

# PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 4

April 2024



Barb Stewart's Best in Show for Design at the RAVS Show.

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 10:30 am is an In-person meeting at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church and is also a Zoom meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81429489432?pwd=M0dsdHVkQjBVQ3NuU1JPVWlUVyYtZz09>

- |                |                                                                |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 13, 2024 | How to Grow Gesneriads in Terrariums by Johanna Zinn           |
| May 18, 2024   | Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale                                |
| June 8, 2024   | Kitty Hedgepath on Grooming Plants for Sho                     |
| June 8, 2024   | Gesneriad Design workshop                                      |
| July 2024      | No meeting Gesneriad Society Convention in St. Louis, Missouri |

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.

## Editor's Message

Spring is such a wonderful season as we enjoy the delights of our outdoor gardens and indoors our many tuberous gesneriads pop up and develop their beautiful blooms. My *Sinningia speciosa* 'Serra da Vista' just popped up unbeknownst to me until I happen to look over at a shelf in the plant room where I put some dormant pots. It was a pleasant surprise! Our program this weekend will give us all a project to tend well after spring and into next winter.

Johanna Zinn will share her expertise about making Terrariums with emphasis on growing gesneriads in them. Please read pages 12, 13 and 14 where Johanna gives us directions about what to bring Saturday, what she will bring and overall information about soil mixtures and other facets to make and maintain a terrarium. Please bring your containers and supplies as directed as well as raffle table plants and snacks to share. Hope to see you there! Donna Beverin, Editor of Petal Tones



Donna's *Sinningia guttata x helleri* x self seedling



President's message:

I was asked recently to tell what season it is, and I almost said it is the rainy season, since I hadn't seen the sun in days. We developed a new pond in our back yard and a creek running down the driveway. But officially it is spring with lots of flower shows taking place, including the Richmond African Violet Society which is also a Gesneriad Society affiliate. Our members made a good showing, as you will see in the photos. We had record attendance from the public and sold out of plants well before the show opened, including many gesneriads. I hope to still find a few to share at the meeting this month. Hope to see you there!

Barbara

## RAVS SHOW PLANTS



Kitty's *Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie'  
Best Gesneriad



Kitty's *Saintpaulia* S 5b clone  
*grotei silvert*, Best species



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Girl's Night Out'  
Best in Class



Bill's S. 'Foxwood Trail' 3<sup>rd</sup> Best in show



Jill's *Sinningia* 'Christmas Morning'



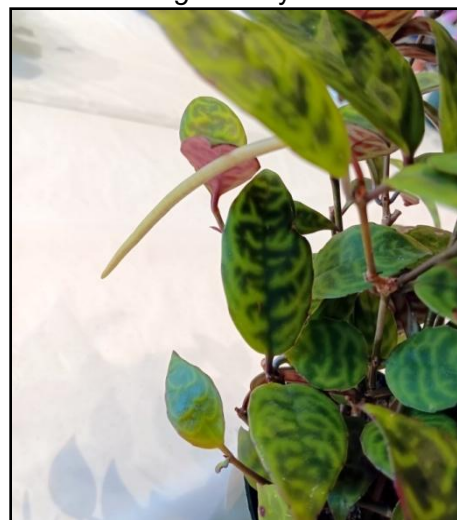
Bill's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'



Jill's *Streptocarpella* 'Concord Blue'  
Best Strep



Jill's *Aeschynanthus*



Jill's *Aeschynanthus* with seedpod!





Sharon Long's Best Plant Arrangement



Barb S. 3rd Best in Design, Best in Container Gardens



Bill's 2nd Best in Design



Jill's Design : Natural Garden



# BLOOMIN' NOW



Andy's *Saintpaulia* 'Imp Jellyfish Sting'



Dena's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'



Dave's *Columnnea scheidiana* in bloom



Dena's *Saintpaulia* 'Cherries and Cream'



Dena's *Saintpaulia* 'Dean's Trinket'



Dena's *Saintpaulia* 'Purple Waters'



# BLOOMIN' NOW



A few more of Dena's beauties: *Sinningia* 'Tomorrow' and a *Streptocarpus* she raised from seeds hybridized by Nadya.

