



Petal Tones

The newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of
The Gesneriad Society

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PRESIDENT/EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Summer is here and the gardens are doing great. Both indoors and out. The plants under lights just seem to sense that this is the time of year for them to put on a big growth spurt, even though they have no hint of day-length or humidity changes going on outside. We use the air conditioner full time in the spring and summer months – allergies prohibit opening any windows. So if anything, the air is at least as dry in the plant room over the summer as it is during the heating season.

The one thing that the plants have going for them in the summer is a bit of temperature relief. The plant room is always close to 80 during the winter, even with all the heat vents in the room closed. In the summer the A/C keeps the room in the low 70's.

Of course, the plants have no idea that I've been injured and can't attend to their needs. I finally planted the rhizomes that I brought home from the April meeting yesterday. Lots of work that needs to be done is just going to have to wait a few more weeks for my arm to get a bit more functional. It has full range of movement now, but not without a lot of pain. And forget about trying to pick up anything with it.

Once again I'm going to have to disappoint our readership with a very small issue of Petal Tones. I only have one article submitted (which I'm holding on to for the July/August issue) and I've just started typing with two hands again. Please think about sending me something for the July/August issue.

BRAZIL SEED CLUB

The Chapter has just finished ordering seeds on the membership that expired on April 1, and Brian should be in the process of distributing those seeds to everyone in the next few weeks. For those new members who don't know how this all works, or what the Brazil Seed Club is all about, here are the rules. Mauro Peixoto is a Brazilian

Meeting Schedule: (All meetings at National Arboretum)

June 12th

Picnic – 11:00 am. Sweetgum picnic area at Greenbelt Park. See details below!

who lives outside of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Together with Alain Chautems of Geneva, he makes expeditions into the wilds of Brazil and collects seed of native plants. Not, just Gesneriads, by any means, but since Brazil is the natural habitat of most *Sinningia*, *Codonanthe*, *Nematanthus*, *Paliavana*, *Vanhouttea*, and other Gesneriads, the National Capital Area Chapter belongs to a Yahoo Group which supports his efforts and where Mauro rewards those who support him by supplying seed from the plants in his collection. Several times a year he updates this seed list and we get a copy. Anyone in the Chapter who is interested in growing seed should contact Brian Connor at brian_connor@bd.com Brian will send you a copy of the seed lists as he gets them. Chapter members can then order seed through Brian and get the seed to you. We try to limit the seed to just Gesneriads, but there are so many different plant families on the list that you can also order other things. If there aren't enough Gesneriads on the requests from members Brian will fill out the order the other plant family requests. At the April meeting we increased our membership and everyone should be able to order and get seeds with every order we place. Rules:

- Share the seedlings on the raffle table once you get them growing.
- If Brian gets requests from two people for the same variety he will order one packet of seed and split it.
- If Brian gets requests for the same variety from three people he'll order two packets

This is a great way to bring new species into cultivation in the US and also helps prevent a species from becoming

extinct. Mauro collects from all over Brazil and his conditions are hot and very humid. Some of the plants he collects like it a bit cooler and struggle in his greenhouse. We in the US may actually have better conditions for some of the plants than he does!

DESPERATELY SEEKING

Following is a list of plants being sought by members. If you are a member of the Chapter and want to add something to the list, simply send your request to me and I'll add it to the list. If you have a plant that someone is seeking please get in touch with that person and arrange to bring it to a meeting when you'll both be there, or arrange to mail it.

<i>Columnea purpureo-vittata</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Maasen's White'.....	Marlene Finch
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Falling Stars'.....	Marlene Finch
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Captain Blood'.....	Barbara Stewart
<i>Chirita</i> 'Betty'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Chirita balansae</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Chirita</i> 'Louisa'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Drymonia variegata</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Drymonia variegata</i>	Josh Heath
<i>Petrocosmea</i> "Tim's Keystone series"-any!.....	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia nitida</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia</i> sp. 'Cha Simba'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Episcia</i> 'Malay Ebony'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Episcia</i> 'Tricolor'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Episcia</i> 'Ronny'.....	Lee Linett
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Dales Scarlet Macaw'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Summer Parfait'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Blueberry Butterfly'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'HL Snowbaby'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'HL Boyish Grin'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'HL Purple Martin'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Sinningia</i> 'Gone Salmon Fishing'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Smithiantha</i> 'Sassy Redhead'.....	Brian Connor
<i>XNiphimenes</i> 'Lemonade'.....	Brian Connor
<i>Columnea pulchra</i> 'Orange Crush'.....	Quentin Schlieder
<i>Sinningia pusilla</i>	Quentin Schlieder
<i>Columnea eburnea</i>	Josh Heath
<i>Columnea purpurimarginata</i>	Josh Heath
<i>Gloxinella lindeniana</i>	Josh Heath
<i>Kohleria villosa</i>	Josh Heath
<i>Episcia</i> 'Silver Skies'.....	Kyoko Imai

