

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

August 2021

Volume 52 Number 8



Jim's *Kohleria* 'An's Cheerleader', shows no signs of slowing down!

President's Message

The time is upon us! Please join us this week for a valuable meeting where you will learn how to prepare for the upcoming show. If this is your first or first in a while, this will be a nice refresher with tips on grooming and showing. Please bring your questions.

We shall be the first Gesneriad clubs in the country to put on a show since and during the pandemic. With recently discovered circulating variants, I strongly encourage that all participants (even those fully vaccinated), including exhibitors, spectators, volunteers, and judges remain fully masked and practice social distancing during the show, especially while being inside. There will be hand sanitizers available or bring your own. Other clubs will be watching to see how we do and whether they can proceed with caution for next year's shows. If you find yourself feeling unwell during any of the days of the show, please stay home! Be safe, stay healthy, and be proud! You've put in a lot of time and effort into growing that specimen plant! It's time to show the judges your hard work and get rewarded for it. There are several awards including rosettes and monetary prizes, so please participate! Looking forward to seeing everyone again this weekend and next month!

Minh

NCAC July Zoom Meeting
Saturday, August 14, 2021 10:30am
Bill Schmidt prepares us for our Show and Sale

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84900067446?pwd=TzB0bE4vTjZlVHk4cGVYYiIRL2NOUT09>

Gesneriads Dance!

September 10th, 11th, 12th: NCAC Show/Sale at
Homestead Gardens Davidsonville, MD

September 25th: Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens,
Family Fall Festival, 9am to 3pm.

October 9th: *Columnea* webinar

NCAC SHOW SALES

Friday 9/10: 1:00-6:00pm

Saturday 9/11: 9:00-6pm

Sunday 9/12: 10:00-3:00pm

Guidelines for members selling their gesneriad plants at the Show. Only Gesneriad may be sold.
Member 75% of sale NCAC 25% of sale on each item.

- Each plant you sell should be in pots with stick labels. One label with name of the plant will stay in the plant for the customer, or you can put a label taped to the pot. Many of our members use this method with electrical tape which means the label won't accidentally get removed. Some write on the pot with a permanent marker.

- A stick label with the price you are selling the plant for and your initials or another ID code, as this label will be pulled during the sale of your plant and kept with the cash box to calculate the amount sold by that particular member.

- If you want to donate your plants you need not put your initials or another ID code on the pricing stick label. Same procedure for those selling cuttings, rhizomes, tubers, leaves etc in plastic baggies. The baggies can be labeled by writing on the bag but a price and ID stick label will be needed to be taped on or placed inside each baggie as with potted plant procedure for tallying your income.

Schedule for the show is:

Friday--Sept 10th, set-up 10 AM to 1 PM, **entries 1 PM to 6 PM**

Saturday—Sept 11th, **entries 8 AM to 9:30 AM**, judging 10 AM to 1 PM, show open 1 PM to 6 PM

Sunday—Sept 12th, show open 10 AM to 2 PM, break down 2 PM to 3 PM.

Sales Table Open:

Friday 9/10: 1:00-6:00pm

Saturday 9/11: 9:00-6pm

Sunday 9/12: 10:00-3:00pm

Entries

Entries will be accepted only on Friday, Sept 10th from 1 PM to 6 PM and Saturday, Sept 11th 8 AM to 9:30 AM. Each exhibitor must prepare a list of plants or other entries with the appropriate section and class numbers. Exhibitors must make reservations for the Artistic classes with Peggy MacDonald by September 7th and set up the exhibit themselves for classes 52—59, and 60. Exhibits in these classes must be in place by 9:30 AM on Saturday. Entries for exhibit only will be placed in a separate area of the showroom and will not be judged.

