

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 56 Number 8

August 2025



Donna Beverin's *Sinningia 'Anne Crowley'* seedling.

"As soon as it sprouted, I grew it out on the deck in partial sun this year. Grown outdoors the plant stayed very compact and bloomed on every side. I brought it indoors and put on my light stand with LEDs and it has grown enormously with a huge tuber. It looks like a little Christmas tree with ornaments hanging down! See page 10!"

**President's Message:** Summer is flying by; however, since I have retired from teaching, my summer will not end in mid-August when schools start, so I still have more time to work on my gardens and repot plants. I picked up many new gesneriads at the convention which I plan to propagate and share with the club. We had a great convention, and, as you will see from the photos, our members did well, winning lots of awards. Next month we will all get a chance to show off our best gesneriads at our mini-show. Our program this month will focus on getting ready for the show. Feel free to bring in a plant or two you are considering for show and we will give you some grooming tips. We will discuss the details of the show and answer any questions you may have. Barb Stewart

## 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/82968033274?pwd=K  
Vc68b7bbbhKSLIN87rBKAzczmUGYW.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968033274?pwd=KVc68b7bbbhKSLIN87rBKAzczmUGYW.1)

Meeting ID: 829 6803 3274

Passcode: 957283

Aug 9th – September NCAC Show preparation  
Youth Room

Sept 13th – NCAC Mini Show at the Church

Oct. 11th – In person & Zoom: How Doug Bolt  
grows his stunning Streptocarpus

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Zoom business meeting

Dec. 13th – Holiday luncheon and meeting



Barb Stewart's dazzling *Sinningia 'Carolyn'*

August 9<sup>th</sup> NCAC will meet in the Youth Room on the second floor. Church personnel are not sure when the water damage repairs will be completed in Room 3, but will let us 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.

# Photos from Convention



Barb Borleske's *Primulina 'Dark and Stormy'*



Barb Borleske's *Primulina Sinovietnamica*



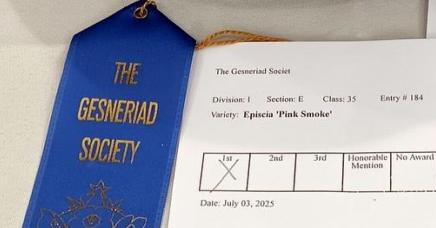
Maria Waleuff: *Columnea 'Bolero Bicolore'*



David Turley's *Episcia 'Silver Skies'*

Congratulations to all our NCAC members who entered their gesneriads in the 2025 Gesneriad Society Convention!

# Photos from Convention



Jill Fischer's *Episcia 'Pink Smoke'*



David Turley's *Kohleria hirsuta*



Barb Stewart's Tray Garden



David Turley's *Sinningia 'Paper Moon'*

To the Members of the National Capital Area Chapter,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the two awards I received at the Gesneriad Society Convention Flower Show. In Class 9, Kohleria, my *Kohleria hirsuta* was honored with a Chapter-sponsored award.

Additionally, in Section E, my entry of *Episcia 'Silver Skies'* received the Chapter's award for Best Gesneriad Grown for Ornamental Qualities.

Having these plants recognized was exciting on its own — but it was made even more meaningful knowing that both awards were sponsored by my home chapter. Initially, the sponsorship of these awards was attributed to an individual rather than to the Chapter. While there was a delay in learning their true source, that in no way diminishes the joy of receiving them. I'll be sending a corrected thank-you note to our Chapter President, but I also wanted to extend my appreciation to all of you. Good Growing, David Turley

# Photos from Convention

Most photos Karyn Cichocki



Dee Stewart was awarded Best in Horticulture for *Sinningia 'Judy Becker'* a David Zaitlin hybrid.



*Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Lollipop'* was awarded Runner-up to Best in Horticulture, Best Streptocarpus. Rachel Armstrong also was awarded Best Gesneriad Grown by a First Time Convention Attendee.



Jill Fischer was awarded Best in Artistic for her Natural Garden.



Jill with her Natural Garden.

From Jill: "Hi there! Just want to contribute the following information regarding our upcoming flower show: Our mini show schedule was sent for approval by the Gesneriad Society. We expect it to be approved soon. Most of the schedule was unchanged since last year with the following exceptions: Design titles were changed to reflect the 2025 theme 'Mythical Gesneriads.'

The Collection Class of Gesneriads: Saintpaulia need not be in bloom. Copies of the Show Schedule and an Entry Sheet you can fill out online, are attached for your convenience. Needless to say, it is time to seriously review the schedule, start planning and working on your entries. The members have generously sponsored several section and specific genera awards, as an added incentive to exhibit, including novice awards. Please participate, if you can.

We hope to see you at our August NCAC meeting in person or on Zoom."

# ***Nautilocalyx picturatus***

Johanna Zinn

*Nautilocalyx picturatus* is a beautiful gesneriad from Peru. My plant has five-to-seven-inch long bullate leaves with short, soft, white hairs appearing to come from each bullae. Leaf color, to the eye, is dark green with chartreuse coloring along the veins. The camera picks up a brownish color under the dark green.

