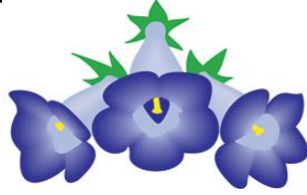


# Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 49 Number 1

January 2018



Dave's *Streptocarpella* close up

## President's Message Barb Stewart

Happy New Year to everyone! Hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday. I usually start off the New Year by repotting plants. This is a good opportunity to practice writing the New Year as I label each plant I repot. If you are into making resolutions for the new year, I hope one of them is to expand your gesneriad experience by learning to create designs. The January program will include a

NCAC meetings are held at BEHNKES NURSERIES

11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705  
Behnkes opens at 8:00am if you would like to browse and shop before the meeting. We gather at 10am to get set up, with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet the second Saturday of the month. \$10 yearly dues.

January 13<sup>th</sup>: Designs Basic with Barb Stewart  
Host: Sally Leonhard her address in email.

February 10<sup>th</sup>: Dog Show and Culture (bring plants in dire need of help and we shall learn how to fix them) with Jim Roberts and Barb Stewart

February 10<sup>th</sup>: Dog Show and Culture (bring plants in to show how terrible they are and we shall learn how to fix them) with Jim Roberts and Barb Stewart

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Sinningia seminar

hands-on workshop to get the feel of creating a arrangement with gesneriads. I will give a brief talk on the basics of design and then let folks practice making a simple design with some plant material and containers. Supplies will be provided; just bring some creativity and have fun!

Barbara

Check out Member's Bloomin' Now Plants! Next



Dave Anderson's *Sinningias*



Johanna's *Smithiantha* NOID: due to a squirrel stealing the name tag this summer! Canarina? Pat's Pet Donkey?



Dave's *Streptocarpella*



Peggy's *Primulina* 'Nimbus'

**Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad  
Society Display and Plant Sale**

**Saturday, March 20, 2018  
10:00am – 4:00pm**

**Boscov's Department Store**

**Christiana Town Center**

**Christiana, Delaware**





Barb's photo is an *Aeschynanthus* at the Denver Botanical Garden



Barb's *Aeschynanthus* close up



Barb's *Primulina* 'piccolo'



Barb's *Primulina* 'piccolo' close up

**Desperately Seeking Wish List:**

- Barb..... *Primulina brassicoides* 'Marble Lea'
- Barb.....*Primulina Angustifolia*
- Barb.....*Columnea* 'Julia'
- Donna.....*Sinningia hirsuta*

Our seed order should arrive soon from Mauro Peixoto of Brazil Plants. To learn more check out the Facebook page and his website.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Brazilplantsclub/461609077355873/>  
**www. Brazilplants .com**





Barb's *Primulina* NOID



Barb's *Primulina* NOID close up



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Amizade'



Barb's *Smithiantha* hybrid 'pink' grown from seed

**Richmond African Violet Society  
Judged Show and Plant Sale**

April 13 – 15, 2018  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden  
1800 Lakeside Avenue Richmond, VA 23228  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00pm April 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00-5:00 April  
15<sup>th</sup> 9:00-4:00  
Free Admission to Show and Sale  
barbgreenawalt@hotmail.com



Join the Gesneriad Society

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/membership/application/>





Johanna's *Monopyle* : ID please!! While I was decking the halls and eating cookies, not only did this *Monopyle* try to escape its terrarium, it also bloomed. The tag has faded; it appears to read: *Monopyle* 7P GRE ??????. Does anyone know its full name/number?



Anyone recognize this *Monopyle* that Johanna is growing quite successfully!



Donna's *Petrocosmea cavaleriei*

### Mr. Gesneriad

What *Sinningias* can be pinched to make a more compact plant? Paula



The *Sinningia* genus is divided into half a dozen different clades, or groups. Some flower with buds and flowers coming straight out of the tuber, so nothing to pinch there. Others such as *S. leucitricha* have leaves with buds emerge together. The height and number of flowers are determined by the age/ size of the tuber.

There is a group that does branch fairly freely. Plants such as *Sinningia aggregata* and *Sinningia bullata* rarely go dormant and produce flowers in the leaf axils as well as at the tips. These plants can be controlled by pinching out the tips and getting side branching. Also the close relatives, *Paliava* and *Vanhouttea* can be pruned to keep the size down and still get flowers. These plants bloom once the base diameter (no tuber) of the stem gets wide enough. The upper growth, even though young, will flower if the stem is large enough.

Tough question to answer since the genus is so variable. But in general, if flowers only appear at the tips of the stems (*S. tubiflora* falls into this group) pinching will simply stop any flowering.

