

# Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 48 Number 4

March 2017



Kitty's beautiful *Streptocarpus* light garden

## President's Message

Barb Stewart

Here in Richmond it seems that spring has sprung, with trees and forsythias in full bloom. We are done with winter in the south. Hopefully some dormant gesneriads are feeling it too. Every time I look on my

plant stands I find something new blooming. This got me wondering if some of my plants are seasonal. I know a few are, such as *Aeschynanthus* which tend to be fall bloomers, and *Columnneas*, but I really don't know about some of my others. An internet search led me to the conclusion that I just need to look up



each plant individually, as I could not find any one source for multiple gesneriads. I am thinking of starting a log to see what blooms when under my conditions. Some plants may have finally gotten the treatment they need or just reached maturity, while others only

bloom when their season comes around. This month I am highlighting some of my favorite *Sinningias*. These include *Sinningia* “Deep Purple Dreaming” (see picture in last month’s Petal Tones), *Sinningia cardinalis*, *Sinningia* “Mother of Pearl”, and *Sinningia bullata*.



What makes these my favorites? These are ones that never go dormant. Before they finish blooming, they are sending up new shoots for the next round. (Notice the 2 shoots starting on *Sinningia cardinalis*.) I have lots of dormant *Sinningia* tubers, many of which will never come back to life.



Therefore, it is always exciting to see a *Sinningia* tuber start to sprout. In the meantime, I have these every-faithful varieties that regularly bloom and keep my plant shelves colorful. Hope to see you at our meeting where we shall all learn about *Kohleria*!



NCAC

Our Plant Show and Sale: May 19<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>th</sup>  
Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall  
Springfield, VA 22150

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. Please pay now for 2017.

March 11<sup>th</sup> 2017: *Kohleria* - an interesting and easy to grow rhizomatous genus.

April 8<sup>th</sup> 2017: African Violets with unusual leaves and flowers (bustle, spoon, girl leaves, chimeras, longiflora)

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2017: Show Workshop: making sure everything is ready for the show on May 20<sup>th</sup> weekend

May 19 – 21<sup>st</sup>: NCAC Plant Show and Sale. Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA 22150



These are mini *Sinningias* grown by our member Dave Anderson, who graciously shared an entire tray of baby plants with us at the last meeting. Johanna took most of them home to divide and pot up. However, she needs some help! When you come to the meeting this Saturday please take some pots home to divide and pot up to individual containers to grow on for the May Show! They do take up some light stand room but these little gems are always in high demand especially in bloom and will raise funds for our Club!



### Ask Mr. Gesneriad!

Mr. Gesneriad: What do you do with the long stringy sprouts of rhizomes that have been stored too long? Can they be cut back?

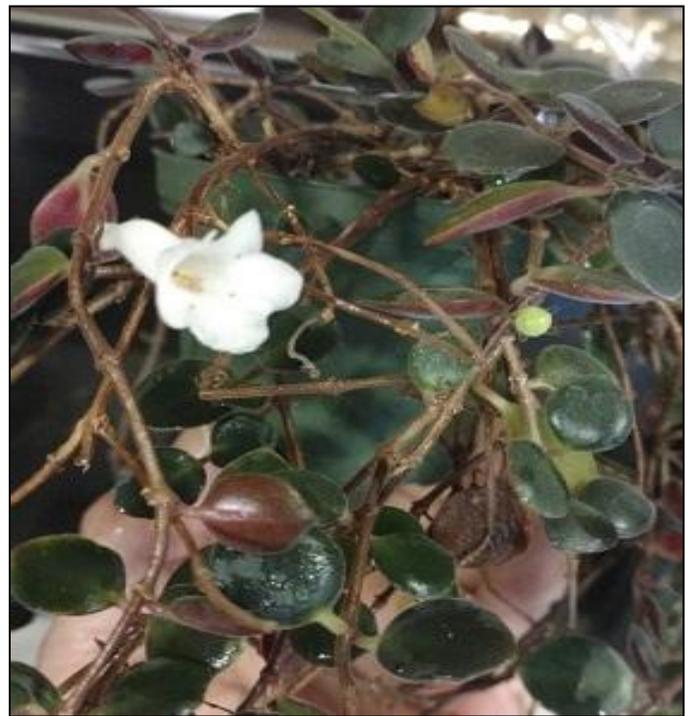
Barb

### Mr. G:

They can be either cut back or simply wound around in the pot. If you are cutting them back, plant the rhizome just beneath the soil surface. The rhizome has already used up much of its stored energy so it should grow if not planted deeply.

