



PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 57 Number 2

February 2026



Barb Stewart's *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Ruffle' seedling

President's message:

This month we gather on Valentine's Day for our love of gesneriads and orchids, begonias, succulents, well, plants in general. We will have a great program from two of our wonderful hybridizers of Saintpaulia and other gesneriads. I'm sure we have all grown plants hybridized by the Robinsons. Hope to see a good turnout this month to support our guest speakers.

I've finally potted up the last of my seedlings to share at the prop workshop next month. I have also sowed most of the 18 varieties of seed I recently got from the Brazil Seed fund. (Mauro is quite generous!) I hope to have some ready to share next month. I also have extra seed for anyone who wants to try their hand at growing from seed. I try to get a variety of different gesneriad seeds so I can learn about growing different genera. There is very little information available about many gesneriads, so experience is a great teacher. Barbara

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

In person meeting at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968033274?pwd=KVc68b7bbbKSLIN87rBKAzczmUGYW.1>

Meeting ID: 829 6803 3274

Passcode: 957283

February 14, 2026: Zoom Program:

"Talking Gesneriads with Violet Barn"

Rob and Olive will discuss how they grow violets and other gesneriads at Violet Barn. They will focus on different plants, so will discuss any differences in their observations.

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| March 14th | – Propagation workshop |
| April 11th | – No meeting |
| May 9th | – waiting on Green Spring dates |
| June 13th | – Pests |
| July 11th | – No meeting; picnic? |
| August 8th | – September Show prep' |
| Sept 12th | – Mini show at Church |
| Oct 10th | – Andy will present on Streptocarpus |
| Nov 14 | – Waiting on MAAVS dates |
| Dec 12 | – Holiday Get Together |

Note from Editor: In January Mel Grice educated us on his lighting and growing set up. Our members have methods that can also educate us about their methods of growing. So this month Petal Tones features our member, Andy Meier's lighting and growing set up. Next month March Petal Tones will feature Dave Turley's and Dave Anderson's set ups. I welcome all members to take some photos and share some information on how you grow, even if it is on a windowsill or a small scale set up! It is fun, educational and so interesting to see how we grow our gesneriads! Thanks to Andy, Dave T. & Dave A.