

Petal Tones

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

Volume 39, number 2

February 2008

President's Message

Hi all.

We're coming down to the wire for the spring show. By now you've probably got some plants in mind as possible show entries. Continue to watch them closely. I like to put my show plants in the front of the stand so I see them frequently and will be alerted quickly to any potential problems- wilting from wicks that have gone dry or flopping from inefficient staking, etc. Do try to enter as many plants as you can. Too often people will say they left a plant at home because they didn't think it was good enough, when in fact it is better than those sitting on the show tables. Don't be too concerned about how your plants will be scored by the judges. Think of it as a learning experience, and be assured that judges are trained to see the beauty before the flaws. One of the goals of a plant show is to educate the public on gesneriads. The more plants, the better the diversity, the better we do this. Remember too, that you can enter the design categories using plant materials that you pick up on the raffle table at this February meeting, or even at the sales table on Saturday morning before the show judging starts. See you all soon.

Happy growing,
Carol



Sinningia speciosa Charles Lawn hybrid seedling

Grown by Carol Hamelink

The Gesneriad Society

Many of us belong to The Gesneriad Society. This is the national group, of which The National Capital Chapter is a member. The National Capital bylaws state that members of the Chapter should be members of The Gesneriad Society. We don't force this issue, and welcome any and all who grow the plants that we all love so much.



Petrocosmea forrestii grown by Carol Hamelink

However, we should all consider joining the national society. In addition to a wonderful quarterly magazine, with articles about gesneriads written by growers and collectors from all over the world, there are some other benefits: a huge seed fund where you can get plants that aren't available anywhere else, publications such as lists of registered gesneriads with full descriptions, articles of clothing and other items with gesneriad artwork, access to

slide programs and PowerPoint presentations, etc. You will benefit greatly for low annual dues.

Nell Hennessy has obtained some membership packets from National that she will have at the February meeting. She'll also have them at the show. If you are interested in joining, please see Nell at the meeting. One of the new member benefits is a packet of mixed gesneriad seed. It's really fun trying to figure out what the various plants are as they grow and flower.

And there's one more benefit to being a member that can be found in the list of awards elsewhere in this issue.

Awards needed for the spring show

Please let Carol Hamelink know if you would like to donate items or cash prizes for the upcoming March show. Here's the list of awards if you'd like to donate to a particular award. If I get multiples for the same category, I'll contact you about using your donation for something else, or you can specify your award to be as needed. Thanks!

- Best in show
- Best artistic
- Horticulture sweepstakes- \$25 from the club
- Artistic sweepstakes- \$25 from the club
- Best in arts
- Best educational
- Best old world gesneriad
- Best new world gesneriad
- Best fibrous
- Best tuberous
- Best rhizomatous
- Best ornamental
- People's choice
- Best novice in horticulture
- Best novice in artistic

In addition to these awards, we have a large rosette given out to the "Best in Show" plant by The Gesneriad Society. All plants scoring over 95 points are eligible for Best in Show.

And here's something really special. As you know, National Capital is hosting the National Convention in 2009. As many of us as possible should attend the Denver Convention this year so that we can learn as much as possible about how these things run.

Jim Roberts is donating a round trip ticket on Southwest Airlines to the grower of a plant scoring

over 95 points. Two conditions are that the grower be a member of The Gesneriad Society and that he or she has intentions to attend the Denver Convention.

Hopefully the award will go to the Best in Show. But if that grower is not a member of The Gesneriad Society or does not intend to go to the Denver Convention, the judges will award the ticket to a different plant scoring over 95.

Entry cards of those who meet those qualifications will have a gold star on them to make the judge's job a little easier. You need not be a member of The Gesneriad Society or plan to attend the Denver Convention to win Best in Show, only to get the plane tickets.



Another Charles Lawn *Sinningia speciosa* seedling being grown by Carol. Too bad it wouldn't wait for the show in March!

Things to do to get your plants blooming their best for the show

-Keep a close eye on your plants. There are a few things you can do to help maximize the number of blooms for the show. To increase the blooms if a plant is looking like it may peak a week after the show try either increasing the heat or the light. This may mean moving the plant to the top shelf of the stand and either raising it closer to the lights, or putting it in the center of the shelf where the light is the best. You can ramp up the light schedule if needed as well

-Likewise if I plant looks like it will peak a bit too early for the show try either decreasing the temperature or lights. Move the plant down to the bottom of the shelves, or if you have several different growing locations in your house move it to the coolest area. You can cut back on the lights if needed as well.

