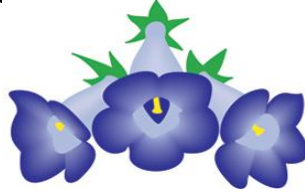


Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 49 Number 5

June 2018



Johanna's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa'

President's Message:

This is such a busy season. I am still potting up Achimene rhizomes and seedlings, getting plants ready to sell at the Gesneriad Society convention next month. Summer sinningias are outside enjoying the warm weather, although struggling through some of the heavy storms we have had during this record wet month of May. We were fortunate to have a nice weekend for our sale at Cylburn Arboretum last month. Other vendors told us it always rains on the Market Day event; however, there was a good crowd and we had a successful sale of gesneriads, violets, and garden and houseplants.

The club has purchased the four webinars from the Gesneriad Society on hybridizing: Genetics 101, Hybridizing Streptocarpus, Saintpaulia Hybridizing, Sinningia Hybridizing. We shall plan dates for adding these webinars to our meetings' program schedule. This month we are taking a break from regular business to have a day of fun together with a trip to the United States Botanic Garden in DC. After lunch together,

NEW MEETING LOCATION:

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
We gather at 10am to get set up, with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet the second Saturday of the month. Calendar yearly dues of \$10 are due in January or whenever joining. Renew by March to keep your Petal Tones subscription.

June 9th: Road trip to United States Botanic Garden in DC. Meet at 10:30am in front of conservatory.

July: No meeting. National Convention July 3 - 7

members can then visit other sites of their choice. I suggest looking into parking and bus options before you go. We will meet at the Conservatory at 10:30am.

In August we shall have our 'picnic' meeting which will include a business and board meeting. At this time we shall discuss future plans for our National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. Although at the August picnic we shall not run a program, the raffle is still on. Since I will be selling plants at the Gesneriad Convention in July, I shall probably come home with a car full of leftovers, as many vendors don't want to take their plants home, and I hate to see good plants thrown out. We still need someone to host the picnic, or suggestions for a place with a picnic shelter in the area. Contact me or Jim with ideas. Hope to see you at the Conservatory! Barbara

Links for further information about the Botanical Garden:

<https://www.usbg.gov>

<https://washington.org/DC-faqs-for-visitors/where-can-i-park-in-washington-dc>

<https://www.frommers.com/trip-ideas/family/10-ways-to-get-around-washington-d-c>



Kitty's *S. tubiflora* is alive, well and growing strong!



Kitty's sprawling *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Mark Twain'



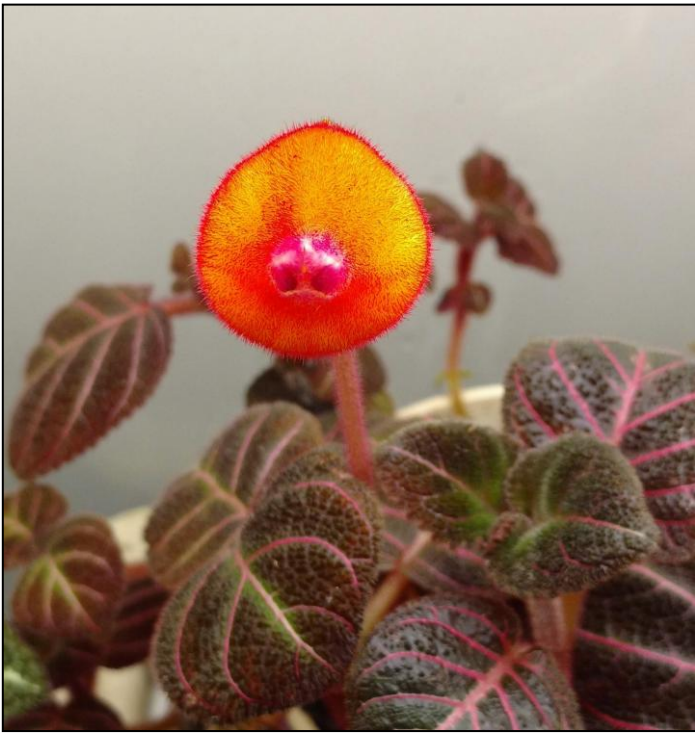
Dave's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' rather upright!



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Honey Blue Angel', a miniature African violet. It is a mature plant being grown in a two and a half inch Oyama pot measuring a whopping three inches in diameter and hiding on a shelf!



