

PETAL TONES



The Gesneriad Society



Proudly Confers This Charter Upon the

National Capital Area Chapter

July 1972

Secretary

President

Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

Volume 55 Number 1

January 2024



Dave's *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'

President's Message:

Happy New Year! As we start a new year, we might want to reflect on the fact that NCAC has been a chapter of the Gesneriad Society for almost 52 years (since 1972)! Our chapter has gone through many changes over the years, but in a time when many clubs are struggling and break up, NCAC has continued to survive. What has been the secret to our success? Hard work? Good luck? Both?

People have different reasons for joining the chapter and attending meetings. We strive to have valuable programs to help members learn about growing the many different kinds of plants in the gesneriad family. We always have a wide selection of plant material available to swap at the raffle table. NCAC belongs to BrazilPlants Club and members can request a packet or two of gesneriad seeds to grow. Like most clubs, people come for the social benefits of associating with and learning from others with the same interests.

Although our membership fluctuates from year to year, we always have a core group of folks who are willing to take on responsibilities needed to make the club a success. Later this year we will elect officers and directors to continue the leadership roles of our club. Although all of our officers and directors are eligible to be re-elected, there is always an opportunity for someone new to fill the positions and bring in fresh ideas. Another way to stay involved is by chairing or serving on a committee. There are several committees that are currently unfilled. You can read these 'jobs' on the last page of Petal Tones.

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.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 13, 2024 | In person first meeting of the New Year. "Pests We Love To Hate" by Barb Stewart |
| February 10, 2024 | Jeremy Keene Mini Sinningias Zoom Meeting only |
| March 9, 2024 | Propagation workshop: All members hands on program |
| 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 |

I think one other factor in our success is adaptability. Over the years we have changed meeting locations, meeting dates, and meeting formats. This is an organization for and by the members. We are always open to suggestions from members so we can make the meetings more valuable to current members and attract new members. The local chapters and affiliates are the life blood of The Gesneriad Society, and it is important we continue to support the national society that is committed to this wonderful diversity of plants.

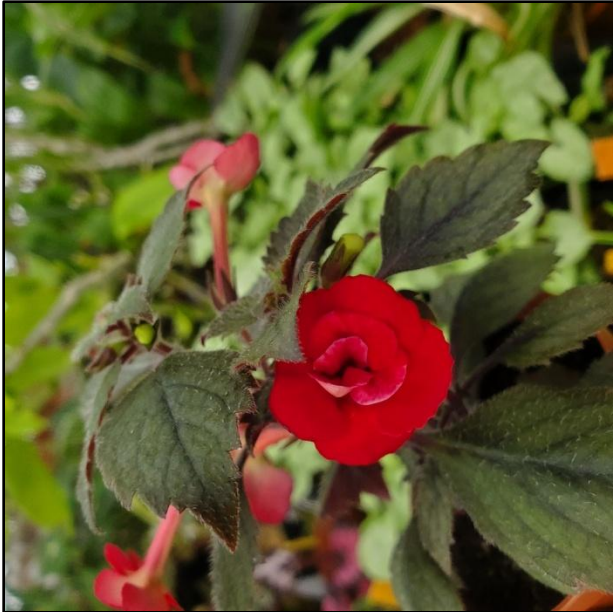
This year I hope we can increase membership and attendance at club meetings. I hope you consider how you can contribute to the continued success of this chapter. If we all work together we can have a great year and continue to enjoy the benefits of being a part of this wonderful group. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Barbara

Andy Meier's New Gesneriads

“On a recent shopping trip to the local nursery, I picked up a few gesneriads. Among them:
Achimenes ‘Petite Fadette’- a fire engine red double flower on a miniature plant, only 2-3 inches tall growing in a 2-inch pot.