-Check for and replace any burned out bulbs or those starting to show signs of age with darkening at the ends.

-Continue to check for powdery mildew and spray if needed.

-Gently bathe plants as needed.

-A soft brush such as a woman's blush applicator can also be used to brush plants. Be extremely careful and if you are uncertain that your brush is soft enough only try it on a single plant and wait a couple of days. Scarring will show up overnight if you are too rough.

CH

Note from the editor: Thanks, Carol, for sharing photos of the plants that you couldn't slow down to have ready for the show. It makes me feel better to know that none of us is perfect. Now, if only my mistakes could look as good as yours!!

jr

BRAZIL SEED CLUB

Just a reminder that if you are a member of NCAC TGS and would like to participate in this seed club please send an e-mail to Mike Cagley at Cagleys3@yahoo.com. Three or more times a year, Mike will get the seed availability list from the Brazil Plants web site. He then distributes this to everyone who has e-mailed him and asked to participate. Participants then select their top 6 seed orders and e-mail that to him. The rest of the protocol can be found in the April 2007 issue of Petal Tones.

Future Meetings

February 9 – National Arboretum – 10:30 am

Jim Roberts and Carol Hamelink will show how to design an artistic arrangement. Everyone is asked to bring in flowers and plant material to use.

Remember – arrangements are a part of the show in March and everyone can try their hand at one. If you've never entered an arrangement before you can enter in the novice class.

March 15-16 "Gesneriad Games"

This is our annual show (I don't know the technical term for alternating Spring/Fall dates). Please participate. We will be open on Friday afternoon for entries so that the judges can start on time on Saturday. If you can make it on Friday, please do. If not, no problem, we'll take all the entries we can get on Saturday morning too. Just be sure to bring something. The Schedule is posted on the web site and is also attached here for those who get a printed copy of the newsletter.

Plant of the Month - Columnea

Please bring examples of the genus Columnea to our February meeting. Many of the Columnea are from cool cloud forests and burst into bloom in the winter months. Others flower year round. Whether you have a small space on your light stand for an upright growing plant or have room for a huge, thick stemmed plant that grows horizontally, there is a Columnea for you.

Most have attractive berries, and some have very showy calyxes that are actually more attractive than the flowers they hold. Variegated leaves, bronze colored leaves, fuzzy leaves, leaves with red backs, leaves with cathedral window type patches on the backs that accentuate sun shining through them, weak trailing stems, strong horizontal stems and branching upright growers – these are the many forms of Columnea.



Columnea feidleri grown by Carol Hamelink

As we look at the various forms we'll discuss the best way to grow them for a show. This part of the meeting will take the place of our "Little Show" this year. At least until we get a few more judges in the group. So bring in your plants. The more the merrier. And if it's something that you're considering for the show next month, maybe we'll be able to give you that one grooming tip that will turn your plant into a blue-ribbon winner.



Columnea hirta 'Light Prince' grown by Carol Hamelink

Petal Tones Editor

We may have a new editor for Petal Tones, starting with the March issue. I won't spill the beans, but we hope to make an announcement at the February meeting.

Arrangements – The Artistic Part of our Show.

By Jim Roberts

I've swiped three photos here from the magazine Appraisal, which is the publication for Gesneriad Society Judges. They appear on the next page. Next to each photo I've put a crude tracing of the "line" of the arrangement. I mentioned that word in the last issue, but here I want to get into more detail on what "line" actually does for the arrangement itself.

Line is a structural element that moves the eye. If the arrangement title has a solid theme, the line should move the eye to the focal point in a very straight forward way using straight lines and sharp curves. Something like a V shape with the focus at the bottom, or otherwise very straight lines converging at a point.

The arrangement that we're going to be putting together at the meeting calls for a flowing design.

The class title will be "Sing Me a Love Song" and will have a 12" x 12" x 12" size. The class description is listed as "A flowing design with a musical theme." The three photos I have here all contain flowing type line materials. That is to say, the material carries the eye to the focal point and then continues on. It keeps the eye moving and/ or captures it in different areas of the total space that the arrangement fills and helps it find the focus.

