

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 52 Number 5

May 2021



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Stars' gracing her windowsill.

They say April showers bring May flowers, which I'm looking forward to. But I'm looking forward to our first plant auction organized by Mary, Barb, Johanna, and Donna! We've got a nice selection of Gesneriads to add to your collection!

I'm also thrilled about our upcoming show! We'll be one of the first shows to open this year, so let's make it great! I'm asking everyone exhibit at least one plant! If you haven't done so, repot that plant and get it ready!

-Minh

NCAC April meeting
Saturday, May 8, 2021

10:30am EST

Plant Auction

To be held after Business Meeting
See Page 2 for more Auction Information

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82917067294?pwd=Zm4vTIUrOXNHbDVjZHhpbXpMMlkvdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 1706 7294

Passcode: 196694

Up and Coming Programs:

May 15th: Auction Pick-up & Plant Swap: Johanna's Home 11:00am to 3:00pm

June 12th: Hung Nyugen, "Sinningia on the Tourist Path of Brazil"

Bill Schmidt:

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 is attached in a separate file. Please save it for your future preparation for the show.

Attention Members! Our May Plant Auction & Swap !

May Program: On-line Plant Auction & Plant Swap

Barbara Stewart

Our program for May 8th 2021 will be an on-line plant auction. Mary Schaeffer said we have 50 plants in the auction.

Saturday, May 15th at Johanna Zinn's home from 11am – 3:00pm (Plant Swap in back yard around pool. Covid Protocols in place. Masks must be worn.

1. Sellers should also suggest a minimum bid, although it may be adjusted at the sale if it seems too low or too high.
2. We will also have plants from Mel Grice included in the auction.
3. The auction will begin after the business meeting. Bidders will use the chat feature to bid on each plant presented, and the winning bidder and price will be recorded.
4. Plants will be available to pick up at Johanna Zinn's house the following weekend during the in-person plant swap. Cash or check accepted at pick up.
5. Sellers will have their plant material in bags labeled with the buyer's name to help make pick-up quicker and easier in Johanna's front yard.

This is a great way to share our extra plants, and get some new plants as well. Since we are not meeting in person and having our monthly raffle, this will also help generate funds for the chapter while we have a little fun.

Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Episcia* 'Silver Skies'



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red'

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Chrysothemis pulchella* bloom close up



Donna's *Chrysothemis pulchella* dark form



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Banana Foster' x self seedling



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Bethan' and 'Salmon Sunset' in prop box

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Tiny Woodland Trail'



Bill's *Achimenes* 'Sauline'



Bill's *Sinningia* 'Darth Vader'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Heartland's Blackberry Butterflies'

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Sinningia conspicua* x *bullata*



Primulina 'Omen'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Omen' close up



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' x self with big tuber.

Bloomin' Now



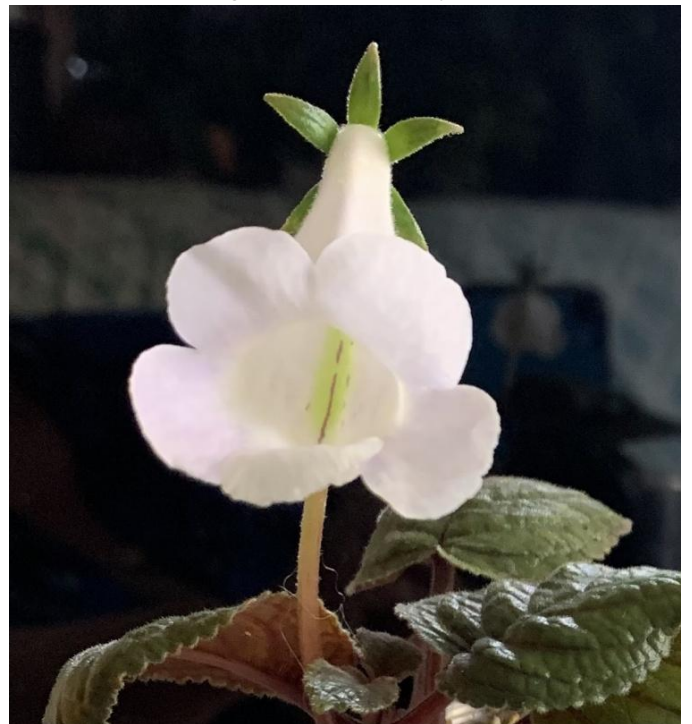
Dave's *Sinningia* 'Laura' (Mini)



Donna's *Sinningia* NOID possibly 'April Snow' x self



Donna's *Smithiantha multiflora* seedling



Donna's *Sinningia eumorpha* seedling

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



Barb's: *Sinningia reitzii*: "This is a cutting that broke off and I just stuck it in a vase until I had time to plant it. Interesting that it has sprouts on several nodes in addition to a mass of roots at the bottom. No algae water or Clonex was used. I will try to cut it apart and plant each sprout separately."



Barb's *Sinningia amabayensis*: "The leaves have turned very bright yellow, probably because it is getting old and has grown up to the lights. It never stops blooming, though."

