

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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September 2020



Bill Schmidt's rarely seen *Phinea multifolia* 'Tracery' but he said Jim thinks it is 'Caligula'.

President's Message

One of my favorite gesneriads is the genus Kohleria. There is such a variety of patterns and colors, and like many rhizomatous gesneriads they are easy to grow and usually forgiving of some cultural neglect. Growing them well, however, is more of a challenge. Timing is important, as they are fast growers. Donna will have a lot of good information for us on growing these wonderful plants.

We hope to continue to have a good turnout for our Zoom meeting this month. Feel free to invite your friends who are interested in growing plants and learning more about gesneriads. There is something for everyone to grow in the gesneriad family. See you on line at our Zoom meeting next Saturday!

Barbara Stewart

Pre-Pandemic MEETING LOCATION:

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723

September 12th : Zoom Meeting 10:30am
Growing Kohlerias: History, Culture, Propagation, Species and Hybrid Compact Growers

Sept 12th: Zoom meeting 10:30am Growing Kohlerias, a Power Point Presentation by Donna Beverin. All members invited to chime in and share your growing experiences with Kohlerias. If you have any Kohleria plants in your collection you can share them live with us during the Zoom meeting or send pictures to me ahead of time.

Barbara Stewart is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NCAC meeting

Time: Sep 12, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83895875552?pwd=WFBKQytHZlV5ZTg0SE9FcllReHRCUT09>

Meeting ID: 838 9587 5552

Passcode: 784872

October 10th: Program host needed

November 21th: Program host needed

December 12th: Holiday Party TBA

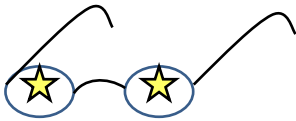
To Join or renew your membership to NCAC please send a check to our Treasurer, Andy Meier. His address is located on our Membership list or you can send the editor an email at petaltones@gmail.com.

Dues are \$10 per calendar year. Alternatively you can send your payment via PayPal using the email address:

ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com

Announcement: Johanna Zinn is hosting a plant swap/exchange/sale on the lawn of her home on Saturday, September 19, 2020. If you would like to participate planning is necessary so members can know what to box up and bring. This event is open to the NCAC members and Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society. See page 9. More information to follow in emails to both groups from Donna Beverin

Wishfully Seeking to Grow



- Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa*, *Primulina leprosa*, *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts'
- Janet Carlton..... *Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Barry Woolf..... *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Innocent' & *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'
- Johanna Zinn..... *Pearcea sprucei* and *Nautilocalyx x pictus* 'Jade'
- Nadya Warther-Gibson *Streptocarpus* :fresh pollen from a fantasy type and/or green edged (DEM hybrids)
- Barb Koski *Drymonia variegata*

BLOOMIN' NOW



Janet's "*Streptocarpus* 'Alissa' grown under lights, then in my kitchen window. This plant is getting large and is currently producing a lot of blooms, which are a deeper yellow than the camera captures. I like this hybrid because it often looks very orchid-like due to how the blooms rise up above the leaves." Photo taken outdoors for better lighting.



Janet: "*Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Cloudburst' bursting forth in full bloom. Pretty amazing isn't it? This was just before I cut all the blooms off to revitalize the plant. Many old leaves need to be removed and the entire thing needs to be potted down and allowed to re-grow."



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Vampire's Kiss'



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Catherine'

BLOOMIN' NOW



Bill's *Achimenes* 'Inferno'
(*Achimenes glabrata* x *Smithiantha zebrina*)



Johanna: "*Episcia* 'Blue Heaven' rooted cuttings ready for the cutting and plant exchange "



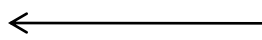
Johanna Zinn's *Sinningia musicola*. "The blooms are a bit faded from growing in natural light."



Johanna's mother plant of the cuttings of *Alsobia* 'Chiapas'. Rooting and blooming cuttings in photo to the left.



After reading posts by Dale Martens about rooting cuttings in algae water, I stuck two cuttings of *Alsobia* 'Chiapas' in the wicking holes of a plant that had moved on. Not only have the cuttings started rooting, but they are blooming. Johanna



BLOOMIN' NOW



Doug's shelf of prolific blooming *Streptocarpus*, including *S.* 'Falling Stars'.

Streptocarpus 'Falling Stars' is a remarkably floriferous hybrid which has brought great credit to its creators, Dibley's Nurseries in north Wales. As many as 25 small, dainty sky-blue flowers with white centers may arise on a single stalk which can cascade over the sides of its pot. A well grown plant can look like a solid mound of pale lavender with a rosette of hairy, oblong leaves.



Close ups of Doug's *S.* 'Falling Stars'



Tip: Doug likes to use these TP16D Solo Clear cups to start his young Strops.

Bloomin' Now



Alcie Maxwell's raised bed in LA with his *Sinningia sellovii* growing in a sprawling manner and loaded with blooming stems.