## ***Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis*:** Andy Meier

Someone has been a busy little bee! This single species in the genus *Michaelmoelleria* is self fertile, but needs a little help, because it's not self-pollinating. By the time the pistil of the flower is receptive to pollen, it has grown out past the stamens and needs to be pollinated by a bee from another flower or pollen brought forth from behind the pistil.

Did you know that this species makes tuber-like nodules that produce offshoots of new plants on mature specimens? It can also be easily propagated from seeds and leaf cuttings, much like a *Streptocarpus*. Because of extensive collecting in its native habitat, this species is considered endangered. I hope to propagate this plant using all the above methods in hopes of introducing it into everyone's collection. I currently have two leaves in potting mix and a fragment of a leaf that has already produce a baby plant. If you look at the plant in the photo, you'll see a new plant being produce from the base of the mother plant.



Andy's *Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis* plant with small plants growing from the base of the plant and flowering while seed pods are growing.



# Plants We Keep, To Hold On To A Memory by Peggy MacDonald

Over the years I have collected many plants, indoor and outdoor. The ones that mean the most to me are connected to special people in my life or places I have been. What plants have you saved for the same reason? Here are some of mine.

The peonies that my grandfather gave my parents back in the 1950's when they built their house. Double white and double pink that had so much beauty and unforgettable fragrance. We moved some of each to my sister's yard two weeks ago.

Cotton candy fern. The most gorgeous fern I remember from my grandmother's bay window. It took me years, but I found one at a local garden shop in December.

Plants associated with my jobs over the years. A peace lily saved from a college internship. A Ming Aralia from Bluegrass Orchids I have held on to for years and through lots of moves.

A deep velvety purple African Violet from USDA.

A unique Coleus "Cantigny Royale" that I fell in love with while visiting Longwood Gardens, my absolute favorite place in the world!

Unique Gesneriads and Begonias from National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society. What a treasure!

Most of all were the vintage African Violets that my mother kept for dozens of years. They were huge and falling out of their pots. After she moved to a nursing home, I took leaf cuttings from each and started new plants. After a year, I now have a tray of each of the four kinds she had. Although, I don't know the names of them, they are so special to me. The picture below are three of the four vintage violets that are presently blooming. Mom passed away in March. I hope to keep these plants growing forever in her memory!



Barb Stewart's shelf of beautiful *Streptocarpus*



Close up of one of Barb's Strops



# Sphagnum vs Peat Moss

by Barbara Stewart

We all use different soil mixes for our plants, but sphagnum moss and peat moss are two common ingredients most growers use. Sphagnum and peat are often confused, but are they the same or different? Actually, they are and they aren't. What? Here is the scoop.

Sphagnum and peat are two forms of the same plant. Sphagnum moss grows on the surface of soil where the climate is mild, humid and wet. Specifically, it grows in bogs. It is a living plant that is harvested, dried and sold as long-fibered moss or milled into fine pieces. Although, found worldwide, most commercial product comes from Canada, New Zealand, Ireland and Scotland.

Peat moss is sphagnum that has died and been overgrown by new moss. Over thousands of years, it has become compacted and water-logged which eventually formed the bog. Harvested sphagnum moss takes 5-6 years to regenerate which makes it a renewable resource; however, peat takes thousands of years to form and is therefore not considered sustainable. It also releases large amounts of Co2 when harvested which contributes to greenhouse gas and climate change. Furthermore, harvesting peat destroys the habitat because the water in the bog needs to be drained.



For this reason, it is now banned in the UK and other European countries as of 2024; however, some places in Canada are developing ways to harvest it in a sustainable way to protect the environment. So what does this mean for our plants? Sphagnum has a neutral pH, whereas peat is high in tannins making it slightly acidic. As peat breaks down over time, the soil becomes more acidic which can be detrimental to some of our plants. Sphagnum is pure moss, but peat moss is a mixture of other plants and insects that have died along with the moss. Both provide good water retention, but peat is relatively less expensive.

