

Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 49 Number 3

March 2018



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Zoltko'

President's message:

Spring is suddenly upon us, at least here in the south. I have pots of achimenes all over the place where I have pulled them off the shelves when they went dormant to make room for new plants. Some will be sprouting soon, so I needed some motivation to give them some attention. What better way than to have a rhizome swap! Hopefully there are some rhizomes in those dead looking pots. If I have lost any varieties, maybe someone else will still have some.

This month we have a great opportunity to learn how to grow our plants better with our "dog show". We all have some, so bring in your worst (pest free) plants and see if you can win an award and transform your Cinderella into a princess. I know some of my plants can be broken down into many cuttings to share with

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.

March 10th: At Behnkes, 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
Please bring Achimenes rhizomes to share!

April 21st: Joy of Growing Summer Sinningias: Tubiflora, 'Towering Inferno', 'Butter and Cream', 'Banana's Foster', 'Apricot Bouquet' and 'Carolyn' (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 a botanical garden and no business meeting. Location TBA

others or propagated to sell at the convention in Boston this summer. The "dog show" is always a fun and educational experience. See you there!

Barbara

Desperately Seeking Wish List:

- Barb..... *Primulina brassicoides* 'Marble Leaf'
- Barb.....*Aeschynanthus* 'Tiger Stripe'
- Barb.....*Primulina Angustifolia*
- Barb.....*Columnea* 'Julia'
- Donna.....*Sinningia hirsuta*



Kitty's amazing *Sinningia bullata* is 6 years old



Kitty's *S. bullata* with quarter showing large tuber!



Barb's *Primulina* hybrid



Barb's *Kohleria* 'An's Nagging Macaw'

An excellent website for researching your plants with lots of pictures and detailed information about all gesneriads.

<http://www.gesneriads.info/>



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Ramboi' hybrid top view



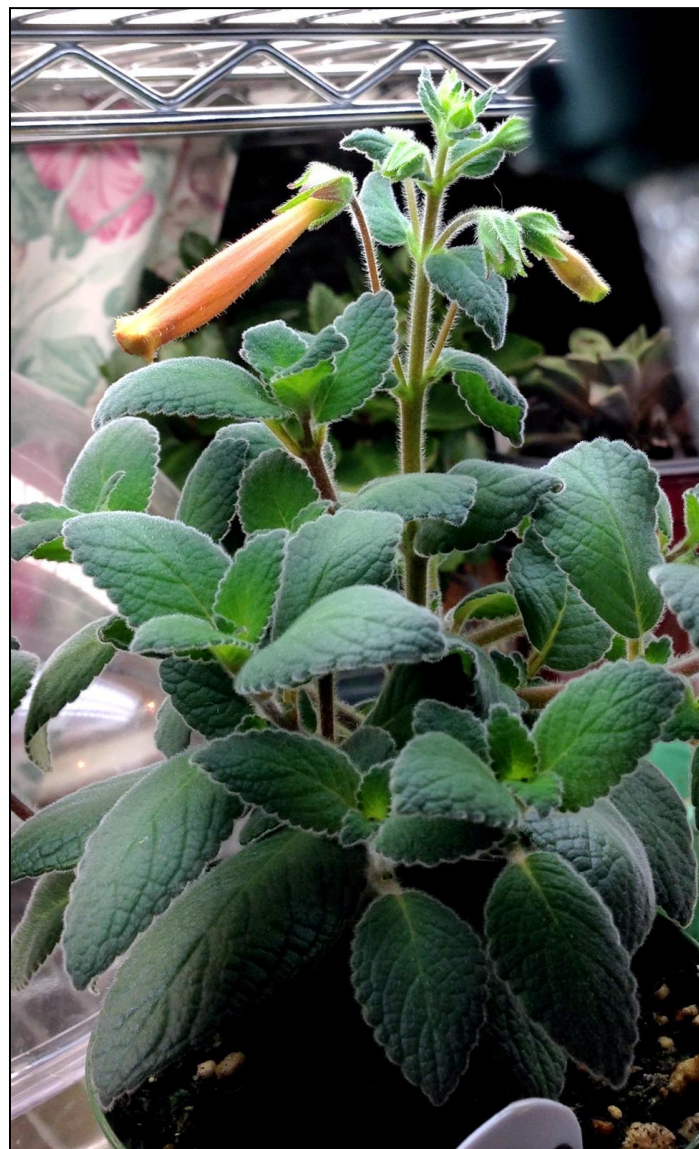
Barb's *Sinningia* 'Ramboi' hybrid side view



Donna's *Episcia* 'Silver Skies'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Taurus'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet' buds last evening. Buds opened in morning! This plant was obtained from Barb at the raffle table a few months ago!



