

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 52 Number 1

January 2021



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* she hybridized and grew from seed!

## Message from the President: Minh Bui

The new year brings the promise of a new beginning. Due to the pandemic, last year, the term EXPOSURE had a negative connotation. In 2021, we are taking that word back and giving it a positive spin. This year, I want EXPOSURE to be the primary motivation for NCAC. We must expose ourselves to other local Gesneriad clubs and experts from around the country, expose the public to this fantastic family of plants, and expose and highlight the many talented growers and designers in our club to others. I encourage everyone to show their plants virtually on social media through our Facebook group, continue growing your favorite Gesneriad species or hybrid for our show this year, and I'm looking forward to working with everyone this year.

Cheers, Minh

Editor note: Agenda and Minutes attached to end of Petal Tones

NCAC November meeting is Saturday,  
January 9, 2021  
10:30 AM Eastern Time

**"Take Great Pictures of Your Gesneriads"**  
by Julie Mavity-Hudson

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86312831796?pwd=bnRicyZTR0N0ZTNRYnVBNys0L1c1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 863 1283 1796  
Passcode: 524900

To Join or renew your membership to NCAC please send a check to our Treasurer, Dave Anderson. His address is located on our Membership list or you can send the editor an email at [petaltones@gmail.com](mailto:petaltones@gmail.com). Dues are \$10 per calendar year. Alternatively you can send your payment via PayPal using the email address: [ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com](mailto:ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com)

Next Month: David Dick will give a program on growing African Violets for show



Longwood's Christmas displays extended to January 17, 2021 after having to close for Covid.

## "Take Great Pictures of Your Gesneriads"

by Julie Mavity-Hudson

Our guest speaker, Julie Mavity-Hudson, will be sharing her expertise in photographing gesneriads this month.

Julie first started growing Gesneriads at age 10 when her grandmother introduced her to Achimenes and African Violets. She joined both The Gesneriad Society (then the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society) and the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in 1979, and has been active in both ever since. In the Tennessee Gesneriad Society, she has been Newsletter Editor for many years, and has served as President three times, as well as Secretary.

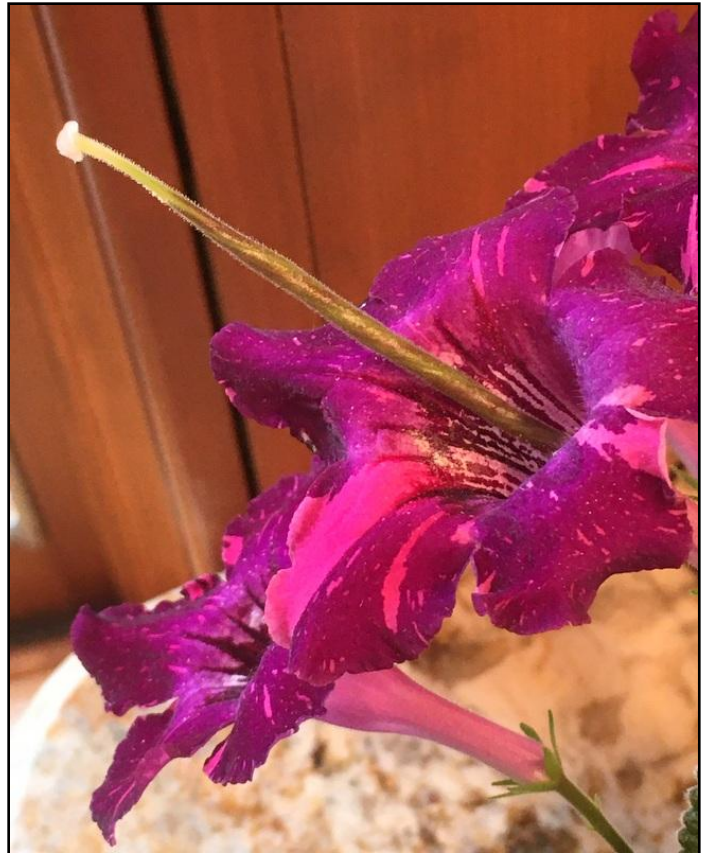
She is currently Vice President. In The Gesneriad Society, Julie has served as Photography Chair since 1999, Webmaster since 2004, and President from 2015-2019. She is currently on the Board of Directors and is Corresponding Secretary. Julie has given many talks, both locally and nationally on a number of subjects, including photography.

