The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com

June 2026

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

We will be going to lunch after the June 19th meeting at Bob Evans. Everyone is welcome to join us and the club will pick up the tab. Just a way of saying we appreciate you!

A message from our President

Greetings! I am back from the AVSA convention in Dallas, TX and I have pictures to prove it! Well, there are more pictures of plants than people, but still. It was a wonderful week of committees, programs, people and plants. Next year the convention goes to Pennsylvania. If you aren't a member of AVSA, think about joining. The benefits, like conventions and the AV Magazine, are worth it.

Coming up at the end of the month Sandi Soto and I will be giving a hands-on program to the Dade City Garden club. We were approached by Laraine and Kathleen at our booth at the USF sale in April. I'm so glad we can do this for them. Community outreach is so important.

Lastly, does it ever feel like summer! Rain is hit-or-miss. Temperatures and humidity are skyrocketing. It is a good idea to spend more time with your plants so you can catch a problem before it becomes a major headache.

See you soon, *Mary Beth, President*

Zoom/Evening Meeting -

There was no Zoom meeting in June due to illness, travel and recovery from Convention. Our next Zoom meeting is scheduled for July 2 @ 7pm.

Day Meeting -

Friday, June 19 @ 10am
Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Program for this meeting will be viewing a DVD on growing trailers.

Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- Jean Krauchik - June 3
- Stuart Swayze - June 17
- Bonnie Smith - June 27

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.

Streptocarpus 'Tequila Sunrise'

Photo by Mary Lou Harden

MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society
May 15, 2026
Day Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by President Mary Beth Bryant, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald, Michael and Irene Kilcomons, Pat Rutzke, Jean Krauchik, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandy Schultz, Celeste Christman, Stu Swayze, Joan Reynolds, Glenn Shelton and Celia Howe. Guests and newest members: Anne Wade Stone, friend and neighbor of Mary Beth, and Lori Louise Davis.

INSPIRATION: "Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the mind." –

Luther Burbank

Program: President Mary Beth Bryant gave a program on dish gardens, a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Creating a Dish Garden for an AV Show" by Pam Van Durme. After the presentation, there was discussion as to whether members would be interested in a dish garden workshop.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

Officers' Reports: Glenn Shelton gave the Treasurer's Report. Mary Beth Bryant gave the Officer's Report and noted that the Yearbook will be coming this year and she will be getting new folks involved in committees. There was no new correspondence.

Unfinished Business:

No new news on embroidery for the club t-shirts, we're still looking for an embroiderer. Tammi Fitzgerald may know of a place.

New Business:

Vice President Sandi Soto noted that we need a show theme for the February 2027 TAVS show. Tammi Fitzgerald suggested "Violets in the Wild".

Sandi mentioned possibly having a luncheon paid for by the club after a meeting or following the setup for the next USF sale.

Sandi noted the next Virtual Violet Connection will be held via Zoom on September 13 at 3pm EST and will feature Olive Robinson discussing chimera propagation.

There will be 5 TAVS members attending the AVSA National Convention in Dallas, TX later this month.

Show & Tell: Mary Lou Harden brought sinovietnamica primulina and Glenn Shelton brought Jere's Lavender Pink Joy.

Meeting Adjourned: at 11:37am followed by a raffle.

sinovietnamica primulina

Grown by Mary Lou Harden

Jere's Lavender Pink Joy

Grown by Glenn Shelton

We want to see your plants!

The Petal is looking for photos of your beautiful plants to share with our readers. So snap a couple of pics the next time you water and send them to The Petal at ***sandylovesviolets@gmail.com*** or text them to ***904-955-2947***. NOIDS are fine, but please include the plant name if you have one.

TAVS Goes to the 2026 AVSA Convention!

Five members of TAVS attended this year's AVSA convention in Dallas, TX, with our Vice President Sandi Soto entering three plants, Lyon's Little Sweetheart, Tipped Honey and Rob's Pink Satin, all of which received blue ribbons.

Congratulations Sandi!

Here's what our TAVS members had to say about the convention:

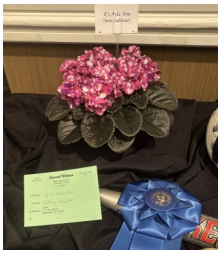
Mary Beth Bryant: "It was a wonderful week of committees, programs, people and plants."

Tammi Fitzgerald: "It was really cool to see all of the new hybrids released this year, and meeting the hybridizers and retailers of these beautiful plants. It was such a joy to meet growers from other regions and make new friends. We also loved bringing home new plants to add to our collection."

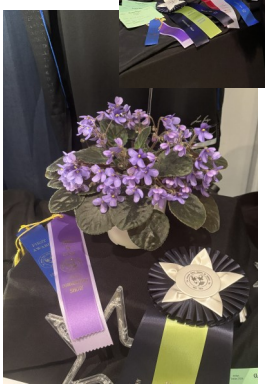
Joan Reynolds: "I enjoyed the educational part of everything, from the programmed talks with expert growers, to casual conversation in between with the other growers and showers! Everyone was so helpful in explaining how they grow to show their gorgeous plants."

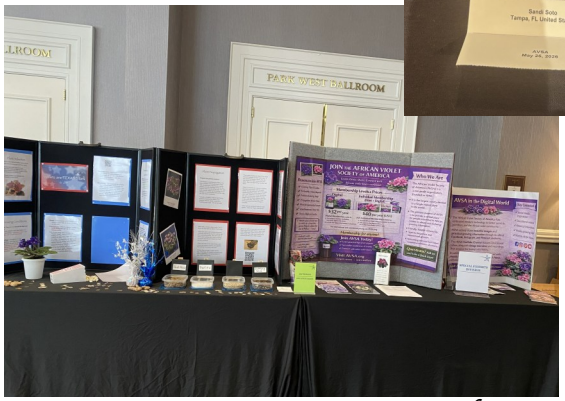
Sandy Schultz: "I enjoyed meeting up with folks I haven't seen since last convention, and making new friends, like the sweet lady who wants to trade "Original 10" leaves with me! Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend any of the seminars but I still had a great time talking with so many fellow AV geeks - I'm looking forward to Convention next year.

Sandi Soto: "LOVED Convention, and of course came home with too many new plants - 24. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends made at prior Conventions, and to share the experience with Joan Reynolds and Tammi Fitzgerald as they experienced their first Convention. Special thanks to Tammi for trips to Walmart and later to DFW Airport for our trip home. Judging the AVSA Collections with Winston Goretski and Lori Hilfer, both Master Judges, was a real pleasure as well as an excellent learning experience! And once again, Judging Class gave me new insights that proved valuable in the aforementioned judging. Will have more to say about Convention at the June day meeting and July Zoom."



AVSA
Dallas
2026
VIOLETS ARE
TEXAS STARS
Open to the public!





Are you looking for a break from the summer heat and an opportunity to meet up and geek out with other AV-minded enthusiasts? Then join us for a mini African violet conference next month! Open to Florida Council and non-council members, this day-long conference includes breakfast and lunch, fun activities, vendors and a leaf exchange. For more information on the African Violet Council of Florida , visit their website at https://africanvioletcounciloffflorida.club/

See you in Ocala next month!

Grow It to Show It

For those members in the "Grow It to Show It" program, please put together a list of your plants so we can figure out specific ones to focus on for the TAVS February show.

Become a MEMBER

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)
Current dues are $15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

Floridainorchidsss@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

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