

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 56 Number 3

March 2025



Sharon Long's *Sinningia helleri* bloom.

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=koQ8d2tp5FyQPD9CvekmeV0olaN8E5.1>

Mar. 8th – In person Propagation workshop led by Donna Beverin and Barbara Stewart
Apr. 12th – No meeting due to conflicts with other violet shows: Tidewater AV (4/12 & 13) and RAVS (4/4 & 4/6)
May 10th – Zoom webinar meeting :Growing Smithiana & Eucodonia: Two Sisters from Mexico
May 17th Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale
June 14th – In person & Zoom African Violet species program by Kitty
July 12th – No meeting due to the Gesneriad Society Convention in Parsippany New Jersey
Aug 9th – September NCAC Show preparation
Sept 13th – NCAC Mini Show at the Church
Oct. 11th – In person & Zoom: How Doug Bolt grows his stunning Streptocarpus
Nov. 1st – Zoom business meeting
Dec. 13th – Holiday luncheon and meeting

President's Message from Barbara Stewart
Spring is upon us and it is time for my spring peeper frog (see last issue of PT) to head back home. It has migrated from the plant room to the living room as evidenced by occasional loud croaks. At least I hope it is the same one and not another one. I have taken out all the plants in the area where the sounds are coming from but haven't seen it yet.

Spring is also time for propagating our plants and sharing the extras. Our propagation workshop is always a lot of fun and educational. If you bring something unusual to share, let us know how to best grow it successfully. This will be a hands-on workshop, so feel free to bring your own soil and tools if you want to pot up some babies. We shall have some basic supplies such as baggies, markers, soil and labels. Hope to see you there!

From Church personnel: Please use the Youth Room on our upper level for your meetings until further notice. I'm not sure when the water damage repairs will be completed in Room 3, but will let you know. There will, of course, be no extra charge for using the different space!

Reminder: The Church is a "NUT FREE ZONE" due to children with allergies, so do not bring any food items that include nuts or peanuts.

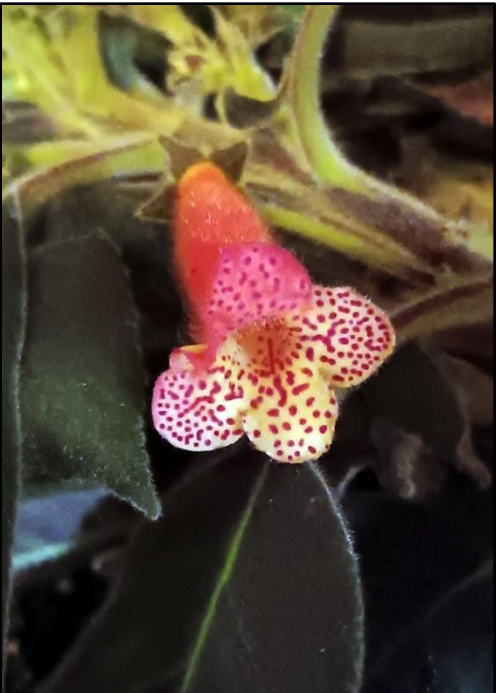
Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Primulina petrocosmeoides*



Jill's *Sinningia* 'Divva'



Barb S. *Kohleria* 'Silver Feather'



Barb S. Winter Design



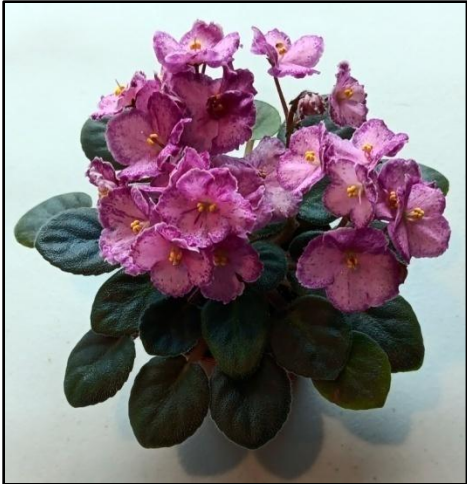
Barb S. *Smithiantha* hybrid seedling



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Evening Star'



