

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 50 Number 10

October 2019



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Cat Dance'

## 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" Please do not bring any foods containing nuts

**October 12th** – Plant problem IDs including pests & cultural issues. Group discussion. Donna

**November 9th** – Webinar : Growing Show Plants Barb

**December** - Holiday Party – Johanna Hosting

**2020: January 11th: TBA**

**2020: February 8th:** Propagation: Donna & Barb

**2020: March 14th :** Mini Show Bill



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Imperfection'



Top: Doug's *Streptocarpus* seedling from British *Streptocarpus* Society seeds.

Left : Janet's *Streptocarpus* seedling. "She loves the way the light shines peachy through the violet petals, its not perfect but sure is beautiful! "

## President's Message

We had a great turnout at our meeting last month. We may even be outgrowing our room at the church. This means the raffle table is growing as well, with a great selection of plant material available to share. Be sure to read the notes about the raffle table further in this issue.

Some members expressed disappointment in the quality of the webinar we watched on rare and unusual gesneriads. This was an overview of some of the lesser known gesneriads grown to perfection by a member of the society who frequently wins best-in-show at conventions. When I first previewed it, I was inspired to look for seeds of several of the sinningias featured in the webinar so I could grow my own. Hopefully, others were inspired to try something new as well. That was the main purpose of the webinar.

We need to keep in mind that these are not professional webinars done by professional speakers. They are created by ordinary members who have knowledge they are willing to share for free. Our library committee does a great job of creating these webinars and providing us with resources to help us grow better plants.

Although the webinars are valuable and convenient resources to use as club programs, they are no substitute for a live speaker. This month, Donna will be looking for volunteers to give programs next year. We have a lot of talent and expertise in our group, so please consider sharing your knowledge of a topic with the club or researching a topic you are interested in. Hands-on workshops are also very well received, but we need someone to lead the workshops.

We are always open to new ideas for programs. This month everyone will get to participate in an open forum of member questions on any topic. This was a suggestion from one of our newer members and should lead to some good discussion.

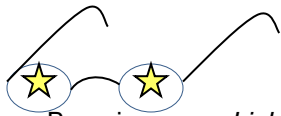
With a large increase in attendance at our meetings, it seems we are struggling to get everything done in the scheduled time. When we were at Behnke's, we had to be finished by 1:00, but we do not have a deadline at our current location, so our meetings are getting longer. The board has been discussing ways to streamline things and still meet the needs of everyone attending. We will share some of our ideas at the meeting. Feel free to add ideas of your own, as we want the club to work for everyone. Hope to see you there.

## Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewarts '*Kohleria* 'Snakeskin' "You know it is time to repot when the rhizomes pack up and move out."





# Wishfully Seeking to Grow

Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa* & *Achimenes pedunculata* Has *S. tubiflora* to share.  
 Janet Carlton.....*Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant  
 Sharon Long.....*Streptocarpus cyanandrus*

## 2020 Show Updates

There will be a Show Committee Meeting following our regular meeting on Saturday, October 12, 2019. Even if you are not on the committee, you are welcome to stay for the discussion about what we want in the agreement with Homestead Gardens and a budget for the the show.

Contact Bill for more information. E-mail [Schmidt.wc@verizon.net](mailto:Schmidt.wc@verizon.net) or 804-266-6157.

### Judging Tip of the Month by Barbara Stewart

In past years, members occasionally brought in plants or designs to be judged in order to learn more about the judging process and get tips on how to grow better plants. We recently voted to revive this procedure with a cash incentive. Last month we had our first judging experience with quite a large number of exhibits. Since this is an educational experience, I will discuss a tip each month based on what we see in our judging.

The tip this month is about bloom count. The score sheet for gesneriads in bloom allows up to 35 points for quantity of bloom, so this is an important characteristic to consider. Gesneriads all have different blooming characteristics, so points are awarded based on the amount of bloom expected for the particular variety. Not all gesneriads bloom like *Saintpaulia* with a big cluster of bloom, so we would not expect the same amount of bloom on other gesneriads. However, if the plant has a lot of bloom when at its full potential, then it should have a lot of bloom to receive the most points when judged.

There were some nice plants exhibited last month that did not have a lot of bloom for the variety. For example, there were some primulinas that only had one stem with a few fresh blooms (yes, fresh is important). Being a very symmetrical plant, a Primulina would show better with at least 2 stems of bloom. Since many primulinas have decorative foliage, the plants in this case would most likely show and score better if the one bloom stalk was removed and the plant entered in the class for ornamental foliage.

If you are not sure what your plant should look like at its best, you can search for it on line. People love to post pictures of their blooming and award-winning plants. Another good source is the Gesneriad Society website. There you can find photos of blue ribbon plants from many past conventions. Also, as a member of the Society (hint, hint), you can access past years of the journal and find a wealth of information on the growing characteristics of your plant.

One final note, our exhibits competition or "little show" is based on participation, not scores earned. It is intended to be a learning experience for all. While we would love to see your best plants, we also welcome plants that "need a little help", so we can all learn more about how to grow and show better plants. Keep those exhibits coming!