If winding the stringy growth around in the pot plant just beneath the surface it will grow and be OK even if some of the stems even poke through the soil. You may find that the plant produces extra branches at these points, with the stem rooting on either side.

### Bloomin' Now



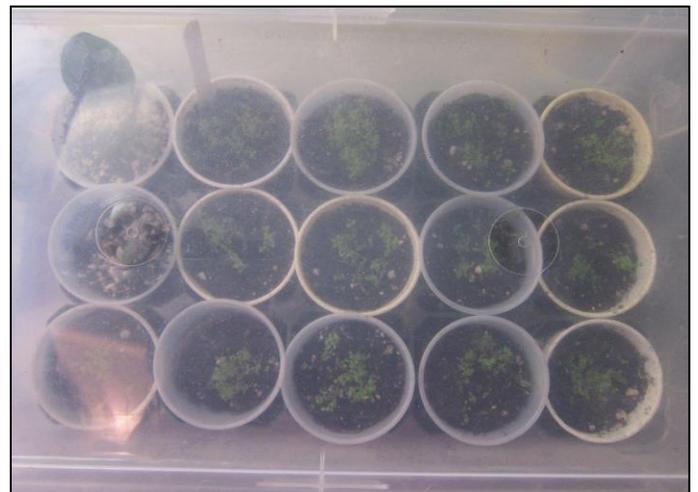
Barb's *Codonanthe carnosa*



Johanna's *Sinningia* in terrarium environment



Johanna's *Diastema* 'Red Falls'



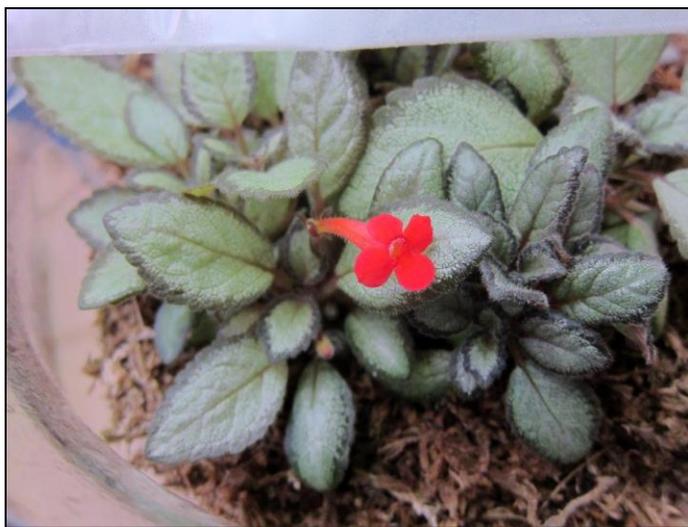
Johanna's *Titanotrichum oldhamii* plants propped for May Plant Show and Sale



Johanna's *Kohleria* 'Jester'



Barb's *Columnea citrina*



Johanna's *Episcia* 'Silver Skies'



Johanna's *Episcia* Cleopatra in bloom



Neomortonia renamed *Pachycaulus nummularia*



Barb's *Sinningia reitzii*



Close up of *Pachycaulus* grown by Barb Stewart



Barb's *Sinningia* 'pink tiger x bullata'



Showing aerial tuber



Donna's *Sinningia bullata*



### Growing Smaller Rhizomatous Gesneriads: Our Lesser-Known Treasures



Dr. Jeremy Keene  
co-chair Gesneriad Society's  
Conservation Committee



*Diastema vexans*  
From <http://www.gesneriads.ca>

"Lesser-Known Gesneriad Treasures" are the smaller rhizomatous gesneriads. Dr. Jeremy Keene's webinar premieres March 21, 2017, at 9:00 EST. Hear Jeremy's talk about *Diastema*, *Phinaea*, *Amalophyllon*, *Chautemsia*, *Gloxinella* and their hybrids! You will be able to see beautiful photos and listen to Jeremy describe what you are watching.

