

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 52 Number 2

February 2021



Sharon Long's *Saintpaulia* 'Sunny Salmon' with yellow variation

Message from the President: Minh Bui

Spring is right around the corner, but not before several snow storms roll by. Those of us who garden, you can grow Gesneriads in the garden too! Several members have successfully done so. Perhaps we need a 'Gesneriad in the Garden' program. In preparation for spring and our show this fall, repot and get those plants ready! I've been guilty of neglecting my plants lately, but they're forgiving and will bounce back with proper care. Please continue to keep the plant photos and articles coming, and look forward to some highly anticipated programs in the coming months!

Cheers, Minh

NCAC November meeting
Saturday, February 13, 2021
10:30 AM Eastern Standard Time
David Dick: **"African Violets for Show"**

Our guest speaker this month is David Dick, a long time member of the Richmond African Violet Society. David has grown many large and beautiful standard African violets and won many show awards. He also has a thriving commercial business selling violets on Ebay under the name of Blue Mountain Violets (named after the Blue Ridge Mountain area where he lives). David will talk about how we can start with a young violet now and grow it into a show-worthy plant for our show in September.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84054875015?pwd=aW5lWDFIQ2YvYi8zbEd2Z3ZSSXpMZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5487 5015
Passcode: 704911

Up and Coming Programs:

March 13th : "Growing and Showing *Achimenes*" by Julie Mavity-Hudson (webinar)

April 10th: "Judging Gesneriads" by Karyn Cichocki



Sharon's *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara Friendship'

Members' Plants



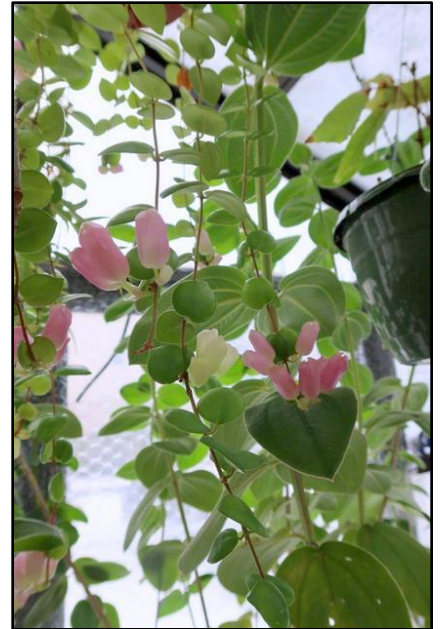
Janet: "These are the photos of the *Kohleria eriantha* – cross pollinated seedlings that I mentioned on FB. 3 larger ones in one 4" pot and the other 4 smaller ones in another 4" pot. Not sure what to expect. They were outgrowing their deli container already (too tall) so they are now in wicked pots. Probably too wet. I may lift the wicks out of water tomorrow. We'll see. Have not planted the *Kohleria warszewiczii* seeds from Brazil plants yet. Need to see how much room I have before growing out even more seedlings but I'm looking forward to those more than these."



Nadya's experimentation crossing *Streptocarpus* with African Violets.

Nadya: "Out of 6 Strep x AV crosses that set seed, 4 bloomed with nothing to write home about. x2 and x5 were a bit different. The second picture is from x5, made in 6/18/20. Deserves a raised eyebrow, if nothing else. This habit really reminds me of *Streptocarpus pumilus*. A 6 month old seedling should be 6-8 times the size and possibly blooming. It might just be the runt of the litter. We'll live and see! Here's a bonus, seedling from StrepAV x 2 cross, the other non-blooming group. Even if it's an accidental self, it's fascinating stuff. I don't get why more people don't hybridize. Update: poked around, and these are the only ones from that cross I could find on the shelves. Which is weird, usually grow out 20 per cross."

