

THE PETAL

JANUARY 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



Winter Ice

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings TAVS Members,

Our December 1, evening meeting was the perfect way to begin the month and set the tone for a month of giving. Each member shared a covered dish and as a result TAVS members enjoyed a delicious dinner. In addition, following a TAVS long-held tradition, each member donated \$5.00 to be gifted to a local charity. Trinity Cafe, a charitable organization that serves meals to the hungry 365 days a year, was chosen by the members to receive their donations. One of the rock stars of the African

violet world, Elvie Blakely, attended our meeting. Elvie is well known for her award-winning designs, and she generously and enthusiastically shared numerous tips for creating designs. Her charming personality, captivating ideas, and playful approach to design resulted in a memorable meeting.

As most of you know, Therese Lynam, one of our most dedicated and active members, has had some health issues and is now at home recuperating. In an attempt to focus on improving her health, she has requested that she be temporarily relieved of her responsibilities. Consequently, Cece Lane is temporarily acting as treasurer. Jean Krauchik and Linda Bennett have volunteered to take

over the responsibility of bringing supplies for refreshments to each meeting. I appreciate both their dedication to our club and their willingness to help.

At this time of the year a traditional Irish toast seems appropriate. "In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, but never in want."

Happy New Year, dear AV friends!

Sandra

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –January 5th, 2017 at 7 PM
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

Inspirational: Mary Lou Harden

**“Soil-what kind of soil do Violets like?
What are these??-Superthrive, Marathon,
Physan 20, vinegar, Clorox”**
**To be presented by Mary Kay Ross and
Cece Lane**

Are your violets growing in the right kind of soil? What kind of soil do violets like? Come to the TAVS Evening meeting on January 5, 2017 learn about soil for violets and additives to enhance growing.

Refreshments and raffle plants: Mary Lou Harden, Jean Krauchik and Lucy Polak

DAY MEETING – January 20, 2017 10 AM
Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

Inspirational: Mary Fenner

Refreshments and Raffle plants: Mary Fenner, Lynn Bandy and Jim Matula

“Dish Garden Workshop”

The African Violet Society of America’s Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges defines Dish Gardens as:

“Plantings in a shallow, dish-like container”

At the January 20 day meeting, each member should bring the following items:

1. A “shallow, dish-like container” – The Show Schedule states that the overall design cannot be more than 30” in any direction, so keep that in mind when selecting the container. Remember that the larger the container, the more plant material you’ll need. . .and the heavier your dish garden will be.
2. 4 or 5 foliage plants (nothing with blooms), small leaves, lacy leaves, plain green or maybe 1 variegated, different textures and different heights (30” is the limit). Succulents are not permitted. Suggested plants are: Fern, Palm, Aralia, Moss, Ivy, some Begonias, Baby Tears, Mondo grass. All the plants used must be growing or having the appearance of growing – in other words, no cut plant materials.
3. Bring any decorative rocks or stones, small pieces of wood or driftwood you’re thinking of using.

The Club will furnish soil and perlite.

Come prepared to learn! Therese Lynam creates award-winning dish gardens and she will demonstrate and share her tips and techniques.



COMING EVENTS

February 9-20th, 2017- Florida State Fair

February 24-26th, 2017- TAVS Show
Farm Bureau, Valrico, FL
“Hats off to our American Heroes”

April 8-9th 2017- USF Spring Plant Sale-
at USF Botanical Gardens in Tampa. Hours are
10 am to 4 pm on Saturday & 10 am to 3 pm on
Sunday. (Setup Thursday)

AVSA Convention and Show
“Florida- Gateway to the Tropics”
Orlando Florida May 28th – June 4th, 2017



Gesneriad Society Convention 2017-
July 4 to July 8, 2016



ATTENTION

Mary Lou Harden is having a planning meeting at her home on Tuesday, January 3, at 10:00 AM to discuss ideas and make plans for our display at the Florida State Fair. Our display at the Fair increases our membership and raises money for TAVS. It would be great if you would attend this meeting and help make the TAVS display outstanding.

RECENT PROGRAMS

December 1st, 2016

“Flower and Plant Arrangements”
A demonstration by Elvie Blakely from the
Central Florida AVS
December 16th, 2016



Elvie Blakely, past president of Central Florida African Violet Society, Orlando has been the 2nd VP of African Violet Council of Florida for at least the past 8 years and is publisher of the annual yearbook of AVCF.

She has handled entries at the 2015 AVCF show in Jacksonville, and is serving as Show Vice-Chair for the 2017 AVSA convention in Orlando.

Over the years, Elvie has won numerous awards for her outstanding designs at African Violet Council of Florida shows and Central Florida African Violet Society shows.

This past May, Elvie drove from her home in Titusville, FL, to Albuquerque, NM, to attend this year's AVSA convention. It was her first AVSA convention and she spent much of her time helping with the silent auction tables sponsored by AVCF in support of the 2017 AVSA convention in Orlando.

**“Underwater Arrangements are Easy!”
presented by Mary Lou Harden**

Mary Lou showed us just how easy it is to make a beautiful underwater arrangement.

Underwater arrangements are flower arrangements that are completely submerged in water and exhibited in a transparent container. As in any other interpretive arrangement, the purpose of these designs is to display African violet blossoms in a pleasing and artistic manner. The African violet blossom should be the focus or center of interest in the design. The blossoms are enhanced, supported and accentuated by the use of interesting line and plant material. All plant material must be cut and in good condition.

Underwater designs always create a lot of interest in a show. Mary Lou will tell us which African violet blossoms to select -- those that will hold up the longest without becoming translucent under water – and how to make the blooms stay in place once they are in the water.



MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Night Meeting
December 1st, 2016
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Kerns at 7:15 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Jean Krauchik

GUESTS: Elvie Blakely (this evening’s program speaker from Central Florida AVS). Also in attendance was Mary Lou Harden’s sister, Esther Jones, who was visiting from Ohio.

REFRESHMENTS: Annual Christmas Potluck

**PROGRAM: “Flower and Plant Arrangements”
A demonstration by Elvie Blakely from the Central Florida AVS**

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the November 3rd 2016, meeting was approved as published in “The Petal.”

TREASURER REPORT:

	October	November
Balance	\$4,516.30	\$5,035.25
Income	\$1,258.17	\$210.00
Expenses	\$739.22	\$85.60
Ending Balance	\$5,035.25	\$5,159.65
Savings	\$2,713.52	\$2,723.52

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that the 2017 AVSA Convention plans are moving along well.

Nancy Kast reported that the Gesneriad Society is getting ready for a busy season ahead planning for the State Fair and USF

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Sandra Kerns reported that the 2017 annual show schedule has been prepared by Mary Lou Harden. Mary Lou distributed copies and stated that we will discuss the show schedule at the next night meeting in January. (Due to time constraints, there wasn't enough time to discuss the show schedule at this meeting.)

Sandra Kerns reminded everyone that it is time to pot up their show plants for the February show. (See the Grooming Schedule on pages 60-61 of the Yearbook.)

NEW BUSINESS: Members in attendance approved the annual (Christmas time) TAVS charity donation collection from members attending the December night meeting would be donated to Trinity Cafe, a local charity which prepares meals for the needy.

Sandra Kerns reported that we are signed up to participate at the Florida State Fair. Sandra stated that members are needed to volunteer for setup (February 3-7, 2017), for staffing the display and booth (February 9-20, 2017), and for the Horticultural Demonstrations (February 11-20, 2017).

RAFFLE PLANTS: Andy Szydowski provided the raffle plants.

RAFFLE: conducted by Sandra Kerns.

SHOW AND TELL:

Mary Lou Harden brought in Episcia Pink Panther to show.

Anita Adlin brought in her plant Pow Wow to show, as well as several other plants which she needed growing help for.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Day Meeting
December 16th, 2016
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Jim Boyer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

GUESTS: Mary Lou Harden's sister, Esther Jones, visiting from Ohio and family friend Merle Green visiting from Winter Haven.

REFRESHMENTS: Annual Christmas Potluck

**PROGRAM: "Underwater Arrangements are Easy!"
Presented by Mary Lou Harden**

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the November 18th, 2016 meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER REPORT:

	October	November
Balance	\$4,516.30	\$5,035.25
Income	\$1,258.17	\$210.00
Expenses	\$739.22	\$85.60
Ending Balance	\$5,035.25	\$5,159.65
Savings	\$2,713.52	\$2,723.52

OFFICER REPORTS:

The January day meeting will be on dish gardens and Mary Fenner has the inspirational.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lynn Bandy has volunteered to learn the computer program for the show. Mary Lou Harden will provide a printer. Each committee chair needs to be prepared for the show. Jim Boyer has detailed instructions on each position if needed. If you have not received a copy of the show schedule or yearbook, see Mary Lou Harden.

