

Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 48 Number 10

October 2017



Johanna Zinn's *Titanotrichum oldhamii*'s outstanding blooms in her outdoor garden this summer.

President's Message Barb Stewart

Looks like fall is finally upon us. Many of my plants are still outside where they spent the summer enjoying the heat, humidity, and extra sunlight. Although the temperature is forecast to drop into the 30's in my area, I am not too worried about the *Sinningias* that are supposed to be hardy. However, I will probably bring them in again for the winter. My one experience planting one in my garden resulted in a rotted tuber, although I may try one again this year

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.

October 21st: Meeting at Behnkes with a Webinar: *Streptocarpus*.

November 11th: Meeting at Behnkes: Miniature *Sinningias*-growing these small wonders in glass containers

December 9th: Holiday-Get-Together at Sally Leonhard's home.

in a potentially drier location. One great thing about gesneriads is their diversity. There is always something blooming.

As my summer blooming *Achimenes* are winding down, my *Smithianthas* and *Eucadonias* are up and blooming. And there is always some *Kohleria* or *Primulina* in bloom to fill in any gaps. My Streps are relieved to be past the summer heat and are also putting on a nice show.

Although this was a late decision to have a meeting this month and we couldn't get our regular meeting date, we have a good program on growing *Streptocarpus*. In addition to the plant of the month, *Eucodonia*, feel free to share your experience with growing Streps and bring something for show and tell and the raffle table. Hope to see you there!

Eucodonias

By Barb Stewart

Scattered throughout my plant shelves right now are the beautiful blooms of my *Eucodonias*. I have several varieties, each with slightly different blossoms. *Eucodonias* are rhizomatous plants that bloom seasonally before going dormant, and mine are now at their peak.



Barb's *Eucodonia* 'Adele'

Eucodonias are New World gesneriads from central and southern Mexico. There are 2 recognized species: *E. andrieuxii* and *E. verticillata*. *Eucodonias* are closely related to *Achimenes* and were originally classified as such. Several successful crosses have been made with *Smithianthas*, and 2 good ones that are in my collection are *xSmithicodonia* "Elizabeth" and *xSmithicodonia* "Heartland's Joy".

Eucodonias are found in wet shady areas in their natural habitat. As with most of my rhizomatous plants, I grow mine on wicks to keep them from drying out and going dormant prematurely. They are all grown under lights. My hybrids, *E.* "Adele" and *E.* "Frances" grow well with little attention. My unnamed *Eucodonia* hybrid tends to be stringy and



Barb's *Eucodonia* 'Frances'

would benefit from pinching in its early growth. *Eucodonias* are easily propagated by tip cuttings and rhizomes which multiply prolifically.



Barb's *xSmithicodonia* 'Elizabeth'



Barb's *Eucodonia* hybrid

***Eucodonia andrieuxii* 'Woolly Morrión'**

Mel Grice melsgrice@earthlink.net
Englewood, Ohio, USA

Eucodonia andrieuxii 'Woolly Morrión', a New World member of the Gesneriad family comes to us from Central and Southern Mexico. This plant is a small rhizomatous herb with woolly stems and leaves. By woolly, I mean that it has a heavy coating of red hairs on the stems and the underside of the fuzzy, olive-green leaves. *Eucodonia andrieuxii* 'Woolly Morrión' has tiny lavender and white flowers arising from the leaf axils on slender, wiry stems. I recommend growing this plant for the striking foliage and not for the flowers.

I have always wondered who was responsible for distributing this selection of *Eucodonia andrieuxii* and after consulting with several friends traced it back to the original source. Dr. Miriam Denham and her husband Dale received rhizomes in 1963 from Thomas MacDougall who collected it in Mexico:

Estado Oaxaca; Distrito Juchitan, north of Zanatepec. The Denhams distributed the plant as #540. Dr. Denham says, "I believe it was Claire Roberts who phoned me and asked for a fancy name for #540.

