

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 50 Number 5

May 2019



Donna's Kohleria 'Silver Feather'

## President's Message

We are taking a break from our monthly meetings this month to get ready to participate in the plant sale at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. We will be selling all kinds of plants in addition to gesneriads, and promoting our club as well as the society. Many people grow gesneriads but don't know much about the many kinds of gesneriads we grow. Our meetings have been well attended this year and we are always learning more. This is a great opportunity to share what we have to offer to the public and inspire others to grow gesneriads. Hope you can participate. 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.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 2019:** Green Spring Garden's Plant Sale, 9AM to 3PM, in lieu of meeting. Bring a chair!!!

**June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019:** African Violet Species by Brian Connor  
Members should send list of African Violet species they are growing to Brian for prep. (meeting changed to 3rd weekend because of the AVSA convention)

**July/August – Date TBA;** No business meeting; picnic most likely with Begonia Society

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Rare & Unusual Gesneriads webinar

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – Problem Identification – **need presenter;** topic to include "how to identify what exactly is wrong with my plant" and includes pests as well as cultural issues

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Pat Bowling's program on micro mini sinningias (pending)

**December** - Holiday Party – **need host**

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. Thanks for all who are up to date.

## Green Springs Sale: No May meeting

May 18<sup>th</sup> our NCAC group will offer plants for sale at Green Spring Gardens annual Plant Sale from 9am to 3pm. Johanna has made arrangements for us to secure a booth area and there we shall place a tent to sell plants. Our concentration will be on Gesneriads with some educational hand outs and information about NCAC membership. We shall be next to the Potomac Branch of the Begonia Society so some members could work both booths. Parking is at the shopping center. There is no shade provided; Andy offered to set up tents for club use the day before the sale. Also Sharon & Andy offered the use of a Credit Card scanner using Pay Pal. Members who expect to participate are: Barb K., Barbara S., Diane, and Brian. Karen, Johanna and Donna will participate with the Begonia Society and NCAC as they are able so members will have time to shop as they rotate in to help at the table. Johanna and Donna are looking into purchasing some plants from Gary Hunter. Please prop your plants so our sale is a success. You can offer other plants for sale as well. Should be a fun day for all of us to enjoy seeing the gardens, buying and talking plants! Bring a chair!  
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA



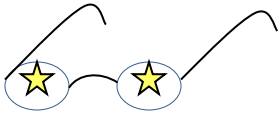
Barb Stewart's *Kohleria* 'El Capital' close up and a view of the plant from above.



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Mark Twain' photo by Barb S.



Barb's *Chrysothemis* 'Black Flamingo'



# Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Kitty Hedgepeth..... Episcias 'War Paint' and 'Black Mamba'
- Donna Beverin..... Liebigia speciosa
- Donna Beverin..... Sinningia 'Georgia Sunset' x Macrostachya
- Janet Carlton..... Streptocarpus 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant

## Bloomin' Now



Johanna's bloom m of *xCodonanthus* 'Vista' which has grown into a nice little plant and has been blooming for about 10 weeks



Bill's *Seemannia* 'Chic'



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Foxwood Trails'



Doug Bolt's *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Halo'

# BLOOMIN' NOW



Barb Stewart's *Sinningia ramboi* in all its stages of growth. So beautiful !



# BLOOMIN' NOW



Meet the very first bloom on my very first *Kohleria*, Peridot's Rolo. Cuttings were a raffle item at a recent NCACGS meeting and although I've only grown *Streptocarpus* for years, the photo on the baggie looked intriguing. Once home, I learned *Kohleria* is almost impossible to kill and, indeed, the cuttings took off quickly. The flowers are so cute I may have to start expanding my collection in a new direction. Janet Carlton



Janet's first attempt at wicking her Streps with some education from Dale Martens.



Diane's *Saintpaulia* 'Mac's Freckled Faced Redhead', that I got from the raffle table at our March meeting and has been blooming ever since!