We're going to work with a number of different materials to create our design, and I venture to say that no two will look alike. The workshop will help you learn the basics of construction and scale, but no one is going to tell you what materials to use or what shape to put them in. We'll play with glue guns, sticky clay, wire, floral tape, soda straws, eye droppers, and other miscellaneous tools that we arrangers carry with us in our tool boxes.

At the end of the workshop we will then have the judges amongst us give some helpful advice for the show, going through the arrangement classes listed in the schedule. But the most important thing to remember is that arrangements are judged partly on their uniqueness. Structure, line, construction all count, but if your arrangement looks just like someone else's in the show, neither is going to score well. If you enter more than one arrangement, be sure to use different materials and ideas.

We're going to work on a 12" x 12" x 12" size. Bring a ruler. The arrangement should come close to filling the niche size but should not touch the sides. Better to be slightly too small than touch the sides and get disqualified!

Above all – have fun with it. Arrangements are something that everyone can enter in the show. You can lose every plant in your collection a week before the show and still end up with several blue ribbons and some nice special awards.

This should be an interesting meeting!

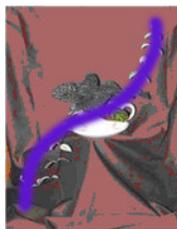
Note: If you are reading Petal Tones on the National Capital Chapter website and would like to get a copy sent directly to your e-mail address, please send your request to jjim-roberts@hughes.net. He will gladly add your name to the list of recipients.



"Massachusetts" - Best in Artistic – Marcia Kilpatrick
Notice the "line" in this arrangement. It captures the eye and brings it right to the Streptocarpus flowers.



"Moon Over Miami" – Jill Fischer
Here too, the "line" carries the eye to the very interesting focal point. Here the flower is actually the backs of a cluster of leaves, and some of the line material itself is the leaf backs of an Aeschynanthus. Imagination scores big!



"Seven Eleven" – Best in Artistic – Rosemary Platz
You've maybe heard of the "Classic S" line. Here it's carried out perfectly.

2009 Convention Update

Although it's still a year and a half away, the 2009 Gesneriad Society Convention is beginning to come together. The dates have been set: June 30 to July 5, 2009. We'll be hosting the convention at the Hilton Silver Spring, just blocks from the Silver Spring Metro Center. The hotel is located at 8727 Colesville Road in the newly revitalized Silver Spring Downtown area.

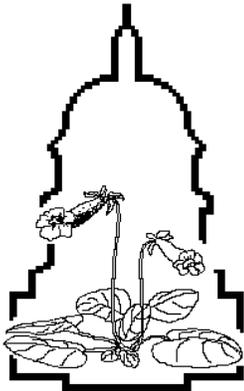
Thanks to Carol Hamelink and Jim Roberts for their help in identifying and checking out potential hotels. Paul Susi, the Gesneriad Society Convention Chairperson, and Jeanne Katzenstein, Gesneriad Society Convention Coordinator, made the final choice.

The convention will last six days. Activities include:

- Tuesday: Board of Directors meeting.
- Wednesday: opening breakfast, Judging School and judges workshops, various special interest groups, Host Chapter reception.
- Thursday: trip(s) to local horticultural points of interest, Flower Show entries, opening of plant sales and auction viewing.
- Friday: Flower Show, Annual Membership Meeting, lectures, Awards Banquet.
- Saturday: lecture(s), the live auction (at the luncheon), and the final event/dinner, preferably held outside the hotel.
- Sunday: Board of Directors meeting.

Our chapter will be responsible for the Host Chapter reception on Wednesday, July 1; organizing the trips on Thursday, July 2; and the final event on Saturday, July 4.

Those of you who haven't been to a Convention before may want to check out this year's convention website (<http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2008/index.htm>). We're hoping that many of our Chapter members will be able to attend the 2008 Convention in Denver to get ideas for our convention next year. This year's host chapter, the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers of Denver, has planned trips to the Denver Botanic Garden and Hudson Gardens, as well as the Denver Aquarium.



Gesneriad Games

Plant Show and Sale
Sponsored by the

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER
of
THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY

March 15 & 16, 2008
National Arboretum
Washington, D.C.

Entries:

Friday, March 14, 2008

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Entries:

Saturday, March 15, 2008

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Judging:

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Show & sale:

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Lecture:

2 p.m.