Sphagnum trivia from Wikipedia:

- Sphagnum bogs are anaerobic and therefore good for preserving food. Containers of butter and lard have been found up to 2000 years old.
- Sphagnum moss was used for centuries as a dressing for wounds through WWI.
- Preparations using sphagnum, such as Sphagnol soap, have been used for various skin conditions including acne, ringworm, and eczema.
- In Finland, peat mosses have been used to make bread during famines.
- Peat moss is used to dispose of the clarified liquid output from septic tanks in areas where there is a lack of ordinary disposal means.
- In horticulture, sphagnum and peat are used to add water retention to soil mixes.
- They also have properties that inhibit the growth of bacteria and fungi which is beneficial to seed starting.

There is currently much controversy over the use of peat moss, so growers are encouraged to consider the issues and various alternatives when choosing the additives to use in their growing medium.



Live sphagnum



Dry sphagnum



***Sinningia* 'Rio 16'** 2017, IR171355, Hung Xuan Nguyen, California (*Sinningia guttata* x *S. helleri*). Cross made December 2015, seed planted March 2016, first flowering August 2016. Fertile. Growth is tall, upright, and tuberous. Leaves green with some red coloration on the back, 200mm long x 300mm wide with 50mm petiole, elliptic with cuneate base, crenate margin and acute tip. Calyx leafy, mixed red and green with touch of red, 60mm, pedicel 20mm with 1 flower per axil. Corolla salverform, 90mm long by 40mm wide, white with purple dots. Mixed red and green calyx and upward facing white flower with dots are distinctive.

[www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)





Donna's *Sinningia guttata x helleri x self*, 3 seedlings



Sinningia with red calyx, white bloom with light yellow, magenta streaks intermittent radiating from center where it is darker yellow.



This is the biggest seedling and drinks a lot of water from the well. It has white blooms with hint of yellow with streaks radiating from center and on petals. Leaves are large and shiny with green calyxes. I grew all of them in the plant room, not in the display above. Some browning of leaves probably from fluctuation of temperatures.



Mary Schaeffer gave me the original plant *Sinningia guttata x helleri* seedling, several years ago, which I lost when it went dormant. While in bloom I self pollinated it with success. I did not get to plant the seeds until February 2023. They stayed in their stage 2 prop box until early winter 2023 when I finally transplanted them into wicked 3.5 inch pots. They grew fast. The red calyx plant grew very fast in the beginning and then the plant (in center) really took off. Now it is the biggest. The smallest is the one to the left. It does not have the very shiny leaves like the other two and it has white blooms with a touch of green and yellow in the throat. They are all distinctively precious!



# Donna's Research on Milled Sphagnum Moss

Donna Beverin

I love plant propagation. I especially enjoy starting plants from seeds. All kinds of plants including Gesneriads! When I was a kid I would collect all the seeds from my Mom's plants and make little packages from paper and package up the seeds. I did not know the names of many of the plants, but sold the little packages for a quarter around the neighborhood. I was surprised when many of the other mothers who bought them contacted me the next year to ask for more seeds!

Then I saw an advertisement in the back of a magazine for cactus seeds for 10 cents and sent away for them. I planted them and then was away for awhile and when I came back they had germinated! I thought that was amazing that I could grow cactus from seeds! I became hooked on growing plants from seeds.

Eventually, I came up with my favorite seed planting medium from bags of potting soil and milled sphagnum. I liked Baccto potting soil and would use milled sphagnum moss on the top layer of the soil in my container because I had read sphagnum would curb damping off which had been a mystery to me why some of my new seedlings would just fall over and die!

So through the years I have changed my potting soil brand but always use milled sphagnum on the top layer of soil, with continual success growing healthy seedlings. The only source of milled sphagnum moss 'No Damp Off' I found was by a company called Mosser Lee. It was sold in the local stores that carried gardening supplies.

The past few years it was harder to find it on store shelves but I found it at Home Depot by ordering on line. Then this year I could not find it anywhere. Barb Stewart, Johanna Zinn and I chatted about this problem. We all did some online searching. Johanna was happy with a product made by Hoffman called Seed Starter, which I have tried but found it dries out very fast.