Sharon's *Primulina* 'Dale's Exotic Aroma'



Bill's *S. Raspberry Glitz*

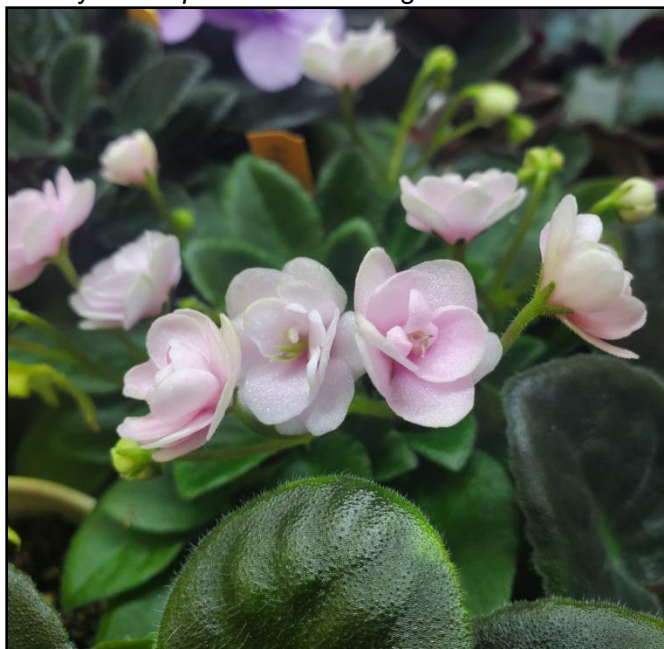
Bloomin' Now



Andy's *Saintpaulia* 'Mac's Elegant Emerald '



Andy's *Saintpaulia* 'Jere's Role Tide'



Andy's *Saintpaulia* 'Hunter's Chickadee'



Andy's *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy '



Dave Anderson's Mini *Sinningias*: Mod Imp x self, 'High voltage' X self and 'Doll baby' x self

Bloomin' Now



Doug Bolt's *Streptocarpus* 'Joy' won by Donna at February's raffle!



Barb Borleske: "Primulina 'MB Dark and Stormy' is going through its second bloom cycle. Seems to be a late winter early spring bloomer, although the buds actually began to form several months ago, before the MAAVS Convention. This is a cross between *Primulina atropurpurea* and *Primulina pseudoyungfuensis*., and was a collaborative effort between Mary Schaeffer and myself."



Barb Borleske's update: "This is the second flower to open on my new hybrid, *Primulina* 'KB Goldy Lox'. The seed pod is a cross with P. 'Mineko'. I want to try to self the flowers to see what results."

In February's issue from 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'."

Bloomin' Now

Str. subgenus *Streptocarpella linguatus*
Dale Martens from Gesneriphiles

I've never had a gesneriad grow so fast. I sowed seeds of *Streptocarpus* subgenus *S. streptocarpella linguatus* **December 1, 2024**. About 3 weeks later I took a toothpick and lifted each and put it back in the same container. I took a photo December 29 before transplanting to fresh soil in a different container.



January 7: I took a photo to show there was growth in a week's time. As usual, I blew on the seedlings and tapped the container. **January 12:** I was tremendously shocked to see a surge of growth. **January 30:** the plants were growing so fast I transplanted 2 or 3 into Solo cups. **February 9:** I took photos of first flowers. I read that this species grows in a wet tropical biome in Madagascar, so they've been in a dome situation this whole time. I promote transplanting often to stimulate growth, but I am guessing this particular species has a fast track from seed to bloom naturally. This is a good time to enthusiastically promote membership in The Gesneriad Society with a huge benefit of being able to order a fantastic variety of seeds (including the species in my photos). I got this species at the last convention and sowed its seeds. In addition, this coming 2025 convention June 29 to July 5, in Parsippany, NJ will focus on *Streptocarpus* with Dirk Bellstedt's talk plus we'll listen to a panel discussion, "Growing Streptocarpus". Dale Martens in snowy Iowa, 2025 convention registration number 30."



