

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 52 Number 10

October 2021

## President's Message:

What a fabulous show! NCACGS and DAVGS have put together a much needed and anticipated show, garnering much hope and promise that things are slowly coming back to normal. I've received only positive feedback from other Gesneriad lovers across the country, commending us on the show's success. We are pioneers and others have taken notice.

Of course, the show would not have been possible without a lot of help from several key members including Bill who organized everything from beginning to end, Barbara Stewart for her unwavering leadership, Donna for her encouragement and assistance, Peggy and Carol for setting up and making the show a reality, Mary for her experience and guidance (I certainly learned how to be a better judge), and I'm sure I'm forgetting many others. This was a showcase not of only plants, but also of our resilience as a plant community, despite the pandemic and issues securing the venue. I've never been more proud to be part of a plant club than our's, and I'm a member of 15 clubs!

The show's success was made possible by several excellent growers and designers, most notably Barbara Borleske for her Best in Show with *Seemannia nematanthodes*, and our club's very own VP Barbara Stewart for her Best in Artistic with Natural Garden and Best in Arts with Monochrome Print. There were other exceptional growers in our club including Donna, Peggy, and Johanna, all whom received a Best in Section award. Kudos to the well-earned awardees, and I'm looking forward to more wonderful plants during show-and-tell at our meetings! Minh


NCAC Meeting  
October 9, 2021  
Gesneriad Society's Webinar:  
The Marvelous World of Columneas

Zoom Link: Join Zoom Meeting


<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89100653608?pwd=aEF1TnVLQmlpTjZJZjVBQQTJUM2NoUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 0065 3608  
Passcode: 822010

The Gesneriad Society



The Marvelous World of Columneas



By: Jay Sespico



# NCAC SHOW AWARDS



## NCAC Show Awards

Best in Show, Best Rhizomatous, Best in Section B	<i>Seemmania nematanthodes</i>	Barbara Boleske
Best Artistic, Best in Section N	Natural Garden	Barbara Stewart
Best Arts, Best in Section P	Monochrome Print	Barbara Stewart
Best Educational, Best in Section R	Tubers	Donna Beverin
Horticultural Sweepstakes		Barbara Boleske
Artistic Sweepstakes		Barbara Stewart
Special Award	<i>Primulina</i> 'Jade Moon'	Barbara Borleske
Special Award, Best in Section G	<i>Centroselenia densa</i>	Johanna Zinn
Best Kohleria	<i>Kohleria</i> 'Jardin de Monet'	Barbara Borleske
Best Episcia, Best in Section E	<b>Episcia</b> 'Unpredictable Valley'	Barbara Stewart
Best Primulina	<i>Primulina</i> 'Minnie Pearl'	Barbara Borleske
Best Streptocarpus	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Lavendar Ruffles'	Barbara Borleske
Best in Section A	<i>Sinningia bullata</i>	Peggy MacDonald
Best in Section C	<i>Columnnea</i> 'Jean Katzenstein'	Barbara Borleske
Best in Section F	<i>Sinningia concinna</i> 'Seropedica'	Donna Beverin
Best in Section J	Collection of a single genera— <i>Primulina</i> : P. 'Maxtimer', P. <i>ophiopogoides</i> x P. <i>linearifolia</i> , P. 'Stardust', P. 'Little Dragon'	Minh Bui
Best in Section K	Latin Dances	Barbara Stewart
Best in Section L	Feather Dress Dance	Barbara Stewart
Best in Section M	Vietnamese Fan Dance	Barbara Stewart





Barbara Borleski's : Best in Show *Seemannia Nematanthodes* with close up top right.