SHOW RULES

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society, but must be members of either the National Capitol Area Chapter of The Gesneriad Society or the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society.
3. Entries will be accepted only during hours specified, unless approved by the Show Chair.
4. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid, unless otherwise prohibited.
5. Each exhibitor must prepare a list of plants and other entries with the appropriate Section and Class numbers to facilitate the work of the Entries Committee.
6. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by Show Chair after entries close.
7. No exhibits may be removed from the showroom until the show closes except with permission of the Show Chairman.
8. An exhibitor may request that an entry be accepted for exhibit only. These will be placed in a separate area of the showroom and will not be judged.
9. All plants in the Horticultural classes must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in arrangement classes of Division II or Educational exhibits in Division IV.
10. No particular type of container is specified; however, all containers used should be clean. Foil covering should be avoided. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.
11. All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including educational exhibits as well as entries for exhibit only.
12. The Gesneriad Society standard competitive judging will be used. Awards will be made according to the following point scores: 1. 1st, blue ribbon, 90-100 points; 2. 2nd, red ribbon, at least 80 points; 3. 3rd, yellow ribbon, at least 70 points.
13. Honorable Mention may also be awarded.
14. Awards for Best in Section may be awarded to exhibits scoring 90 points or over.
15. There will be a Sweepstakes Award for the Horticulture Division and a Sweepstakes award for the Artistic Division. An exhibitor must win a minimum of 3 blue ribbons in that division to be eligible for the award.
16. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. Winner must be a member of The Gesneriad Society or a chapter member.
17. The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries must be removed between 3 and 4 p.m. on Sunday.
18. An exhibitor may provide educational information on a white 3" x 5" card for any entry, if desired.
19. All exhibits in flowering classes must have at least one open flower.
20. Seedpods or fruit (not spent blossoms) are permitted on all gesneriads exhibited.

Volunteers are needed for show set-up, break down and helping at sales table

Bloomin' Now



Janet: "These are a few plants grown from *Kohleria Eriantha* (open pollinated) seeds I received last year from Brazil Plants. They look happy in a pot along with a couple of Coleus plants and some chives. The seedlings were leggy and unhealthy looking under lights, but in a mostly shaded area outside they seem to be doing much better and the leaves look healthy and have some slight reddish edging. They have not flowered and I'm not sure they are getting enough light to do so, but I'm glad they have found a good home on my patio.



Janet: "This *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather' has been growing in a window which gets relatively bright light and has gotten quite large. Usually, I keep them pinched back to encourage bushiness, but have let this one do its thing since the winter. The overall shape of the plant is graceful with some stems starting to hang down, and the silver markings on the leaves are beautiful. The plant needs brighter light to bloom, and it may get moved under lights to encourage that later in the year. But now I enjoy it for the beauty of the foliage.



Jim's *Alsobia dianthaflora* "In bloom out on the lanai. Loves the heat."



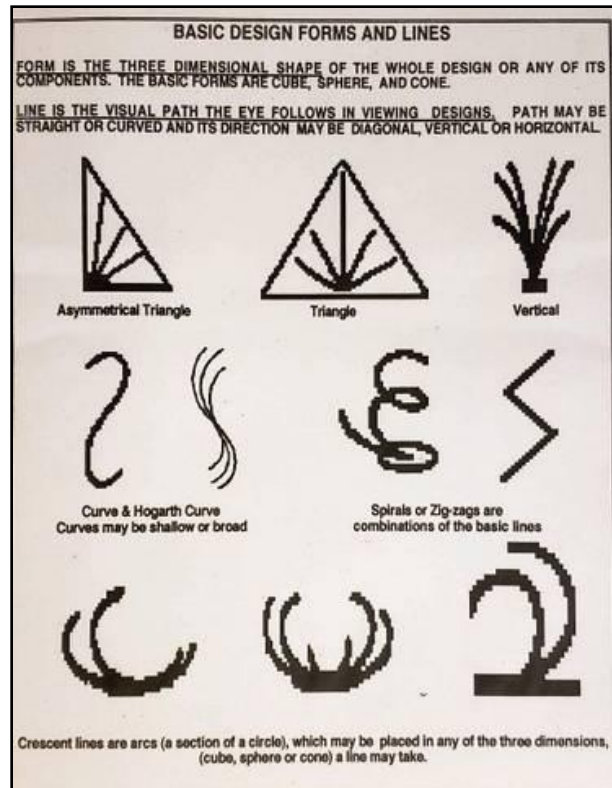
Bill's *Gloxinia perennis* 'Insignia'

