

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

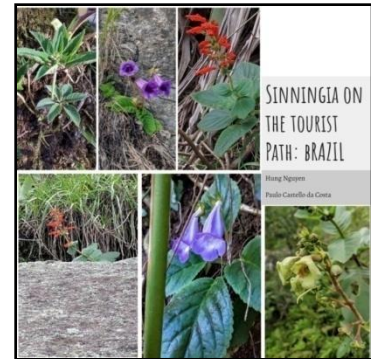
Volume 52 Number 6

June 2021



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley x self seedling.

NCAC June Zoom Meeting
June 12th: Hung Nguyen
"Sinningia on the Tourist Path of Brazil"
Time: Jun 12, 2021 10:30 AM Eastern Time
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88409949486?pwd=R1VsMWN2UUJlUQm00dW5wMW84NDIjUT09>
Meeting ID: 884 0994 9486
Passcode: 925170



Growing up in Vietnam, Hung was interested in plants as a child. After moving to the United States, he started growing gesneriads around 2008 with a *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Stars' bought from his local drugstore. Later he joined the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Gesneriad Society. Hung lives in Santa Rosa, California. His first convention was Vancouver in 2010. As a talented grower and exhibitor, Hung wins many awards for his plants in Gesneriad shows and conventions. As an active volunteer of the Gesneriad Society, Hung serves as a Board member, Overall Site Editor for the Gesneriad Reference Web, author of many articles in Gesneriads, organizational committee member & speaker at Gesneriad Conventions, as well as a hybridizer and renowned grower. One of his hybrids is *Sinningia (guttata x helleri)* for which he won Best Sinningia at the Omaha Convention where he generously shared seeds from his crosses of this hybrid with attendees. (See page 12). He also produces seed from many Gesneriad species such as *Primulina tabacum*, *Pachycaulos*, *Aeschynanthus* and *Petrocosmea*. He generously shares seeds with the Gesneriad seed fund on a regular basis. On top of that Hung helps to design the Tee Shirts showcasing beautiful gesneriad pictures and are sold on the website. Welcome to Hung and thank you for sharing your knowledge with us!

President's Message:

What a fabulous & fun auction we had in May! I was so glad to see everyone at Johanna's home. Thank you Johanna for hosting! I hope we do this again! Until then, we've all got a show in 3 months to focus on! You have plenty of time to groom your plants for at least one entry and to grow some sale plants. Mark your calendar for September 10th – 12th. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there!

In July Barb will present "The Basics of Creating a Gesneriad Design for Show". In August, Bill will host our meeting on the Show/Sale. And for June, this week, we shall be enjoying Hung's program on his adventures in Brazil!

Note on next page NCAC members are invited to join Toronto's Zoom Meeting featuring Karyn Cichocki's program on her trip to Cuba. Check it out! Minh

NCAC Show Information:

Show News: We hope to have a really good show and sale at Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville, MD on September 10th—12th. 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. Members of all three clubs will be contacted in the future for solicitation of other cash awards, designated or undesignated. Members retain 75% of their sales. We will have a meeting to discuss show preparation in August. The show schedule and publicity flier are attached in separate files as attachments to your emailed copy of June's Petal Tones. Please save it for your future preparation for the show.

The show is only 13 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



Doug Bolt's *Streptocarpus* 'Midnight Poison'



Minh Bui's *Streptocarpus* 'Purple Panda'

The Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society's Webmaster, Stan Sudol is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: TAVGS Meeting "A Cuban Gesneriad Experience" with Karyn Cichocki

In August of 2019, 13 people, consisting of mostly Gesneriad Society members, joined John L. Clark PhD on a trip to Cuba in search of gesneriads endemic to the island. The presentation will not only feature the gesneriads that were found but will also show a bit of the countryside, people, culture as well as flora & fauna.

Ed note: check out their great website! <https://tavgs.ca/>

Time: Jun 13, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Meeting ID: 822 7424 6944 Passcode: 203763

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82274246944?pwd=Vy9KZHZvNHBCQUhpb1BybmJjNjNYUT09>

<<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82274246944?pwd=Vy9KZHZvNHBCQUhpb1BybmJjNjNYUT09>>

Johanna's procedures for growing her *Titanotrichum oldhamii* successfully. Those blooms are certainly worth the efforts!



