

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 50 Number 7

July 2019



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Freckles'



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming'

## MEETING LOCATION:

Johanna Zinn's home  
Saturday, July 20th 12pm - 3:00pm  
Summer Picnic with Potomac Begonia Branch of the  
American Begonia Society

At 11:00am there will be an NCAC Board Meeting at  
Johanna's before the picnic. All welcome.

Please bring a side dish to feed 10 -12 people  
& items for the raffle table. Main course of  
chicken provided. Family & friends welcome.

Hope to see you there for a day of fun!

**Please let Peggy know what you are bringing  
in the food category so we know we have  
enough for all: [Bobpeggymac@gmail.com](mailto:Bobpeggymac@gmail.com)**

**September 14th** – Rare & Unusual Gesneriads  
webinar

**October 12th** – Plant problem IDs including pests &  
cultural issues.

**November 9th** – Growing Mini Sinningias

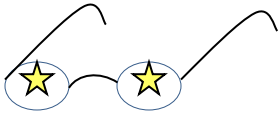
**December** - Holiday Party – **need host**

**Presenters needed for October & November**

## **President's Message**

Picnic time! This is a fun and relaxing  
event with minimal business. We shall not  
have a regular business meeting, but do  
have a few items for the board to discuss.  
You don't have to be on the board to attend  
and participate. All ideas are welcome.  
Agenda items so far include discussing the  
continued use of cash awards for our next  
show and deciding on the procedure for  
earning points for exhibits at meetings.  
There will be no meeting in August, so we  
will take a break until September.

Don't forget the raffle table which we will  
share with the begonia society (gesneriads,  
houseplants, yard plants, plant supplies,  
whatever plant people would like). There is  
always something for everyone. See you  
there!  
Barbara Stewart



# Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Kitty Hedgepeth..... Episcias 'War Paint' and 'Black Mamba'
- Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa* Has *S. tubiflora* to share.
- Janet Carlton.....*Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Sharon Long.....*Streptocarpus cyanandrus*

## 2020 Show Updates

There are still several Chairman positions vacant for our 2020 show including: Judges, Classification and Inspection, Awards, and Hospitality. If you have never had any experience with these roles, but are interested in participating in the show as a Chairman, contact Bill for more information. E-mail [Schmidt.wc@verizon.net](mailto:Schmidt.wc@verizon.net) or 804-266-6157. He will also be at the picnic at Johanna's on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

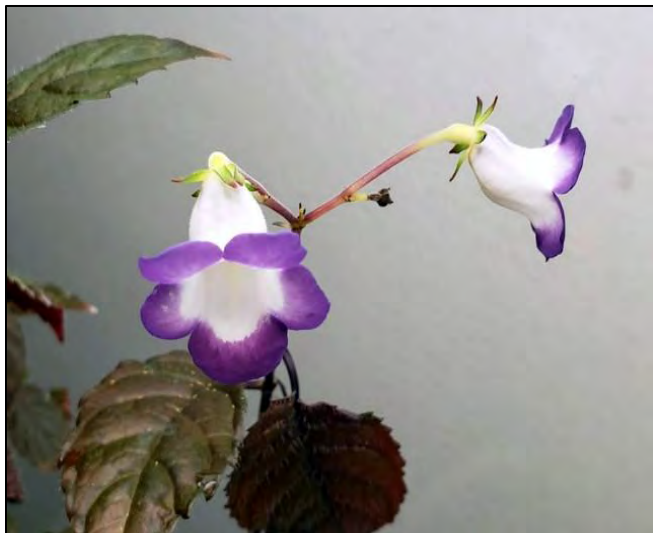
## Bloomin' Now



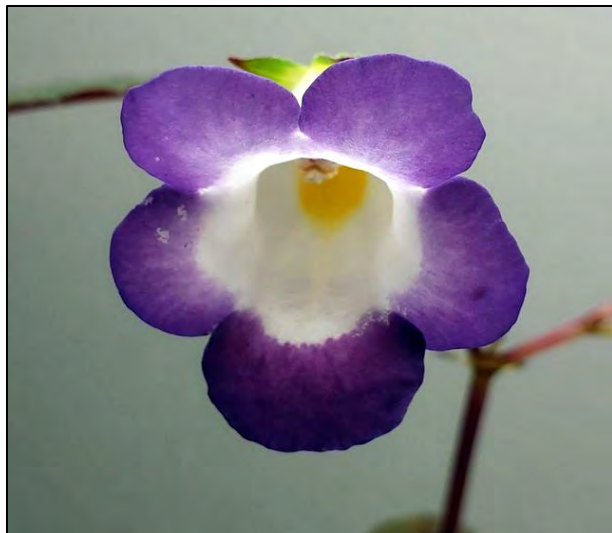
Barb's *Aeschynanthus* 'Black Pagoda'

Barb's *Sinningia* 'Arkansas Bells' with close up of the flowers above left.