Tips for Creating a Gesneriad Design for Show

Barbara Stewart

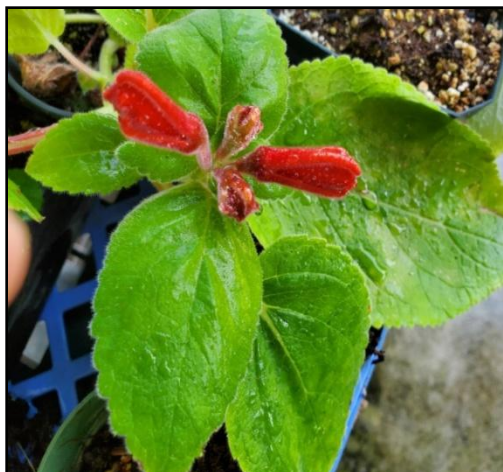
Last month I gave a program on creating an artistic arrangement for a gesneriad show, to encourage members to consider entering a design in our September show. Many of our members have entered designs in African violet shows, but were interested in how gesneriad designs are different. For others, this is a new adventure! Here is a quick summary of some tips for creating a good gesneriad design.

- Gesneriad and violet designs are alike in having the same number 1 rule for designs: READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE. This includes general show rules, artistic division
- rules, and especially the section and class descriptions. Points may be deducted
- for not following the show schedule.
- Plant material can be from any source, and does not need to have been grown by the exhibitor. However, make sure all plant material is free of disease and pests.
- The main difference between a violet design and a gesneriad design is that in a gesneriad design gesneriads must predominate. This does not necessarily mean in number, but in terms of dominance. The gesneriads should be the primary focus.
- A good design has a clear line or form/shape.
- Some good gesneriads for line material in include *Alsobia*, *Columneas*, *Nematanthus*, *Streptocarpus* leaves, upright *Kohlerias*, and *Primulina* leaves. Other non-gesneriad material can also be used, such as driftwood, dried seed pods, or other non-plant material. (No artificial plant material may be used, though.



- Make sure your design is stable. Floral pin holders, modeling clay, floral clay, and a hot glue gun are all good tools to use for stability.
- Choose blossoms that will hold up for a day or two. (You may need to test them first beforehand.) Good options: include *Streptocarpus*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Kohleria*, and *Saintpaulia*.
- 7. Cover your mechanics. Blossom holders can be wrapped in green or brown floral tape, and pin holders can be covered with moss or foliage.
- 8. Keep your design simple and not over-done.
- 9. Choose a drape or background that enhances your design.
- 10. Finally, remember to make your reservations for design classes with Peggy MacDonald by Sept. 7, and have fun!

Bloomin' Now



Barry's *Sinniniga* cardinalis 'Red Feather'



Donna's *Sinniniga* 'Towering Inferno' in bud and bloom. 2008 Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. introduction. More details on their website.



Adventures with *Seemannia gymnostoma*

By Peggy MacDonald

I received seeds of this unusual gesneriad a couple of years ago from our NCAC Brazil Plants seed order.

The seeds germinated well and grew quite strong and healthy, so I shared about ten plants with the NCAC members. The flowers are to be lavender with some dark lavender spots on the inside. The first unusual thing I noticed was the abundance of stringy aerial propagules hanging down from the pot. What an interesting feature!



Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Robson Lopes' grown from Brazil Plants seeds.



Then in late fall, the shoots died back completely. Knowing that many gesneriads need a rest, I waited patiently for the shoots to reappear. After three months I became very worried that I had lost this plant, so I checked for rhizomes. They were there, nice and green and happy. I repotted them and waited again.

Finally, about the time of the summer solstice, shoots came bounding out of the soil. Although the pot is under artificial lights in the basement with only a small window way above it, the plant seemed to be awakened by the seasonal change, by sensing the increased light duration or maybe the warmer temperatures. I am now hoping to see some flowers before it hibernates again!