Baltimore African Violet Show & Sale  
Joppatown Flea Market  
1000 Joppa Farm Road, Joppa, MD  
Friday, May 11th – 9 am to 6 pm – Sale opens at 9  
Show will open at 1 pm, after judging  
Saturday, May 12th –  
Show and Sale will run from 8 am to 3 pm.  
Shirley Huffman at [bshuffman2@aol.com](mailto:bshuffman2@aol.com)

# BLOOMIN' NOW



Barb Stewart's *Aeschynanthus* 'Thai Red'



Barb's *Episcia* 'Harmony's Slinky Pink' to the left and a NOID Summer *Sinningia*

# APRIL MEETING



Andy praying for his ticket to be called for the raffle ! Photo Janet Carlton



Raffle table full of goodies! Photo Janet Carlton



Andy perusing the raffle plants with snack table in background Photo by Janet Carlton



Our first meeting with plants for sale . Members enjoyed buying Dave's plants at \$4.00 with our group receiving 25%.

# JANET'S HYBRIDIZING EXPERIENCE

My very first intentional *Streptocarpus* cross (of *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslippers® Red Rose' X *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslippers® Harlequin Lace') was pollinated in June 2018, sowed in November 2018, and started blooming in late March 2019. The hope was for a blend of the Harlequin Lace pattern with reddish coloring. The first 9 seedlings have opened, at least partially, (though #2 was tossed for never getting past the "crunchy" stage) and at least 4 more are in hot pursuit. Although I was very surprised by the violet/pink coloring of the first flower, I've been told that is normal from a reddish parent. Several have very intense coloring and unusual patterns and I'm delighted there is such variety. Watching the seedlings unfold has been magical and although it takes dedication, I'm totally hooked on co-creating with the *Streptocarpus* Diva!

**This is an update on my *Streptocarpus* cross of 'Ladyslippers Red Rose' X 'Harlequin Lace' which was made in hopes of producing seedlings with harlequin patterning and reddish coloring. So far, 24 seedlings have opened, several of which show promising patterning and/or coloring, as shown in the photo. I'm hoping to keep them all alive as I've had some trouble maintaining seedlings into adulthood. Wish me luck!**



## National Gesneriad Convention

July 2 to July 6, 2019

You are invited to attend The Gesneriad Society's 63rd Annual Convention – **Cincinnati Celebrates Gesneriads**. The convention will be held at the newly renovated Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel. Located in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, the hotel is a masterpiece of 1930's French art deco design. Convention rates are in effect three days before and three days after the convention dates, so plan to explore this vibrant city and region. To broaden your gesneriad knowledge, we have a varied line-up of speakers: Lynne Dibley will talk about the history of *Streptocarpus* cultivation and her UK nursery's contribution to the breeding of award-winning specimens; Stephen Maciejewski will describe the recent group trip to Cuba in search of new gesneriads; Master Electrician Bruce Williams will explain the basics of lighting and LED technology; commercial grower B.J. Ohme will offer a practical program on maintaining a collection of plants when time is limited. Early entry to plant sales on Thursday night from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. is for convention registrants only and is based upon your registration number. Plant sales are open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available on Thursday evening.

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2019-convention-cincinnati-ohio/>





Another view of Donna's Kohleria 'Silver Feather'

Kohleria 'Silver Feather' is a John Boggan hybrid along with his K. 'Snakeskin', and K. 'Rattlesnake' which all have wonderfully patterned silver/grey foliage with flower colors that are often in marked contrast to the foliage. In addition to these characteristics, John Boggan's hybrids are shorter in stature and one, K. 'Green Goblin,' is definitely a low grower

The keys to good Kohleria culture are very bright light and a good fertilizing regimen.. I grow my Kohleria in a light mix (any standard prepared mix, with additional perlite and vermiculite added) on capillary matting.

Kohleria rarely go into full dormancy; new growth generally pokes its head above the mix surface before the old growth has died back. In those cases, just cut the old growth at the soil line.

Rhizomes can be stored in the pot or removed and stored in a plastic baggie.

Kohleria propagation is by stem cuttings in water or soil mix. Stem cuttings root very quickly, sometimes within days. Many growers have reported success with cuttings placed in mix in a container that is then left in the open. Bear in mind that some Kohleria are shy rhizome producers so don't assume that a pot will be full of rhizomes when you want to propagate. Always take some stem cuttings to be sure. Paul Susi  
psusi11@gmail.com South Huntington, NY, USA

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Read the full article here published in Gleanings:  
<https://www.gesneriadsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Gleanings2015.09.pdf>

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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 \$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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