

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 2

February 2024



Dena's *Sinningia* 'Esther'



Johanna's *Aeschynanthus lobbianus gracilis*. More information on this gesneriad in March's Petal Tones.

Saturday, February 10th at 10:30 am is a Zoom meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84743088855?pwd=TVd0WW1sU2hCR0RZdnZCWVVCc3lCdz09>

February 10, 2024	Dr. Jeremy L. Keene Zoom Meeting only
March 9, 2024	Propagation workshop: All members hands-on workshop
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

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.

President's Message:

We had a great in-person meeting last month, in spite of the cold facilities. The church secretary assured me they will rectify the heating issue. Thanks to all who attended in person and via Zoom. **This month we are only meeting on Zoom** and will have a great talk by Jeremy Keene about his gesneriads.

I am sowing lots of *Sinningia* seeds now, so everyone will be able to add to their *Sinningia* collection. I have the best success with *Sinningia* and *Streptocarpus* seeds. I am currently enjoying last year's strep' seedlings now coming into bloom. The hybrid crosses are especially fun, as you never know what you will get. My overcrowded strep' trays are now resulting in seed pods, so the fun continues. See you on Zoom!

Barb Stewart

Bloomin' Now



Andy Meier: "*Episcia* 'Harmony's Slinky Pink'. A wonderful and easy Gesneriad to grow in the home. If you're humidity is below 50-60 %, your plant may grow better under a grow dome or in a terrarium. I grow mine in the greenhouse where night temperatures currently drop to the high 50's F -low 60's F. at night and as high as 85 F during the day. The light green foliage can get dark green patches, randomly placed throughout the plant. As the name implies, the flowers appear pink at first, but upon closer examination, they are actually yellow suffused with pink, giving them beautiful shades of sunset colors as they open and mature. One of the easier *Episcias* to grow for me."



David Turley: "Nothing exciting to say here. I went downstairs and was simply struck by the colors from the corner. The *Smithianthas* are finishing up still putting on the display. Imagine if more gardening centers offered *Smithianthas* at the holidays rather than Poinsettias."

Bloomin' Now



Barb S's Miniature NOID *Sinningia* seedling



Barb's *Diastema racemiferum*



Barb's *Streptocarpus* 'Big Red' from January raffle.



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Festival Amethyst'



Barb's *Saintpaulia* 'Sleigh Bells'



Barb S: *Streptocarpus* 'OD Igra Voobrazheniya' x other hybrid seedlings with seed pod

Bloomin' Now



Donna's DAVSG test plants for the exhibit in March. "I began growing in terrarium conditions successfully as mentioned last month. Shy bloomer, S. 'Pink Dove' started putting out buds this month! S. Jolly Orchard is the more floriferous! S. 'Pink Pixie' is the cutest. I hope I can have blooms for the exhibit. "



S. 'Jolly Orchard'



S. 'Pixie Pink'



S. 'Pink Dove'



Donna's *Saintpaulia* NOID (rupicola?)



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Spanish Skirts'



Donna's *Achimenes misera*

Bloomin' Now



Bill's *Kohleria* 'Peridots Rolo'



Bill's *Smithiantha zebrina* with new blooms this month



Bill's *Saintpaulia* 'Fenix', a Russian hybrid.

(More info page 7)



Barbara Borleske's: "*Kohleria* 'Selby'



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'

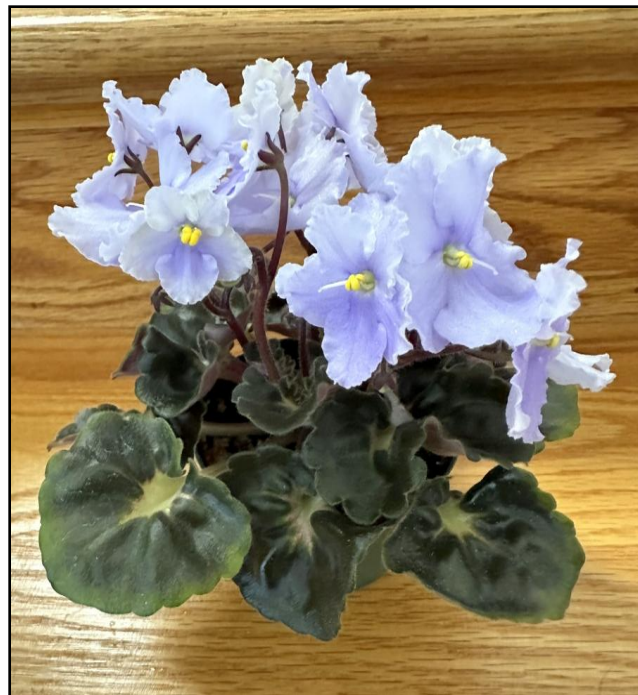


Dave's *Sinningia bullata*

Bloomin' Now



Dena; "Saintpaulia 'Dean's Cupid', semi-mini. I had this years ago then lost it. I was fortunate to find it recently and add it back to my collection. Love it!"



Dena' "Saintpaulia 'Pastel Princess', small standard with girl foliage."



Dena's Saintpaulia 'Precious Pink, a semi-mini.



Dena's Saintpaulia 'LE-Maya', semi-mini



Donna's *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina' 'Serra Da Vista' seedling that is at least 3 years old. Second photo is top of plant. "I moved it from plant shelf in the open to a large terrarium made from 2 salad bowls and the leaves are uncurling somewhat. I think it needs more humidity. I just set up small humidifier in the living room for my sinningias"



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' x self seedling. "Hoping the humidifier helps with its leaf curl, too."