She has written many articles for both her local publication, Gesneri-Eds and Gesneriads, the journal of The Gesneriad Society. Many of her Gesneriad photos have been published in Gesneriads and Gesneri-Eds, as well as in a few books and newspapers.

Julie has been a serious photographer most of her life, having been introduced to it by her father who was also a serious photographer who taught photography at the high school level. She has taken many photography classes, both in high school and college, and spent many years doing darkroom work, both for pleasure and for her work in the field of neuroscience where she had many of her microscopy photos published.

We are looking forward to learning her techniques for taking beautiful pictures of our Gesneriads.

## Bloomin' Now



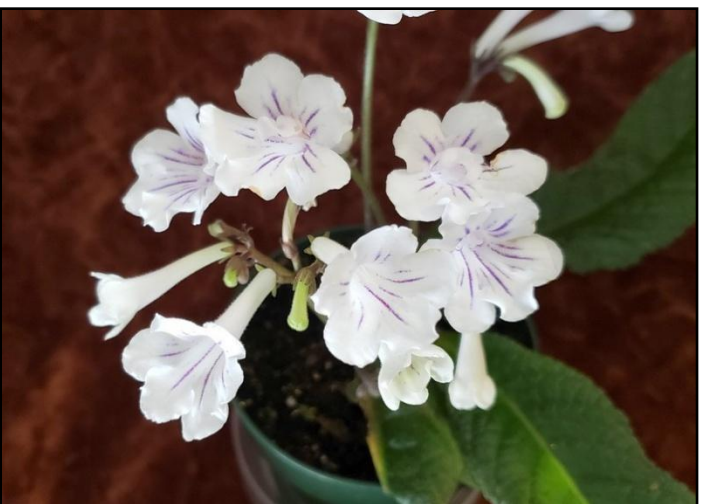
Janet's unusual Strep: "The pink bloom is a sport of *Streptocarpus* 3S-Fernweh, which periodically throws a sport on another otherwise normal plant. The second photo is of a normal fantasy bloom of 3S-Fernweh with a seed pod that is still growing."



# Bloomin' Now



Nadya Warthen-Gibson: "Here's a few photos of new *Streptocarpus* seedlings from..hmm.. let's call it "Nadya's amateur breeding program" ? ;-) After almost 3 years at it, it feels great to finally be getting interesting results. "



Barb Stewart's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Lollipop'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Bubblegum Pink'

## Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa*, *Primulina leprosa*, *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts'
- Janet Carlton.....*Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Barry Woolf..... *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Innocent' & *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'
- Johanna Zinn..... *Pearcea sprucei* and *Nautilocalyx x pictus* 'Jade'
- Nadya Warthen-Gibson ..... *Streptocarpus* :fresh pollen from a fantasy type and/or green edged (DEM hybrids)
- Barb Koski ..... *Drymonia variegata*
- Kitty Hedgepeth..... *Streptocarpus* 'DS Rediska'





# BLOOMIN' NOW



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Peppermint'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Cat Scratch'

Barb: "Here are some streps that I ordered from Violet Barn last summer and fall. They are really good bloomers. Bristol's streps are hybridized by Violet Barn. The Strep 'Iced Artistry' x 'Neil's Winchester' is from seeds I ordered through the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association. The seed fund is a benefit of membership in the group."



Barb's S. 'Iced Artistry x Neil's Winchester'



Donna's *Sinningia bullata x conspicua*. "I have rooted cuttings to share and this plant is a non stop bloomer that does not go dormant unless I force it."



# BLOOMIN' NOW

Jim Roberts "Now that the weather down here (Florida) has cooled off a bit the *Sinningia* are really going to town."



Jim's *Sinningia conspicua x bullata*



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet'



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Isla's Gorgeous'



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Kevin Garnett'



Jim's *Sinningia amambeyensis*



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Owsees Red Hot'



Close up of *S.* 'Owsees Red Hot'



# BLOOMIN' NOW



Kitty Hedgepeth's *Sinningia helleri* x self close up and top view from raffle. Seedling from Barb Koski.



Kitty's *Sinningia helleri* x self buds



Kitty's blooming plant labeled: *Sinningia* 'California Dreaming' but looks like *S.* 'YMA' per Mr. Gesneriad.



# Bloomin' Now



Bill's amazing *Codonatanthus* 'Sunset'. "*Codonatanthus* 'Sunset' grown to this length during the summer on the porch and now blooming in the house." This is an intergeneric hybrid of *Codonanthe* and *Nematanthus*.

