



Petal Tones

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

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Petrocosmea flower: This is one of the species that my friend in China shared with me March 2011. Gorgeous purple flower color that is really that dark and rich. Since I'm not really good at Pet. ID's I have no idea what species this is. Any ideas? Someone has suggested martinii but this flower doesn't have any yellow at all and the pictures of martinii I found on the web all have yellow on the top petals.

President's Message

Can we cancel the show? Is it too late? I've been on the road the last three weeks just when I should be grooming and preparing everything for the big event. I haven't even prepared plants for sale yet. Guess that will get done this weekend. No more than 300-500 hundred probably.

We need one more disaster before September 17th or the show might end up as the third (you know disasters always come in threes – earthquake, hurricane, Gesneriad Show). Hope everyone has recovered by now. I've heard that some of you are still without power. Hopefully no injuries or serious damage to anyone's property.

I was in Texas for the earthquake, so I missed it entirely. And then Irene pretty much missed me. We got a lot of rain and some wind on Saturday night; enough to knock down a tree. But nothing more than

Meeting Schedule:

Meetings will be located in the trailer at the National Arboretum unless noted.

September 10, 2011 : National Arboretum
10am "Grooming for the Show"

September 17 & 18, 2011: NCAC Flower Show at Behnke's Nursery
11300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD

October 11, 2011: Joint meeting with The Begonia Society. Guest speaker is John Boggan "Testing the Limits with Hardy(ish) Gesneriads and Begonias".

what we get with a typical thunderstorm. I didn't even bring plants in from the patio. The large begonias didn't lose any leaves. The Sinningia are still flowering. The 12 foot tall Passiflora vine is still standing tall (cut a bamboo shoot as a stake and it climbed all the way to the top and has draped itself all the way back down). I watered everything tonight for the first time in two weeks. Thank goodness for wicks or I wouldn't have anything left. And also thank goodness that gesneriads for the most part are able to withstand short periods of dryness. And I really do mean DRYness !

This weekend I'll start picking out and grooming some things for the show. Of course that means setting up a new light area where I can place the plants in positions where they have some possibility of flattening out in the pot, if they're meant to be flat rosettes, or correcting the one-way leaners if they're meant to grow upright. Have no idea what I'm going to end up with in the show.

Is it just me, or are our shows turning more into mini-Conventions than just shows? I've been to shows in

other parts of the country and they have a nice assortment of plants and some really beautiful ribbon winners, but I can't recall any shows with speakers. Or Awards Banquets. Or as many cash awards as we seem to be able to garner !

I've been spending like crazy for the show. I know we have a show budget but I can't remember what it is and I'm just buying what I know we need. I bought a box of name tags and holders because we don't seem to know what happened to the ones we already had. I bought ribbons, rosettes and extra-President's message cont'

special rosettes to go along with the cash prizes. I bought a 40 cup coffee urn because our little Mr. Coffee just doesn't do for a group our size any more. I bought thank-you cards for the judges and clerks and will be giving each a special plant/ cutting. Anything that the Chapter decides was an illegal or excessive expense I'll just keep for myself. I've often dreamt of making a suit out of green ribbon rosettes.....

But there are still a number of jobs that need doing, and I hope we can get them all organized at the meeting on the 10th OR BEFORE. We need someone to cut and assemble the niches. This can all be done ahead of the show and just carried to Behnke's for the final taping. But someone has to do it. We (I) still haven't started to look for a location for the Banquet. Behnke's suggested that the Holiday Inn where some of the judges will be staying has a good restaurant with a private room we might be able to use. But when I'm home I have a house and a dog and a mother-in-law to take care of.

Please get in touch with me if you can do either of these jobs. Jobs still on my plate: Print the name tags and print all the score sheets for the judges to use.

Enough of the show business. As you will see elsewhere in Petal Tones, by contact in China just sent me some more great plants. The best of the bunch was a plant that looks a lot like Chirita minutimaculata but has leaves that are long and slender rather than short rounded ovals. Very different. Very ornamental. Very wantable. He then wrote to say that he just got back from another collecting trip and has some things for me that are

even more amazing. Things that aren't even in cultivation in China. Guess it pays to follow up on strange overseas requests. My relationship with Yang started with a simple request on g-philes for Saintpaulia leaves. He sent back a Chirita and a few Pets. Then he wanted some Streps. Then I got to visit him and tour around. Now I have 3 speaking engagements lined up and I'm sure more to come.

Well, it's getting late (for me). My back is still sore but mostly recovered. But the rest of me is slowly falling apart. I cracked a rib two weeks ago bending over the back gate trying to reach the patio with some clay pots. I knew that if I dropped them they'd crack, so I sacrificed a rib to keep them whole. Then last weekend I had to cut up a small tree that fell across the driveway. Not a thick tree, but dense cherry wood and very tall. Dropped one of the logs I cut onto my toe (wearing sandals is not a good idea when using a chain saw) and broke my toe. So I'm tired and I'm going to say goodnight before I fall asleep at the computer and break my forehead against the keyboard. Hope you all make it to the meeting on the 10th.
Jim

Show Update Information from Jim Roberts

In order for our show to be a success we need to have entries. Please look over your plants as a novice would. Don't be overly critical. If the plant is healthy and in bloom, see what you can do to shape it up, or stake it if necessary, but bring it to the show. Lots of points go towards the health of the plant, cleanliness of the plant and pot, and overall vigor. A missing or damaged leaf may reduce the plant from a blue to a red ribbon, but chances are excellent that the public will still want to see that plant.