Note: The list is getting long. If you get one of your requests, please notify me so that I can remove it from the want list.

Jim

DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE TABLE!

At every meeting members with extra plants, cuttings, supplies donate them to the raffle table. Tickets for the raffle are only 50 cents each (3 for a dollar) and everyone who attends the meeting gets one ticket just for showing up (including guests). Here's what you'll see on the table at a meeting:

Gesneriad plants, rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, seeds

Companion and/or garden plants, cuttings

Growing supplies (pots, labels, soil, leca, sphagnum)

ANNUAL PICNIC

The past two years we've held our annual picnic at Greenbelt Park in Greenbelt, MD. The park has some nice shaded picnic tables with barbeque pits that are available on a first come basis. That's what we're going to do again this year. The first ones there will claim two or three tables in the Sweetgum Picnic area. We generally start to show up at around 10:30, ahead of the crowd, so we haven't had any problems getting some tables locked down. We'll grill some burgers and dogs and have a nice potluck selection of salads, sides and desserts.

At the April meeting it was voted on and approved that the Chapter would pay for the meats for the picnic. However, no one has volunteered to do this so we're going to use the same procedure that we've done in the past. Bring your own meat for the grill, along with buns or whatever, and a side dish or dessert to share with a few people (no need to bring enough for 20- we'll all have plenty to eat!).

The Chapter will supply plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons, iced drinks (soda, water, tea) and condiments.

This is a social event. There will be no business meeting, but we will have a plant raffle. Since this is an outdoor meeting, feel free to bring garden plants as well as Gesneriads for the raffle. I don't think any of us restrict our growing to just Gesneriads.

This is a great opportunity to mingle and ask questions, especially for the new members, but also for the officers of the Chapter who seem to find the entire meeting so busy that there is no time to just chat with other members. I hope that most of you will be there.

The picnic will be held even if there is light rain forecast for the day. If heavy rain is forecast we will reschedule for later in the summer. Contact Jim Roberts on the morning of the picnic if you're in doubt about the weather. Jim's phone number is 443-838-1935.

Directions to Greenbelt Park:

Our park address is 6565 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Off I-95. Take Exit 23 Route 201 Kenilworth Avenue South (toward Bladensburg). Take a left on Greenbelt Road . (Greenbelt Road is an overpass over Route 201 that is also known as Route 193.) The park is a quarter mile on the right hand side of Greenbelt Road across from Fridays restaurant and Marriott Courtyard. From Washington, D.C. , Take (Route 295) Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Take Greenbelt Road west (It's the exit right after I-95) Veer right onto Route 193 Greenbelt Road West. The Greenway shopping center on the left. Proceed on Route 193 Greenbelt Road west.

The park is on the left hand side at the 3rd traffic light across from Fridays restaurant, Capitol Cadillac, and Marriott Courtyard.

If lost, please call one of the following:

Park Headquarters 301-344-3948 Monday through Friday 8-4.

Ranger Station 301-344-3944 Seven days a week 8-4.

U.S. Park Police Station at entrance of park open twenty fours a day 301-344-4250.

National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) A Chapter of the Gesneriad Society, Inc.

"The purpose of the chapter shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, and propagation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."

(NCAC bylaws, revised April 1981.)

NCAC meets several times a year on the second Saturday of the month in the Administration Building of the U.S. National Arboretum. For details, please refer to the latest issue of Petal Tones, the website, or contact one of the people below. All are welcome and new attendees are invited to a free item from the raffle table.

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