# Bloomin' Now



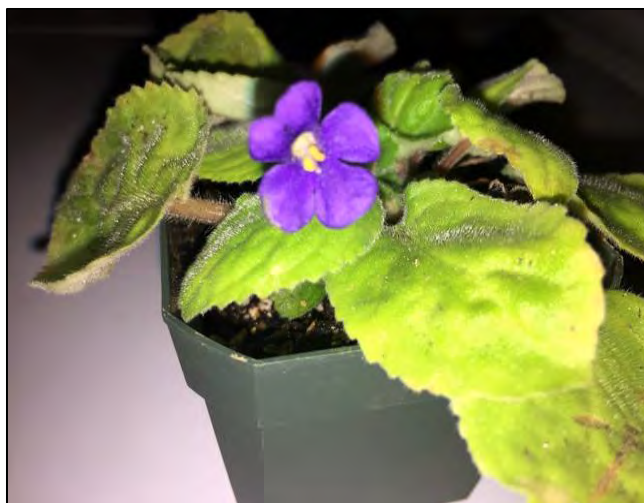
Barb's *Monopyle* GRE 12131



Barb's *Monopyle* GRE 12131 close up



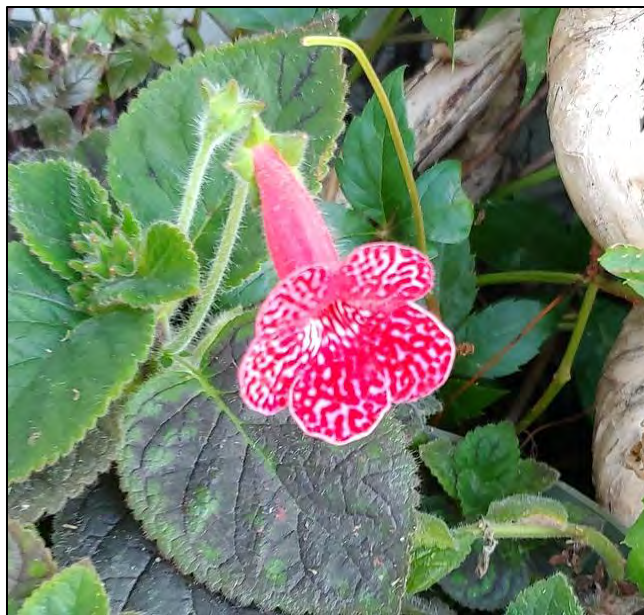
Mike Salapka's *Nautilocalyx pemphidious*



Mike's *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Frosty Cherry'



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

# Bloomin' Now



Sharon's *Sinningia* 'Bullata x Pink Tiger 2'



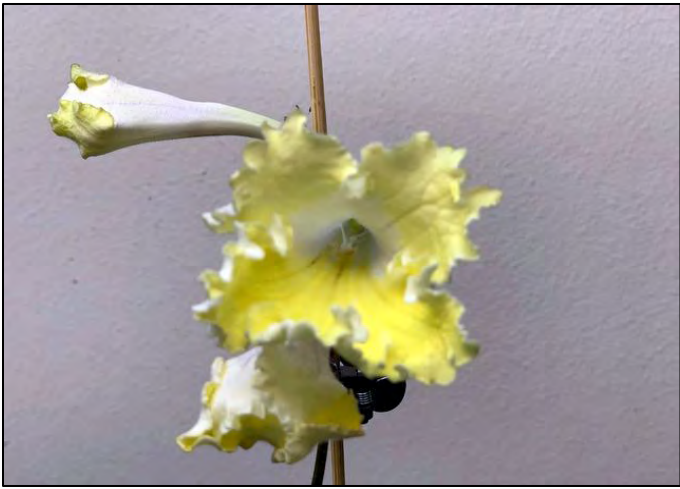
Bill's plants outdoors for summer vacation: *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields', *Achimenes* 'Sauline', x*Smithicodonia* 'Heartland's Joy', *Achimenes misera*, and *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Johanna's *Boea hygroskopica* with close up right



# Bloomin' Now



Doug's *Streptocarpus* from British Streptocarpus Society's seed. The yellow has nice color and frills but needs a stake.