Bloomin' Now



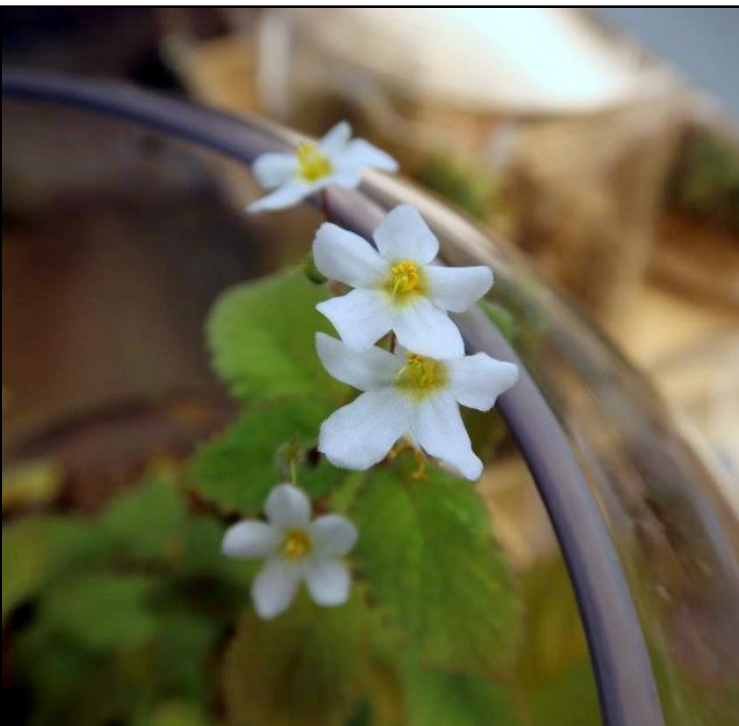
Johanna: "Aeschynanthus 'Thai Pink' is one of my favorite gesneriads. The blooms look like lovely shells; I even like them when they are a translucent pale green. In addition, the plant grows in a hanging basket, saving space for other plants below. Photo #1: 'Thai Pink' hanging down through branches of a *Tibouchina*. Photo #2: Blooms in the process of coloring up. Photo #3: More blooms" Johanna has put down cuttings that have rooted to share at our next Swap!



Jim Robert's *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Orange Feather' "Mike Kartuz names these as they flower. The seedlings range from white through pinks and salmons all the way to red. They all have the "feather" in the name. Here in Florida, the cardinalis plants have gone through some light frosts with no damage."

Jim: "I've always liked the look of Staghorn ferns. This one was so easy to take care of. I mounted it to the tree and it just grows. Rainwater is all it needs and it just keeps putting out more leaves. Has even gone through a couple light frosts with no damage."

Bloomin' Now



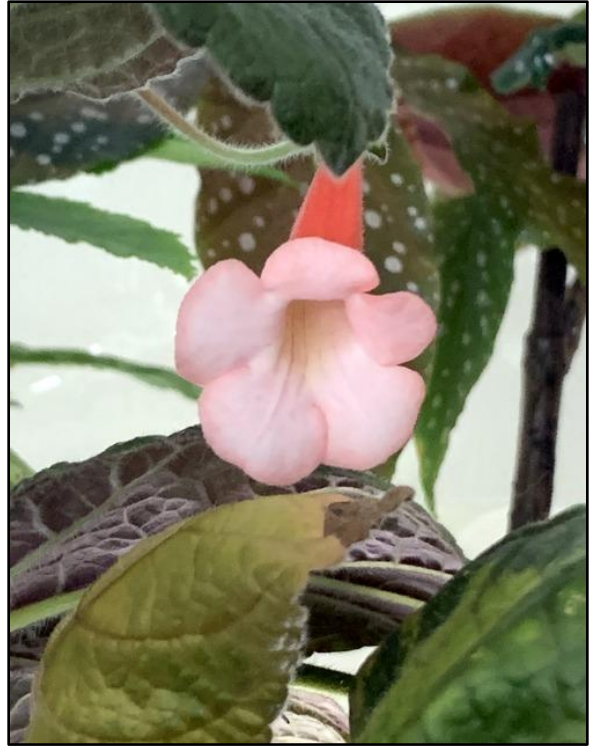
Johanna's *Amalophyllum*
'Ecuador'



Bill's *Kohleria* 'Beltane' A hybrid from a 1993 cross by Frances Batcheller using *K. Bella* x *K. warszewiczii* and it is fertile.



Donna's *Sinningia speciosa* from GHA seed. Second year blooming from seed when the tuber re-sprouted.



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' x self

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Nemanthus*: "This is a *Nemanthus* I picked up at a local greenhouse, labeled "goldfish plant". I bought it because of its upright habit which I think will be good for a container garden, as tall upright gesneriads are a bit hard to find. I also liked the interesting striped blossom. Looking online, it looks very much like *Nemanthus* 'Tropicana'."



