

Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

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June 2017



Sharon's *Primulina* USBRG 98-03

President's Message Barb Stewart

Summer is upon us, officially in a few days. Unofficially, it is here in the south with temperatures in the 90's. It is time for some of my tall Sinningias to head outdoors for the summer. Last year some of them got a little sun-burned when I first put them out, so I need to figure out how to ease them into their summer vacation home. Hopefully, Jim can give me some pointers when he talks about growing gesneriads outdoors for the summer at our meeting. We had a lovely show last month. A group of us had an informal review of what went well and what needs improvement. We will share our thoughts at the meeting so we can start planning for our next show.

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.

June 17th: Growing Gesneriads outdoors for the summer to be held at Sally Leonard's home at 10:30am Directions to follow in an email.

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

Meanwhile, for those not going to convention, the next show opportunity will be the MAAVS convention held locally in Fredericksburg this fall. So I am busy repotting old and new violets and gesneriads so I will have some nice plants ready to show. I will also be getting a lot of new seeds from the seed fund to propagate for the club, which means I need to get my current seedlings potted up to make room for the next round. Look for lots of seedlings on the raffle table this month! Also, don't forget the plant of the month, *Nematanthus*. Bring one in for show and tell, and share some cuttings on the raffle table. See you at the meeting at 10:30am, Saturday, June 17th at Sally Leonhard's home!

Plant of the Month:

Nematanthus – The Goldfish Plant

By Barbara Stewart

Nematanthus is a succulent type gesneriad with a trailing habit that makes a nice hanging basket. It is an epiphyte, native to Brazil, with fish shaped flowers, giving it the common name "Goldfish Plant" or "Guppy Plant". Some sources also call it a "Clog Plant", although I am not sure from where that name

originates. Hummingbirds are attracted to the red, orange, or yellow blossoms in nature. Because these plants are epiphytic, they grow best in a loose soil mix with some drying between watering. Nemanthus are easy to grow, and tolerate a range of temperatures and humidity levels. They need bright light to bloom, but do well in a window with adequate light. Curled leaves may indicate insufficient light. My best Nemanthus is N. “Black Gold”. I grow it in a window which probably doesn't get enough light, although it is close to a light stand, and it blooms regularly but not heavily. In the summer, I used to hang it on my front porch until one year it dropped a lot of leaves after transitioning back to the house in the fall. I now keep it inside year round. It gets watered weekly, if lucky. It is easily propagate from stem cuttings. Nemanthus is closely related enough to the Codonanthe to create an intergeneric hybrid, xCondonanthus. There are also some Nemanthus with variegated foliage. I have found these more challenging to grow. However, I am trying again with N. gregarious “Golden West”, which is supposed to be easy to grow. I will have to experiment with different growing techniques to see what works. Some helpful sites for basic culture:

<https://www.hunker.com/12000555/how-to-care-for-the-nemanthus-gregarious-gold-fish-plant> <http://worldoffloweringplants.com/grow-care-nemanthus/> http://www.giflora.com/index.php?cmd=genus_body&genus_id=134

Jim & Drew: A Few of the Gesneriads we saw in Ecuador



This *Columnnea* was growing 10 feet away from a *Gasteranthus*.



Columnnea leaves bigger than Drew!



Glossoloma: this funny looking plant was growing right by the side of the road. The leaves are shiny and black.

Bloomin' Now



Kitty's *Primulina linearifolia*



Sharon's *Streptocarpus* 'Franken Prunella'



