

PETAL TONES



Volume 50 Number 1

January 2019



Kitty Hedgepeth's *Streptocarpus* 'Wow'

President's Message

Welcome to a new year! We are off to a good start with a full slate of hard working officers and directors, so we will continue as a chapter of the Gesneriad Society. Our success depends on the efforts of our committee chairmen as well, especially Membership, an important committee which is still open. Although we do not have a show planned for this year, we still need a show chairman to start thinking about a future show.

We will continue with the plant-of-the-month this year, but with a slightly different approach. We want to focus on lesser known gesneriads, particularly ones we are growing from seed. As the Propagation committee, Donna and I are growing a lot of seedlings which we will be sharing with the club. Our first plant of the month will be **Sinningia carangolensis**. Donna had a few on the December raffle table labeled as *S.amambayensis*. If any are blooming for you let us know!

Future featured plants will be determined based on what seedlings we have available. We also welcome other members who are growing from seed to suggest a plant and donate seedlings, like Kitty did last year with *S. vacariensis*. In my experience, the amount of seeds we get from the Brazil Seed Fund is quite generous, so we should have lots of small plants to share. And so we are looking forward to a great year, which, of course, is dependent on active participation of as many members as possible. Get involved, come to meetings, bring plants, bring friends, bring food (no nuts!), learn more about gesneriads, and have fun!

Barbara Stewart

MEETING LOCATION:

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road,
Laurel, MD 20723

We gather at 10:00am to get set up, with the meeting beginning at 10:30am. Meet the second Saturday of the month. Calendar yearly dues of \$10 are due in January or whenever joining. Renew by March to keep your Petal Tones subscription.

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.

January 2019: Webinar "Master Class : Hybridizing Gesneriads

February 2019: Propagation workshop

March 2019: Design Workshop

April 2019: Summer Sinningias

Our Treasurer, Sharon Long is collecting 2019 dues. She will be sending an email to members who have not paid for this year. If you know you owe dues, you may mail them to her at 1546 Heritage Hill Drive Henrico, VA 23238. Dues are still only \$10.00.

The following amendment to the bylaws is being proposed:

Article II. Membership and Dues
Section 5. National Membership of Officers. The President and at least one other officer of the Chapter must be members in good standing of the parent organization.

This is to adjust our bylaws to be in line with the requirements of the national society. We will vote on this amendment at the January meeting.



Question for Mr. Gesneriad: Attached is a picture of *xRhytidoneria* 'Ako Cardinal Flight' that does not look happy. The lower leaves are turning yellow and dropping off. It is grown in a large terrarium, on a wick so it won't dry out, under a 2 T-8 light fixture. It was repotted last August. Any suggestions? My soil is Pro-mix with added perlite and I fertilize with Dyna-gro. Would it help to add some lime? Barb Stewart

Mr. Gesneriad: Barb, *xRhytidoneria* 'Ako Cardinal Flight' grows with a woody stem (like most Rhytidophyllums). Losing some leaves and then branching is quite normal. The uppermost leaves look good. Is there a source for extra humidity in the terrarium or are all the plants wicked individually with no free water? Do you ever see condensation on the glass? Andrew Norris has a plant of this that's three feet tall and just as wide. Dozens of open blooms on all the branches. It gets its light from overhead LED spotlights, but that light is filtered by other plants taller than it is in the chameleon cage. If it weren't for all the mealy bugs it would be a real strong contender for Best in Show in any Gesneriad show (LOL). It sounds like you are giving your plant more light than Andrew but less humidity. His is planted in Sunshine Mix #4 and hasn't been fertilized since it was planted over a year ago. No extra lime but yes to extra perlite. Try increasing the humidity and cutting back on the light. Maybe put the wick containers on a bed of porous clay pebbles in water.



Bloomin' Now



Bill Schmidt's *Kohleria* 'An's Nagging Macaws'

The plants are not looking great but they are blooming. New Attitude is interesting because it is a standard, variegated, chimera, with fantasy blossoms. I've been trying to grow a good show plant of this for years. If I had an AVSA Best in Show plant, it would win six rosettes.

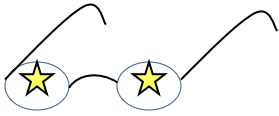


Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'New Attitude'



Barb Stewart's *Seemannia* 'Chic' including leaves and the close-up.





Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Donna Beverin..... African Violet: "Royal Child" leaves
- Donna Beverin..... *Streptocarpus* 'DS Caramel' leaf
- Donna Beverin..... *Eucodonia andrieuxii* 'Woolly Morrión' rhizome or leaf
- Sherri Arnaiz..... *Codonanthe devosiana*

Bloomin' Now



Sharon's *Columnea* 'Jeanne Katzenstein' and close-up below



Sharon's *Seemannia* 'Chic'



Barb Stewart's *Eucodonia* noid



Barb Stewart's *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet'

Bloomin' Now



Sharon's *Streptocarpus* 'Keigetsu'



Johanna's *Primulina* 'Hisako'



Johanna's *Primulina* 'Hisako'



Barb Stewart's *Petrocosmea* 'Formosa'

Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia nordestina* blooms



Barb Stewart's *Lysionotus* 'Pudding'



Barb Stewart's *Lysionotus* 'Pudding' close- up

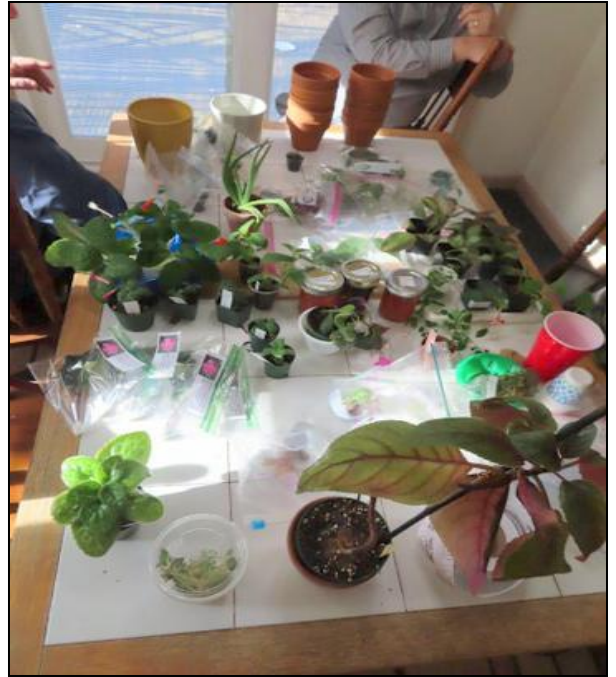


Dave's *Sinningia* 'Roxy' a prolific bloomer

Holiday Party December 2018



December party: bags of presents!



December party: plant raffle table



December party: Table full of yummy food for luncheon.



Lots of great conversations and fun!

For our December holiday meeting at Sally Leonhard's home, we had a very productive meeting and enjoyed a fabulous luncheon. After discussion of the future of NCAC we finalized the leadership positions for the new year. Thanks to all our volunteers for their time and dedication to keeping our group growing and succeeding in providing a wealth of education, camaraderie as well as plant material for our membership. 2018 was a great year with Peggy attaining her church, The United Emmanuel Methodist Church classroom for our meetings, which solved a big problem for us, since Behnke's is no longer available. Hope to see you all in the New Year!

Plant of the month: *Sinningia carangolensis*

I grew the species *S. carangolensis* from seeds from Brazil Plants with excellent germination.. Since I planted seeds in a container with other seeds including *S. amambayensis*, which is known for it 'sticky' leaves I was not sure this plant was not *S. amambayensis*, because its leaves are a bit sticky! Those of you who received this plant on the raffle table in December can rename it on the labels. It has long, skinny pedicels which show off the true orange blooms reminiscent of my other summer sinningias. To be clear though this plant has been grown from seeds indoors and came to bloom indoors right after I repotted it from the prop' box and it was very easy to grow to bloom from seeds under lights. It does form a tuber. Mine are grown under LEDs. Per Alan LaVergne's website, www.burwur.net Alain Chautems describes this plant as terrestrial. Alan remembered it having a slight scent to its leaves, which I have not discerned. It is named after the Brazilian city of Carangola with 'ensis' meaning 'resident of'. I have a few more little plants to share at our next meeting and I hope all who are growing the babies of this pretty plant will enjoy its form and blossoms!

