

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 53 Number 12

December 2022



Kitty's prize winning *Sinningia cardinalis* erroneously named 'Sky Diver' at the MAAVS show is actually *Sinningia cardinalis* peloric hybrid per Mel Grice.

Saturday, December 10, 2022 Holiday Party
[Zoom link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83939844505?pwd=ZDQvZEZorKl4bUldWNmMUIlQmJmdz09)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83939844505?pwd=ZDQvZEZorKl4bUldWNmMUIlQmJmdz09>
Dec 10th Holiday party at Minh's home
Proposed meetings for 2023.
January, March, June, September, October, December



Barb Borleske's *Deinostigma tamiana* getting a blue ribbon at the MAAVS show.

President's Message:

What a year it has been and what a term I've had! The last two years, we managed to put on one of the first and successful plant shows as the country began opening up after Covid. We also put on a fun mini-show in September 2022. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and plenty of precious time to spend with your loved ones and plants! Looking forward to a new year and a new NCAC President to lead and guide us for the next two years!

Minh Bui

Nominating Committee: Barbara, Dena, and Johanna

The committee proposed the following slate of officers for a vote in December 2022.

President: Barbara Stewart
Vice President: Minh Bui
Secretary: Dena Horton
Treasurer: Andy Meier
Directors: Donna Beverin, Bill Schmidt, & Peggy MacDonald

Bloomin' Now

Barb Borleske: "These photos show a huge fall-blooming *Sinningia* that I've had for several years. It spends the summer on my patio, coming in the house before the nights get really chilly. It usually begins to bloom at the end of October, continuing until early December when I cut it back. If anyone knows what this is, please let me know!"

Note from editor: "I asked Hung Nguyen who suggested *Sinningia reitzii* 'Saltao' due to the blooming time and I verified on Brazil Plants: <https://www.brazilplants.com/gesneriaceae/sinningia/sinningia-reitzii-S.html> <https://gesneriads.info/genera/sinningia-reitzii/>



Barb Borleski: "This *Nematanthus* 'Ubatuba' has crazy mixed up flowers that emerge twisted away from each other! It's a large plant that is fortunately very tolerant of lower light and humidity."

Barb Borleski's *Smithiantha* 'Little One' "I am not terribly fond of *Smithiantha* because in my conditions they seem to be prone to mildew and they don't flower for a long period of time. They also grow quite large; however, this small cultivar is challenging my assumptions! No mildew, a small plant, colorful leaves, and an abundance of flowers! What is not to like!"

Another World Terraria

Editor's note: Wanted to share this gesneriad I read about on Facebook

This stunning gesneriad is endemic to Ecuador. It is supposedly *Nautilocalyx ecuadoranus*, which is extremely variable in appearance. Some forms have mostly green foliage with a flat texture, and some forms, such as this one, have colorful leaves and a mind-blowing bullate texture. The trumpet-like white flowers with purple flecks are really delightful. It grows best in a moist but well-drained substrate (such as sphagnum with perlite) and high humidity. Feel free to check out my (Matthew Schwartz) YouTube channel and website for videos about rare, mini, and micro plants, and amazing terrariums, including some videos showing how I made some of my terrariums and other nature displays. Matthew Schwartz, creator and founder, self-proclaimed miniature-plant and moss addict, photographer, and DIY nut.

<https://www.youtube.com/@AnotherWorldTerraria>



Bloomin' Now



Barb Borleske's *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Ripple'
"I don't grow *Streptocarpus* very well so I keep only a few that are the best, in my opinion. This one, origin unknown, has been in my collection for many years and never fails to put on a nice head of bloom. In cool temps the flowers are long-lasting."



Barb Borleske's *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana'
"Every Gesneriad lover should grow this plant! The leaves are gorgeous: very dark and shiny. The attractive orange flowers seem to last forever because the calyces do not drop and hold their color for months! This plant summers on my deck and then has a prominent place on the sun porch for the cold months. So easy to grow and tolerant of varying conditions."

Bloomin' Now



Jim Roberts: "Many years ago I got seed of a dark flowered version of *Microchirita involucrata* from Tuck Lock. It grew, flowered, set seed, died back and came back from seed. Year after year. Last year I left all my *Microchirita* out on the lanai. They set seed and died. I brought in the dead pots but never got around to collecting any of the seed. We'll this plant wasn't going to accept that. It somehow managed to get a seed into a pot of Jewel Orchids. It germinated this Summer (6 months after I brought dead momma into the house). Now it's blooming again. This is one plant that just won't let me stop growing it."

