

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 53 Number 3

March 2022

Here are some Ukrainian *Streptocarpus* grown by Brian Connor. Note they are not Russian!



***Streptocarpus* 'DEM Blue Clover'**



***Streptocarpus* 'DM 2052'**

Join Zoom Meeting Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:30am

Zoom: March 12, 2022 Propagating African Violets by Dale Martens

"African Violet Adventures"

Dale Martens who has received AVSA's Bronze Medal Award will show us photos and discuss propagation, fertilizers, wick watering, LED lighting, hybridizing and insects...quite the adventures!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89098266483?pwd=emt4c2RhU09LaGFNVG5xci92cy9xdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 9826 6483

Passcode: 178261

- April NO MEETING: Road trip to RAVS's Show
- May 8, 2022 Growing Gesneriads Outdoors in Summer
- June 11, 2022 Design Workshop
- July NO MEETING
- August 14, 2022 Mini Show Preparation
- Sept 11, 2022 Mini Show
- October 9, 2022 Jim Roberts Growing Gesneriads in Florida, and webinar or propagation workshop
- November 13, 2022 MAAVS Show is second weekend in November. In Baltimore. Might have another field trip instead of a meeting.
- December 13, 2022 Holiday Celebration

President's Message:

The weather is warming up and I already have daffodils blooming! The long-awaited arrival of Spring and plant shows/conventions have me dancing with anticipation. I hope within the next few weeks, things will open again and we'll be able to meet again in person. In the meantime, we have an excellent program lined up this Saturday with THE Dale Martens. I first met Dale at the AVSA Buffalo convention in 2018, when I exhibited African Violets (or plants in general) for the very first time. She had given a talk on Strops and continue to be a valuable resource for the Gesneriad and hybridizing community. Looking forward to her seminar and seeing all of you on Saturday!
Minh



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus* 'Thai Pink' This plant enjoyed being repotted and spending the summer outside. It has 16 clusters of blooms in various stages of development.



Johanna's colorful *Columnea scandens*



Brian Connor: Another of his Ukrainian *Streptocarpus* 'DS Kaleidoscope'



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus* NOID



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus* NOID



Johanna's *Columnnea* NOID. This must have been hanging under a plant of *Begonia schmidtiana* and has a plant of the same in the center of the pot.



Johanna: "*Aeschynanthus augustifolia*. This plant is about 2 or 3 years old and finally has decided to have more than one bloom at a time."



Johanna's *Gloxinopsis racemosa* in bud!
Gloxinopsis racemosa dark. The first photo shows *G. racemosa*'s stem after having 32 blooms on it. I thought that it was done for the season, when a small side shoot put out a bloom. "

"Now with a flower open. A challenge to photograph this plant!



Brian's *Streptocarpus* 'DEM Frost'

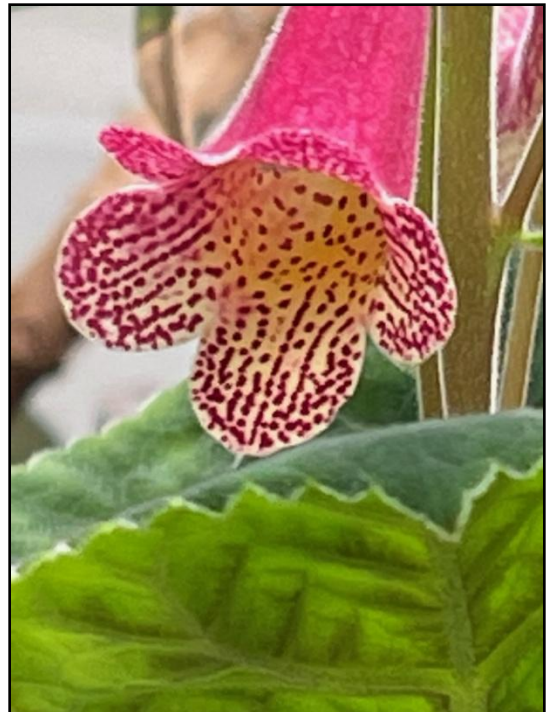


Dave's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

Bloomin' Now



Jim's *Smithiantha* 'DS 16'



Jim's *Smithiantha* 'DS 16' close up of a bloom.



