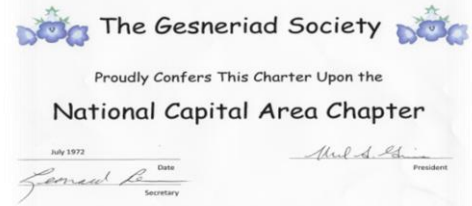


PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 1

January 2024



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

President's Message:

Happy New Year! As we start a new year, we might want to reflect on the fact that NCAC has been a chapter of the Gesneriad Society for almost 52 years (since 1972)! Our chapter has gone through many changes over the years, but in a time when many clubs are struggling and break up, NCAC has continued to survive. What has been the secret to our success? Hard work? Good luck? Both?

People have different reasons for joining the chapter and attending meetings. We strive to have valuable programs to help members learn about growing the many different kinds of plants in the gesneriad family. We always have a wide selection of plant material available to swap at the raffle table. NCAC belongs to BrazilPlants Club and members can request a packet or two of gesneriad seeds to grow. Like most clubs, people come for the social benefits of associating with and learning from others with the same interests.

Although our membership fluctuates from year to year, we always have a core group of folks who are willing to take on responsibilities needed to make the club a success. Later this year we will elect officers and directors to continue the leadership roles of our club. Although all of our officers and directors are eligible to be re-elected, there is always an opportunity for someone new to fill the positions and bring in fresh ideas. Another way to stay involved is by chairing or serving on a committee. There are several committees that are currently unfilled. You can read these 'jobs' on the last page of Petal Tones.

National Capital Area Chapter
of the Gesneriad Society (NCAC)
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723

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.

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| January 13, 2024 | In person first meeting of the New Year. "Pests We Love To Hate" by Barb Stewart |
| February 10, 2024 | Jeremy Keene Mini Sinningias Zoom Meeting only |
| March 9, 2024 | Propagation workshop: All members hands on program |
| April 13, 2024 | How to Grow Gesneriads in Terrariums by Johanna Zinn |
| May 18, 2024 | Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale |
| June 8, 2024 | Choosing and Growing Show Plants or Kitty: Underwater Gesneriad Design workshop |
| July 2024 | No meeting Gesneriad Society Convention in St. Louis, Missouri |

I think one other factor in our success is adaptability. Over the years we have changed meeting locations, meeting dates, and meeting formats. This is an organization for and by the members. We are always open to suggestions from members so we can make the meetings more valuable to current members and attract new members. The local chapters and affiliates are the life blood of The Gesneriad Society, and it is important we continue to support the national society that is committed to this wonderful diversity of plants.

This year I hope we can increase membership and attendance at club meetings. I hope you consider how you can contribute to the continued success of this chapter. If we all work together we can have a great year and continue to enjoy the benefits of being a part of this wonderful group. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Barbara