I told her 'Woolly Morrión'. Morrión I had chosen for the shape of the corolla. A morrión (pronunciation with the "ó" is More-ee-own) was a metal Spanish open helmet, 16th and 17th century, without a visor — somewhat resembling a hat with a brim. And the woolly is obvious for the hairs." *Eucodonia andrieuxii* 'Woolly Morrión' produces scaly rhizomes under the soil and above the soil coming from leaf axils when conditions are favorable. Scaly rhizomes often resemble pine cones and help the plants remain alive during the dry season in the wild. They perform the same function as a tuber or bulb so DO NOT discard the pot if the plant looks dead — it is only resting or dormant.

To propagate *Eucodonia*s, I begin by placing a wick in the bottom of the pot, since eventually I will wick water the plants once roots are well established. I plant the rhizomes in a four inch pot (for three rhizomes), laying them on their sides approximately one inch deep in a loose, well-drained medium. Some rhizomes are several inches long, so I break them into about one half inch sections and use a larger pot depending upon how many sections I have. Once planted, I place the pot under a clear plastic dome on



a polyester felt mat that is wicked to the tray below it. *Eucodonia*s seem to require warmth to start, so I place the pot on a top shelf of the light stand just two or three inches from a T-8 or T-5 light bulb. The pots are gradually lowered away from the lights as the plants grow. Once the plants reach about three inches

tall, I PINCH, PINCH, PINCH like you would an African violet trailer. Leave one or two leaf nodes and pinch off the growing tip to encourage branching. The more branches you have, the more floriferous the plants will be. The tip cuttings that you pinch off may be rooted individually in a Solo cup or, if you have numerous cuttings, they may be placed in a larger pot placed under a dome for a few weeks to root. All these cuttings should eventually produce a scaly rhizome. **WARNING** — Before you know it, your three rhizomes that you began with could increase exponentially into more rhizomes than you have room to grow. A crucial factor in rhizome production is keeping the plants consistently well fed and watered.

If excess drying occurs too early in the growth cycle, the plants may go dormant prematurely without producing any rhizomes for next year. That is why I wick water and also try to have two or more pots of a variety growing so that I won't lose the variety if I occasionally forget to fill a tray with water.

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Reprinted from October 2013 Gleanings. For more information: <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Gleanings2013.10.pdf>

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *x**Achimenantha* 'Golden Jubilee'



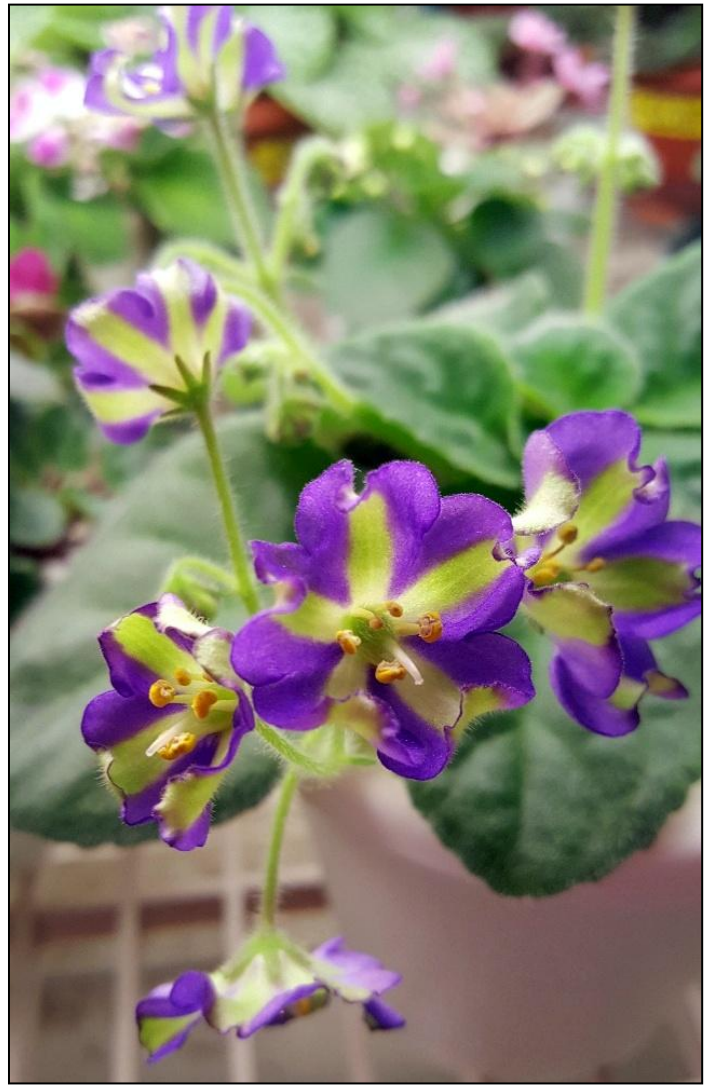
Barb's *Achimenes* 'Yellow English Rose'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Loki'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Texas Zebra'