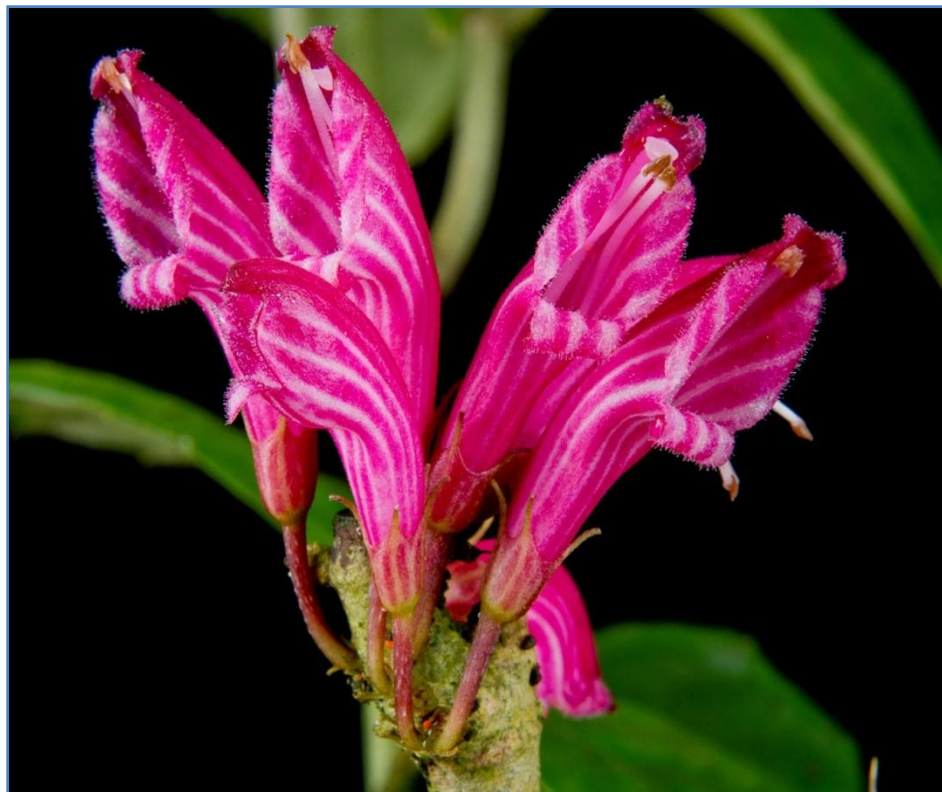
Two views of Jim's *Sinningia* 'Orange Feathers'



Jim's *Gesneria acaulis* 'Flamingo'



Barb's *Episcia* 'Blue Heaven' beautifully grown!



Johanna's contribution: "From nearby mainland New Guinea is the striking *Cyrtandra vittata*, named because of its pink stripes on somewhat gaudy flowers. "

More than one new plant species for every week of the year – from a mighty conifer to tiny tropical flowers and miniscule diatoms – 56 new species have been described as new to science by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh during the last 12 months. In a concentrated effort to catalogue life on Earth, specimens from China to Peru and Vietnam to Scotland have been scientifically recorded and named. While "discovery" of new species can suggest the detection of something small and hidden, advances in DNA sequencing of plant material are causing major rethinks. More lowly in stature, begonias, gesneriads and gingers - herbaceous plants of the steamy forest floor – continue adding to the catalogue of discoveries.

The tally of gesneriads – the African violet family – includes *Diastema fimbriatloba*, a dainty relative of the horticultural popular gloxinia, from the cloud forests of Peru.

Also in the list are two species of *Cyrtandra*, one of which was found during an expedition to Yapen Island, north of New Guinea, in 2009. It flowered at RBGE in 2015. Anyone viewing the flowers in RBGE's Research Glasshouses, however, would be forgiven for not noticing the flowers.

The nature of the tiny, green and quite hairy heads are reflected in the name *Cyrtandra bungahijua*, meaning "green-flower", in Indonesian.

From nearby mainland New Guinea is the much more striking *Cyrtandra vittata*, named because of its pink stripes on somewhat gaudy flowers. In the current days of lockdown, these two *Cyrtandra* – along with hundreds of other specimens, many potentially new to science - are safe and being cared for by RBGE's reduced crew of Horticulture staff. More detail can be found below:

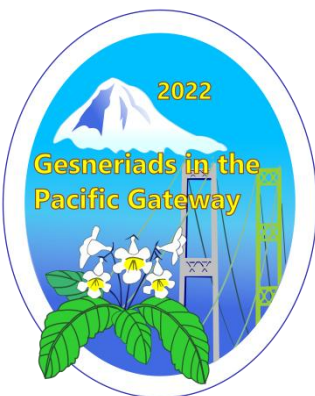
<https://www.rbge.org.uk/news/articles/discovering-more-of-earth-s-mega-rich-plant-diversity/>

Gesneriads in the Pacific Gateway

July 4 to July 9, 2022

The Puget Sound Gesneriad Society is pleased to announce The Gesneriad Society's 65th Annual Convention "**Gesneriads in the Pacific Gateway**" to be held from July 4 to July 9, 2022 in Tacoma, Washington.