On the Mosser Lee website I found a new product called SucSeed® Organic Seed Starting Medium. So I figured they came out with a mixed product for starting seeds like all the other companies have been selling in the stores. And I have heard many folks have success with these mixes like Jiffy and Burpee. So I was stalemated for a time. Then Barb told me she had emailed Mosser Lee customer service and they replied that SucSeed® Organic Seed Starting Medium is the exact same product at 'No Damp Off'. So they repackaged 'No Damp Off' and are selling it at a higher price. After a short Google search I found the Mosser Lee website offers SucSeed at \$8.99 for the 244 cu.in. bag but shipping is high.



I ordered several bags from their website and true enough it is the same product. But note they do not give a shipping estimate, or choice of shipping methods. For 3 bags shipping was \$26.65. When I called customer service I was told priority mail is the only way they will ship. So shipping cost is more than the product. If you go to Amazon it costs \$14.45 for a bag. I used to buy No Damp Off for under \$6.00 a bag.

After ruminating awhile, I got out my food processor and bag of Better Grow regular sphagnum moss I keep on hand for terrariums. In under a minute the regular sphagnum was pulsed to milled perfection. This variety is the 'lighter' colored sphagnum but could be done with other brands as well. Just be sure all the products and the machine are totally dry. A blender may possibly work but I did not experiment with a blender. I shall be doing this from now on to grind my own milled sphagnum. Now I am ready to make up more seed propagation containers to plant gesneriad seeds as well as my vegetables, annuals and perennials!





# Facebook News

## Terri Vicenzi

Upon recommendations from expert Sinningia growers, I started adding Cal-Mag to my fertilizer to keep the leaves green and healthy. My Sinningias used to be anemic and had very weak stems, no matter how much light I gave them. I've now incorporated this feeding regime into most of my gesneriads, with the exception of a few very dark green streps. My feed is 1/4 tsp per gallon 9-3-6 and 12 drops of 2-0-0 Cal-Mag. The difference is amazing! I recently disbudded my plants to give them a rest before showing them at the GS convention in July.

In particular, I have found that yellow and red/coral strep varieties tend to grow with paler foliage. It's made a world of difference for these, in particular. Abundant healthy foliage = lots of blooms.

## Debbie Bradford Top Contributor

Certainly not an expert on Streps but I have several. I use Dyna Grow 7-9-5 with regular tap water. I needed to reduce the amount to 1/8 tsp to 1/2 gallon of water for my violets and watered my Streps with it also. I quickly started getting leaves on them that were turning pale. I have upped the amount for them back to 1/4 tsp. I top water mine. Have not tried the Cal-mag but I do have some on the shelf. I might try it on a couple that have the really pale leaves.

## Terri Vicenzi

Debbie Bradford Yes, exactly as I do with my violets (7-9-5 at 1/8 tsp/gallon) and for my streps (9-3-6 at 1/4 tsp per gallon). For large leaved gesneriads, and vigorous Streps, they definitely benefit from the higher concentration of Nitrogen. Not so much for the slow growing Bristol's series.



Andy's asked on NCAC's Facebook page if *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Peach Feather' is the correct name for his beautiful plant. Confirmed by Mr. G: "Mike Kartuz introduced a number of "Feather" colors which he named when they bloomed. Every seedling was a different color and he kept the best. Peach, Orange, Pink, Red are the ones I have had."



### Wishfully Seeking:

Members can ask for gesneriads they would like to grow and share gesneriad plants they have to share with others, as cutting, rhizomes, seeds, etc. So please email [Donnabeverin@gmail.com](mailto:Donnabeverin@gmail.com) with your requests.

### Barb Stewart seeking:

*Chrysothemis pulchella* 'Black Flamingo'  
*Nautilocalyx* (pemphidius, glandulifer, etc)  
*Petrocosmea* (any)

### Donna Beverin sharing:

*Sinningia conspicua* plants, *Sinningia tubiflora* tubers  
*Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' x self plant cuttings  
Seeking: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Star' leaf



The meeting I will present is an introduction to terrarium growing. For beginning terrarium growers, I suggest, and will bring, a sphagnum/perlite mix with charcoal for drainage. Many of you are probably growing terrarium plants successfully in other media. It would be educational for all of us if you would bring in an example of the media that has been successful for you.