Doug is comparing S. 'Harlequin Lace' on left to the large bloom of S. 'Midnight Poison' on the right

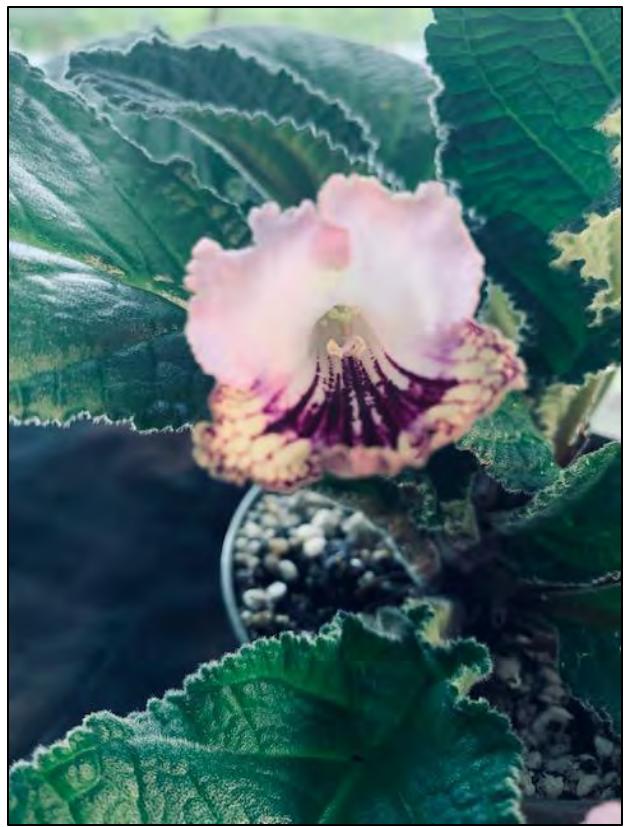


Doug's *Streptocarpus* BSS seedlings

# Bloomin' Now



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Cat Dance'



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Gina'



Doug's *Streptocarpus* BSS seedling



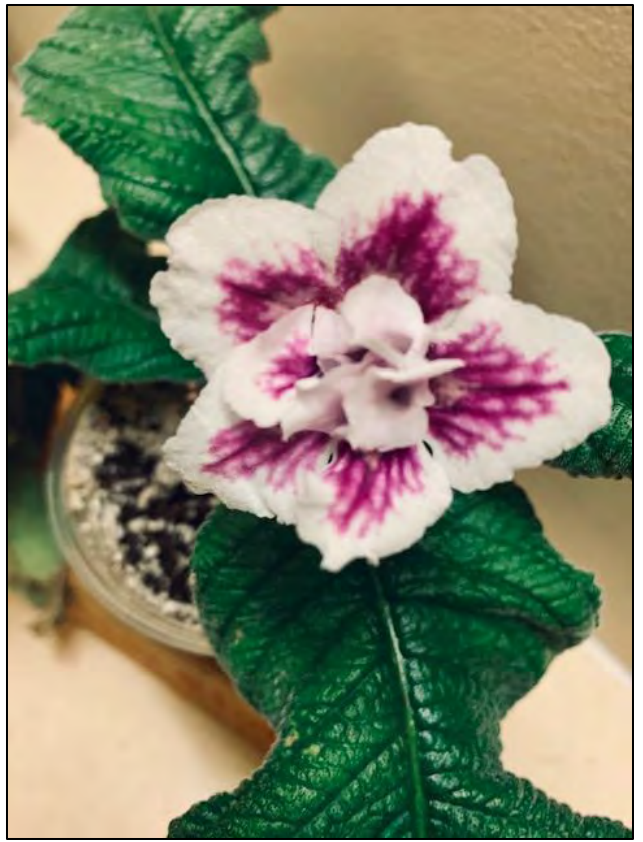
Doug's *Streptocarpus* BSS seedling



# Bloomin' Now



Doug's *Streptocarpus* BSS seedling



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Mea Lee'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'OD Wine from Dandelions'



Brian's *Primulina linearifolia* & P. 'Maxtimer'

# Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Ruffled Skies'



Johanna's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'MK Sunny Leopard'



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'Dale's Polar Sapphire'



# Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Primulina* 'Stardust'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Carolyn'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Freckles' close up



Dave's *Sinningia pusilla*



Saintpaulias from the Convention

# Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Petrocosmea*: "Don't know who this *Petrocosmea* is but the bloom has great color."



Jim's *Aeschynanthus x splendidus* putting on its normal summer show.