*Codonanthe* grow well in a well-drained soilless mix and under a 2-lamp fluorescent light shelf. Higher humidity levels well over 50% would induce better flowering and

fruit production. *Codonanthe* species are epiphytes with a trailing growth habit. They grow well in hanging baskets. Their ease of culture, small size, and ease of bloom make them easier to grow than other epiphytic gesneriads like *Nematanthus*, *Columnnea*, and *Aeschynanthus*; however, their small, white blossoms are not as showy as the blossoms of those other genera. See article on next page about *Codonanthe*.



Johanna's "*Amalophyllon rupestre* continues to bloom. I'm hoping that it will produce some seed."



Johanna's "*Sinningia* 'Party Dress' has been bloom for a month or so, and has many more blooms forming."

# The Companion Genera: Codonanthe, Nematanthus and xCodonanthus

Editor's Note: This article is adapted from the slide script which accompanied the slide presentation titled "**The Companion Genera from the Gesneriad Society**" which was shown at the October 12, 2010 DAVS meeting. Much of the information in the script was based on information made available to participants at the Gesneriad Research Foundation seminars on the "**Biology of Codonanthe and the Biology of Nematanthus**" as well as during the GRF Study trips to Central and South America by Dr. Hans Wiehler. Prepared by Quentin Schlieder, Editor DAVS's Newsletter November 2010.

Codonanthe and Nematanthus are referred to as The Companion Genera because they are the only two genera in the family Gesneriaceae with a chromosome number of 8. Because of this, the two genera have been easily crossed to form the intergeneric combination called xCodonanthus.

In general, these plants are quite durable and can be grown with relative ease. They have fleshy leaves and grow epiphytically in their native habitats in the tropical Americas in partial or full sunlight. There are around 20 species of Codonanthe found in tropical rainforests from sea level to about 5500 feet.

This is *Codonanthe gracilis*, the "type species" for the genus, first discovered in 1829.

Codonanthes make good basket plants as their growth habit is usually pendant. In their native rainforest areas, they are usually found in trees or growing on cliffs or moss covered rocks. With sufficient humidity, they root easily at the nodes and naturally cling to or climb up these surfaces. Most Codonanthes grow in association with ants. The Codonanthe plant provides a structure for the nest as well as food in the form of nectar and in the form of the nutritious, gelatinous food bodies called funiculi or arils attached to the seeds. The ants provide the plant with a rich organic soil in the humus and accumulated ant litter. They also disperse the Codonanthe seeds as they are shaped and colored like ant eggs, and the worker ants are stimulated to pick them up and carry them off to their ant gardens. In addition, the ants provide protection against predators such as herbivorous insects.

The name "Codonanthe" comes from the Greek "kodon" meaning bell-shaped, and "anthe" meaning flower. Most of the species have small white flowers which are pollinated by male and female Euglossine bees in search of nectar. Unusual in the Gesneriaceae, Codonanthes have two types of fruit — berries and fleshy capsules.

Codonanthe can be divided into three groups based on the fruit.

## Group I:

1: The first group has orange berries and comes from Southeastern and Eastern Brazil. This includes the species *Codonanthe devosiana*.

2: *Codonanthe digna* looks very similar to *C. devosiana*, but perhaps is more commonly grown. It flowers easily and makes an attractive basket plant often displaying its orange berries as well.

3: *Codonanthe cordifolia* is one of the more recently introduced species, named for its unusual heart shaped leaves. Unlike most species of Codonanthe, this one has flowers that are maroon, brown and gold in color, although the colors are not always this intense.

4: *Codonanthe gracilis*, the type species, comes in various forms. Some have reddish leaves, some have much larger white flowers and some have heavily spotted flowers.

## Group II:

1: *Codonanthe serrulata* also was recently introduced. Its flowers are larger and more showy than most of the others. This second group has berries that are purple, red, or pink. These species are distributed throughout the neotropics from Mexico down to Bolivia and also in eastern Brazil.

2: The beautiful purple berry fruit of *Codonanthe calcarata* 'Puyo' from Ecuador belongs to this group. Another species in this group, *Codonanthe erubescens*, when grown in sufficient light produces flowers which are light pink in color. If pollinated, deep red berries like this will form.

Continued on page 9



3: *Codonanthe venosa* from Brazil is one of the latest species to be introduced. It is a large grower with widely spaced leaves which do not grow in the typical opposite equal-sized habit of most *Codonanthes*.

4: *Codonanthe uleana* displays both its beautiful long flowers and showy red fruit. Some species of *Codonanthe* are reported to have medicinal uses. The Ticuna people of Amazonian Colombia use a poultice of the leaves of this species to treat wounds and infections.