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' another sprawler



Barb's *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*



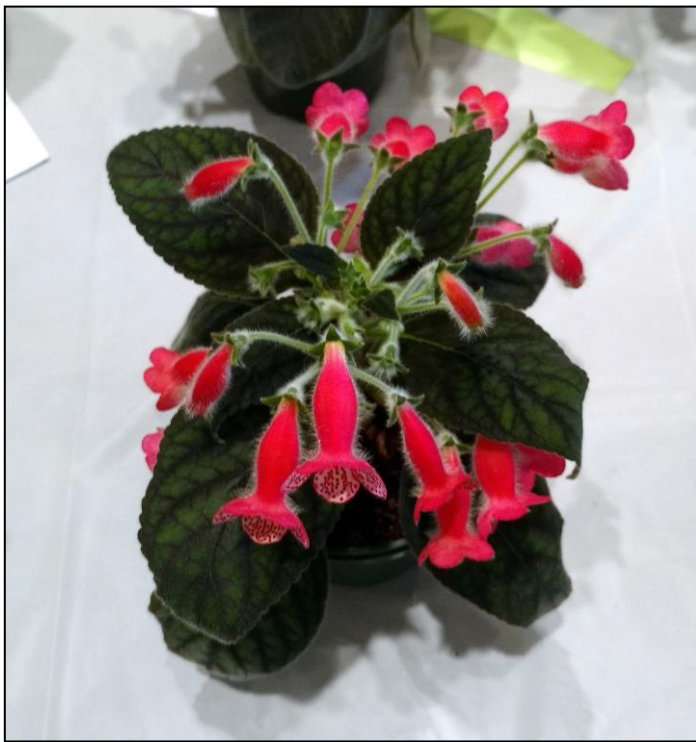
Barb's *Sinningia conspicua x bullata*



Barb's *Primulina* 'New York'



Barb's *Sinningia leucotricha* x 'Max Dekking'



Nell Reese's *Kohleria* 'Manchu'



Nell's *Streptocarpus* 'Blueberry Butterflies' Best Strep in Show. Congratulations!



Nell's *Kohleria* 'Peridot's Rolo' Best Gesneriad RAVS show! Congratulations!



Barb's 2nd Best in Show Dish Garden



Join the Gesneriad Society

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/membership/application/>



Bill's RAVS Best in Show arrangement



LaDonna Hobson's *Episcia suomi* best gesneriad in Tidewater AV show judged by Barb and Vicki.



Sharon's 3rd best in RAVS show arrangement



Sinningia 'Purple Zebra' in Tidewater AV show

Desperately Seeking Wish List:

Barb.....Aeschynanthus 'Tiger Stripe'
 Donna....1990: April/May, May/June, July/Aug &
 1992: Jan/Feb, Mar/Ap of the old Gesneriad Journal
 magazines.



Sinningia 'Party Dress' in Tidewater AV show



Johanna's *Sinningia* 'Pedra Lisa'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Taurus'



Cylburn Arboretum Photo Barb Stewart



Donna's *Sinningia* seedling of possibly 'Pink Tiger x bullata' or 'Arkansas Empress'. Research jury still out.



Donna's *Sinningia reitzii*



Donna's *Xsmithicodonia* 'Heartland's Joy'



Donna's *Primulina tabacum*

Soil Mealy Bugs from Gesneriad Journal

Sybil Behrens

Reprinted May/June 1989

I am quite sure that on a most UNwanted list of violet pests, soil mealy bugs would rank at least in third place. They can spread so very far and wide before you are even aware that they are present. You can treat, throw out, and do everything but stand on your head and swear at them, only to find them back again in a few pots as much as 6 months later.

I used many, many pesticides including chlorine bleach drench and why, I even went so far as to use some stuff for corn root worms that was restricted. Of course, it was not approved for violets. I slowed them, but I could not feel I was totally free of them. Every 60-90 days we would go over all 2,000 violets and pull them from the pots, discard any with signs of the pesky things and treat the rest - to have a few show up the next time we worked them over.



I read everything that comes into the house.(about plants) In the spring of 1988, Nitron Industries had a several page insert in the 'Flower and Garden magazine; of course I read it, and the page on diatomaceous earth took my eye. I reread it several times.