Awards Dinner:

5:30 p.m. Colonel Brooks at 9th and Monroe NE

Sunday March 16, 2008

Show & sale:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lectures

10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURAL

SECTION A

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Tuberos

- Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids (upright or pendent flowers)
- Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species with rosette growth pattern
- Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species with upright growth pattern
- Class 4 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with rosette growth pattern
- Class 5 Other *Sinningia* hybrids with upright growth pattern
- Class 6 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (largest leaf less than 1" long)
- Class 7 *Chrysothemis*, *Nautilocalyx*, and other tuberos Gesneriads

SECTION B

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Rhizomatous

- Class 8 *Achimenes*
- Class 9 *Gloxinia*, *Seemannia* and their intergeneric hybrids
- Class 10 *Kohleria*
- Class 11 *Smithiantha*
- Class 12 Other rhizomatous gesneriads less than 5" in any dimension
- Class 13 Other rhizomatous gesneriads

SECTION C

New World Gesneriads in Flower — Fibrous-Rooted

- Class 14 *Codonanthe*, *xCodonanthus*
- Class 15 *Columnea* (*Dalbergaria*, *Pentadenia*, *Trichantha*)
- Class 16 *Episcia*, *Alsobia*
- Class 17 *Gesneria*
- Class 18 *Nematanthus*
- Class 19 Other fibrous-rooted gesneriads

SECTION D

Old World Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 20 *Aeschynanthus*
- Class 21 *Chirita* species
- Class 22 *Chirita* hybrids
- Class 23 *Petrocosmea*
- Class 24 *Saintpaulia* species
- Class 25 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as miniatures (max of 6" diam.)
- Class 26 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as semi-miniatures (max of 8" diam.)
- Class 27 *Saintpaulia* hybrids or cultivars classified as standards (more than 8" diam.)
- Class 28 *Saintpaulia* trailer
- Class 29 *Streptocarpus*, caulescent (ssp. *Streptocarpella*)
- Class 30 *Streptocarpus* species, acaulescent
- Class 31 *Streptocarpus* hybrids, acaulescent
- Class 32 Other Old World gesneriads

SECTION E

Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers

Decorative fruit and calyces are permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

- Class 33 *Chirita*
- Class 34 *Episcia*
- Class 35 *Episcia* with pink-and-white leaf variegation
- Class 36 *Petrocosmea*
- Class 37 Other gesneriads with green-and-white leaf variegation
- Class 38 Other gesneriad species
- Class 39 Other gesneriad hybrids

SECTION F

Club Challenge Plant: *Columnnea* 'Merlot'

Cuttings of *Columnnea* 'Merlot' were given out in September, 2007. These entries are the result of 6 months of growth and training.

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| Class 40 | In flower |
| Class 41 | Grown for foliage |
| Class 42 | Bonsai or trained |

SECTION G

New Gesneriads

This section is for introductions made within the last two years. Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

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| Class 43 | Species in flower |
| Class 44 | Species not in flower |
| Class 45 | Hybrids or named cultivars in flower |
| Class 46 | Hybrids or named cultivars not in flower |

SECTION H

Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as habitat, source, and special cultural requirements.

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| Class 47 | In flower |
| Class 48 | Not in flower |

SECTION I

Collections of Gesneriads

A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for ornamental qualities, or in combination. (*Saintpaulia* must be in flower.)

Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit since this is a consideration in judging this section. Exhibitor must provide a card with identification of plants. In Class 50, exhibitor must provide educational information on the card.

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| Class 49 | Plants of a single genus (species, cultivars or hybrids) |
| Class 50 | Kinship group — Hybrid(s) with one or more common parents; common parent(s) should be in the group |

SECTION J

Trained or Sculptured Gesneriads

An educational 3" x 5" white card should be included, stating what training the exhibit received and how the exhibit is to be viewed (all sides or from the front).

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| Class 51 | Bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style |
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SECTION K

Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the horticulture division of a Gesneriad flower show.

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| Class 52 | Gesneriads in flower |
| Class 53 | Gesneriads grown for ornamental qualities other than flowers (no flowers or buds showing color allowed) |

DIVISION II ARTISTIC

Gesneriads must predominate. No artificial plant material allowed. Other live and dried material permitted. Accessories are optional. *Saintpaulia* permitted in all classes. Plant material used must be identified on an accompanying card. Reservations for entries in classes 54 through 59 should be made with Laurene Jones, at nccsinger@cox.net by March 1, 2008. Limit of 4 entries per class.

