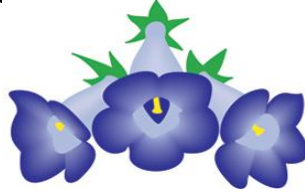


Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 48 Number 7

July 2017



Brian's *Achimenes* 'Euphoric Dance' by S. Saliba

President's Message Barb Stewart

Greetings! It is now time for some summer fun. We voted in June to dispense with a business meeting this month and enjoy a summer picnic with the Begonia Society at Johanna Zinn's home. On Sunday, during the Show we had a lot of discussion about what went well and what didn't, so we are now ready to move forward. So the decision was made by the Board to have a Show Committee meeting instead of a Board meeting at 11:00am at Johanna's, prior to our 'regular' meeting at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and share ideas. I also

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

July 23: Sunday, 1:00pm, Please Join us for a picnic meeting with the Begonia Society at Johanna's home with a pot luck and fun.

August 12th: Peggy is hosting at her home 10:30am

September 9th: Jim and Drew's Ecuador Trip: Gesneriads in the Wild

have a few items for a brief Board discussion, which is also open to everyone. I missed attending the convention this year, but I picked up enough plants at our show to keep me busy this summer.

Even though we aren't having a business meeting or a program, there will still be lots of interesting plants on the raffle table. Feel free to bring garden plants as well as Gesneriads to share.

Thanks so much to our hosts Johanna and Jeff Zinn.



Johanna's unique *Centrosolenia porphyrotrichus*

Trichodrymonia lacera
[Paradrymonia lacera]

Johanna Zinn

At the plant sale at the Wilmington, Delaware convention, I picked up a small plant labeled *Paradrymonia lacera*. I showed it to Jim Roberts and asked him about it. He paused and said it was interesting. Since I like interesting, I bought it.



According to information provided on the IUCN Red List site, *Trichodrymonia lacera* grows as a terrestrial or epiphytic plant at 500m to 1000m in forests in western Ecuador. It has been collected at two sites. The Red List classifies it as Endangered.

My plant growing areas have humidity levels that can go as low as 20 % to 30%, so I put it in a terrarium. For the first year, because of lack of space, I kept it in a small terrarium. About a year ago, I put it in a larger terrarium to allow it to grow larger. It is growing in chopped, long-fibered, sphagnum moss placed on a small amount of bonsai soil and Azomite, placed over horticultural charcoal, which provides drainage. Azomite is a ground volcanic rock that contains a large number of minerals.

A few weeks ago, my plant started blooming. The blooms are creamy white, and have lasted for weeks. They seem to have narrow linear bracts that sometimes curl around the bloom or each other; I haven't taken any plant material out to look more



closely at it. Leaves are narrow, 3 to 4 inches long, symmetrical, medium green, and have a serrated margin. The plant is about 11 inches tall, but I suspect that it would be taller if grown in soil in a humid environment. In 2016 *Paradrymonia lacera* was renamed *Trichodrymonia lacera*. I'm really enjoying growing this 'interesting' plant. The next time I repot it, I'll take cuttings so that others can enjoy growing it.

Change! Beat of Heat! Summer Meeting

NCAC Meeting Sunday, July 23, 2017

Johanna Zinn home: Pool and Jacuzzi Open!!!

Bring yummy foods to share!

1:00pm

Desperately Seeking

Jim Roberts.....Gesneria christii
Jim RobertsGesneria ventricosa
Jim RobertsGasteranthus delphinioides
Jim RobertsGasteranthus eburnea
Donna Beverin.....Sinningia 'Butter and Cream'
Donna Beverin.....Sinningia 'Bananas Foster'

July Meeting Change!!

Our July meeting will be held at the home of Johanna and Jeff Zinn. The date for the pot-luck/picnic is Sunday July 23rd, the fourth Sunday of the month . We shall be meeting along with the Potomac Begonia Society which will be a lot of fun! Johanna said the pool and Jacuzzi will be open so bring your swimming attire. An email will contain the address. Please bring main dishes, side dishes and desserts to share. Johanna wants to know if members would like hotdogs, hamburgers or a bucket of chicken. So please let me know and I can email her.

DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!

At every meeting our members bring extra plants, cuttings, supplies 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, cuttings

Being a social event we shall still have a plant raffle. Please free to bring garden plants as well as Gesneriads for the raffle. I don't think any of us restrict our growing to just Gesneriads. And I am sure our begonia friends would love to see some begonias on the raffle table as well. Bring the plants you brought to the show and did not sell!

And it is a great time to ask questions about Begonias which is a plant family that grows near Gesneriads in the wild and many of NCAC members enjoy growing them. See you soon!



The Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society will be holding its 2017 Convention and Show in Fredericksburg, Virginia at the newly renovated Fredericksburg Hospitality House, October 26th - 28th. This year's show theme is "Timeless Violets."

If you're interested in showing, either African violets, other gesneriads, or if you are interested in entering any of the various design classes, you must be a member of MAAVS.

Annual dues for membership are \$15.00 individual and \$20.00 joint.

You do not have to be a MAAVS member to attend the Show, but you do have to be registered with the Convention to attend the programs that will be offered. Also, there will be a commercial sales room featuring several notable vendors open to the public, good for anyone who would like to day trip for a little shopping and to view the Show.

So save the date. For updated Show information and a copy of the Show Schedule, please visit the website at maavs.org. If you have questions, please feel free to call Kitty Hedgepeth at [804-358-1879](tel:804-358-1879) or you may email her at EEQUAT@aol.com.

Bloomin' Now

Johanna's Sinningia 'Li'l Georgie'



Gesneriads from the 2017 Convention

Photos by Jim Roberts



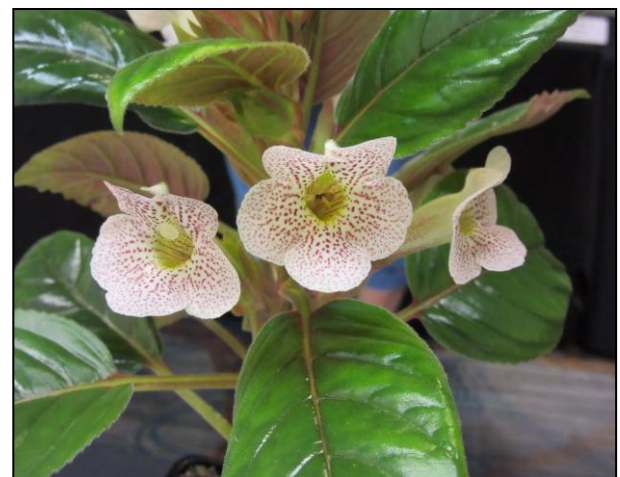
Bill Price's *Aeschynanthus species* 'Thailand'



Kohleria 'Bud's Stacy Lynn' also with Emily Roberts in the parentage.



Dale Marten's new hybrid *Streptocarpus* 'Ring of Fire'



Hung Nguyen's *Sinningia* 'Rio 16'. Hybrid of *Sinningia helleri* and *guttata*.



Best in Show: *Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Golem' hybridized by Brandon Erikson. One of the parents was my old hybrid Emily Roberts.



Saintpaulia 'Harmony's Little Stinker' won the blue for ornamental value African Old World



Always thought of *Paradrymonia* as a forest floor plant, but this one was growing happily on the side of a fallen tree. Species name? No idea. But it's rooting at home now!



Glossoloma: Hard to miss a flower this bright in the darkness under the trees. No idea on the species name, but we collected it anyway.



Saw lots of *Drymonia* in flower. This one has a very plump calyx, inside which are more buds, but never saw more than one flower open at a time. Wonder if I'll ever get our plant to flower!

Plant Hoarding at its Finest

As you all know, Drew and I went to Ecuador on a two week collecting trip at the end of May, beginning of June. The result of that collecting trip was a box with approximately 500 cuttings arriving at our house a week after we got home. Some of the cuttings were *Selaginella* for a friend. Others were other plant families for another friend.

But we still had around 400 cuttings to pot up and try to root. The following two weeks I was out of town for 3 days each week. Then it was Convention week. Can't go to a Convention without getting plants! I brought home a few hundred dollars' worth of some new hybrids, old hybrids that I know I had lost, and some nice new stuff from China. Let's call it about 100 new things.

Yesterday I planted 60 packets of seed, both new and seed that's been sitting in my refrigerator for a year. Add to those a dozen packets of seed that we collected in Ecuador (berries and capsules off various *Glossoloma*, *Columnnea*, *Besleria* and *Drymonia*), so over 70 packets of seed.

Am I crazy?? I'd answer that with an unqualified YES! But I did it anyway and I can't un-do it. Look for new stuff at meetings as it starts to root and gets identified, or as I start to separate out the seedlings. I'll have lots to show you at the September talk on our Ecuador trip. Jim



Pearcea bella : according to Jeremy this species has never been reported in Ecuador. Both the bronze and green leaf forms covered the bank by the side of the road.