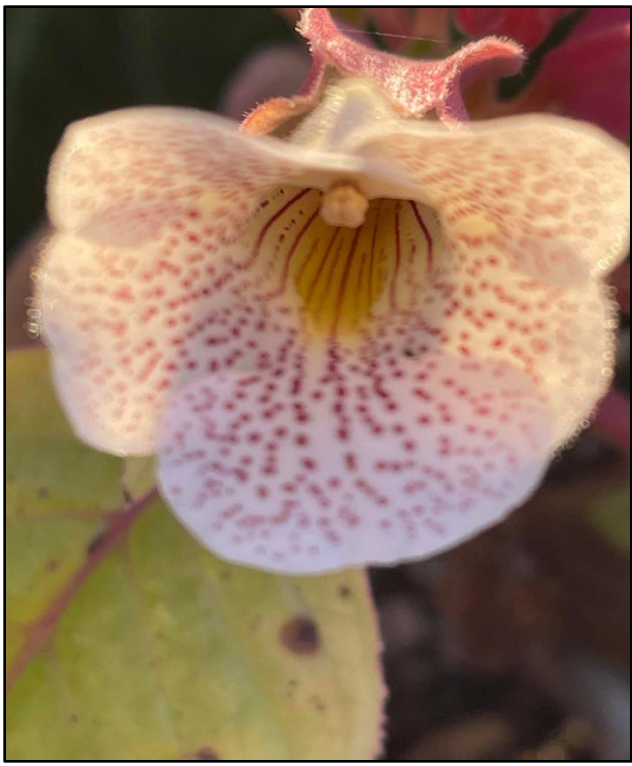


Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Iced Artistry x Neil's Winchester': "This was a seedling from a GHA cross. It is a stunning bright color with interesting veining, but no variegation which I was hoping for."



Karyn Cichocki's beautiful *Primulina medica*'s blooms shared on Gesneriphiles.

Bloomin' Now



Jim Robert's *Sinningia helleri* 'Rio 16" a hybrid from Hung Nguyen of the San Francisco Bay Area Gesneriad Chapter



Jim's *Drymonia* 'First Peach'
"There was some discussion in Gesneriphiles about *Drymonia* 'First Peach' so I thought I'd share a photo now that mine is in flower. It's really loving the hot days and humidity on the lanai"

Foliage of Jim's *Drymonia*.

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Primulina* 'Diane Marie'



Johanna's gorgeous *Episcia* NOID



Johanna's *Primulina* close up of bloom



Johanna's *Episcia* leaf close up



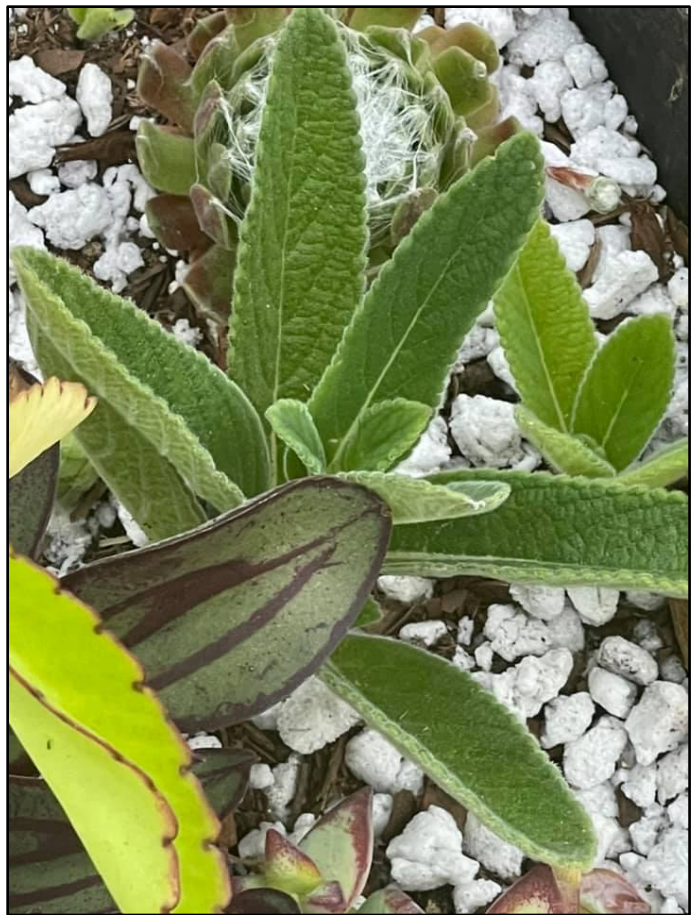
Jim's *Sinningia leucotricha* 'Max Dekking' does not emerge from the tuber with a cluster of flower buds already poised at the crown of the single set of leaves, ready to open. Instead it grows up into several glorious hairy sets of leaves before it buds. Love those silver hairs!



Johanna's *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather'



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Salmon Sunsets' is blooming. It is the sister seedling to the much less well-known 'Lucky Strike' which I have been growing for years. Together, the 'Lucky Strike' is a bluer pink, while the 'Salmon Sunset' is peachy.



