

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 54 Number 5

May 2023



Bill's beautiful *Sinningia* 'Thad's Party Dress'.

No In person NCAC meetings until September 2023

June 10th : 10:30am Virtual Zoom meeting with Grant Godden presenting his program on mini sinningias

September 9th TBA

October 14th TBA

December 9th Holiday Party

President's Message:

This is such a busy time of year. All of a sudden winter is over and there is mile long list of things to do outside. At the last NCAC meeting, we discussed tentatively getting together for a plant swap, since we have no plans to meet in person until the fall. I am still working on arranging something, so stay tuned. Meanwhile, happy planting! Hope your gesneriads are growing well!

Barbara Stewart

Dale Martens announcement: "Attend The Gesneriad Society's convention in Richmond, Virginia, July 3 - 8, 2023. There will be a variety of plant material in a free raffle at the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association's meeting which is open to all registered attendees. In the past we've had very generous growers and hybridizers donate new hybrid material. I'll be donating rhizomes from Clay Anderson's new *Kohleria* hybrids that'll be soon featured in GHA's newsletter CrossWords, Editor is Karyn Cichocki. On Friday, July 7, our speaker this year is Peter Shalit who will be presenting a program updating us on his *Sinningia* hybridizing adventures.

This past weekend I won the award of "Best Other Gesneriad" at my local QCAVS group's show for Clay's hybrid '*Kohleria Minnesota Wild*'. It has an amazing blossom count. "

I truly think this next convention will be very exciting!!!!
<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2023-convention-richmond-va/>



Titanotrichum oldhamii

Johanna Zinn



Johanna: "I have started some small *Titanotrichum oldhamii* plants from last fall's propagules to bring for the Gesneriad Convention in Richmond.

While transplanting them to somewhat larger pots, I started thinking about trying to bring a blooming plant to the show. Since the date had passed for me to purchase a new plant, I decided to dig up one of the plants that has survived four or five winters in the ground in my zone 7a garden. Above:

- 1) The first photo shows the plant rhizomes, roots, and a new shoot.
- 2) The second photo is a close up of a rhizome and new shoot.
- 3) This photo on left shows roots that I have planted in a tray and have since covered with soil. I'm hoping that a new plant will form from them. Does anyone know if that could happen?:

Below: Potted up young plants. *Titanotrichum oldhamii* in full bloom in my garden to right."

Propagules



Bloomin' Now



Peggy's *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams'



Peggy's *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet'

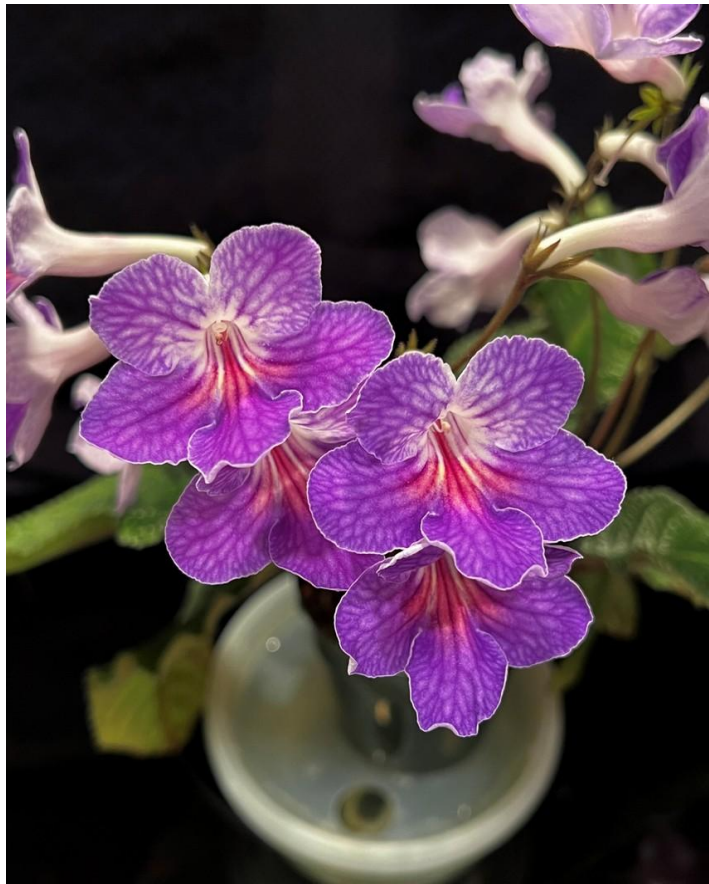


Peggy's *Sinningia bullata*



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* 'Myatnaya Konfetka'

Bloomin' Now



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Janet's Got the Blues'



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'Ladyslippers® Scarlet'



Janet's *Streptocarpus* 'DS-Mysticism', "Love how the DS-Mysticism really displays a color change from lavender to peach on one plant!"