Dave's *Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis* in bloom



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Laura' x self

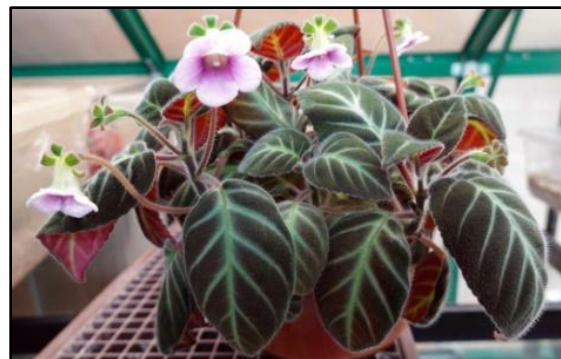


Bill contacted Marie Glass of Black Oak Violets about his Russian violet:

Bill, What a little beauty you are growing there! Sergei Kuznetsov only hybridized about 22 varieties before his untimely death, and he never registered any of them. All of them have his prefix CK or SK. You have the one variety he did not assign a prefix to. It is S. 'Fenix' - in memory of Ani Sergeeva. I am guessing that she was a special mentor. The "no prefix" makes it difficult for people to associate it with him. I hope this helps. There is so little information on his life and work. I am including two documents so you may know him. One from a Russian friend and one by Rich Follett that was published in Vladimir's Almanac. Marie

Editor note: If you would be interested in more information about this hybridizer contact Bill since Marie sent him extensive attachments.

Bloomin' Now



Johanna: "I started this plant from a few cuttings of *Gloxinella lindeniana*. I grew a very scraggly specimen a few years ago from two rhizomes. I think that the plant likes the extra humidity [70%] and bright light in the walk-in-terrarium in the basement. It grows next to a large LED light which faces into the walk-in-terrarium. The temperatures are usually in the 60's during the winter. *Gloxinella lindeniana* is a rhizomatous Gesneriad and is native to the mountains of tropical Columbia. The plant can be grown in a terrarium as well as in the home, but in my experience does better with higher humidity. Sometimes the plant goes dormant, particularly in the winter, but will but the rhizomes will sprout in a month or two. Blooms are flushed with lavender and purple, and are quite fragrant. It can be propagated by dividing the rhizomes to and planted stem and leaf cuttings. We'll see how they fare."



Andy's Strep
acquired at
January's
raffle table
from Doug.
Similar to
Barb's so
maybe is 'Big
Red'?

January 2024 Petal Tones is adding back in Petal Tones, the Wishfully Seeking column. 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 with your requests.

Barb Stewart seeking:
Chrysothemis 'Black Flamingo'
Nautilocalyx (pemphidius, glandulifer, etc)
Petrocosmea (any)

Donna Beverin sharing:
Sinningia conspicua young plants with small tubers



艾力克

Primulina longzhouensis from Facebook struck me as so beautiful! 艾力克 grows exquisite plants!

Bloomin' Now



David Turley: "I acquired a small plant labeled *Pearcea* sp. "Carol Ann" at the Richmond GS convention in July 2024. The name attached is what first attracted me to the plant. Carol Ann Bonner was a friend and very active member of AGGS for many years. As with all the plants purchased, it was restarted from cuttings when I returned home. (It took several days to get through all the new acquisitions.) And the plant just took off from there.

While the plant has a wild growth habit here, it blooms profusely. The main plant is propped against the wall behind one of the plants stands. I have several other plants started from cuttings, and the cuttings barely even stop blooming.

The plant seems to be the same plant, perhaps different collections, that was exhibited as *Pearcea* sp. 'Ecuador' at the convention, and also listed as *Pearcea* aff. *sprucei* (Ecuador) on the GRW site per John Clark. A post to gesneriphiles notes that Jeremy Keene thinks this is possibly a natural intergeneric between *Pearcea* & *Kohleria*. Whatever the origin, it certainly is brightening the dark winter months."

John Boggan commented: "I grew this many years ago. I believe it was originally introduced as a *Kohleria* but the genus has always been uncertain. It may be a natural intergeneric hybrid between *Pearcea* and *Kohleria*."



David Turley: "*Kohleria hirsuta* is putting on a nice display. This plant came from a single cutting rooted in a three inch pot in July 2023. It kept diving off the shelf so I moved it to a 4" pot last weekend. *Kohlerias*, both species and hybrids, are generally easy to grow and bloom. Most have a short dormant period when the rhizomes can be divided. They also root easily from cuttings. Many of the taller varieties can be managed under lights by rooting cuttings which often does not interrupt the blooming. It's one of my favorite genera and our old greenhouse held dozens of varieties. I enjoy the species, but also hope to be able to reacquire some of the older "classic" hybrids too."

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. gueilinsensis* × *P. brachytricha*) × *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'

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NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
web@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. 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/>

Announcements

March 23, 2024 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

[The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society – exhibit & sale](#)

Boscov's Department Store Christiana Town Center,
Route 273, Christiana, DE, United States

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Exhibit and plant sale Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 am -
4:00 pm

For more information contact Donna Beverin by email
donnabeverin@gmail.com

April 5, 2024 - April 7, 2024

[Richmond African Violet Society – judged show and sale](#)

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden 1800 Lakeside
Avenue, Richmond, VA, United States
Richmond African Violet Society - judged show and sale Show:
April 6th 1:00-5:00 pm April 7th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sale: April 5th 1:00 - 5:00 pm April 6th 9:00 am -
5:00pm April 7th: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Free
Admission to show and sale For more information
contact Sharon Long, 804-740-5322

May 4, 2024 - May 5, 2024

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Syracuse
Annual Show and Sale – “Violets Around the Town”
Show:

Saturday May 4th 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Sunday May 5th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sales:

Saturday May 4th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday May 5th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Show is free but parking fee applies

For more information contact Penny Moore via [e-mail](#).