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Yukako', an unusual chimera blossom



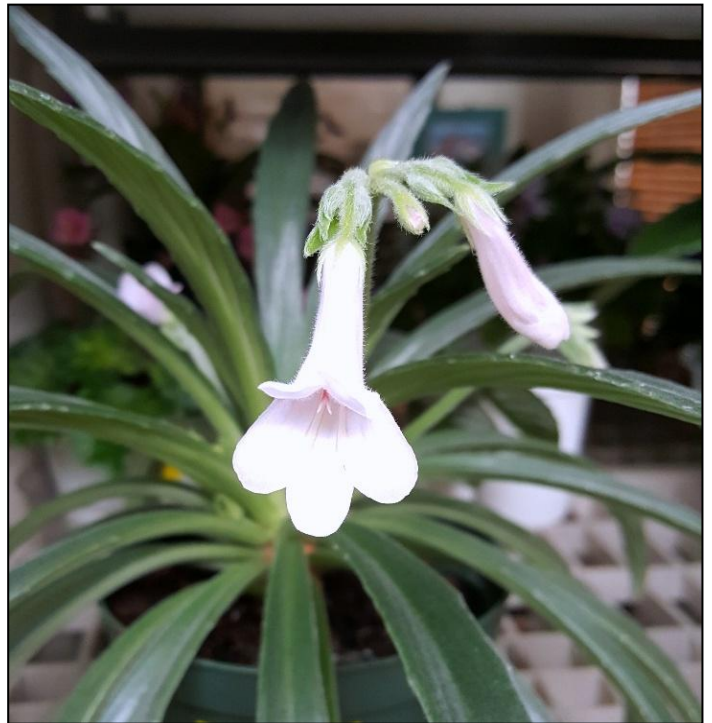
Barb's *Gloximanna* 'She's Dancing'



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Wrangler's High Sierra'



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Ian Minuet', a Russian hybrid



Kitty's *Primulina linearifolia*



Dave's mini *Sinningia* 'High Voltage'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Cindy Ella'



Dave's *Sinningia macropoda*

Desperately Seeking

Jim Roberts.....*Gesneria christii*

Jim Roberts*Gesneria ventricosa*

Jim Roberts*Gasteranthus eburnea*



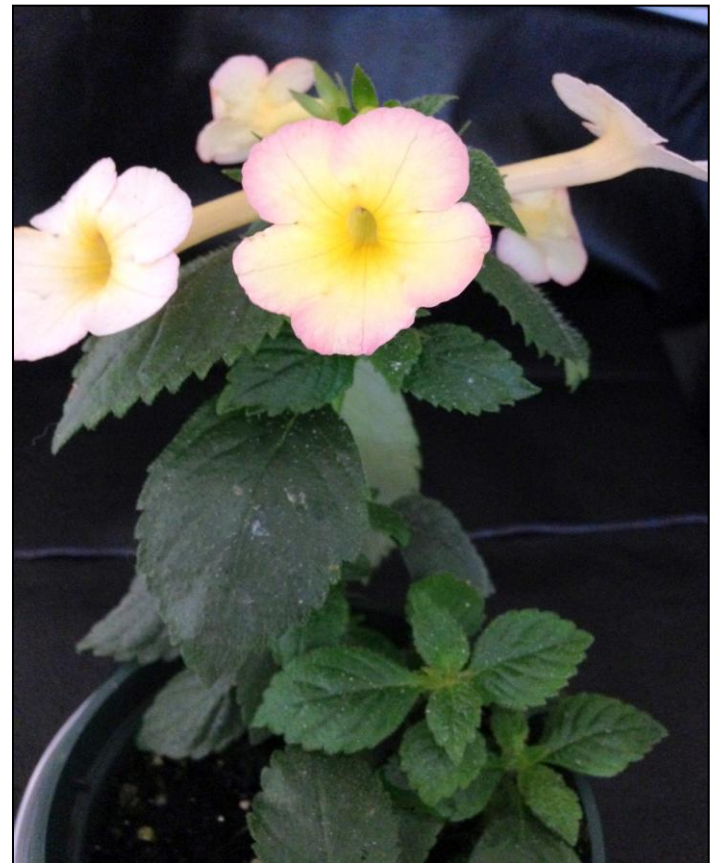
Donna's *xGlokohleria* 'rosea'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Towering Inferno' (still budding)