Mr. Gesneriad, Some large primulinas are reluctant bloomers. They produce buds which never develop into blooms and just dry up. What would encourage blooming? I had one that finally bloomed when I took it off the plant stand and put it on the dining room table where it was totally neglected and just got some distant natural light from a bay window. I am still trying to get some blooms from *P. Chiaki* and *P. Moonlight*. Barbara

Mr. G: Good question. I've had the same situations. Plants would sit with buds for months with small buds in the axils that just won't grow. It's a frequent problem. Some have suggested stressing the plant a little so that it really wants to reproduce. Many of the *Primulina* grow in areas with a very long dry spell (just dew for 3-4 months; no rain). I know my plants go through those stresses all the time. *P. species V-27* sat for a year with buds. It dried out once to the point that the leaves were limp in the pot. It recovered with watering and I had open flowers a month later.





Donna's xGloximannia 'She's Dancing' with an elongated bloom. It has been growing on a cool windowsill and maybe caused the bloom to distort. But so excited it is blooming I just have to share.



Donna's Saintpaulia 'Betty Jean' although bloom does not look like the advertized picture.



Donna's xSmithicodonia 'Heartland's Joy' in a small hanging basket with rosary vine and a green fern like moss that just popped up. Grown outdoors in summer and still going strong under florescent light by kitchen window.

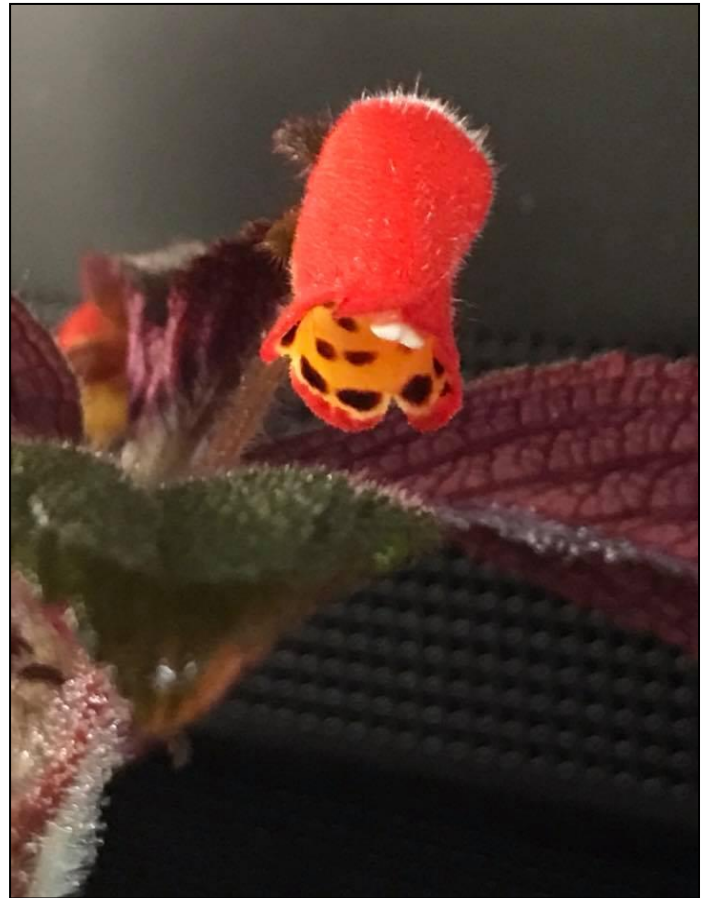
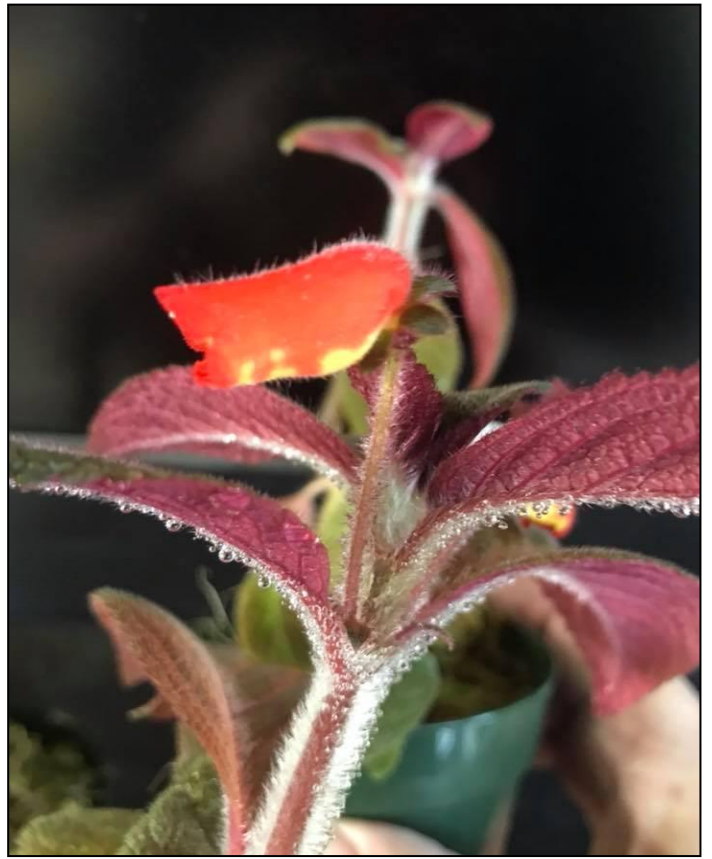
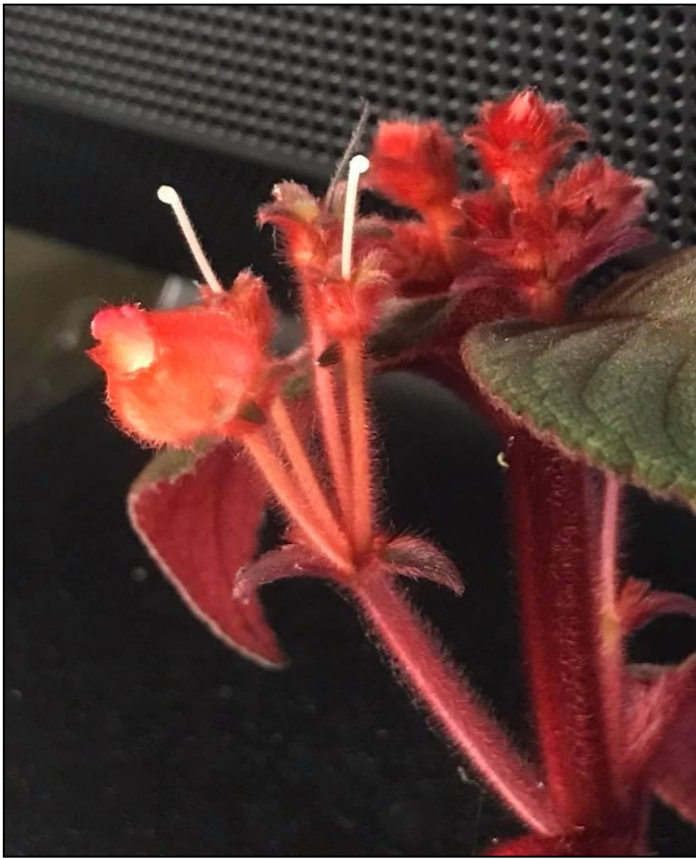


