

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

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March 2024



Donna's *Sinningia* 'Anne Crowley' seedling is a blooming machine. Going and going and going! The tuber is very large and most times it create a tuber underneath the main tuber. But just do not want to un-pot and disturb to look right now!

President's Message:

It's that time of year to start propagating gesneriads. While the west coast is getting hit with a blizzard, spring has sprung here in the east. This month we are meeting again in person for our annual propagation workshop. Many plants take a rest during the winter months and propagation is often difficult this time of year, but now is the time to get new plants going for the warmer seasons ahead. Bill will be coordinating the workshop, so be sure to read his message. For those who attended in January, the church has assured me there will be heat. (However, you might want to come prepared just in case.) If you can't come, at least join us via Zoom. See you there!
Barbara

Saturday, March 9th 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=M0dsdHVkQjBVQ3NuU1JPVWlUVyVtZz09>

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.

Message from Bill:

The propagation workshop for our upcoming meeting will be an opportunity to add some diversity to both your gesneriad collection and the methods you use to increase it. Members are encouraged to bring, starter plants, cuttings, tubers, rhizomes, and seeds from their personal collection to share. Some members have agreed to supply the basic materials needed for this hands-on workshop, but everyone is asked to bring their own tools. Of course, if you prefer to use your own pots, soil, etc. you are welcome to do that. Be sure to bring something to protect your new treasures as you carry them home. To make sure everyone has a fair shot at the plant material, we will have three rounds of raffle selection to start things off. Because this will replace our usual raffle, participating members will be asked to make a donation.
Looking forward to seeing you at this always enjoyable activity.

Bloomin' Now



Jill: "I have this photo of *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Mascara' that I purchased from Lyons as the MAAVS' convention. Although the plant is small, it has 4 blooms/stem as the photo shows. Hopefully, it will not grow too large."



Dave Anderson's *Kohleria* 'Red Ryder'



Dave's miniature *Sinningia* seedlings unnamed

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 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
Sinningia 'Anne Crowley' x self plant cuttings
Streptocarpus 'Zlotko' and 'Falling Star' leaves



Maria W. helping set up the DAVSG exhibit of gesneriads at the Philadelphia Flower Show. 3/2-3/10, 2024

Bloomin' Now



Donna's *Sinningia conspicua* seedlings, stage 2 prop' box. It is fragrant!



Donna's *Sinningia leucotricha*



Andy: "*Streptocarpus* 'Nirobe' purchased from the Richmond African Violet Society at our Christmas Party in December."



Andy: "*Primulina liboensis* acquired at the MAAVS show last November 2023."



Bill's *Sinningia* 'Party Dress'



Kitty's *Streptocarpus* 'DS Little Parrot'



Barb K. *Nautilocalyx* 'Burle Marx'

Bloomin' Now



Andy: "*Michaelmoelleira vietnamensis* with seed pods"



Barb Borleske's *Kohleria* hybrid. "Some of my *Kohleria* kept blooming all winter! Not sure which one this is!"



Bill Schmidt's *Saintpaulia* 'Fenix'



Jill Fischer's *Sinningia leucotricha*



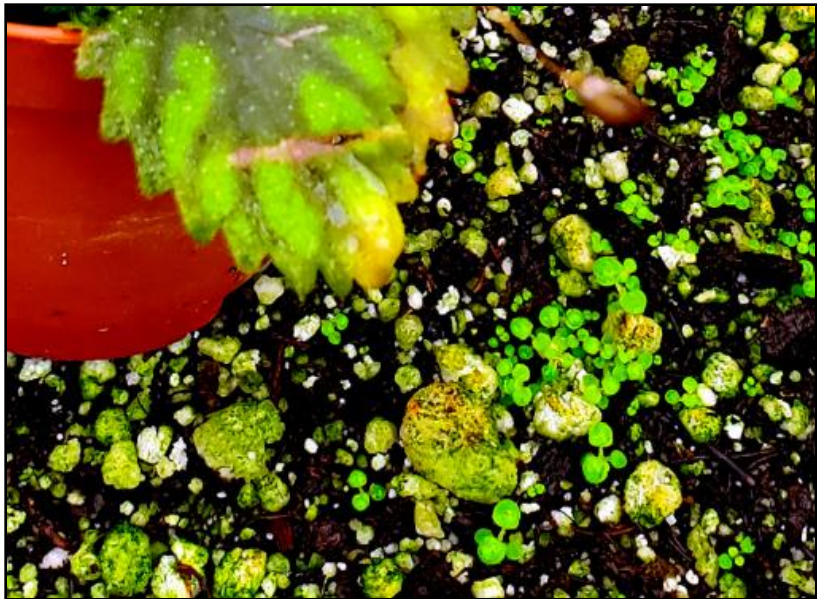
David Turley's *Sinningia helleri*

David: "*Sinningia helleri* is starting its show. Love the creamy flower and red bracts. Even when not in bloom it's a beautiful foliage plant. Perhaps it doesn't qualify by the official show schedule, but it works for me."

"*Sinningia helleri* is the type species of the genus *Sinningia*, which means the genus is tied to this species. As long as the genus is recognized, it must include *S. helleri*. Therefore, to some extent, the definition of *sinningia* depends on the characteristics of *S. helleri*. Until a few years ago, this species was unknown either in the wild or in cultivation, and was believed extinct. It was found in the wild in 2015 and Mauro Peixoto distributed seeds."

<http://www.burwur.net/sinns/4helMain.htm>

Members Plants



Andy Meier: "I don't like dealing with the small seeds of most Gesneriads. They are hard to handle and even harder to sew evenly. My 'Lazy-man' approach to propagating *Sinningia muscicola* and *Sinningia pusilla* seedlings is to put the entire plant in a propagating flat with my standard potting mix and let them self-sew. In the background you'll see a carpet of *Streptocarpus* seedlings."



Left: David Turley: "Here's an "oldie but goodie" I reacquired this summer. *Sinningia* "Paper Moon' is a John Boggan hybrid. It's a cross of *S. pusilla* 'White Sprite' and *S. schiffneri*. It does not form a tuber and seems to be pretty much ever-blooming. I've put cuttings down that keep on putting out flowers without a break. 3 inch pot for reference."

Dale Marten's commented: "I also experienced no tuber formation!"

Below: David: "The plant stems are not yet long enough to spread and let the flowers dangle freely, so they're hanging within the foliage. Despite the small size, it's putting on a nice display."

<https://gesneriads.info/genera/nematanthus-fritschii/>

"One of several *Nematanthus* species with flowers dangling well below spreading branches, *N. fritschii* is one of the parents of the excellent hybrid *N. 'Stoplight'*. Other *Nematanthus* with a similar dangling flower habit include *N. crassifolius*, *N. corticola* and *N. brasiliensis*"



David's *Chrysothemis friedrichsthaliana* has green calyx.



David's *Nematanthus fritschii*

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* 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'

Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

A Spring Gesneriad Plant
Display and Sale

Saturday March 23, 2024
10am until 4pm

Boscov's 2nd Floor,
Christiana Town Center
361 W Main Street
Christiana, Delaware 19702
I-95 Exit 3

Free Admission to Display, just enter
Boscov's

Payment for plant sales:
Cash or checks

Many rare Gesneriads at very
reasonable prices!



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Propagation: Barb Stewart/Donna Beverin

Membership: Dena Horton

Ways and Means:

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Directors:

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Bill Schmidt

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

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

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”

Beaver Lake Nature Center
8477 E Mud Lake Rd
Baldwinsville, NY

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 email.