

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 9

September 2024



Doug Bolt's *Streptocarpus* in bloom

Bill Schmidt: "It is all arranged for us to use the fellowship hall at the church for our mini show, meeting, and lunch on September 14th. Andy and other members will be providing a ham, macaroni salad, potato salad, dessert, and juice. Members who wish to bring anything else should contact Andy. Members can use the usual entrance on the upper level by the sanctuary from 8:30--9:30am, then walk around the sanctuary to the fellowship hall. After 9:30am, members can enter through the door by the lower parking lot and take the elevator or steps up to the fellowship hall. If any member has trouble gaining entrance to the building, they can call my cell 804-349-7683."

Members should complete the entry form and return it to Bill by September 11, 2024. Entry form attached with Petal Tones email and end of Petal Tones issue.

Hi all! Our mini show schedule has been approved by the Gesneriad Society scheduled for September 14, 2024. It is time to review the show schedule and start planning and working on your entries! As an incentive, the chapter approved awarding a \$ 10 cash prize for the best in each section! Please note: There are limited entries in the Artistic and Arts Divisions. Please advise Bill Schmidt as soon as you can to assure your reservation in these Divisions. Please review the attached show schedule. A copy of the entry sheet is also included. Happy Gesneriad Growing!

Bill Schmidt, Barbara Stewart, and Jill Fischer

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 10:30 am is an In-person meeting at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church and is also a Zoom meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

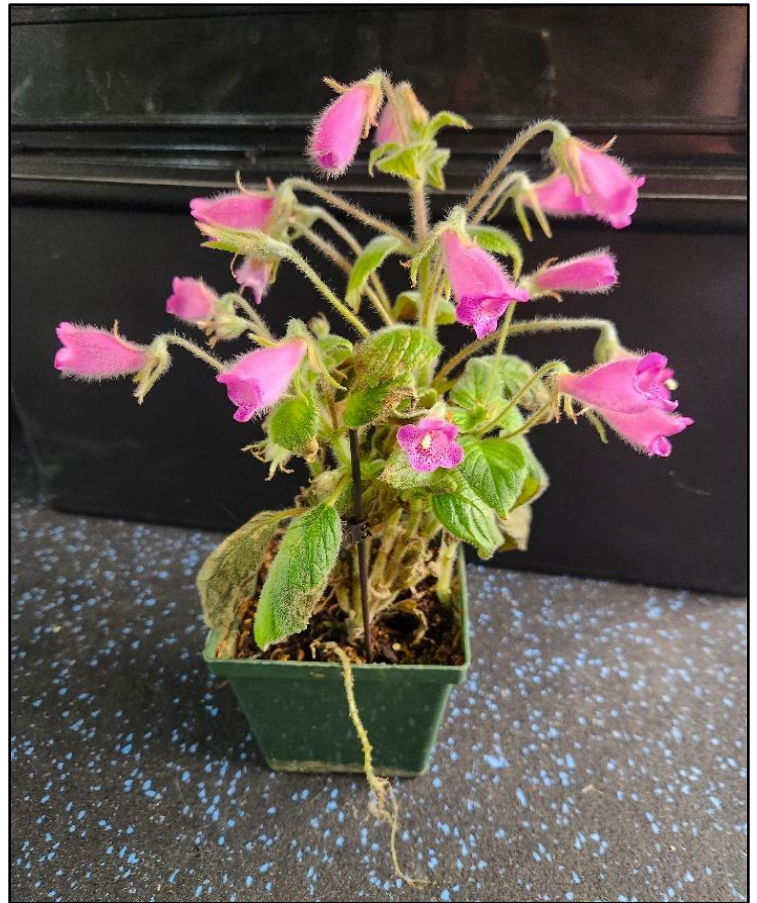
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87512172911?pwd=HKJkrTFD3hKdMwk71QuM4KynigqPn.1>

October 12th Barb Borleske's Primulina Culture
November 9th No meeting due to MAAVS show
December 14th Holiday luncheon and meeting at the home of Johanna Zinn

National Capital Area Chapter
of the Gesneriad Society (NCAC)
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
Attention: The Church is a "NUT FREE ZONE"

President's message:

