



PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 56 Number 9

September 2025



Jill Fischer's Best in Show 2024: *Aeschynanthus humilis*

It's almost show time again! Hoping that you will bring something to exhibit. We still have openings in Artistic and Arts classes as well as horticulture. Remember to email your entry sheet to Bill Schmidt no later than Wednesday, September 10th! Copies of our show schedule, entry form, awards list, and timeline for next Saturday are attached for your convenience. Please feel free to email me:

Jill.G.Fischer71@gmail.com or Barbara Stewart:

Bstew771@verizon.net if you have any last minute questions or concerns. Please plan to exhibit and attend our show and meeting. Lunch and plant raffle are included too! Please contact Kitty with the food you can bring to share:

eequat@aol.com.

So far we have:

Barbara S. - brownie bites, tuna or ham salad, slider rolls

Elisabeth (sp ?) - assorted cookies, pasta salad

Dave - potato salad

Bill - marinated carrots

David T. - desert/pastry

Dena - bean salad

Jill - fruit

Kitty - deviled eggs

Jill Fischer, Flower Show Co-Chair with Barbara 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

**Sept 13th – NCAC Mini Show at the Church
Barb & Jill will be at the Church at 8:30am
Entries 9:30 – 10:30am .**

Entry sheets should be submitted to Bill
Schmidt.wc@verizon.net by September 10th

1.5 hours for judging: Barb, Jill and Bill

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:

With a slight break in the heat, I have been able to get back to working in the yard. While cleaning out one overgrown garden, I found a *Sinningia speciosa* growing in some old soil I had thrown out. Plants are so resilient! Even though I don't have a name, it appears to be one of my *sinningia* seedlings. It was a little roughed up, but with nice veining in the leaves, I rescued it and potted it up.

I hope you are planning to enter something in our mini-show. This is a great way to show off our nicest plants in person and learn about growing different gesneriads. We will have a potluck luncheon and the usual raffle table. Just a reminder read the show schedule, sign up for artistic entries, and send Bill your entries list this week. Hope to see you there!

Barb

Growing Ideas

Donna Beverin



At the August meeting Peggy was sharing how her gesneriads were not doing well in her new basement environment and she is thinking about putting them under domes or in other terrarium type conditions to make the humidity higher. I shared with her something I purchased to use during wintertime to maintain higher humidity for some of my gesneriads. This is only one of many varieties for sale on Amazon. Just search for plastic covers for shelving units.

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Persian Lace'

Barb's *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'

Bloomin' Now



David Turley : “*Drymonia serrulata* ‘Maranguape’ growing on our screened porch. The plant gets a few hours of morning sun and seems quite happy. The plant came from some cuttings Jonathan sent last November. It’s also bloomed under lights for me.”



Barb Stewart's *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley'



Barb's *Petrocosmea* 'Helena'



Barb's *Primulina* 'Charley'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Conceicao do Macabu'

Mythical Gesneriads
A Flower Show Sponsored by the
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER Of THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY
Emmanuel United Methodist Church,
10755 Scaggsville Road
Laurel, MD 20723
Show September 13, 2025

SHOW RULES Please read these rules carefully.

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule and be approved by classification and inspection.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society, Inc., but must be members of the National Capitol Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society.
3. Entries, with a completed entry sheet, will be accepted from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Entry sheets should be submitted to Bill Schmidt by email at Schmidt.wc@verizon.net by September 10th. Entry sheets submitted the day of the show will be accepted at the discretion of the show chair.
4. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid, unless otherwise prohibited. Exhibitors are limited to seven entries in the overall show.
5. All plants in the Horticultural classes must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the Exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in arrangement classes of Division II.
6. All exhibits in flowering classes must have at least one fully opened flower.
7. Seedpods or fruit are permitted on all gesneriads entered in the Horticulture Division. These may be regarded as enhancements of, or detractions from, flowering plants by the judges.
8. No particular type of container is specified for the Horticulture Division. Whatever is used should be clean. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.
9. All plants must be free of insects and disease.
10. The Gesneriad Society standard competitive judging will be used. (This means that there is only one of each ribbon awarded for each class.) Awards will be made according to the following point scores:
 - 1st, blue ribbon, 90-100 points;
 - 2nd, red ribbon, at least 80 points;
 - 3rd, white ribbon, at least 70 points.
11. The cash awards for Best in Divisions and/or individual species/other awards are given only to exhibits scoring 90 points or over.
12. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. (Saintpaulias excluded from this award).
13. The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries must be removed before departure from the meeting which ends at 1:00pm.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURAL

SECTION A

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Tuberous

Class 1 *Sinningia* species or cultivars

Class 2 Other tuberous Gesneriads (*Chrysothermis*, *Nautilocalyx*, etc.)