Donna's Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet' in bloom



Barb's Streptocarpus 'Renia'

How to Win a Dog Show

By Barb Stewart

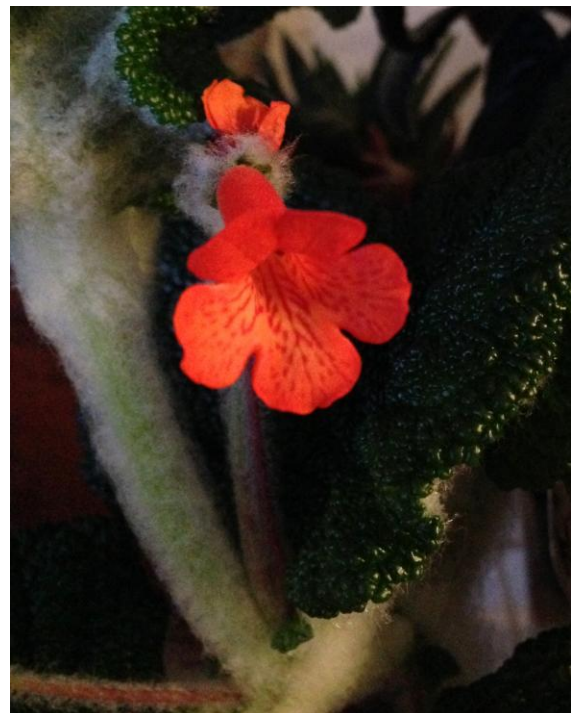
I have entered many a "dog show" for African Violets and a few for gesneriads, and often won top awards for my entries. Here are some of my growing "secrets" to win at a "dog show".

1. Obsessively acquire way more plants than you can possibly take care of. (Hoarders are particularly good at this.)
2. Make sure you stay too busy to have time to water them. Then try to drown them when you have time and they start to wilt.
3. Keep them as crowded as possible so they get leggy trying to find some light.
4. Repot no less than every 2-3 years, preferable 4-5.
5. Never rotate your plants until they are about to fall off the shelf. (Better yet, let them tumble to the floor first.)
6. Strive to keep as many spent blossoms and dead leaves on your plant as possible.
7. Skip any other grooming. Who has the time? (Besides, the only grooming they get in nature is a good storm or hungry critter.)
8. Let your cats hang out on your plant stands and be your assistants. (Need I say more?) This is a good time to try your hand at a "non-artistic" cut flower arrangement as well.

Here are a few design tips:

1. Make sure your blossoms are over-powered by your container or other material.
2. Use colors that clash.
3. Use only spent or damaged plant material.
4. Include a really flashy accessory.

With little effort, you too can win top awards at the next "dog show"!



Donna's Sinningia bullata bloom close up

Dog Show Schedule

Section I – Plants in Flower

- A: Tuberous
- B: Rhizomatous
- C: Fibrous-Rooted
- D: Old World in Flower

Section II – Plants for Foliage

- E: New World
- F: Old World

Section III – Artistic

- G: Cut Flower Arrangement

“Be My Valentine” A 12” x 12” x 12” arrangement featuring a heart

I’ve heard that many members of the group are intimidated by the quality of the plants that get entered into our shows. Believe me when I say that **YOU HAVE NO IDEA** how many plants we **can’t** enter into our shows. This **DOG SHOW** may once again be dominated by the same people who grow the good plants. The rules are that the plant material must be bug free and show *some signs* of life. Do not use the plant’s real name. If it looks as terrible as it should, using the correct name is a real slam of the hybridizer. Make up a name. For example, a Sinningia breaking out of its pot could be called Sinningia ‘Big Foot’ instead of ‘Arkansas Empress.’ Too many open flowers will lose you points. Lots and lots of dead flowers that should be groomed off in a real show will earn you points. Points off for healthy or clean leaves. Clean pots – heaven forbid! The absolute worse you can do the better.

If you plan to enter please be at Behnkes by 10:15. Judging will be at 10:45. We’ll follow up the show with a quick advice session on how to correct the problems with the plants that are entered. Jim



Join the Gesneriad Society

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

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 a botanical garden and no business meeting. Location TBA

July: No meeting

August 11th: Business meeting and Picnic TBA

September 8th: Show Prep with members

October 13th: Streptocarpus with Brian Connor

November 10th: Webinar TBA

December 8th: Holiday Party

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.

President: Barb Stewart
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Hospitality: Irene Pittman

Publications: Donna Beverin

Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

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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