

# Petal Tones

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

Volume 39, number 8

NOVEMBER 2007

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Hard to believe we are already at that frost danger time of year! As we begin to bring in outdoor plants and clean up our gardens, it's once again time when we'll be able to focus on our indoor gardens. Typical for me, I once again collected a bunch of new gesneriads to try growing this year. Who can resist the beauty of a well grown plant? Especially one that few other people have. The longer I grow gesneriads, the greater the diversity of my plant collection. This leads to either a greatly expanded collection which requires more work to maintain, or some very tough decisions on which plants to keep and which to give away. No one can grow everything. Oh what fun it is to get a new cutting for something with a lot of potential! But the painful decision it causes for what it is going to replace. Once again, I'm at my limits, 3 eight foot growing stands with 3 shelves each and a quarantine room with an 8 foot shelf. And there isn't really any spare space. If you have the same issue, this is a good time to review why you are growing plants. If it's just for personal enjoyment, the choice is easy. Keep your favorites. If it's for show entry, this is more challenging. Now you'll want to keep that which grows well and blooms well, and add in the uniqueness factor. Remember for our spring show (March 15 and 16) you need to be growing your plant for 3 months. That means that this November and upcoming December meeting may be the last time you can get new plants to grow for the show. See you Saturday, and happy hunting on the raffle table for new potential show plants.

Carol Hamelink

**NOVEMBER SPEAKER: DENNIS MILLER –  
STREPTOCARPUS HYBRIDIZER**

## UPCOMING MEETING DATES AND EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 10, 2007: 10:30 AM**

**December 8, 2007: 10:30 AM Christmas Party**

## NOVEMBER LITTLE SHOW

### Section I – Gesneriads in Flower

Class 1 – Tuberous

Class 2 – Rhizomatous

Class 3 – New World Fibrous-rooted

Class 4 – Old World Fibrous-rooted

Class 5 - Saintpaulia

## Section II – Gesneriads Grown for Foliage

Class 6 – Episcia

Class 7 – All other New World

Class 8 – Chirita and Petrocosmea

Class 9 – All other Old World

## Section III – Other Horticultural Entries

Class 10 – New Hybrids or Species

Class 11 – Rarely Seen Hybrids or Species

## Section IV – Artistic

Class 12 – **African Queen:** 16" x 16" arrangement of cut or growing material in an open container of water.

Class 13 – **King Kong:** 10" x 10" arrangement of cut material with marked contrasts in size between the various elements.

Class 14 – **Strepto-what?** A planting or arrangement of cut material in rock. Must use some part of a Streptocarpus.

**BONUS: Anyone who has never entered an arrangement in our show should attempt this class. The best novice arrangement wins one of Dennis's Streps. (We'll buy it from him if he doesn't want to donate it).**

## EDITORS MESSAGE

Well, it seems I have come almost full circle as editor of the newsletter – My first issue was January 2008, and will be a year since Jim Roberts and I had lunch at the Baltimore Inner Harbor, at which time he told me about his group. Time goes by so fast. In just this short time there has been so many very high quality speakers, the raffle table is beyond my wildest dreams and new people have joined the group. I was disappointed that we did not have an October meeting – since I missed the September meeting. Not having had a meeting since the last issue came out, this is a small issue. I hope nobody is disappointed. I kept trying to get down to writing a couple of article ideas but time just went by and now here we are, sending it out again already!

I know you all are tired of me asking this – but it would be great if someone would take one or more pictures of something they find rewarding to grow and write to me about their experience with it. Membership would be able to really share in the experience of growing Gesneriads. Don't forget to give some thought to the March show – you

must grow your plant for at least three months to qualify it as an entry in a horticultural class, as Jim revealed in his comments last issue. So when your winning number(s) come in – go over to the Raffle Table with that thought in mind – there certainly is an abundance of different material to select – and you can revisit our old issues of PT on the website and draw ideas from there – especially Carol Hamelink's photo-tour and Karyn Cichocki's dish gardens and terrariums (or you might just want to grow something special under glass).

So, see you all at the November 10, 2007 meeting at the U.S. National Arboretum where we will be regaled by the hybridizing experience and plants of Dennis Miller (and hopefully he will have some of his plants for the raffle table).

If you would like to visit Dennis' E-Bay store, please go to:

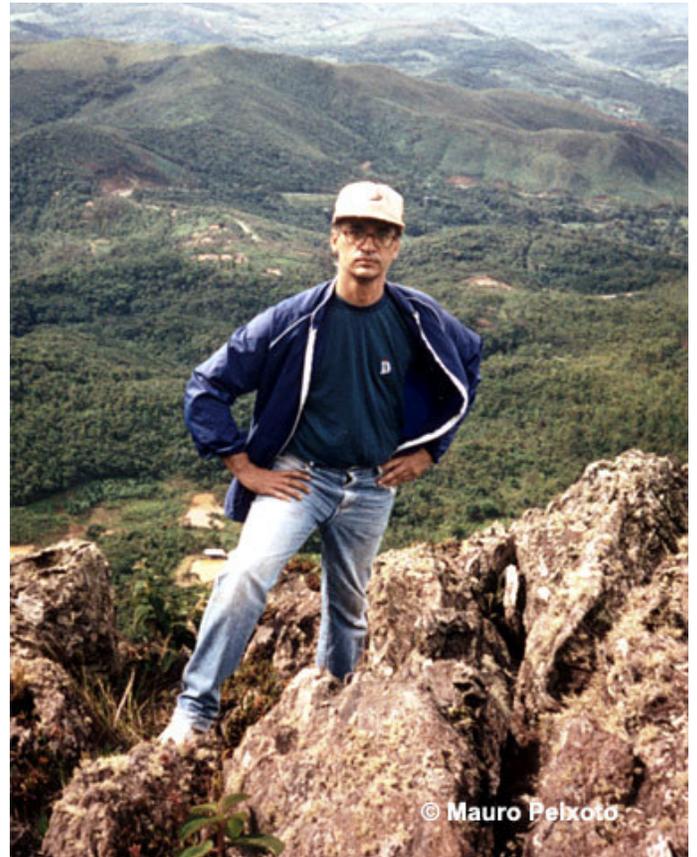
<http://store.ebay.com/neils-streps>

Thanks and good growing . . .

MarkZukaitis

### **BRAZIL SEED CLUB**

Just a note to remind you, and in case somebody missed this information, if you are a member of the NCAC TGS and would like to participate in this seed club, please send an e-mail to Mike Cagley at [cagleys3@yahoo.com](mailto:cagleys3@yahoo.com). Three times per year, Mike will get the seed availability list forwarded to him from Larry Skog. He then distributes this 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 issue of Petal Tones.



*Mauro Peixoto – See his website 'Brazilian Plants at:  
<http://mpeixoto.sites.uol.com.br/>*

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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