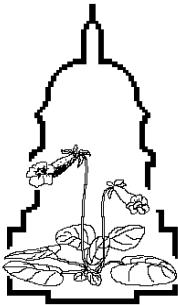# PETAL TONES

Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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Barb Stewart's *Saintpaulia* 'Sun Sizzle'

President's Message:

Welcome to the start of a new year! 2026 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of The Gesneriad Society in 1951, originally called the American Gloxinia Society.

If you are a member of The Gesneriad Society, you may have seen the history of the society on the TGS website home page.

Our chapter has been in existence for 54 years, since 1972. We continue to offer great educational programs, plant sharing, and fun at our meetings.

I hope we can continue for many more years, as we learn and grow the many different gesneriads.

We have a wonderful guest speaker this month who will discuss the his views on how to provide the best lighting for our plants. With so many lighting options on the market these days, we are all looking for some guidance. Hope to see you there!

Barb Stewart

Mel Grice has been growing gesneriads for over 60 years and is now the past President of The Gesneriad Society.

He is the editor of GLEANINGS and APPRAISAL newslwttwes and the seed fund distribution person for GHA, the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association.

He also authors "The Family Portrait" column in the African Violet Magazine (AVM) about gesneriads.

Mel was a former librarian and loves to research information about gesneriads in order to make them happy.

Mel's talk, "Let There Be Light", will share his experiences with different types of lighting to make gesneriads thrive.