Group III:

The last group in the genus *Codonanthe* has fruit which is a greenish fleshy display capsule. This group comes from Central America and the Caribbean area.

1: *Codonanthe elegans*, which belongs to this group, has a fruit is not the typical round berry but is elongated and splits open when ripe to reveal the showy maroon interior and a mass of seeds. *Codonanthe* has the largest seed in the gesneriad family.

2: Also in this group are *Codonanthe luteola* from Panama.

3: *Codonanthe macradenia* from Panama and Costa Rica Both *C. luteola* and *macradenis* display fruit and red spots on the leaves which are the extra-floral nectaries that produce additional nectar.

*Codonanthes* make excellent pot plants or small basket plants. Several cuttings in a pot and routine pinching will give you a nice full specimen. They need average to good light, minimal fertilizing, and watering when the top surface is dry. Irregular watering is often the cause of the plant dropping its leaves. Gary Hunter produced the only one known hybrid in 1974 by crossing *Codonanthe devosiana* by *Codonanthe gracilis*. He named this hybrid *Codonanthe* x 'Gina'.



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Kissing Cousin'    Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Vibrant'    Janet's *Streptocarpus* '3S – Camberleigh'



*Primulina* 'Rachel' Blooming at Longwood Gardens



*Nematanthus fluminensis* at Longwood Gardens

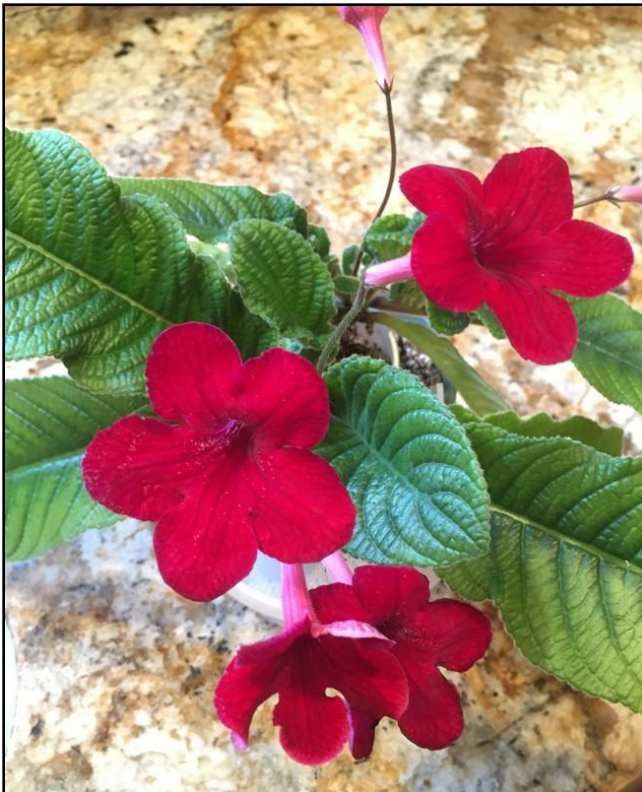
Donna: "I took a trip to Longwood on January 4<sup>th</sup> when it reopened after a Covid closing. I saw a few gesneriads and many begonias. With all the outstanding Christmas time decorations it would have been a shame for the public to not enjoy the hard work of all their staff! "





Janet's *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'

In May, Donna B. sent me a rhizome of *Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Pig' that got totally squished by USPS. The mush was planted and I've been tracking it's progress since June in Petal Tones. It finally bloomed - hooray! Turns out, it's not K. 'Bud's Little Pig' - boo! Somehow, what grew out of that little solo cup was a *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder' plant instead. The silver lining is that my original KRR plant had recursive petals and I ditched the plant. This one seems to have normal petals and has been providing a cheerful spot of red for the holidays. Would someone like to send me a rhizome of K 'Bud's Little Pig'? Pretty please? Janet Carlton



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslippers Scarlet'

## Use Caution with Chemicals

Have you been ignoring the warning statements on those chemicals you use to treat your plants for pests and diseases? It's there for a reason and although I never paid much attention to these warnings in the past, I've recently learned my lesson.

A few weeks ago, I did a marathon repotting session which involved the use of copious amounts of Bonide Systemic Granules containing imidacloprid. This apparently got dissolved into the water used to rinse root balls and clean pots with bare hands.

Imidacloprid is absorbed through the skin, resulting in dizziness, nausea, and foggy thinking. Poison Control said it's like nicotine poisoning and while there were no lasting effects, it was an unpleasant experience nonetheless.

