

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 52 Number 12

December 2021



Close up of Donna's *Smithiantha multiflora*

President's Message:

Time sure flies and this year flew by. Our club was one of the first to hold a successful in-person show safely and with great attendance, thanks to your hard work and persistence. We had a great year and I'm looking forward to what next year has in store, including the much anticipated National convention. In the meantime, please enjoy some time with your plants, have a happy holidays, and a wonderful New Year! Minh

National Capital Area Chapter of the
Gesneriad Society
Topic: NCAC December Meeting
Time: Dec 11, 2021 10:30 AM EST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88302870909?pwd=ektvNG8zVE1DSzVpQm1SYzVkWmFJUT09>

Meeting ID: 883 0287 0909
Passcode: 927006



Intergenerics

Dale Martens dalemartens@mchsi.com
Courtess of Gleanings June 2014

An intergeneric hybrid is the offspring of a cross between two different genera (plural of genus). For example, if one crosses *Smithiantha* with *Achimenes*, the resulting hybrid is an intergeneric.

In general, the name of a hybrid genus is a combination of the names of the two parent genera. The hybrid genus name is preceded by the x symbol (times sign, not the letter "x"). This symbol is not pronounced as part of the name. For example, the established name for the intergeneric between *Smithiantha* and *Achimenes*, no matter which was the seed (mother) parent is xAchimenantha.

In addition, if that new hybrid is used as a parent — either selfed (pollen placed on its own stigma) or crossed with *Smithiantha* or *Achimenes* — the result is still xAchimenantha.

Our show schedule has classes that include intergenerics, such as "Seemannia and its intergeneric hybrids."

Right now, intergeneric hybrids are the next big thing. Although some intergeneric hybrids date back a long time, there is currently a renewed interest in this type of cross. Many hybridizers are working with various intergeneric possibilities, some successful and others not, and they have recently released many new such hybrids. Some established names of gesneriad intergenerics and their pronunciation include:

xAchicodonia (*Achimenes* x *Eucodonia*) "uh kick oh DOAN ee uh"

xAchimenantha (*Achimenes* x *Smithiantha*) "uh kim uh NAN tha"

xCodonatanthus (*Codonanthe* x *Nematanthus*) "code oh nah TAN thus"

xGlokoheria (*Gloxinia* x *Kohleria*) "glow ko LAIR ee uh"

xGloximannia (*Gloxinia* x *Seemannia*) "glox ih MAN ee uh"

xHeppimenes (*Heppiella* x *Achimenes*) "hep IM uh neez"

xKoellikohleria (*Koellikeria* x *Kohleria*) "ko ell ih ko LAIR ee uh"

xNiphimenes (*Niphaea* x *Achimenes*) "nye FIM ih neez"

xPhinastema (*Phinaea* x *Diastema*) "fine uh STEAM uh"

xSmithicodonia (*Smithiantha* x *Eucodonia*) "smith ih co DOAN ee uh"



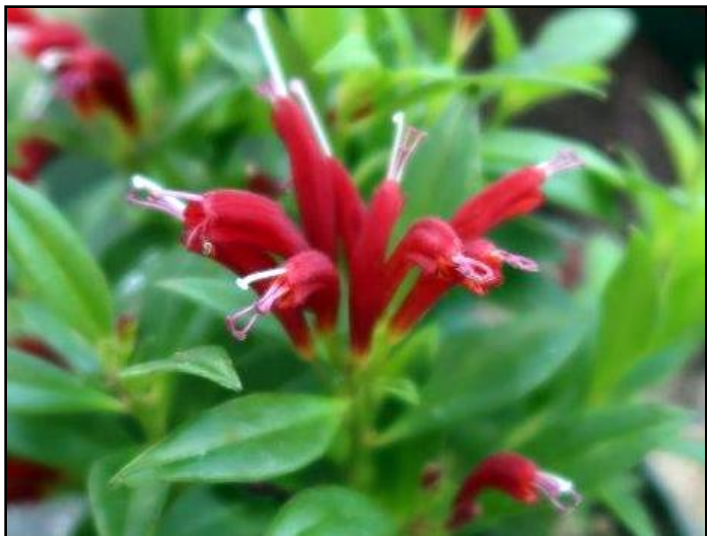
Barb Stewart's intergeneric plant
blooming:
xAchimenantha 'Ohio's Never
Say Never'