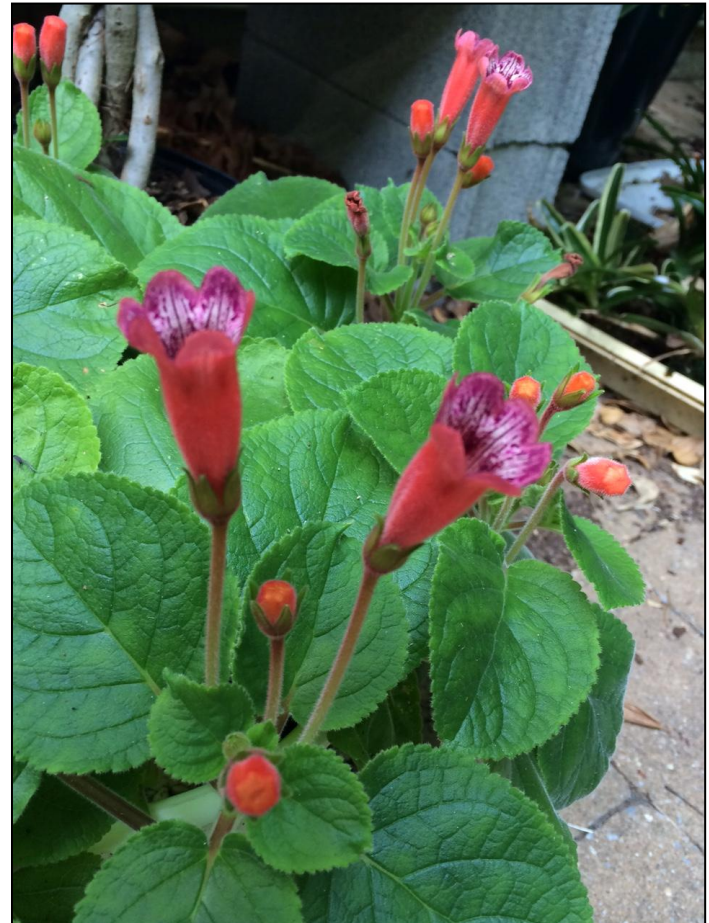


Drymonia variegata: May be hard to grow at home, but this species was found all over Ecuador with these huge leaves.

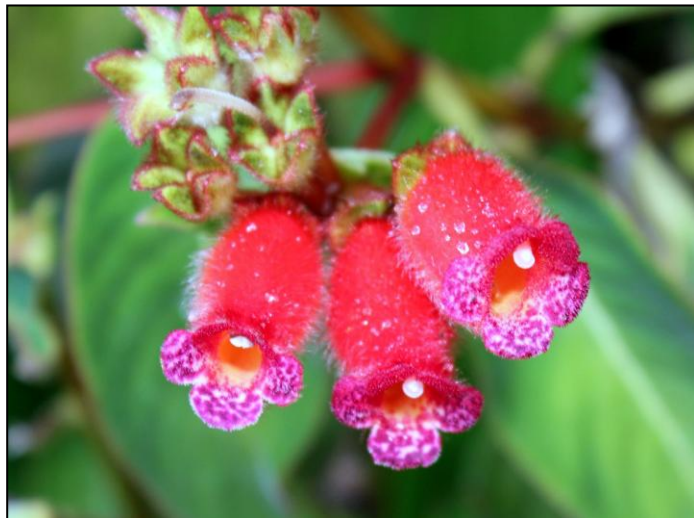


Pearcea reticulata: Just one of 7 species we brought home. *P. spruceii*, *P. bella*, *P. abunda*, *P. reticulata*, *P. hispidissima*, *P. schaferi* and a yellow-flowered species that Gilberto had in his greenhouses.

More Bloomin' Now



Brian's *Sinningia* 'Tomorrow' by Peter Shalit





Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS 1472'



Brian's Strep' babies grown in a window with one T5 HO (high output) lamp to supplement.



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Little Plushy Arctic Fox' (LPAF)



Barb's *Niphaea Oblonga* 'Lindi'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Apis'





Barb's *Sinningia* 'Amazade'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Lolita'