We have two panels of judges committed to the show.

We are looking for hats to go with our show theme.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The state fair is asking us to man our booth and do demonstrations during the run of the fair. Tickets will be provided to members signing up for entrance into the fair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Birthdays: Jim Boyer, Roxanne Carney, Luetta Daniels, and Celia Howe.

Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, interesting violet articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month.

ROLL CALL: Mary Fenner

RAFFLE: Conducted by Mary Fenner

SHOW AND TELL:

Mary Lou Harden shared a gorgeous Pink Panther Episcia grown under a dome.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Mary Lou Harden, Glenn Shelton and Roxanne Carney.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Who will be featured next month?? Send a short article on who you are, your family, your hobbies, and why you became a member to nybleb@aol.com along with a photo if available and it could be YOU!!

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

December 12, 2016

Welcome to today's Growing Tip email from the [African Violet Society of America](#)

Violet Sugar for the Holidays



Wizard's Prankster
Photo Credit Patrick Delaney

Have you ever noticed that [African violet flowers](#) often sparkle? Old time violet growers sometimes call this sparkling quality "sugar." If you've not noticed it before, take a closer look at these photos shared by members of the Facebook group [African Violet Nerds](#).



Dr. Jeff Smith, [AVSA](#) Research Chair, and columnist for the [African Violet Magazine](#), has a more scientific explanation for us:

Curlies Ocean Photo Credit
Melanie Mel

"The sparkle is due to the shape of the surface or epidermal cells of the petals. If the cells are dome shaped (imagine a surface like bubble wrap) they scatter the light better and give the sparkle. Most African violet

flowers have the sparkle characteristic,



Optimara My Dream

Photo Credit Laurie Nelson

but some cultivars seem to just show off the trait a bit better, particularly white and pink flowers. A bright light source makes the trait stand out more too. That's why you'll often notice the sparkle on plants in sunlight or under a bright

spot light. The sparkle may be captured somewhat unintentionally when using flash during photography.

The trait seems to be a genetic dominant so it is really pretty common in most African violet flowers."



Inner Strength Photo Credit Patsy Gilbert

A little sugar makes African violets really special, and it's a no calorie treat for the holidays. Enjoy all you want!

Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

OUR SHOW

Don't forget our annual show is fast approaching. Below is the list of committee chairs. If you have any ideas or are willing to help out please contact Mary Lou or Jim!!!

2017 SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Show Chairs	Mary Lou Harden Jim Boyer
Schedule	Mary Lou Harden Jim Boyer
Focal Point	Sandra Kerns
Entries	Therese Lynam
Classification	Barbara Matthews Roxanne Carney
Plant Placement	Sandra Kerns
Final Plant Placement	Sandra Kerns
Staging	David Matthews
Judges & Clerks	Jim Boyer
Awards	Therese Lynam
Plant Sales	Mary Lou Harden Jim Boyer, et al
Show Plant Sales	Sandra Kerns
Publicity	Susan Buys
Education	Cece Lane, Mary Kay Ross
Novice Administrator	Jim Boyer
Design Administrator	Mary Lou Harden
Set Up	Everyone
Clean Up	Everyone

DONATIONS NEEDED

Listed below are items that TAVS will need for our 2017 show. By donating these items you are helping with our club's expenses.

- 8" plates
- Cake plates
- 8 ounce coffee cups
- 8 ounce cold drinking cups
- Plastic Ware
- Napkins
- Disposable tablecloths



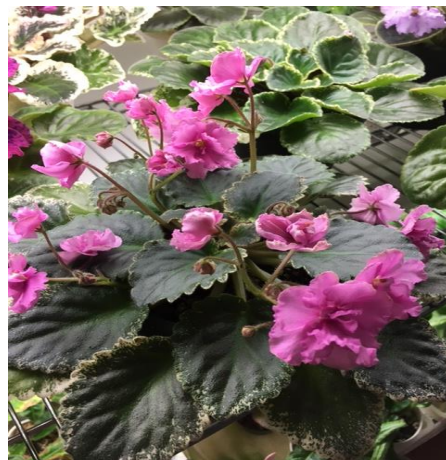
Everyone is invited to a Design Workshop on Saturday, January 28, at 10 am at the home of Mary Lou Harden in Seffner. We'll learn how to create Interpretive Flower Arrangements and Interpretive Plant Arrangements. If you have dried plant material you would like to use, please bring it with you. Artificial flowers or other plant material are not permitted in designs. And bring any items you think you might like to use in your designs. Please let Mary Lou know if you plan to attend.

TAVS 2017 PROJECT PLANT

Hope you all are doing well growing and grooming your project plants and nurturing those growing in the Dandy Pots!

At our February show, there will be 2 classes in which members can enter their Project Plant. One class will be for Novices and the other class will be for everyone who is not a Novice. There will be cash awards given for the winners in both of these classes.

Members will not find out the name of the Project Plant until after the show has been judged.



Mary Lou Harden sent a few photos of her plants "Getting Ready for Show"

Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag.

NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) mlhard@verizon.net. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

HELP!!!! +

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member: THERESEJOAN@aol.com

Visit us at:
www.Tampafricanviolets.com

African Violet Society of America (AVSA). Subscription to the *African Violet Magazine* (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** www.AVSA.org

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, *The Dixie News*, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.** johnniepearl@aol.com www.davs.org

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, *The Florida Connection*, is \$10 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this publication are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors or editor, nor the Tampa African Violet Society can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Tampa African Violet Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material herein.

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FEBRUARY 2017

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LOVE IS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings TAVS Members,

As I write this message our nominating committee is hard at work soliciting nominees to run for the various TAVS offices. I appointed Jerry O'Keefe to serve as chair of the nominating committee and Mary Lou Harden and Therese Lynam to serve on that committee to help Jerry. I am grateful for their dedication to TAVS. The Nominating Committee's report will be presented at our February meetings. Thank you so much to all three members.

February 2017 will, without a doubt, be our busiest month this year. We begin the month by setting up our display at the Florida State Fair. That is followed by having members man our booth at the fair and then at the end of the fair taking everything down so that all the components can then be moved to our annual show location. This really is an exciting time for our club. At both the fair and our annual show, we expose the public to our love of African violets, our vast knowledge about violets, our willingness to help those interested in violets, our desire to introduce new people to the enormous pleasure of growing these plants, and our warmhearted approach to inviting all to join our meetings and ultimately TAVS. Below

is a list of important upcoming dates. Please set some time aside to help our club make these events a success.

Sunday, February 5, 1:00 PM & Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 AM--setting up display at the Florida State Fair

Contact Mary Lou Harden if you are able to help: mlhard@verizon.net or 813-689-8700

Thursday, February 9 – Monday, February 20—manning the booth at the Florida State Fair

Contact Mary Lou or Sandra Kerns if you are able to help on any of these days.

Thursday, February 23, 10:00 AM until completion—setting up at the Farm Bureau for our annual show **(bring food to share for lunch)**

Friday, February 24, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—2017 Annual Show, Farm Bureau

Saturday, February 25, 9:00 AM – 3 PM—2017 Annual Show, Farm Bureau

Also, at the end of the show members are needed to help take down and clean the room.

As always your help and dedication to TAVS is welcome and appreciated. As Henry Ford once noted, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Sandra

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –February 2nd, 2017 7 PM
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

Inspirational: Lynne Wilson

“Growing Humidity Loving Plants” To be presented by Nancy Kast

Beginning in 2005, Nancy began collecting Best-in-Show awards at our annual shows and was awarded Best in Show multiple times. Over the years, her interest shifted to the “other” gesneriads and she continues to grow many gesneriads which are not commonly grown by African violet enthusiasts and even those who grow mostly gesneriads. You’re in for a treat as Nancy shares her knowledge with us and will bring some beautiful specimen plants for us to admire.