Nadya's "ridiculous *Sinningia Speciosa*. Had to stake that thing because it was leaning over under the weight of the flowers."

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Niphaea* 'Lindl'



Bill's *Achimenes* 'Yellow Beauty'



Bill's *Streptocarpella* hybrid



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Vince's 'Emerald Sapphire', a chimera.



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Tiny Red' x self

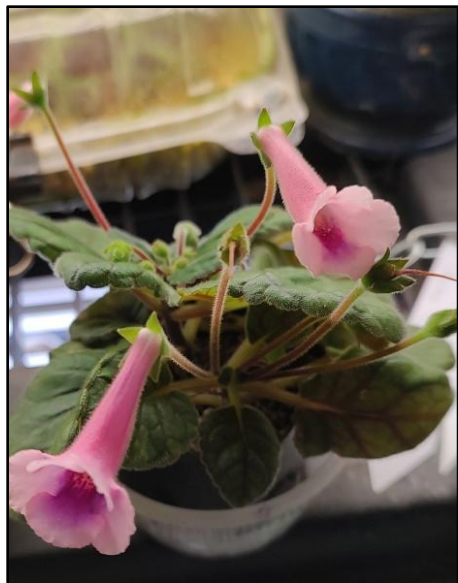


Dave's *Sinningia macropoda* hybrid

Question for Mr. Gesneriad:

Peggy MacDonald: "My *Seemannia gymnostoma* went into dormancy in late April. How long should I let the rhizomes stay in dormancy before starting to water again?"

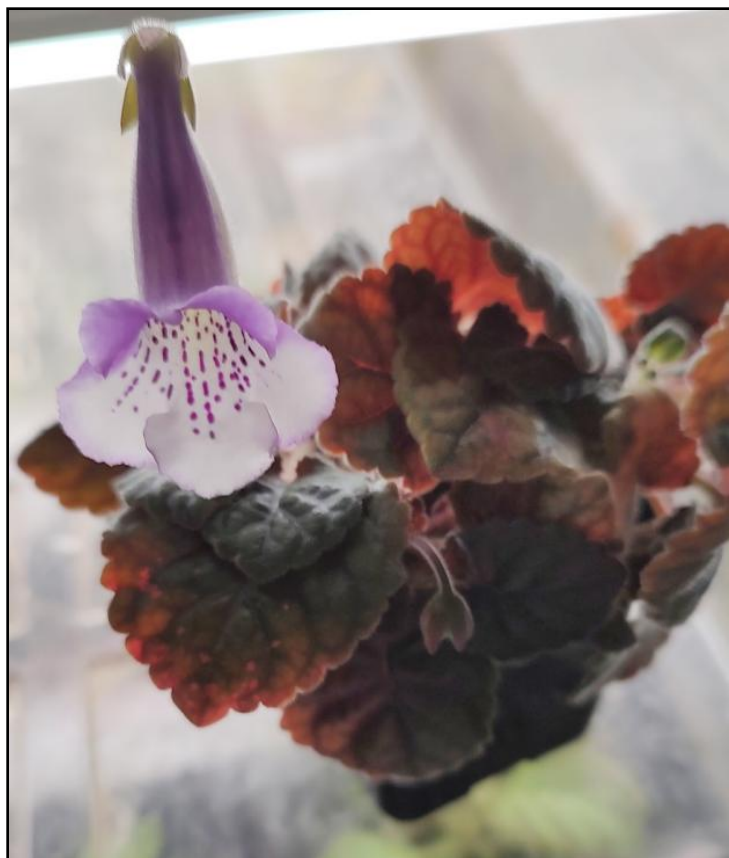
Mr. G: "I would remove the rhizomes from the pot and put them in a baggy with some dry vermiculite. *Seemannia* has a fairly short dormant period. Watch for the rhizomes to show a little growth and then pot them up in fresh soil as soon as you see a few of them showing green."



