

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

May 2022

Volume 53 Number 5



Bill Schmidt's Best Trailer and Best in RAVS Show: *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Boolaroo'. Congratulations Bill !



NCAC May meeting
May 7, 2022 10:30 AM Eastern Time
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87429029248?pwd=U2I4RXUzUjNUQkd2akgxdGINOWdCUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2902 9248 Passcode: 756549

- May 7th Growing Gesneriads outdoors in summer
- May 14th Green Springs Gardens Sale 9am – 3pm
- June 11th IN PERSON Propagation workshop
Zoom simultaneously
- July NO MEETING
- Aug 13th Mini Show Preparation
- Sept 10th Mini Show (Raffle no sales)
- Oct 8th Jim Roberts Grow Gesneriads in Florida
- Nov 12th Webinar or field trip to MAAVS
- Dec 10th Holiday Celebration

President's Message:

Spring is in full force and not only is the garden bursting with life and color, but my indoor grow room has Strops, AVs, and a few Primulinas in full bloom too! Our club is having a sale at Green Spring on May 14th from 9am – 3pm. Set up is the night before and early on the 14th. More information will be discussed this Saturday at our meeting. NCAC in-person meetings are finally resuming June 11th if all goes as planned (been 2+ years!). Looking forward to seeing everyone again! Minh

Donna's *Sinningia leucotricha* has sprouted. Grown from Brazil Plants seed, *S. leucotricha* 'Telemaco Borba' in 2018. The young plant survived outdoors last summer. Awaiting some blooms to see what color they will be since it is a seedling.

S. leucotricha is an attractive plant with leaves covered in fine silvery hairs which give them a metallic quality. While the silvery plush becomes less prominent on older leaves. The species naturally produces tubers that are at least in part above ground. The exposed tuber, sometimes referred to as a caudex, can form part of an attractive presentation. (GRW)



Streptocarpus 'Iced Pink Flamingo'
@millennialplantdr

Minh holding his fabulous specimen of *Streptocarpus* 'Iced Pink Flamingo'

Meet our President: Minh Bui

I was gardening with my parents since I was 4 years old, using their yard to plant as many things I could find at the local garden supply stores or garden magazines. Once I left for grad school and got my own apartment, one could tell which apartment was mine because the balcony was filled with plants. In one of the apartments I lived in, the condo community's newsletter even wrote a feature about my balcony, the envy of the neighborhood.

I went to grad school for a PhD in plant genetics. My dissertation research was focused on two homologous genes that regulate flower development and two hormone pathways -abscisic acid (drought response) and salicylic acid (pathogen response). After completing my PhD, I was directly recruited to NIH (National Institute of Health) where I perform cancer genetics research. I became the youngest Senior Scientist in my division in 2017, and today, I run the lab, mentor young scientists, and still conduct research.

Unlike most of my plant PhD peers, I chose to leave the professional plant world so that I can keep it a hobby. I knew if I continued to work with plants, that I'd not be involved with them outside of work. Today, growing, showing, and judging plants remain a highly anticipated daily ritual for me forget about work. It is my stress reliever.

Today, I try my best to remain as active as I can be with the 15+ plant societies/chapters. I try to remain vocal and educate others in both my seminars and writings for the various plant publications. My goal is to inspire my millennial peers to join and be active with plant societies, as the baton is gradually handed over to us. One way to do that is to show millennials and those of color/other minority backgrounds that we do exist and we can take up leadership rolls to inspire our peers within these plant groups. I also continue to showcase show quality plant specimens on my Instagram: millennialplantdr, which has garnered much interests within the diverse plant community. So much so that I've had plant businesses from the opposite side of the country ask me to be their affiliate representative for their business.



Minh: " This [#variegatedstreptocarpus](#) was hybridized by Dale Martens. If you meet Dale, ask her to tell the story about how she achieved the variegation.

The plant was purchased in October 2021 from the Baltimore AV Club. Though there is an effort to miniaturize Streps to save space in the [#homegarden](#), I'm always in search of that large accent plant that commands attention. To give you perspective, this plant is wider than my waist size.

For more information about Streps or other [#gesneriads](#), visit <https://gesneriadsociety.org>

Membership includes a bimonthly magazine, packet of seeds, and access to species and hybrid seeds from our members, among other benefits.

Or, DM me. I am a Life Member, Student Judge, and current President of the DC/MD/VA chapters."

NCAC has a booth this year on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Green Spring Gardens. It's all part of Spring Garden Day, a day filled with gardening goodies, bountiful opportunities for learning about plants, and delicious baked goods for sale. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia. 703-642-5173.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2022/psa057>

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Achimenes* 'Sauline'



Johanna's *Centrosolenia porphyrrichia*



Bill's *Kohleria* 'Beltane'



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus* 'Thai Pink' a non stop bloomer



Bill's *Kohleria* 'Little Flirt'



Bill's *Sinningia reitzii*

RAVS Show



Barb S: Best Design in show



Barb Koski's *Streptocarpus* hybrid



Barb Koski's Best Other Gesneriad



Bill Schmidt's *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Boolaloo' Photo: B.S.



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'California Sunset'



Bill's Best Miniature *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Voodoo Blue'

RAVS Show



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* hybrid in RAVS Photo: Barb Stewart

People's Choice: Kitty's Dish Garden

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.

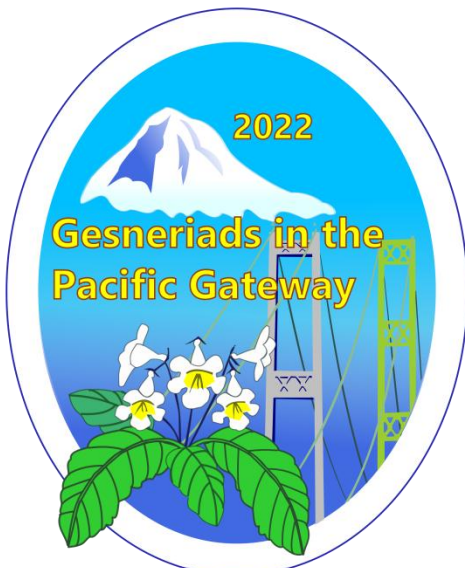
Hotel Murano is in the middle of Tacoma's vibrant downtown with many excellent restaurants, a world-class arts scene, parks, shops, theaters and museums. The hotel itself is fascinating, featuring examples of glass art and glass artists with many styles and techniques. You can make it a base to enjoy 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/>

Ed note: Check the website for more information. Only mail in registration for 2022 Convention.



Bloomin' Now



Barb Borleski's *Sinningia helleri* "The plant is huge, and it sprouted after a few winter months stored in my chilly (58-60 degree) basement. When I saw some growth about 10 weeks ago, I watered it and put it under an LED fixture where it seemed to thrive. I've never had one this large. The tuber itself is big. I had two, but one rotted. Not sure why. It likes to be outside in the summer, but the leaves are fragile and it gets really beaten up from rain and wind. So the plant is nicer when grown inside."



Dena's *Sinningia* grown from mixed seed packet when joining AGS several years ago.



Bill's *Henckelia moonii*



Dena: "The small sinningia was purchased from Belisle's mail order in Wisconsin which closed a long time ago. Her name was Marcia Belisle and she sold her own and other hybrids. I have two sinningias that I purchased from her."

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NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
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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/>

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! June 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.