



PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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Dena's *Saintpaulia* "Opera's Juliette". "The blooms are covered with white fantasy puffs when they first open, & mature to a lovely pale lavender blue, which is a nice contrast against very dark foliage."

No Meeting on May 11th Members will meet Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9am – 3 pm to participate in Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens, Fairfax, VA

June 8, 2024 Kitty Hedgepeth on Grooming Plants for Show

July 2024 No meeting Gesneriad convention

August Savannah Scollar on Artistic Design with Gesneriads

September 14th Mini Show at the Church

October 12th TBD

November 9th No meeting due to MAAVS show
December 14th Holiday luncheon and meeting at the home of Johanna Zinn

President's Message

Abundance is all around. We have had an abundance of rain and now we have an abundance of heat. After two African violet shows and numerous local plant sales, I now have an abundance of plants. We can have too much extreme weather, but can we really have too many plants? The only thing lacking is an abundance of time. (Too many plants, too little time...) I plan to have a good supply of garden and house plants to bring to the Green Spring Garden sale. There will also be gesneriads, of course, like my *Streptocarpus* seedling below. Hope you can stop by. Barbara





GARDEN DAY

The Big Plant Sale

Green Spring Gardens



Saturday, May 18, 2024 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Annuals • Perennials • Shrubs • Trees • Bake Sale

Gardening tips & more from dozens of local vendors and master gardeners

Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring for more information
703-642-5973



Bloomin' Now



Dena's *Primulina* 'Silver Surfer'



Dena's *Saintpaulia* 'Dean's Aquarius'



Dena's *Sinningia* 'Country Tiger'



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Attention National Capital Area Chapter members! Check out our new and improved website that is now live!
<https://nationalcapitalgesneriads.org>. Information on our meetings, pictures of gesneriads, and all Petal Tones issues are available. Andy and Donna invite you to share your ideas of other information you would like to see on the site. Email to : Petaltones@gmail.com

Self-watering Pots Donna Beverin

I recently found a variety of self-watering pots that are very useful for all types of plants I grow. Self watering or wicking is where you plant your gesneriad and use a wick through one of the bottom holes. Then this pot sets inside of a decorative container with a water level indicator. The supplied wicks were very thick so when I purchased the 3 & 5 inch pots I used acrylic yarn for a wick. Refill using the well in the corner. The small size is very useful for small sinningias or other young plants. The large work nicely for me for larger plants like Primulinas and Episcias. They create a decorative type container for my wicked plants.

Small is 3" x 3.3" with container 5.4" high
Medium is 4" x 3" with container 7.5" high
Large is 5" x 4" with container 10" high

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09T3BZSL8?ref=ppx_yo2_ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1



Barb's *Episcia fimbriata* "Blue Heaven"



Kitty's *Sinningia micans*



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)

Donna Beverin sharing:
Sinningia conspicua plants, *Sinningia tubiflora* tubers
Sinningia 'Anne Crowley' x self plant cuttings
Seeking: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Star' leaf
Kohleria 'Peridots Rolo' rhizomes



Sharon Long's *Sinningia bullata* x 'Pink Tiger'

Barb: "The two sinningias are exhibits from the last RAVS violet meeting."

June 30 to July 6, 2024



The St. Louis, Missouri area convention team is looking forward to welcoming you to The Gesneriad Society's 67th Annual Convention to celebrate our favorite plants. Join us at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac from June 30 to July 6, 2024.

One of the City's great moments came in 1904 when it hosted a World's Fair: the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. More than 20 million people visited the fair in the seven-month run, immortalized in the film and song "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis."

St. Louis is steeped in history with many museums and streets lined with beautiful old homes. Our city has something for everyone. We have planned a variety of tours to give you a taste of St. Louis. You may wish to take advantage of opportunities to explore more on your own.

The convention program will give us plenty of opportunities to share our love of gesneriads.

We hope to see a large variety of plants in the flower show exhibited by growers from across the continent. We will also have a large variety of plants for sale from several commercial growers as well as from individual growers offering plants, tubers, rhizomes, and cuttings that cannot be found elsewhere. You're sure to find many new additions for your collection. Silent and live auctions also offer unique opportunities for acquiring rare treasures.

We shall have lectures, moderated discussions, and a panel or two of gesneriad growers to share their experiences – programs to interest all. There will be a judging school for new and experienced judges to improve their knowledge of gesneriads. Numerous volunteer opportunities also abound to contribute to the Society. This is a great way to meet and make new friends!

Never been to a Gesneriad Society Convention before? Then register ASAP! Early entry to plant sales on Wednesday night from 8 to 8:30 pm is for convention registrants only and is based on your registration number. Plant sales will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available for convention registrants on Wednesday night and Thursday.

We invite you to join us in St. Louis! Bring a wish list of plants, your plant questions, and a show entry or two – and be prepared to come away with new friends, questions answered, and new additions to your plant collection, too! Registration is open and easy!

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2024-convention-st-louis-mo/>

I am so excited about The Gesneriad Society's convention in St. Louis June 30- July 6. I'm in charge of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association's meeting on Friday, July 5, at 8:00 p.m. and everyone registered is invited to attend.

The GHA meeting will have a free raffle of plant material. I plan on giving away leaves of my newest *Primulina* 'Dale's Smoky Incense' hybrid (*P. gueilinsensis* x *P. brachytricha*) x *P. pseudoglandulosa*. I've grown out 3 generations and it's a constant bloomer (I wick water) and the scent is strong.

I also hope to distribute my *Sinningia* 'Dale's Silver Lining', also scented. I am the GHA's speaker for the evening. I'll be showing photos of my new intergeneric between *Gloxinia* and *Diastema*.

See you in St. Louis !!!!

Dale Martens, Membership Promotion Chairperson and GHA's Chairperson



Dale's *Primulina* 'Dale's Smoky Incense'

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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/>