I will bring:

- Pre-moistened long-fibered sphagnum moss, perlite, and charcoal.
- A few cuttings of Gesneriads suitable for terrariums
- Gloves
- Scissors to cut the moss
- Plastic wrap to cover containers
- Scotch tape, paper towels

•Members should bring:

- A terrarium---8 inches or less
- Plants, cuttings to share
- Your own planting medium if you don't want to use Sphagnum

### **Other Types of Soil Mixes to use in Terrarium**

Some growers prefer other types of soil mixes for their terrarium plants. Using chopped sphagnum moss over drainage material is an easier way to grow for people new to terrarium growing. Below, I have listed a few different soil mixes used by ABS members.

- Live sphagnum moss, forest moss, or sidewalk moss over drainage material [forest moss or sidewalk moss can have pests, diseases, or chemicals in it.]
- Sphagnum moss, chopped and added to small amounts of potting soil
- Sphagnum moss, chopped and mixed with orchid bark
- Nepenthes [pitcher plants] potting mix
- Sphagnum moss, chopped and mixed with bromeliad mix or just Bromeliad mix
- Uncut sphagnum moss-traditional or orchid moss
- Pro-mix HP with biofungicide + mycorrhizae
- Ocean forest and Happy Frog potting mix from Fox Farm
- Soils may be mixed with perlite, moss, bark, akadama, gravel, dolomite chips, chicken grit

### **Johanna Zinn 2024**

#### **Terrarium Class Post-Planting Care**

##### Placement and Lighting:

Place your terrarium in a warm, draft free location. Good locations include a north-facing window, behind a sheer curtain in a sunny window, near a bright window, under cool white, warm white, or full spectrum fluorescent lights, or in a bright location out of direct sunlight. Direct sunlight will quickly raise the air temperature inside the terrarium, and the heat could 'cook' your plant. If your plant is on a windowsill, move the terrarium away from the window on cold winter nights. Turn the terrarium weekly, or more frequently, to ensure even growth of your plant.

##### Watering:

Do not wait until your plant wilts. Always check your terrarium before watering. If the moss feels dry, or if there is little or no moisture on the sides or top of the terrarium, water the planting medium sparingly. Depending on the size of the container, use between one teaspoon and one to two ounces of warm water sprinkled wherever the moss feels dry. If you think the medium needs more moisture, wait a day before adding more water. If the moss at the base of the plant or around the edges of the terrarium still feels dry, or, if there is little or no condensation on the terrarium sides or top, add a small amount of water. Continue to add small amounts of warm water as suggested above until the medium feels slightly moist, or until there is a small to moderate amount of moisture on the sides or top of the terrarium.



Because terrarium containers usually have no drainage holes, it is very easy to over water them. You may also mist the plant with warm water. Two or three pumps of the sprayer should be enough for each application of water. If you are growing a plant that does not tolerate water on the leaves, or you do not know what the plant will tolerate, do not mist the plant. If you have added too much water, use a turkey baster or eye dropper to pull it out, or roll a section of paper towel into a thin roll and tuck it between the planting medium and the side of the terrarium where it will soak up some of the excess liquid. Replace the paper towel until the excess moisture has been absorbed. Often, if there is too much moisture in the terrarium, the sides and/or the top will be covered with droplets of condensed water. The excess water on the sides and top can be wiped away with a paper towel, or the top of the terrarium can be opened slightly and left open briefly to allow water vapor to escape. Some growers, those who check their terrarium[s] daily, prefer to leave the lid slightly ajar to facilitate air exchange. However, the humidity drops quickly, even with the lid barely open, and the plant needs to be monitored frequently to prevent the leaves from drying out from lack of humidity. The planting medium will also dry out more quickly with the lid open.

Please note: Plastic containers do not recycle condensed water as well as glass containers. The drops of water cling to the sides of the plastic containers and are slower to drip down the sides to replenish the moisture in the moss. Check the moss; the moss may be dry while the sides and top of the terrarium are covered with moisture.