Jim's *Sinningia piersiana* has two blooming crowns spilling pollen



Jim's *Sinningia inareae* looking really green and perky in its new spot under 4 LED's

# Bloomin' Now



Dave's seedpod on *Columnnea*



Dave's *Sinningia micropoda*



Barb's *Smithiantha* hybrid pink x self

Relating to the picture above:

You never know what you will get when you grow seedlings from a cross. The seeds I planted were labeled "Smithiantha hybrid pink", probably something I bought from the Gesneriad Society seed fund several years ago. The seedlings have come back faithfully several times so far. As you can see, there is a touch of pink in the blossom, which I would say was more of a mauve on a mostly yellow blossom. I don't know that this blossom is exciting or different enough to name, but I think the current name is confusing, so I may give it a more appropriate description. Any opinions or suggestions? Barb Stewart



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Dollbaby'

## *Sinningia tubiflora* 'Time of Year'!



The beautiful and fragrant *Sinningia tubiflora* is growing and gracing me with its beauty on my deck.  
Donna Beverin



One pot of *S. tubiflora* was packed with tubers. Had to separate and pot up for sharing. Very prolific!



S. 'Butter & Cream' again the first bloomer. Starts yellow and opens as white, elongated and not as fragrant as *tubiflora* or 'Carolyn'.



S. 'Carolyn' tall, gorgeous & fragrant...Wind took large central stem with lots of side shoots full of flower buds. O well, I am making cuttings!

## Challenges with Growing Gesneriads Outdoors

Barbara Stewart

I have tried growing different gesneriads outdoors over the years with mixed success. I used to hang my *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold' on the front porch, but one year it dropped half its leaves in the fall when I brought it back in the house, so I keep it inside now. Perhaps I left it out too long and the change was too much for it. I tend to leave my houseplants out as late as possible, especially my Christmas cactus which needs cool temperatures to set buds.

One problem I have every year with hanging plants outside is a little brown bird that likes to nest in my pots. I have yet to outwit this bird, and she can build her nest in about one day. Scares the wits out of me when I water the plant and she flies out.

Slugs and snails are another curse in my yard. They eat everything. Baits help a little and I have to use bait in my gardens. For my potted plants, I am experimenting this year with copper tape. A strip around the pot is supposed to deter them. We shall see.

I have tried some achimenes outdoors, but didn't have much success. I now keep them on my plant stand with lots of light. I lose a lot of rhizomes, and many of the ones that survive dormancy tend to sprout really late in the season. (I think I need to go back and watch the webinar on achimenes again.)

I have put several of my summer sinningias outside this year. It seems there is an art to this. One year, the leaves got sunburned. I probably put the plant out too late in the spring. Some of my sinningias never go dormant and grow in my kitchen bay window where they get lots of natural light throughout the year. I now try to start them in a shaded area first, and put them out earlier in the spring before the sun gets too strong. So far they are doing well in the shade, except something is chewing up the leaves (need to get some copper tape on these pots). Because they do not go dormant, they tend to get very tall which is another challenge. Even heavy clay pots get knocked down in summer storms, and stakes make them even more top-heavy. Wicking didn't work well, so for stability I am now putting them in a tray with matting. My *Sinningia* 'Arkansas Bells' was stored in my attic when it went dormant. As you can see from my photos, it is doing quite well. I put it out when it first started to sprout in the spring, and it now gets the full mid-day sun on my patio and is blooming. I shared tubers of this plant at our April meeting because the pot was full, but it is again ready to bust out of the pot. This is a beautiful and rewarding plant to grow.

Finally, *Hemiboea subcapitata* is supposed to be hardy in Virginia, but I haven't tried it outdoors yet. It is overdue for repotting, so I may try planting a piece in the garden and see what happens. Hopefully it is deer resistant. So far, the deer and squirrels have not bothered my gesneriads, nor have the Japanese beetles, which are having way too much fun with my Rose of Sharon and hardy hibiscus!



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Towering Inferno'

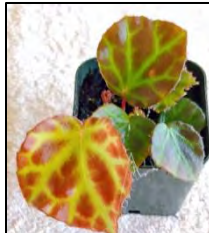
Dave will have these plants for sale at the picnic meeting: \$4.00



B. Amphioxus

B. burkillii

B. eleagnifolia



B. Rajah

B. U566

Sempervivium

'Hens & Chicks' on driftwood



Sinningia pusilla

\*\*\*\*\*



Dave's *Sinningia muscicola* in terrarium

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NCAC Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174442276299173/?r ef=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 prorated.

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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