

Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 47 Number 5

May 2016



Peggy's *Streptocarpus* 'Little Plushy Artic Fox'

President's Message

I keep hearing how many people were afraid to enter our show because of the competition that they would be facing. Yet there were many, many classes in the show with absolutely no (zero, nada, big goose-egg) entries. The judging is competitive, meaning that there is only one blue ribbon per class. But the plants are point scored, and even a yellow, third place ribbon is something to be proud of if the plant scores well but loses to plants scoring in the high 90's. The show is for the public's enjoyment. We learn a lot from the judge's comments, but the public could care less about what the judges think. The two People's Choice winners did not win any special awards from the judges. In fact, I think they both won red ribbons. Judge's comments are very valuable learning tools. They'll tell you what they like about your efforts, but they'll also give you clues and hints on what to do differently. Enter plants for that input alone.

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. Gather at 10am to get set up, with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues.

May 2016: Dog Show and a Program that includes a review of cultural tips for the BESTS in our show with a background slide show of all the entries. Plant of the Month: Lesser know gesneriads

June 2016: Hands on Hybridizing by Jim Roberts
Plant of the Month: Columnea

July 5 – 9: National Convention in Wilmington, DE

July 30: Summer Picnic tentative date at Barry's including the Baltimore African Violet members.

If you have a plant that you really like, but have problems growing it, bring it in and ask questions. That can be done at any meeting. Not just when we tell you to bring it. We're all here to help you grow that plant to its fullest potential. I have problems with some plants. I just do. I don't know why all the time.

This month we're going to have a little Dog Show. Not to give dogs a bad name, but that's what they call these shows. Bring in your worst. Follow the schedule in here in Petal Tones following this article and let's have some fun! The show was stressful. This one will be a riot! 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. So let's have some fun and enjoy our Dog Show this Saturday!

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

Artistic Display: Who let the Dogs Out?

A 12" x 12" x 12" arrangement featuring a dog toy

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. Too many flowers open will cost you points. Points are taken 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. We'll follow up the show with a quick advice session on how to correct the problems with the plants that are entered.



Ask Mr. Gesneriad

After waiting years for my little green seedling of *Sinningia leucotricha* to mature and gradually turn from green to silver to white, it is finally blooming! I like this plant because it doesn't stay dormant very long before putting out new growth. It is supposed to bloom annually in the spring, so is right on schedule. Now the old stem instead of directly from the tuber, and



has buds for new growth all over the old stem. Most sinningias I have seen produce buds on the tuber. My tuber is mostly under the soil. Is it planted too deep? Is that why the buds are on the stem instead of the tuber? Is there a way to get this plant to produce multiple stems instead of just one, or does that come with age?

Barbara

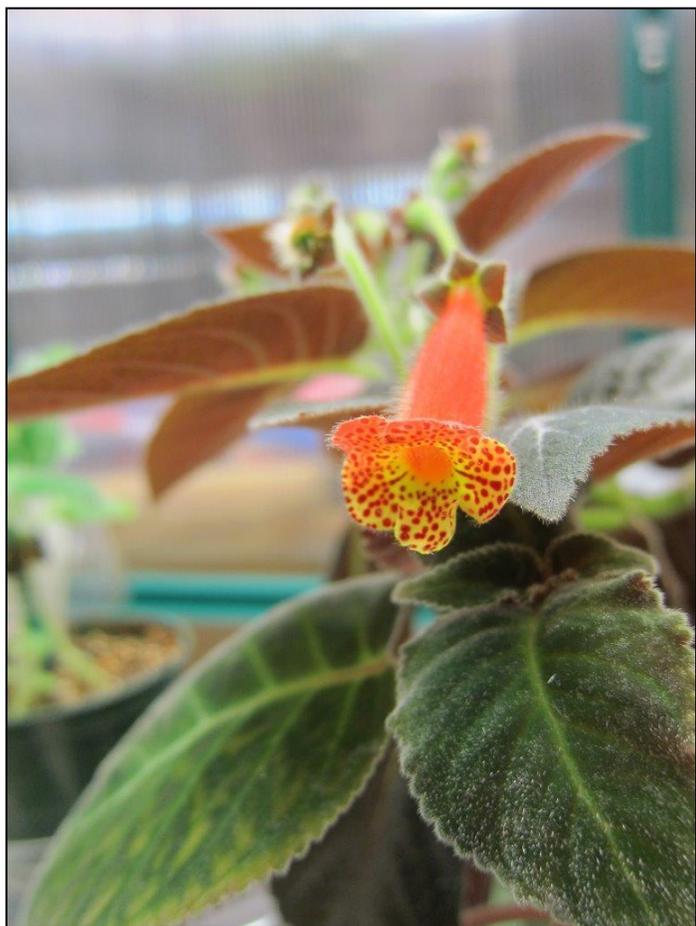
Mr. Gesneriad:

Sinningia leucotricha likes to have at least half of its tuber exposed. It's often shown that way, even without flowers because the tuber itself can be attractive. In the wild it grows in rocky areas with the tuber mostly exposed. I suspect that new growth on the buried tuber is smothering. That's probably why you're only seeing fresh sprouts on the above-ground "stem." Remember, a *Sinningia* tuber is really just a water storing modified stem. Move the tuber up out of the soil when this round of flowering



is finished. Leave the leaves to help produce the food it will need for the next flowering shoot. More flowering shoots will happen as the tuber gets bigger.

Bloomin' Now begins next!



Johanna's *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather'



Johanna's *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather'



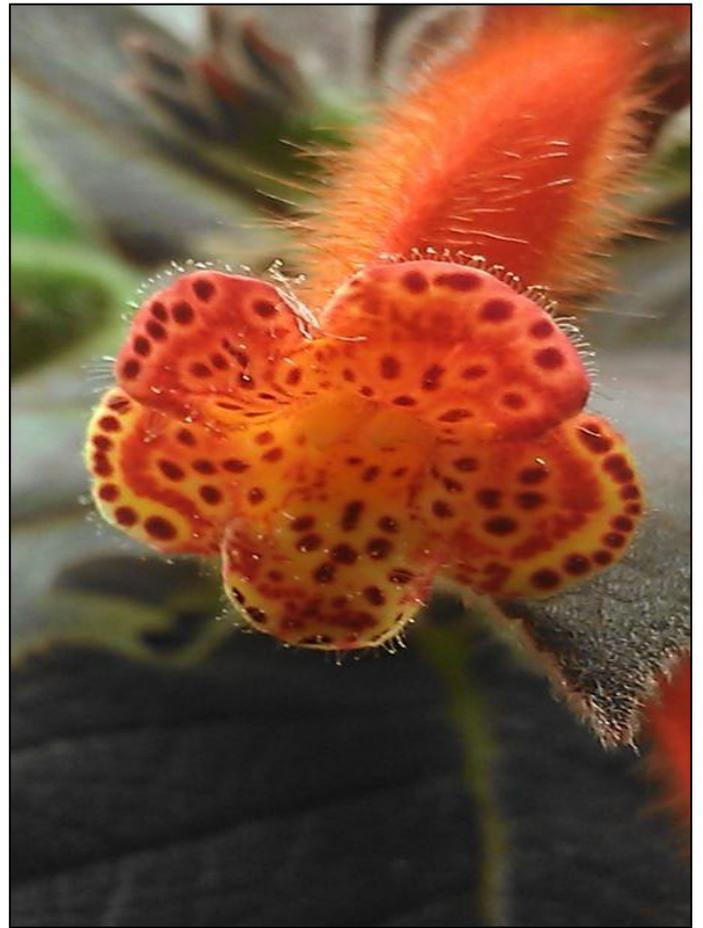
Johanna's *Streptocarpus* DS 'Little Plushy Artic Fox'



