

PETAL TONES



Volume 49 Number 11

November 2018



Welcome back Nell ! Winner of a NCAC membership for the year. Her plant *Achimenes* 'Himalayan Sunrise' at Richmond's Mini Show.

President's Message

Our year is quickly coming to a close. I am just recovering from the MAAVS (Mid Atlantic AVS) convention in Camp Hill, PA where we had a nice showing of African violets, gesneriads, and designs. Bill Schmidt and I served on a judging panel to judge some beautiful gesneriads. Our members fared well (photos to follow).

This month we will have a short panel presentation on mini sinningias, sinningias in general, and growing from seed, followed by a general question and answer session. Although the plant of the month is *nautilocalyx*, feel free to bring in sinningias as well for show and tell, and anything you could share on the raffle table. Our Treasurer, Sharon Long is also requesting dues for next year. Dues are still \$10 per year and you can pay by cash or check. At our business meeting, we will see who is being nominated for our next officers and directors, and make plans for our holiday party.

Hope to see you there.

Barbara

MEETING LOCATION:

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
We gather at 10:00am 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.

Attention: The Church is a "NUT FREE ZONE" due to children with allergies so do not bring any food items that include nuts or peanuts. The area is a day care.

November 17th: Panel discussion

December 8th: Holiday Party Sally's home.

Editor's Message: November has arrived and I have brought in all the summer sinningias and other plants like *Amaryllis* and some baby perennials I started from seed. I did plant some *Sinningia tubiflora* bulbs in the ground this year, so the jury is out until spring to see if they survive the winter here in zone 7.

As you may know Pat Bowling had to cancel her Mini-sinningia program in October at the last minute. Her husband had a health emergency and is doing better. She shall let us know when she can reschedule. I know we are all looking forward to her program on Mini-Sinningias.

Last month we watched a very informative webinar about *Smithianthas* and *Eucodonias*. So I have some baby *Eucodonia* seedlings to share as well as purchased many varieties of *Smithianthas* from the Gesneriad Society Seed Fund to grow and share with everyone. I just received the *Smithiantha* seeds yesterday 11/9, so it will be awhile.

Also please bring your ideas and thoughts about what programs we can plan for the later 2019 meetings. Thanks everyone and see you Saturday!
Donna

Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Maiden's Blush'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Roxy'



Nell's *Achimenes* 'Dark Matter'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Chiaki' I have waiting for buds of P. Chiaki to bloom for several years. I finally took it off the shelf and moved to a window.



Barb's *Primulina* 'Lydia'



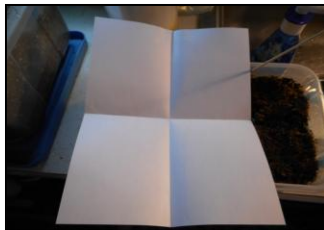
Barb's *Primulina* 'Nimbus'

Sowing Gesneriad Seeds

Donna Beverin

Gesneriad seeds are super small and dust like.

- Use any soil mix you prefer. I use combination of potting soil and fine vermiculite with milled sphagnum moss lightly dusted on top of the soil mix which aids to prevent damping off. Jiffy makes a good mix for about \$5.00.
- Moisten the soil and I let the container sit for at least 1/2 hour to be sure all the soil is moist. (not wet)
- Many growers sterilize their soil in the microwave for 5 minutes and let it cool completely which I do occasionally.
- Take a piece of plain white paper and divide in 1/2 twice to make a crease in the center of the paper.
- Open the seed container very carefully over the white paper and let the seeds fall into the center crease. I like to use part of the seeds and not plant them all at the same time if there are plenty of seeds. National sometimes only sends a few.
- Holding the white paper over the seed container I gently let the seeds roll into the soil mix as I move the paper around to spread the seeds, tapping lightly with a finger. Do not cover the seeds with soil as they need light to germinate.
- Cover the container with a clear lid or plastic wrap. Do not allow the lid or plastic wrap to touch the soil. Label the container in any manner you prefer so you remember what variety of seed you planted.
- Place container on your light stand. A warm area with bottom heat will aid germination. If I have a florescent light ballast I put containers on top of that where it gets bottom heat. I also use a normal heating pad sometimes.
- Many of the seeds germinate within two weeks but some may take longer. I keep my seed containers for a long time. I have had seedling emerge months after planting. If I have a container without germination I usually turn the container into a prop box and plant cuttings. Sometimes wayward seeds germinate to surprise me. That is how I grew a tuber of *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' x self which is one of my favorite sinningias! Some seeds grow tubers and you can see the baby tubers below.
- Watch out for algae or fungus that can grow on the soil. Do not fertilize the soil as it is supposed to encourage algae growth.
- Once the babies are large enough to handle with a toothpick or other tool, transplant to another container or small pot. Keep them covered depending on the plant for added humidity especially as they adjust to their new pot.



Sinningia bullata seeds and seedlings.

Last two pictures are Sinningia speciosus mix seeds.

