

# Petal Tones



National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Newsletter

Volume 48 Number 11

November 2017



Donna's unknown rhizomous plant

## President's Message Barb Stewart

Still recovering from the MAAVS (Mid Atlantic African Violet Society) convention in Fredericksburg, VA. It was a small but successful convention with lots of beautiful violets and other gesneriads. It is always interesting to see how plants grown by others differ from our own, and also to see how plants look when grown to their potential.

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.

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Meeting at Behnkes: Miniature Sinningias-growing these small wonders in glass containers

December 9<sup>th</sup>: Holiday-Get-Together at Sally Leonhard's home.

Members are asked to make two suggestions for Meeting Topics in 2018 to Barb and Jim.

Of course, we all picked up some new plants and old favorites from the commercial growers selling at the convention.

The plant of the month is mini sinningias to go along with our program. However, feel free to bring in any size *Sinningia* for show-and-tell, and raffle off your extra tubers and cuttings. I lose sinningias on a regular basis because many of my dormant tubers never wake up. It is always an exciting event when one sprouts after being dormant. As for the ones who overslept, it may be time to check some of them and see if there is any life left in those tubers. I have plenty of new plants who could use the space taken up by those reluctant tubers.

## November Program – Creating a Gift Terrarium

Jim Roberts

We've all seen terrariums in Garden Centers and at flower shows. The beauty of a well built terrarium is that it can last just about forever with almost no care. I've got a begonia in a glass container at home that only gets opened when I need to take a cutting to share. I think it's been watered twice in ten years. It's still growing in its original soil mix!



This is an interesting gift terrarium container, blooming on my desk at work.

The goal of the workshop is for each of us to create a small terrarium to give to that favorite someone who not only has a brown thumb, but has that brown infection covering his/her whole hand and half an arm. I will be bringing a selection of micro-mini *Sinningia*, sphagnum moss and soil mix. I will also bring a few small glass containers which you can purchase from me (at my cost) or you can bring your own; however, nothing too big or elaborate. But a glass bottle or jar with at least a half inch opening to get the tuber through would work well. Remember, it's going to be a gift, so pick something nice like maybe with a cork stopper or a clear glass tree ornament.

Everyone will go home with a container and plant. Hopefully the micro-*Sinningia* will be flowering by the end of December. I know you all know someone with a brown thumb (or arm). And if you don't know such a person, you get to keep the planting for yourself.

Mini *Sinningia*, mosses, small ferns or even cuttings of *Columnea* and other larger Gesneriads can be used in gift terraria too, but we're not going to be making anything that big. You can do so after the meeting; I encourage it!



Jim's Pet: "The tag is missing from this *Petrocosmea*, but I really like the dark purple of the flowers."

### Labeling Plants: Tip from Jim

These pens were recommended to me as being much more



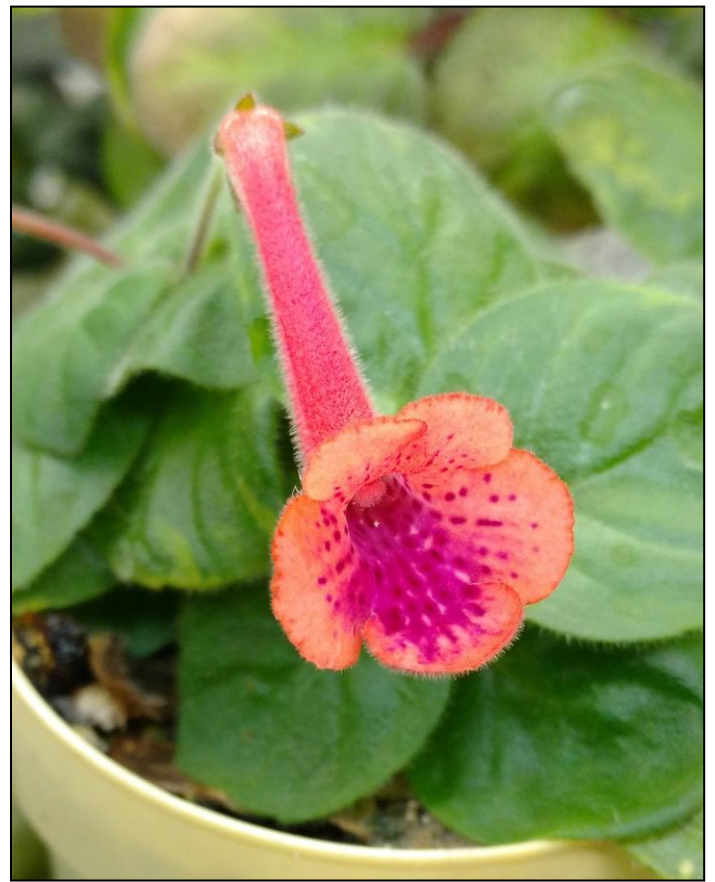
lightfast than the Sharpie markers we've been using. Two years in a greenhouse with NO FADE sounds good to me. I bought a box on Amazon. Suggest you all try them.



Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Smithiantha*: "Got this one: *Smithiantha* 'DS 32' in Massachusetts last year when Drew and I went up to judge their fall show."



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Butterscotch'



Barb's *Primulina tobacum*



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Kentucky Red Devil'





Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Tiffany'



Vicki's *Kohleria* 'Gunsmoke' Best in Class at  
MAAVS and Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Amazade'



Kitty's *Saintpaulia orbitularis*: Best in Show at  
MAAVS and Bloomin' Now





Kitty's *Saintpaulia* 'Tiny Wood Trail': Third Best in Show at MAAVS



Kitty's *Sinningia pusilla* and Best Other Gesneriad at MAAVS

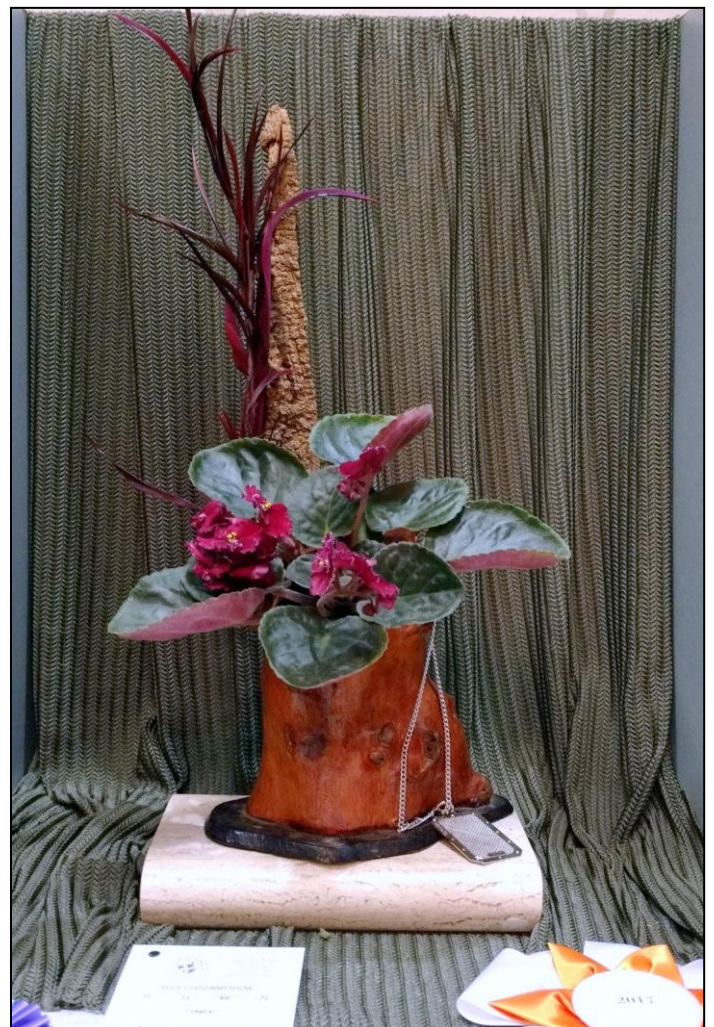


Barb's Second Best in Design at MAAVS

**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.**



Barb's Third Best in Design at MAAVS

## Plants of the Month for 2017

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

## 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 23 - Picnic with Begonia Society at Johanna's home 1:00pm
- August 12 – Peggy's home subject TBA
- September 9 - Jim and Drew's Ecuador trip PowerPoint
- October 14<sup>th</sup>: Judge's Training at Jim's home 10-4pm
- October 21 (third weekend - Orchid Show on second weekend) – How to Grow Gesneriads
- November 11 - Miniature Sinningia - growing these small wonders in Glass Containers - GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!
- December 9<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Party at Sally Leonhard's home

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.