Barb B's *Streptocarpus 'Dale's Smurf Party'*

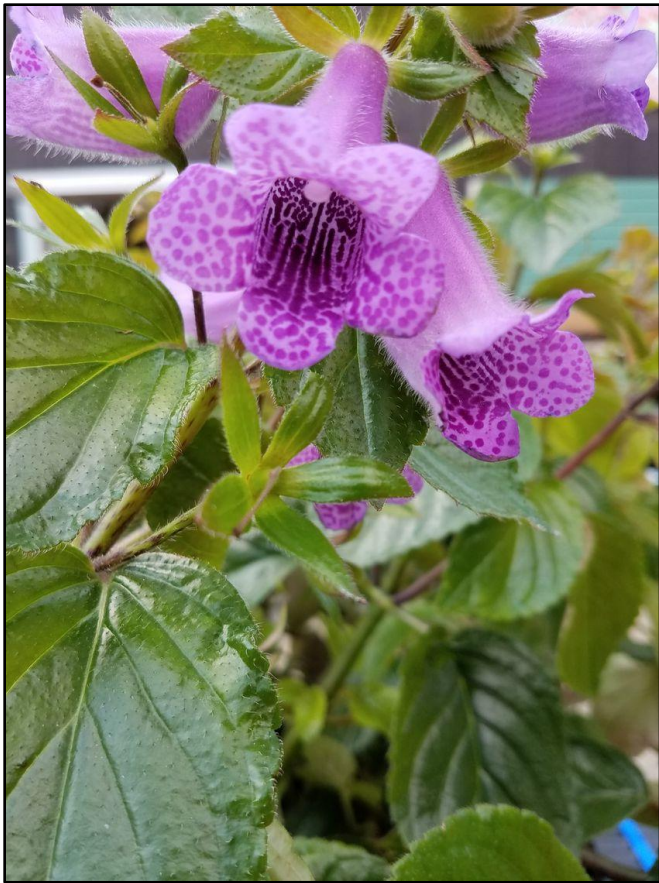


Barbara Stewart's 'Feather Dress Dance'



Barb's natural garden that won best in the artistic class





Gloximannia 'She's Dancing' grown by Marie Walueff. Photo courtesy Johanna Zinn



Peggy's *Sinningia bullata* full of orange flowers! So well grown. A blue ribbon winner! Congratulations Peggy!



Donna's *Sinningia concinna* 'Seropedica'



Bill's Blue Ribbon *Episcia* 'Butternut' (top) and Barb's second place *Episcia* 'Silver Dust' Both so well grown! Congrats!





Barbara Stewart's Best in Arts Monochromatic Print



Barb B's *Streptocarpus* 'Lavender Ruffles'



Barbara Borleski's *Kohleria* 'Jardin de Monet'



Barb B's *Achimenes* 'Sweet Giant'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' seedling full grown



Maria's *Sinningia* 'Orange Raindrops'





Barb S's.: *Episcia* 'UnpredictableValley' (blue ribbon)



Mary Schaeffer's *Columnea gigantea*



Bill's *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'



Mary S. top side of *Columnea gigantea*



Peggy's Blue ribbon photo of *Streptocarpella*



Dave's *X Smithicodonia* 'Heartland's Joy'

# Gloximannia 'She's Dancing' by John Boggans

December 6, 2013 <http://dctopics.blogspot.com/2013/12/x-gloximannia-shes-dancing.html>

What the heck is a *xGloximannia*? (The "x" or multiplication sign, indicating an intergeneric hybrid, is not pronounced.) In a previous blog post I discussed the gesneriad genus *Seemannia* close relative of *Gloxinia*. Although these two genera look very different, they are closely enough related that their respective species can be easily crossed to produce viable hybrids. And what do you get if you cross the two genera? The nothogenus (hybrid genus) *xGloximannia* of course. To the best of my knowledge, only *Gloxinia perennis* has been used from that genus and the hybrids tend to take after this parent. Neither of the other two species--*Gloxinia erinoides* and *Gloxinia xanthophylla*--have yet been crossed with any *Seemannia* species; it would be very interesting to see how such hybrids would turn out.

The first *xGloximannia* hybrids were produced by Gesneriad Society legend Frances Batcheller in the late 1970's, but at the time *Seemannia* was included in *Gloxinia* and they were simply considered *Gloxinia* hybrids. At least one of these, *xG. 'Arion'* (*Seemannia 'Medusa' x Gloxinia perennis*), is still around. In the 1980's I produced my own *xGloximannia* hybrids by crossing *Gloxinia perennis* with *Seemannia* (then *Gloxinia*) 'Chic'. These were spectacularly ordinary plants and not worth naming. They weren't improvements on either parent and I never gave much thought to such hybrids again until Dale Martens, a prolific gesneriad hybridizer, shared with me a small rhizome of her latest hybrid, *xGloximannia 'She's Dancing'*, at a Gesneriad Society convention in 2009.

During the first year I grew this plant, I have to confess I wasn't impressed. The plant took a long time to get established (largely due to neglect on my part) but eventually grew into a plant with handsome, glossy dark green foliage and an ever-elongating stem with large purple flowers with darker purple spots. The flowers were attractive, but grown indoors under fluorescent lights the plant was weak-stemmed and floppy. By the time it finally went dormant in mid-winter it had produced three very large rhizomes and several smaller ones, so I saved them and decided to give it another chance the following year. This time I planted the three largest rhizomes together in one large pot to grow outdoors on my rooftop deck, and the smaller rhizomes individually to grow indoors under lights.