Donna Beverin



Alternative views of *S. carangolensis*

Donna's Plant of the Month : *Sinningia carangolensis*



Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Sharon' one of his hybrids



Dave's *Sinningia* NOIDs



Dave's *Sinningia muscicola*



Dave's *Streptocarpella*



Donna's
*Gloxinella
lindeniana*



Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia bullata x conspicua*



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'



Donna's *Sinningia bullata x conspicua* whole plant



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Scarlet Flower' with mottling on flower in bottom picture. Started by Brian who gave to Donna during the September program about growing *Streptocarpus*. The first bloom (top) on this plant was totally red. The pedicels are very thick. It will need repotting from this Oyama pot to a larger pot as the roots are growing out the bottom and it takes a lot of water. I love the flowers so much I have not de-budded as is recommended! One leaf is always very large due to the fact one of its parents is *S.dunni*, a unifoliate Strep. More information:

<http://streptocarpus-dimetris.com/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=491>

Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Grable' x self



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Freckles'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Cindy-ella'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Sim Sim Salaviem'



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Zlotko' close-up



and whole plant

Bloomin' Now



Karen Allen's hybrid *Streptocarpus* '3S-Nightwing'



Bill's *Aeschynanthus* 'Kew Form' blooming



Karen Allen's hybrid *Streptocarpus* '3S-Fernweh'



Karen Allen's *Kohleria* 'SimSim Cleopatra'

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia reitzii* full plant



Donna's *Sinningia reitzii* close-up



Jim Roberts *Agalmyla parasitica*



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Kevin Garnett'



Jim's *Eucodonia andrieuxii*



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Pig'

Dale Martens:

Tips on hybridizing and planting

Sinningia

- 1) Fertilize the flower on the 4th day the flower is open.
- 2) Seed pod maturation is only about 30 days when it turns brown and splits.
- 3) If seedlings are transplanted every 2 weeks after sprouting for the first 8 weeks of life, you will see them grow so fast they'll be blooming in about 5 months. This means 2 generations in a year

Episcias

- 1) Fertilize the flower on the 3rd day the flower is open.
- 2) High humidity is needed for fruit production, so place the plant in a terrarium environment. After pollinating the plant, I put smallish plants under a dome to help increase humidity. It forms a smallish berry that is initially whitish in color. It matures in 60 days.
- 3) The seedlings prefer high humidity to mature and they, too, appreciate transplanting every 2 weeks for the first 8 weeks of life.



Jim's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'

Streptocarpus

- 1) Fertilize the flower on the 5th through 7th day the flower is open.
- 2) A very long, green seed pod will form and it takes 8 to 12 weeks before it turns brown and begins to untwist.
- 3) Germination is slower: about 2 to 4 weeks, and for variegated seedlings, they may not sprout for 4 to 8 weeks.

In all cases, sow gesneriad seed on top of a 50-50 mix of vermiculite and your normal African violet soil. Don't cover the seeds with more soil. It's best to use a smallish, clear plastic container with a clear lid. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that gesneriads prefer to be transplanted often. I begin when the seedlings are only 3 days old and lift each one and put it back in the same seedling container. Then I transplant every 2 weeks for the first 8 weeks. You'll see them grow quickly before your eyes!

Printed with permission. Thank you, Dale!

Programs Planned for 2019

January 12th: Webinar : Master Class Hybridizing Gesneriads

February 9th: Propagation workshop

March 9th: Design workshop

April 13th: Summer Sinningia, tall sinningias

Plant of the Month

January: *Sinningia carangolensis*

DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!

At every meeting our members bring extra plants, cuttings, growing supplies, magazines, books, seedlings and 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, magazines, pamphlets, pots and gardening supplies and other plants we love to grow like begonias and houseplants.

The Richmond African Violet Society 2019 Annual Show and Sale

"Violets Around the World"

April 6th (Plant Sales),

April 7th – 8th, 2019 (Show and Sale)

Sponsored by and held at:

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmond, VA

804-262-9887

<http://www.lewisginter.org/plan/index.php>

Admission to the show and sale is free; however, there is an admission fee for visiting the garden. **Adults \$13 Seniors (55+) \$11**

Show Hours

Saturday, April 6, 2019 **1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Sunday, April 7, 2019 **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Plant Sale Hours

Friday, April 5, 2019 **1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Saturday, April 6, 2019 **9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Sunday, April 7, 2019 **9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Info: Barbara Greenawalt

Email: barbgreenawalt@hotmail.com

Editor note: This show features Gesneriads also.

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Hospitality: Peggy MacDonald

Publications: Donna Beverin

Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership:

Ways and Means: Brian Connor

Show:

Directors:

Kitty Hedgepeth

Brian Connor

Ki Imai

NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
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. 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.

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/>

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