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Eucodonia* hybrid #3 by Leong T. Lock



Donna's *Gloxinia* 'Dragonsong'



Brian Connor's *Saintpaulia* 'Imp's Angel Wings' received Best in Class at MAAVS

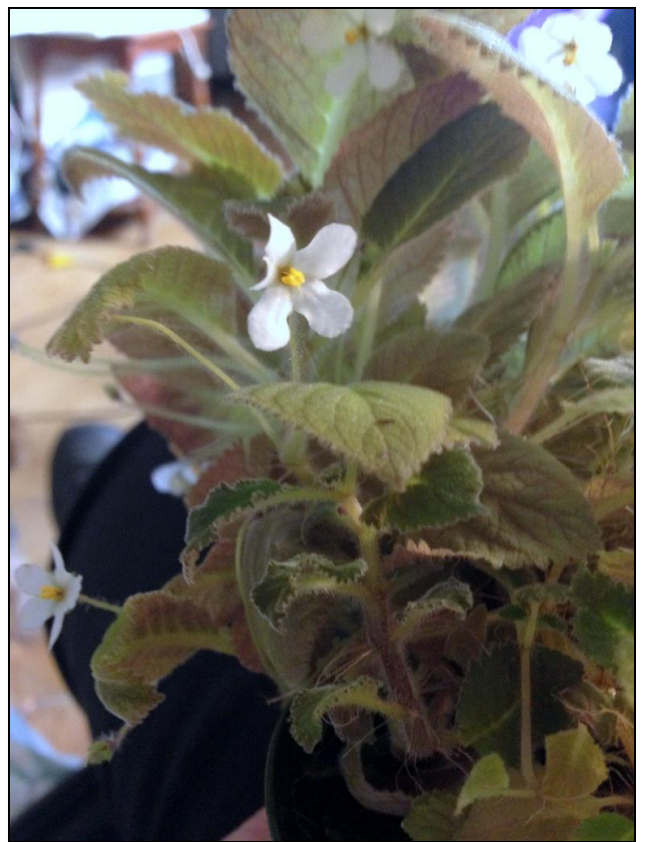


Sharon's 3rd Best in Class for Design at MAAVS

Bloomin' Now



Sherris *Sinningia tubiflora*



Donna's *Amalophyllum macrophyllum*



Sherris' *'Deinostigma tamiana'*



Donna's *Eucodonia 'Adele'*

Desperately Seeking

Donna.....*Eucodonia andrieuxii* 'Wooly Morrion'

MAAVS SHOW PLANTS



Barbs' Best Design in Show



Barb's Dish Garden



Bill's *Codonanthe devosiana* 'Paula'



Best in Class by Bill Schmidt

Since it is time to nominate and vote on officers for next year 2019, Donna has inserted the By-laws information to explain the duties of the various offices. The nominating committee consists of Dave Anderson, Brian Connor and Donna Beverin. A few notes in red.

Article V. Duties of Officers, Board of Directors, and Committees

Section 1. President. The President shall act as general executive officer of the Chapter and shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors; shall appoint the chairmen of all committees; shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and shall keep informed of all work of the Chapter and report there on to the membership.

Barb Stewart had offered to continue as President.

Section 2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall schedule and prepare interesting and stimulating programs for the regular membership meetings.

We need a Vice President

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings; prepare official correspondence; and compile, maintain, and have custody of the Chapter's historical records. The Secretary shall file with the Recording Secretary of the parent organization a copy of the Chapter's bylaws and all subsequent amendments; the names and addresses of all Chapter members, and of all new members; and the names and addresses of all Chapter officers immediately following their election.

We need a secretary once Sally moves

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipts and deposits of all monies of the Chapter and shall make authorized disbursements to cover the expenses of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies that are received or disbursed and shall render financial reports when required.

Sharon has offered to stay on as Treasurer

Section 5. Directors. The Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity, shall serve as committee chairmen, and shall perform other duties requested by the President.

We need a few directors.

Section 6. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall plan Chapter activities, shall make recommendations for action to the membership, and shall transact Chapter business between regular membership meetings. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Chapter and none of its acts shall be in conflict with actions of the Chapter.

Section 7. Hospitality Committee. This committee shall make arrangements for refreshments at the membership meetings.

Need a hospitality chairman as Irene cannot attend many meetings

Section 8. Membership Committee. This committee shall handle membership applications, collect dues, introduce new members and guests, provide name tags, and compile an annual roster of officers and members. **There is no committee at this time.**

Section 9. Publications Committee. The chairman of this committee shall be the Editor of the Chapter's newsletter, Petal Tones, and shall be responsible for editing and publishing Petal Tones in accordance with the policies of the club.

Donna will continue as Petal Tones editor. There is no committee at this time.

Section 10. Propagation Committee. This committee shall propagate gesneriads and have them available for distribution to the members.

Barb and Donna will continue. Anyone wanting to help is most welcome

Section 11. Ways and Means Committee. This committee shall be responsible for fund raising, including the sale of plants and supplies at Chapter meetings.

Brian chairs the Ways & Means.

Programs Planned for 2019

November 10th: Panel discussion: Growing from Seed, Sinningias & Mini-sinningias

December 8th: Holiday Party

January 2019: Webinar on hybridizing and genetics.

February 2019: Propagation workshop

March 2019: Design workshop

Plant of the Month

November: Nautilocalyx

December : Aeschynanthus

DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!

At every meeting our members bring extra plants, cuttings, growing supplies, magazines, books, seedlings and 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, magazines, pamphlets, pots and gardening supplies and other plants we love to grow like begonias and houseplants.

President: Barb Stewart
bstew771@verizon.net

Vice-President: Jim Roberts
Jim.Robert2408@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Long
slong15781@aol.com

Secretary: Sally Leonhart

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin
Petaltones@gmail.com or
Donnabeverin@gmail.com

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
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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