Jim Roberts:

I haven't put any of my *Sinningia* in the ground here in Florida (yet). Waiting for Drew to build his cactus and succulent garden on the South side of the house.

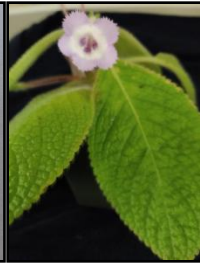
Sinningia tubiflora grows in a big pot on the south side of the house where it gets full sun. Winters here are very dry, so I thought to myself "why not plant some cacti and succulents in that same pot? They'll give the pot some color while the *Sinningia* is dormant and maybe even flower next year about this time, just as the *S. tubiflora* starts back up."

Well, the *S. tubiflora* is on it's way up around the cacti and succulents. I think it's going to be an interesting pot year round.

Editor's note: Jim will keep us posted!

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 Heaven',

Paradyrmonia campostyla,

Sinningia 'Freckles',

Sinningia 'Maiden's'



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

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

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/>

Permission to reprint from Petal Tones is granted to other Gesneriad Society editors, provided that credit is given to the author and the publication.

Primulinas: Pictures of Primulinas that Mel Grice has donated to the Auction

Primulinas are some of the most popular gesneriad plants that have come about in recent years! They are native to the Asian area, growing in the higher elevations. They are grown for their beautiful foliage, showy flowers, and ease of care! We find that they grow very well with lower light levels, cooler temperatures, and a minimum of water and fertilizer. Requirements for artificial lighting would be around 8 to 10 hours. They will do well on the bottom shelf of "light stands" and near the end of the fluorescent light tubes. Use a light, porous potting mix, and grow them in small pots! Let the soil become fairly dry between watering. Feed plants regularly, using a well balanced fertilizer, at ¼ tsp. per gallon of water, with every watering.



Petrocosmea 'Keystone's Brilliant



Primulina baishouensis



Primulina fimbrisepala 'Wuhan'



Primulina gueilinensis



Primulina 'Loki' (curly form)



P. medica (w/o number)



Karyn Cichocki's blooms *P. medica*



P. petrocoseoides



Primulina 'Piccolo'



Karyn Cichocki's *Primulina shouchengensis*



P. Moi



Primulina 'Blue Moon'



Primulina 'Destiny'



Primulina 'First Time'



Primulina 'Hotel'



Primulina 'Kazu'



Primulina 'Nimbus'



Primulina 'Omen'



Primulina 'Vertigo'

The genus *Primulina* (previously called *Chirita*) contains about 150 species, most have only been discovered comparatively recently and few are in cultivation, until now none being produced commercially. *Chirita* comes from the Hindustani word meaning Gentian.

They originate from Sri Lanka and India through the Himalayas into China and South East Asia down the Malay Peninsula and as far as Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

The plants can be shrubby perennial herbs, soft-stemmed annual herbs, stemless perennial rosettes or diminutive herbs with only one or two leaves. Many of the species grow on rocky hillsides or cliffs often on limestone. They vary from *Streptocarpus* by having straight rather than twisted fruits. Most do not stand high temperatures.

PRIMULINA CULTIVATION

Primulinas are close relatives of *Saintpaulias* (African Violets) and *Streptocarpus* and originate in very similar conditions in the wild, except in Asia rather than Africa. This means the cultivation conditions are very similar. They need to be started in small pots as they prefer to be pot-bound. Small species such as *P. tamiana* will stay small and need pot sizes similar to *Saintpaulias*. Some of the bigger growing species and hybrids will need regular potting on, eventually growing to a number of feet in size.

Always use a well drained light compost, a proprietary peat or fibre based compost is fine but not a loam based compost.

Only water when necessary, wait until the compost is dry to the touch. Feed a high potash feed weekly throughout the growing season.

Normal house temperature is ideal for Primulinas. In a conservatory or greenhouse they prefer not to go to temperatures above 30°C (86°F). Most Primulinas will go down to a minimum of frost protection.

They are not too fussy about humidity levels and will tolerate low humidities in the house. They however do not like high humidities and wet compost during low temperatures in the winter.

Primulinas prefer good light levels but do not want the full sun during the summer months. In the house West, East or North windowsills and in the greenhouse 50% shading is required in the summer.

Different Primulinas flower at varying seasons throughout the year.

PRIMULINA PROPAGATION

The species can be propagated by seed, but the hybrids will not come true from seed. The seed is very fine and should be sown on the moist surface. Enclose in a propagator or cover in glass.

Propagate from a leaf in a similar way to *Saintpaulia*. Remove a healthy dark leaf by making a clean cut at the base of the petiole. Place this upright in the compost. A mixture of peat based compost and vermiculite is the most suitable medium. Cover in a polythene bag or place in a propagator to keep humid. Maintain at room temperature.

The leaf will root within a few weeks. It will then produce a mass of plantlets which can be teased apart.

The larger leaved *Primulina* can be propagated by cutting the leaf into sections, similar to *Streptocarpus* propagation. The side veins will each produce a plantlet.

Courtesy of Dibleys