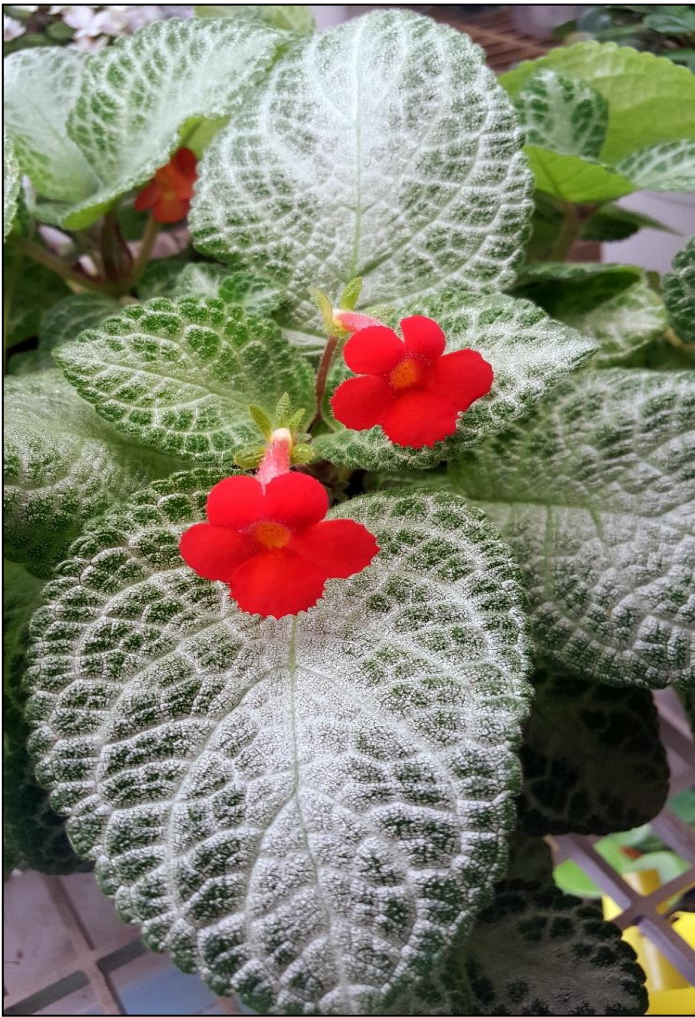
Sharon's *Saintpaulia* "The Alps"



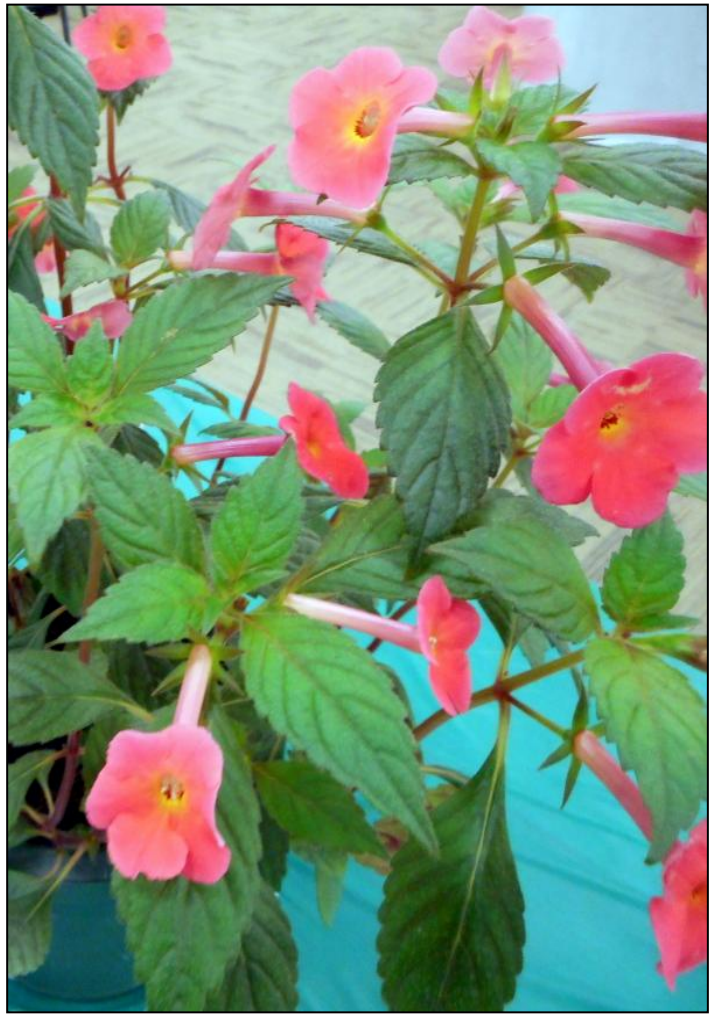
Kitty's *Sinningia pusilla* in glass container



NCAC Show: Great display of photographic artwork!



