

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 52 Number 7

July 2021



Mary Schaeffer's *Sinningia amambayensis*

## President's Message:

The show is upon us and the anticipation is bursting! Our show at Homestead Gardens is September 10th – 12th and I am looking forward to seeing everyone there! Our theme is Gesneriads Dance!



Attached and also included on the last page of this issue of Petal Tones is the donation form for Show awards. Please give if you can and every little bit helps. Please make your donations by August 27, 2021. I am looking forward to seeing everyone's plant(s) and (half) faces in person in two months!

This Saturday, Barb will present "The Basics of Creating a Gesneriad Design for Show". Her presentation will demonstrate her tricks and techniques to create an interesting design entry for the show.

In August, Bill will host our meeting on the Show/Sale with his power point presentation. Donna will be scheduling members to help run the sale tables.

I hope you enjoy the information about the new species that was discovered in Vietnam, *Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis*. And pick up a copy of the latest Gesneriads journal to read NCAC's member, Larry Skog's article on stamp collecting of gesneriad stamps, written by Larry and Dr. John L. Clark. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Larry Skog as a member of our Chapter!

Minh

## NCAC July Zoom Meeting

Saturday, July 10, 2021

10:30am

Barb Stewart presents:

"The Basics of Creating a Gesneriad Design for Show"

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88050568919?pwd=STVuWis0aWJubnd0MXJyTk9LZ0t0dz09>

Meeting ID: 880 5056 8919

Passcode: 864210

- August 14<sup>th</sup>: Bill Schmidt, Preparation for Show/Sale
- September 10 – 12<sup>th</sup>: Gesneriads Dance!  
NCAC Show/Sale at Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville, MD
- September 25<sup>th</sup>, Green Spring Gardens, Family Fall Festival, 9am to 3pm.

## Creating a Gesneriad Design Barb Stewart

With a show planned for September, we are encouraging members to enter in the design classes. The Gesneriad Society Flower Show Manual requires artistic arrangements to be created using gesneriad material. This is a basic program and demo on putting together a simple design using gesneriad material. It will focus on good material to use and the mechanics of how to put things together (the "elements of design") to create a design that follows the "principles of design" (the rules that guide the use of elements into a beautiful design). There will not be a lot of detail about the elements and principles, so for those who are new to artistic design, these are the elements and principles to consider when creating an arrangement:  
Elements of Design: color, form, line, pattern, space, texture

Principles of Design: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, scale, rhythm.

A good design puts together the various elements in a creative and pleasing way based on established principles. This is what judges look for when judging artistic arrangements.

# Gesneriads: Highlights



Larry Skog, long time member of our NCAC group, now an honorary member, served as Treasurer from 1983 until 2012, wrote an extensive and interesting article in *Gesneriads*, the Gesneriad Society's quarterly Journal for Gesneriad Growers with Dr. John L. Clark. Larry's article which is being published in three parts appears in V. 71 #2, second quarter 2021, with the second part appearing in the third quarter 2021 and third part in 2022.

Dr. Laurence E. Skog, Research Scientist & Curator Emeritus, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. Larry's research interest is Taxonomy and floristics, of Neotropical Gesneriaceae. <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/staff/laurence-skog>

After retiring, Larry took up stamp collecting and concentrates on collecting postage stamps of plants which he organizes according to plant family with the assigned number from the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, Larry states his hobby dedicated to collecting gesneriads on postage stamps is more feasible than collecting or searching for gesneriads in the wild. No immediate health risks such as dengue fever, malaria, and more affordable than collecting lithographs.

NCAC members, I encourage you to join the Gesneriad Society and receive this great quarterly journal! For \$25 a year you can receive the hard copy in the mail and for \$15 a year you can receive the digital copy on your computer. All back issues are available on the website: [gesneriadsociety.org](http://gesneriadsociety.org) along with many other benefits, such as the seed fund. The seed fund has packs of hybrid and species gesneriad seeds for \$3.00 a packet.