Why try to create intergenerics? Sometimes it's simply a matter of curiosity as to whether the two genera will cross. That is often my motivation. I particularly like the xAchimenantha and xSmithicodonia crosses because the main stems on the new seedlings are sometimes thicker, stronger and shorter, thus making a more compact plant.

BLOOM'IN NOW



Nadya's maroon *Streptocarpus* grown from her hybridized seeds



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus* 'Big Apple'



Johanna's *Sinningia* 'Pink Pockets' was damaged and died after a storm in summer. Most of its leaves were damaged. Recently it started re-growing leaves and now has two good sized blooms.



Johanna's mini *Sinningia* NOID

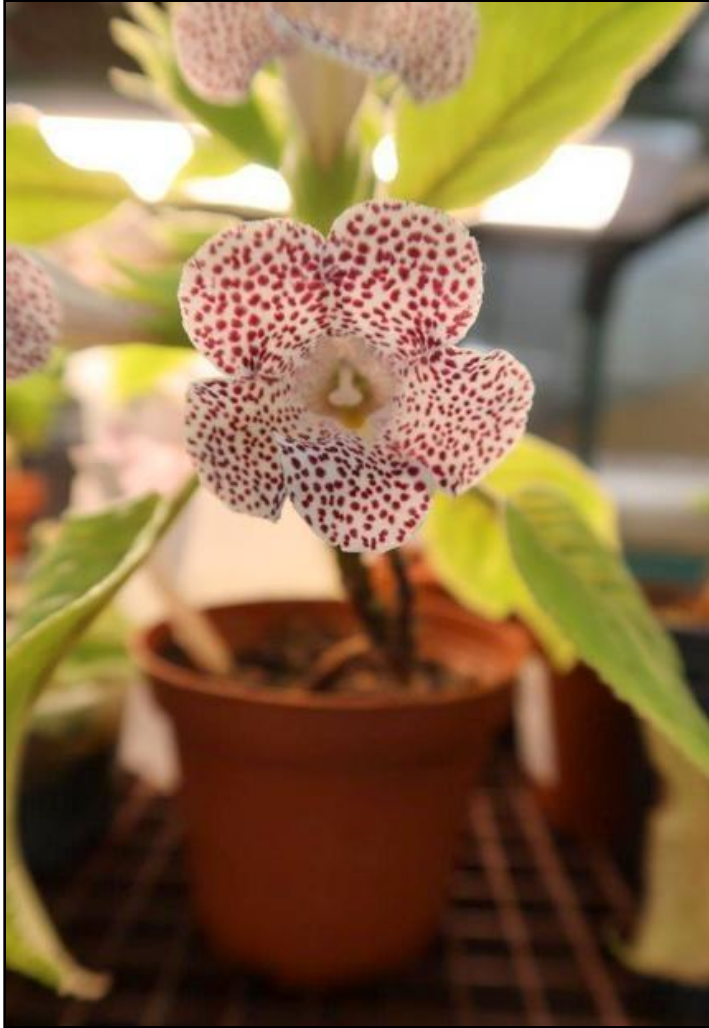
BLOOM'IN NOW



Johanna's *Sinningia bullata*



Johanna's *Sinningia nordestina* sprouting



Johanna's *Sinningia guttata*



BLOOM'IN NOW



Barb's *Microchirita micromusa*



Barb's arrangement with *Sinningia speciosa* NOID



x*Achicodonia* 'Rf's Lapslazuli'

BLOOM'IN NOW



Kitty's *Koheria* 'Snakeskin'



Barb's *Koheria* 'Strawberry Shortcake'



