



PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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Dr. Grant Godden is a biological scientist at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida.

His research combines field botany with recent advances in genomics and biological computing to reconstruct the evolutionary histories of plants.

Although his work spans several plant groups, Dr. Godden's taxonomic focus and research largely centers on the mint family, a species-rich plant group of ~7200 species and important source of flavors, perfumes, and medicines.

Godden earned his BA and MS degrees in Interdisciplinary Humanities and Plant Biology, respectively, from Michigan State University (MSU) and his PhD in Botany from the University of Florida (UF). He also completed postdoctoral training at the California Botanic Garden, MSU, and Florida Museum, before accepting his current position at UF in Research Computing. Dr. Godden is an avid plant collector, nurseryman, hybridizer, and hobby grower, and maintains large collections of *Sinningia*, *Cattleya* and other orchids, and *Epiphyllum* cacti.

National Capital Area Chapter
Of the Gesneriad Society
10:00am EST Zoom opens

Time: Jun 10, 2023 10:00-10:30am Social time
10:30-11:30am Business Meeting
11:30 -12:30am **"Growing and Hybridizing
Miniature *Sinningias*" by Dr. Grant Godden**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89009704966?pwd=STU4SSt1YXpEY1JpTDJoS1dMdUZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 0970 4966
Passcode: 315136

September 9th : Jim Roberts 'Grow in Florida
October 14th: Workshop Subject TBA
November 2 -4 MAAVS show in Baltimore
December 9th Holiday Party, membership renewal
& plant exchange

President's Message:

We have a great speaker this month, so I hope you will join us on Zoom. I am looking forward to learning more about miniature *sinningias*.

Other than the "summer *sinningias*" which are tough to kill, I have the best luck with the miniatures. I like their compact nature and the variety of blossom colors.

Just a note that we will have the business meeting first followed by the program at 11:30.

Since we are only meeting 6 times this year, your presence and participation at the business meeting is very important for the continued functioning of the chapter. Hope to see you there at 10:30. The Zoom link will open around 10:00 so we can socialize and share what we are growing.

Barbara Stewart

Bloomin' Now



Dena's *Sinningia* "Tomorrow". "It made a large tuber before I could get it to bloom. The second photo shows the growth habit of the bloom stock, and the first photo was taken from the top."



Nadya's : "45-6 Male sterile, up to 8 flowers per stem and 1.5 inches wide. Penchant for throwing multiple extra petals. Suspect it's capable of producing a full flower head (similar to S. 'Falling Stars'), so keeping it around to confirm this."



Dena's *Sinningia* 'Esther'

Bloomin' Now



Donna's "*Sinningia* 'SimSim Salaviem' a present from Mary Schaeffer when I lost mine! Growing in little bonsai pot, a first for me, not growing in plastic."



Dena's Strep: "This is the first bloom from *Streptocarpus* #19 obtained from Nadya at NCAC meeting. I don't remember if it was seeds or a cutting."



Donna's *Achimenes* 'Gehuene' still in bloom



Donna's plant purchased this spring as *Chrysothemis* and "I think it is *Kohleria* with a dark leaf. Blooms will tell."



Nadya's *Sinningia reitzii*, a blue ribbon winner at the Richmond Violet show.

Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewart's *Saintpaulia* 'LE- Flirt'



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia* Noid



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Plumberry Glow', a blue ribbon winner at the Richmond Violet show. Photo by Barb Stewart



Barb Koski's blue ribbon winner at the Richmond Violet Show : *Columnnea* 'Jeanne Katzenstein' Photo, Barb Stewart

Bloomin' Now



Barb Borleske's *Primulina* 'Piccolo'



Barb Borleske: "Rooted cutting of *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' eager to bloom in a Solo cup!"



Barb Borleske: " *Streptocarpus* 'Iced Pink Flamingo' is so flashy! This is an older hybrid of Dale's that has been a favorite of mine for many years.



Barb Borleske: " *Primulina* 'Candy' is blooming now - too bad it could not wait for the convention in Richmond! Many of my blooming plants were disbudded for the convention show but *Primulina* mostly bloom when they feel like it."

Bloomin' Now



Barb Borleske: "*Sinningia helleri* is blooming away in my chilly basement but I don't think the plant is nice enough for the convention show."



Barb Stewart's *Achimenes noid*

Mr. Gesneriad:

Question: "I lose many germinating Gesneriad seedlings to algae growth on the surface of the soilless mix I use. I usually cover the container. Is it best to keep the container uncovered to prevent algae growth? Any other ideas?"

Peggy MacDonald

Mr. G: Peggy: "I always sterilize my seed mix. I thoroughly wet it down and put a big bowl (3 quarts) into the microwave for 15 minutes. Wait until cool before using and store the extra in a zip lock bag. Kills all the beneficial bacteria and fungi too, but seedlings don't need them. Also try to avoid soil that contains any fertilizers.

Once they have 4 leaves I pot them up into regular mix and start acclimating them to normal room conditions."



Donna's prop box needs potting up! & her *Saintpaulia* 'Owlsee Strength'



Donna's *Sinningia guttata*

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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. 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"

Venue: The Westin Richmond

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2023-convention-richmond-va/>

One of the topics that will be discussed at the 2023 Convention in Richmond, Virginia, in July is growing gesneriads outdoors. The plants in the photos below were grown outdoors in mid-New York State. Our convention speaker will discuss the challenges and rewards of growing gesneriads outdoors. From Margaret Califano the grower: "I put some 'extra' Gesneriads outdoors this summer and got interesting results. The New York weather was very hot and lacked rain in my area, and the porch area was a bit shadier than in the past. Some did better than others. *Chrysosthemis adenosiphon* got huge but didn't bloom. The basket of mostly Sinningia 'Prudence Risley' did well. The Streptocarpus window box took awhile to grow, but improved with time. Sinningia 'Rock Loves Paul' bloomed a lot early, but now wants to restart a crown."