Comment from Gphiles to Jim when he was not sure of the name of his survivor seedling:
 "Jim's plant is *Microchirita involucrata*. The colour is much darker than what I get over here. Many years ago, I sent to the Seed Fund seeds from a darker form. This could be it.
 Cheers, Tuck Lock"

Editor: Jim, hope you can save some of those seeds for us!!!

Hi, Mr. Gesneriad,
 I purchased a *Michaelmoeller vietnamensis* late last summer. I have a few questions about its care. Does it need terrarium care? I have been growing it in one to make certain that I don't lose it since I don't know what humidity levels are appropriate. How much light does it need? I included a photo of the bloom to see if the color is gives you a clue. How should it be propagated? I took leaf cuttings, and they have young leaves coming up from the moss. The plant had to squeeze into my collection in an area that doesn't have the best light and the plant is a bit lanky. It's in better light now, so it should be happier. Can I remove the top section and root it? Should it be grown with just one crown, or should I let it do its thing?
 Thank you, Johanna



Mr. G; "*Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis* grows very much like *Primulina* it doesn't require terrarium conditions but since it has been growing in one it might brown around the edges if taken out now. It can be started from leaves and divided into plants very much like *Primulina*, *Streptocarpus* (*Saintpaulia*) and many *Begonia*. It can also be started from tip or stem cuttings. Gesneriad shows have no rules about growing plants single or multi-crowned, and this one has been exhibited both ways. The key is to have it balanced and pleasing to the eye. It shouldn't look crowded or lop-sided. Finally, it's not a high light plant. Too much light will bleach the leaves and cause the pattern on the leaves to fade. But it obviously wants more light than Johanna has been giving it. Something more along the lines of girl-leaved *Saintpaulia* or *Begonia prismatocarpa*."



Bloomin' Now



Barb Borleske's : "*Primulina* 'Silver Surfer' This is an oldie but very desirable *Primulina*. It's a well behaved plant, keeping its rosette of beautiful leaves through hot summer days and chilly winter nights on my sunporch. Many of my *Primulinas* are grown in natural light on the enclosed porch, showing high tolerance for temperature and light changes. Many bloom in the fall and early winter. I wish someone could develop cultivars with non-dropping flowers!"



Barb Borleske's *Primulina* 'Kitaguna' : "Another older hybrid that has been a favorite of mine for many years. I love the yellow flowers! It's parentage must include *P. lutea* which I killed when I tried to grow it. I've tried using *P. 'Kitaguni'* in my attempts to hybridize *Primulina*, and three times I've had seed pods appear to develop but they never contain any seed."



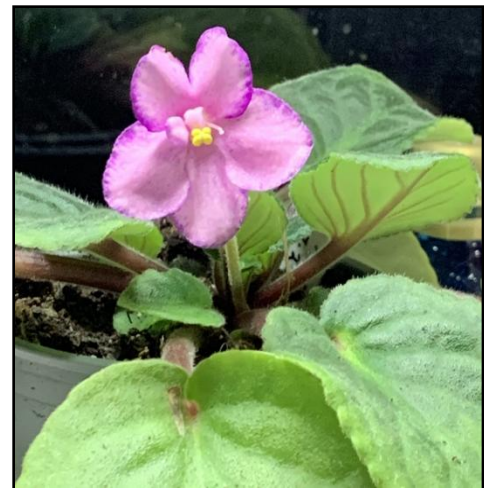
Donna's *Sinningia leucotricha* re-sprouting & grown from seed spring 2021 and transplanted 4/16/2021. Time to move to a larger pot as tuber is getting big!



Donna's *Aeschynanthus fulgens* previously evrardii



Donna's *Sinningia bullata x conspicua* at various stages of blooming. Challenging to get a good picture of the entire plant as it has the tendency to sprawl like its *bullata* parent. The picture on the right is from <http://www.burwur.net/sinns/4xBull.htm> where Jim Steuerlein's cross has more of an orange bloom, where mine is red.



Donna's *Saintpaulias*. Noids from various sources.
 • Pink I believe is Optimara 'Michele'.
 • White is a mini NOID from Pepper's.
 • Purple is probably an Optimara and look close to some on their website.