These twin "fish" are rare, as blossoms usually appear as singles

Barb's *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold'

Why Won't My Seeds Sprout?

Barb Stewart

Some gesneriad seeds can't wait to sprout, but others are more challenging. What are the possible reasons some of my seeds don't germinate?

Probably the three most common reasons are related to light, temperature, and moisture. Seeds need the right amount of each in order to germinate. I use a deli container with a layer of perlite in the bottom, my regular potting mix (Pro-mix with added perlite) and a thin layer of "NoDampOff" (fine milled sphagnum moss) on top. I moisten the potting soil then lightly spray the "NoDampOff" **before** sowing the seeds on top. Do not bury the seeds. They need light to germinate, so spraying after sowing could cause the tiny seeds to get buried in the moss.



- Moisture is the biggest challenge. The soil needs to stay damp, but green algae growing on the soil indicates too much moisture or too much fertilizer in the soil. Do not fertilize the seed container and try to use potting mixes without fertilizer added, as this will encourage the growth of green algae which can overcome the seedlings or even 'hide' the tiny germinating seedlings.
- In addition to light, seeds need oxygen, and too much water can drown or rot them. After sowing my seeds, I leave the container open overnight, as I have probably moistened my soil too much. It is difficult to judge after the soil is in the container. A better option would probably be to moisten a batch of soil ahead of time.
- Temperature can be an issue depending on the time of year and regional climate. Seeds won't germinate if the temperature is too cold or too hot. On the other hand, some seeds need a "chilling period" and benefit from spending some time in the refrigerator before being planted. Alpine Gesneriads may benefit from a chilling period, but Donna said she germinated *Ramonda* seeds without any chilling period. Some seeds just need to be planted in the right season, most likely spring or summer.
- Some seeds just need more time. This could be due to the nature of the plant, or because the seeds are old. Seeds that are too old will not sprout at all, and the date when the seeds were harvested is rarely known. Don't plant all your seeds from a packet at one time. That way you will have a back up and many times the second batch will germinate if by chance any of your conditions were not right the first time around. Store your saved seeds in the refrigerator in plastic bags.
- Purchase your seed from reliable dealers such as the Gesneriad Society's seed fund and Brazil Plants. Occasionally reliable vendors can be found on websites like Ebay and Etsy, but be careful as there are some hacks selling weed seeds. If the pictures and information is not accurate, or if the vendor is not recommended by a plant loving friend, BEWARE!
- Some seeds may just be waiting for the right time of year or the right conditions (temperature and amount of light). Occasionally some seeds have a naturally low germination rate, so will not produce many seedlings when they do sprout.
- Be sure to check your seed containers often for signs of germination. Gesneriads are so tiny that sometimes they are hard to see when they are first born, This is especially true if you are good at spreading the seed around as you sow, and they are not sown in a clump. Donna said she planted the tiny, dust like seeds of *Begonia hoehniana* several times and the third time, using a hand lens, could see tiny babies. She has begun transplanting the tiny seedlings, as suggested by Dale Martens, even before true leaves appear, as moving seedlings encourages faster growth.
- Another problem could be pests or pathogens. A white mold on the soil surface indicates "damping off" which is a fungus that kills the seeds and seedlings. The "NoDampOff" is supposed to prevent this. Some people believe in sterilizing soil, and a good quality fresh potting mix is generally recommended. It can be challenging to find one on the market without fertilizer.
- There are so many gesneriads, it is hard to know what to expect when you grow from seed. I find that the fastest sprouting seeds are usually *sinningia*, *streptocarpus*, and *smithiantha*. In addition to the right conditions, you also need patience. However, there is nothing like the excitement of seeing tiny green seedlings sprouting all over the soil surface when you peek into your seed container!

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Achimenes* 'Red Elf'



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red'



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Mary Schaeffer's *Kohleria* 'Bud's Stacey Lynn'

Preparing Plants for Show: Your Efforts to Condition Your Plant Could Result in a Blue Ribbon!