#### Fertilizer:

Fertilize several times a year when you water with a dilute solution of a balanced houseplant fertilizer. Other options include slow-release fertilizer, Azomite, small granules of volcanic minerals, or adding small amounts of composted bat guano or crustacean shells. Large terrariums are expensive or difficult to find and plants can quickly outgrow their assigned spaces if too well fed. Also, most terrarium containers do not have drainage holes so fertilizer salts could build up in the moss. If the leaves of the plant are pale, or the plant has stopped growing or blooming, the plant may need to be fertilized more often or have the moss changed. Do not add mycorrhizal fungi to the container. The fungi will coat the strands of moss with an unattractive, slimy growth.

#### Grooming:

Remove leaves or blooms that touch the sides or top of the terrarium. Take off any dead or dying leaves or blooms, and remove any that have fallen on the moss, the sides of the container, or on the plant. Pinch the growth tips of stems or rhizomes to encourage bushy plants. Use a large, soft-bristled make-up brush to gently clean debris from the leaves or stems. Keep the container clean. If you clean the container with a chemical such as Windex, leave the terrarium open for a few minutes to let the fumes dissipate.

#### Pests/diseases:

Healthy plants isolated in a terrarium are less likely to become infested or infected with either insects or disease. If the infection/infestation is localized, remove the affected parts of the plant. If necessary, use a mild spray on infected plants. Small amounts of alcohol and dishwashing liquid mixed with water in a spray bottle may kill the pests. Always test a small portion or a leaf of the plant to see if it will tolerate a spray or treatment. Then wait a few days to see how the plant tolerated the test spray before spraying the entire plant. Alcohol on a Q-tip can be used to swab mealy bugs and to clean the leaves or stems on which the mealy bugs have been found. Milstop can be sprayed on a plant with mealy bugs. Remove scale with a fingernail and swab the surrounding area with alcohol. Bottle caps can be filled with Sluggo or Escargo and placed in the terrarium to kill slugs or snails. If dog flea collars or No-Pest Strips are available, cut a three-inch piece from either of them, and seal it into the terrarium for several days to kill the pests. Systemic insecticides can be used if other methods fail. Use antifungal agents sparingly. Terrarium plants are often very sensitive to sprays or their fumes. If the plant has a serious problem with insects or disease, and would need to be discarded, you have nothing to lose by treating it. If spraying, always allow some of the fumes to dissipate before replacing the cover.

#### Maintenance:

Replace portions of algae-covered moss, or moss that has begun to break down as needed. Sphagnum moss is more acidic as it breaks down. Moss that has begun to break down will change in color and texture. In addition to replacing portions of the moss as needed, every ten to twelve months I remove the plant from the terrarium, gently remove most of the old planting medium from the plant's roots, clean the terrarium, and put the plant in fresh moss and perlite over charcoal.

#### Propagation:

The easiest way to propagate your plant is to remove a leaf or piece of a stem, make a hole in the moss with a pencil, and stick the cutting into the growing medium with the parent plant. Firm the moss around the cutting. The plant variety will dictate whether a leaf cutting or stem cutting is needed. Plant cuttings can be rooted in a separate clear container such as a sweater box, a zip-loc bag, or a plastic cup covered with another plastic cup and sealed with tape. Use the same sphagnum moss medium used for growing the parent plant, and place it in similar growing conditions.



Terrarium article by Johanna Zinn continued:

Propagation continued: Begonia plants are somewhat succulent and susceptible to rot, so you could use three parts chopped moss combined with one or two parts perlite, or use one part perlite and one part vermiculite as your medium. The medium should be moist, not wet. Always have a leaf or cutting of rare or favorite plants in propagation. Terrarium plants are generally more challenging to grow, and if your plant becomes diseased or dies, you will have a backup plant.