Larry's great article caught my eye right away because *Chrysothemis* is the first picture of the plant and its postage stamps. And you know I love this plant as I have been posting pictures of my *Chrysothemis pulchella*, dark form in our newsletter and in the Convention Virtual Show. I hope you enjoy the article as much as I have. With some pandemic restrictions lifting, maybe we can meet for a holiday party in December with Larry joining us again! Donna

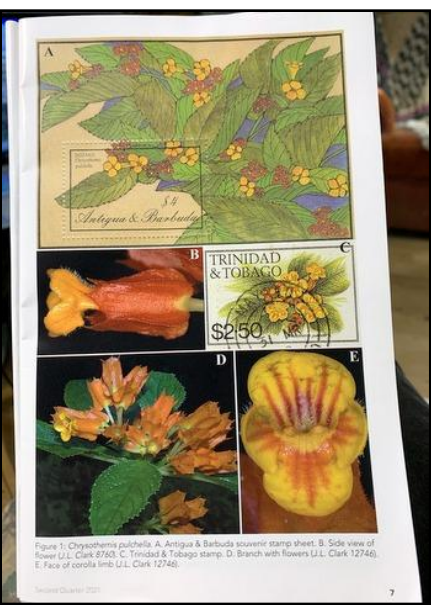


Figure 1. *Chrysothemis pulchella*. A. Antigua & Barbuda souvenir stamp sheet. B. Side view of flower (L.L. Clark 12745). C. Trinidad & Tobago stamp. D. Branch with flowers (L.L. Clark 12746). E. Face of corolla limb (L.L. Clark 12746).

# Bloomin' Now



Jim Roberts' *x*Achimannia 'Ohio's Never Say Never'



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Kevin Garnett'



Jim's *Sinningia* NOID



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Roxy'

## Barb's Trip to the Denver Botanical Garden

"We visited the Denver Botanical Garden on our vacation last week. I saw quite a few different gesneriads in the conservatory. I only found one label which was for *Saintpaulia diplotricha* (*Saintpaulia ionantha* var ssp *ionantha* var *diplotricha*). The others I just guessed on the genus names and possible variety names. The gardens were spectacular inside and outside. We visited the gardens on another trip several years ago to see the light display at Christmas. At that time I photographed a beautiful *Aeschyananthus speciosa* in bloom, which was published in Petal Tones. I was hoping to find that plant again, but without luck. Being an annual bloomer, it most likely is out of bloom right now, but hopefully is in the greenhouses where plants are stored but not open to the public."



*Aeschyananthus speciosa* from Barb's previous visit.

*Chrysothemis pulchella*



*Saintpaulia rupicola* (species)

*Saintpaulia diplotricha* (*Saintpaulia ionantha* var ssp *ionantha* var *diplotricha*)



Exquisite specimen of *Sinningia eumorpha*.



Unknown specimen of *Sinningia*



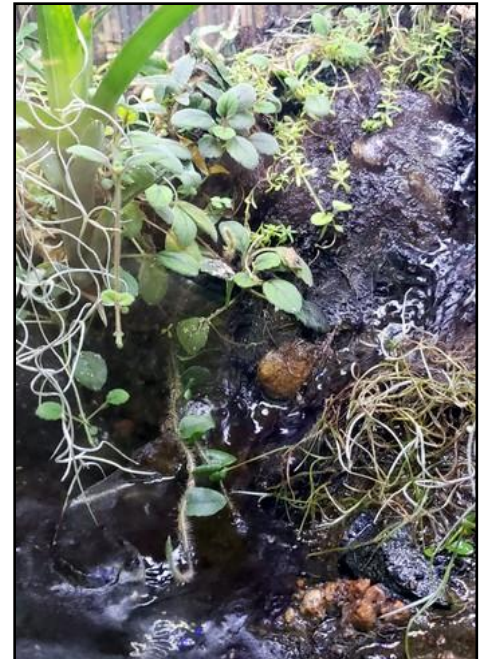
*Streptocarpella*



*Nematanthus*



*Codonanthus*



*Alsobia dianthaflora*

# A New Gesneriad *Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis*



*Michaelmoelleria*, a new lithophilous (growing/living in rocky areas) dwelling genus and species with zigzag corolla tube from southern Vietnam. (*Gesneriaceae*)

Photos of the new genus, *Michaelmoelleria*, the population in natural habitat.

*M. vietnamensis* F.Wen, Z.B.Xin & T.V.Do

**A** habitat along the La stream  
**B** habit  
**C** plants in flower  
**D** frontal view of flower in natural habitat  
**E** lateral view of flower in natural habitat.

Photos by Fang Wen, arranged by Wen-Hua Xu.