By Jim Roberts

Editor's Note: Jim gave a very informative demonstration to five members about how to check your gesneriad plants for 'Condition' during our September 12, 2015 meeting at Behnkes. When preparing your gesneriad plant for a show, condition is a scoring point which accounts for 30- 40% of the 100% point system. These timeless tips are relevant even in 2021 as we prepare for our NCAC September Show! Thank you Jim for updating this timely information.

- You don't want to have a dirty pot (no salt or other stains), spent flower stems, pet hair, weeds in the pot, spots on the leaves or plants hanging out over the pot (unless it's part of the plants growth habit).
- Remove any yellowed leaves and brush off any dirt on the leaves.
- The soil surface under the plant should be cleaned up and spent stems removed.
- Too much perlite showing in the soil will cause points to be deducted from the score. The soil may be covered with small stones or long fibered sphagnum as a dressing but be careful that the covering doesn't detract from the plant or the design.
- You can also use a spray bottle of water to wash off the leaves and adding a drop of Murphy's Oil Soap in the spray bottle will take off any spots on the leaves.
- When showing *Petrocosmea* remove the outer leaves and suckers (unless doing so will compromise the symmetry of the plant). You can replant those suckers for more plants in the future. *Petrocosmea* will readily sucker. You can leave suckers on, especially on *Primulina*. Fortunately, because of their growth habit, *Primulina* don't have to be quite as perfect as in other categories. You can mix flowering and non-flowering *Primulina* in the same display, since variety is good and helps to show diversity in the family.
- If your pot isn't in great shape, slip it inside another pot (often done for support). While gesneriads shows allow slip pots, begonia shows do not allow slip pots.
- Gesneriad shows don't have restrictions on pot size or color, but when using a slip pot, be mindful of both size and color to be sure they are appropriate and don't detract from the plant.
- Jim also demonstrated how to trim the leaves of a plant to remove any imperfections in an inconspicuous way. Jim had an interesting container of scissors that he obtained from a craft shop. The package contained 12 pairs of scissors all of which had different serrated blades for making different patterned cuts. The scissors were used to make cuts which most closely mimicked the leaf's edge growth patterns. Trimming helps to improve symmetry and remove slight blemishes and make the plant look cleaner. Very ingenious!
- If you lose a flower on your show plant, for example while packing, transporting and unpacking it for the show, you can use an egg white paste to glue it back onto the plant.
- A few no no's:
 - Name tags in or on the pot
 - Pet hairs
 - Dust or soil particles on leaves
 - Discolored or brown leaves
 - Old flowers or seed pods
 - Seed pods that were hybridized and labeled are acceptable
 - Perlite showing in soil Condition is a big part of the points score but it is easy to correct prior to the show. Perlite history: Frances Batchelor used to allow the perlite to show up during a show because it demonstrated how the plant was 'really' grown. But then Ben Paternoster took over and did not like the appearance of the perlite in the soil and said it needed to be covered up or top dressed. Current rules are a bit more relaxed. Perlite is a necessary component of our soil mixes. As long as it is clean you should not be penalized. That's not to say covering the top of the soil mix with a neutral gravel won't enhance the overall appearance, just be sure the perlite looks fresh and not brown and crusty with fertilizer buildup or green with algae. This is a good general tip for any soil surface, even those without white perlite.

Bloomin' Now



Jim Robert's : *Aeschynanthus* 'Big Apple' "This one has *Aeschynanthus micranthus* in its parentage so it flowers along the stem, not just at the tips. Unlike *A. micranthus* the flowers aren't tiny and a dull red color."



Jim's *A. Big Apple*: "Looking out of the lattice room on the lanai this set of flowers is perfectly framed."



Jim's *Alsobia baroniae* RM2001-1



Jim: "I haven't decided on a name for this one yet. It's a cross of *Alsobia chiapensis* x *Alsobia baroniae* RM2001-2." 9

Advice from Dale

Question to Dale on Facebook: "I have a new Streptocarpus and it needs to be repotted because it dries out everyday. It is full of flowers and buds.... Should I wait until it stops blooming to repot it? And it has 6 blooms..with more buds coming.....what should I do?"