Johanna's *Sinningia guttata*



Johanna's *Sinningia* (Pink Tiger x *bullata*) x 'Blade Hill'



Peggy's *Kohleria* 'Snake Skin'



Johanna's *Primulina linearis*



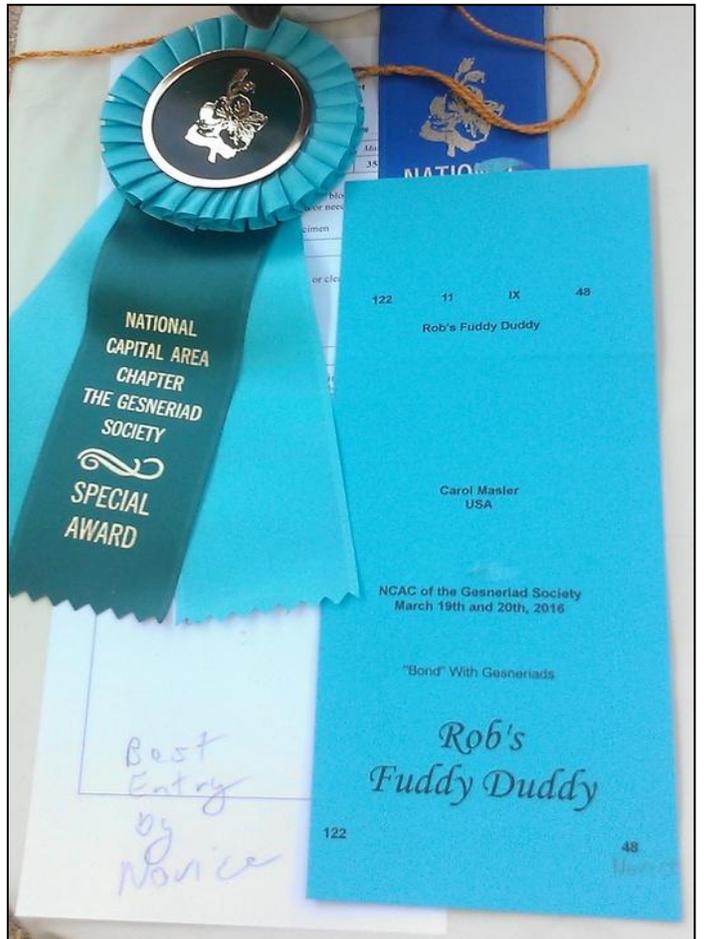
Peggy's plant stand





One of Jim's displays in our show

Photo: Peggy MacDonald



Carol's winning African violet

Photos: Peggy MacDonald



Brian's *Streptocarpus* display in our show

Photo: Peggy MacDonald



View of a show table

Photo: Peggy MacDonald





Barb's Pink Episcia NOID grown in terrarium for needed high humidity. (Cleopatra?)



One of Corey's displays in our show Photo: Peggy MacDonald



Barb's *Primulina dryas* leaf refusing to die w/o making progeny first!



Brian's *Streptocarpus* in our show Photo: Peggy MacDonald



Barb's *Achimenes* 'Glory'





Kitty's *Episcia* 'Jim's Canadian Sunset'