An even smaller *Achimenes* ‘Little Lulu’, is maybe 1.5-inches tall with bright white flowers with a pink blush that gets more intense toward the outer edges of the petals. The center (or eye) of the flower has a nice contrasting egg-yolk yellow center. I’m hoping I can get rhizomes from these two plants, so I can make more to share. The nicest thing about them, is they don’t take up much room. I also picked up a couple *Primulinas* in 2-inch pots.

I also mail-ordered a few plants and was able to get a blooming *Michaelmoelleria vietnamensis*. This is a fairly new genus that is related to *Primulina*. So far, there is only one species to the genus. There is very little (That I could find) in the literature on propagating it. It shipped with two flowers, but they quickly faded and dropped in my greenhouse environment. Once the plant gets acclimated and better established, I’ll try leaf propagation and self pollination to see if I can grow more. Donna shared that she has easily propagated her plant with a leaf cutting and considers it ‘easy’! There are two new flowers emerging already with (What looks like) a pup at the base of the plant. The silver variegation or mottling on the leaves varies from leaf to leaf and plant to plant. Photos of more mature plants are fuller with darker green leaves and more prominent silver mottling. I’m really excited about this new gem in my collection. Literature mentions it is closely related to *Primulinas*. ”



Bill's *Smithiantha zebrina*



Kew Gardens



Smithiantha is a small genus in the family Gesneriaceae. *Smithiantha zebrina* is an ancestor of many, if not most, of the modern *Smithiantha* hybrids. Its plush red foliage has long been favored by growers, and the often-spectacular orange and yellow flowers provide a very nice contrast.

There are 7-9 species and a few natural hybrids have been recorded. In the last decade or so, a number of hybrids have been introduced and more are available each year. The whole genus is distributed in southern Mexico, mostly in the state of Oaxaca. Plants produce pubescent leaves that tend to be brittle. In the wild, plants probably follow the natural rain cycle typical of Mexico, with moist summer and dry winters. The underground storage organs are scaly rhizomes. In cultivation, plants behave differently depending on local climate. In places with hot summers, plants tend to grow in late summer and continue throughout winter through spring. Flowers may appear between late fall and spring. In places with mild temperatures year round, plants may behave more as if in habitat. In general, the genus does not require a lot of light. It is said that they need decent humidity and constantly moist but well-drained soils during the growing season to perform well. References: Pacific bulb society and Gesneriad Reference Web.

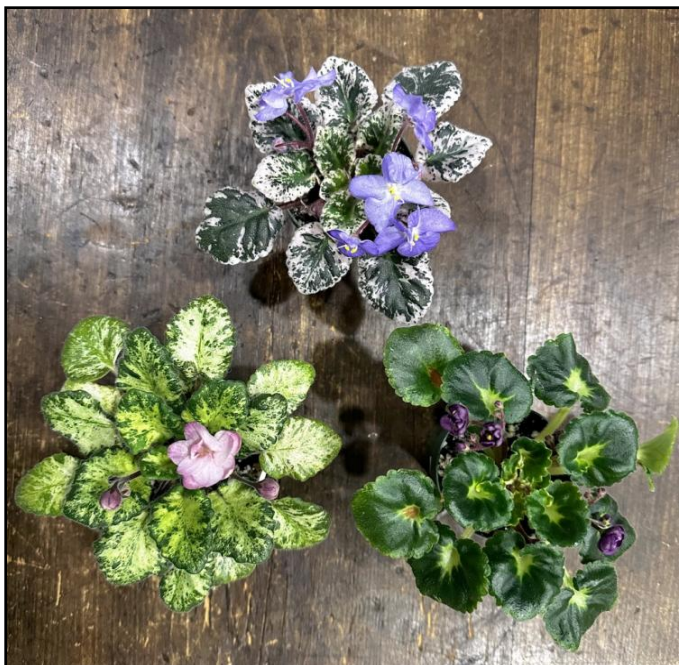
Bloomin' Then & Now



Barb Borleske: "I was in Richmond attending the Gesneriad Society convention. This plant was one of my entries in the flower show and it won two major awards. I am especially proud of this hybrid, *Primulina* 'Minnie Pearl', because it is a seedling from a cross I made. I took this photo at the end of the convention and a couple of flowers had fallen off. " (Editor's note: July 2023)