“Pre show instructions: Entry sheets, etc will be presented by Mary Lou Harden”

Refreshments and raffle plants: Therese Lynam, Lisa Villabol and Lynne Wilson

DAY MEETING – February 17th, 2017 10 AM
Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

Inspirational: Celia Howe

Refreshments and Raffle plants: Celia Howe, Terry Jordan and Kathleen Pape

**“Container Gardens Workshop”
Natural Gardens and Terrariums
Will be presented by Therese Lynam and
Mary Lou Harden**

Therese Lynam and Mary Lou Harden will demonstrate how to create a Natural Garden and Terrarium. For those who wish to bring their own materials, including a piece of driftwood which can be used as a container, or a brandy snifter or other clear glass container to be used for a terrarium, Therese and Mary Lou will assist in helping know how and where to place plants and the required African violet. If you have questions prior to the meeting, contact Therese or Mary Lou.

“Pre show instructions: Entry sheets, etc will be presented by Mary Lou Harden”

COMING EVENTS

February 9-20th, 2017- Florida State Fair
Come see us at our Booth!!!!

February 24-26th, 2017- TAVS Show
Farm Bureau, Valrico, FL
“Hats off to our American Heroes”

April 8-9th 2017- USF Spring Plant Sale-
at USF Botanical Gardens in Tampa. Hours are
10 am to 4 pm on Saturday & 10 am to 3 pm on
Sunday. (Setup Thursday)

AVSA Convention and Show
“Florida- Gateway to the Tropics”
Orlando Florida May 28th – June 4th, 2017



Gesneriad Society Convention 2017-
July 4 to July 8, 2016



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/20 Anita Adlin



RECENT PROGRAMS

January 5th, 2017

“Soil-what kind of soil do Violets like?
What are these??-Superthrive, Marathon,
Physan 20, vinegar, Clorox”
To be presented by Mary Kay Ross and
Cece Lane

Mary Kay Ross and Cece Lane presented an informative program about several products which are useful in growing African violets. Some of the information was about using common household products such as Clorox (used in cleaning pots, trays and matting), Vinegar (can be used to decrease the pH in soil, increasing the acidity level), as well as Superthrive (a plant hormone), Marathon (used when repotting to avoid soil mealybugs) and Physan 20 (a broad range disinfectant, fungicide, virucide and algacide).

January 20th, 2017

“Dish Garden Workshop”

Therese Lynam gave a demonstration on creating a Dish Garden for show. She stated the first thing in preparation is to select a shallow dish (round or another shape). Use sponge rock for drainage (rinse it with water first to get the dust off). Add soil and arrange plants. We suggest using about 5 plants other than the African violet. Save the tags for plant identification. Include at least one blooming African violet. The height of the tallest plant

should not be more than 1½ times the width of the dish. Cover with sphagnum or Irish moss. Lastly, you can add a small mirror to create a lake effect, pebbles to make a path, or small pieces of driftwood and rocks



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of Night Meeting January 5th, 2017 Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Kerns at 7:09 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

REFRESHMENTS: Mary Lou Harden, and Jean Krauchik

PROGRAM: "Soil-what kind of soil do Violets like? What are these??-Superthrive, Marathon, Physan 20, vinegar, Clorox"
Was presented by Cece Lane and Mary Kay Ross

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the December 1, 2016, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the December 1st, 2016, meeting were approved as published in "The Petal."

TREASURER REPORT:

Balance	\$5159.65
Income	\$308.33
Expenses	\$311.98
Ending Balance	\$5,156.00
Savings	\$2,723

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Gesneriad Society - Mary Lou Harden reported that Nancy Kast will present a program on Gesneriads at our February 2, 2017 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sandra Kerns discussed the upcoming 2017 Annual Show Schedule and stated that any member needing a copy of the Show Schedule needs to let her or Mary Lou know.

Sandra Kerns reminded everyone to review the Grooming Schedule on pages 60-61 of the Yearbook for guidelines on grooming your plants for show.

NEW BUSINESS: Sandra Kerns stated that a Nominating Committee will be formed shortly to contact members to request that they consider serving the Club in a volunteer position.

Sandra Kerns passed around a sheet requesting awards contributions from members for the upcoming TAVS Annual Show winners.

Sandra Kerns stated that members are needed to volunteer for the TAVS setup at the Florida State Fair on February 5, 2017 at 1:00PM and for plant set-up on February 7, 2017 at 10:00AM. A sign-up sheet was passed around. In addition, Mary Lou Harden requested that members email her if they can help in any way during the Florida State Fair time period for coverage of our TAVS booth and display (February 9-20, 2017).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sandra Kerns announced that the Horticultural Demonstrations for our display at the Florida State Fair will be February 11-20, 2017. Each demonstration should last approximately 1 ½ hours. Volunteers are needed for the Horticultural Demonstrations. Therese Lynam reported that members wanting a name tag can order them through Therese for \$9.00.

Mary Lou Harden reported that Worm's Way has a new owner and the name is now Tampa Hydroponic Company. It is still located at 4412 North 56th Street in Tampa. The soil tester which belonged to Mary Lou Harden and was shown during tonight's program presentation can be purchased at Tampa Hydroponic Company.

Sandra Kerns announced that Mary Lou Harden will hold a design workshop at her home, (Mary Lou's home) on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 10:00AM. Mary Lou will have dried materials for those attending to use. Mary Lou requested members to let her know if they will be attending.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Mary Lou Harden provided plants for the raffle.

RAFFLE: conducted by Sandra Kerns.

SHOW AND TELL: Mary Lou Harden brought in the following plants to share: Calico Queen (a chimera), Live Wire (a fantasy), and Toy Silver (a mini episcia). (This Toy Silver was the same plant that Mary Lou broke down and repotted several months ago during a repotting workshop at one of our night meetings and the plant has now grown quite a bit.)

Linda Baggett brought in a plant which she needed help in diagnosing its growing problem. Mary Lou Harden diagnosed the plant as

having foliar mealy bugs and recommended immediate tossing of the plant.

Anita Adlin also brought in a plant for help in diagnosing its growing problem. Mary Lou Harden diagnosed the plant as having a virus and recommended immediate tossing of this plant. Anita also brought in some small (healthy) starter plants she wanted to show.

TIP OF THE DAY: Mary Lou Harden passed on a valuable tip that members might want to stop in at thrift stores as Mary Lou stated that you can find neat growing or design items for cheap at these shops.

A tip was given regarding ridding your plants and plant area of gnats. Using a ratio of 20% vinegar to 80% water, put the mixture in a bowl and set it next to a plant with gnats.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Day Meeting
January 20th, 2017
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:12 by Jim Boyer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Fenner

REFRESHMENTS: Mary Fenner, Jim Matula and Lynn Bandy

**PROGRAM: "Dish Garden Workshop"
Presented by Therese Lynam**

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the December 16th, 2016 meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER REPORT:

Balance	\$5159.65
Income	\$308.33
Expenses	\$311.98
Ending Balance	\$5,156.00
Savings	\$2,723

OFFICER REPORTS: The February day meeting will be a natural dish gardens/Terrariums workshop led by Therese Lynam and Mary Lou Harden. The February 2nd evening meeting will be Growing Loving Gesneriads presented by Nancy Kast. Jim Boyer will be sponsoring a \$50 prize for Best Novice in this years show. Sign up sheet passed around for show awards and times to man our booth at the state fair.

NEW BUSINESS: We are looking for a new president for the club. Please contact one of the nominating committee if interested. This committee consists of Jerry O'Keefe, Mary Lou Harden and Terese Lynam.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Birthdays: Lucille Chester, Linda Baggett, Therese Lynam, Mary Alice Carver, Nancy Lee Simmons and Deanna Mander.
Jim Boyer announced his newest grandson, Martin.

ROLL CALL: Mary Fenner

RAFFLE: Conducted by Jim Boyer

SHOW AND TELL: Mary Lou Harden shared a gorgeous Project plant.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Mary Lou Harden, Glenn Shelton, Barbara Lopez and Roxanne Carney.

TIPS: The plastic fruit bowls are excellent for starting humidity loving Episcias.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary

MEET OUR MEMBERS

THE ROYAL AUTHORIZED AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF KING JAMES

I began my royal life in Tampa (a long time ago) as a 4th generation Floridian. I graduated from U of Fla, spent a little time in the Navy and began my life & health insurance career in Orlando in 1973.

While visiting home in 1975 I beheld my 1st variegated African violet. My aunt had purchased a show plant (from the Tampa AVS) and gave it to my mother. It was love at 1st sight. I went back to Orlando, ordered 50 leaves and immediately killed all of them. A little later I saw a notice for the Central Florida AVS meeting & attended. I joined & began growing (correctly this time). It was still 2 years before I got up the nerve to show – 3 blues. Now I was really hooked. Shortly thereafter a number of us broke away from the Central Fla club & formed the African Violet Association of Gardeners (AVA Gardeners – cute huh?).