Johanna's *Titanotrichum oldhamii* in bloom. The rhizomes have had a difficult time staying under the soil in our garden. The rhizome in the photo is one of three pieces that were dug up by a squirrel, and it wasn't the first time. The plant has also been pulled out in the spring or the growing tip shredded by overly vigorous raking, so I came up with what has been a successful solution.

When the plant dies down in the fall, I put a gopher cage over the stem and pin it down so that a squirrel won't dig it up looking for acorns. In the spring I remove the cage when the emerging shoots are tall enough to be seen.



This is what I do to keep the squirrels or a rake from pulling up or digging up the *Titanotrichum oldhamii* rhizomes. These metal gopher cages keeps the critters from eating and disturbing the rhizomes,. This photo shows a few stems emerging, the metal support stake to keep the stems growing upright, the gopher cage and pins, and George and Martha Cicada watching the procedure.



This photo shows a piece of rhizome dug up by a squirrel.

Titanotrichum, which has a **single species** *T. oldhamii*, is distributed in southern Japan (incl. Ryukyu Islands), east China (Fujian) and Taiwan. These disjunct populations suggest once much-wider distribution, and the limited locations within which it now grows means that it is **vulnerable to extinction in the wild**. It is the only genus outside of the New World that produces rhizomes. It grows in shaded areas in valleys, 100-1200m, and can be grown in cool-temperate climates outside. The genus has been placed in *Scrophulariaceae*, but has been repeatedly regarded as belonging to *Gesneriaceae*. Wang placed it in the latter family in a tribe of its own (*Titanotricheae*). It is not related to Old World genera, but has to be included as a tribe of its own in the *Gesnerioideae*.

The single attractive species has been in wide cultivation, but propagation was necessarily through vegetative cloning (cuttings, propagules), as setting seed on the plants was impossible. It turns out that there are other clones in the wild which have been brought into cultivation, and the species is modestly fertile when pollinated by other clones.

Gesneriad Reference Web:

<https://gesneriads.info/gesneriad-genera/titanotrichum/#:~:text=Titanotrichum%2C%20which%20has%20a%20single%20species%20T.%20oldhamii%2C,it%20is%20vulnerable%20to%20extinction%20in%20the%20wild.>

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Codonanthe devosina* 'Paula'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' seedling

Sinningia 'Anne Crowley' is a plant I received from Donna at our September 2020 Plant Swap. She grew a big tuber from a cutting of her plant that she grew from seed. She purchased the seed as S. 'Anne Crowley' from a gesneriad grower on Ebay many years ago. S. 'Anne Crowley' was hybridized by Paul Cummiskey crossing S. 'Georgia Sunset' F2 x S. *macropoda*. To make it more confusing S. *macropoda* may have been misidentified and should have been S. *lineata*. But the jury is still out! It's leaves & growth pattern is like S. *bullata* rather than like the original S. 'Anne Crowley' which grows like a rosette form; however, when she was hybridized S. *bullata* was not in cultivation. So the mystery continues!. No matter its ancestry this plant deserves a prominent place on our plant shelves. It blooms continually with the orange multi-hue blooms.

Codonanthe are epiphytes found growing on ant hills in South America. The ants pollinate the flowers and later take the fruit to eat, leaving the seeds to germinate. *Codonanthe* are closely related to *Nematanthus*, and intergeneric crosses have been made between the two. Humidity levels above 50% should produce more flowers and fruit. Due to their small size, they are frequently found in local green houses with plants sold for "fairy gardens" or terrariums.



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Diva'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'

Sinningia 'Diva' is very similar to *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'. Both are multiple branching hanging plants with double blossoms. There is only a slight difference in color; however, 'Party Dress' seems to bloom better. The blooms on 'Diva' barely opened up before quickly dying. This is a new plant for me, so I may have to give it more time to prove itself.

