

PETAL TONES



Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 56 Number 12

December 2025



Kitty's Mini *Sinningia*:
"Wonky photo of my *Sinningia* 'California Sunset' "



Barb Stewart's *Saintpaulia* 'Persian Lace'

CHANGE:

Holiday Get Together

Dec. 13th – Holiday luncheon and meeting.

**Our meeting will be held at the
Ruritan building at 183 Ruritan Road,
Sterling, VA, 20164**

**from 11-2. We shall have our potluck
luncheon, gift exchange, raffle and meeting
as usual. Zoom will be available.**

**If you would like to participate in the gift
exchange (optional), please bring a plant
related gift less than \$20.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968033274?pwd=K
Vc68b7bbbKSLIN87rBKAzczmUGYW.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968033274?pwd=K Vc68b7bbbKSLIN87rBKAzczmUGYW.1)

Meeting ID: 829 6803 3274

Passcode: 957283

**Normal Meeting Place
National Capital Area Chapter
of the Gesneriad Society (NCAC)**

**Emmanuel United Methodist Church
10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
Meets second Saturday of each month at 10:30am**

President's Message:

Our holiday party will be a little different this year as we try out a new location. The Ruritans have given us a good deal on using one of their facilities in Northern Virginia which we were fortunate to get on short notice.

Although this has been a sudden change of plans due to unforeseen circumstances, I hope folks can still attend in person and enjoy another holiday luncheon and gift exchange. Of course, we will still have our favorite raffle. We also need to firm up programs for the next few months, so that will be an important topic of discussion. Don't forget that guests are welcome (as they always are), so the more the merrier! Hope to see you there! Barb

Bloomin' Now



Andy: "Imp's Bog Bubble, a Semi-Miniature African Violet. Pink and green cupped blooms have specks of purple. Leaves are strikingly variegated light green with cream edges. A Canadian hybrid created by Jeff Jackson."



Andy's: *Achimenes admirabilis* is native to Mexico. It has an unusual color for an *Achimenes*, with tube and the lobes a very bright orange-red and a yellow throat. The pattern of spots in the throat varies within the species.



Andy's *Eucodonia* 'Adele' is a hybrid by Patrick Worley: *Eucodonia verticillata* 'Frances' x *E. ehrenbergii*. Needs bright light and pinching back to produce a compact plant with multiple growths and flowers.



Barb's Mini *Sinningia* noid



Dave's *Achimenes* 'Little Lulu'



Dave's *Primulina* 'Summer Song'

Bloomin' Now



Barb S. *Sinningia* SRG's "Fuerwerk"



Barb's *Streptocarpus* seedling



Bill's *Aeschynanthus*



Bill's *Columnnea schiediana*



Bill's *Nautilocalyx forgetii*



Donna's *Primulina petrocosmeoides* as growing under dome and has been blooming for a few months. Mini *Sinningia* noid growing in Ikea Baggebo cabinet which may be the reason I have so many blooms opening sequentially and staying open all together. It is still full of buds in the center ! 50% +/- humidity but fluctuates with a mini humidifier.



Bloomin' Now



Donna's *xGloximannia* 'She's Dancing'



Barb Borleski's plant at DAVGS show a few years ago"

"Spring 2025 I put a dormant pot on my deck, unsure of what gesneriad may be in the pot. Green leaves emerged, looking like *G. Perennis*. The leaves were abused by sun and wind. (Thanks Maria for sharing this plant with me!) Donna: "Early autumn I brought indoors where the developing flower stalks were forming. I have cross pollinated in hope of setting seeds."

Dale Martens reports that she produced *xGloximannia* 'She's Dancing' by crossing *Gloxinia perennis* with an unnamed *Seemannia* hybrid (*Seemannia gymnostoma* x *Seemannia purpurascens*).



I bought *Seemannia sylvatica* recently from Peppers. My thought is to cross with my *xGloximannia* 'She's Dancing' and see what happens.