The next year I was introduced to my 1st chimera – Desert Dawn. Since then I've grown chimeras almost exclusively. My 1 stand grew to 14 stands & I started a small commercial chimera business. That lasted for 4-5 years.

I've been a judge since the late 70's or early 80's (really, who can remember that far back).

In my spare (?) time I'm a strong advocate of the "F's" of life:

First & 2nd grandson – jeez what a handful – just welcomed the 2nd yesterday (1/12)

Football - college, Gators of course

Fishing – anytime anywhere

Feasting – especially eating my own cooking

Flowers – African violet obviously, herbs, flowering plants in general

Sorry plant lovers these are in order of MY priorities.

ANY OTHER BIOGRAPHIES ARE UNAUTHORIZED AND WILL BE PROSECUTED AND SUBJECT TO 50 LASHES WITH A WET NOODLE.

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

January 9, 2017

Welcome to the African Violet Society of America's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!

Who will be featured next month?? Send a short article on who you are, your family, your hobbies, and why you became a member to nybleb@aol.com along with a photo if available and it could be YOU!!

MEMBER ARTICLE

What's your mix?

Most of us know that to grow an award winning African Violet it takes light, water and soil mix.

I don't know about you, but I have been trying different mixes for over a year and have had meager success. So I figured I would go to what were some of the experts and see what they use.

So here goes! First up is the ever popular our own Mary Lou Harden: she uses the 4321 method.... 4 parts Pro Mix, 3 parts medium Perlite, 2 parts chunky Vermiculite and 1 part charcoal.

Then there's King James AKA Jim Boyer who keeps it simple and grows beautiful plants, his mix: Our club soil mix cut with Perlite and it works Great!

Next is the Glenn Shelton mix and Glenn always has his plants on the awards table at shows. His mix: 3 parts Pro mix, 1 part course Vermiculite and some charcoal.

Lately I have switched to 1 part Peat, 1 part Vermiculite, 1 part Perlite with just a bit of charcoal.

It's a soilless mix and we will see how that goes.

There is also "Happy Frog" mix cut with 50% Perlite that some folks use with great success.

There is plenty of information on our AVSA web site and all over the internet so don't be shy, try a few different ones until you find the one that works for you best.

And that my friend is the universal answer: "what works best for you" till next time

Jerry O'Keefe



Are These Baby Violets in Trouble?

"Cabbage Patch"

A question and this photo was sent to AVSA from Marilyn Miller, a [Growing Tip](#) reader:

"I have babies coming up from a leaf from "Ethel's Explosion" and the baby leaves are almost white. Is this because of a missing nutrient or just the nature of some plants? I have my plants under lights and feed them every watering. I am using 12-36-14 fertilizer half strength every time I water. Also have a similar problem with another leaf, "Cabbage Patch", only those baby leaves are a pale pink. Any ideas? Otherwise they seem healthy."

The babies could be in trouble, if the clump were to be divided today. But the solution to the problem is a bit more complicated. It helps to know more about the two varieties involved:

["Ethel's Explosion":](#)

- It is described by [Fancy Bloomers](#) as an [Ethel Champion](#) hybrid. "Semidouble to double, medium pink stars, with blue fantasy markings. A narrow white edge also surrounds

the flower. Crown variegation with lots of yellow and green. Standard growing foliage."

"Cabbage Patch":

- [First Class](#) (the AVSA software database of registered African violets) lists this hybrid as "*Cabbage Patch (E. Champion) Double light pink ruffled. Crown variegated dark green and ivory, plain. Standard*"

Notice that both varieties are [crown variegated](#). Dr. Jeff Smith, researcher and columnist for the [African Violet Magazine](#), notes:

"The variegated babies aren't really that different than what you see in the youngest leaves in the crown [of a mature plant]. They are often variegated especially if it's one of the crown variegated cultivars. **Young expanding leaves just aren't producing the chlorophyll to green up until they get bigger.** Meanwhile, the mother leaf is providing them with "food" to support the growth... The mutation for variegation just requires the leaves to be more mature before the chloroplasts fully form and make chlorophyll. That's probably a genetic problem, not a nutrient or cultural problem. However, giving the leaves the best cultural conditions such as warmer temperatures and a good supply of magnesium isn't going to hurt."

When violets are too cold, the leaves develop chlorophyll at a slower rate. Marilyn shared that her violet room is kept at 70-75° F, which is close to ideal. For other growers, however, it might be helpful to move similar clumps to a higher (and warmer) location in the room.

A lack of magnesium will inhibit the production of chlorophyll. Treating with Epsom salts may help. To add magnesium to your violets, stir 2 tablespoons of Epsom salts into a gallon of hot water. Cool the solution to room temperature, then water into the top of the pot.

In addition, Dr. Smith had an interesting

suggestion:

"If someone notices that there is a multitude of babies being made, they might consider plucking some out to reduce the competition between the babies and provide less strain on the mother leaf. She'll probably produce 1-2 babies faster than spreading out her energies over 8-10 babies. That's going to require some delicate surgery especially since non-green leaves will bruise easily. I wouldn't recommend trying in most cases, but it might be something to consider in some instances if your goal is only to get 1-2 babies from a leaf as fast as possible."

To answer our question, "Are these baby violets in trouble?", crown-variegated babies would be endangered if they were separated from the mother leaf now. Time will likely solve the problem. Reducing the number of babies may help them mature and become green sooner. Adding a solution of Epsom salts may also help. We hope Marilyn will let us know how these babies are doing in a few months!

You may [contact us](#) with your violet questions or comments at any time.

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share with your friends!



Mary Lou Harden will be hosting a soil mixing party immediately following the February day meeting February 17th, 2017. Any and all hands will be greatly appreciated as soil bags are needed for sale at our show February 24-26, 2017.



ON SHOW SET-UP

Thursday, February 23, is SHOW SET-UP DAY – and we need all hands on deck! You'll be glad to know that NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. . .YOU'LL GET ON-THE-JOB TRAINING!

We will begin setting up the showroom at 10 am. **We need as many people there as possible to help with set-up.** Stage Manager For Life, David Matthews, will be there to make sure that everything goes smoothly and efficiently.

Here's what happens at set-up:

- Chairs which are stored in the showroom must be removed and placed in the storage area.
- The rented tables will then be set in place.
- All tables will be covered with skirting and a top cover.
- A curtain must be installed to separate the kitchen area from the show room.
- The Sales tables must be readied, our shelf installed, and Club supplies arranged in a pleasing way.
- The education display will be set up in the entry hall.
- The focal point will be set up in the show room near the kitchen.
- The Club sale plants must be removed from boxes, priced and set on the sales tables.
- Club supplies—soil, perlite, fertilizer, pots, etc., must be priced and placed on the tables.
- The Entries process is set up in the kitchen and entries for workers begins at 1 pm. Entries forms will be available at both February meetings.

Since the entire set-up process takes a few hours, we ask everyone to please bring food for all the workers to share. Any leftovers will be refrigerated and used on Friday. So. . .plan to come and help share the load. It's always a busy time, but we have a lot of fun!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Listed below are items that TAVS will need for our 2017 show. By donating these items you are helping with our club's expenses.

8" plates
Cake plates
8 ounce coffee cups
8 ounce cold drinking cups
Plastic Ware
Napkins
Disposable tablecloths

TAVS 2017 PROJECT PLANT

Hope you all are doing well growing and grooming your project plants and nurturing those growing in the Dandy Pots!

At our February show, there will be 2 classes in which members can enter their Project Plant. One class will be for Novices and the other class will be for everyone who is not a Novice. There will be cash awards given for the winners in both of these classes.

Members will not find out the name of the Project Plant until after the show has been judged.



Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag.

NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) mlhard@verizon.net. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

HELP!!!! +

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Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member: THERESEJOAN@aol.com

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Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this publication are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors or editor, nor the Tampa African Violet Society can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Tampa African Violet Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material herein.

THE PETAL

MARCH 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



IRISH CASTLES

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

A Message from your First Vice President

Dear Members and Friends of TAVS,
On behalf of our President, Sandra Kerns, I want to thank every member, spouse and friend who helped with our 2017 show which is now history. We had fewer entries this year, but the exhibits were beautiful and we were awarded the Standard Show Achievement Award, despite the fact that we were unable to get the computer program and printer to work. Thanks to those who pitched in and wrote by hand the entry cards and show information, and to Jim Boyer, Show Co-Chair, for being so patient throughout the stressful entry process!

