

Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

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November 2016



Donna's *Petrocosmea* 'Momo'

President's Message

This month our meeting will be held in Laurel, MD thanks to Peggy who has volunteered to host us in her home! Her address is 8056 Leishear Road, Laurel, MD 20723. If you have an issue on the way you can call Peggy at 240-568-8928. Take I-95 to (Laurel) Scaggsville exit 35B and take 216 West. Go a few miles and turn right on Leishear Road. Climb the hill. Pass Graeloch Road and look for a small cul-de-sac on the left and turn in after an orange fire hydrant. Peggy is the second house on the right.

We're in for a special treat this month. Karyn Cichocki from NJ will be coming down to tell us all about her plant-hunting expedition to Ecuador. How many of us have dreamed of walking through the woods on a cloudy morning and coming across a new species of Gesneriad flowering it's happy little head off just to get your attention? I know I have! And Ecuador, with its huge biodiversity and perfect habitat for Begonia and Gesneriad alike, is the perfect place to do this.

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.

November 12th: Karyn Cichocki speaker: Gesneriad Collecting Trip to Ecuador. Nominating committee selection for New Year. Hosted by Peggy McDonald.

December 2016: Holiday Party. Election of new officers

January 2017: Growing in Feather Rock

February 2017: Propagation Workshop

Drew and I are taking a trip down there at the end of May, 2017, so we're going to have lots of questions for Karyn. The expedition that Karyn was on was specifically to find and catalog Gesneriads, but I'm pretty sure she saw some other amazing plant material. If you can't make it to any other meeting this year, please do everything you can to make it to this one. And bring a plant-loving friend. There will be something for everyone. Please try to bring something for the raffle table this month, and food to share. Raffle plants which originated in Ecuador would be especially appropriate. On to more topical news; Fall is really here. The nights are getting dark earlier and earlier. And they're hitting the lower limits of some of our more sensitive plant material. *Episcia* are especially sensitive. Others are just plain happy out there. My *Titanotrichum oldhamii* is once again in flower out in the perennial garden. Be careful bringing plants in. Bring in the plants, not the little critters that enjoy living on them. Cut back. Spray. Gather rhizomes and tubers if there is any doubt. When you find you can't get everything back into the house, remember the raffle table this weekend!

Jim

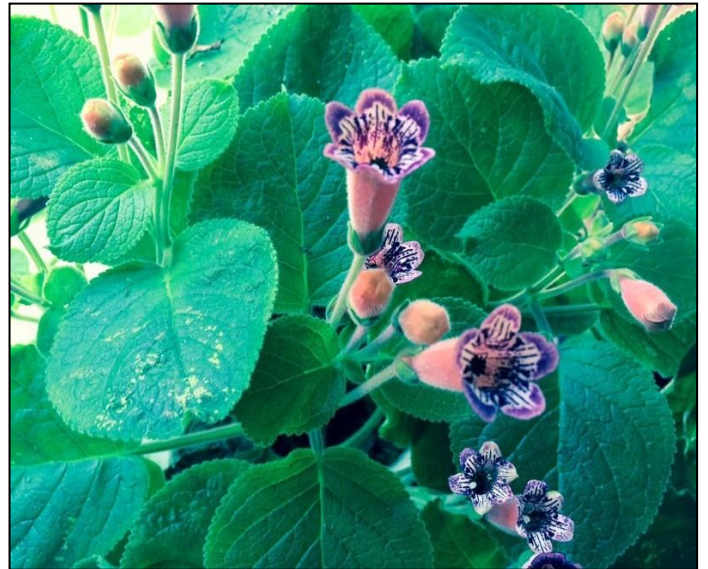
Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Columnea* 'Louis Harris'



Brian's *Achimenes* 'Carmencita'



Brian's *Sinningia* 'Tomorrow'. Brian says he grow this plant outdoors in summer.



Johanna's *Amalophyllum macrophyllum*. Johanna shared, look how beautiful the leaves look with the droplets of water held by hairs on the leaf margin!

Desperately Seeking

Barb Stewart is looking to replace these lost plants. Please share if you have them!

Aeschynanthus 'Thai Pink'