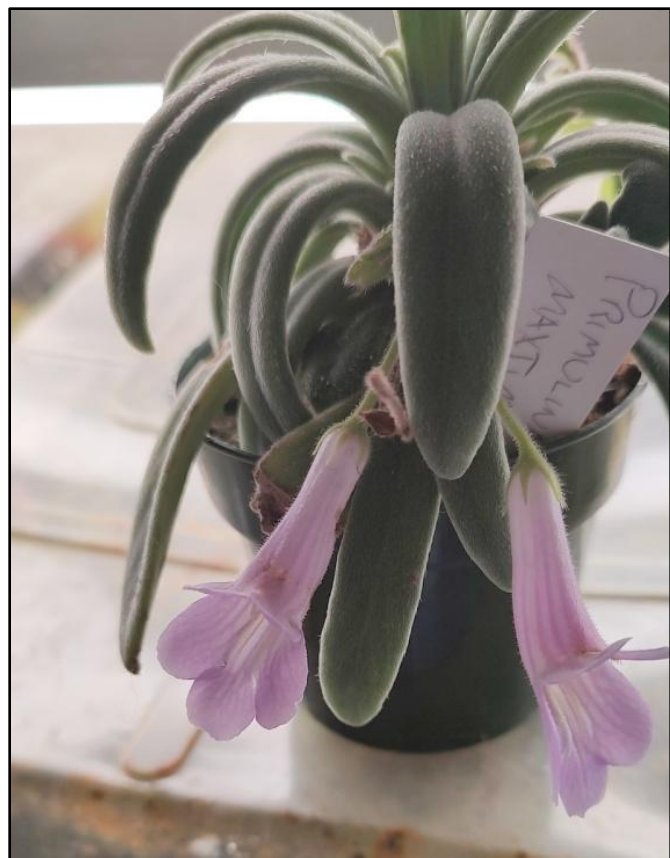
Dave's *Sinningia* seedling.



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Laura' x self



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Cindy Ella' x self



Dave's *Primulina maxtimer*

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Achimenes* 'Mme' Gehuene grown under lights with close up of bloom.



Donna's *Primulina petrocosmeoides* blooming its cute little self. Bought from Barb Borleski at the DAVS Exhibit and Sale on April 1st. Wondering if I should divide the double crown. The Gesneriad Reference Web says : "This species appears to be somewhat variable, with some specimens having a lighter and pinker tone. The original description of the species referred to the color as "bluish purple".



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Spanish Skirts'. Hybridized by Alcie Maxwell. Grown from seed & registered by Margery Anderson-Clive. Tubers gifted to NCAC from Alcie. "This lovely *Sinningia* is always in flower and is grown under LED lights.

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Kohleria* 'Bud's Strawberry Shortcake' purchased from Barb B. at the DAVS sale. Now blooming from one stem after one month!