Congratulations to TAVS and everyone who participated and made it happen!

As most of you know, Sandra was instrumental in organizing and carrying out our exhibit at the Florida State Fair and had planned to help with our show. In the meantime, however, her husband Dave suffered a stroke a few days before our show, and was hospitalized and in Intensive Care. Sandra's first concern now is for her husband. She will be unable to continue serving as president and participating further in club activities.

Sandra had also been nominated to serve as First Vice President for next year, so we will be looking for someone to serve in that capacity.

The First Vice President is responsible for planning programs for our meetings.

All of us were saddened by this news but are optimistic that with Dave receiving the best of care, he will fully recover. Our thoughts and prayers will continue for Dave's healing and complete restoration. Cards may be sent to Sandra Kerns, 910 Highland Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698.

Meantime, at our night meeting on Thursday, March 2, Therese Lynam will present the show awards and we will also have election of officers. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Mary Lou Harden
First Vice President

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –March 2nd, 2017 at 7 PM
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

Inspirational: Angela Newell

“Presentation of Show Awards”
To be presented by Therese Lynam

“Election of Officers”

Refreshments and raffle plants: Anita Adlin and Angela Newell

DAY MEETING – March 17th, 2017 10 AM
Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

Inspirational: Tom Schaefer
Refreshments and Raffle plants: Tom Schaefer, Robert Cameron and Jerry O'Keefe

“Our Affiliates-DAVS, GS, AVSA, AVCF
To be Presented by Lynne Wilson

COMING EVENTS

April 8-9th 2017- USF Spring Plant Sale-
at USF Botanical Gardens in Tampa. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday & 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday. (Setup Thursday)

AVSA Convention and Show
“Florida- Gateway to the Tropics”
Orlando Florida May 28th – June 4th, 2017



Gesneriad Society Convention 2017-
July 4 to July 8, 2016



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/7 Betty Wise
3/7 Ellie Wenzke
3/8 Grace Szeja
3/13 Paulette Kautz



RECENT PROGRAMS

February 2nd, 2017

“Growing Humidity Loving Gesneriads” Presented by Nancy Kast

Nancy gave a very informative presentation on Gesneriads.

February 17th, 2017

“Container Gardens Workshop” Natural Gardens and Terrariums Presented by Therese Lynam and Mary Lou Harden

Mary Lou Harden demonstrated how to create a Terrarium.



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of Night Meeting February 2nd, 2017 Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Kerns at 7:16 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Lynne Wilson

REFRESHMENTS: Therese Lynam, and Lynne Wilson

PROGRAM: Two programs were presented this evening:

- “Growing Humidity Loving Gesneriads in Florida” by Nancy Kast.
- “Pre-Show Instructions: Entry Sheets, etc.”, by Mary Lou Harden

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the January 5th, 2016, meeting were approved as published in “The Petal.”

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer’s report at January 31, 2017, was received. A copy of the report will be filed with the original of these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gesneriad Society - Nancy Kast reported that the Spring season coming up will be very busy as February has the Florida State Fair event, March has the GreenFest event, and April has the USF Festival event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jerry O’Keefe, Mary Lou Harden and Therese Lynam served on the Nominating Committee for new club officers. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Sandra Kerns reported the following proposed slate of officers:
President – Mary Lou Harden
First Vice President – Sandra Kerns
Second Vice President – Jim Boyer
Treasurer – Therese Lynam
Day Recording Secretary – Roxann Carney
Night Recording Secretary – Angela Newell
Corresponding Secretary – Cece Lane

Election of officers will take place at the March TAVS meetings.

NEW BUSINESS: Sandra Kerns passed around a sheet requesting awards contributions from members for the upcoming TAVS Annual Show winners.

Sandra Kerns also passed around a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer for setup of the TAVS exhibit at the Florida State Fair on Sunday February 5, 2017 (in the Family Living building), coverage of the exhibit during the State Fair hours, and take-down of the exhibit after the State Fair ends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sandra Kerns reported that Mary Lou Harden will hold a soil mixing session for the soil mix the club sells at Mary Lou's home at 12:00 Noon right after the day meeting on February 17, 2017.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Mary Lou Harden provided plants for the raffle.

RAFFLE: conducted by Sandra Kerns.

SHOW AND TELL:

Jerry Kast brought in Cajun Trail (a trailer), and Nancy Kast brought in an episcia from Ecuador. (Nancy didn't know the name of this episcia.)

Mary Lou Harden displayed a plant (Lil Glimpse o' Spring) planted in a decorative container as an example of what the Show Schedule of a container grown plant could look like. Mary Lou also brought in her club project plant that she had been growing and offered it for sale. (Mary Lou stated that if her plant was purchased prior to the Show it could not be entered in our Show because the Show Rules state that a plant must be in the exhibitor's possession for at least 3 months.) Mary Lou also brought in to share Ozark Purple Zebra (a sinningia).

Anita Adlin brought in Sky Azure (a standard African violet) and Cleopatra (a pink variegated episcia). Anita also brought in Rob's Whodunit (a semi-mini), which she wanted growing advice on.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Day Meeting
February 17th, 2017
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:14 am by Jim Boyer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Celia Howe

GUESTS: Tammy; Patricia Rutzke's daughter

REFRESHMENTS: Celia Howe, Terry Jordan and Kathleen Pape

**PROGRAM: "Container Gardens Workshop"
Terrariums
Presented by Mary Lou Harden**

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the January 20th, 2017 meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer's report at January 31, 2017, was received. A copy of the report will be filed with the original of these minutes.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Jerry O'Keefe reported

the following have been nominated to serve during 2017-2018:

President: Mary Lou Harden
First Vice President: Sandra Kerns
Second Vice President: James Boyer
Treasurer: Therese Lynam
Day Recording Secretary: Roxanne Carney
Night Recording Secretary: Angela Newell
Corresponding Secretary: Cece Lane

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

We need members to help with the show setup on Thursday, February 23rd, at 10 a.m. Entries will start later in the day at 2 p.m.. Jim Boyer went over entry sheets, awards and instructions for sale of show plants. Clerks, Jerry O'Keefe, Jerry Jordan, Jim Matula and Grace Szeja will need to be at the show at 8:30 a.m. Friday morning, February 24th, and judging will start at 9 a.m. Plant sales will open at 9 a.m. and the show will be open to the public at Noon. Tear down and cleanup will start at 3 p.m. Saturday. Please bring extra brooms, dust pans, mops and buckets or Swiffers to speed the process along. A potluck is the order of the day for the three day event. Bring a dish to keep our members energized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Birthdays: Anita Adlin

TAVS took fifth place with our exhibit at the Florida State Fair. The Gesneriad club took first place.

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com Facebook. Like us! Post a note.

Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month.

Our thoughts are with Therese Lynam on the loss of her brother and with Terry Jordan on the passing of her ex-husband.

ROLL CALL: Mary Fenner

RAFFLE: Conducted by Sandra Kerns

SHOW AND TELL:

Mary Lou Harden shared a gorgeous Pink Panther Episcia grown under a dome.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Mary Lou Harden, Roxanne Carney, Terry Jordan, Kathleen Pape and Barbara Lopez.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Who will be featured next month?? Send a short article on who you are, your family, your hobbies, and why you became a member to nybleb@aol.com along with a photo if available and it could be YOU!!

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Lynne Wilson*

Big Batch mac & cheese

3 C. short pasta
4 Tbsp. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
2 (12 oz.) cans evaporated milk
1/3 C. skim milk
2 large eggs
1 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
8 oz. processed American cheese slices, torn
8 oz. Gruyere
8 oz. sharp Cheddar, grated

Preheat oven to 375 F. Cook pasta according to package directions.

Drain and return hot pasta to the pot. Add the butter, toss until melted.

Whisk together the evaporated milk, skim milk, eggs, salt, and nutmeg in a medium sized bowl. Combine the cheeses into a separate bowl.

Spread 1/3 of the pasta at the bottom of a 9 x 13" baking dish. Top with 1/3 of the cheese mixture.

Repeat with the remaining pasta and cheese, then pour the milk mixture over the top. Bake until

warmed through and golden, 20-30 minutes

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

January 30th, 2017

Welcome to the African Violet Society of America's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!