Blooms form intermittently and are pure white and fairly large. They only last a day or two. I have not noticed a fragrance from the blooms.

Its habitat is described as a wet tropical biome near the equator where it is hot, humid, and rainy. Because of its need for high humidity, I grow it in a terrarium in two parts finely chopped long-fibered sphagnum moss mixed with one part perlite. I mix a small amount of azomite, if I have it, and a small amount of composted crustacean shells or worm castings in with the mix. The terrarium container is covered with plastic wrap and a large coffee filter and grows on a plant stand under LED lights.

The coffee filter decreases the amount of light reaching the plant. Temperatures in the basement vary from the mid-to-high 60s in the winter to the high 70s in the summer. It grows quite slowly; I think that I started with a small plant about two years ago. Several sources describe it growing to a height of eight inches. Mine is about six and one-half inches tall. I have had a few blooms in the past, but this time I had nine open blooms at one time and multiple buds.



# Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Butter and Cream'



Sharon's *Streptocarpus lilliputana*: "I am not sure where I got this gesneriad but it does need to be repotted to larger container. May need stronger light. Will this grow outside of terrarium? "



Barb Stewart's *Kohleria* 'Sim Sim Cleopatra'



Barb Stewart's *Damrongia orientalis*.

# Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' seedling indoors



Barb S. *Sinningia* 'PF Indigo x hybrids seedlings'  
Note on sin. PF Indigo: PF Indigo has some red in the throat which this seedling lacks. While this is a pretty flower, it is not the same because it is crossed with some unnamed hybrid."



Barb S. *Sinningia brasiliensis* 'Leopoldine'



Barb S. *Sinningia* unnamed Regina hybrid x Burgundy seedling. "Note on Sinningia unnamed Regina hybrid: This seedling has minimal veining from its Regina parent. The blossom is quite interesting, though; however, most of them don't seem to be opening fully. Maybe this will improve with maturity."

# Bloomin' Now

## *Chrysanthemis friedrichsthaliana*: Andy Meier

*Chrysanthemis friedrichsthaliana* is similar to the more commonly seen *C. pulchella*. A principle difference is the calyx color, green in *C. friedrichsthaliana* and orange in *C. pulchella*.

This is one of those Gesneriads I picked up from the raffle table, not knowing what it was. It grew last year, but never flowered. (That I noticed). It went dormant and started growing again this past spring. It's a charming plant with small flowers that aren't particularly flashy. The clumped green foliage is quite attractive. It has been growing on my East-facing porch all spring and summer. I keep it watered in moist, but not wet, soil. It is native to Costa Rica.



# Bloomin' Now



David Turley: "My "deck" *Kohleria tubiflora* has gotten quite large. It's a large plant under lights, but left to grow in a 12" pot it's robust. The largest leaf blades are 7", with a 2" petiole. Looking at the plant, I can imagine a roadside in Central America glowing with the plants!"

Early this spring, I put some pots that were too large for the light stands into 12" pots on the deck just to see how they did. These plants get several hours of direct sun each afternoon, and the leaves and stems will droop a bit, but perk back up later in the day. The plant I'm growing as *Pearcea* sp. "Carol Ann" \* is one of my favorite gesneriads. It does well under lights and will bloom when small. On the deck it has flourished. The leaves glisten in the sun and the hummingbirds visit frequently.

The pots of *Kohleria tubiflora*, *K. hirsuta*, and *K. grandiflora* also thriving. *K. tubiflora* is just starting to bloom.

\*This plant may be the same plant also grown as *Pearcea aff. sprucei* (Ecuador). See page 10, bottom right.



David Turley; "Deck Plants, I was excited to see *Sinningia tubiflora* coming into bloom when we returned from the gesneriad convention. This pot has a single tuber. The flowers were leaning from the hard rain so I staked them. You can smell the sweet aroma from the flowers when you walk onto the deck."



## ***Titanotrichum oldhamii***

**Johanna Zinn**

This year has been a strange weather year...at least in our backyard. We had a great deal of rain, and the perennials are a foot or two taller and fuller. Perhaps it is the weather that has caused one of my *Titanotrichum oldhamii* plants to start blooming early. Usually this plant blooms in late August and early September. Another plant in much more shade has not shown any signs of blooming. Last year it bloomed around the time of the Begonia Show in late August.

Update—The other plant in deeper shade now has very small fuzzy brown areas of bloom showing. This is good news. The propagules which form sometime after the plant has bloomed will have time to mature before the first frost.



## **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](mailto:Donnabeverin@gmail.com) with your requests.

### **Barb Stewart seeking:**

*Chrysanthemis pulchella 'Black Flamingo'*

*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*.

**Bill Schmidt is seeking *Achimenes 'Glory'***

### **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)

**Barry Woolf:** has to share many 4 foot and 8 foot new T8 lights to share.

**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.

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Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

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Show Chairmans: Jill Fischer & Barb Stewart

#### **Directors:**

Donna Beverin

Peggy MacDonald

Kitty Hedgepeth

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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](mailto: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/>