



Petal Tones

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

Volume 42 Number 9

October 2011



Congratulations to Ki for growing the NCAC's
Best in Show: Sinningia 'Li'l Georgie'

President's Message

I am writing this in my hotel room in Germany. I'm here for the week for some company training. Life has been super-hectic for me since the show a couple of weeks ago. Now I get some time to sit back and relax. No ear tied to the phone all day in the office. Enjoying lots of nice company and lots of good German beer at the end of each day. I just spent the last hour in the hotel's health facility in the basement. It has nice in the floor pool, several saunas, a whirlpool and a couple of exercise bikes. The health clubs over here concentrate on the mental well-being more than building muscles. I need that right about now.

Wasn't the show great this year! I'm so proud of all of you. At the end of Friday it looked like it was going to be a small show, but entries came in on Saturday morning and really filled the room nicely. It's a good thing we had 5 panels of judges. I can't single any one of you out. Everyone helped in so

Meeting Schedule:

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

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

November: no meeting, see you at the Christmas Party meeting

many ways. Behnke's was a great venue. Stephanie was so helpful at getting us everything we needed to make the show, the breakfast and lunch, and the talks all successful. So THANK YOU ALL!

Our next meeting should be a really interesting one. As the night temperatures start to drop we all start panicking. Where in the world are we going to put all these plants that have grown like crazy out on the front steps or on the deck or patio? Wouldn't it be nice not to have to worry? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to just plant your Gesneriads (or Begonias) in the ground and leave them there? Well that's exactly what John Boggan has been experimenting with in his DC garden. Come learn about growing your plants outdoors and (just maybe) leaving them there year round. Since this will be a joint meeting with the Begonia Society, we'll keep our business meeting to a minimum. Both groups are likely to have some things to discuss. But let's make this an extra special raffle. Bring in all the extra sales plants from the show. You know you don't really need them. Bring in Begonias and other plants too. The club needs this kind of support, and your contributions both in plant material and the purchase of raffle tickets provide most of our annual income.

President's message cont'

Also, if you have a plant that's a few weeks behind schedule and is in its full glory at the time of the meeting and missed the show, bring it in for a 'Little Show.' I think the Begonia folks are attending to see what makes our Chapter so successful, in addition of course to coming for John's talk. I don't know that I can point to one thing that we do that has caused our Chapter to grow so much over the past 5 years. I think it really all has to do with the quality and openness and willingness to share plants and knowledge that we all bring to the meetings. See you all on the 15th.

Treasurer Needed

One of the business items that we need to address at our meeting this month is that Larry Skog has decided to resign as Treasurer. Larry has done a great job for us for the past ten years in this position but feels it's time to let someone else do the job. I don't know what our by-laws state about open positions for officers. I'll look into that sometime between now and the meeting next month. If we need to have a Nominating Committee come up with candidates or a candidate for an election in December, then I'm going to need volunteers for the Nominating Committee. If the vacancy can be a simple Presidential or Executive Committee Appointment then I'm going to need a volunteer to fill the position. I'll send out a separate email to all the members once I figure out which way we need to go on this. But let's all remember to thank Larry for his years of service in this position.

After Thoughts from Our Show

-I learned that it's wise not to second guess yourself. Two plants that were initially not considered for show several months ago would up with two blue ribbons. They weren't fussed over or given special attention and certainly didn't receive "the best place on the shelf". The photography section section was really good and the educational exhibit highlighted one of The Gesneriad Society's aims - to educate the public, this time to show that gesneriads are found in far away places, not just in a local store. It would have been nice to see more Petrocosmeas, Kohlerias, Saintpaulias, Streptocarpus, Nematanthus, Smithianthas. The lack could be due to more second-guessing as in thinking that other exhibitors would bring them. Lee

- I enjoyed seeing what others are growing: Nautilocalyx pemphidius with the biggest leaves I have ever seen; a "home made" Sinningia bullata hybrid from Carol Hamelink's hybridizing efforts; the Kohleria with fantastically dark leaves and saturated flowers....

- I wish we'd had more blooming Saintpaulia and Streptocarpus in the show. They really light up a table!

- I had no good excuse not to have more miniature Sinningia in the show.

- I should have put together an educational exhibit months in advance.

- I should have prepared the photo entries in advance, instead of running to get matting the day before.