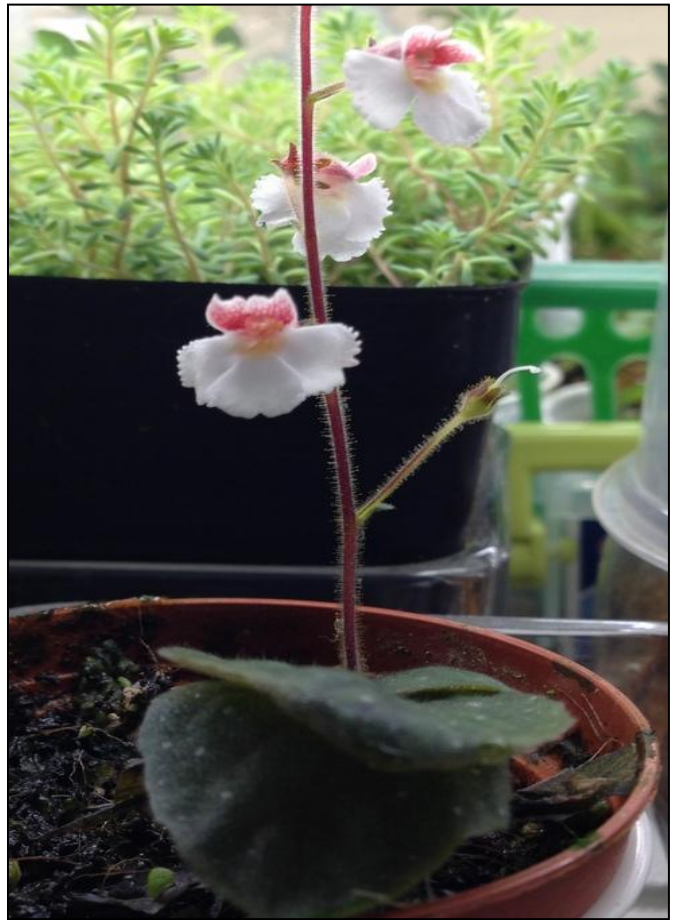
Primulina 'Rachel'

Corytoplectus cutucuensis

Nematanthus 'Dibley's Gold'



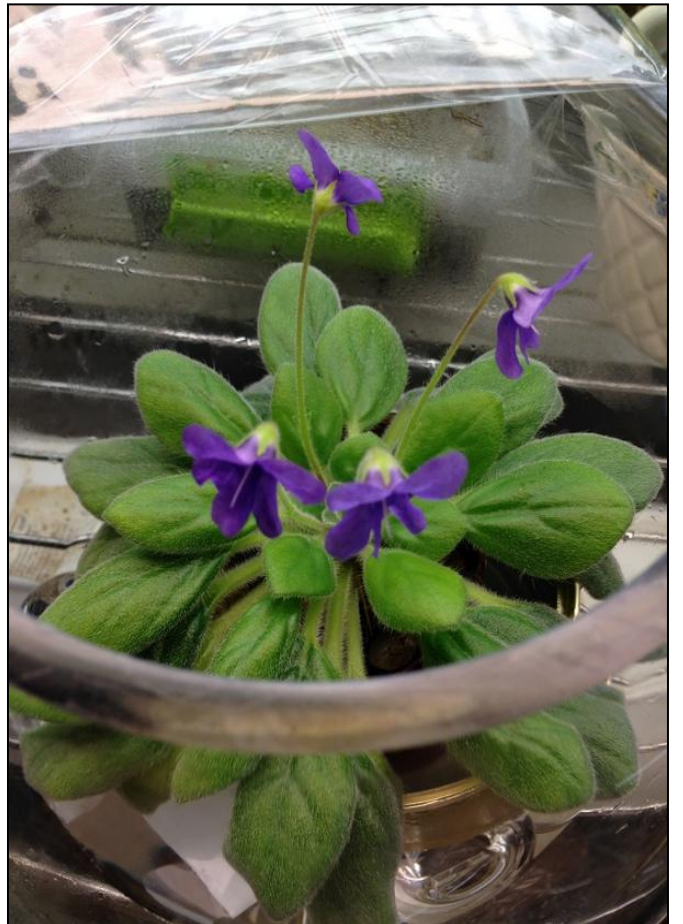
Donna's *Begonia Alchemilloides*



Donna's *Gloxinia erinoides*



Donna's *Gloxinia* 'Dragonsong'



Another view of Donna's *Petrocosmea* 'Momo' as it is grown in a glass container.



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Heartland's Blackberry Butterfly'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Gunsmoke'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather'

NCAC Meeting Program Schedule for 2016

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

December 2016: Holiday Party
New officers are elected

2017 Program Suggestions:

January – Growing in Feather Rock. Many Gesneriads grow directly on rock in the wild. That's not an easy way to grow Gesneriads in the home, but Feather Rock makes it relatively easy. The rock absorbs moisture for the plant and provides lots of air around the root system. Primulina, Petrocosmea and Streptocarpus make perfect candidates for growing in rock. Tufa and volcanic rock are also excellent for this type of planting, but are a bit more difficult to find.

February – Propagation Workshop. This is our traditional winter meeting, when members are asked to bring in plants that can be shared and planted in preparation for the sales at our NCAC Spring show. Please include rhizomes, tubers, seedlings that need to be separated, seeds, leaves, propogules, and fibrous plants with lots of extra growth. The Chapter will provide the soil mix and containers.

March – Kohleria. These plants are a simple to grow rhizomatous plant with lots of variety in the species available to work with and a tremendous selection of hybrids. There's something for everyone's growing space with the genus.



Barb's *Petrocosmea* 'Short'nin' Bread'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Spin Art'

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