Kitty's *Sinningia bullata* 'Canyon Fortaleza' shown with the Gesneriads at the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society

From Gesniphiles: "This is, indeed, a beautiful and typical specimen of this form of the species. It clearly shows somewhat less of the indumentum (fuzzy hairs) than on the original collection from Florianapolis."

Of particular note is that it is determinate. It produces a set of leaves on each stem, typically 4, and then flowers from the top of the stem between the leaves. It never branches or produces new growth above those flowers. The habit is very similar to that of *Sinningia leucotricha*.

On the other hand, the original collection of *S. bullata* from Florianapolis has an indeterminate habit and produces new growth that goes above those first flowers. It does not stop after the first set of leaves.

I think that if a new collection similar to *S. leucotricha* were introduced, but it was indeterminate and kept producing new growth and new flowers I'd think it likely to be a new species. I wonder if that might eventually happen to *S. bullata* 'Cânion de Fortaleza'?

Note: the Portuguese form of the name, which I prefer, as that is the actual name of the collection location. As at this point the Cânion de Fortaleza part is a description of the collection location, I prefer not to use the single quotes which are appropriate for a named cultivar."

Ron Myhr



Question from Sharon Long:

"Found this on the back of my shelf. I did not know what to do with the tuber so ignored it. Any suggestions?. Need all the help I can get." Sharon

Barb S: "Looks like *Sinningia bullata*. Give it lots of light to keep it compact. I have a similar one. I cut off the old growth and it now has a new sprout."

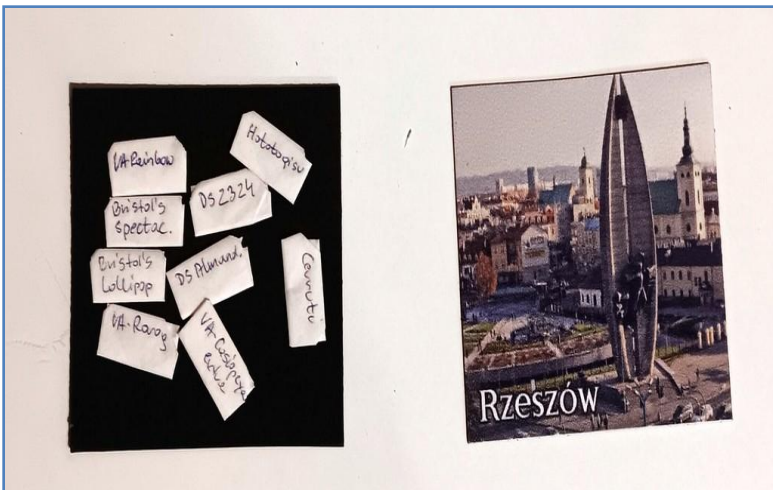
Mine sprouted a couple of months ago. Here is a picture of it now. No sign of buds, but it is branching out nicely. Getting a bit leggy on the top, so I have put it under a stronger LED bulb. I may cut off the tallest branches and let it fill out more".

Jill: "Try taking the tuber out of the pot and inspect the entire tuber. Gently scrape the edge of the tuber. Any parts that are green are viable. Any dried and shriveled parts might be gently removed. You also could try to just repot the entire tuber and see what happens."

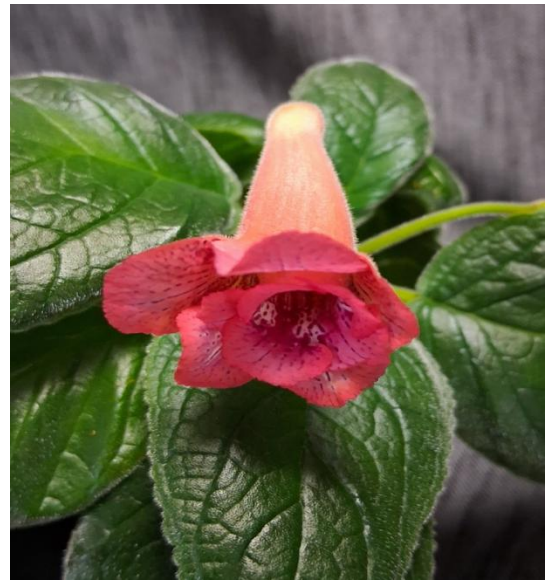
If you need a larger pot, let me know the size you need, as I might have one to share."



