

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 56 Number 10

October 2025



Minh Bui's winning blue for his *Michaelmoellera vietnamensis*

News from National from Karyn Cichocki :

For over 20 years the Gesneriad Society's mailing address has been 1122 E Pike St, PMB 637, Seattle, WA 98122, which is a private mailbox establishment. Unfortunately, they suffered a fire a few weeks ago. They were hoping to rebuild and reopen, but they announced that they will not be reopening, so the Society needs to change its address of record. The Society's mailing address will now be:
The Gesneriad Society
1211 East Denny Way, #B28
Seattle, WA 98122-2516

Please make note of this, and pass on to any or all that would need it.
Thanks for your time and attention.

Bob Clark
The Gesneriad Society Membership Secretary

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>

Meeting ID: 829 6803 3274

Passcode: 957283

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:

Well, it is finally fall and I am busy getting my houseplants ready to bring inside. Last year they stayed out almost until Thanksgiving, but this year I am trying to transition them earlier.

Meanwhile, gesneriad seedlings are waiting to be potted up. *Microchirita*s are particularly anxious, since they have a short life span. I'm experimenting with different ways to grow them, since they outgrow their pots too fast for me to keep up with. I bought seeds of several varieties and crosses at the convention this summer, so I am looking forward to seeing what they produce.

We had a great show last month and it went very well. This month we will learn more about growing *Streptocarpus*.

We also need to start discussing plans for next year, ie meeting dates, programs, etc. If you can't come in person, we still hope you can join on Zoom. See you there!

Barbara

September 13th, NCAC will meet in the Youth Room on the second floor. Through the double doors when you exit the elevator. Church personnel are not sure when the water damage repairs will be completed in Room 3, but will let us 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.

Gesneriophiles Good Conversations



Barb's plant



Dale's plant

Damrongia orientalis

Barbara Stewart: "I can't find much information online about this plant except it used to be classified as a strep. Is this an annual type plant that will die soon and leave me a bunch of seed pods? Any other info about it would be helpful."

"Barbara, Yes, this plant blooms and then dies. It will self-pollinate like crazy and the pods look similar to strep pods. Keep the root ball moist, not muddy, which is challenging unless you are wick watering. Those abundant flowers and seed pods cause it to need a lot of water. My photo shows the plant in a 3-inch pot." Dale Martens

October 3: Any tips on growing microchirita? I got some seeds at the convention and the seedlings are already out of control. They grow too fast for me to keep up with frequent repotting. Should I just start out with a large pot?

Thanks,
Barbara Stewart

October 4:
Hi Barbara,
A large pot is great . A shallow pot will be great. Usually when transplanting seedlings, I do not transplant them individually but in small clumps. It is easier to handle.
A easier method will be to sow the seeds thinly in a large shallow pot. No transplanting needed.
Cheers.
Tuck Lock



One of Barb's *Microchiritas*
from 2024



Barb Borleske Best Horticulture: *Achimenes* 'Blue Swan'



Barb Stewart Best in Artistic "Basilisk"



David Turley's Best *Sinningia* 'Judy Becker'



Minh's *Saintpaulia* 'Blue Boy'



Maria Waleuff's *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslipper Strawberry Ice'



David Turley's *Nautilocalyx forgetii*



Barb Borleske's *Gloxinia* 'Dragonsong'



David Turley's *Kohleria hirsuta*



Jill Fischer's *Aeschynanthus* 'Mira'



Jill's *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Baby Egrets'



David Turley's *Nautilocalyx glandulifer*



Barb Stewart's *Primulina* 'Charlie'



Show tables

Barb Borleske's *Sinningia bullata*

Jill Fischer's terrarium

Bill Schmidt's Artistic Arrangement



BLOOMIN' NOW



Kitty: "Here are two photos of the same Sinningia. I bought it in Kansas City at the Convention without having a clue about what the blossom looked like. Well, it's finally produced a bloom. Wow! To say it's a double is an understatement! The writing on the tag is barely legible, but the best that I can make of it is 'Jeff's Rain Prince'."



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'Cindy Baby'



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'Claire Roberts'

BLOOMIN' NOW



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' (2nd tuber)



Donna's *Sinningia* *bullata* x *conspicua*



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Towering Inferno'



Close up of Towering Inferno flowers



Johanna Zinn's *Saintpaulia velutina*



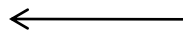
Close up of *S. velutina*



Johanna's *Hemiboea strigosa*



Johanna's *Seemannia*
/ *Gloxinia* 'Little Red'



Johanna's
Aeschynanthus 'Big
Apple' ????



Barb Borleske's *xGloximannia* 'She's Dancing'. "I took the photo October 2nd in the early morning. Too bad it is such a late bloomer. Wish it had been ready for the NCAC mini show in September."



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:

Chrysothemis 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/>