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Saintpaulia* 'Jersey Starlight' a semi mini trailer



Barb B.'s MAAVS's winner: *Kohleria* 'Bud's Strawberry Shortcake'



Doug Bolt's beautiful *Streptocarpus*. He has recovered from a mealy infestation.



Some of Nadya's flowers from *Streptocarpus* that she hybridizes and one that grows outside in her area! All beautiful!



Donna's southeast window supplemented with LED. "My x*Gloximannia* 'She's Dancing' still putting out blooms after life on the deck during summer. I bought it from Maria at our 2021 show. The *Smithiantha* is a seedling grown by Barb Borleski and I purchased it at our 2021 show. Survived a year of dormancy due to lack of attention. Sprouted up and needed repotting but was doing so well I just let it go and gave it a lot of water. (wicked). I cross pollinated the *Smithiantha* with G. 'She's Dancing'. The *Smithiantha* does have plumping seed pods that Irena Serednyaya verified are seedpods! (Irena is an expert with *Smithiantha* : See pic below left). I just love the orange color of the *Smithianantha* and hope to harvest many rhizomes.



Donna: "This is a picture of the drying flowers and the seed pods forming on the *Smithianantha*."

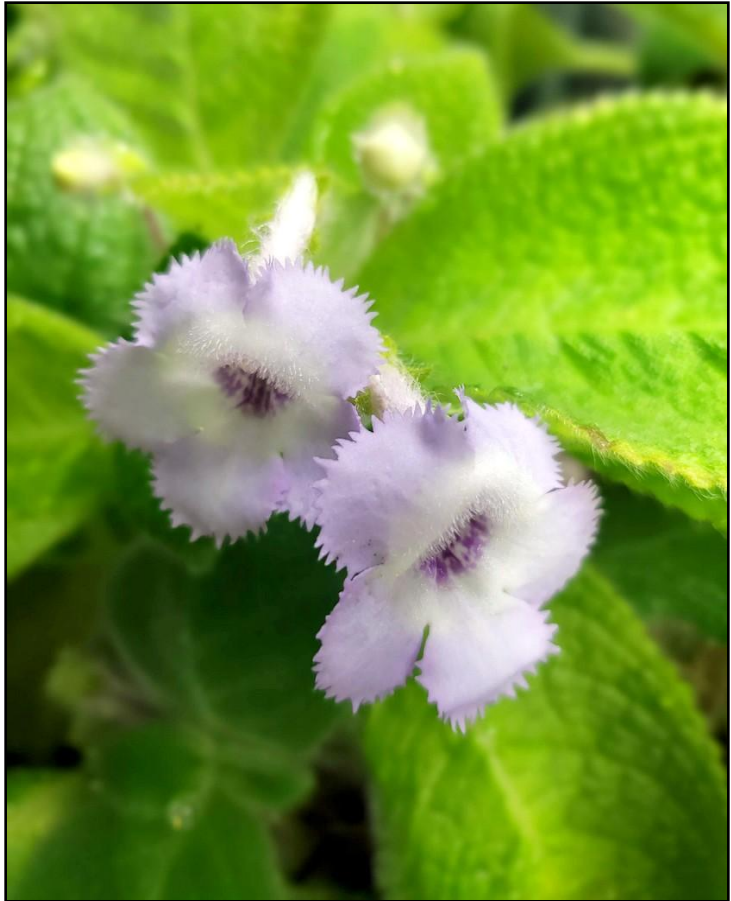


Donna's *Saintpaulia* 'Owlsee Strength'

Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewart's *Gloxina* 'Dragonsong'



Barb Stewart's *Episcia fimbriata* 'Blue Heaven'



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia harleyi*



Bill's MAAVS Design "Prosperity"



Barb Borleske's *Deinostigma tamiana*



Minh's *Streptocarpella* 'Dancing Doves' is a blue ribbon winner at MAAVS



Barb B.'s *Streptocarpus* Ladyslipper Grape Ice'



Barb B.'s *xSeemakohleria* 'Owlsee Seeman Cole' an intergeneric gesneriad not often seen!



xSeemakohleria 'Owlsee Seeman Cole'. This intergeneric hybrid by our member, Alcie Maxwell.