Bloomin' Now and other things



Barb Stewart: "Just got my seeds from Passiflora. She sandwiched them between two souvenir magnets. Looks like she gave me an extra also, UA-Cassiopeia x other hybrids."



Barb S. HCY's *Sinningia* 'Forbidden Fantasy'



Barb S: "This annual seedling, *Microchirita involucrata*, popped up out of nowhere, growing in the mat. Based on advice from G-files, I have potted this into a 3" pot because it grows so fast that I can't keep up with the watering and repotting, even on a wicking tub. The flower dropped off while repotting and I can see a seed pod already developing."



Barb's *Sinningia* 'Spanish Skirts'



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

Experiment: Rooting Sinningia Cuttings in Water

Barbara Stewart

I recently picked up a tip online about rooting cuttings in water which I decided to explore further. The tip was to root cuttings in water with a *Pothos* cutting. The theory is that *Pothos* put out a hormone that enhances root development. I decided to try several different rooting methods: plain water, plain water with a *Pothos* cutting, fertilized water, and algae water.

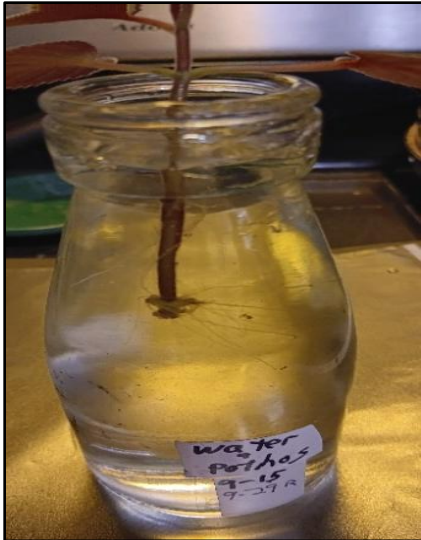
For this experiment I used cuttings of *Sinningia reitzii* since I had several plants in dire need of trimming. Because I rotate fertilizers, I did not have a record of which fertilizer I used. Also, the algae water came from a reservoir of another plant which originally contained a fertilized water. The jars were placed in a window for the experiment.

Results: "The first cutting to show roots was in the fertilized water. After about a month, the slowest to produce roots was the plain water in last place, followed by the fertilized water, then the *Pothos* cutting. The algae water produced the most roots at this point. (Needless to say, the *Pothos* was well rooted.)

I decided to continue the experiment longer to see how the cuttings developed. After another month or so, other growth was starting to appear. The algae and *Pothos* cuttings both had massive root systems and appeared to have multiple tubers developing. The fertilized and plain water cuttings both had much fewer roots but showed leaves, with the plain water cutting having larger and more leaves.



First observation



Second observation



Third observation

Conclusion: Although all methods were effective in rooting cuttings, algae water and *Pothos* water seemed to produce more roots and encouraged tuber formation. Plain and fertilized water produced fewer roots but earlier foliage growth. One other interesting observation is the large size of the cutting in the algae water. All the cuttings were about the same size when started, but this one really thrived and grew in the algae water.

Additional notes: Additional online research indicates there is no scientific evidence that *Pothos* produce rooting hormones that enhance rooting of other cuttings. This is considered a myth. A question was raised about the pH of the different types of water and if that would affect growth. Although I did not think to test the pH at the start of the experiment, I tested the waters at the final observation. There seemed to be a range of pH readings from about 6 to 8 which could possibly be a variable affecting the results.



[Gesneri-Nerds](#) [Kathryn A. Hedgepeth](#)

Sinningia leucotricha 'Max Dekking'. The tuber is approximately 4.5" in diameter and about seven years old.

