



PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 56 Number 2

February 2025

"Kohleria – The Most Beautiful Weed" by Brandon Erikson
Brandon will be presenting a version of his convention program on growing Kohlerias. Brandon is known for hybridizing the "Bud's" series of kohlerias which many of us grow because they are more compact growing hybrids. He has won numerous awards for his show plants and will discuss growing, propagating, and hybridizing these beautiful gesneriads.

National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society (NCAC)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
Meets second Saturday of each month at 10:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83667560325?pwd=koQ8d2tp5FyQPD9CvekmeV0laN8E5.1>

Feb. 8th – In person & Zoom meeting. Brandon Erikson: "Kohlerias: The Most Beautiful Weed"
Mar. 8th – In person Propagation workshop led by Donna Beverin and Barbara Stewart
Apr. 12th – no meeting due to conflicts with other violet shows
May 10th – In person or Zoom meeting, depending on Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale
June 14th – In person meeting, program TBD (dog (ugly plants) show or AV species program by Kitty
July 12th – No meeting due to the Gesneriad Society Convention in NJ
Aug 9th – September NCAC Show preparation
Sept 13th – NCAC Mini Show at the Church
Oct. 11th – Andy Meier program on Streptocarpus in person and Zoom.
Nov. 8th – Zoom business meeting, depending on dates of MAAVS convention
Dec. 13th – Holiday luncheon and meeting

President's Message:

Now that the snow and ice are just about gone, we can again have an in-person meeting. Members who attended the last 2 meetings, when we planned programs for the year, requested a program on kohlerias. We have a great speaker and expert kohleria grower joining us this month to inspire us to grow better kohlerias. If you have extra rhizomes or plants, they would be great to contribute to the raffle. Also, feel free to bring in a kohleria or other gesneriad that is growing well for you. We all enjoy learning how others grow beautiful plants. Hope to see you there, or at least on Zoom!
Barbara



Sharon: *Kohleria 'Bud's Broken Heart'*. Johanna's *Kohleria tubiflora*



Bill's K. 'Bud's Little Pig'

Gesneriad Hybridizing



Barb B. "This species, *P. shouchengensis* is lovely when it blooms - my plant a few years ago and in the parentage of *P. 'Goldy Lox'*."

Barb Borleske: "The yellow tinged flower is a seedling from a cross using one of my seedlings with Karyn Cichocki's *Primulina leprosa* that was made at the 2023 MAAVS convention. Both plants were in flower in the same class, and after judging, Karyn put pollen from her flower on a flower on my plant. I only got 3 tiny seedlings but I am so excited to get one seedling flower with yellow in it. The tentative name is *P. 'Goldy Lox'*."



Barb B: "My plant of *P. cordata*, which bloomed for the first time a few days ago. (Late Jan. 2025) I've grown this plant for several years and I noticed buds last spring. Many of the buds withered but finally one opened! It took about 8 months! The leaves of this plant are folded and sticky."



P. leprosa won "Best In Show" at the 2018 flower show of the Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society. It has unusual bullate leaves and delicate flowers marked yellow and red. Grown by Bill Price. Photo by Ron Myhr

Barb B" The hybrid *Primulina* (tentatively *P. Goldy Lox*) is exciting not only because of the flower color, but because it was a collaboration between Karyn and me. The yellow in the flower comes from the pollen parent, *P. leprosa*. It's a lovely plant with very dark leaves that have red hairs, but it is a shy bloomer.

The *P. leprosa* flowers are small yellow and white with pointed petals. I have never been able to get flowers on my plant. The seed parent is an unnamed cross that I made. It has light lavender/blue flowers and it has *P. shouchengensis* in its background. I'm tentatively naming the seedling with yellow tinged flowers *Primulina 'Goldy Lox'* and I am growing out a sucker plus a couple of leaves to see if the yellow color is stable. I don't want to finalize the name until I am sure of stability. The plant itself looks much like *P. leprosa* except that right now the leaves don't have the dark color; however, the plant has not fully matured and many times it takes at least 2 years for a seedling to develop its final shape and coloration." (See Karyn's blooming *P. Leprosa* in Tom Finigan's photo presentation of the 2024 MAAVS's Show on February 11, 2025 at 7:00pm during the DAVGS meeting. Zoom will be sent in email to all NCAC members).

Unusual gesneriads



"Exhibited at the 2024 convention show of the Gesneriad Society. This beautiful hybrid was created by Dale Martens by crossing *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Chapada dos Guimaraes' with *Diastema comiferum*.

There is some potential confusion with the intergeneric name. It is very similar to *xGloxinistema*, which are hybrids involving the genera *Gloxiniopsis* and *Diastema*.

Photographer: Ron Myhr
Grown by: Dale Martens

Wallace Well's plant of *xGloxistema* 'Dale's Dainty Dancers'. Gets tall at the end. What a beautiful shade of red! From Facebook posting.

Picture from Gesneriadd Reference Web

Only one is known to have been produced, *xGloxinistema* 'First Frost'. 'First Frost', a cross of *Diastemaracemiferum* and, as it was known at the time, *Gloxinia racemosa*, was originally classified as *xGloxistema*, until *G. racemosa* was transferred to *Gloxiniopsis*. This resulted in a change to the intergeneric name.