Rubber gloves are easy enough to use to prevent the problem. Do take a moment to read the cautionary statements on your plant care products and make sure to use them safely.

Janet Carlton



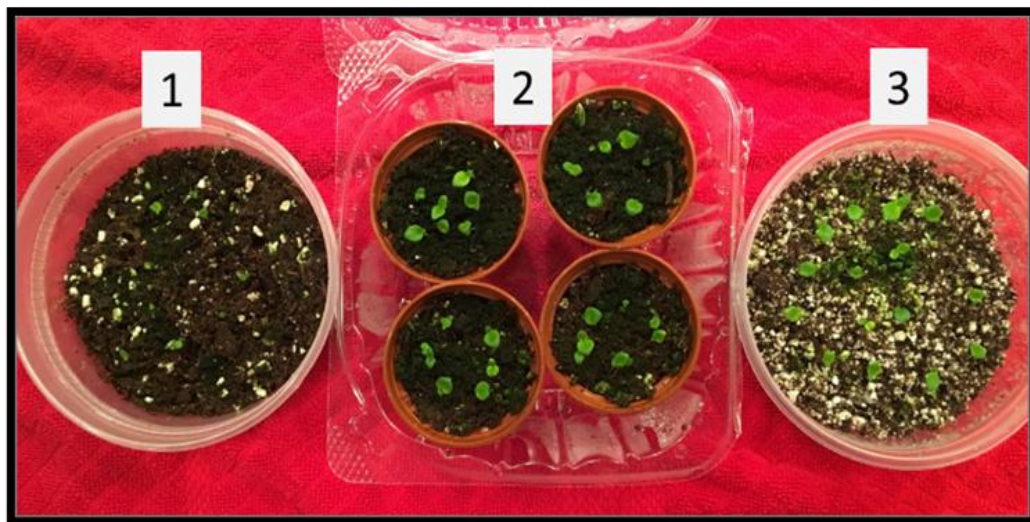
## USING MAGNETS TO ENHANCE PLANT GROWTH by Janet Carlton

A few years ago, I re-read *The Secret Life of Plants* by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird. Although the book contains some admittedly non-scientific content, my curiosity was peaked at their mention of using electromagnetism and magnetic fields to positively influence seed germination, and root and plant growth.

Research on the topic has been inconclusive. Experimenters have tried using both pulsed and stable electro-magnetic fields at varying strengths, and have treated plants, seeds, and even just the water used for watering with differing results. Nevertheless, I wondered if magnets could improve the growth rate or health of my *Streptocarpus* plants and decided to experiment with them myself.

A friend gave me several rare earth (neodymium) magnets in various sizes and I'd read that tomatoes ripen faster near the south pole of a magnet. Armed with this minimal information, I located the south pole of each magnet using my trusty hiking compass and marked them with nail polish to indicate which end should face up under the containers. Note that these magnets are very strong and caution should be taken when handling them around your mobile devices, credit cards, and pacemakers. I don't recommend using the compass on your phone to assess your magnets.

For my experiment, I used my smallest magnet, which measures approximately 12mm x 3mm.



*Streptocarpus* seeds were sown on 5/25/18 and within three weeks, about sixty seedlings had sprouted. These were separated into three sets and all were treated in the same manner except as described below. The photo shows all seedlings as they appeared on 7/10/18, after a total of about six and half weeks of growth. All are the same age.

- Set 1 was never moved to spur growth and remained at about the same size they were at three weeks for the remainder of their lives. No magnet was used.
- Set 2 was moved for the first time on 6/18 and grew substantially larger by 7/10. No magnet was used. This set shows normal increased growth once seedlings are moved.
- Set 3 was moved for the first time on 6/28, ten days after Set #2 had been moved; however, at the time of the move, this set was also placed on top of a single rare earth magnet with the south pole facing up under the container. As can be seen, the size of seedlings in Sets 2 and 3 are essentially the same. The magnet seems to have increased the pace of growth so that the **seedlings moved later and placed over a magnet had caught up to those that had been moved 10 days earlier.**

My conclusion was that placing a magnet under *Streptocarpus* seedlings did enhance their growth rate. I have since tried variously sized magnets under sown seeds, seedlings, and individual growing plants and have found that they do seem to increase the rate of growth for *Streptocarpus* and *Kohleria* plants in general. In addition, it seems that the smallest magnet is sufficient, and that larger magnets do not work as well. So, when it comes to the strength of the magnetic field employed, stronger is not necessarily better.