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

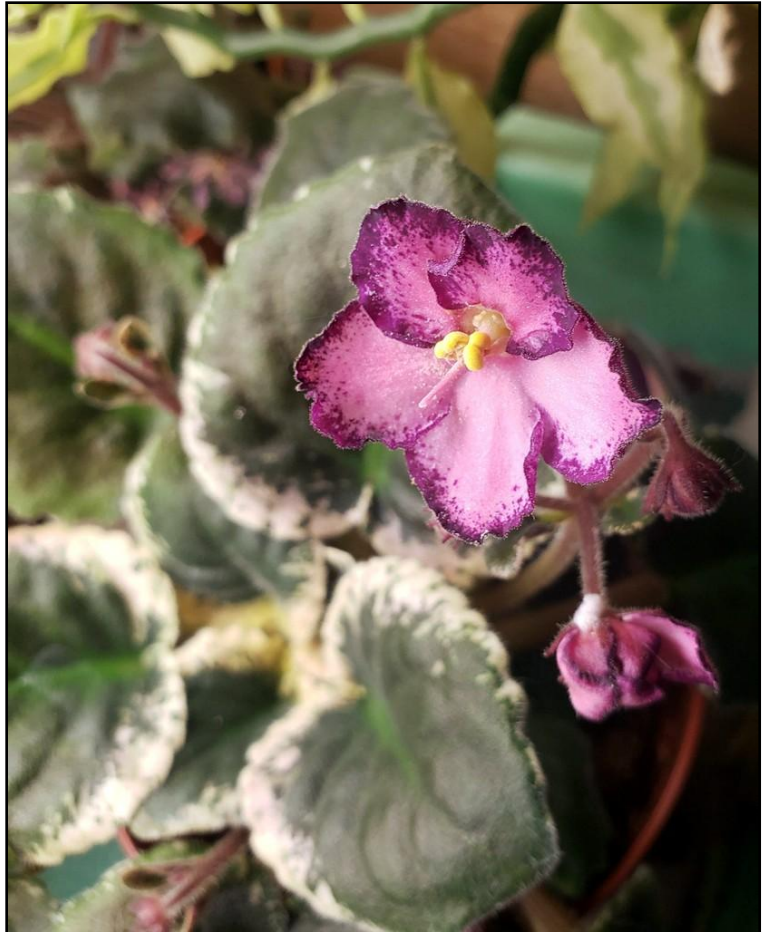
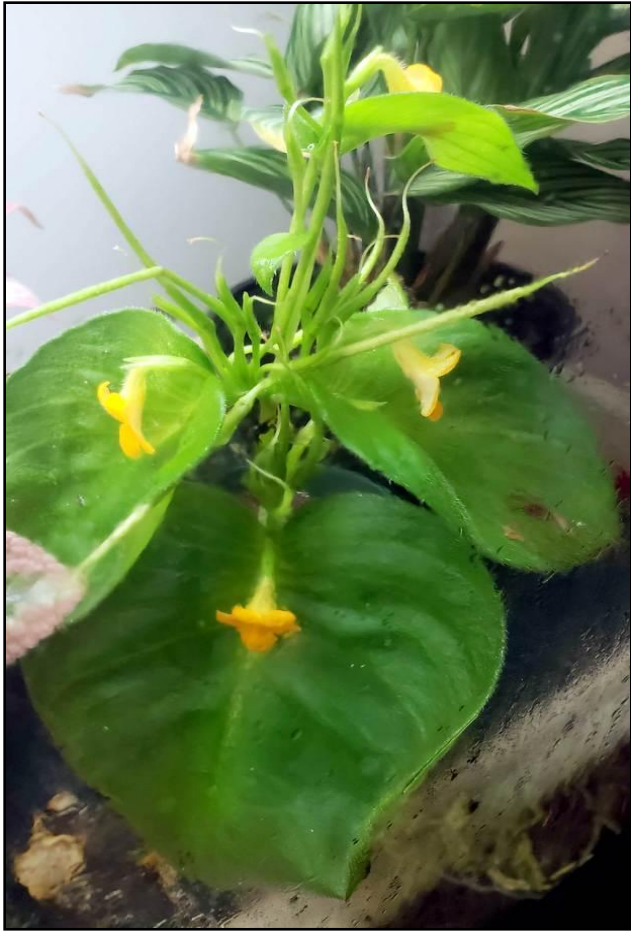


Donna's *Saintpaulia* 'Jersey Starlight', semi mini trailer



Donna's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina Serra da Vista'

Bloomin' Now



Barb Stewart's *Microchirita micromusa* with seed pods & *Saintpaulia* 'Cajun's Coujon'

Baltimore African Violet Club Welcome to Our Spring 2023

Friday, May 12th and Saturday, May 13th

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
FREE Admission!

African Violet Sale & Display

Friday, May 12th and Saturday, May 13th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. FREE Admission!

Available for sale will be beautiful African violets, other unusual plants, leaves, cuttings, pots, soil, perlite, etc.

[Great Mother's Day gifts!] Club members will be available to answer questions about growing and caring for violets and their gesneriad cousins. For more information about our club or spring sale, check out our web site at www.baltimoreafricanvioletclub.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/>



**Virginia is for Gesneriad Lovers
July 3 to July 8, 2023**

The Richmond area convention team invites you to attend The Gesneriad Society's 66th Annual Convention

"VIRGINIA IS FOR GESNERIAD LOVERS"

Venue: The Westin Richmond

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2023-convention-richmond-va/>

One of the topics that will be discussed at the 2023 Convention in Richmond, Virginia, in July is growing gesneriads outdoors. The plants in the photos below were grown outdoors in mid-New York State. Our convention speaker will discuss the challenges and rewards of growing gesneriads outdoors. From Margaret Califano the grower: "I put some 'extra' Gesneriads outdoors this summer and got interesting results. The New York weather was very hot and lacked rain in my area, and the porch area was a bit shadier than in the past. Some did better than others. *Chrysosthemis adenosiphon* got huge but didn't bloom. The basket of mostly Sinningia 'Prudence Risley' did well. The Streptocarpus window box took awhile to grow, but improved with time. Sinningia 'Rock Loves Paul' bloomed a lot early, but now wants to restart a crown."

