

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 53 Number 11

November 2022



Johanna's *Titanotrichum oldhamii*

President's Message:

My time as President for NCAC comes to a close but what a fun 2 years it has been! We held one of the first Gesneriad plant shows as things finally opened up a little over a year ago after Covid restrictions were relaxed, and a recent fun mini show a couple months ago!

This coming week, please visit the MAAVS convention in Baltimore as some of your NCAC members will exhibit some beautiful plants and designs, and I'll also be elected the next MAAVS President. We also have 3 vendors coming so expect a nice variety of plants for sale, too!

Nov 12th No meeting this month due to MAAVS
See email attachments for MAAVS info.
Dec 10th Holiday party at Minh's home

Minh: cont'

I have also offered up my home next month for our annual NCAC party on December 10th, where we'll hold our meeting, elect your new president, renew your membership, and enjoy some holiday food and beverages. Hope you'll be able to attend! there'll be plenty of street parking. It should be the same time as our usual meetings on Dec 10 from 10:30-1 pm.

Minh Bui, President



Jim's *Aeschynanthus x Splendidus*

**Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society
30th Anniversary Celebration**

"Violets with Us Throughout the Years"

MAAVS CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 11 & 12, 2022
Location: Delta by Marriott
Baltimore Hunt Valley
245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Bloomin' Now



Peggy : "My *Primulina* 'Stardust' has ten flowers on it today."



Dave's *xSmithicodonia* 'Heartland's Joy', a Dale Marten's 2017 hybrid between *Smithiantha* 'Sassy Redhead' x *Eucodonia* seedling. Produces many rhizomes.



Jim's : Leong Tuck *Eucodonia* hybrid seedling



Close up of Jim's *Eucodonia* blooms

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia bullata x conspicua*



Dena's *Saintpaulia* 'Jolly Prince'



Donna's *Smithiantha* seedling



Jim's *Alsobia chiapensis*



Donna's *xGloximannia* 'She's Dancing'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Cindy Ella'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Grable'



Donna's *S. bullata x conspicua*

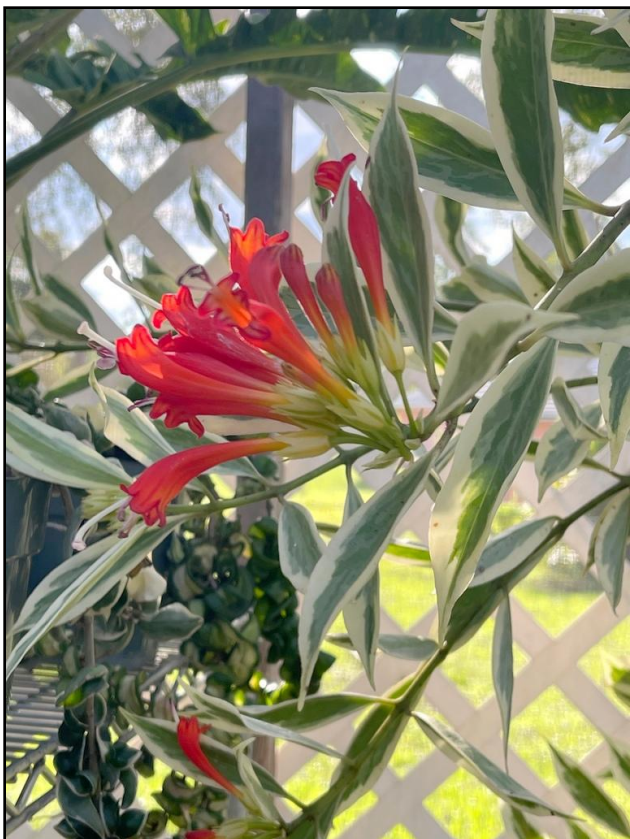
Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Aeschynanthus* 'Fireworks'



Jim's *Aeschynanthus* 'Black Pagoda'



Jim's *Aeschynanthus* sp. 'Thai' variegated



Nadya's *Columnea fendlerii*

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's "*Hemiboea subcapitata* DJHH 14151 is a rare and superior fully hardy gesneriad collected in Hubei, China in 2014, forming low mounds of herbaceous glossy foliage and pretty tubular Sinningia-like flowers in mid-summer. It prefers light shade in evenly moist soils. Loose clusters of foxglove-like flowers, white with purple-speckled throats, bloom in clusters over fleshy, heart-shaped leaves mid-summer to late summer. From southeastern China's moist woodlands and forests, it will spread by rhizomes to form a ground cover if the soil is rich, moist, and well-draining. Of the gesneriad family.