Continued:

## USING MAGNETS TO ENHANCE PLANT GROWTH by Janet Carlton

If you are inspired to try experimenting with magnetism yourself, I recommend an article called *Magnetism And Plant Growth – How Do Magnets Help Plants Grow* by Bonnie L. Grant for a discussion of why and how magnets may affect plant growth. See this link: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/info/magnetism-and-plant-growth.htm>

Rare earth magnets can be obtained inexpensively online but other types of magnets could also be tried if you already have them. I plan to treat fertilized water with the larger magnet to see if that has any noticeable effect. Please document your findings with notes and pictures and send them to Donna Beverin at [petaltone@gmail.com](mailto:petaltone@gmail.com) for inclusion in Petal Tones and/or post them to our NCACGS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/174442276299173> for sharing.

## Visit to Longwood Gardens



*Aeschynanthus radicans* growing in the green fern wall in the hallway at Longwood Gardens. Don't miss this! Enter conservatory and turn right. Hallway is on the right. All the years I went left to the Camelias and missed it!

Longwood Gardens finally reopened January 4<sup>th</sup> after a Covid closing in PA. I saw these beautiful *Aeschynanthus radicans*. Grown for its glossy dark green foliage and bright red tubular flowers, *Aeschynanthus radicans*, or lipstick plant, prefers lots of light, but not direct sunlight, moisture, and a soil mixed with sphagnum moss. Native to Malaysia, it is generally grown as a house plant in zone 6. Its arching stems make it a good choice for hanging baskets, but it needs consistent watering and high humidity. It spreads 1 to 3 feet..  
Donna Beverin



Mr. Gesneriads:

Johanna: "Do Eucodonia rhizomes photosynthesize? The rhizomes that are green in the photo were growing on top of the soil. No algae were present. The pale rhizomes were buried in the soil.?"

Mr. G: "Yes, the aerial rhizomes do indeed photosynthesize. Rhizomes are nothing but stem modifications where the stem produces a bunch of very compact leaves on the central stem. These leaves are packed full of the necessary hormones to start the plant growing again when conditions are right. related such as with Achimenes - dormant and stay dormant for a the dry season in its native related - rhizomes are produced dormant period. They can stay bad or can start growing even gone dormant - such as Kohleria. for a while, but if the mother plant stays moist the rhizomes that are produced sprout right away with no dormancy.

I feel I've wandered off topic. Just think of rhizomes as stems with tiny leaves. If they're above the soil surface they'll photosynthesize and provide food for the plant. If produced under the soil they will be pale until the growth reaches the surface and starts to produce chlorophyll."



Those conditions can be time the plant is going to go few months to correspond to habitat, or strictly condition which have no required dormant if the environment is before the mother plant has You can store Kohleria rhizomes