*Michaelmoelleria* (*Gesneriaceae*), a new lithophilous (growing/living in rocky areas) dwelling genus and species with zigzag corolla tube from southern Vietnam

*Etymology.*

*Michaelmoelleria* was named in honor of Professor, Dr. Michael Möller from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. He is a well-known botanist studying Old World *Gesneriaceae*, especially in Africa (Madagascar) and Asia (China), and mentor of the senior author from the 1990's to the present. "*Michaelmoeller*-" (means "Michael Möller") stands for his full name. "*moeller*" is the English modification of the German family name, "Möller". Initially, we planned to use "*Moelleria*" as the genus name; however, this name was used in different places three times. Thus, to prevent confusion with those mentioned above, three existing and existed "*Moelleria*", we consider that using the variant of Dr. Michael Möller's full name, "*Michaelmoeller*", to name this new genus to be most appropriate.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7228932/>

Photographer: Zi-Bing Xin      Grown by: Zi-Bing Xin

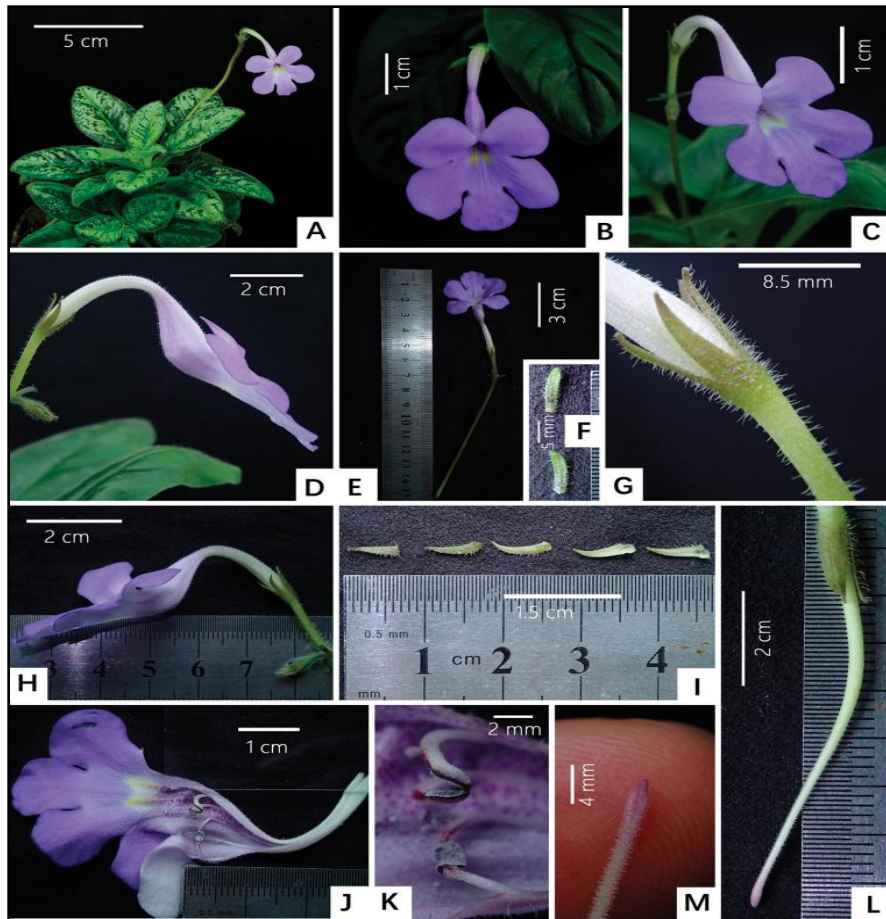
*Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis* is the only species in this newly-established (as of 2020) genus. It is distributed in southern Vietnam, in broad-leaved forests on granitic montane hills.

In Vietnam it is considered a prized decorative plant, resulting in extensive collection from the local forests. Its precarious situation is exacerbated by forest clearing for plantations of Eucalyptus trees, reducing its habitat. The species is considered critically endangered.

Now in cultivation in China, *M. vietnamensis* may soon become more broadly distributed in horticulture. Its beautiful flowers and patterned/variegated foliage make it particularly desirable as a cultivated species.

<https://gesneriads.info/gesneriad-genera/michaelmoelleria/>





In 2018 *Michaelmoelleria* was discovered by a group of botanists from the Vietnam National Museum of Nature (VNMN) and the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China (GCCC).