SECTION B

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Rhizomatous

Class 3 Rhizomatous gesneriads (*Achimenes*, *Eucodonia*, *Gloxinia*, *Seemannia*, *Kohleria*, *Smithiantha*, etc.)

SECTION C--New World Gesneriads in Flower — Fibrous-Rooted

Class 4 Fibrous rooted gesneriads (*Codonanthe*, *Columnea*, *Episcia*, *Gesneria*, *Nematanthus*, etc.)

SECTION D--Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 5 *Primula*

Class 6 *Streptocarpus*, and subgenus *Streptocarpella*

Class 7 *Saintpaulia* species or cultivars

Class 8 Other Old World gesneriads (*Aeschynanthus*, *Petrocosmea*, etc.)

SECTION E--Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers

Decorative fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

Class 9 New World gesneriads with ornamental qualities

Class 10 Old World gesneriads with ornamental qualities, including variegated and/or distinctive foliage (ie. chimera, spotted) *Saintpaulia*.

SECTION F--New Gesneriads

This section is for introductions made within the last five years. Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

Class 11 In flower or not in flower.

SECTION G--Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Seen in Shows

Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as habitat, source, and special cultural requirements.

Class 12 In flower or not in flower

SECTION H--Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads

An educational 3" x 5" white card should be included, stating what training the exhibit received and how the exhibit is to be viewed (all sides or from the front).

Class 13 Bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other styles.

SECTION I--Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the Horticulture Division of a gesneriad flower show

Exhibitors wishing novice status for the Horticulture Division may not enter other horticulture classes

Class 14 Gesneriads in flower

Class 15 Gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than flowers

SECTION J--Collections of Gesneriads

Class 16 A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for ornamental qualities, or in combination.

Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit. Exhibitor must provide a card with identification of plants.

DIVISION II ARTISTIC

Gesneriads must predominate. No artificial plant material allowed. Other live and dried material permitted as indicated. Accessories are optional. *Saintpaulia* permitted in all classes. Gesneriads used must be identified on an accompanying card. Reservations for entries in the Artistic Sections must be made with Bill Schmid, 804-349-7683 Schmidt.we@verizon.net by September 10 th . Only one entry per exhibitor per class.

SECTION K—Arrangement of Fresh Cut, Dried/Treated, and/or Growing Plant Material with or without blossoms. Limit of 2 entries per class.

Class 17 “Mythological Creature” - Cultures have long used creatures in the wild as inspiration for myths and folktales. Choose a mythical creature of land, water, or air to reflect in your design. Name and briefly describe the creature on an educational card. Staged in an 8”H x 8”W x 6”D niche.

Class 18 “Basilisk” This venomous, serpent-like creature is known for its deadly gaze and toxic breath. It is often referred to the “King of Serpents” due to its size and power. Reflect power and fear of this evil creature. Staged in a 12”H x 12”W x 10”D niche.

Class 19 “Winged Horse” Winged horses appear in the mythologies of many cultures. Reflect the power, freedom, and beauty of a winged horse. A free standing design not to exceed 12” in any dimension. Viewable from all sides. Name and briefly describe on an educational card.

SECTION L--Container Planting of Growing Material Limit of 3 entries.

Class 20 Terrarium, Tray/Dish Landscape or Natural Garden.

DIVISION III THE ARTS

All entries must feature gesneriads in some form. Each entry must have been made by the exhibitor. Reservations for entries in the Arts must be made with Bill Schmidt, 804-349-7683, Schmidt.wc@verizon.net by September 10 th . Limit of 5 entries per class. Only one entry per exhibitor per class.

SECTION M--Photography.

The subject must be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8” x 10”. Exhibitors must provide an easel for prints 5 x 7 or over.

Class 21 Color or Monochrome print of a Gesneriad or parts of a Gesneriad (flowers, fruits, foliage, etc.)

SECTION N—Arts and Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 22 Painting, drawing, needlework, textile or other arts and crafts

IV EDUCATIONAL

SECTION O--Educational

Class 23 Educational exhibits featuring gesneriads

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:

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

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.

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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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/>