Plants are full of surprises! In *my Chrysothemis* pot there has appeared a mass of tiny seedlings. I'm not sure what they are yet. The *Chrysothemis* has not bloomed, so my best guess is a *sinningia* neighbor. I have had a lot of surprises in my yard this summer as well. I recycle my potting soil for yard plants (don't do this with your gesneriads!). In my recycled soil cart something sprouted with unusual vigor. It turned out to be my Iron Cross oxalis sprouting from rhizomes. I must have thought that plant was dead. Love those rhizomes! In a pot of wildflower seeds I got a celosia. I don't grow celosias in my garden so there must have been a seed in some other plant I bought (or the birds brought it). Back to gesneriads, our mini show is this month. Although a show entails a good bit of work and participation from members, it has many benefits. Education is the biggest one. A show is where we can see gesneriads grown to their potential, learn how to grow ours better, and see how gesneriads can be reflected and displayed through arts and crafts. A show is also very important for judges to get the experience and knowledge they need to improve their skills. Finally, a show is a great place to get together and socialize around our favorite plants. Hope to see you there! Barbara



Seemannia gymnostoma, a native to Argentina, Bolivia, and Peru, has been in my collection for several years now. It has dark pink tubular flowers with darker spots on the inside and on the lips. I have written about it in a previous Petal Tones. Although articles written about *Seemannia gymnostoma* has described it as easy to grow, I have not found it to be. I have almost given up on this plant more than once.

At first, I did not know that it goes dormant for part of the year. Mine has had a dormancy as much as six months at a time, yet the literature says it has a short dormancy.

The rhizomes looked healthy when I dug around in the soil, so I have kept it going, hoping it would bloom for me some day. That day has come! Blooms galore! What did I do differently this year? I moved the dormant pot to an unlighted shelf and did not water it at all for five months.

In early May, I moved the pot back to a lighted shelf and began watering it. The shoots quickly shot up and the flowers developed by the end of July. The plant has a floppy structure under my conditions indoors, and I support it with two small stakes. It would most likely do better outside in the summer in partial sun/shade, which I will try next year.

The aerial propagules make an interesting feature, not seen on most Gesneriads. One important note is that the insecticide Neem burns the tender leaves, which I discovered with this plant. As of late August, it is going dormant again. I hope to learn more about how to keep this plant happy in future years!

Peggy MacDonald

Reference: <https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Seemannia> Top of Form

Bloomin' Now



Peggy MacDonald's stunning specimen of *Sinningia tubiflora* blooming on her deck this year!

This *sinningia* species is from Argentina and Uruguay. Their white, tubular blooms are so beautiful and the scent is heavenly, so how can one resist? It is very, very fragrant! Plus, they are so easy and fun to grow. Although they can be grown from cuttings of stems and seeds, the fastest way to grow them is from a tuber which they grow very many in the soil. Plenty to share with friends.



David Turley "Drymonia variegata is beginning to bloom in my terrarium/aquarium. I grew this plant some 25 years ago, also under lights, and I don't recall ever seeing it bloom. I've been watching this bud for weeks. As luck would have it, I was out of town for the weekend when the first bloom opened. Fortunately, Colleen grabbed a few pics for me. The bloom opened on Saturday and dropped off by Monday. There are a few more buds showing color so I'll get to see it in person soon."



Pictures from NCAC's August meeting with Savannah Scollar presenting her program about terrariums.



Barb's *Chrysanthemum friedrichsthaliana* with seedlings



Barb's *Streptocarpus* seedling DS-2019 hybrid



Left: Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Snow Edelweiss'



Above right: Barb's *Eucodonia* Leong Tuck's hybrids

Wishfully Seeking:

Members can ask for gesneriads they would like to grow and share gesneriad plants they have to share with others, as cutting, rhizomes, seeds, etc. So please email Donnabeverin@gmail.com with your requests.

Barb Stewart seeking:

Chrysothemis pulchella 'Black Flamingo'
Petrocosmea (any)

Andy Meier seeking:

Sinningia speciosa (Florist Gloxinia) 'Periodots Darth Vader'
Streptocarpus 'Samantha'
Variegated *Streptocarpus* leaf.

David Turley seeking:

Paradrymonia
Christopheria xantha (was *Episcia*)
Primulina lutea (was *Chirita eburnea* (yellow form))

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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 \$15 per year. You can send your payment to NCAC 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/>

Gesneriads of a Feather

A Flower Show Sponsored by the
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER OF THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY

Emmanuel United Methodist Church,
10755 Scaggsville Road
Laurel, MD 20723
Show September 14, 2024

SHOW RULES Please read these rules carefully.

