

PETAL TONES



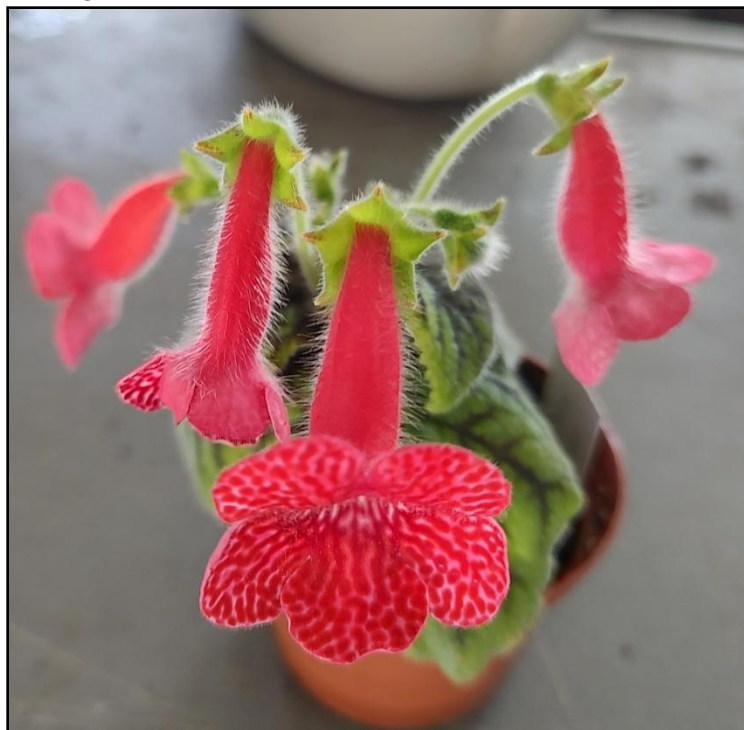
Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 6

June 2024



Andy's beautiful blossom of *Sinningia speciosa* he grew from Gordon's seeds.



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

Saturday, June 8, 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. Kitty will share tips on grooming plants for showing.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81429489432?pwd=M0dsdHVkQjBVQ3NuU1JPVWlUVyVtZz09>

July 2024

No meeting Gesneriad convention

August

Savannah Scollar on Artistic Design with Gesneriads

September 14th

Mini Show at the Church

October 12th

Primulina culture

November 9th

No meeting due to MAAVS show

December 14th

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" due to children with allergies, so do not bring any food items that include nuts or peanuts. The area is a day care.

President's Message:

As we start planning for our mini show in September, Kitty will help us select and start grooming a few plants for show. Many gesneriads are seasonal and fast growers, so there is time to get a few plants growing properly to look good for entry. A show is not just about the competition. Growing plants for show is a good opportunity to explore and learn about specific gesneriads and how to best grow them. Shows are great for learning about the potential of different gesneriads and inspiring others to grow them. Education is an important part of a gesneriad show. Members are encouraged to bring a few potential show plants to the workshop to get them in shape for display. Hope to see you there.

Barbara

A Day at Green Spring Gardens

by Barbara Stewart

Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, VA held their spring plant sale in which NCAC participates as a fundraiser and promotion for the chapter. Andy and I brought plants of many varieties to sell. I had my usual yard plants and houseplants and Andy had a selection of orchids, bromeliads, and other interesting houseplants. We set up the front table with gesneriads as well as culture and society information with colorful bromeliads at the base to attract attention.



Andy & Gordon setting up the tents

The weather was predicted to be rainy, so Andy asked if anyone could bring an extra tent. I volunteered, but when I got there on Friday I found I was missing a set of poles. Gordon, who lives nearby, came to the rescue and brought a nice tent which allowed us to have all our plants inside, with just a regular drip of rain in between the tents.

Several members dropped out of the event at the last minute, so I made an appeal to local members to help out. Mila stepped up to the plate and volunteered to help for a few hours, but ended up staying the whole day, which was greatly appreciated.

We were fortunate the rain held off for the first couple of hours and business was brisk. The rain started around 11:30 and continued for the rest of the day, but people still came and bought plants until the end of the sale at 3. Many people asked what a gesneriad was, so we were able to share information about the plants we grow. Breaking down was messy and I was pretty wet by the time I finished, but went home with a lighter load of plants.

Overall, the event was a success. Special thanks to those who braved the weather and came out to help. This is a good fundraiser for the chapter and generally a lot of fun. I always find some interesting plants to buy from the gardens and other vendors, and the plants around the garden were stunning as usual. Green Spring usually does another sale in the fall, and I hope to have lots more gesneriads for sale by then. Hopefully, the weather will be better.