Mature size: 1.5 feet tall & 5+ feet wide in good conditions" (Insert is close up of the bloom)



Johanna: "Another bloom has opened beneath the first one. The older bloom appeared to have 4 anthers laying on the bottom of the bloom. Since most of the pollinators have left the garden, I decided to pick up each anther up with a oak petiole and introduce it to the stigma. It probably won't form seeds this late in the season, and it may not be self-fertile, but I tried.

Plant Delights is selling *H. subcapitata* in this year's catalogue"

"Don't bother to look *Titanotrichum oldhamii* up, 'cause you won't find it...except in the tropical books where it's listed as a Zone 9 plant. Our friend Ozzie Johnson originally shared this remarkable hardy Chinese gesneriad (African violet cousin) in 2002. It was great to finally see it growing wild in Taiwan in 2008, where it clung to nearly vertical rock cliffs. The fuzzy basal leaves make a nice small clump to 12" wide which, in September and October, is topped with 1' spikes of dramatic, golden yellow bells with vivid, cinnamon-red centers. One look at a flowering *Titanotrichum oldhamii* will bring you to your knees faster than a passing pope...we promise! *Titanotrichum oldhamii* has survived 0 degrees F in our garden with good winter drainage." For sale at \$21 from Plant Delights Nursery: <https://www.plantdelights.com/products/titanotrichum-oldhamii>

Photo by JLBG taken at Juniper Level Botanic Garden, NC



Here is a picture of the last plant swap held in Richmond just before Halloween. There was a costume contest (hence the dinosaur in the background) as well as the usual raffle and a freebee table. This is a Facebook group, so there are no regular meetings. They find various locations, often some place where food and drink are served, although churches and garden centers have also hosted the plant swaps. It is free to join and free to participate. Most people sell plants, but there is a lot of "swapping" and selling going on before the event via the Facebook page. Plants are then picked up at the swap. This group has a swap about every other month which is posted on their FB page. There are lots of rare and exotic plants, mostly in the philodendron and hoya families. Nadya and I are trying to generate interest in gesneriads. Nadya's hybrid *Streptocarpus* are always good sellers. After doing a search on FB, it looks like there are lots of groups like this all around the country. They really are a lot of fun and a good way to share plants. Barb Stewart



Distribution, ecology and conservation status *Primulina petrocosomeoides* is endemic to China (Jingxi County), grows only on outcrops of shaded moist limestone under subtropical evergreen broadleaved shrubs in one big gorge, 900 – 1000 m a.s.l. We have visited the type locality of this new species many times. All plants, not more than 1200 individuals, are clustered together in a fairly narrow area at the top of a cliff . They grow in a popular scenic spot near the town of Hurun, but they are protected from tourists by their elevated location. We propose that *P. petrocosomeoides* should be provisionally considered as ' Endangered ' (EN, B2) Bo Pan and Fang Wen 2014 The Nordic Journal of Botany.

Barb Koski's *Primulina petrocosomeoides*

Bloomin' Now



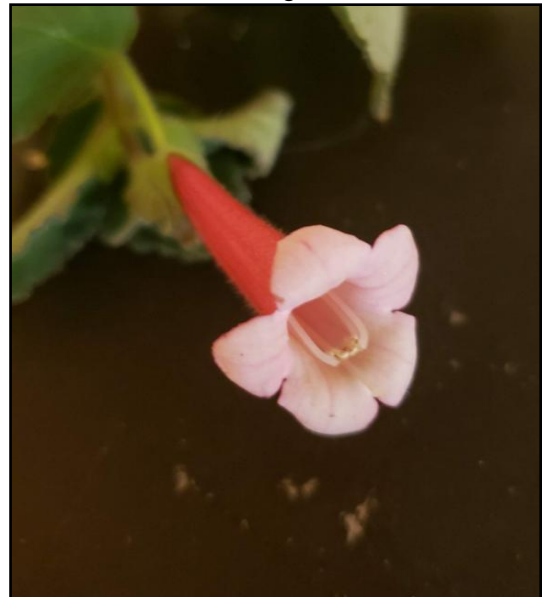
Barb Stewart's
Sinningias all grown
from Brazil Plants
seeds.
Sinningia speciosa
pink.

Below: unnamed
Sinningia regina
hybrid x burgundy
purple seedling



Barb's *Sinningia* seedling

Barb's *Alsobia* 'San Miguel'



Barb's *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'

Barb's *Sinningia harleyii* from BP seeds

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NCAC website: www.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: ncacotqs-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" to be held July 3-8, 2023, at the Westin Richmond Hotel in the Near West End of town.