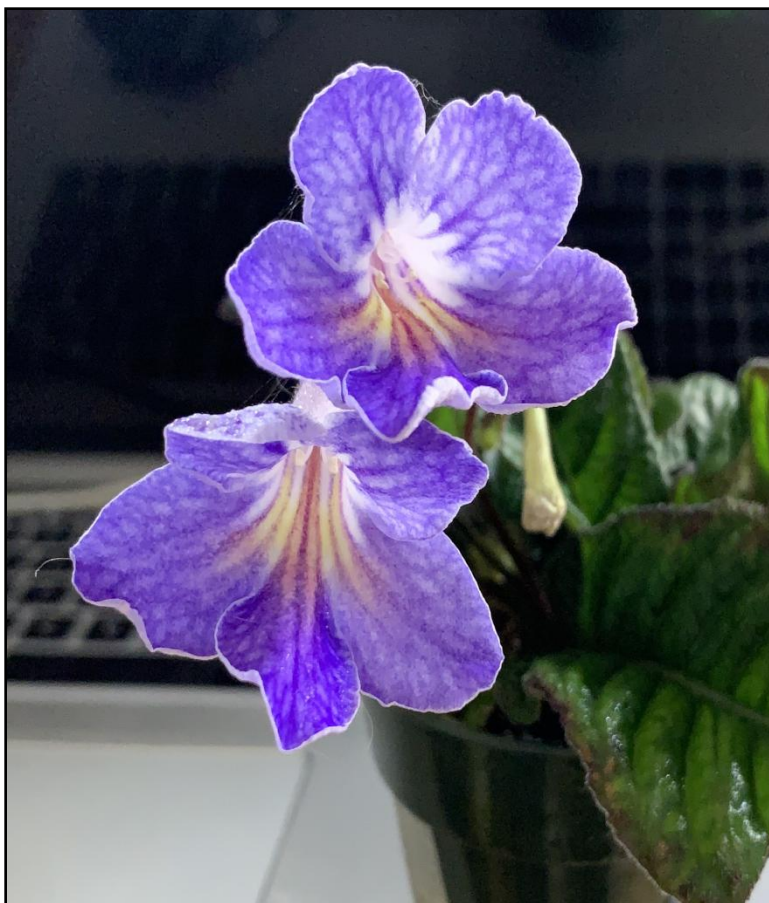


## Show News !

Bill Schmidt, Show Chairman: "Save the Date for our 2021 Show at Homestead Gardens, September 10th, 11th, and 12th. I am happy to announce that all the Chairs for our show are filled."



Donna's *Sinningia bullata*



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Got the Blues'



# BLOOMIN' NOW



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'Purple Panda'



Peggy MacDonald's *Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie'



Kitty's *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Skydiver' x self



*Sinningia cardinalis* 'Skydiver' x self close up



# BLOOMIN' NOW



Kitty's *Sinningia* mini NOID

Kitty's *Sinningia* NOID or possibly 'California Sunset'.



Dave Minis: *Sinningia* 'Sharon' x self

Dave's *Sinningia* Mini Lavender

Dave's *Sinningia* 'April Snow' x self

## Light Experiment by Minh Bui

In the last 20 years, scientific research on how UV (ultra violet) light impacts plant growth revealed that this part of the spectrum, often dismissed because it is outside the PAR (Photosynthetically active radiation) range, may play a more important role than previously thought. Two plants grown side-by-side on the same light stand, but one has an added UV bulb. The African Violet plant on the left died. To see the full story, have the first look in the African Violet Society of America magazine to be published in a few months, or later this fall on my website, for the full details of this fun little experiment."

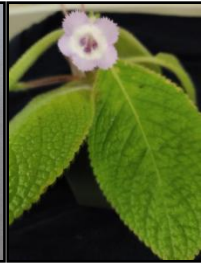
Editor's note: (PAR) is **light** of wavelengths 400-700 nm and is the portion of the **light** spectrum utilized by plants for photosynthesis.





# Plants for Sale

Dave Anderson's plants for sale. \$5.00 each with \$9.00 Shipping.  
Contact Dave: Davidanderson1952@yahoo.com



*Diastema vexans*, *Sinningia* 'Mother of Pearl', *Episcia* 'Blue Nile', *Paradrymonia campostyla*, *Sinningia* 'Freckles', *Sinningia* 'Maiden's Blush'



*Begonia eleagnifolia*, *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio', *Pteris cretica* (fern)

Agenda, Saturday, January 9, 2021

President: Minh Bui

Business meeting Call to Order:

Members present:

Announcements:

Quorum: yes no

Minutes from December meeting:

Treasurer's report:

Committee Reports:

Show: Bill Programs:

Membership: Peggy

Exhibits: New guidelines for exhibits

Old Business:

- Budget for 2021 is needed. Andy Meier(outgoing treasurer) will get this into Newsletter so it can be voted on and handled off to Dave Anderson (incoming).
- Barb mentioned several things to take note of:
- The current Zoom meeting format is less than the Church rental
- The NCAC show planned for 2021 fall will use the plans for the cancelled 2020 show.
- Ongoing budget items: Brazil Plants donation/seed fund, Web site, Blog, MAVs convention award
- The 2020 National Gesneriad convention was been cancelled, so no award was given. It was suggested by Barb that the NCAC make a donation in lieu of the award, perhaps to the annual fund.

New Business:

Participation of other clubs in our Gesneriad Flower Show: Bill

Show and Tell:

President: Minh Bui  
Minhbui82@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Barbara Stewart  
Bstew771@verizon.net

Treasurer: Dave Anderson  
Davidanderson1952@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin  
[Petaltones@gmail.com](mailto:Petaltones@gmail.com) or  
[Donnabeverin@gmail.com](mailto:Donnabeverin@gmail.com)

Committees:  
Hospitality: Peggy MacDonald  
Publications: Donna Beverin  
Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin  
Membership: Peggy MacDonald  
Ways and Means: Brian Connor  
Show Chairman: Bill Schmidt

Directors:  
Donna Beverin  
Bill Schmidt  
Peggy MacDonald

NCAC website: [www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](http://www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)  
[web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](mailto:web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)

NCAC Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174442276299173/?ref=bookmark>

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 Treasurer via PayPal using the email address:  
[ncacotqs-gesneriads@yahoo.com](mailto:ncacotqs-gesneriads@yahoo.com)

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. Bob  
Membership includes a subscription to the society journal, Gesneriads. You can subscribe on line also.