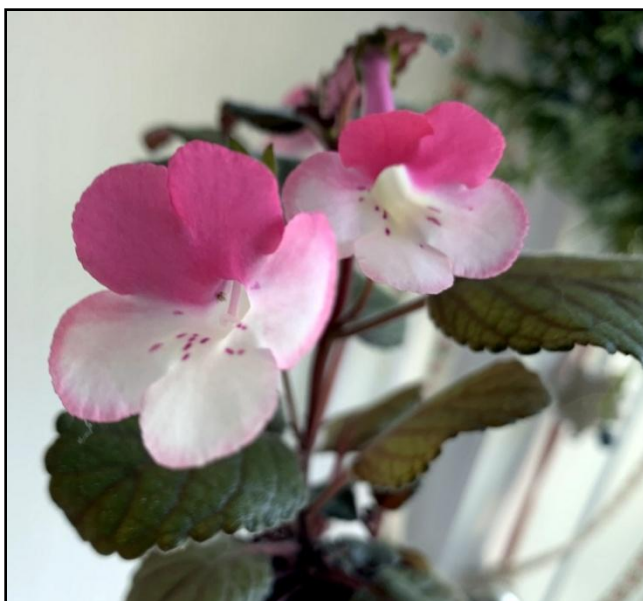




Johanna Zinn: "I have algae water! I found some in a container behind the behind on one of my shelves. I used a hole-punch to make holes in a lid and placed spent *Gloxinella lindeniana* bloom stems in it to propagate them.

The non-conforming plant material in the top-left opening about 10 o'clock is two spent bloom stems of *Begonia* 'Pink African Violet'. It is quite slow to propagate by leaf, so I hope this method will be faster as well as produce more *Gloxinella lindeniana*."

Bloomin' Now



Donna: "*Sinningia* 'Stone's Yulia' is a miniature sinningia that I have had on my wish list for years. When I saw it for sale on Violet Barn's website I decided to buy it for my birthday present! I noticed that the buds were beautifully marked with half white and half pink. When the bloom opened I was disappointed for a day when the bottom of the bloom looked light pink instead of white. Then the second day the color began changing to the 'normal' white color on the bottom of the bloom, edged with pink and I was a happy camper! It blooms a long time and keeps putting out more buds"



Dena's *Episcia* 'Harmony's Slinky Pink' from the March NCAC raffle table. "The pink flowers are so cute, and the leaf color and texture are a nice contrast."



Donna's *Episcia* 'Pink Panther'. "Believe it or not purchased on sale at Lowe's in early May. Has not stopped blooming and not in terrarium conditions!"



Barb Stewart's *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'



Barb Borleski's *Sinningia* 'Orange Rain Drops'

Last summer, I purchased a small plant of *Nautilocalyx erytranthus*. This species grows in the in the western Amazon basin of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in shady areas of tropical wet/rainforests. The name erytranthus refers to its red flowers. The Provisional Conservation status is Near Threatened.

Blooms are a vibrant red-orange color I have had three blooms so far, and more buds are forming. Each bloom has dozens of hair-like structures holding up clear, sparkling, liquid droplets that I assume are nectar. I tasted some of them, and did not detect any sweetness, but I'm not a pollinator.

Even if this plant didn't have beautiful blooms, I would grow it for the leaves. On my plant, they are dark green and bullate with depressed, purple veins on the upper side of the leaf, and medium green, with raised reddish veins on the underside of the leaf. In the article cited below, it is mentioned that the bullate leaf form differs from the holotype which has non-bullate leaves.

(Ed. Note: Holotype: a single type specimen upon which the description and name of a new species is based.

When I first grew this plant, I didn't know what growing conditions *Nautilocalyx erytranthus* needed, so I put it into a terrarium. After reading about its native habitat, wet/tropical rainforests, I left it in the terrarium.

It appears to like higher humidity, but not moderately moist substrate, and I lost several leaves to rot before I found the right level of moisture for the substrate. I grow it in 2 parts chopped long-fibered sphagnum moss and one part perlite with ½ teaspoon of slow-release fertilizer and 1 teaspoon of Azomite, a mineral product mixed into the moss below the root ball. It grows on a plant stand under T-8 florescent tubes in our basement where the temperature ranges from the middle 60s in the winter, to the middle 70s in the summer.

I hope that those who took home leaf sections from our raffle have been successful in starting plants.

Habitat, epithet, holotype information, and Provisional Conservation status information were found in an article by M. MARCELA MORA1 & JOHN L. CLARK1 in *Phytotaxa*

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.164.3.3>



Close up of Johanna's *Nautilocalyx erytranthus* flowers with droplets & close up of the leaf texture.

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Sinningia hirsuta* in full bloom.



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia* 'Clara Louise x bullata'



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia* 'Flair'



Dave's *Sinningia* Cindy Ella x self' seedling

Bloomin' Now



Doug Bolt's "His *Streptocarpus* grandchildren!"