SECTION L

Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Plant Material

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| Class 54 | " Figure Skating " A small arrangement featuring curves. 8" x 8" x 8" niche. |
| Class 55 | " Jamaican Bobsled " An arrangement with a strong contrast (form, color, texture, etc.) 12" x 12" x 16" high niche. |
| Class 56 | " Slalom " An arrangement of mirrored elements. 18" x 18" x 18" niche. |

SECTION M

Arrangement of Growing Gesneriads

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|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Class 57 | " Snow, Snow, Snow " A design featuring white. 12" x 12" niche (no height limit) |
| Class 58 | " Hockey " A design with crossing lines. 18" x 18" x 18" niche. |
| Class 59 | " Ski " A design with a diagonal line. 18" x 18" x 18" niche. |

SECTION N

Planting of Growing Material (Artistically and horticulturally balanced)

- Class 60 Terrarium, straight-sided
- Class 61 Terrarium, curved
- Class 62 Tray landscape
- Class 63 Natural Garden—a planting in weathered wood, rock or other natural material
- Class 64 Recycled container
- Class 65 Other container, not the usual form of plastic or clay pot

SECTION O Artistic Entry by a Novice

A Novice is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad show.

- Class 66 Artistic entry suitable for any of the classes in Sections L, M or N. Exhibitor must identify, on a 3" x 5" card, the name of the class chosen and the plant material used.

DIVISION III THE ARTS

All entries must feature gesneriads in some form. Each entry must have been made by the exhibitor.

SECTION P

Photography

The subject must be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8" x 10"; mats should not exceed 11" x 14". Exhibitors must provide an easel for prints 5" x 7" or over. Slides should be mounted for projection in a standard carousel projector. Limit of 2 entries per class per exhibitor.

- Class 67 Color transparency
- Class 68 Color print of Gesneriad(s) growing in a natural habitat
- Class 69 Color print of parts of a Gesneriad (flowers, fruits, foliage, etc.)
- Class 70 Color print of a whole Gesneriad plant
- Class 71 Black and white print
- Class 72 Digital display of gesneriad photo(s)

SECTION Q

Crafts Representing Gesneriads

- Class 73 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)
- Class 74 Textile (exhibitor must provide a card giving the source of the design)
- Class 75 Other crafts

DIVISION IV COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

SECTION R

Commercial

- Class 76 Display table with a grouping of 10 or more gesneriads
- Class 77 Display table with a grouping of fewer than 10 gesneriads

SECTION S

Educational

- Class 78 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion
- Class 79 Exhibit of plant material. Exhibitor must provide a card giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural information, and reason for inclusion in this class
- Class 80 E-Gesneriads (computer exhibits) PowerPoint of other computer exhibit that provides educational information on gesneriads

SHOW RULES

- Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
- Exhibitors need not be members of The Gesneriad Society.
- Entries will be accepted only during hours specified.
- An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid unless otherwise prohibited.
- Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by Show Chair after entries close.
- No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes.
- All plants in the Horticultural classes must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in arrangement classes of Division II or Commercial or Educational exhibits in Division IV.
- No particular type of container is specified for the Horticulture Division. Whatever is used should be clean. Foil covering should be avoided. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.
- All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including commercial and educational exhibits as well as entries for exhibit only.
- The Gesneriad Society standard competitive judging will be used. Awards will be made according to the following point scores:
 - 1st, blue ribbon, 90-100 points;
 - 2nd, red ribbon, at least 80 points;
 - 3rd, yellow ribbon, at least 70 points.Honorable Mention may also be awarded.
- There will be a Sweepstakes Award for the Horticulture Division and a Sweepstakes award for the Artistic Division. An exhibitor must win a minimum of 3 blue ribbons in that division to be eligible for the award.
- The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. Winner must be a member of The Gesneriad Society or a chapter member.
- The Chapter will endeavor to protect all exhibits but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. Plants should be removed between 4 and 5 p.m. on Sunday.
ther computer exhibit that provides educational information on gesneriads

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 four times a year, September through June, at 10:30 am on the second Saturday of the month. All are welcome. Please refer to the latest issue of Petal Tones, or contact our chapter president (Carol Hamelink) or publicity and membership chair (John Boggan) for more information.

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