Oldies but Goodies



Happy Cricket registered by Painesville Town Country AVS & R. Hollada in 1984

Many of us have an old favorite in our violet collection. It may not be the fanciest flower, but it has won our heart. Today we're going to talk about those 'vintage violets'. Vintage is a term used loosely to describe an object or person who has been around for a long time and

has proven worth. In the African Violet Society of America

however, the term 'vintage' is applied to any hybrid African violet which was released *at least 25 years ago* and still being grown today.



"Ellie Gardener" registered by P. Harris in 1989

How can you know if your older hybrid was released 25 years ago? First of all, it must still have the original name assigned to it by its hybridizer. Without the name, it lacks provenance and many growers would call it a "noid" (or no-identification). If it has a name, then these tips may help:

1) The AVSA [software program](#) called First Class (also available as [downloadable](#), in [android app](#) or in [Apple app](#)), lists many named varieties of African violets. All registered cultivars include the initial date of entry in the database.

2) Non-registered cultivars provide more challenges. First Class also lists the hybridizer, which can also establish the time period in which the cultivar might have been developed.

Searching on hybridizer Max Maas, for example, you'll find 102 entries, the oldest date listed is 1965 and the most recent is 1988. It is reasonable to assume that any Max Maas hybrid which has no date listed fell in

to that range and is now vintage.

3) Old copies of the [African Violet Magazine](#) may also be helpful. Photos, advertisements, and show results will all help establish the date when a cultivar was being grown.

4) Internet searches and questions asked in [Facebook](#) African violet groups are also effective ways to discover if a particular hybrid has earned the right to be called vintage.



"White Madonna"
released by
Eyerdom (Granger
Gardens) in 1953



"Tomahawk"
registered by K.
Stork 1990

Preserving the vintage hybrids is important. Many growers find that these hybrids have vigor and excellent qualities not always found in more modern hybrids. They are a part of our history and often the foundation

for new breeding. It's fun to grow the hybrids grown by our grandparents. And, if you wish to show yours off in all their glory, [AVSA affiliate shows](#) often offer classes and awards for vintage violets.

Would you like to buy vintage violets? There are several [AVSA commercial vendors](#) who feature vintage hybrids on their websites including [Fancy Bloomers](#) who carries all the vintage varieties shown in our photos today. This includes [leaf cuttings](#) of many vintage hybrids including the "original ten" hybrids introduced before 1930.

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

Got Problems?

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OUR SHOW

TAVS 2017 PROJECT PLANT

AND THE NAME IS: PINK WATERCOLOR

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African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).

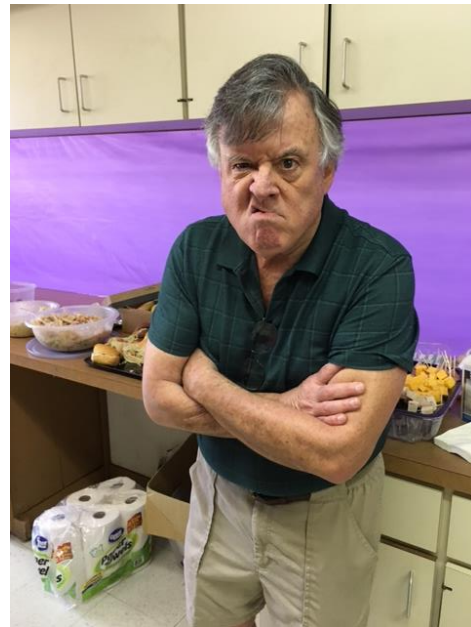
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Our "Happy" Co-chair!!!

AKA King James!!!



Angela Newell: Rob's Swizzle stick



Jerry Katz: Lexi



Glenn Shelton: Lexi



Jim Boyer: Ness's Mini Sota



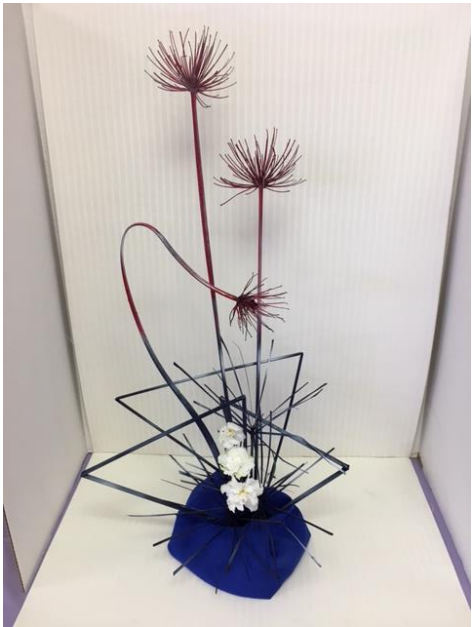
Angela Newell: Ness's Candy Pink: Best Standard



Pat Rutzke: Clara Barton



Pat Rutzke: Moon Walk



Mary Lou Harden: Salute to the Armed Forces



David Matthews: Dish Garden

THE PETAL

APRIL 2017

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SPRING JOY

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,

The month of April marks the beginning of Tampa African Violet Society's 48th year! Congratulations, TAVS! We'll celebrate our anniversary at both April meetings when every member is asked to bring a dish to share. At our April 6 night meeting, Tom Schaefer will give us some tips on tools that can be helpful in growing African violets. At the April 21 day meeting, Glenn Shelton will share with us about the choices we have when it comes to pots and pot sizes, whether it's a good idea to use individual reservoirs or plant trays, and lots of

other information about successfully growing African violets.

We'll be participating in the Spring Plant Festival at USF's Botanical Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9. This is a great opportunity for members to give a helping hand as we greet the public, answer questions and sell plants and supplies. Setup will be Thursday, April 6, at 1 pm. With the new tents, it doesn't take long to get the tents up. If you can help with the setup, please let me know. We need two more volunteers – will you be one of them?

We need workers to help with the sale on Saturday and Sunday, so please support TAVS

by volunteering to help on one or both of these days.

DUES ARE DUE as of April 1 each year. Please renew your membership at the April meetings.

I'm hoping many of our members will attend the AVSA convention in Orlando the end of May through June 3. It has been quite a few years since a national convention was in Florida, so I encourage all of you to take advantage of this great opportunity. You will be amazed at the show room with several hundred horticulture exhibits and many, many beautiful designs. If you would like to attend, even for one day, and will need transportation, let me know and we'll try to arrange a carpool.

Cece Lane will be putting together our programs for 2017-2018. If you have suggestions or ideas about programs, or if there's a particular topic or speaker you would like to suggest, please let me or Cece know. We want to provide the very best and most informative programs possible.

Thanks to all of you for your support of and participation in the Club and its activities. . YOU are what make TAVS the best African violet club in the State!

Mary Lou Harden
President

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS



NIGHT MEETING –April 6th, 2017 at 7 PM Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

Inspirational: Mary Kay Ross

**“I’m a Tool Addict”
Tools that make Life Easier for the African Violet Addict!
To be presented by Tom “The Tool Man” Schaefer**

Our very own “Tool Man” will be demonstrating various “Tools” that he uses, some new and some old.



DAY MEETING – April 21st, 2017 10 AM Public Meeting Room Seffner-Mango Library 410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

Inspirational: Angelina Grundhoff



“What Kind of Pots, What Size, Individual Reservoirs or Plant Trays, What is Matting and Where Do I Get It, Trays, Mats, Wicks Presented by Glenn Shelton

Some options to help grow your violets

Where to grow my violets?

How to water and feed them?

- reservoirs from inexpensive and
- wicking materials
- matting materials
- trays/egg crate

What pot choices are available?

We will visit some of the options available for you to grow your beautiful African violets.

COMING EVENTS

USF SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

USF Botanical Gardens

12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612

Saturday, April 8 – 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, April 9 – 10 am to 3 pm

All TAVS members may bring African violets or other gesneriads to sell. Blooming plants are the best sellers but if you have plants that are out of bloom, you can affix a picture of the plant in bloom – or just the blooms -- to the pot and that will help. All plants should be identified by name and each plant must have a stake with the price clearly marked at the top of the stake and the member's sales number located toward the soil line, or on the reverse side of the stake. Plants should be brought in between 7 and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning and placed on the sales tables. All cars **MUST** be out of the property by 9 a.m. There's plenty of free parking space across the street from the gardens.



AVSA 2017 CONVENTION INFORMATION

May 30 – June 3, 2017

Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive
8001 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 351-2420

Showroom Schedule during Convention Week

The Showroom is open to members registered for the convention on Thursday evening, following the Awards Banquet.