Peggy's *Sinningia guttata*



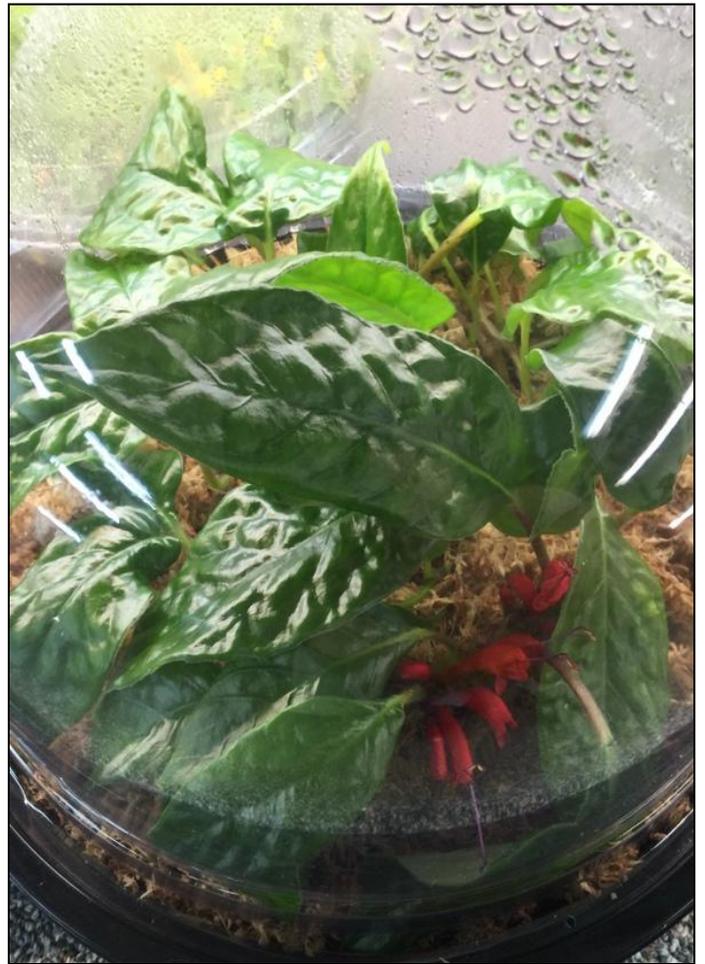
Barb's *Primulina* 'Gotham'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming'
Dave Zaitlin hybrid of *Sinningia sellovii* x *concinna*.



Barb's *Sinningia desafinado*



Drew's *Agalmyla parasitica*: another view



Drew's *Agalmyla parasitica*



Drew's *Sinningia speciosa* NOID



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Angela'



Drew's *Gasteranthus atratus*



Growing huge in a very large terrarium



Barry's NOID Achimenes in a 2 inch pot!



Barry's gesneriad 'weed' in a pot of Orchids!



Close up of Barry's *Achimenes*



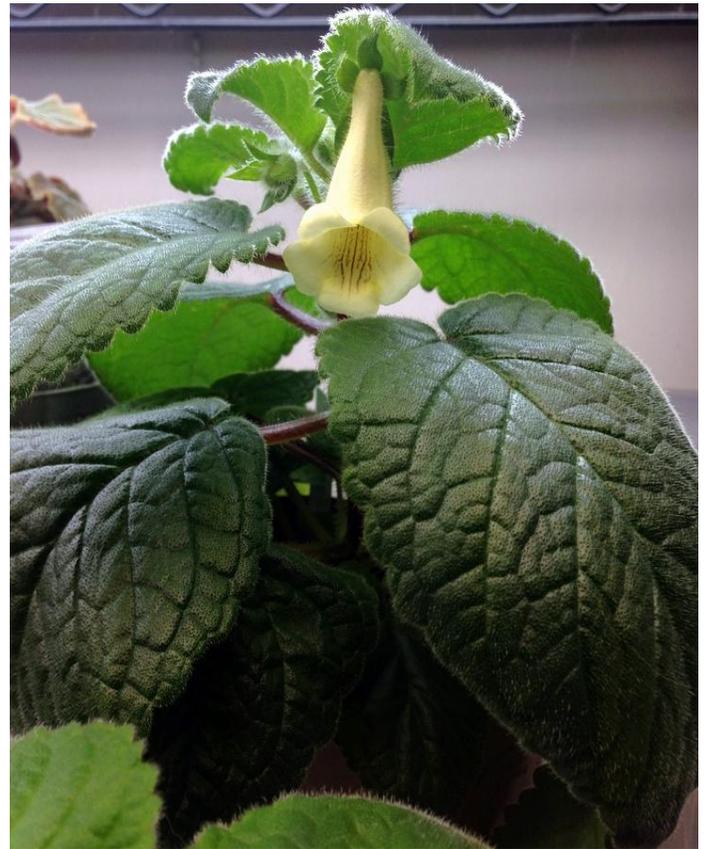
Kitty's *Sinningia cardinalis*



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Blue'