Donna's Sinningia noid

An excellent website for researching your plants with lots of pictures and detailed information about all gesneriads.

<http://www.gesneriads.info/>





Two of the *Pearcea* brought back from Ecuador are flowering. The one with the hairy red stems and orange pouch flowers is probably *P. abunda*. Not so sure on the one with the nicely striped foliage and the

tubular orange flower with a yellow bottom and red spots on the yellow interior. I just know it is very nice. Jim Roberts

## **DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!**

At every meeting our members bring extra plants, cuttings, supplies donate them to the raffle table. Tickets for the raffle are only 3 for a dollar and everyone who attends the meeting gets one ticket just for showing up (including guests). Here's what you'll see on the table at a meeting:  
Gesneriad plants, rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, seeds, companion and/or garden plants, cuttings and gardening supplies.

## **Programs Planned for 2018**

January 13<sup>th</sup>: Designs Basic with Barb Stewart

February 10<sup>th</sup>: Dog Show and Culture (bring plants in to show how terrible they are and we shall learn how to fix them) with Jim Roberts and Barb Stewart

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Sinningia seminar with TBA

April 21<sup>st</sup>: Joy of Growing Summer Sinningias: tubiflora, 'Towering Inferno', 'Butter and Cream', 'Banana's Foster', 'Apricot Bouquet' and 'Carolyn' with Donna (Meeting moved one week later due to the conflict with our NCAC members who are in the Richmond AV show)

May 12<sup>th</sup>: Propagation Meeting with Jim Roberts

June 9<sup>th</sup>: Road trip to a botanical garden and no business meeting. Location TBA

July: No meeting

August 11<sup>th</sup>: Business meeting and Picnic TBA

September 8<sup>th</sup>: Show Prep with members

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Streptocarpus with Brian Connor

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Webinar TBA

December 8<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Party

President: Barb Stewart  
[bstew771@verizon.net](mailto:bstew771@verizon.net)

Vice-President: Jim Roberts  
[jim.roberts2408@gmail.com](mailto:jim.roberts2408@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Sharon Long  
[slong15781@aol.com](mailto:slong15781@aol.com)

Secretary: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Donna Beverin  
[Petaltones@gmail.com](mailto:Petaltones@gmail.com) or  
[Donnabeverin@gmail.com](mailto:Donnabeverin@gmail.com)

### **Committees:**

Hospitality: Irene Pittman  
Publications: Donna Beverin

Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership: Jim Roberts

Ways and Means: Brian Connor

Show: Jim Roberts

### **Directors:**

**Victor Nicholas**

**Brian Connor**

**Ki Imai**

NCAC website: [www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](http://www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)  
[web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](mailto:web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)

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 \$10 per year (email copy of current year's newsletter). Back issues from previous years available on website.

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. 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.  
<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

Permission to reprint from Petal Tones is granted to other Gesneriad Society editors, provided that credit is given to the author and the publication.