Barb Borleske: "This is my hybrid *Primulina* 'Minnie Pearl'. It is primarily a winter bloomer. I counted nearly 30 open flowers with many more buds. The plant is fully mature and grows in my cool sunroom. It is very tolerant of temperature extremes, doesn't need repotting often, and flowers reliably." (Editor's note: December 2023)



Dena's *Saintpaulia* 'Dean's Aquarius', S. 'Little Caboose', S. 'Lillian in Lace'



Donna's *Saintpaulia* 'Jolly Orchard', "a gift from Barb B. in the DAVSG group where we are growing Barb's gifts to show at the Boscov's Exhibit in March. I am growing my AV's in terrarium bowls and having success."

Bloomin' Now



Dena Horton: "A picture of *Sinningia* "Tomorrow" bursting out of its pot. It is actually bending the pot out of shape. None of my other Sinningias do this, but this one grows enormous tubers, and when I remove it from the pot, there will be another tuber underneath."



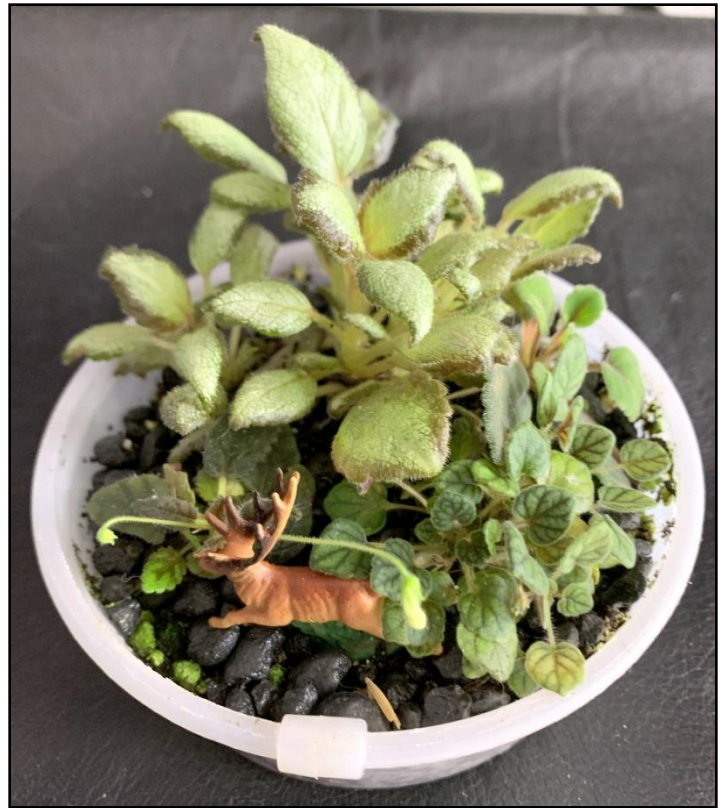
Johanna's *Achimenes* 'Little LuLu' See Andy's plant on page 6. He found Gary's plants also.

Gary K. Hunter, Grower
1610 Fern Glen Drive, Drumore PA 17518
717-951-4507 – Cell

