

The Petal

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



September 2025

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.



Achimenes 'Peach Glow'
Photo by Mary Lou Harden

A message from our President

Happy September, everyone!

The August meeting was, in my opinion, one of the best we've had! Mary Beth Bryant, our esteemed VP, gave an excellent presentation on

pests that pester African violets, and the response was unexpectedly good. You know a program is good when there's a lot of audience interaction, and questions. Kudos to all of you for your participation.

So, how are your project plants coming along? I don't think it would be a bad idea to bring them with you to a few of our meetings in the coming months, as long as you can transport them safely. If they're growing just fine, maybe only bring them in once, especially if all you need is some help with grooming. Once Stuart has his plant, 12 will be "in training," and I expect to see 12 entered in our February show! Wouldn't it be great if there were 12 blue ribbons, and the judges had a hard time picking the Best in Class plant because they were all so good?!

Mary Beth, as VP and Program Chair, is still working to put together our live and ZOOM programs for the next year. A few really good ideas have been presented, including: a live demo of how to set up or assemble lighting; navigating the beastly AVSA website; tips and tricks for living

A message from our President (cont.)

with African violets. If there are particular speakers you'd like to hear from, or to hear from again, please put a bug in Mary Beth's ear, or in mine.

Speaking of programs, Robbie McMeel, President of Dixie African Violet Society, will be our ZOOM speaker on September 4, and our own Celeste Christman will talk about Episcia, a beautiful and varied cousin of the African violet at our September 19 meeting. I hope at least some of you are planning to enter plants or designs in the AVCF (African Violet Council of Florida) show. It will be at Lakeland's Christ Lutheran Church October 31 – November 1 and will feature a lot of wonderful sale plants, as well as an opportunity to see what varieties AV growers from around the state are showing. Setup is Thursday, October 30, and if you have nothing exciting planned, we'd love for you to join us! Since TAVS is a member of AVCF, all TAVS members can enter plants in the show. Only **INDIVIDUAL** members of AVCF can offer plants for sale, but you can still buy!

That's all for now folks!

Sandi Soto



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

🌸 Sheryl Herold - September 13

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.
nybleb@aol.com or mlhard@verizon.net



**ZOOM/Evening Meeting -
Thursday, September 4 @ 7pm**

Robbie McMeel, President of Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), our regional organization, will be talking about DAVS and their upcoming show.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?
pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz0
9&omn=81437642622](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=81437642622)

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

Our Meetings

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10am at our **NEW LOCATION:**

**Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334**

Mary Beth Bryant will be hosting the virtual night meetings via ZOOM! We will have a program to begin and lots of time for any questions. Then we will open it up and do some show and tell. So get your precious blooming babies camera ready; I know we all want to see some flowers! Club business meeting will follow.

What's that you say? You don't know how to ZOOM? No problem. You don't need to have a ZOOM account or download anything permanently to your computer, tablet or phone. Be on the lookout for an email from Mary Beth/ Mary Lou a few days before the meeting with a link to access the meeting. Hope to see you then!



Day Meeting -

Friday, September 19 @ 10am

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Celeste Christman will talk about Episcia, a beautiful and varied cousin of the African violet.



Episcia Pink Dreams

Photo by Mary Lou Harden



MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society

August 7, 2025

Night meeting via ZOOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Sandi Soto.

ROLL CALL: The 13 members attending were Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Glenn Shelton, Celeste Christman, Fern Azarian, Angela Newell, Lisa Villabol, Briony Tomalesky, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Michael Kilcomons and Irene Kilcomons. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: Minh Bui was the speaker and the program was entitled "Lighting, Growing and Showing African Violets".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved as amended.

MOTIONS: Angela Newell motioned that TAVS sponsor the 2027 AVSA convention. Motion was not seconded and tabled after a discussion. It was decided that Sandi Soto speak first to Jim Boyer so that TAVS can recommend sponsorship of the AVSA convention to AVCF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Day Meeting program will be presented by Celeste Christman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Tampa African Violet Society

August 15, 2025

Day Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald, Anita Adlin, Jean Krauchik, Fern Azarian, Sheryl Herold, Sandy Schultz, Glenn Shelton, Ruth Kanzlemar, Andrea Kanzlemar, Michael Kilcomons, Irene Kilcomons and Celia Howe. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: Mary Beth Bryant presented a program entitled "Insects & Pests of African Violets" with a handout.