Drew's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Bestsennaia Roshosh'



Two plants of Donna's *Sinningia conspicua*. Both grown from seed but the top plant is staying very compact vs. the second and others that are taller.



Barry's "weed" *Episcias* growing on floor of his greenhouse!



Donna's *Sinningia hirsuta* blooming on many crowns



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Tampa Bay Beauty' which is known for unsightly foliage but magnificent blooms. Photos do not show the true orange.



Sinningia helleri have germinated. Covered the top of the container with a lid so it only gets light from the sides to avoid algae growth. Sterilize the soil 3 times before planting and used distilled water to water.



Donna's *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Chapada dos Guimarães'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'An's Nyx'

Note from the Editor: To encourage members to contribute content to our Petal Tones newsletter the following incentives have been approved.

- 5 raffle tickets with 3 month expiration will be given to each member who submits an article with 3-5 paragraphs in length on a specific topic.
- 3 tickets with a 3 month expiration will be given to each member who submits 5 pictures
- \$25 gift certificate of the winner's choosing will be given for best article of the year
- \$10 gift certificate will be given for best photo of the year, to be voted on at the end of the year.

Also I would be glad to "clean up" any photographs before publishing in Petal Tones if you would like. Please share you experiences with your plants in a short article, or a visit to a green house or to another plant lover's collection. You'd be surprised how other folks will enjoy reading about your experiences! Thanks, Donna

NCAC Meeting Program Schedule for 2016

May 2016: Review of NCAC and Baltimore AV Spring Shows (labeled slide show) and there will be a presentation of cultural recommendations, from growers outside the club (mostly and hopefully), pertaining to the care of an exceptional species/variety, or a single Gesneriad genus. Dog Show.

June 2016: Hands on Hybridizing by Jim Roberts

July 2016: Summer picnic tentative 7/30/16 Barry's.
July 5-9, 2016: National Convention Wilmington, DE

August 2016: Hands on Terrarium Workshop, with materials provided to set up and maintain a small terrarium Gesneriad. Johanna Zinn

September 2016: Episcias: Varieties, Culture, and botanical History, presented by Drew Norris

October 2016: Karyn Cichocki will discuss her Gesneriad Collecting Trip to Ecuador. Nominating panel for election of new officers will be determined.

November 2016: Meeting at the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Show with Jim Roberts and Drew Norris discussing setting up grow light stands.

December 2016: Holiday Party
New officers are elected

January 2017: MAAVS Slide Show and discussion,
Presenter to be determined.
New Officer Installation

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
NCAC Blog: <http://dcbgesneriads.blogspot.com/>
Website & Blog: Corey Wickliffe
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

President: Jim Roberts
Marriottsville, MD 21104
410-227-2324
jim.roberts@wildblue.net

Vice-President: Andrew Norris
Marriottsville, MD 21104
extensionofgreen@yahoo.com

Secretary: Barbara Stewart
bstew771@verizon.net

Treasurer: Barry Woolf
1301 Malus Court
Fallston, MD 21047
410-879-1654
Woolfphoto1@comcast.net

Committees:

Hospitality: Harold Belcher
Programs: Andrew Norris
Membership: Corey Wickliff
Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin
editor@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
Petaltones@gmail.com or
Donnabeverin@gmail.com

web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

Directors:
Andrew Norris
Barb Stewart
Donna Beverin

The Gesneriad Society website
www.gesneriadsociety.org