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule and be approved by classification and inspection.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society, Inc., but must be members of the National Capitol Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society.
3. Entries, with a completed entry sheet, will be accepted from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Entry sheets should be submitted to Bill Schmidt Schmidt.wc@verizon.net by September 11th. Entry sheets submitted the day of the show will be accepted at the discretion of the show chair.
4. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid, unless otherwise prohibited. Exhibitors are limited to seven entries in the overall show.
5. All plants in the Horticultural classes must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in arrangement classes of Division II.
6. All exhibits in flowering classes must have at least one fully opened flower.
7. Seedpods or fruit are permitted on all gesneriads entered in the Horticulture Division. These may be regarded as enhancements of, or detractions from, flowering plants by the judges.
8. No particular type of container is specified for the Horticulture Division. Whatever is used should be clean. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.
9. All plants must be free of insects and disease.
10. The Gesneriad Society standard competitive judging will be used. (This means that there is only one of each ribbon awarded for each class.) Awards will be made according to the following point scores:
1st, blue ribbon, 90-100 points;
2nd, red ribbon, at least 80 points;
3rd, white ribbon, at least 70 points.
11. The cash awards for Best in Section are given only to exhibits scoring 90 points or over.
12. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. (Saintpaulias excluded)
13. The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries must be removed before departure from the meeting which ends at 1:00 PM

DIVISION I HORTICULTURAL

SECTION A

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Tuberous

Class 1 *Sinningia* species or cultivars

Class 2 Other tuberous Gesneriads (*Chrysothemis*, *Nautilocalyx*, etc.)

SECTION B

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Rhizomatous

Class 3 Rhizomatous gesneriads (*Achimenes*, *Eucodonia*, *Gloxinia*, *Seemannia*, *Kohleria*, *Smithiantha*, etc.)

SECTION C--New World Gesneriads in Flower — Fibrous-Rooted

Class 4 Fibrous rooted gesneriads (*Codonanthe*, *Columnnea*, *Episcia*, *Gesneria*, *Nematanthus*, etc.)

SECTION D--Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 5*Primula*

Class 6 *Streptocarpus*, and subgenus *Streptocarpella*

Class 7 *Saintpaulia* species or cultivars

Class 8 Other Old World gesneriads (*Aeschynanthus*, *Petrocosmea*, etc.)

SECTION E--Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers

Decorative fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

Class 9 New World gesneriads with ornamental qualities

Class 10 Old World gesneriads with ornamental qualities, including variegated *Saintpaulia*

SECTION F--New Gesneriads

This section is for introductions made within the last five years. Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

Class 11 In flower or not in flower

SECTION G--Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Seen in Shows

Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as habitat, source, and special cultural requirements.

Class 12 In flower or not in flower

SECTION H--Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads

An educational 3" x 5" white card should be included, stating what training the exhibit received and how the exhibit is to be viewed (all sides or from the front).

Class 13 Bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other styles

SECTION I--Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the Horticulture Division of a gesneriad flower show

Exhibitors wishing novice status for the Horticulture Division may not enter other horticulture classes

Class 14 Gesneriads in flower

Class 15 Gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than flowers

SECTION J--Collections of Gesneriads

Class 13 A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for ornamental qualities, or in combination.

Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit. Exhibitor must provide a card with identification of plants. (*Saintpaulia* must be in flower.)

DIVISION II ARTISTIC

Gesneriads must predominate. No artificial plant material allowed. Other live and dried material permitted as indicated. Accessories are optional. *Saintpaulia* permitted in all classes. Gesneriads used must be identified on an accompanying card. Reservations for entries in the Artistic Sections must be made with Bill Schmidt, 804-349-7683, Schmidt.wc@verizon.net by September 11th. Only one entry per exhibitor per class.

SECTION K—Arrangement of Fresh Cut, Dried/Treated, and/or Growing Plant Material with or without blossoms. Limit of 2 entries per class.

Class 14 “Birds of the Mid-Atlantic” Name your favorite bird. Staged in an 8”H x 8”W x 6”D niche.

Class 15 “Mocking Bird” A noisy bird with a nest made of sticks. Staged in a 12”H x 12”W x 10”D niche.

Class 16 “Catbird” A shy bird with a hard-to-find nest in the thicket. A freestanding design not to exceed 12” in any dimension. Viewable from all sides.

SECTION L--Container Planting of Growing Material Limit of 3 entries.

Class 17 Terrarium, Tray/Dish Landscape or Natural Garden.

DIVISION III THE ARTS

All entries must feature gesneriads in some form. Each entry must have been made by the exhibitor. Reservations for entries in the Arts must be made with Bill Schmidt, 804-349-7683, Schmidt.wc@verizon.net by September 11th. Limit of 5 entries per class. Only one entry per exhibitor per class.

SECTION M--Photography.

The subject must be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8" x 10". Exhibitors must provide an easel for prints 5"x7" or over.

Class 18 Color or Monochrome print of a Gesneriad or parts of a Gesneriad (flowers, fruits, foliage, etc.)

SECTION N—Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 19 Painting, drawing, needlework, textile or other arts and crafts

IV EDUCATIONAL

SECTION O--Educational

Class 20 Educational exhibits featuring gesneriads