The difference between the two groups of plants was amazing. The indoor plants grew much like the one I grew the previous year, and started to bloom in late summer. But the outdoor plants, which received several hours of direct morning sun with very bright indirect light the rest of the day, grew bigger, and bigger, and bigger, and didn't start setting buds until about the same time the indoor plants were already blooming. These large, stocky plants produced far more flowers and continued to bloom for a very long period, eventually growing to almost 3 feet tall.

When I showed photos to Dale Martens she was shocked by its size, saying it had never grown nearly that large for her, but other growers later corroborated my results. The secret seems to lie in the size of the rhizome: plants grown from small rhizomes, rhizome sections, or individual scales (a common way of propagating scaly rhizomatous gesneriads in quantity) will stay relatively small, but plants grown from large rhizomes will grow much larger. Dale was probably so excited by her new hybrid and anxious to share it that she propagated it by breaking up the rhizomes. This demonstrates why many scaly rhizomatous (and other) gesneriads, which may bloom in their first year from seed, can't be judged for their full potential until they've been grown through two or more growing seasons. Dale reports that she produced *xGloximannia 'She's Dancing'* by crossing *Gloxinia perennis* with an unnamed *Seemannia* hybrid (*S. gymnostoma x S. purpurascens*).

*Gloxinia perennis* has fragrant flowers, a fairly unusual characteristic among its relatives. Dale has been working to produce fragrant hybrids in several different genera, and her goal in this cross was to produce a fragrant hybrid. According to Dale, the other seedlings from the cross were weak and this was the only one to grow to maturity and bloom.

Although the flowers had no fragrance, they turned out to be larger than those of either parent, and covered with large purple spots. Dale tells me, "When the first flower opened in December of 2008, I screamed, 'Yippee!' then started my Happy Hybridizer's Dance.

Then called my husband into the plant room to see it. I was shocked at how large the seedling's flower was. There was no scent that day or on subsequent days, but that was my only disappointment with the new seedling.



John's article continued: **Gloximannia 'She's Dancing' by John Boggans**

The name for this seedling was inspired by my Happy Hybridizer's Dance which is where I do the 1960's dance, the 'twist' while doing 'jazz' hands."

I've tried growing *xGloximannia* 'She's Dancing' in different ways and under different conditions. Because of its height and high light requirements it simply isn't suitable for growing under fluorescent lights indoors but I've found it does well as a container plant outdoors. To my great surprise, a pot I left outdoors on my roof deck all winter sprouted a new plant the next spring, suggesting 'She's Dancing' may have some degree of hardiness if given good drainage and dry winter conditions.

It can also be used as a bedding plant in bright shade or part sun. Inspired by Dale's success, I decided to attempt some *xGloximannia* hybrids of my own, using dark-leaved hybrids from my Seemannia breeding program in hopes of producing flowers like those of 'She's Dancing' on plants with dark glossy foliage. Unlike Dale's hybrid my crosses had *S. nematanthodes* 'Evita' in their background, so I hoped they might have some degree of hardiness. But once again, although I did get some dark-leaved hybrids, my results were spectacularly ordinary.

The plants were attractive enough, but simply not different or distinct enough to merit naming, and not one of them had the distinct purple spotting of 'She's Dancing' that I liked so much. I gave them one more chance by leaving them in the ground over the winter, and not one of them returned the following spring. Oh well, you win some, you lose some. Dale is the clear winner of this round!



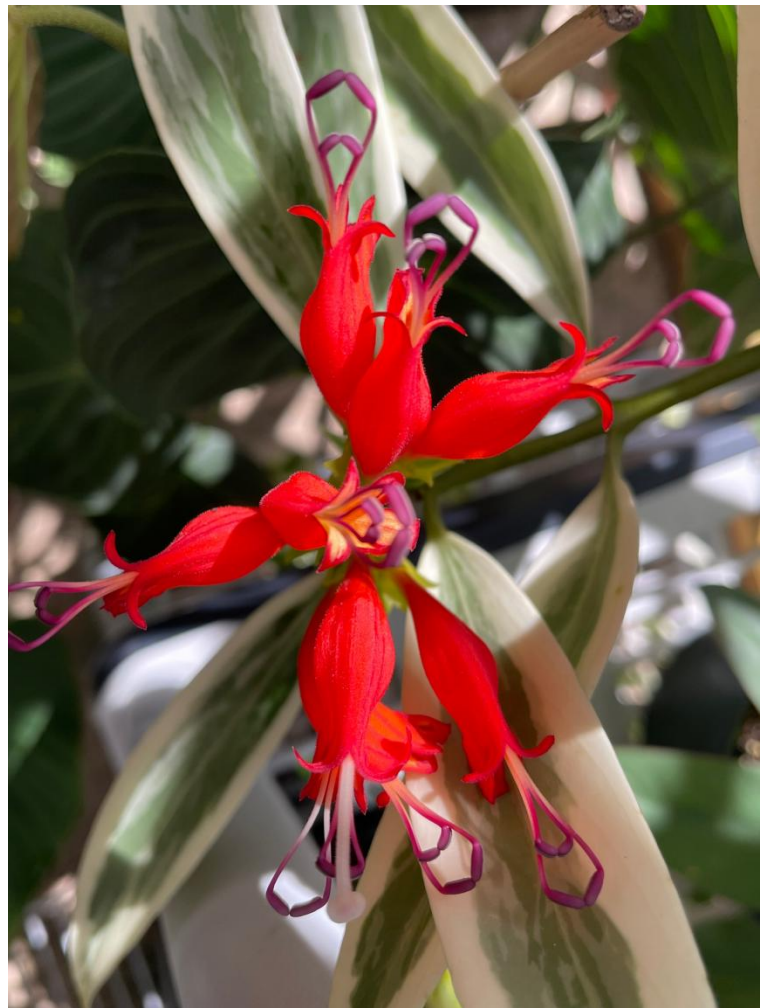
Kitty's *Primulina medica*. The blossoms are a delicate shade of pink with a darker pink on the reverse. I'm not sure whether or not any of the foliage shows, but it is pale green, fuzzy and very symmetrical. Definitely a favorite!



