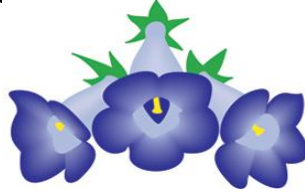


# Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 48 Number 6

May 2017



Barb's *Henckelia* 'Moonii' ...graceful beauty pose.

## President's Message Barb Stewart

It is time to get ready for show! The plant of the month is a "show plant". This doesn't mean bring in your best show plant (although you can if you want). It means bring in a potential show plant and we will collaborate on giving advice about how to get it ready for show. I know most of my neglected plants are far from blue ribbon quality, but there are things I can do to make them more showable.

I often wonder what a blue ribbon plant should look like, so I search on-line for images of the plant. If it has won a blue ribbon in a Gesneriad Society convention, there will be a picture of it, and this can give you some guidance on how to groom it. This is also something you can do when you get a new plant. Good culture starts when the plant is young, as there are some things that cannot be corrected at show time.

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.

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2017: Show Workshop: making sure everything is ready for the show on May 20<sup>th</sup> weekend

May 19 – 21<sup>st</sup>: NCAC Plant Show and Sale at the Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA 22150

June 10<sup>th</sup>: Growing Gesneriads outdoors for the summer

July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>: TBA

September 9<sup>th</sup>: Jim and Drew's Equator Trip: Gesneriads

Remember, however, that it is not all about winning. This show is also for the public. Most people have never seen most of the plants we grow. We want them to be inspired to learn and try growing some gesneriads. I often exhibit plants that are simply interesting or unusual, even though I know they will not be top winners.

Also, don't forget to try your hand at design. The Gesneriad Society website is a good resource for design entries as well as horticulture. The convention photos include the blue ribbon designs in each class, so you can get an idea of what a good design might look like. Best advice: keep it simple and have fun with a class that interests you. The more you practice, the better you will get.

This is an important meeting to attend if you plan to participate in the show in any way. Since we are trying out a new location, Jim, our show chairman, will have lots of important information to share. Hope to see you there!

Ask Mr. Gesneriad



Mr. G: What is going on with this Sinningia Owlsee Red Hot? After it bloomed, it developed this mass of suckers at the crown on two separate stems. It doesn't look like pest damage, though. Barb

Barb: Owlsee Red Hot takes after its bullata parent. It never goes dormant. Which means that if you cut off the crown when blooms have finished it doesn't die



back to the tuber but, instead, just produces crowns at every remaining leaf axil. Simply thin the suckers out to a manageable number and root the cuttings. This is a plant in high demand with its brilliant red double-calyx flowers.

### Bloomin' Now



Second Best in Design Barb Stewart at RAVS



Third Best in Design Sharon Long at the Richmond AV show



First Best in Design Bill Schmidt at RAVS





Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Somerset Indigo Ice'



Kitty's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Aurora Borealis'



Kitty's *Sinningia speciosa* seedling



Gesneriad photos from Johanna Zinn from Longwood Gardens



**Mauro's Seed Fund Success!**  
***Sinningia vacariensis* X self:**

Kitty Hedgepeth's "Great *Sinningia* Experiment of 2017". The first photo is of the seedlings still growing in the take-away container in which they were germinated. I used the same soil in which I grow all of my Gesneriads ... a bag of Espoma Africa



Violet Soil with a quart of perlite, a quart of vermiculite, and a couple of generous scoops of horticultural charcoal. To this, I mixed in some finely chopped sphagnum, lightening the mix up some to accommodate the tiny-little roots. I also added a layer of coarse perlite to the bottom of the container to facilitate drainage.



The seeds were put down on 2-19-2017, covered with a clear plastic top to maintain humidity, and germinated via windowsill. Judging from how spindly the plantlets are, I'm sure they could have benefited from more light. I transplanted them into individual 3 oz. Solo cups on 4-23-2017. Judging by how leggy the plantlets are, I should have potted them up sooner. Hopefully they will sort themselves out in time.