Julia Mavity-Hudson
"I have donated a lot of seed of this species.(to the seed fund) It is a fun plant to grow, with tiny flowers which pretty much all self and produce cute little twisted seed pods."

Gesneriads Gather in the Garden State

The 2025 Convention Team is looking forward to our gathering at The Gesneriad Society's 68th Annual Convention to celebrate our favorite plants. Mark your calendars for **June 29 to July 5, 2025**, and join us at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel in north-central New Jersey.

We will gather for our **third "recent" convention in New Jersey**: the first in 1988 in New Brunswick; the second in 2002 in Morristown; and now in 2025 in Parsippany. This part of New Jersey is familiar to many of our Gesneriad Society members who have gathered nearby at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum where the local gesneriad chapter members have held gesneriad shows and sales since the late 1970s. Who could forget the Flamingo-Fests?

The convention program will give us many opportunities to gather and share our passion for gesneriads. Exhibitors from across the continent will be entering a **large variety of plants and other entries in the flower show**. We shall also have a **large selection of plants for sale** from commercial and 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 panels of gesneriad growers** to share their

experiences. There are programs to interest all. There will be a **judging school** for new and experienced judges to improve their knowledge of gesneriads. Numerous **volunteer opportunities** abound to help all contribute to our Society, and this is a great way to meet and make new friends!

Register ASAP! Early entry to plant sales on Wednesday night from 8-8:30pm 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 earlier.

If you have never been to a Gesneriad Society Convention before, we invite you to **join us in New Jersey!** Bring a wish list of plants, your plant questions, your auction donations, a show entry or several – and be prepared to come away with new friends, your questions answered, and new additions to your plant collection!

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel

199 Smith Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Our castle-themed hotel is in a park-like setting with a walking path around a lake. The smoke-free hotel has an indoor and an outdoor seasonal pool, business center, fitness center, and spa. Our contracted guest rooms have mini-refrigerators and complimentary WiFi. Parking at the hotel is complimentary for guests and visitors.

Our convention hotel is located about 24 miles from Newark Liberty Airport. The hotel currently has no airport shuttle service, but other transportation options will be pursued and information posted on our website as convention nears.

For the most direct hotel reservations at convention rates, go to <https://book.passkey.com/e/50845833>. You may also call 1-888-627-8148 and inform Reservations you will be attending The Gesneriad Society Convention 2025.

Our convention rate at the Sheraton Parsippany for traditional rooms (1 king or 2 double beds) is **\$149 including a hot and cold buffet breakfast** (for 2 per room). Add \$10 for triple and \$20 for quad occupancies. For other room options (larger or superior rooms or suites) visit the hotel website or contact <jkatzenste@aol.com>.

To guarantee convention rates, reservations must be received by June 23, 2025 (or earlier if our contracted room block has been filled by that date). Rooms are subject to applicable taxes (currently 14.625%). Check-in time is 4pm and check-out time is 11am. Rates are in effect three days before and three days after our convention week so plan to come early and stay late to enjoy all that the area has to offer.

Amuse Restaurant serves breakfast Monday to Friday from 6:30-10:30am and on Saturday and Sunday from 7-11am. Amuse Bar is open for dinner from 4-11pm.

Important Changes for Hotel Meals in 2025

Breakfast – Note that a complete buffet breakfast is included in the \$149 Sheraton Hotel room rate. Hotel hours for breakfast currently are 6:30-10:30am weekdays and 7:00 to 11:00am weekends.

Lunch – Note that the Sheraton Hotel restaurant does not currently provide any lunch service so all convention attendees will need to provide their own lunches. Options include many local eateries (short car or Uber distances); order-in for delivery to the hotel; earlier purchased lunch items can be kept in the mini-refrigerators in all hotel rooms; lunch can be skipped after eating a large breakfast, etc.

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2025-convention-parsippany-nj/>

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'
x*Achimenes* 'Dale's Clownfish'
Primulina brassicoides 'Marble Leaf'

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.



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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/>