- Potting up some plants for potential show and growing them outside paid off (...except for the cold snap right before, the heat that washed out the flower colors, and the storms that came through wrecking buds and foliage....) Ki

-I enjoyed the camaraderie of our group working together for the show and sharing knowledge with one another.

-Learned a lot from judges about how to select the right category for a plant. I should have put the Nautilocalyx pemphidius in the Nautilocalyx class instead of terrarium.

-Fun to see people enjoy the crazy growing pattern and beautiful flowers of the Sinningia bullata x 'Pink Tiger'. (It is even more beautiful now with flowers all over the place!) Donna

Chapter Desperately Seeking

Streptocarpus 'Harlequin Blue'.....Brian Connor
Streptocarpus 'Rose Halo'.....Brian Connor
Streptocarpus 'Shenandoah Sugar Plum'.....Brian Connor
Niphimenes 'Lemonade'.....Brian Connor
Henckelia malayana.....Brian Connor
Henckelia ANYTHING!...;;.....Brian Connor
Saintpaulia, any species besides *Rupicola*.....Bev N.
Pearcea hypocyrtiflora.....Jim Roberts
Episcia lilacine 'Panama'.....Jim Roberts
Streptocarpus kentaniensis.....Jim Roberts
Columnnea orientandina.....Jim Roberts
Begonia smithiantha.....Donna Beverin
xAchimenantha 'Dutch Treat'.....Donna Beverin
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!

A Tale of Three Terrariums by Barb Stewart



Terrariums are a lot of fun to create, and you can get a lot of mileage out of them. This terrarium has been in three shows. It was first created for an African



violet show last spring. It won a best in class award. It then traveled to the Gesneriad convention in Philadelphia. Many of my favorite plants had to be replaced with gesneriads. The judges were not impressed and gave it a score of 80, but it did earn a red ribbon. They did not care for the selaginella (club moss) plants or the little black bear standing up against the driftwood in the back. So I took their

advice and replaced the selaginella with gesneriads, removed the black bear, and changed some of the gesneriads that were getting too big. Then I entered it in the NCAC show. This time the judges were pleased with the new design and awarded it a blue ribbon with a score of 95. You never can be sure how an exhibit will be judged, but with practice you will see your designs and scores will improve.



Sinningia bullata x 'Pink Tiger'

Still Bloomin' Now: this is the first plant I have shown and it won a second place at our show in September. No ribbon can compare with the beauty of these lovely flowers! Such a delight! Donna

My First Collection
Barbara Stewart

Each time I enter a show, I like to challenge myself by trying something new. For our September show, I decided to try entering a collection. My best candidates were my petrocosmeas. I have a collection of various items I have picked up at yard sales and flea markets that I use for showing plants on educational displays. My favorite one is the branch with bird nests which was just the right size for the petrocosmeas.



I got many compliments on my unique display. The judges commented on my "clever presentation" and gave me a score of 85 and a red ribbon. Most of the points taken off were for cultural perfection and variety, although no particular comments were made except to pay more attention to growing conditions. Entering a collection was easy and fun, and I definitely plan to try it again.

Show/sale Report from Larry

The gross proceeds from the Sale amounted to \$1,437.97. From this must be deducted sales taxes to Maryland, the cut to growers (70% grower/ 30% chapter), and any bills for Show/Sale. After I have paid the bills, I will give you a further update. I do not know yet how this total compares with previous shows, and will give you that info in the later update. If anyone has any outstanding bills for the Show/Sale, please let me know soon. Thanks to all of you for your help and contributions to the finances of the chapter,

Larry Skog, NCAC Treasurer

The Baltimore African Violet and Gesneriad Club's Annual Fall Sale

The Shops at Kenilworth
800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson, MD 21204
Saturday, October 15, 2011
Hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm

Hundreds of beautiful sale plants including violets, other gesneriads, and unusual houseplants, supplies, leaves, cuttings, soil mix, plant rings, self-watering pots and much more. Experienced growers will be there to answer your growing questions.

Any questions, you can contact Shirley Huffman
bshuffman2@aol.com 301-854-2021

Bloomin' Now

A few things blooming for Donna
Unknown Violet





Sinningia 'Wood Nymph'



Nautilocalyx pemphidius



New bud on Episcia 'Silver Skies'

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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