There were several plants that I tossed into boxes for the last show at the last minute. One was so under potted I just buried the old pot at the bottom of a new one (didn't want to disturb the crowded roots). That plant scored in the high 90's - way too many points in my opinion but that's what the judges saw. I lost the plant (should have done a real re-potting) but got a leaf back at Convention from one of the judges who loved the plant so much that I had to share a leaf with her. The leaf has already sent up plantlets.

The final ribbons are in. Everything looks great for a good show (NO HURRICANES PLEASE!). We need you to make the show complete.

Jim's Plants



I'll have to have Tim Tuttle help me ID this and all the other new Pets that I'm getting from China. Probably a species already in cultivation but I'm not big on *Petrocosmea* identification.



This one is probably a new import of *Chirita brassicoides* Marble Leaf. It's got some buds on it so I should be able to confirm that in a few months.



No idea on this one, but the leaf pattern looks like it could be a very nice plant when it grows up.



This *Chirita* one looks a lot like *C. minutomaculata* except that the leaves are very, very long in comparison. Leaves have a great shine and thick texture. Have already put down a few leaves to share at Holiday Party!



This one looks pretty plain until you get a peek at the reddish undersides of the leaves.

Donna's *Streptocarpus*



'Bristol's Goose Egg': I rec'd this scented baby at one of our last raffles. It is doing well on my counter under light in the kitchen. Very delicate stem and have not repotted yet. Has been with a bloom constantly and is now with many buds.

Ideas To Share about the Show:

- The space we will be using at Behnke's looks lovely. We have about half of the houseplants' greenhouse, and our space will be broken up into the show area, the sales area next to it, the lecture area, and a judges/staff breakout area.
- There will be lots of space, so bring many show plants, as well as any plants you might want to display in the lecture area. We have asked for shade cloth above the show area in case we have a sunny three days. Hanging plants can be suspended on S hooks from the greenhouse structure.



Donna's *Sinningia richii* 'Robson Lopes', from Jim's seeding



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- All sales items must have a 3/4" round blue sticker.
 - This is by request of Behnke's, so that their cashiers will be able to tell our plants from their plants. (It's official because I checked with Stephanie at Behnke's, and she is informing their staff.)
 - Ki bought 2000 stickers and will bring them to the September 10th meeting.
 - **Plants must have: blue dot sticker, removable price tag with your initials and label with name of the plant**
 - If you can help out at the plant sales table please email Donna: donnabeverin@gmail.com

- Jim mentioned that Behnke's has a lot of hooks to hang plants from the ceiling for those of you who may be entering hanging baskets.
- Kmart has the hanging basket holders as seen at the show in PA on sale.
- There will be a microwave at the buffet table for dishes needing reheating.
- To park at Behnke's basically, turn off route 1 onto Howard then look for an entrance to the parking area on the left. The first gate is locked but there is another entrance further down. They will try to have a sign for us.
- You can also drive up to the greenhouse to unload your stuff. To do so, drive down Howard to Queen Anne. Queen Anne is usually gated shut because it is Behnke's property, but they will have it open. Then turn onto Wicomoco (which might look more like a driveway than a road - I'm not sure) up to the greenhouse which will be on your right. There's a door right into the show and sales area of the greenhouse.
- When you're finished, please move your car to the parking area. See you all there!

Chapter Desperately Seeking

<i>Streptocarpus 'Harlequin Blue'</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus 'Rose Halo'</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Streptocarpus 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Niphimenes 'Lemonade'</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia malayana</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Henckelia ANYTHING!..;</i>	Brian Connor
<i>Saintpaulia</i> , any species besides <i>Rupicola</i>	Bev N.
<i>Pearcea hypocyrtiflora</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Episcia lilacine 'Panama'</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Streptocarpus kentaniensis</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Columnea orientandina</i>	Jim Roberts
<i>Begonia smithiantha</i>	Donna Beverin
<i>xAchimenantha 'Dutch Treat'</i>	Donna Beverin
<i>Columnea gallicauda</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Rhynchoglossum notonianum</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Sinningia hirsuta</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Sinningia 'Tinkerbells'</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Smithiantha 'Santa Clara'</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Vanhoutea lanata</i>	Lee Linett
<i>Saintpaulia 'Pygmy'</i>	Lee Linett

Please send a list of a plant you would love to grow via email. It will be posted here in the newsletter. A generous member will share! Petal Tones has a wide distribution and chances are good that someone will be able to get you what you want. Please share your results with the editors!

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 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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 NCAC website: www.nationalcapitalgesneriads.org
 NCAC Blog: <http://petaltones.blogspot.com/>
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