Dale Martens First, leach the pot of fertilizer salts with 2 cups of room temperature water. Then, because the soil dries out so quickly, I'm going to suggest repotting into a 3-inch pot only this time use a wick. Try not to disturb the roots in the square pot. Remove the root ball, wash the square pot, then use your pot as a mold inside the 3-inch pot. My first photo shows how I position the soaking wet acrylic yarn wick and then add perlite. My second photo shows a Solo to a 3-inch, but study that photo for a couple of reasons. See how I push down firmly soil around the "mold" pot. Then I lay a soaking wet wick around most of the top area. Next step is to put soil over the wet wick. Drop the root ball into the empty area and make sure the plant is slightly higher by at least 1/2 an inch than it is in the current pot. Fill a plastic container with water with fertilizer in it and put the newly potted plant on the reservoir as soon as possible. Make sure the plant keeps "drinking". Any plastic container will do, such as a recycled potato salad or Cool Whip container.

Editor's Note: Jim suggested this for me to do with a blooming Sinningia who's tuber was bulging the pot and it worked beautifully. This method prevents shock to the plant.



Dale Martens First add wet acrylic yarn wick and then add perlite

Add soil mix and soaking wet acrylic yarn on top.

I remove the solo cup and you can see the space to add the root ball. Plus see I've covered the soaking wet wick will soilless mix.

Do You Know Your pH?

By Kitty Hedgepeth

I have recently been experiencing problems with my African violets. They are presenting tight centers, though without the fuzzy aspect that one would associate with mites.

I have had problems with the pH levels in my (City of Richmond, VA) tap water in the past, and in the past, tested my water to find that it had a high pH value. I corrected this by adding one quarter teaspoon of Dyna-gro, a liquid fertilizer with a nutrient ratio of 7-9-5, to one gallon of water. This corrected the pH value of my water to 6.8.

Out of curiosity, I recently rechecked my local tap water and discovered that my pH was 7.8. I tested my tap water with the following fertilizers, one quarter teaspoon to one gallon of water.

- The following are my results:
- Dyna-gro 7-9-5 6.6
 - Peter's 15-16-17 6.5
 - Peter's 12-36-146.6
 - Better Gro 11-35-156.5
 - Violet Gallery 12-31-14 6.8

As you can see, the fertilizer with which you feed your plants can alter the pH levels in your tap water. It is advisable to test your tap water along with your fertilizer of choice. Tight centers can indicate several issues, mites, too much light, but tight centers can also indicate problems with the acidity or alkalinity of your water.

Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Sinningia speciosa* seedlings. "Two from the purple picotee seed that I may have already shared"



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Owlsees Red Hot' "The plant is starting to lean over the sides of the 10" pot in all directions with new growth coming up from the center to fill the gap."

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia conspicua*. "Fragrant and a delightful yellow. I have used its pollen to cross with *Sinningia tubiflora* and have pollinated these blooms with *S. tubiflora* pollen."



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* hybrid seedling. "This Strep has Oryzalin treated parents; unremarkable flower on a very small plant. I am very, VERY pleased with the size reduction across the entire cross #17. Will be trying to source pollen from other *Streptocarpus* minis."

Green Spring Fall Festival & Sale on Saturday, September 25th

The sale runs from 9am to 3pm, please no early sales before 9am. Vendors may set up Friday, September 24, from 7am to 7pm, or Saturday, September 25th from 6am to 8:30 am. One truck may remain on the field. Vendor's employees and vendor volunteers with cars MUST park at the Pinecrest Office Park directly south of the park. Vendors must provide their own tables, chairs and tents (with weights). You must pack up your items and leave the park Saturday after the sale.

Green Spring Gardens will collect 15% of your gross income, or a minimum of a \$60.00 fee as a donation to Green Spring Gardens. A final update and map of with your location will be sent out the week of the sale.

Masks will no longer be required for those who have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Vendors and visitors who have not been fully vaccinated are asked to continue wearing a mask for everyone's safety.

Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa*, *Primulina leprosa*, *Primulina petrocosmoids*
- Janet Carlton..... *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Barry Woolf..... *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'
- Johanna Zinn..... *Pearcea sprucei* and *Nautilocalyx x pictus* 'Jade'
- Kitty Hedgepeth..... *Streptocarpus* 'DS Rediska'



Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Sinningia speciosa* seedling. "Another seedling from the purple picotee seed mix."



Minh's *Aeschynanthus lobbianus* blooming



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Fred's Riverdance'



Carol Hamelink's perfectly grown *Kohleria* 'Snakeskin'

Bloomin' Now



Janet's perfectly grown *Streptocarpus* 'Salmon Sunset' The sister seedling of Lucky Strike. It has a peachy tone in contrast to the pink of Lucky Strike.



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Lucky Strike' the sister seedling of 'Salmon Sunset'. Here you can compare the two sisters!



Dave Anderson's *Sinningia tubiflora* blooming. "My *Sinningia tubiflora* is in a 16 inch pot and it was kept in a cold garage all winter. I would like to plant some in the ground and see if it's totally winter hardy"



Johanna's *Boea hygrosopica* "In nature, this plant is capable of surviving considerable drought, and is sometimes referred to as a "resurrection plant". It shrivels up and appears almost dead, but recovers fully in the presence of moisture. It's species name, *hygrosopica*, refers to this capability." Gesneriad Reference Web

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Achimenes misera*.



Donna's *Sinningia tubiflora*



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Bananas Foster'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Carolyn'

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Diastema racemiferum*: "I really like the coloration on the leaves of this plant. Gesneriad Reference Web: *Diastemas* prefer high humidity; however, mine grow fairly well on open trays with several layers of matting. They also endure regular periods of "drought" (irregular watering)."



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Spring Cloud' which is a Strep hybrid from Violet Barn's Dr. Ralph Robinson.



Barb's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Bristol's Good Morning x Pedra Lisa'

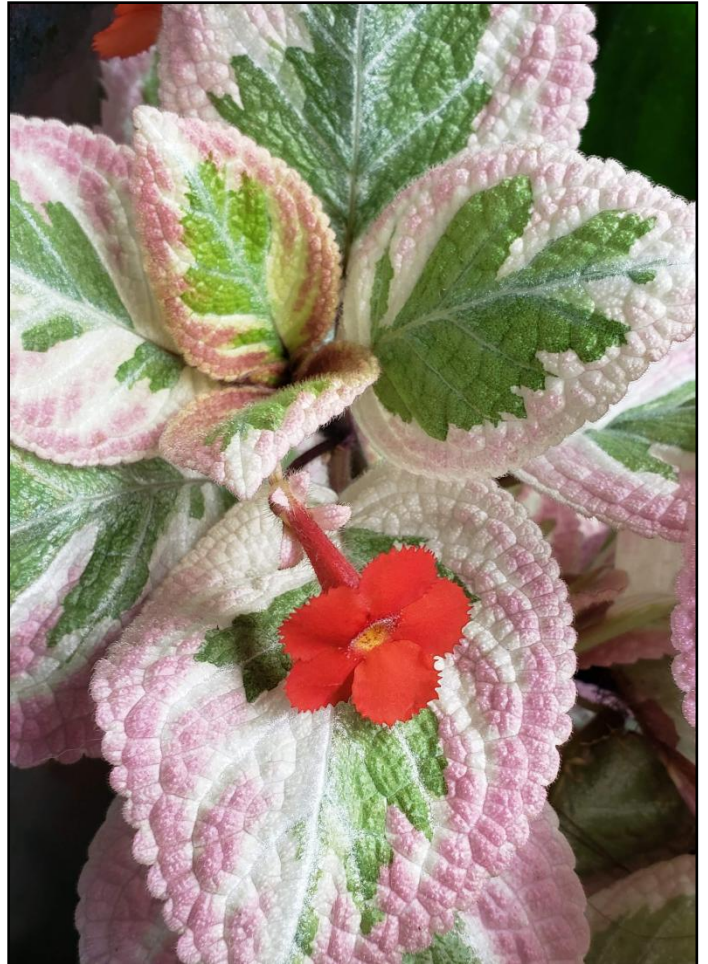


'Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Plastic Fantastic'

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *x**Achimenes* 'Ohio's Never Say Never'
GRW: Hybridized by Daniel Steele of Ohio from an unnamed *Seemannia* hyb. x *Achimenes mexicana*). Cross made 09/2010.