Bill's *Phineas multiflora* 'Tracery'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Maiden's Blush' x self seedling



Barb Stewart's *Streptocarpus* yellow seedling



Donna's *Achimenes* 'Purple King'

David Turley: "*Nautilocalyx glandulifer*. The dark leaves and red/purple hairs are quite the show. The stems have leaves in opposite pairs, but on one stem then leaves are a whorl of three." Johanna asked: 'What is your humidity level?' David: "This plant is growing in the open on the fluorescent lights. It's in my usual sphagnum/perlite/vermiculite mix. The humidity in the basement hovers 45 - 50%. I also mist the plants multiple times a day usually. Anytime I go down to look at the plants, they get a quick misting." Donna's comment: "Reminds me of *Chrysothemis pulchella* with much darker leaves." Four photos of his plant by David Turley.



"***Nautilocalyx glandulifer*** is an endemic species to Ecuador. The leaves are black on the top and purple on the bottom. They are covered with dense short purple hairs. It has a short and branching growth habit. The flowers are white with purple markings on the upper petals. This is a member of the African Violet family and care must be taken to keep it out of cold drafts and do not water with cold water. Care: Shade to partial shade, temp. 55 to 95 degrees, 6 to 8 inches tall, allow getting slightly dry between watering, water with room temperature water." www.Stevesleaves.com

Inset photo of bloom: <https://mygreenobsession.com/>



David Turley's *Sinningia* 'Paper Moon' is unique in a way. "It's a cross of *Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite' and *Sinningia schiffneri*, two extremely different gesneriad plants. To my experience it does not form a tuber. This plant was from a single cutting from a plant picked up at the Gesneriad Convention last July 2023 in Richmond."



David's *Lysionotus pauciflorus* 'Ikeda'. "The blooms are out of proportion to the plant for sure. And individual blooms last only a few days."



David's *Aeschynanthus humilis*



David's *Sinningia reitzii* 'Iporanga'

June 30 to July 6, 2024



The St. Louis, Missouri area convention team is looking forward to welcoming you to The Gesneriad Society's 67th Annual Convention to celebrate our favorite plants. Join us at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac from June 30 to July 6, 2024.

One of the City's great moments came in 1904 when it hosted a World's Fair: the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. More than 20 million people visited the fair in the seven-month run, immortalized in the film and song "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis."

St. Louis is steeped in history with many museums and streets lined with beautiful old homes. Our city has something for everyone. We have planned a variety of tours to give you a taste of St. Louis. You may wish to take advantage of opportunities to explore more on your own.

The convention program will give us plenty of opportunities to share our love of gesneriads.

We hope to see a large variety of plants in the flower show exhibited by growers from across the continent. We will also have a large variety of plants for sale from several commercial growers as well as from individual growers offering plants, tubers, rhizomes, and cuttings that cannot be found elsewhere. You're sure to find many new additions for your collection. Silent and live auctions also offer unique opportunities for acquiring rare treasures.

We shall have lectures, moderated discussions, and a panel or two of gesneriad growers to share their experiences – programs to interest all. There will be a judging school for new and experienced judges to improve their knowledge of gesneriads. Numerous volunteer opportunities also abound to contribute to the Society. This is a great way to meet and make new friends!

Never been to a Gesneriad Society Convention before? Then register ASAP! Early entry to plant sales on Wednesday night from 8 to 8:30 pm is for convention registrants only and is based on your registration number. Plant sales will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available for convention registrants on Wednesday night and Thursday.

We invite you to join us in St. Louis! Bring a wish list of plants, your plant questions, and a show entry or two – and be prepared to come away with new friends, questions answered, and new additions to your plant collection, too! Registration is open and easy!

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2024-convention-st-louis-mo/>

I am so excited about The Gesneriad Society's convention in St. Louis June 30- July 6. I'm in charge of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association's meeting on Friday, July 5, at 8:00 p.m. and everyone registered is invited to attend.

The GHA meeting will have a free raffle of plant material. I plan on giving away leaves of my newest *Primulina* 'Dale's Smoky Incense' hybrid (*P. gueilinsensis* × *P. brachytricha*) × *P. pseudoglandulosa*. I've grown out 3 generations and it's a constant bloomer (I wick water) and the scent is strong.

I also hope to distribute my *Sinningia* 'Dale's Silver Lining', also scented. I am the GHA's speaker for the evening. I'll be showing photos of my new intergeneric between *Gloxinia* and *Diastema*.

See you in St. Louis !!!!

Dale Martens, Membership Promotion Chairperson and GHA's Chairperson



Dale's *Primulina* 'Dale's Smoky Incense'

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 with your requests.

Barb Stewart seeking:

Chrysothemis pulchella 'Black Flamingo'
Petrocosmea (any)

Andy Meier seeking:

Sinningia speciosa (Florist Gloxinia) 'Periodots Darth Vader'
Streptocarpus 'Samantha'
Any variegated leaf *Streptocarpus*

Donna Beverin sharing:

Sinningia conspicua plants, *Sinningia tubiflora* tubers
Sinningia 'Anne Crowley' x self plant cuttings

Seeking: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Star' leaf
Kohleria 'Peridots Rolo' rhizomes

David Turley seeking:

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

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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/>