

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 7

July 2024



Kitty Hedgepeth's explaining the characteristics of a great show plant at the June NCAC meeting



Sharon's excellent show specimen of *Sinningia helleri*

Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 10:30 am is an In-person meeting at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church and is also a Zoom meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87512172911?pwd=HKJkrTFD3hKdMwk71QuM4KyniggPn.1>

August 10th	Savannah Scollar on Artistic Design with Gesneriads
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mini Show at the Church
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Primulina culture
November 9th	No meeting due to MAAVS show
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday luncheon and meeting at the home of Johanna Zinn

National Capital Area Chapter  
of the Gesneriad Society (NCAC)  
Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723  
Attention: The Church is a "NUT FREE ZONE"

## President's Message:

I hope everyone is surviving this record hot summer. I missed the convention this year, but looking forward to seeing photos of the winning entries.

Summer is not really my favorite season. While I enjoy gardening, the plague of pests and vermin take a lot of the fun out of it. Deer, rodents, mealybugs, slugs, and a variety of mystery creatures are eating everything in my yard. Then there is my favorite pest to hate, ticks. Sneaky devils. Meanwhile, my indoor gesneriads are thriving, especially my streps, and more seedlings are on the way. I hope to have lots to share by the fall. Happy summer growing!  
Barbara

## Andy Meier's Streptocarpus Seedlings

"First seven seedlings of *Streptocarpus* to bloom from a cross made in 2019. The seed pod was labeled Streptocarpus 'Black Magic X Vampires Kiss'. I recall getting only red or black seedlings back then. I'm thinking this seedpod was a different cross. I did a lot of crosses back then. I'm rather pleased with the pink one and the fantasy one. There are many more to bloom out. These are siblings to the ones you got at the June 2024 NCAC meeting."





# Bloomin' Now



David Turley's *Sinningia* 'Paper Moon'



*Aeschynanthus humilis* at June meeting



Barb Stewart's *Microchirita involucrata*



June gesneriad plants at the meeting



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Joker' seedling grown from Brazil Plants seed!



Barb Borleske's hybrid *Primulina* 'Minnie Pearl', blue ribbon winner at the National Gesneriad Society convention.





Editor's note: Bill's stunning *Episcia* 'Silver Skies' is perfectly symmetrical with foliage, stolens and blooms! So I asked him about how he grew this *Episcia* so spectacularly. Here is his answer.

Bill: "I really do not have much to say about the care for this plant. Sometimes things just happen. But I do have a couple of things that I do with my *Episcias* that are different from my other plants.

LaDonna Hopson from Tidewater introduced the idea of growing *Episcias* in very shallow pots. This *Silver Skies* has been growing in about 3/4" of soil for some time. I also grow my *Episcias* on the top shelf of my stand for the warmth. I have a Floracart so they get extra light from the bulbs inserted in addition to the fluorescent tubes. Due to the drop in humidity in the winter (heating) and the summer (air conditioning), I put the *Episcias* under domes.

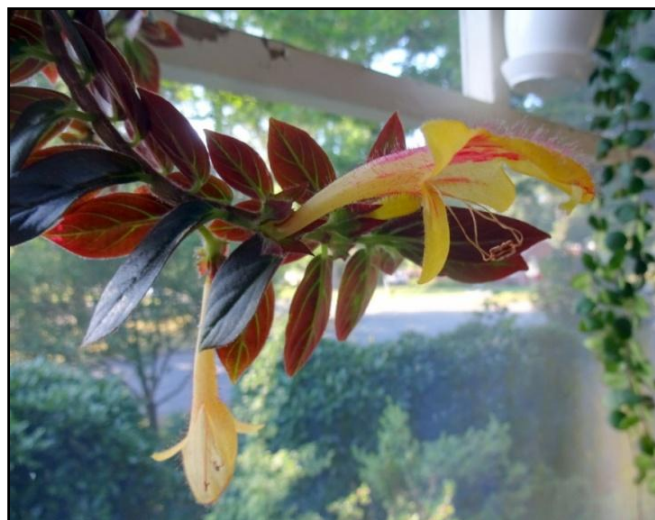
And, of course, like all my other plants they get a constant feed regimen. I always get bloom, but why this burst of bloom. *Silver Skies* was in a domed tray in my bay window with a variety of other gesneriads. Perhaps a change in the natural lighting had this effect."



Bill's *Sinningia hirsuta*, a beautiful gesneriad that should be grown more.



Bill's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'



Bill's *Columnea* 'Jean Katzenstein'



# Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Sinningia vacariensis* in bloom



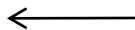
Sharon's *Sinningia bullata* x 'Pink Tiger'



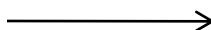
Dave's two different *Sinningia* 'Cindy Ella' x self seedlings



Sharon: "I wanted to share my terrarium that I planted at the meeting. It is thriving. *Sinningia muscicola*. Thanks Johanna."



Barb Borleske's  
*Primulina sinovietnamica*



Sharon: "I cut the top off *S. bullata* x *Pink Tiger* (above), stuck it in a solo cup and it is blooming. Aren't gesneriads amazing??"



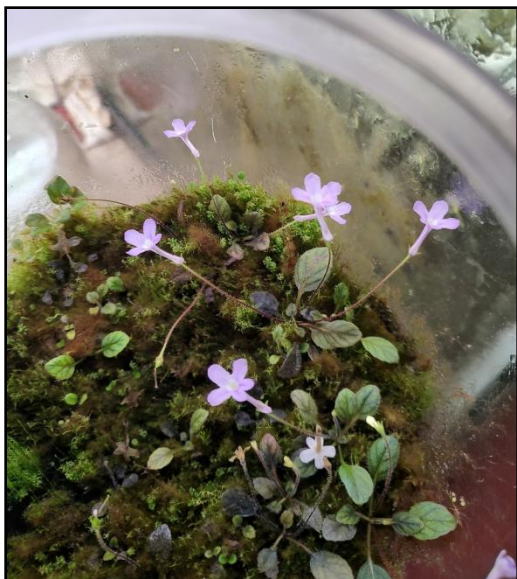




Bill's *Phineas multiflora* 'Tracery'



Dave's *Seemannia sylvatica*



Dave's *Sinningia pusilla*



Dave's *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'April Snow x self

Dave: "*Sinningia* 'Carolyn' emerging after being in the ground all winter (it's not in bloom but I thought it would be of interest to everyone), *Sinningia tubiflora* also wintered over near the side of my house - it is the warmest part of the garden so that may have something to do with it." Photo last page! →

Bill Schmidt mentioned his *Sinningia tubiflora* is in the ground at his home and has a few blooms.





## 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](mailto: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.

### **David Turley seeking:**

*Paradrymonia*  
*Christopheria xantha* (was *Episcia*)  
*Primulina lutea* (was *Chirita eburnea* (yellow form))



Dave's beautiful & fragrant *Sinningia tubiflora*

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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/>