You do not have to be a member of The Gesneriad Society to register. If you cannot watch the premiere, register anyway to watch it after the premiere as "anytime" viewing until it expires about 9 months from now. Then it becomes available as a download \*\*\*without extra cost\*\*\* to The Gesneriad Society members who previously registered for it.

Register at:

<https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/webinars/products/webinar-growing-smaller-rhizomatous-gesneriads-our-lesser-known-treasures>

Richmond African Violet Society  
Judged show and sale  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden  
1800 Lakeside Avenue Richmond, Virginia  
23228

Show: April 8th 1:00-5:00pm  
April 9th 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sale: April 7th 1:00pm - 5:00pm  
April 8th: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
April 9th: 9:00am-4:00pm

Info: Sharon Long [804-740-5322](tel:804-740-5322)  
Email: [slong15781@aol.com](mailto:slong15781@aol.com)

**2017 DELAWARE AFRICAN VIOLET  
AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY**



**SALE/DISPLAY/EDUCATIONAL  
EXHIBIT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7th 12:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8th 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**BOSCOV'S DEPARTMENT STORE**

**CHRISTIANA TOWN CENTER**

**ROUTE #273, CHRISTIANA, DELAWARE**

**JOIN US FOR LECTURES AND**

**DEMONSTRATIONS**

**ON SATURDAY, APRIL 8th AT 1:00 PM**

**LEARN HOW TO REPOT AN AFRICAN VIOLET,**

**PROPAGATE FROM LEAVES,**

**PLANT CARE, AND MORE. FREE ADMISSION**

**INFO: [rlafash@comcast.net](mailto:rlafash@comcast.net)**

**Programs Planned for 2017**

- January 14 - workshop on growing in feather rock.
- February 11 - Propagation Workshop
- March 11 - *Kohleria* - an interesting and easy to grow rhizomatous genus.
- April 8 - African Violets with unusual leaves or flowers (bustle leaves, spooned, girl, longifolia, chimera)
- May 13 - Show workshop - making sure everything is ready for the show on the 20<sup>th</sup>
- Show schedule: May 19 – 21, 2017  
May 19 - Show entries and set-up  
May 20 - last minute entries. Judging. Sales and show open until Sunday, May 21 at 4.
- June 10 - Growing Gesneriads outdoors for the Summer
- July & August - TBD (picnic?)
- September 9 - Jim and Drew's Ecuador trip PowerPoint
- October 21 (third weekend - Orchid Show on second weekend) - Judges School for new judges and Student judges
- November 11 - Miniature Sinningia - growing these small wonders in Glass Containers - GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!
- December - Holiday Party at a member's home.

**Desperately Seeking**

Kitty Hedgepeth.....*Sinningia Leucotricha* tuber  
 Kitty Hedgepeth.....*Episcia suomi* or any yellow  
 Donna.....*Sinningia kautskyi*  
 Donna .....*Sinningia 'Amizade'*

**Plants of the Month for 2017**

<b>February</b>	<i>Lysionotus</i>
<b>March</b>	<i>Kohleria</i>
<b>April</b>	<i>Saintpaulia</i>
<b>May</b>	Show plants
<b>June</b>	<i>Nematanthus</i>
<b>July</b>	<i>Achimenes</i>
<b>August</b>	<i>Petrocosmea</i>
<b>September</b>	<i>Gasteranthus</i>
<b>October</b>	N/A
<b>November</b>	Mini <i>Sinningia</i>
<b>December</b>	<i>Streptocarpus</i>

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[web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](mailto:web@nationalcapitalgesneriads.org)

**Committees:**

Hospitality:	Irene Pittman
Publications:	Donna Beverin
Propagation:	Barb Stewart Donna Beverin
Show:	Jim Roberts
Membership:	Jim Roberts
Ways and Means:	Brian Connor

**Directors:**

Victor Nicholas  
Brian Connor  
Open position

The National Gesneriad Society website:  
[www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

NCAC Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174442276299173/?ref=bookmarks>