sharing his plants with everyone in the group. He also ran most of the programs back then and found great speakers for other meetings. Eventually ,Jim asked for volunteers to take over the newsletter, Petal Tones and Ken M. and I rotated doing the newsletter for awhile and then I became the sole editor. Jim supported my efforts and always was very encouraging, whether it is about Petal Tones, growing Gesneriads or even trying my hand at hybridizing. Jim became Mr. Gesneriad when he proposed a question and answer column for Petal Tones to encourage members to contribute to the group. My niece drew our "Mr. Gesneriad" and it has been going strong ever since. Even after moving to Florida this year Jim said he would continue being our Mr. Gesneriad and planned on staying on as a long distance member.

I do not know about the history of Jim's leadership prior to 2009, but from what I have read in old copies of Petal Tones he was a major leader in recruiting new members and kept the NCAC group alive and growing,. Now that he has retired and is living in Florida. I think he deserves to be an honorary member of NCAC. Thanks for entertaining this proposal.

Donna Beverin, NCAC Vice-President and Editor

The Board has recommending approval of this proposal via an email vote of the Board of Directors . At t the January 2020 meeting members will discuss and vote on acceptance as stated in by-laws below:

'By-laws, Section 2. Classes of Membership. There shall be two classes of membership: Individual and Honorary. Honorary memberships, with full membership rights, may be granted upon recommendation by the Board of Directors and a majority approval by the members in attendance at a chapter meeting. Any member may propose Honorary membership for another current or former member. A written statement as to why that person should be granted honorary status must be submitted to any Board member, who shall promptly notify the rest of the Board. The Board will vote on the proposal within 30 days, publish the proposal in the next issue of Petal Tones, and present the proposal for a membership vote at the following chapter meeting."

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

President: Barb Stewart
bstew771@verizon.net

Vice-President: Donna Beverin
Donnabeverin@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Meier

Secretary: Janet Carlton

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin

Petaltones@gmail.com or

Donnabeverin@gmail.com

Committees:

Hospitality: Peggy MacDonald

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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