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

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## NCAC Minutes December 12, 2020

Program: "22 Ways to Propagate Gesneriads" by Mary Schaeffer

Business meeting Call to Order: Barbara Stewart, President whom welcomed Guest: Karyn Cichocki, Members present: Donna Beverin, Minh Bui, Janet Carlton, Carol Hamelink, Sharon Long, Alcie Maxwell, Mary Schaeffer, Bill Schmidt, Barbara Stewart, Johanna Zinn, Doug Bolt

Announcements: Quorum: yes

**Minutes** from Nov meeting: Minutes from November meeting approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Andy not present, no report. Barb reports no changes

**Budget** for 2021 is needed. Andy Meier(outgoing treasurer) will get this into Newsletter so it can be voted on and handled off to Dave Anderson (incoming).

Barb mentioned several things to take note of:

- The current Zoom meeting format is less than the Church rental
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- Ongoing budget items: Brazil Plants donation/seed fund, Web site, Blog, MAVs convention award
- The 2020 National Gesneriad convention was been cancelled, so no award was given. It was suggested by Barb that the NCAC make a donation in lieu of the award, perhaps to the annual fund.

### Committee Reports:

**2021 NCAC Show:** Bill Schmidt, Chair, has been talking with Homestead Gardens (HG) about possible dates.

Two options:

- ❖1. Labor day weekend, Not sure if there is good foot traffic that weekend.
- ❖2. Sept 10-12. This is the fall festival weekend, so there are lots of visitors, but some concern that it could be tight, although HG says they can make it work.

Discussion brought up the Delaware show in October, which might limit their involvement. Mary will check on this. As well, the Begonia Show will be Aug 24-26. Although there will be no National Show, concerns for the continuing issues with COVID-19 make a summer date unlikely feasible. The discussion gave no clear preference for the 2 best dates. Bill will confirm with HG that there will be space for the show AND plant sales. He was given permission to make the decision.

Judges Chair: Mary Schaeffer and Barbara Borleske

Classification Chair: Brian Connors, it was noted that he has not been to a meeting lately, so it needs to be confirmed if he can still serve as chair. Hospitality Chair: Carol Hamelink enlisted

**Programs:** Barbara Stewart, Vice President:

January program is not yet firm. Barb Borleske has offered a Tour of her gardens, Inside and Out. Mary will follow up on this to confirm. Barb has lots of ideas. With a show coming next fall it could be good to focus on show prep. How to time AVs for a show, e.g. Karyn Cichocki may be willing do a program on design or container gardens. Would NCAC members be interested in a hybridizing program? Barb mentioned polling club members for interest in topics.

**Membership:** Peggy MacDonald, Chair. Not present. No report

**Exhibits:** Barbara Stewart. Points are given for exhibiting plants during the meetings. Awards are given to the 3 members with the most points for \$25, \$15, and \$10.

The top four NCAC member exhibitors are:

Barbara Stewart, Johanna Zinn tied, Minh Bui and Bill Schmidt, Donna Beverin.

Barb renounced her prize thus giving \$25 to Johanna, with Minh and Bill to split 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Johanna volunteered to give her prize to the National Chapter Annual Fund, as mentioned above.

**New guidelines** for exhibits were suggested. As exhibits can be judged and it can be difficult to see the exhibits (via Zoom) well by simply holding them in front of the camera, it was suggested that exhibits be photographed by the grower and their screen be shared during the meeting. This stimulated suggestions for a program on photographing entries. Donna and Barb may have a contact for this, more to come.

Bylaws: Barbara – full revision in the works (still)

Old Business: Nominating committee: Johanna Z. Chair. No nominations from the floor were brought forward. The slate of officers was presented and accepted: President: Minh Bui, Vice President: Barbara Stewart, Treasurer: David Anderson, Secretary: Carol Hamelink, Directors: Donna Beverin, Bill Schmidt, and Peggy MacDonald.

There were no nominations from the floor. A move to accept the slate was made by Carol Hamelink and seconded by Sharon Long. The slate was passed unanimously. Duties of officers and directors were read from the bylaws by Barb. The new slate of officers is now sworn in.

No New Business: None . Meeting adjourned by President, Barb Stewart

Respectfully submitted: Carol Hamelink, Secretary