Barb's *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' is "unpredictable in its leaf coloration. It is reported that every plant exhibits a different combination of white, green and pink." GRW



Sharon's Mini *Sinningia* 'Whimsey', "a very old favorite." Sharon entered it in 1990 and 2007 and won Blue ribbons. A miracle she still has it. Sharon and another member kept it going because they both loved it. They would share if one of them lost it! It is listed in the first quarter editions of 1998 & 2000 "The Gloxinian". Thanks Sharon for sharing this little know treasure!



Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Carolyn' (Pink Star) 2020



Same plant 2021



Donna: "Last year I shared this observation on the back of my *Sinningia* 'Carolyn' bloom. There is a darker pink star shape on the back of the blooms on this particular plant. I call it *Sinningia* 'Carolyn' (Pink Star) as a convenience on my labeling! I crossed it today with *Sinningia conspicua* pollen. A big plus as it is very fragrant just like 'Carolyn'.

Request from member Nadya Warther-Gibson

"Hello! I am looking for someone with a microscope (that does x400 magnification or higher), who knows how to mount plant slides, to compare stomata sizes on 4 to 6 *Streptocarpus* leaves. Ability to take comparison photos would be great, but not necessary. Willing to pay in cash or interesting plants. Nadya" : waxwinged@gmail.com



Hello Mr. Gesneriad

Might you know the name of this hybrid as I have lost the label. I think I received it from an NCAC plant raffle. It has been in the greenhouse and the label wore off. Thanks, Barry



Mr. Gesneriad: Yes Barry. This plant is *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Red Feather'. It's a double-calyx sinningia where the calyx has taken on the appearance of extra petals.

The original mutation was called *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Red Coat' but was very difficult to propagate. Then Mike Kartuz started propagating it by seed and naming the various plants according to the flower color: red feather, pink feather, peach feather, white feather.

The plant is still impossible to propagate from cuttings, but will propagate also by seed.

President: Minh Bui
Minhbui82@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Barbara Stewart
Bstew771@verizon.net

Treasurer: vacant
Treasurer's Assistant: Andy Meier
Orchids00001@yahoo.com

Secretary: Carol Hamelink

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

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Membership: Peggy MacDonald
Ways and Means: Brian Connor
Show Chairman: Bill Schmidt

Directors:
Donna Beverin
Bill Schmidt
Peggy MacDonald

NCAC website:
www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

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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 You can send your payment to NCAC into our Assistant Treasurer, Andy Meier via PayPal using the email address: ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com. Please include a note with your Name, Address, Phone number & email address.

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. You can subscribe on line also.

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

Dear Gesneriphile, The National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society will be hosting its first show in several years. We will be one of the first chapters to do so since the start of the pandemic. I am writing in hopes of collecting donations to be awarded for the various plants/collections that many of us have been growing with pride this last year. Every dollar counts and no award is too small. Please designate the award you want or write in 'unspecified' to be used at the Awards Chair's discretion. We hope to see you at the show, but if not, look forward to the announcement of the winners and photos of the plants on social media! Thank you!

Cheers, Minh Bui Awards Chair

Donation Form for Awards to the
National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Show
September 10-12, 2021
Homestead Gardens. 743 West Central Avenue Davidsonville, MD 21035

Donor's Name : _____

Donor's Address/Location : _____

Amount (in US dollars)
Example: \$25.00

Designated Award / Unspecified
Example: Best New Hybrid

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Please send donations by August 27, 2021 at the latest!

Please make checks payable to:

NCACOTGS

Mail payment and completed form to:

Andy Meier Treasurer NCACOTGS

4712 Perch Place Alexandria, VA 22309