Barb's *Primulina petrocasmoides*



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'

BLOOM'IN NOW

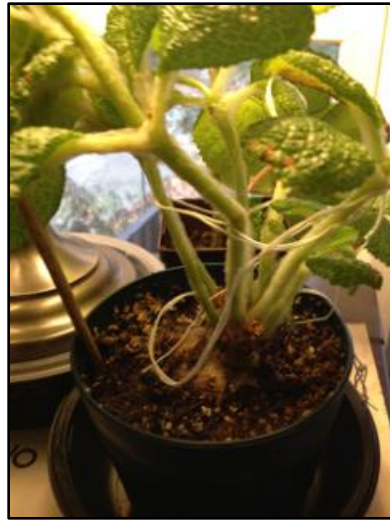


Barb's *Sinningia eumorpha*



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'

Hello Mr. Gesneriad: A friend has this what-I-think is a Sinningia. It is currently being grown under LEDs but has gotten leggy. Should it be pruned back or dried off to make dormant? Carol Allen



Mr.G: "That appears to be *Sinningia bullata*, one of the very high light species that never really goes dormant. It will just keep growing longer and longer stems, and if the light is high enough will never be out of flower. Seeing that it isn't currently in flower, and that the stems are weak, it needs MORE light. That can be achieved through putting the plant closer to the lights, adding more LED tubes, or increasing the length of time that the lights are on."

Of course none of these options will work if growing this Sinningia alongside lower light plants such as African Violets or Begonia.

To fix the current plant (assuming higher light is a possibility) cut the stems off about 6" above the tuber. It should not be forced into dormancy. New shoots will emerge from the tuber and the stems that are there will likely branch and continue growing. "

BLOOM'IN NOW



Johanna's *Kohleria* NOID from raffle table.



Johanna's x*Achimenes* 'Heartland's Joy'



From the Far Reaches Farm website:
Initially, we placed this in the genus *Loxostigma* but upon flowering, the arrangement and shape didn't quite fit. Fortunately, FRBC taxonomist Cody Hinchliff keyed it out. This is from the Vietnam - Yunnan border region which is a hot spot of Gesneriaceae. Large pink flowers on a vigorous plant. Protect from freezing.



Johanna's *Henckelia urticifolia*. A picture of *Chirita urticifolia* (by the way, *urticifolia* means nettle-like leaves.)

Dale Marten's Educational Tip



Kohleria, *Smithiantha*, *Achimenes*, *Eucodonia*, gesneriads with rhizomes can be broken into scales and each scale has the potential to grow into a small plant. The first time they become plants, they will be smaller, but you will see flowers and the plants will make normal rhizomes. This is a way to get a Summer blooming plant in the Spring if you plant rhizomes now. Lay rhizomes on top of moist, not muddy mix in a container with a lid. Make sure you add a little water once a week because as roots form, water will be absorbed from the soilless mix.



Young *Kohleria* plant from one scale, see arrow.



Kohleria blooming from a scale!

BLOOM'IN NOW



Donna's *Smithiantha multiflora*, a species true from seed



Johanna's *Nematanthus*, unsure of its name

Sinningia concinna 'Seropedica'



Johanna's *Sinningia concinna* 'Seropedica' growing from one of Donna's seedlings.



Sinningia concinna 'Seropedica' : A few of the variety of blooms found on the seedlings Donna grew from Mauro's Brazil Plants seeds.



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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.

National 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/>

The Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society and Lakeshore African Violet societies are planning on having their spring shows in 2022. Here is the information:

The Lakeshore African Violet Society of Toronto will be holding their Annual Show & Sale

Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm

St. Philip's Lutheran Church,

61 West Deane Park Drive,
Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 2S1

Free Admission and parking

Theme: "Let's Celebrate"

Website: <https://lakeshoreavs.com/>

For more information please contact Beverley Williams Show Chairman at beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com or T.905-620-1149

Or contact Doris Brownlie at T. 905-270-6776