### Bloomin' Now

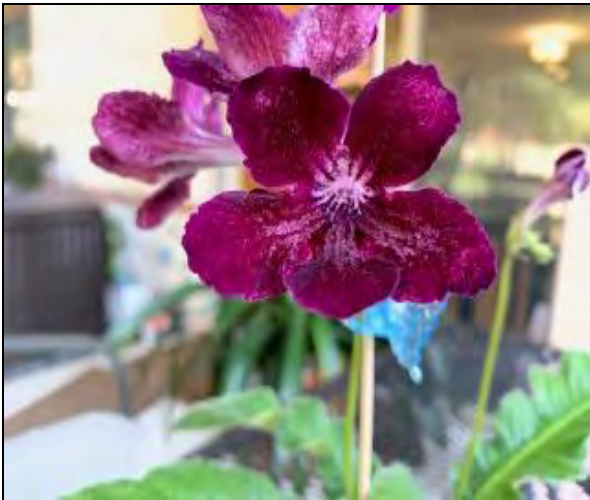
Recent picture of two of my sister seedlings: Seedling LRRxHL 21 and Seedling LRRxHL 27. Both have a lovely yellow in the bottom petals contrasted with violet top petals and markings. They are still being watched for growth characteristics and vigor. Janet

# Bloomin' Now



Doug's *Streptocarpus* 'Cat Dance' which stays small yet has abundant blooms.

Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Imperfection'  
"This is a Strep that I have been growing because I love the way the light shines peachy through the violet petals. It's not "perfect" and should have been tossed but I love it and it's doing really well – growing leaves and putting up an abundance of flowers."



Doug's three *Streptocarpus* he grew from BSS seeds and he finds the red rather boring but his favorite is to the right, the red and white. A keeper!







Paul Kroll's Best Gesneriad in Show for his *xRhydoneria* 'Ako Cardinal Flight'



Mel Grice's *Primulina glandulosa* var *yangshouensis*



Terry Vicenzi's *Primulina* 'Kitaguni' won Best in Class and an honorable mention



Karyn Cichocki: "For those that attended convention this year, we got to see first time attendee and exhibitor, Linda Lloyd's entry of *Primulina liboensis* (veined). Linda said that she took the bottom leaves off the plant after convention and I think it got bigger. "

Karyn Cichocki: " I had this plant for several years and was growing it on a covered stand that I have between the light stands. It bloomed for me once and just about collapsed when I had it out in the air to take pictures of the flower, so I was quite surprised to see that Linda grows this plant out. She said that her humidity is around 50% and that her plant room has a year round temperature of 70F. Although I have that humidity, I think that my conditions were too cool for it.

Linda was generous and shared a leaf with me after the Ohio show, so I look forward to growing it again."

Patrick Worley a renown gesneriad hybridizer is seeking some rhizomes that are not available where he lives. If you have any rhizomes to share, Donna will mail them to Patrick. *Kohlerias* 'Regent', 'Flirt', 'Strawberry Fields', Manchu', 'Red Ryder', Achimene species any, *Eucodonia* 'Adele', *xSmithicodonia* 'Elizabeth', *xAchimenantha* 'Inferno', or any others. Thank you. Please bring to Oct 12th meeting.



# Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewart's *Streptocarpus* 'UA Sunset'



Barb Stewart's *Streptocarpus* 'Wow'



Barb Koski brought this *Columnea schiedeana* in for exhibit at the Richmond Violet's meeting last Saturday. She started it from a cutting she won on the NCAC raffle table at one of our meetings. We gave it a blue ribbon.



## Raffle Table

### 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. We are getting a great election of items for the raffle table. Please remember to label your plants and check for pests. Also, it is a good practice to isolate your new plants when you get home before adding them to your collection.



# Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia vacariensis*



Donna's Mini *Sinningia SimSim Salaviem* Alex Mayer Hybrid



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Goose Egg'

## News from Mauro!

"Finally found! *Sinningia concinna* in Nature! After more than one century, it was found in Seropedica, a town in Rio de Janeiro State. In November I'll see it personally. For a while, all that we have is a picture." →





Dave will have a variety of plants for sale at next meeting: \$4.00



B. Amphioxus



B. burkillii



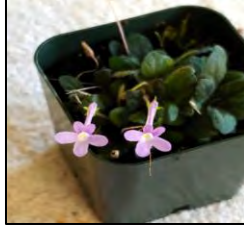
B. eleagnifolia



B. Rajah



B. U566



Sinningia pusilla



Donna's *Sinningia guttata*



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'

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

Vice-President: Donna Beverin  
[Donnabeverin@gmail.com](mailto:Donnabeverin@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Andy Meier

Secretary: Janet Carlton

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

Committees:  
Hospitality: Peggy MacDonald  
Publications: Donna Beverin  
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Kitty Hedgepeth  
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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. Membership runs the calendar year and can be prorated.

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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