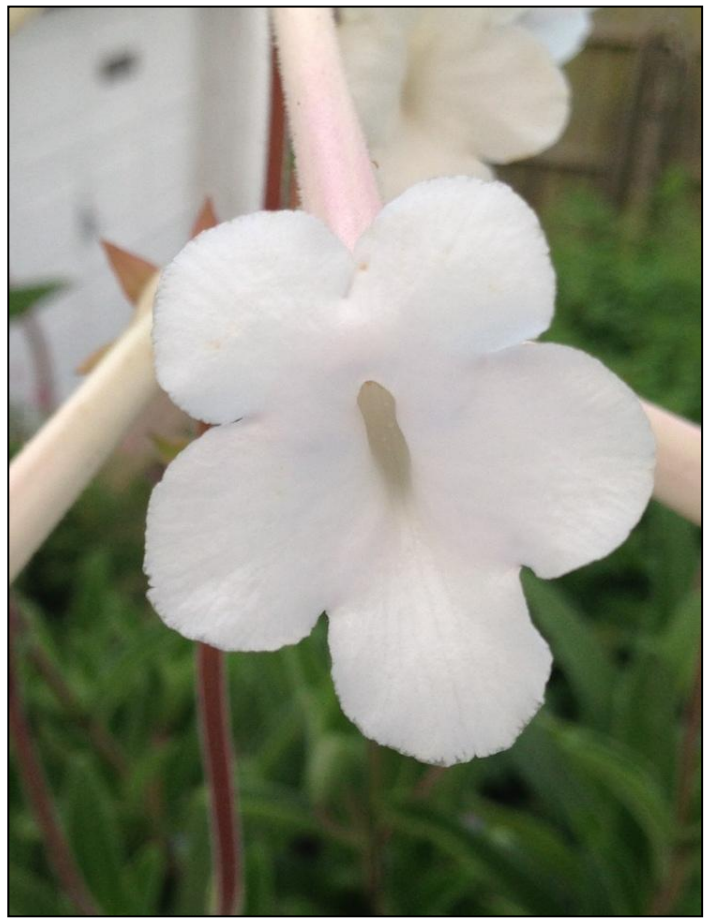
Barb's *Sinningia* 'Texas Zebra'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'My Fancy'



Donna's *Sinningia tubiflora*



Donna's *Sinningia tubiflora* close-up



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Carolyn'. One of the pink *Sinningias* that I love!



Donna's close-up *Sinningia* 'Carolyn' on right with mystery pink.



Carolyn has longer corolla. Another pink is 'Lovely' which I do not have. I cannot find a close up of 'Arkansas Bells'.



Sinningia 'Carolyn' close up. After doing a web search 'Carolyn' looks like pictures of 'Lovely' so I shall continue to work on the differences with the pinks. I have a friend who has 'Lovely' per what he was told when he received his. It looks like my 'Carolyn'. My 'Carolyn' came from Hung and Paulo our judges at NCAC's 2016 Show.

Per Plant Delights Nursery: "This superb hybrid of *Sinningia warmingii* x *Sinningia tubiflora* originated from an anonymous cross donated to the American Gesneriad Society's seed exchange. *Sinningia* 'Carolyn', named by John Boggan for New York gesneriad expert Carolyn Ripps, and long time Gesneriad Society volunteer, has been a fantastic performer in our trials since 2007. For us, it forms a 3' tall x 2' wide patch, which starts to spread in the third year, thanks to the *Sinningia tubiflora* parent. The 3' tall flower spikes, which first open in late June, are adorned with lightly fragrant, long-tubed, mauvy pink flowers with white throats. For us, *Sinningia* 'Carolyn' flowers throughout the summer...a superb selection! "

Plants of the Month for 2017

February	<i>Lysionotus</i>
March	<i>Kohleria</i>
April	<i>Saintpaulia</i>
May	Show plants
June	<i>Nematanthus</i>
July	<i>Achimenes</i>
August	<i>Petrocosmea</i>
September	<i>Gasteranthus</i>
October	N/A
November	Mini <i>Sinningia</i>
December	<i>Streptocarpus</i>

Programs Planned for 2017

- January 14 - workshop on growing in feather rock.
- February 11 - Propagation Workshop
- March 11 - *Kohleria* - an interesting and easy to grow rhizomatous genus.
- April 8 - African Violets with unusual leaves or flowers (bustle leaves, spooned, girl, longifolia, chimera)
- May 13 - Show workshop - making sure everything is ready for the show on the 20th
- Show schedule: May 19 – 21, 2017
May 19 - Show entries and set-up
May 20 - last minute entries. Judging. Sales and show open until Sunday, May 21 at 4.
- June 10 - Growing Gesneriads outdoors for the Summer
- July 23 - Picnic with Begonia Society at Johanna's home 1:00pm
- August 12 – Peggy's home subject TBA
- September 9 - Jim and Drew's Ecuador trip PowerPoint
- October 21 (third weekend - Orchid Show on second weekend) - Judges School for new judges and Student judges
- November 11 - Miniature *Sinningia* - growing these small wonders in Glass Containers - GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!
- December - Holiday Party at a member's home.



Mr. Gesneriad is here to help you with your growing questions! Just send a message to the editor and our expert will

answer your question in the next issue!

Photos are a help if you have concerns about pests or other subjects when pictures can really help Mr. "G" understand your problem! petaltones@gmail.com

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<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.

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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