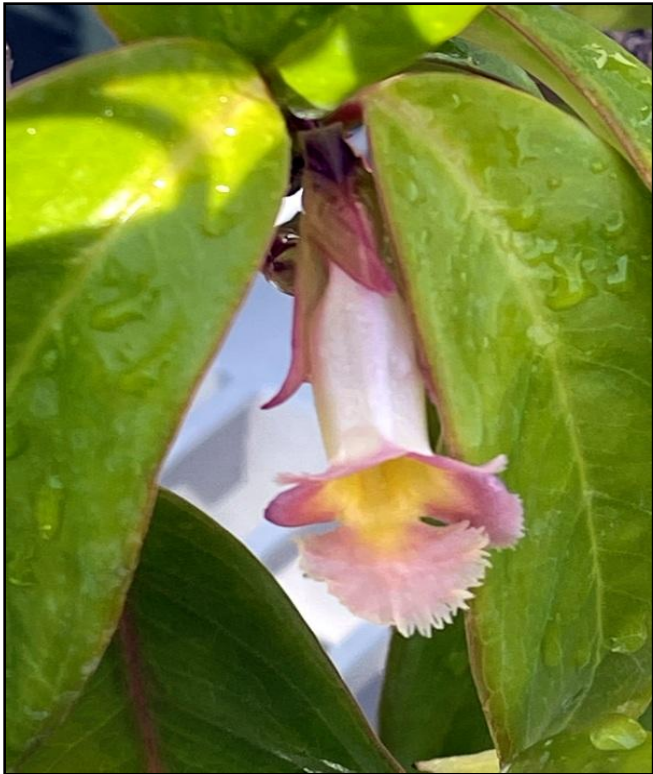
Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Achimenes candida* is his first achimenes to flower this year and he started it in February 2021 from seeds.



Johanna's *Deinostigma tamiana* on her kitchen windowsill.



Jim's *Drymonia* 'First Peach' flowering out on the lanai. Last time there was only a single bud. This time there are three. Hopefully there will be two open at the same time so he can attempt a selfing.



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red' grown from Brazil seeds

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Columnea purpureovittata*. I killed it twice before, so I can't claim any great growing skills!!

Gesneriad Reference Web:

Also known as *Trichantha purpureovittata*.

Columnea purpureovittata is notable primarily for its dramatic foliage, which is very dark and extremely bullate — which is to say that it has a bubbly and bumpy texture quite unlike most other members of the *Columnea* alliance. A well-grown basket is a striking sight, especially when the yellow and maroon striped flowers are present in any quantity. The berries of this species are also attractive.

<https://gesneriads.info/genera/columnea-trichantha-purpureovittata/>

Wishfully Seeking to Grow



Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa*, *Primulina leprosa*, *Primulina petrocosmoids*,
Kohleria 'Costa Rica'

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: some pink Kohlerias



Donna's *Kohleria* 'An's Cheerleader'



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Pink NOID' from Andy at September's plant swap.



Donna's: Close up of *Kohleria* NOID blossom...it is not *Kohleria* 'Peridots Rolo'. Jim thinks yes it is K. 'Emily Roberts', his hybrid. I am so excited...Really wanted this pink one! Should have rhizomes to share. Thanks Andy! Even thou you were threatening to compost everything left on your table!! Glad I gave in to my addiction!

<http://gesneriaceae.flori-si-plante.ro/?p=2485>

This is a close up of Donna's *Kohleria* 'Peridots Rolo' bloom. "My same plant blooming for like a year!! "

Bloomin' Now



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* 'Unicorn Bait' is one of her hybrids.



Johanna's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Pedra Lisa'



Johanna's *Sinningia guttata* blooming



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Laura' x self seedling

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Darth Vader' blooming now for her. Johanna purchased this beauty grown by Bill Schmidt and donated to our Auction in May. Good investment!



Andy's *Streptocarpus* hybrid he grew from his cross



Andy's *Sinningia* 'Kaleidoscope'