Barb Borleske's *Saintpaulia* 'Jolly Sunday'

Saintpaulia Info' I did not know!

Donna Beverin

At the MAAVS's show a few weeks ago I was pleased to find Alcie Maxwell's hybrid called *Saintpaulia* 'Owlsee Strength' for sale on the Lyndon Lyon's table. Alcie made the cross and Karyn Cichocki grew out the seeds and chose this little beauty with 'girl' leaves.

I learned from Mr. Gesneriad that girl leaves need less light than other violets. I love the purple/blue blooms and they are held very high above the foliage. Karyn said she originally classified it as a 'standard', but she is reassessing and thinks she may change it to a semi-miniature. It is growing under 8 inches for most growers."

Since this purchase I have learned other tidbits about Avs with girl leaves.

Hoover's Hybrids Facebook page mentioned "That was fast! Girl foliage always seems to produce plantlets faster and in greater quantities than traditional foliage. I'm not certain why this foliage type propagates more quickly than traditional foliage, but it does. It also has a tendency to be much more prolific when it comes to plantlet production."

Good news for us propagators!

On FB I also found a group page called **African Violet Girl Foliage** and there are many varieties listed with the comments from their owners. I felt confident it was a good site when I saw Andy and Andrew are members! Some recommendations are:

Dolly Dimples

Ruth's Girl

Shirl's Freckled Face

Goldilocks

Milady

Girl

Heinz My Girl

Dora

Fay's Madeline

Shirl's Purple Passion

Little Miss Muffet

Peppermint Girl

Painted Silk

Cupie Doll

Heavenly Girl

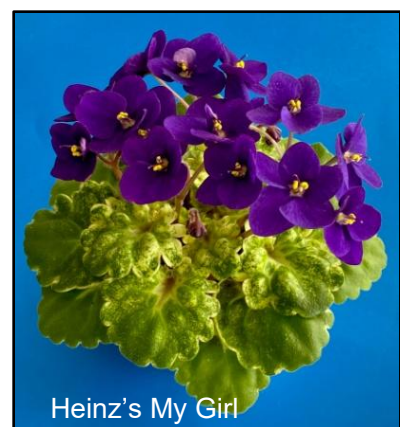
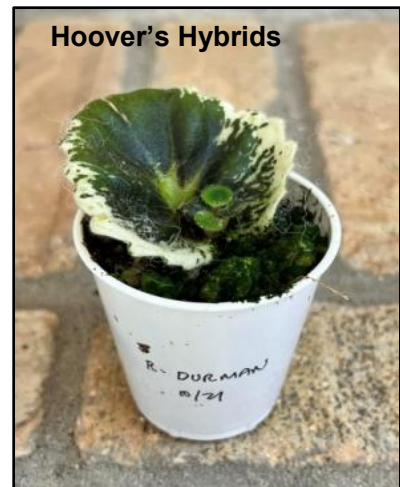
Maid In Japan

Little Bo Peep

Silly Girl

Pink Eyed Jenny

Jungle Princess



Violet Barn website explains: "girl" foliage is described as "deeply scalloped, with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf". It has nothing to do with the sex of the plant (a violet can be either parent), and instead, refers to its ancestry, 'Blue Girl' being the first variety having this type of foliage. The "deep scalloping" and usually curly nature of the foliage is what makes it difficult to deal with. Leaf blades are rarely smooth and flat, so that good symmetry is harder to achieve.

They can make good show plants, though, if the grower is diligent in keeping unnecessary rows of outer leaves removed. Doing this allows the inner rows of leaves some room to lay flat, and accommodates their curly nature. If outer leaves are not regularly pruned away, the plant takes on a "bunched" appearance. Not only does this spoil symmetry, but it inhibits the production of flower buds."



Girl: Leaves with stem growing into the leaf blade causing a distinct lighter color marking at the base, often accompanied with deeply scalloped edges.

www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org

Donna's *S. Owlsee Strength*



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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/>



Virginia is for Gesneriad Lovers

July 3 to July 8, 2023

The Richmond area convention team invites you to attend The Gesneriad Society's 66th Annual Convention

"VIRGINIA IS FOR GESNERIAD LOVERS"

Venue: The Westin Richmond
Hotel in the Near West End of town



Donna's *Saintpaulia* 'Pixie Blue'. Keeping it near the kitchen sink window has kept it going since 2021 by some miracle.