Alcie's plants: *Sinningia sellovii* close up above



Streptocarpus 'DS-1615' Center right (yellow and white)



Streptocarpus 'DS-November', bottom right

Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia eumorpha*



Barb's *Achimenes* 'Tahiti Sunset'



Barb's *Eucodonia* seedling (L. Tuck mixed hybrid seeds)



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Bahai' seedling

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Sinningia leucotricha* 'Max Dekking'



Close up of Max Dekking



Barb's *Episcia* 'Fanny Hague'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* seeding

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Smithiantha* 'Jan's Surprise x Tropical Sunset'



Janet's bouquet of *Streptocarpus* blooms



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'SimSim Salaviem' tiny pot in a recycled cosmetic cream container. This little one never stops!! Even the older, faded blooms look colorful!

Plant Swap Saturday, Sept. 19th 10am – 1:00pm

Drive-By cuttings/plant Exchange hosted by Johanna and Jeff Zinn

In a few weeks we will have to bring in all our plants that have summered outdoors. In addition, some of us propagated plants for conventions or our annual show and sale, and have too many of one type of plant. To help move some of these plants to other homes, I am hosting a socially distant **Drive-by Plant and Cutting Exchange on Saturday, September 19th from 10am to 1pm. Please wear masks and try to leave six feet between you and others.**

I suggest that we include healthy rooted or un-rooted cuttings or pots of begonias, gesneriads, other houseplants, and perennials. I will also have some clay pots and some small pots suitable for growing plants to donate at meetings or for the raffle table

If you bring un-rooted cuttings, please cut them the night before and try to leave two nodes on the stem for stem cuttings or between one to two inches of the petiole for a leaf cutting.

If you have many bags of cuttings or plants, please bring a small table with you. I have two tables, but I think that I will fill most of the space on them. Perennials can sit on the ground. There will be some shade available. Please e-mail me if you have any suggestions or questions.

Johanna

Editor's Note: I shall send an email with all the information needed about the Plant Swap including Johanna's email and home addresses. It is suggested if you want to sell you plants to arrange that ahead of time with the member so the plants can just be picked up at Johanna's .

Zoom Meeting September 12th at 10:30am

Tips for Using Zoom:

We will be holding our September meeting virtually using the Zoom meeting collaboration application. If you are not already familiar with it, please allow about 30 minutes *before the meeting* to **download and set up the application**, and familiarize yourself with its features. Make sure to set up and test the sound features in advance.

Zoom allows meeting participants to see and hear each other, and share a view of files. When you first download the application, you will be able to set up your personal **Profile** to include your display name and photo.

Zoom allows you to control whether or not you display a live camera view (**Video**) of yourself, and the muting/unmuting of your sound (**Microphone**). Controls for these and other capabilities can be found by HOVERING your cursor in the upper right and lower left corners of your screen.

When you join a meeting, turn on your Video to allow people to see you if you choose. **Use the Microphone to unmute yourself** to be heard. Make sure the sound on your device is turned up! Hover your cursor in the lower left of the display to find these controls. **Please MUTE yourself whenever you are not actually speaking** to minimize background noise (pets, TV, ringing phones) which can be very distracting.

You can choose to view either just the current speaker, or all of the participants at once using the **Speaker/Gallery** icon at the top right of the display. If you choose Gallery, you will see all participants and the box of the person speaking will have a highlighted border. Speaker view is a better choice to provide an enlarged view when someone is exhibiting a plant or judging.

Also along the bottom of the display are options for Participants, Chat, etc. Using Participants, you can rename yourself, virtually raise your hand, and turn mute off and on. Opening Chat allows you to communicate in a separate chat screen with everyone or an individual while the meeting progresses.

Please plan to join our upcoming meeting about 5 minutes in advance so that we can start the meeting on time. See you soon! Barbara

During the NCAC Zoom meeting on August 8th Minh Bui addressed the subject of LED lighting for our gesneriads. He received a question he researched for one of our members about green light. More information can be found at this website on the subject.

Minh : The question was asked about how green light was utilized by plants. A fairly new topic that's been a hot topic in the last decade. Here is a great review article on the topic of green light and how plants use it for growth and development.

<https://academic.oup.com/jxb/article/68/9/2099/3857754>



Raffle Table: just a reminder of fun waiting for us when we can meet again!

At every meeting our members bring items to share on the raffle table. Tickets for the raffle are only 2 for a dollar and everyone who attends the meeting gets one ticket just for showing up. Each person puts their free ticket into the "pot" and everyone gets a chance to select one item from the raffle table. Then the raffle continues by pulling the purchased tickets. Here's what you'll see on the table at a meeting: Gesneriad plants, rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, seeds, magazines, pamphlets, containers, lights, gardening supplies and other plants we love to grow like begonias, orchids and other companion plants. We get a great selection of items for the raffle table from our generous members. Please remember to label your plants and check for pests. Also, it is a good practice to isolate your new plants when you get home before adding them to your collection.

Note from Editor: Hello members. We are all missing our NCAC meetings, especially now in spring when we usually share our cuttings and seedlings prior to summer. Please share pictures of your blooming plants on our Facebook Page. That is a fun way to stay in touch!

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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 Treasurer via PayPal using the email address: ncacotqs-gesneriads@yahoo.com

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/>

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Brazil Plants is sending our seed packages again. We should be receiving our last order soon. I am collating our new order Labor Day Weekend and thus will have many seeds to propagate for our members soon.