To confirm the generic placement of this species, molecular and cytological experiments were also performed. After consulting the relevant literature (Wang et al. 1998; Ho 2000; Li and Wang 2005; Phuong 2005; Wei et al. 2010; Wen et al. 2019) along with the molecular and cytological evidence, we concluded that this new species was assignable to a new genus, *Michaelmoelleria* gen. nov. This new genus will be an addition to the ongoing project of 'Flora of Vietnam' and 'Flora of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam'.

Photos of new genus, *Michaelmoelleria* F. Wen, Y.G. Wei & T.V. Do. *M. vietnamensis* F. Wen, Z.B. Xin & T.V. Do

- A** flowering potted plant in GCCC's greenhouse
- B** frontal view of the corolla and the corolla tube
- C** different angles of a lateral view of corolla and corolla tube (I)
- D** different angles of lateral view of the corolla and the corolla tube (II)
- E** cyme
- F** bracts (above: adaxial surface; below: abaxial surface)
- G** calyx lobes
- H** lateral view of flower and bud
- I** calyx lobes (the left three: adaxial calyx lobes surfaces; the right two: abaxial calyx lobes surfaces)
- J** opened corolla showing stamens and staminode
- K** our fertile anthers
- L** pistil and calyx
- M** stigma. Photos by Fang Wen, arranged by Wen-Hua Xu.

As part of ongoing research into the diversity of *Gesneriaceae* in Vietnam, a group of botanists from the Vietnam National Museum of Nature (VNMN) and the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China (GCCC) undertook an extensive fieldtrip in southern Vietnam in 2018. A plant belonging to *Gesneriaceae* was collected in La stream, Tay Giang community, Tay Son district, Binh Dinh province, close to the belt of An Khe city, Gia Lai province, southern Vietnam (Fig. (Fig.1).1).

Surprisingly, this unknown species was unable to be placed in any genus based on morphological characters. Superficially, it shares some similarities to *Deinostigma* and *Tribounia*, but would be easily distinguished from the former by its distinct characters of the long and zigzag corolla tube and rounded corolla lobes and from the latter by its four stamens and a 2-lobed stigma.



Dr. Michael Moeller, received The Award of Appreciation from the Gesneriad Society at last week's Convention for all his work in the area of the botany of *Gesneriaceae*.

Dr. Möller is Molecular Systematist and Cytologist at RBGE. His main research interest focuses around the *Gesneriaceae*, especially those of the Old World. RBGE has a long history of research in this plant group. Today, we apply state-of-the-art analytical methods to address a wide range of issues, covering Taxonomy and Phylogeny, Biogeography, Evolutionary Development, and Cytology. <https://www.rbge.org.uk/about-us/organisational-structure/staff/tropical-diversity/dr-michael-moeller/>

# Mr. Gesneriad



Mr. Gesneriad, I have a nice plant of *Sinningia helleri*. This plant was on a tray I dropped, but it survived the drop and is blooming again. It looks a bit beat up, but, when it stops blooming I will want to propagate it. What is the best way to do so? Thanks, Johanna



That's a great question Johanna. *Sinningia helleri* is one of those *Sinningias* that needs its old growth tip to re-sprout from dormancy. Taking a tip cutting may give you a new plant but may also kill the old tuber. The plant is in the same clade as *Sinningia speciosa*. That species roots from leaves, generally producing a viable tuber. Some *Sinningia* species produce blind tubers when rooted from leaves. Hopefully this one won't.

My guess is the best way to get more *Sinningia helleri* is to self-pollinate the flowers, or hybridize with other flowers on the same or nearby plant. Seed will flower in 4-6 months under ideal conditions (such as what you likely provide). Hung Nguyen was able to get flowers just 4 months from seed. Leaves can be simply inserted into a soil-less mix and rooted that way. Or to better ensure viable tubers, cut the mid-vein out and insert the cut edges into your mix like a *Streptocarpus* or *Rex Begonia*. Good luck. Mr. Gesneriad



Johanna: "This was a lovely plant until I dropped it a month or two ago. This is the first time it has bloomed, so I hope that someone will recognize it and let me know its name. *Primulina* NOID?? "



Johanna's *Boea hygroskopica*, bloomed this year but not last year.