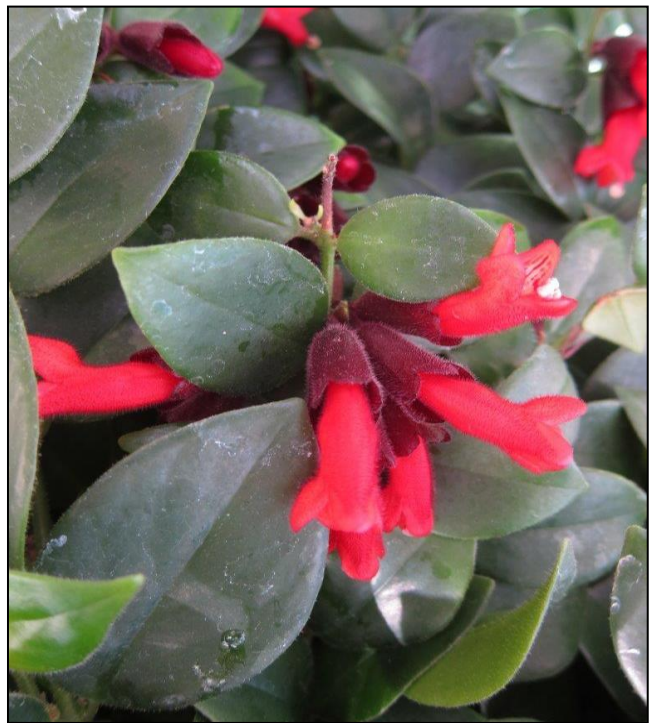


Photo from Johanna Zinn from Longwood



Barb's *Nautilocalyx forgetii* in bloom



Barb's *Primulina* species in bloom





Barb's *Primulina* species close up of bloom



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Crystal Lace' from a leaf



Barb's *Primulina* 'New York'



Donna's *Sinningia conspicua x bullata x Leucotricha* 'Max Dekking' a gift from Karin who has grown it and repotted this plant since 2010. What a delightful plant!





Nell Reese's *Amalophyllon* RAVS



Kitty's *Primulina* 'Loki' at RAVS



Kitty's *Episcia* 'Faded Jade' at RAVS



Nell Reese's *Sinningia* 'Amizade'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Regina' at RAVS



Barb Koski's Best *Streptocarpus* 'Little Kahn' at RAVS

**THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET & GESNERIAD CLUB'S 62th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**

Friday, May 12th 9am to 7pm

Sale opens at 9am-Show will open 1pm Saturday, May 13th Show & Sale 9am to 4pm The Shops at Kenilworth 800 Kenilworth Drive Towson, MD 21204 Free Admission-Handicap Accessible

Club members will be available to answer questions about growing and caring for African violets and their cousins gesneriads.

For more information contact Shirley at [bshuffman2@aol.com](mailto:bshuffman2@aol.com)

or call me at [301-854-2021](tel:301-854-2021)

**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 20<sup>th</sup>
- 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 & August - TBD (picnic?)
- 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.

**An Announcement from our Treasurer Sharon Long**

NCAC is listed as a 501(c)(7) organization with the IRS, which is a social or recreation club under IRS rules. This means that the group is exempt from filing federal taxes but it also means that donations to NCAC are NOT eligible to be listed on donors' tax forms as deductions. IRS Publication 557 explains the rules applying to this designation, which was assigned by the IRS when NCAC began filing Form 990-N (e-Postcard) beginning with tax year 2007. The Gesneriad Society notified chapters in 2008 of the new requirement to file.

**Desperately Seeking**

Kitty Hedgepeth.....*Episcia suomi* or any yellow  
Donna.....*Sinningia kautskyi*  
Donna .....*Sinningia* 'Amizade'

**Plants of the Month for 2017**

<b>February</b>	<i>Lysionotus</i>
<b>March</b>	<i>Kohleria</i>
<b>April</b>	<i>Saintpaulia</i>
<b>May</b>	Show plants
<b>June</b>	<i>Nematanthus</i>
<b>July</b>	<i>Achimenes</i>
<b>August</b>	<i>Petrocosmea</i>
<b>September</b>	<i>Gasteranthus</i>
<b>October</b>	N/A
<b>November</b>	<i>Mini Sinningia</i>
<b>December</b>	<i>Streptocarpus</i>



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!

## **Jim Robert's Show Chairman Message to Members**

NCAC Show and Sale May 20<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

WE'RE HAVING A SHOW!!

That simple 5 word sentence can throw us into one of two moods. "Whoopie!!" or "Oh NO!" Which mood will you be in on May 19<sup>th</sup> when we're setting up our show in a new location? I hope we're all going to be in the Whoopie!! Mood. We need that positive energy.

Once again, the national network of Gesneriad Society judges has let us down. Last year we were only able to get 3 outside judges to judge our show because of conflicts with other shows. This year we've only been able to get 2 outside judges, which could mean a disaster. We've paid for a room at the Springfield Mall for the weekend. We've bought plants. How in the world are we going to have a show with only two judges?