SHOW & TELL: Glenn Shelton brought Hunter's Slippery When Wet and Mary Lou Harden brought in So Big.

BIRTHDAYS: Gladys Cook and Sandi Soto celebrated August birthdays.

MOTIONS: There were no motions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:45 am.

ADDENDUM: The following members will be heading committees at the February show & sale:

Show Chair - Sandi Soto

Awards - Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald

Education - Fern Azarian

Schedule - Mary Lou Harden

Staging - Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden

Classification - Jim Boyer, Mary Beth Bryant

Entries - Sandi Soto

Focal Point - Celeste Christman

Placement - ???

Judges - Jim Boyer

Hospitality - Jean Krauchik, Sandy Schultz

Greeter - Tammi Fitzgerald

Publicity/Flyers - Ruth Kanzlemar

Novice Administrator - Jim Boyer

Design - Mary Lou Harden

Club Supplies - Mary Lou Harden

Set Up - All

Clean Up - All



Hunter's Slippery When Wet (11237)

07/17/2019 (K. Muzalewski)

Grown by Glenn Shelton



So Big (B. Elkin)

Grown by Mary Lou Harden

Recipe Box



Ozark Pudding is a light, fluffy cake filled with apples and nuts. It's easy to make and even better with a dollop of whipped cream or ice cream. On a historical note, it was supposed to have been a favorite dessert of President Harry Truman.

Sandi's 1st Mother-in-Law's Ozark Pudding

1 large egg

3/4 cup sugar

1/8 tsp baking powder

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/8 tsp salt

1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

1/2 cup chopped apples

1 tsp vanilla

Beat egg and sugar together till smooth. Set aside. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add egg mixture and blend. Add nuts, apples and vanilla.

Bake in greased cake pan at 350° for 35 minutes. Allow to cool. Delicious alone, even better under a scoop of ice cream

Have a great recipe to share? Don't want to type it all out? Just scan a copy of the recipe and send it to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source.



With the AVCF (African Violet Council of Florida) show coming up in October, here's a timely reminder from AVSA about grooming.

African
Violet
Society of
America

GROWING TIPS

Don't Forget to Groom.
Your African Violet Will Thank You!



AVSA
African Violet Society of America

Every so often I like to remind all my violet friends to take a moment to groom their plants. It is a good habit to develop so that it becomes part of your regular routine. There are also new growers out there who may not know the benefits of basic grooming.

GROWING TIPS (cont.)

Leaving an untidy African violet reminds me of one of those zombie apocalypse movies. The lone survivor is left to hold out against the undead horde in a ruined landscape. Just like in those movies and TV shows, leaving healthy flowers and leaves surrounded by rotting corpses of long dead flowers and leaves makes the healthy plant easy pickings for disease to spread. Dust and dirt scattered about surrounds the plant in filthy ruins.

Take a little time to snip off spent blooms as they begin to fade and remove those old tired leaves. Clean up soil and dust off of the leaves and shelving or windowsill. Remove flower stalks once all the flowers are spent and groomed away. Gently help new leaves to lay correctly and new flower stalks to make their way out from between the leaves.

Don't leave an otherwise healthy plant surrounded by a post industrial landscape riddled with the corpses of violet blooms long dead. They attract mold, rot, and vermin just like in those movies you have to hide under a blanket to watch!

Happy Growing!
Chris Brooks, AVSA

marketing@avsa.org

For more information on grooming, check out the article "Groom, Groom, Groom" by

Mary Schaeffer

May-June 2014 issue of African Violet Magazine
(<https://africanvioletsofamerica.org/learn/violets-101/2742-2/>)

Upcoming Events



DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
"SHOW"
"Treasures in Grandma's Attic"

September 11, 12 & 13, 2025

Petals From The Past Garden Center
16034 County Road 29
Jemison, Alabama 35085

For more information: DAVS.org

THE AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA
PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AVSA JUDGED SHOW

VIOLET TREASURES

October 31-November 1, 2025



SAVE THE DATE!

**2026 AVSA
CONVENTION**

MONDAY, 5/25/26 - SUNDAY, 5/31/2026



**VIOLETS ARE
TEXAS STARS**

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:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

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

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

Visit us at:

www.tampaafricanviolets.com

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Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

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Queen of Clubs (10866) - First Bloom

09/27/2016 (K. Stork)

Photo by Sandy Schultz