Dale Marten's response: "Thanks, Wallace, for posting the photo. For those who didn't see my entry at the 2024 Gesneriad Society convention, the cross was *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Chapada dos Guimaraes' x *Diastema comiferum* and in 2 months the pods ripened. Seeds sprouted after 3 weeks. Flower shape and yellow throat similar to the *Diastema* father. No *G. erinoides* spots on *Diastema*-looking leaves. Needs very bright light, consistent watering, and a balanced fertilizer."



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia* 'HCY's Forbidden Fantasy'

Barb asked on Gesneriphiles:

"One of my club members asked if I could get seed from this lovely thing. Has anyone had experience with this hybrid? Can doubles produce seed?"

Dale Martens: "Calyx doubles have viable pollen, but the female parts are quite deformed so they cannot be seed parents. My photo shows a normal pistil on the left and on the right a deformed pistil on a calyx double."

Barb: "Thanks, Dale. I thought there was something quirky about doubles. This plant, however, has several new branches developing, so I told my friend I will try to propagate one when it gets a little bigger. It looks like it might grow like Party Dress, so I hope it keeps putting out branches. I wonder if it will go dormant."



Wallace Wells: "So DM, if you put a calyx double's pollen on a fertile stigma what percent will be doubles."

Dale: "It's dominant so at least half the seedlings will have the calyx petals. That 50% will not be consistent. Some will have stubby extra petals, some split petals, and rarely 'hose in hose' where the outer calyx mutation completely surrounds the inside flower."

Bloomin' Now



Barb S: Prop box with *Microchirita elphinstonia* covered in yellow blooms.

Barb S: *Sinningia 'Flair'*



Barb S. *Diastema racemiferum*

Barb S. *Streptocarpus* seedling DS-2019

Barb S. *Streptocarpus* seedling 69 bg DK



Barb S. "This little creature hopped out of one of my houseplants as I was watering it."

Per Cory W. "It's a Spring Peeper! *Pseudacris crucifer*, recognized most easily by the X pattern on the back."

Bloomin' Now



Johanna's *Saintpaulia* 'Mac's Elegant Emerald'



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus*



Johanna's *Sinningia* 'Owlsee Red Hot'

Johanna's *Columnea crassifolia*

Several months ago, I went to a nursery that was selling plants from Ecuagenera. I purchased several cuttings including a few unrooted cuttings of *Columnea crassifolia* [*crassifolia* means thick-leaved in Latin]. It is described as a subshrub. The lower stem exteriors were dry and inflexible, and *Columneas* are generally epiphytic in their native habitat so I propped them in a light mix of $\frac{1}{2}$ potting soil and $\frac{1}{2}$ perlite and put them in the small greenhouse in the basement where the humidity is 70%. The cuttings rooted readily as have two cuttings I took from the plant. Growth is upright.

Since epiphytic plants don't have large soil masses around their roots, I kept the plant in the same mix and small pot in which it rooted. I check it twice a week and water only when dry. It is placed near a very bright LED light and is growing in 70% humidity. I haven't fertilized it yet. The small concrete animal in the bottom left is not there for decoration,



It was and is there to support the stems. Yesterday, when I was taking photos for the article, I noticed what I hope are buds growing from some of the stems. Blooms on this plant should be orange. I will post photos when it blooms. One source suggested that the woody base of the stems will seasonally grow annual shoots. Does that mean that the current shoots will drop? Time will tell. If anyone has any suggestions for growing this plant, please let me know.

Wishfully Seeking:

Members can ask for gesneriads they would like to grow. Members who have gesneriads to share as cuttings, rhizomes, seeds, young plants and tubers please list those here. 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.

Jill Fischer seeking:

Columnea crassifolia

Gesneria pedicellaris.

David Turley seeking:

Paradrymonia

Christopheria xantha (was *Episcia*)

Primulina lutea (was *Chirita eburnea*, yellow form)

Maria Walueff seeking:

Columnea midget (She lost hers during vacation)

Bill Schmidt is seeking *Achimenes* 'Glory'

Donna Beverin has to share:

1) *Sinningia* sp 'Piraju' (*conspicua* x *eumorpha*?)

Mauro's seeds I grew. He is not sure of parentage.

2) *Sinningia* seedlings I think are *S. eumorpha*

For March propagation meeting I should have many other babies to share from all my prop boxes, many needing repotting.



President: Barbara Stewart
Bstew771@verizon.net

Vice-President: Elsbeth Hamilton
Elsbeth7300@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andy Meier
Orchids00001@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sharon Long
slong15781@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin
Petaltones@gmail.com

Committees:

Hospitality:

Publications: Donna Beverin

Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership: Dena Horton

Ways and Means:

Show Chairmans: Jill Fischer & Barb Stewart

Directors:

Donna Beverin

Peggy MacDonald

Kitty Hedgepeth

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org

Send content to Donna Beverin

Petaltones@gmail.com

Donnabeverin@gmail.com

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 \$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/>