# Bloomin' Now Celebration of Yellow



Barb's *Microchirita micromusa*



Drew Norris's *Columnea* 'Hot Lips'



Jim's *Primulina* 'Lydia'

# Bloomin' Now



Mary Schaeffer's *Kohleria* 'Bud's Star Struck'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Diva'



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Mark Twain'

# Bloomin' Now from Gesneriphiles



First Picture: Leve: " Who says *Primulina sp.* V27 doesn't bloom!

I got this plant from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses Inc. last September, just before the arctic plunge in N.Y.. I do nothing special with growing, ~50% humidity, 70-80F, 12 hours light with 6500K LED lights (model#: Feit Electric 74302) 12 inches above the top, 290 foot candles, if my cheap (\$9) light meter is accurate. One repotting in that time. The lack of symmetry is because it's cramped next to another plant. That broken leaf tip and breaking of another leaf just before the photo are my fault. I did put down the broken leaf tip. It made many more babies then one would expect, quickly, now I just need to figure out what to do with them all. You have my permission to use this photo for the Gesneriad Reference Web and or newsletters if you wish." Leve Hajdu (From Gesneriphiles)

Second Picture: Jim : "Maybe flowered back in 2015. It was growing in the second floor plant room (not the 80% humidity basement plant room. Lights were on 12 hours a day, plus that stand got some western sun light through some large

windows at the end of the day. Leaf position was very strange with very alternating locations at right angles. If it weren't for the suckers the plant would have been very square. Unfortunately I no longer have it."



Leve: "Jeff Smith contacted me privately. He says it needs cool temps to bloom and his plant did not bloom until he moved it to a bottom shelf in his basement grow room. His has much longer bloom stalks. A tour of his grow room can be seen here (you can see the plant at 20:59 in the video)::

<https://allaboutafricanviolets.com/2018/11/18/all-about-african-violets-episode-3-017-dr-jeff-smith-part-ii/>

## Wishfully Seeking to Grow

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



# Member Plants



Barb's spectacular *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley'



Donna's " *Sinningia hirsuta* baby. I have a few of these babies from Brazil Plants seeds to sell at the show. This is about 3 inches in diameter in a 1 oz pot."



Donna's *Eucodonia* hybrid x self. "I attempted to cross with *Achimenes dulcis* without luck, but one seedling is has nice red hairs and cute little light lavender blossoms."



Donna's tiny babies of *Sinningia* 'High Voltage' x self may be ready for the show/sale! I transplanted these once so far. This is Prop box stage 2.



Donna's *Paliavana gracilis* seedlings that desperately need transplanting for sale.

## 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

Show News: We hope to have a really good show and sale at Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville, MD on September 10th—12<sup>th</sup> 2021. Members of the Richmond African Violet Society and the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society have been qualified to participate due to \$50 donations for awards. Our August meeting will have elaboration of the Show details. Gesneriads Dance is our theme!

The show is only 10 weeks away. Be thinking about which plants you want to exhibit. Now is also the time to start growing out plants for the sale. We will not be doing a special plant order just for the sale. If you are ordering new plants for yourself, start a leaf or take a cutting so that you can recoup your investment by selling either the original or starter. Remember, the public will be attracted to plants that are in bloom. Members retain 75% of the selling price.

Bill Schmidt, NCACGS Show Chairman

Members, As Bill mentioned we are not purchasing plants from outside Gesneriad vendors to supplement our own home propagated plants to sell. This is part of our contract with Homestead Gardens. So I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to propagate as many of your gesneriads as you can in your growing space. Yes, flowering plants really do sell well and that is encouraged; however, since our Show/Sale is one of the first (that I have heard of) in the area I think we may attract many gesneriad lovers from all over as the Covid-19 restrictions have eased. Gesneriad lovers are willing to take a road trip and see a show. And visitors with experience will be familiar with the names of the gesneriads that are harder to find and not readily available in a local nursery. NCAC has a very good reputation and I hope to have lots of gesneriads to sell to our visitors!

Donna Beverin, Sales Chairman

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Minhbui82@hotmail.com

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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](http://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](mailto: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/>



I have many more *Chrysothemis pulchella* babies to transplant! A few are in bigger pots but tomato seedlings popping up, too. Yes, I reused soil in which the tomato seeds did not germinate back in April!

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

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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