#### Preparation of planting medium:

To prepare moss for another terrarium or propagation box, open the top of a seven [7] liter bag of compressed long-fibered sphagnum moss, roll the bag down a few inches, place it in a sink, and pour five cups of boiling water into the bag. Let the bag sit for at least twenty or thirty minutes. If the moss at the bottom of the bag was not moistened by the boiling water, take it out of the bag and pour more very hot water on it. Sphagnum moss takes up very hot water much more quickly than it absorbs cold water. Boiling water also may kill pests in the moss. Plan ahead and prepare the moss a few days in advance. Wring the moss out and let it dry until it is moist, not wet. Expose the moss to the air, and turn it several times a day to help it dry evenly. Plants in an enclosed atmosphere can rot easily if the planting medium is too wet. This is particularly true of begonias. If you are in a hurry, wring out the moss and squeeze the moss between sheets of paper towels several times to remove excess moisture. If you are using sphagnum that has been compressed into a brick sized block, follow the directions on the package to wet the moss, and follow the drying instructions given above. Some growers place their terrarium plants in pots in a light potting soil or in sphagnum moss, and put the potted plant into the terrarium. Pruning or grooming the plant is easier if the plant can be removed from the terrarium. It is easy to keep a plant too wet if it is planted in potting soil, so use this method carefully. The potting soil should be amended with perlite or other material to improve drainage. If you plan to show your plant in an ABS show, your plant will need to be planted in medium in the terrarium container, not in a pot placed in the container.

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NCAC website: [www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org](http://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 \$15 per year as of 2024. You can send your payment to NCAC into our Treasurer, Andy Meier via PayPal using the email address: [ncacotgs-gesneriads@yahoo.com](mailto: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/>



**June 30 to July 6, 2024**



The St. Louis, Missouri area convention team is looking forward to welcoming you to The Gesneriad Society's 67th Annual Convention to celebrate our favorite plants. Join us at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac from June 30 to July 6, 2024.

One of the City's great moments came in 1904 when it hosted a World's Fair: the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. More than 20 million people visited the fair in the seven-month run, immortalized in the film and song "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis."

St. Louis is steeped in history with many museums and streets lined with beautiful old homes. Our city has something for everyone. We have planned a variety of tours to give you a taste of St. Louis. You may wish to take advantage of opportunities to explore more on your own.

The convention program will give us plenty of opportunities to share our love of gesneriads.

We hope to see a large variety of plants in the flower show exhibited by growers from across the continent. We will also have a large variety of plants for sale from several commercial growers as well as from individual growers offering plants, tubers, rhizomes, and cuttings that cannot be found elsewhere. You're sure to find many new additions for your collection. Silent and live auctions also offer unique opportunities for acquiring rare treasures.

We shall have lectures, moderated discussions, and a panel or two of gesneriad growers to share their experiences – programs to interest all. There will be a judging school for new and experienced judges to improve their knowledge of gesneriads. Numerous volunteer opportunities also abound to contribute to the Society. This is a great way to meet and make new friends!

Never been to a Gesneriad Society Convention before? Then register ASAP! Early entry to plant sales on Wednesday night from 8 to 8:30 pm is for convention registrants only and is based on your registration number. Plant sales will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available for convention registrants on Wednesday night and Thursday.

We invite you to join us in St. Louis! Bring a wish list of plants, your plant questions, and a show entry or two – and be prepared to come away with new friends, questions answered, and new additions to your plant collection, too! Registration is open and easy!

<https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2024-convention-st-louis-mo/>

I am so excited about The Gesneriad Society's convention in St. Louis June 30- July 6. I'm in charge of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association's meeting on Friday, July 5, at 8:00 p.m. and everyone registered is invited to attend.

The GHA meeting will have a free raffle of plant material. I plan on giving away leaves of my newest *Primulina* 'Dale's Smoky Incense' hybrid (*P. gueilimensis* x *P. brachytricha*) x *P. pseudoglandulosa*. I've grown out 3 generations and it's a constant bloomer (I wick water) and the scent is strong.

I also hope to distribute my *Sinningia* 'Dale's Silver Lining', also scented. I am the GHA's speaker for the evening. I'll be showing photos of my new intergeneric between *Gloxinia* and *Diastema*.

See you in St. Louis !!!!

Dale Martens, Membership Promotion Chairperson and GHA's Chairperson



Dale's *Primulina* 'Dale's Smoky Incense'