The Showroom is open to the public on:

Friday, June 2, 2017 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, June 3, 2017 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Note: *There is a \$5.00 admission charge for people who are not AVSA members. If non-members join AVSA at the door, this fee is waived. AVSA members who are not registered with the Convention and show their AVSA membership card, will receive a \$1.00 discount.*

Gesneriad Society Convention 2017- July 4 to July 8, 2016



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/3 Angela Newell
4/4 Jim Matula
4/9 Mary Lou Harden
4/11 Terry Jordan
4/17 Lynn Bandy
4/23 Virginia Barthelemy



RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING –March 2nd, 2017

“Presentation of Show Awards”
Presented by Mary Lou Harden



TO THESE WINNERS!

“HATS OFF TO OUR AMERICAN HEROES”

Best In Show, Best Semiminiature, Jolly Magic, **Angelina Grundhoff**; 2nd Best in Show, Lil Glimpse 'O Spring, Best AVSA Collection-- Mini/Semi, Dean's Ruby, Jolly Texan, Lil Glimpse 'O Spring, Best Species, Grandifolia, **Terry Jordan**; Best AVSA Collection— Standard, Spanish Moss, Buckeye Delightful and Cajun Popcorn, Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes, Best Project Plant, Best Trailer, Cherokee Trail, Best Episcia, Toy Silver, **Mary Lou Harden**; Best Standard, Ness' Candy Pink, Best Project Plant-Novice, Best Chimera, The Alps, Best Novice Horticulture, **Angela Newell**; Best Unusual Container, **Barbara Matthews**; Best Dish Garden, **David Matthews**; Best Design-Novice, **Pat Rutzke**; Best Gesneriad, Aeschynanthus Humilis, **Nancy Kast**; Best Miniature, Jolly Jubilee, **Glenn Shelton**.

“Election of Officers”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS!

The following have been elected to serve as officers during 2017-2018:

Mary Lou Harden, President
Cece Lane, First Vice President
Jim Boyer, Second Vice President
Treasurer, Therese Lynam
Recording Secretary/Day, Roxanne Carney
Recording Secretary/Night, Angela Newell
Corresponding Secretary, Cece Lane

DAY MEETING – March 17th, 2017

“Our Affiliates-DAVS, GS, AVSA, AVCF
Presented by Lynne Wilson

Lynne provided us with an informative overview of our African Violet Affiliates. She passed around copies of the AVSA magazine, the DAVS Dixie News (of which our very own Mary Lou is editor) information on websites and membership applications with encouragement for us to seek membership in them all!!

A Traditional St Patrick's Day feast was provided by Tom Schaefer, Jerry O'Keefe and Robert Cameron with a fun Green cake by Bonnie Smith



**LOOKING
AHEAD**

We need to select a show theme for 2018. Got any ideas? Please jot them down and bring with you to the next meeting or send by email to Mary Lou at mlhard@verizon.net.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Night Meeting
March 2nd, 2017
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order by First Vice President Mary Lou Harden at 7:13 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Anita Adlin

REFRESHMENTS: Anita Adlin, Angela Newell

PROGRAM: Presentation of Show Awards
Presented by Mary Lou Harden

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the February 2nd, 2017, meeting were approved as published in "The Petal."

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer's report for February 28th, 2017, was presented by Cece Lane. A copy of the report will be filed with the original of these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVCF - Mary Lou Harden reported that the AVCF is busy preparing for the AVSA Convention May 28-June 4, 2017. TAVS is in charge of doing the table favors and the centerpieces. Mary Lou also reported that the AVCF will not be having a judged show on Sundays any longer. The show will only be on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday each year.

AVSA – Mary Lou Harden reported that plans are going well for the AVSA Convention. Mary Lou reminded everyone to get their registrations in for the Convention.

DAVS – Mary Lou Harden reported that there will be no DAVS Show this year because of the AVSA Convention. The DAVS Show is usually in March or April each year. Next year's DAVS Show will be hosted by the Cincinnati Club.

The Gesneriad Society - Nancy Kast reported that the Gesneriad Society is very busy. The State Fair went very well. They are now busy preparing for the Green Fest (March 24th and 25th), then the USF Botanical Gardens Spring Festival and Green Thumb events in April.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden presented the slate of Officers for the 2017-2018 year as follows:

President – Mary Lou Harden

First Vice President – Sandra Kerns was to fill this position, but she is unable to do so at the present time, so the Club will need to fill the First Vice President position. CeCe Lane agreed to take this position. There were no additional nominations from the members present for this position.

Second Vice President – Jim Boyer

Treasurer – Therese Lynam

Recording Secretary Day – Roxanne Carney

Recording Secretary Night – Angela Newell

Corresponding Secretary – CeCe Lane

Nancy Kast moved and Lynne Wilson seconded to approve the slate of officers as presented. The motion was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Critiques from our 2017 TAVS Annual Show from the members produced suggestions for improving next year's Show as follows:

- More advertising for the Show. (It was felt that there was insufficient advertising for this year's Show which may have resulted in lower public attendance at the Show.)
- We need to get our name out there for the next year's Show.

- Better planning is needed getting supplies to next year's Show.
- We need to educate our members more on what needs to be done to get ready for the Show, as well as during the Show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The April Night Meeting will be on April 6, 2017, and is our anniversary meeting and potluck dinner. Everyone needs to bring a covered dish to share.

The USF Plant Sale is coming up in early April. Set-up will be on Thursday as usual. With the new tents requiring less set-up time, we won't need as much help on Thursday as we have in the past.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Mary Lou Harden provided plants for the raffle.

RAFFLE: conducted by Mary Lou Harden.

SHOW AND TELL:

Jerry Kast brought in Shirly's Pink Puff (semi-miniature) and Nancy Kast brought in Pancas (sinningia).

TIPS: Lisa Villabol suggested using a makeup brush to clean the leaves of your African violets.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Day Meeting
March 17th, 2017
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Mary Lou Harden followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Tom Schaefer

REFRESHMENTS: A tasteful St Patrick's Day feast provided by Tom Schaefer, Jerry O'Keefe and Robert Cameron with a fun Green cake by Bonnie Smith

**PROGRAM: "Our Affiliates"
AVSA, DAVS, AVCF and the Gesneriad Society"
Presented by Lynne Wilson**

Lynne provided us with an informative overview of all the different societies, what they accomplish and provide, and how to join!!!

Therese Lynam presented show awards. Those included were "Best in Show" by Angelina Grundhoff

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the February 17th, 2017 meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer's report at February 28th, 2017, was received. A copy of the report will be filed with the original of these minutes.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVCF- is preparing for the AVSA convention with TAVS doing table favors and centerpieces. Annual dues \$10

AVSA- convention will be held in Orlando May 28th to June 4th. Annual dues \$35.

DAVS- Annual dues are \$15 and due in February.

The Gesneriad Society- dues \$25.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Show critique discussed. Need more show plants. There was a reminder that 75% of one's plant sales go to the grower and 25% to the club. Computers were a concern that they work properly and it was confirmed that we did have the Farm Bureau room for next year's show.

NEW BUSINESS:

USF plant sale is April 8-9th with set up Thursday, April 6th at 1PM. Robert Cameron and Tom Schafer will be there to help set up the tents. A signup sheet is being passed around for volunteers to work the sale Saturday or Sunday.

Give some thought to doing a project plant and to a show theme for 2018.
If you want to attend the convention and need a room, let Mary Lou know

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Birthdays: Betty Wise, Ellie Wenzke, Grace Szeja and Paulette Kautz.

April meeting is member potluck to celebrate our club anniversary. Bring a dish to share.

April 6th night meeting program will be by Tom Schaefer on tools that make it easier to grow our plants.

April 21st day meeting will be by Glenn Shelton on pots, reservoirs, matting and wicking.

A special thanks to Jerry O'Keefe and Mary Fenner who donated money or raffle and auction items for the AVSA convention.

Another thanks to all the members that donated to the homeless ministry at Common Ground Christian church.

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com

Facebook. Like us! Post a note.

Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month.