Kitty's *Episcia* 'Faded Jade' in bloom (love the contrast of the bright red orange blossoms against the lime green variegated foliage).



NCAC Show: Bill's windowsill raised *Achimenes* 'Glory'



NCAC Show: Jim's exotic under water design "Chinese New Year in class 58. Photo does not show the outstanding beauty of the arrangement!



NCAC Show: Bill's *Episcia* 'Pearl Drop'



NCAC Show: Jim's design using bamboo that was emerging from the soil in his outdoor garden. Striking!



NCAC Show: Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Cirelda' award winner!



NCAC Show: Peggy's *Streptocarpus* 'Gator's Tail'



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



NCAC Show: Barb's *Kohleria* 'Gunsmoke'. Judge was overheard commenting on how Barb grew this plant so perfectly!



NCAC Show: Barb's thorough and excellent display for our Information and New Member Table.



NCAC Show: Kitty's *Episcia* 'Faded Jade' before blooming



NCAC Show: Sale Plants shipping was perfection! Fancy Bloomers plants were outstanding with lots of unique varieties too. I did not take a pic of them. Very unfortunate!



NCAC Show: Johanna's Show Winner *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*



Nautilocalyx pemphidius close up. Any photo does not do it justice!



2017 Convention (Omaha, Nebraska)

Gesneriads Gone Wild!

July 4 to July 8, 2017

The Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society would like to invite you to the 2017 Gesneriad Society's Annual Convention – **Gesneriads Gone Wild!** – in Omaha, Nebraska. Now, you may be sitting there thinking, “Omaha? What can there possibly be in a small city in the middle of the Great Plains?” Well, I’m here to tell you that they don’t call these plains ‘Great’ for nothing!

Our city is located on the eastern edge of Nebraska along the Missouri River just across from our sister city, Council Bluffs, Iowa. We have a colorful history that is reflected in the city itself, from the preserved Art Deco architecture of our Downtown to the million dollar homes and estates of West Omaha. This year’s convention will be held at the Hilton Omaha, which is located downtown several blocks north of The Old Market (www.oldmarket.com), a beautifully historic section that started out as warehouses from our trading and distribution origins. In the 1960s, with bulldozers at the door and help from a heavy night of drinking, Sam Mercer realized the need for preservation. He purchased one of the first buildings, an old fruit market built in 1887. He took a giant leap and established a new restaurant, The French Cafe (now Le Bouillon), the first of many purchases and restorations in the revitalization of our Downtown. This act began the process of converting the beautiful turn-of-the-century buildings into The Old Market and its unique shops, world-class restaurants, and fabulous bars that are a favorite of locals and tourists alike.

Also within shuttle distance of our hotel are the Durham Heritage Museum, the Joslyn Art Museum, the Bob Kerry Pedestrian bridge (which links Omaha to Council Bluffs over the mighty Missouri river), Heartland of America Park, and many other sites to enjoy.

The convention will kick off on Monday July 3, 2017 with a day trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium – complete with a catered picnic lunch, tickets for the Imax theater, and rides on the train, tram, carousel, and Skyfari. On Tuesday we have a morning trip planned to the Lauritzen Botanical



Gardens along with an evening social hosted by the OAVGS in a corner suite on the hotel's top floor – perfect for viewing the Fourth of July fireworks. The convention will conclude Saturday with a private dining and wine experience at Nosh Restaurant and Wine Lounge from 6:00 p.m. until close. (For a menu and gallery of photos of the establishment visit www.noshwine.com.) The restaurant is located two blocks south of our venue, between the hotel and The Old Market, giving you the additional freedom of walking around The Old Market after dinner and drinks.

We will be very pleased to have you as our guests for the 2017 Convention in Omaha, Nebraska as we host **Gesneriads Gone Wild!**

<https://s01.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1531118182300&P=15311181911431312400&Info>

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 of August at 1:00pm. 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 even 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! chat. 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!

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	<i>Mini 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.

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Show: Jim Roberts

Directors:

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Brian Connor

Ki Imai

NCAC website:

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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.

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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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" see your problem! petaltones@gmail.com