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara' NOID at Chesterfield Fair



## Bloomin' Now



Jim Roberts: "Here's *Aeschynanthus* sp Thailand, a nice variegated species. Drew gave it to Minh before we moved and Minh sent it back this Spring. Seems to like the Florida heat."

Gesneriad Reference Web: "This beautifully variegated cultivar appears to be a mutation of an unknown species, presumably from Thailand. It is very slow-growing and difficult to propagate, and flowers rarely – but when they occur the bright red flowers are a dramatic contrast to the leaves. This plant was exhibited at the Gesneriad Society's 2019 convention."

Youtube video about Bill Price's 2017 Show plant. Link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0E\\_ixuaeHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0E_ixuaeHA)

Dibley's : "Extremely rare, amazing plant that needs extra heat and humidity levels of 70-80% for good growth. The large vivid flowers are produced on the ends of stems."

Very detailed article about *Aeschynanthus*:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231991936\\_A\\_revision\\_of\\_Aeschynanthus\\_Gesneriaceae\\_in\\_Thailand](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231991936_A_revision_of_Aeschynanthus_Gesneriaceae_in_Thailand)



# Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Titanotrichum oldhamii* blooming



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'



Barry's *Streptocarpus*, unsure of name.



Sharon's *Eucodonia*..NOID Name please?





News from Dale Martens on FB: Elvin McDonald founded our society (Gesneriad Society) when he was 14 years old and this year is **The Gesneriad Society's** 70th anniversary. A big event was held at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden to celebrate Elvin on the anniversary as well to acknowledge all he's done for the Botanical Garden. "The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden Elvin McDonald Gesneriad Exhibit" was unveiled at a special launch party this past Friday. Generous Gesneriad Society members mailed plant material last spring and the garden now has over 40 different gesneriad hybrids/species. Other photos of displays below:





# Bloomin' Now

Johanna's pictures of her *Sinningia* 'Pink Pockets'



Plants Delight Nursery: "We are pleased to introduce our latest selection from a cross made by gesneriad expert John Farina. John's original cross involved *Sinningia conspicua*, *S. eumorpha*, and *S. 'Seminole'*. This selection makes a deciduous 10" tall x 2' wide clumper composed of oval, hairy, green, hand-sized leaves, attached with red-purple stems and adorned from mid-July through September with delicious pink pocketbook-like flowers. *Sinningia* 'Pink Pockets' is amazingly tough and easy to grow. Good winter drainage and a few hours of sun are perfect...also great as a houseplant in a sunny window."

**Item #:** 8470

**Zones:** 7b to 10b

**Dormancy:** Winter

**Height:** 10" tall

**Culture:** Part Sun to Light Shade

**Origin:** Hybrid

**Pot Size:** 3.5" pot (24 fl. oz/0.7 L)

**August 6, 2021** by [Juniper Level Botanic Garden](#)

"*Sinningia* 'Pink Pockets' was a Plant Delights/JLBG introduction in 2011...a hardy gesneriad that had thrived in our in ground trials in Zone 8. Planted in 2005 and still performing superbly in part sun. We love plants that stand the test of time in the garden."



President: Minh Bui  
Minhbui82@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Barbara Stewart  
Bstew771@verizon.net

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

Secretary: Position Open 9/14/2021

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)

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](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.

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/>