Gary@GarysSpecialtyPlants.com



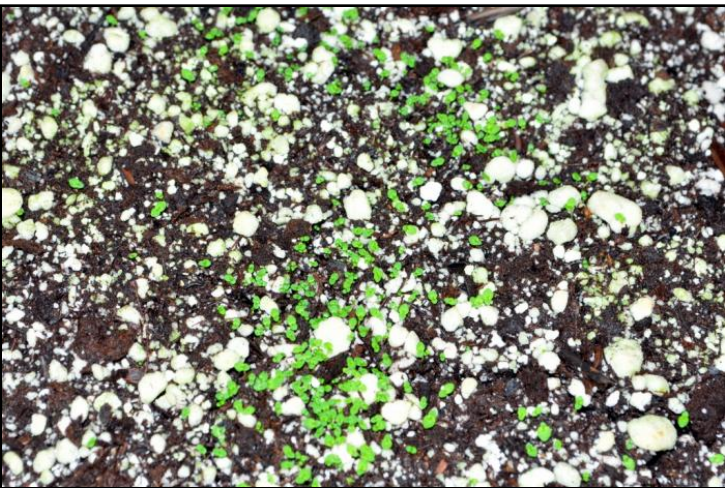
Donna's Dish garden made by Barb Stewart and given as a gift at the December holiday meeting. *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', *Sinningia pusilla* 'Serra da Vista', *Sinningia muscicola*, *Alsobia dianthiaflora*. See picture of the little mini *Sinningia* that has opened since on page 6. It is almost a pure white seedling of either pusilla or muscicola.



Bloomin' Now



Nadya's *Streptocarpus* seedling she had hybridized and grown on



Andy: "Fun Fact! - These Streptocarpus seedling were sewn from seeds collected 25 years ago!! They have been kept in the crisper of my refrigerator all this time. Not expecting much, if any, germination, I sewed all the seed I had and now I have half a flat densely sewn with seedlings. BTW, some of the previous seedling from this cross were almost black."



Donna's *Sinningia concinna* 'Seropedica' blooming. Raised from seed in 2021 and repeatedly grows back from its small tuber. Below is a near white mini *Sinningia* blooming in my mini terrarium from Barb Stewart.



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, gladulifur, etc)
Petrocosmea (any)

Donna Beverin sharing:
Sinningia conspicua young plants with small tubers
Donna Beverin seeking:
Sinningia 'Prudence Risley'

Bloomin' Now



Dave's *Columnnea schiedeana*



Donna's *Sinningia* mini seedling, 3 years old



Dave's *Primulina maxtimer*



Dave's *Sinningia* 'Cindy Ella'

RAVS MEETING SHOW



Barb's and Bill's blue ribbon winners at the RAVS meeting show at they hold monthly.

Bloomin' Now

DS-2019 Fantasy



OD-Igra Vooobrazheniya x hybrids



Nadya's hybrid 69



DS-2019 x hybrids



DS-2019 x hybrids



DS-2019 x hybrids



Barb Stewart: "Various *Streptocarpus* seedlings that are now blooming. Some are crosses, I purchased from Passioflora in Poland. Others are a cross made by Nadya. I am really happy with the fantasy blooms. The light pink one is from the same cross, but I think it is also a keeper. The rose colored one is interesting because it has really strong stems that easily hold up the large blossoms. I am hanging on to it to see what it does when fully mature."



Barb S. *Primulina* 'Keiko'



Barb S. *Sinningia* 'Owlsee Red Hot'



Barb S. *Streptocarpus* hybrid (won a blue ribbon at RAVS monthly mini show)

Bloomin' Now



Donna: “*Smithiantha* light orange. I purchased this as a seedling grown by Barb Borleske and sold at our Show in September 2021. May be time to pot up a size! I just love the delicate color and it has really grown larger this year with multiple crowns! I grow it in a southern window with LED lights and keep it close to the lights as it grows.



Donna: “*Sinningia carangolensis* (orange) became very leggy this year. Grown under lights in a south window. The blooms are very beautiful. I already cut it back and am watching to see if it will grow back and be more compact closer to the lights. It has new tiny shoots on the tuber. It grows very fast once it sprouts!”

Doug Bolt's shelf of his stunning *Streptocarpus*. More photos on next page!



Doug's Streps Bloomin' Now !



S. DS-Joy



S.DS-Blue



S. Cherry Roulette



S. DS - Lava



S. Gold



S. Barbie



S. Moscow Lady



S. Gina



S. DS Poison

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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](#).