Barb's *Centrosolenia*: "This is *Centrosolenia porphyrotricha* growing and blooming happily in my large terrarium. This is an easy to grow New World species from South America. According to the Gesneriad Reference Web, "most species are found growing on the shady banks of rivers and streams, in crevices or on wet, mossy rock and in the understory of the rain forests", so it enjoys the humidity of a terrarium. The brown spots on the leaves resulted from a "drought" in my terrarium when it dried out. To reduce the condensation on the glass and provide ventilation, I leave the Plexiglas tops cracked a little, so I need to water once in a while. This also allows the plants to get some fertilizer periodically."

Bloomin' Now



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Cherry Bomb'



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Black Mascara'



Barb's *Kohleria* 'Magda'



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming'

Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Lysionotus* 'Pudding' "I lost my plant a couple years ago but managed to get a replacement (Barb?) Drew noticed that there were flowers on it a couple days ago. Yes, that's a web on the side view of the flower. Since the plants are outside I consider spiders to be friends. They seem to be the only pests I see out there. Wish I knew where that yellow originated since the only other *Lysionotus* I've seen have been purple."



Donna's '*Kohleria* 'Peridots Rolo': " This is the same plant I have been sharing with everyone since before the September 2020 meeting on Kohlerias. It did take a little rest when it did not look very good. But new growth kept coming and now it is back in a prime state of growth and putting out a new series of buds and blooms. I love the short stature and small leaves. Easy to keep compact under LEDs. It is in the same place in living room w/o much humidity."

Wishfully Seeking to Grow

- Donna Beverin..... *Liebigia speciosa*, *Primulina leprosa*, *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts'
- Janet Carlton.....*Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Damsel' leaf, cutting, plant
- Barry Woolf..... *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Innocent' & *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'
- Johanna Zinn..... *Pearcea sprucei* and *Nautilocalyx x pictus* 'Jade'
- Nadya Warther-Gibson *Streptocarpus* :fresh pollen from a fantasy type and/or green edged (DEM hybrids)
- Barb Koski *Drymonia variegata*
- Kitty Hedgepeth..... *Streptocarpus* 'DS Rediska'



Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Mark Twain'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Laura'



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Maiden's Blush' x self



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'



Dave's *Gloxinia perennis* 'Insignis'



Donna's *Sinningia* 'SlmSim Salaviem'



Donna's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Got The Blue'

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Ni's Nasca'. "I saw this *Kohleria* variety on line when researching information for a *Kohleria* PPT. I fell in love with it. Then I saw it listed on Facebook for sale from Lyuba Kbitkoba in Ukraine. I was timid ordering from Ukraine. Asked Jim about Lyuba because I saw he was a friend on her page. He said he thought it was a good risk. So I bought quite a few from her. It was a process for me because I had to use Western Union. And their surnames come first so I had to contact WU to reverse the name and she received the funds with out further problems. I have several others from her growing but none grew this fast and so big. It is very tall and I had to stake it. It is full of buds and many are opening now. Was so excited to see the first bloom! I love this *Kohleria*. I think I am going to make cuttings and grow in my other plant room that is more humid. I am getting a lot of leaf curl on my living room plant stand. I have checked on line but cannot figure out who's hybrids use the title 'Ni's'. Many beautiful hybrids. After asking Dale Martens she said the hybridizer is Gunilla Svensson from Sweden. Dale shared a great link for *Kohleria* info: Ledinplants.com



Donna's propagation box full of (ready to share) rooted cuttings of *Sinningia* 'Owlsee Red Hot', *Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley' and *Chrysothemis adenosiphon* (fibrous rooted)

Plants for Sale

Dave Anderson's plants for sale. \$5.00 each with \$9.00 Shipping.
Contact Dave: Davidanderson1952@yahoo.com



Diastema vexans, *Sinningia* 'Mother of Pearl', *Episica* 'Blue Nile', *Paradyrmonia campostyla*, *Sinningia* 'Freckles', *Sinningia* 'Maiden's Blush'



Begonia eleagnifolia, *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio', *Pteris cretica* (fern)

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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 You can send your payment to NCAC into our Treasurer, Dave Anderson via PayPal using the email address: ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com. Please include a note with your Name, Address, Phone number & email address.

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:

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Membership includes a subscription to the society journal, Gesneriads. You can subscribe on line also.
<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

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