[Kathryn A. Hedgepeth](#) I'm a novice as well. I am currently giving it about ten hours under LED's, and watering about once a week when dry with a dilute bit of Dynagro 7-9-5. I hope this helps. If memory serves, it was about two years old before I was graced with a few blooms. If my house was on fire, I would grab this along with my dog. It is a favorite of mine. Don't give up!

[Vicky Richard](#) [Kathryn A. Hedgepeth](#) I agree with the "worth saving" statement!! I was cautioned not to over light mine so I think I'm actually underlighting as a precaution. The stems are not thick and strong and the leaves are not thick and silver. Maybe its also from being the first year growing it from tuber. But yours is gorgeous and I want mine to look like that when it grows up
How far away / close to lights is safe?

[Kathryn A. Hedgepeth](#) [Vicky Richard](#) ... I'm probably one of the least qualified people to ask . I try to let the plant let me know what kind of lighting it needs. If it seems to be getting leggy, I just move it closer to the light source. I really am a rookie, but in my experience, Sinningias are very forgiving. That's why I love them so.

[Vicky Richard](#) [Kathryn A. Hedgepeth](#) Ut oh. The little ones seem to hate me so far but I haven't given up lol !

[Michael Riley](#) Such a wonderful cultivar. I wish it was more commonly available. I don't even know if it comes true from seed with the special whorl of leaves?

[Joel Egan](#) [Michael Riley](#) it does. mine is grown from seed and does this double tier.

[Kathryn A. Hedgepeth](#) [Joel Egan](#) ... Terrible photo, but is this what you mean by "double tier"

[Jon Dixon](#) All of the plants of *S. leucotricha* 'Max Dekking' are seedlings descending from the original plant. So it definitely comes true from seed. Originally, that plant was in the collection of Max Dekking. When he passed away he left his Gesneriad collection to Dave and Eileen Masterson. Later, Dave became president of The Gesneriad Society and Eileen was a board member and committee chairperson. When they divorced Eileen became owner of her beloved sinningia tuber. A few years later she gave it to me. We both knew it was different from the typical form of *leucotricha* in that it makes multiple whorls of leaves with each whorl flowering as the growth developed. It can make up to five whorls though two or three is most often seen. I don't know of the origins of this variety though I believe the tuber dates to the sixties. The fact that it comes true suggests to me that it comes from a different population of the species than the common single whorled form. Miriam Denham once told me that she had a multiple whorled form in the sixties but she lost it many years ago.
I named the clone after Max Dekking when I first donated seed to the seed fund. I am glad that it is still in cultivation and would urge growers to set seed and donate to the seed fund.

Wishfully Seeking:

Members can ask for gesneriads they would like to grow. Members who have gesneriads to share as cuttings, rhizomes, seeds, young plants and tubers please list those here. So please email Donnabeverin@gmail.com with your requests.

Barb Stewart seeking:
Chrysothemis pulchella 'Black Flamingo'

Andy Meier seeking:
Sinningia speciosa (Florist Gloxinia) 'Periodots
Darth Vader'
Streptocarpus 'Samantha'
Variegated *Streptocarpus* leaf.

Jill Fischer seeking:
Columnea crassifolia
Gesneria pedicellaris
Sinningia bullata 'Canon Fortaleza.'

Bill Schmidt is seeking *Achimenes* 'Glory'

David Turley seeking:
Paradrymonia
Primulina lutea (was *Chirita eburnea*, yellow form)

Maria Walueff seeking:
Columnea midget (She lost hers during vacation)
Columnea crassicaulis

Barry Woolf: has to share many 4 foot and 8 foot new T8 lights.

From Church personnel: Please use the Youth Room on our upper level for your meetings until further notice. I'm not sure when the water damage repairs will be completed in Room 3, but will let you know. There will, of course, be no extra charge for using the different space!

Reminder: The Church is a "NUT FREE ZONE" due to children with allergies, so do not bring any food items that include nuts or peanuts.

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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. You can send your payment to NCAC 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/>