Donna's *Sinningia bullata*



Donna's yellow *Achimenes* hybrid





Dave's mini *Sinningia* 'Spill the Wine'



Dave's mini *Sinningia* 'Laura'



Donna's *Aeschynanthus* 'Big Apple'

Donna's *Sinningia* 'Banana's Foster'

I bought *Sinningia* 'Banana's Foster' at Pepper's Greenhouses in mid August. I saw they offered the plant on line and when I went to the greenhouse I could not find it and had to ask Mrs. Pepper if they had any available. Eventually someone brought me out a small, pot bound plant. It was a dry plant in a tiny pot with hardly any leaves. It did have a nice size tuber though. At home I repotted it in a nice soil mix I use for outdoor plants. I keep a load in the wheel barrow all summer in my garage. Included in the mix is composed cow manure, potting soil, perlite and left over indoor potting mix as well as some Osmocote fertilizer granules. So I potted up "Banana baby" in a nice clay pot and did not have much expectation of success, but I was so wrong. This little neglected



plant took off and put out beautiful, lush new foliage and even set buds, which I certainly did not expect for this growing season! It has delighted me with its pendulous blossoms of varying shades of yellow tinged with light pink. Wanting a yellow variety, I have been growing *Sinningia guttata* x aggregate (yellow) from seed and when it finally bloomed this year it looked like 'Carolyn', of course without any yellow in it. I did not expect to really like the Banana's Foster but I really do. Next summer it should be spectacular with good spring care after a nice winter rest! It will be a valued addition to my outdoor summer *Sinningia* collection of Tubiflora, Butter and Cream, Towering Inferno, Carolyn, Guttata x aggregate and a pink hybrid. With the cold nights that have arrived this week these *Sinningias* will soon be moving indoors in a cool basement for their winter time rest. I would recommend these plants to others who would enjoy a summer of delightful blooms of various colors and even the fragrance of Tubiflora!



Another view of *Sinningia* 'Bananas Foster'

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" understand your problem!
petaltones@gmail.com

Mr. Gesneriad: What is the 'Glo' in *xGlokohleria* 'rosea' which I grew from rhizomes I bought from the sales table at our show. Grown outside and not really protected, I brought it in when I noticed how delicate and small the plant and flowers are.
Donna



Mr. G: Donna, *xGlokohleria* 'Rosea' was originally named *xKoellikohleria* 'Rosea'. That leads to a pretty good idea of one of the parents: *Koellikeria erinoides* before its name was changed to *Gloxinia erinoides*. I can't find any mention of which *Kohleria* was used.

Plants of the Month for 2017

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

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 20th
- 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 23 - Picnic with Begonia Society at Johanna's home 1:00pm
- August 12 – Peggy's home subject TBA
- September 9 - Jim and Drew's Ecuador trip PowerPoint
- October 14th: Judge's Training at Jim's home 10-4pm
- October 21 (third weekend - Orchid Show on second weekend) – How to Grow Gesneriads
- November 11 - Miniature Sinningia - growing these small wonders in Glass Containers - GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!
- December 9th - Holiday Party at Sally Leonhard's home

President: Barb Stewart
bstew771@verizon.net

Vice-President: Jim Roberts
jim.roberts2408@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Long
slong15781@aol.com

Secretary: Vacant

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.

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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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.