What is diatomaceous earth? It is the skeletal remains of a one cell diatom from eons ago and there are great deposits of it. It is a very fine white powder in horticultural form. One thing that is so great about it is that it is 100% harmless to people and pets, and it has no odor. Also it is very inexpensive. It seems it is a very sharp edged particle that is abrasive to insects; it cuts through their protective coating and they lose so much of the body's moisture they just die. It was used to worm cats, dogs and large

domestic animals. It can be used in stored grain to rid it of the insects that make grain unfit for human use. It seems it is a very sharp edged particle that is abrasive to insects; it cuts through their protective coating and they lose so much of the body's' moisture they just die. It was used to worm cats, dogs and large domestic animals. It can be used in stored grain to rid it of the insects that make grain unfit for human use. I ordered some in June and started using one pint in about 3/4 bushel of soil and it worked. When I reworked by violets after that, I added one teaspoon around the edges of the soil. I had a few mealies the next time I inspected the roots, but only in areas of the soil ball where there was no DE. I have not found any mealies for the last five months. I have never found any mealies ever in the plants that were planted in soil with the DE mixed in it. I am sure it costs me under one cent for a four inch pot. and you can't beat that. It will undoubtedly be there forever as DE is such an old, old material it must not decay very easily. As a check I saved four or five small plants that had mealies in the soil and repotted them in the soil with DE in it. Of course they were marked and they have been checked several times. They are clean! I'm sure a lot of you have heard about DE before and we have not paid any attention or did not act upon the knowledge. I know I heard of it. We are inclined to rely on chemicals when we do not need to do so. Why wait until soil mealies hit your plants to protect your plants? Get some DE and put one of our fears to rest; you will never be sorry you did.

Follow up: Jan/Feb 1990

After using for DE 19 months and never intend to plant a single plant of any kind w/o DE in the soil. Another interesting result of using DE is the reduction in the numbers of thrips in my violets. Western flower thrips spends one cycle of its life in the soil, you know, so the DE must be killing off some of them at this stage. When I think of all the money I have spent on some very expensive insecticides I could scream! That amount is nothing

compared to the chances one takes when you use toxic materials. I am not an organic nut but I do have enough common sense to be leery of toxic materials. I have not tried this as I'm happy to say I had nothing to try it out with, but one of my letters (from members) stated that DE can be used against mites. This is not a preventive as I'm sure the results would not look very nice but when you see signs of mites you could try it. Use a soft paint or make up brush and lightly dust the centers of plants with DE. After you have new normal growth the DE can be brushed or washed off. Isn't that simple? If there are any detrimental results of DE I do not know them. It isn't supposed to alter the pH on your soil as it decays very slowly if at all. *Update Editor: Information is pretty much the same, but care must be taken not to breath in DE which in large quantities can harm lungs. Buy an amount of "food grade" DE for use on your plants. Search horticultural diatomaceous earth. Many new articles on using DE on AVs.*

Programs Planned for 2018

January 13th: Designs Basic with Barb Stewart

February 10th: Sinningia seminar Jim Roberts

March 10th: Dog Show and Culture (bring plants in to show how terrible they are and we shall learn how to fix them) with Jim Roberts and Barb Stewart

April 21st: Joy of Growing Summer Sinningias: tubiflora, 'Towering Inferno', 'Butter and Cream', 'Banana's Foster', 'Apricot Bouquet' and 'Carolyn' with Donna (Meeting moved one week later due to the conflict with our NCAC members who are in the Richmond AV show)

May 12th: Propagation Meeting with Jim Roberts

June 9th: Road trip to US Botanic Gardens, DC

July: No meeting, National Convention

August 11th: Business meeting and Picnic TBA

September 8th: Streptocarpus with Brian Connor

October 13th: Pat Bowling: Mini Sinningias

November 10th: Hybridizing Webinar

December 8th: Holiday Party



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Membership: Jim Roberts

Ways and Means: Brian Connor

Show: Jim Roberts

Directors:

Victor Nicholas
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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Plant of the month 2018

January -	Primulina
February -	Sinningias
March -	“Dog” plants
April -	Episcias
May -	Seedlings & starter plants
June -	None
July -	None
August -	Summer Sinningias
September -	Seemannia
October -	Streptocarpus
November -	Nautilocalyx
December -	Aeschynanthus

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 and gardening supplies.



July 3 to July 8, 2018

THE NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE Gesneriad Society cordially invites you to attend the 2018 Convention, “Gesneriads POP in New England,” from July 3-7, 2018

With an exciting program of speakers, once-in-a-lifetime excursions, and some of the best opportunities to learn about and see stunning examples of gesneriads, this year's convention promises to be one for the record books. All this, and a jam-packed sales room, too!

The convention will be held in Framingham, Massachusetts, less than 30 miles from Boston and easily accessible by plane (Logan Airport), Amtrak train (Framingham Amtrak station), and car (guest self-parking is free at the hotel).

The event hotel is the newly renovated Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, Massachusetts.

Convention rates are in effect three days before and three days after the convention dates so plan to come early or stay later to take advantage of the hotel's indoor and outdoor pools, fitness center, and proximity to many attractions.

More information on www.gesneriadsociety.org