We'll improvise. As many of you may know, African Violet shows are judged solely on the merit of the plant being judged. All the plants in a class can get a blue ribbon, but the judges pick the best of the blues and call it the Best in Class. Gesneriad shows, on the other hand, are judged competitively. There can only be one blue ribbon, one red ribbon and one yellow ribbon per class. And all plants are point scored, with the score being the determining factor. We're going to do something sort of half way between the two, and hopefully be able to find a few African Violet judges (who also know how to judge Gesneriads).

The judging teams will look over each class and decide on the Best in Class and award it the Blue ribbon (unless they feel that the Best in Class isn't really of blue ribbon quality). They will then pick the 2<sup>nd</sup> best for the red ribbon and third best for the yellow ribbon. There will be no point scoring, which takes a considerable amount of time. No notes on the score sheets, which also slow things down a bit. We're hoping to be able to have two full teams of judges (three Gesneriad and three AV) to quickly run through the classes and make the awards. The only exception to the point scoring would be if the team felt that the Blue Ribbon winner in the class would likely score more than 95 points. If so, that one plant

would be point scored and if it does score over 95 will be marked in some fashion so that the Best in Show can be awarded; likewise, for any arrangements in the show. If any are likely to score over 95 they will be point scored so that the Best Arrangement can be chosen.

I'm not sure how Arleen Dewell will feel about our improvised system (she is the Gesneriad Society's Chair of Shows and Judging) but I don't feel we have a choice.

Let's talk about the good stuff now. We need entries in the show and we need lots of plant material to sell. Bags of potting mix. Pots. Cuttings and Rhizomes. Garden plants. Other house plants. And of course GESNERIADS. We'll have a good selection of blooming AV's and Gesneriads from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, but we need you to bring material too. If you cut a long non-flowering stem off a plant that you will be entering in the flowering classes, bag that stem up! If the plant is in the show, chances are very good that someone will buy a cutting of it. Our two guest judges have a nice selection of plants that they're already growing. But they will be on the lookout for something new – even if it's a small seedling in a small pot in a plastic bag. I know I never come home from a show empty-handed when I go to judge.

Show entries – newcomers especially worry about entering plants in a show. Plants are judged on quality. Not size. It's competitive judging, but so what? If you're the only entry in a class (and there will be many classes with only one or two entries) and you've got a nice plant you can take a blue home with you. And maybe even a check. Think of it this way. The fewer plants you grow the more time you can devote to making them grow well. I have a hard time with my work schedule and travel even watering my plants once a week. Weekly grooming, turning, staking – Forget about it!! Not happening.

So let's talk about that. Awards. The club voted to give \$25 each to Best in Horticulture (best in Show), Best Design, Sweepstakes in Horticulture and Sweepstakes in Artistic (design, dish gardens, terrariums). I'm adding a bit on top of that. I'm donating \$10 to the best in each Section. There are 17 Sections in the show schedule: Tuberous plants in Flower, Rhizomatous plants in Flower, Fibrous-rooted plants in Flower, Old World, etc etc etc. So



that's a possible \$170 donation from me. In the past we have had cash prizes awarded for a specific genus (e.g., best Primulina) or best in a specific class (e.g., Best Photograph). We could use a few more awards from the group. If you have a favorite plant, sponsor an award for it! The check can be given to Sharon on the day of the show, after awards are determined. For example, if you give an award for the best Ornithoboea and there aren't any in the show, you don't have to give Sharon anything. If only 10 of the 17 Sections have a blue ribbon winner, than I'm only out \$100. Think about it and let us know at the meeting or in an email before the show.

Next on my agenda here are reservations. I'm going to send out in a separate email a pre-registration list of the plants that you think you'll be entering in the show. It's important to get this list to Kitty as soon as you can. You can always add a plant (or 10) on the day of the show, or let Kitty know that one of the plants on your pre-registration list didn't make it. It's easy to add or remove. Some classes need you to pre-register not only with Kitty, but with me. There are a number of design classes in the show. Some of these have a specified niche size (essentially white walls that your design fits inside). I need to know ASAP who will be entering these design classes so that I can construct them. It would also be nice to know how many dish gardens, terrariums, photos and Educational displays will be walking into the show room. We need to make sure we have enough table space for them.

I know that some of you will have other commitments on May 13<sup>th</sup> when we have our meeting. There is an African Violet Show in Baltimore that day (starting on Friday). Brian won't be coming to our meeting. I hope others of you will be able to get to that show. Seeing a beautiful show always inspires me. If you can't make the meeting

and have a duty on one of the committees, let me know what's going on with your tasks.

Otherwise, see you all on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Roberts, VP and Show Chairman

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**Committees:**

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](http://www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)  
[web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](mailto: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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