We will be able to catch up with many old friends as well as make many new friends. Some folks will be enjoying their first convention and some will be seeing the Northwest for the first time. Once again there will be a LIVE plant show, plant sales, auctions, judging school, a variety of speakers, and trips for all. Hotel Murano is in the middle of Tacoma's vibrant downtown with many excellent restaurants, a world-class arts scene, parks, shops, theaters and museums. The hotel itself is fascinating, featuring examples of glass art and glass artists with many styles and techniques. You can make it a base to enjoy many regional attractions such as Mt. Rainier, Olympic National Park, and Mount St. Helens National Park, all two hours or less of a road trip from our hotel. Numerous gardens and nurseries can also be found nearby. With ocean beaches in one direction and the Cascades in the other, there is much to explore in the wider area. Plan to come early and stay late in the (usually) dry and mild summer weather. Convention registration is now open and we suggest you register ASAP! Early entry to plant sales on Thursday night from 9:00 to 10:30 pm 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 on Thursday night. <https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2022-convention-tacoma-washington/>





Barb's *Kohleria* 'Ruby'



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Sunrise Waltz'



Sharon's mini display from RAVS meeting program



Jim's *Sinningia concinna* 'Seropedica'



Brian's *Kohleria* 'Bud's Little Pig'



Brian *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana'



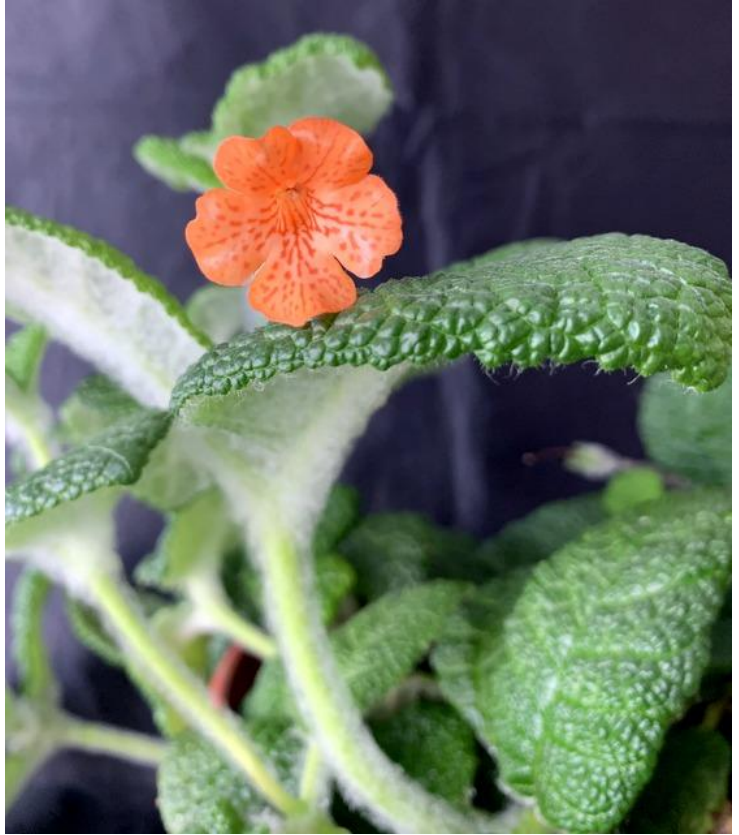
Barb Borleske: "Here is a recent photo of *Primulina schouchingensis* I've had a couple of years, but this is the first time it bloomed. What a show! I had no idea the flowers would be so large."



Barb Borleske: "A recent photo of my hybrid, *Primulina* 'Minnie Pearl'. It's grown in natural light on my chilly sun porch and is a winter bloomer."



Donna's *Kohleria* 'An's Nagging Macaws'



Donna's *Sinningia bullata*

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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 You can send your payment to NCAC into our Assistant Treasurer, Andy Meier 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.

National 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. You can subscribe on line also.

<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

The Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society and Lakeshore African Violet societies are planning on having their spring shows in 2022. Here is the information:

The Lakeshore African Violet Society of Toronto will be holding their Annual Show & Sale Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 2S1 Free Admission and parking Theme: "Let's Celebrate"

Website: <https://lakeshoreavs.com/>

For more information please contact Beverley Williams Show Chairman

at beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com or T.905-620-1149

Or contact Doris Brownlie at T. 905-270-6776

[Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society-Annual show & sale](#)

April 10, 2022 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
777 Lawrence Avenue, East, North York, Ontario, M3C1P2

Toronto African Violet & Gesneriad Society annual show & sale Theme: "Flowers Coast to Coast" Sunday: April 10, 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm Admission is \$2 For more information please contact Julie Thompson via e-mail or Brett Flewelling via e-mail or phone (289) 239-8023

FOR IN PERSON MEETINGS ONCE THEY BEGIN:

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

Room 3 on the lower level. To protect the preschool from COVID issues, please follow all CDC guidelines, including wearing of masks and wiping down all surfaces at the end of each meeting. We would also ask you to enter the building via the upstairs back Narthex entrance, use the upstairs bathrooms, and not venture into the preschool area. **NO PEANUT PRODUCT ALLOWED!**

January 2022 is our first 'In Person' meeting. The meeting will also be available via Zoom to our members who prefer to stay home and join the meeting.