Bloomin' Now



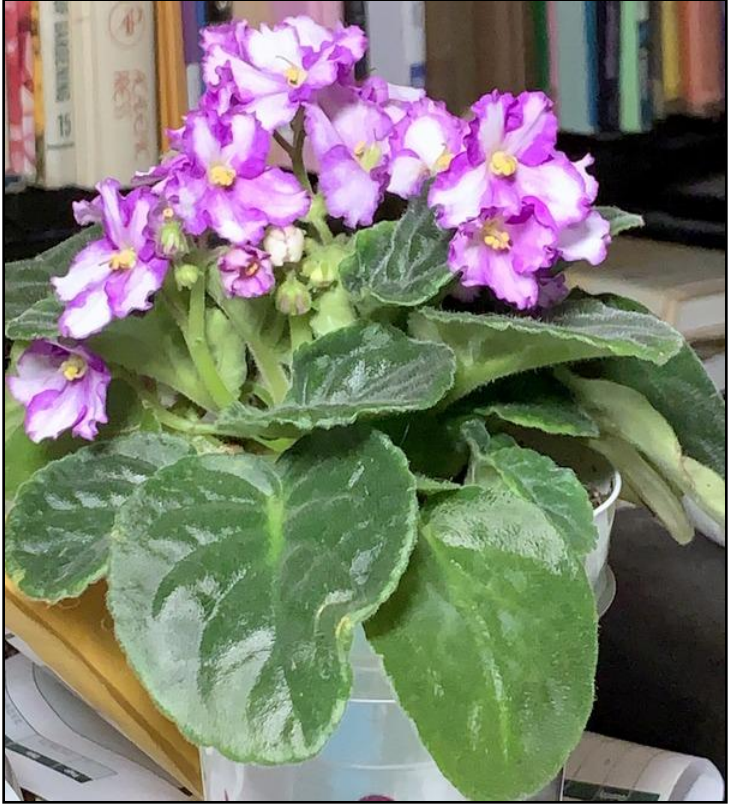
Donna's *Pearcea* sp. aff. *affinis* 'Ecuador' grow from cutting



Donna's *Chrysothemis pulchella* still blooming!



Donna's *Achimenes* 'Mme' Gehuene' with its first bloom



Donna's *Saintpaulia* NOID is reblooming!

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia concinna* 'Seropedica' seedlings



Dave's Mini *Sinningia* NOID seedling



Dave's *Sinningia* Cindy Ella



Andy's *Sinningia* seedling from Dave's cross



Dave's *Episcia* 'Silver Skies'



Andy's *Sinningia* seedling from Dave's cross



Barb's *Sinningia* eumorpha

***Sinningia* 'Rio 16'** 2017, IR171355, Hung Xuan Nguyen, California (*Sinningia guttata* x *S. helleri*). Cross made December 2015, seed planted March 2016, first flowering August 2016. Fertile. Growth is tall, upright, and tuberous. Leaves green with some red coloration on the back, 200mm long x 300mm wide with 50mm petiole, elliptic with cuneate base, crenate margin and acute tip. Calyx leafy, mixed red and green with touch of red, 60mm, pedicel 20mm with 1 flower per axil. Corolla salverform, 90mm long by 40mm wide, white with purple dots. Mixed red and green calyx and upward facing white flower with dots are distinctive.

www.gesneriadsociety.org



2021 Gesneriad Society National Convention Schedule

Register for free here:

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2021-convention/>

Donation encouraged. Time is EST.

Tuesday, June 29th

12pm - Gesneriads - Plants for Beginners
3pm - Official Opening with Mel Grice, President
3pm - Terri Vicenzi, Growing and Showing Streptocarpus (following the Official Opening)
7:30pm - Conservation Committee - Preserving Gesneriads for the Future

Wednesday, June 30th

12pm - Gesneriads - Here, There and Everywhere!
5pm - Ruth Coulson, Growing Gesneriads in Australia
7:30pm - Gesneriad Hybridizers' Association meeting, featuring Dale Martens

Thursday, July 1

12pm - Gesneriads - Getting Information, Plants and Support
3pm - Annual Meeting of the Gesneriad Society
7:30pm - David Middleton, New and Beautiful Gesneriads of South-east Asia

Friday, July 2

10am - Student Research Presentations
12:00pm - The Virtual Flower Show Opens!
3pm - Nathan Gazineu, Gesneriads of Southern Brazil
7:30pm - Fang Wen, Gesneriads of China

Saturday, July 3

12 pm - Serge Saliba, Hybridizing Beautiful *Achimenes* and Other Genera
11:15 am - Convention Close with Mel Grice (President)

President: Minh Bui
Minhbui82@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Barbara Stewart
Bstew771@verizon.net

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

Secretary: Carol Hamelink

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin
Petaltones@gmail.com or
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
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
Permission to reprint from Petal Tones is granted to other Gesneriad Society editors, provided that credit is given to the author and the publication.

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/>