

The Petal

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



June 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 (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.



And the Winner is...



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Best in Show and Best Miniature
Hunter's Whitetail Fawn (11244)
07/17/2019 (K. Muzalewski)
Grown by Janis Theophanes

A message from our President

We're late! A lot happened between the end of May and the beginning of June, and as a result, other things didn't happen. The Petal is late, the June Zoom was cancelled due to illness, and no one seems to know who, if anyone, took the May minutes and attendance.

May ended with a bang as Mary Beth & I flew to Kansas for the 2025 AVSA Convention, while Sandy Schultz drove up with all her precious cargo (candles, shirts, and general AV-themed goodies). She also carried Sharon Gartner, my memorial AV that was too big to carry on a plane safely. Our plane left Tampa 40 minutes late, and the connection in Atlanta was at least 3 hours late, so instead of arriving fresh and energized at about 6:30pm, Mary Beth and I arrived after 11pm,

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10am at the Seffner-Mango Public Library.

The library address is: 410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

A message from our President (cont.)

exhausted and grouchy. A good night's sleep, and we were off and running!

Convention is a special event in so many ways. You meet new people every year, and this being our 3rd Convention, there were a lot of friendships from the previous 2 to renew! It's like one big family reunion where the family is so big it can take years to know them all! We spent a lot of time with Jim Matula, which we always enjoy, and we came home with lots of new African violets we didn't need.

As a Board nominee, I started with a Board meeting that was probably the shortest one on record. We were done within 90 minutes. Mary Beth started with Judging School, and we both took the written exam and plant judging section at the same time. Still no word on whether we passed, but either way, we get to attend Judging School in July, taught by our own King James. More on that elsewhere.

TAVS was represented by three entries. I carried 2 semiminiatures on the plane (Rob's Slap Happy and Ness' Crinkle Blue), and of course standard Sharon Gartner. Sharon was moved from the multicolor class by the show committee, and wound up in New Cultivar from Seed! Judging was Thursday, with the winners from Best in Class all the way to Best in Show announced at the Awards dinner. Much to my surprise, my name was announced as winning 2 Best in Class, and 3rd Best New Cultivar! All 3 entries received 1st



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Best in Show and Best Miniature
Hunter's Whitetail Fawn
Grown by Janis Theophanes

Place ribbons, Rob's Slap Happy and Sharon Gartner won Best in Class, and Sharon Gartner of course won the new cultivar award.

A highpoint of Saturday was the program "Next Level Design." Four experienced design contestants competed to create two designs. The first, an underwater design, had to be completed in 10 minutes, using 5 items from a limited selection, one of which had to be the container, and another the plant they'd use for both designs. They had 20 minutes to complete the 2nd design. Complete with the Jeopardy theme . . . What a riot, and what a great idea!

Saturday was downhill from there. Mary Beth stood in for me at my Board Induction Ceremony and Dinner, as I was one of many to succumb to Influenza A. Eventually, we were both sick, and I brought flu home to my hubster, while Sandy Schultz, who may or may not have had the flu, at least shared the cough.

Next year! Dallas here we come!
Sandi Soto



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Best in Class
Rob's Slap Happy (9040)
 05/31/2001 (R. Robinson)
 Semiminiature
 Grown by Sandi Soto



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
3rd Best New Cultivar and Best in Class
Sharon Gartner
 Grown by Sandi Soto





2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
"The Breakfast Club"

2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Ness' Crinkle Blue (8136)
01/19/1995 (D. Ness)
Semiminiature
Grown by Sandi Soto



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.
nybleb@aol.com or mlhard@verizon.net



Our Atlanta and Dixie AVS friend Johnnie Berry is in the hospital in Atlanta. Surgery was scheduled for Wednesday, June 11. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. If you'd like to send her a card, her daughter will be picking cards up from Johnnie's home and hand delivering them to her. Her address is:

Johnnie Berry
287 Fennel Way SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

Zoom Meetings

The ZOOM Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 5 was cancelled due to illness.

Day Meeting - Friday, June 20 @ 10am

Seffner-Mango Public Library

"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" Mary Beth Bryant will be talking about common African Violet Pests and Diseases.

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society

May 16, 2025

Seffner-Mango Public Library

A MEETING WAS HELD ON THIS DATE BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE TOOK MINUTES. I THINK WE WERE TOO DISTRACTED PLANNING FOR THE CONVENTION.



Michaelmoeleria vietnamensis

Photo by Mary Lou Harden

Recipe Box



Hawaiian Carrot Pineapple Cake

Submitted by Tammi Fitzgerald

For the cake layers

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups grated carrots
- 1 1/2 cups pineapple chunks
(not crushed and well-drained)
- 1/2 cups chopped walnuts (optional)

For the cream cheese drizzle and filling

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2-3 tbsp milk or pineapple juice
(to thin for drizzling)

Garnish

- Shredded carrots
- Pineapple wedges or tidbits

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and line three 8-inch round cake pans

In a bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. In another bowl, beat sugar, eggs, oil, and vanilla until well combined. Stir in grated carrots, then gently fold in pineapple chunks and walnuts.

Divide batter evenly among the pans. Bake 25–30 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cakes cool completely.

Prepare the cream cheese drizzle: Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar and vanilla. Thin with milk or pineapple juice until pourable but thick.

Assemble the cake: place one layer on a serving plate, drizzle with cream cheese frosting, and add pineapple chunks between layers. Repeat for all layers. Drizzle the entire cake generously with the cream cheese mixture, letting it cascade down the sides. Garnish with shredded carrots and pineapple tidbits or wedges on top. Chill slightly before serving for best texture.

Tropical, moist, and decadently layered—this cake is a visual and flavorful showstopper!



Upcoming Events

Learn What the Judges are Looking For!

Judging School will be held on July 26th at:

Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland Florida 33805

Class will start at 9am with the following agenda:

9am-12pm – Presentation
12pm-1pm – Lunch
1pm-2pm – Practice Judging
2pm-4pm – Written Test & Judging Test

For the school to be accredited there must be at least 5 attendees of which at least 3 must take the exam. You will need to register with Jim Boyer before the school. Send him your name, address, phone number, email address & your AVSA membership number.

If taking the test, Jim will need proof of 3 blue ribbons. The cost is \$15. The questions all come from the 2022 Growers', Exhibitors' & Judges' Handbook & any update in the AVSA magazine. If only auditing the cost is \$10. No proof of ribbons is required.



Yvon Decelles (8727)

04/25/1998 (J. Brownlie)

Photo by Mary Beth Bryant

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

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Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

sandylovesviolets@gmail.com

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Party Dress

Photo by Tammi Fitzgerald