ROLL CALL: Therese Lynam

RAFFLE: Conducted by Therese Lynam

SHOW AND TELL:

Mary Lou Harden showed off Rob's Slap Happy and Terrie Jordan Streptocarpus Pegasus.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Roxanne Carney, Terry Jordan, Jerry O'Keefe and Tom Schaefer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Lynn Bandy*

Graham Cracker Éclair "Cake"

1 pkg. (3.4 oz.) JELL-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding
1-1/2 cups cold milk
15 graham crackers, broken crosswise in half (30 squares), divided
1 tub (8 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed
1 cup Chocolate Frosting

Beat pudding mix and milk in large bowl with whisk 2 min. Let stand 5 min. Meanwhile, cover bottom of 8-inch square pan with graham squares, overlapping as needed to form even layer. Stir COOL WHIP into pudding; spread half over graham squares in pan. Cover with 10 of the remaining graham squares. Repeat layers of pudding mixture and graham squares. Spread with Chocolate Frosting
Refrigerate 3 hours.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Our “New” President: Mary Lou Harden

I was born in Rushsylvania, Ohio, a little town of about 600 population in Midwestern Ohio. There was one school in town for all 12 grades – Rushsylvania School, a grocery store, a creamery, a restaurant, a bank, a hardware store and a post office. I’m the youngest of 9 children, 4 boys and 5 girls. There are now 3 girls remaining. I grew up on a farm where we had cows, hogs, sheep and chickens – all basically were food for our family. My dad did the butchering. We shared crops with another family in town – they helped my dad and brothers plant and harvest the corn, wheat and soy beans, disced the fields and also assisted with the baling of hay. One of my jobs was feeding the hundred or so chickens and gathering the eggs. I was a member of 4-H and while still very young, had my own flower garden.

Every spring we planted a huge garden with all kinds of vegetables. Every one of us helped in the garden, pulling weeds, hoeing, planting the seeds, gathering the vegetables – then processing them for canning. We had a large underground cellar with a big wide concrete shelf where we stored all the canned vegetables and fruits. We also had peach, apple, pear and cherry trees. If we didn’t have enough peaches to last the year, my dad drove to Lake Erie where he bought several bushels of peaches for us to process.

One part of our property had a large low spot in the middle in which water collected every fall and in winter, the water froze over and it became our skating rink. It usually stayed frozen for 2 or 3 months.

In early December my dad took us to the woods where he cut down one of the beautiful fir trees which we proudly brought home and decorated for Christmas. The house smelled wonderful!

After my Junior year in High School, I spent the summer as a secretary for professors in the English Department at Ohio State University. They begged me to come back the next summer, which I did, after which I traveled to Joplin, MO, and entered Ozark Christian College. I received Ozark’s 5-year Bachelor of Theology degree. Following graduation I served 3 years as Youth Minister and Secretary for Fairview Christian Church in Carthage, MO, then moved to Tampa and became Youth Minister and Music Director for Central Christian Church, now known as Common Ground Christian Church.

I also lived in Philadelphia, PA, for a couple years, where I was secretary to Counsel for the home office of Germantown Insurance Company. Then I got married and returned to Tampa and began working as a legal secretary at the Carlton Fields law firm where I worked for 33 years. While working at Carlton Fields, my assistant gave me a beautiful African violet – purple and white double blooms. I loved it, but didn’t know anything about violets and it was almost dead when my parents came to spend a couple months with us during December and January. My mom took over – she grew violets on her windowsills in Ohio – and it wasn’t long before the violet was revived and blooming again. This time when I looked at it, I was smitten by the beautiful blooms and it occurred to me that if God cared enough about us to give us such natural beauty, then perhaps he would want me to take an interest in his creation. . .which I did. . .and you know the rest of the story.

Speaking of the purple and white blooms – no doubt that is why Arctic Frost is my absolute favorite African Violet!

Some of my other activities have included: former Trustee, Florida Christian College, Kissimmee, FL; Member, National Association of Parliamentarians; Secretary and President of Florida Alpha Parliamentarians Unit, Tampa, FL; Chairman, Bylaws Committee, African Violet Society of America, Inc.; Past Chairman, Board of Directors, Central Christian Church,

Tampa, FL; Member and Secretary of Management Team, Common Ground Christian Church, Tampa, FL;

Tampa Oratorio Singers, Tampa, FL; Director and Accompanist, Sugartime Singers, Tampa, FL; Tutor (reading), Graham Elementary School, Tampa, FL; Teacher in the ESOL program (speakers of other languages), Hillsborough County, FL.



Artic Frost

Who will be featured next month?? Send a short article on who you are, your family, your hobbies, and why you became a member to nybleb@aol.com along with a photo if available and it could be YOU!!

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

March 20, 2017

The Real Violet

Both are called "violets" but they are not related



Photo 1

[Malpighiales](#). The other (photo 2) is Saintpaulia

Do you know which of these two photos shows an African violet?

One of these (photo 1) is a Viola, which is in the family of [Violaceae](#) from the [order of](#)

ionantha, which is in the [Gesneriad](#) family from the [order of Lamiales](#). That means they have very little DNA in common.

The term "violet" is commonly used for both. But they are not the same, nor are they even related!



Photo by Marjorie Ballard

Photo 2

Both have similar pansy-shaped flowers and shades of purple are common in both. Both also have heart-shaped leaves but the Saintpaulia has a more succulent leaf covered with fuzz.

The **African** violet is shown in Photo 2. It's not hard to understand why it was named *ionantha* which means "violet-like flowers".

Common Names

Common names used for Viola are pansy and violet (and sometimes johnny-jump-ups). The common name for Saintpaulia is African violet.

Violets and Pansies (or [Viola](#)) are most commonly grown in the northern hemisphere often used as a bedding flower in gardens or found growing wild in shady locations.

African violets (or [Saintpaulia](#)) were discovered in east Africa and today species are still found there. But Saintpaulia hybrids are some of the most common indoor potted plants in the world. There's an excellent chance that you grow and love Saintpaulia if you are reading this!

So when is a violet an African violet? Scientifically speaking, it's when that violet is a Saintpaulia!

[The Alpine Garden Society](#) studies Viola and related plants. The [African Violet Society of America](#) studies Saintpaulia and you are invited to join!

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

THANK YOU!

To the following TAVS members who participated in our 2017 Show:

Glenn Shelton	Bonnie Smith
Roxanne Carney	Jim Boyer
Barbara Matthews	David Matthews
Mary Kay Ross	Tom Schaefer
Angelina Grundhoff	Celia Howe
Lynn Bandy	Pat Rutzke
Nancy Lee Simmons	Nancy Kast
Terry Jordan	Jim Matula
Jean Krauchik	Linda Bennett
Jerry O'Keefe	Angela Newell
Mary Lou Harden	Cece Lane
Grace Szeja	Therese Lynam

Thanks to Grace Szeja and Jim Matula who served as Clerks during judging of our show!

AVSA JUDGING SCHOOL

AVSA is sponsoring a Judging School on Wednesday, May 31, at the Wyndham Orlando Resort Hotel. The lecture will be from 8 a.m. to Noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The exam begins at 2 p.m. Cost is \$10 payable to AVSA. Requirements (if taking the test) are: AVSA membership card must be shown at the door and proof of 3 blue ribbons. The test will be based on the latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, 13th Edition, revised in May 2016, plus any updates. The teacher is our own Jim Boyer (King James). Congratulations, Jim!



Members of Tampa African Violet Society were deeply saddened to learn of the passing away of David Kerns, husband of Sandra Kerns, our immediate past president and friend. As you know, Sandra was unable to complete the last few weeks of her presidency due to her husband's illness. We send our love and sympathy to Sandra and her family. Cards should be sent to: Sandra Kerns, 910 Highland Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698. Keep Sandra and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) mlhard@verizon.net. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member:
THERESEJOAN@aol.com

Visit us at:

www.Tampafricanviolets.com

African Violet Society of America (AVSA). Subscription to the *African Violet Magazine* (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** www.AVSA.org

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, *The Dixie News*, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.** johnniepearl@aol.com www.davs.org

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, *The Florida Connection*, is \$10 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

HELP!!!!!! +

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this publication are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors or editor, nor the Tampa African Violet Society can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Tampa African Violet Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material herein.



SPRING CROCUS

Some more "Show" photos



Members enjoying the Day Meeting March 17th, 2017



THE PETAL

MAY 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



MAY DAWN

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,

We made it! As you are well aware, Springtime is the busiest time for us! In January, we're busy doing all we can to get our plants blooming and ready to enter in our show, and those doing designs are working hard trying to figure out what their designs will be. In early February, it's the Florida State Fair when we get together to plan the layout of our booth, then set it up. Later in February, it's our annual show. The month of March we take a little break and in April we're busy again at the Spring Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens. So now we can relax and maintain. However much

relaxing you do, just don't neglect! Consistency is the key word when it comes to growing beautiful, show-quality African violets – they don't just happen.

Although we didn't take 1st place at the Fair, we were awarded 5th place which entitled us to an additional stipend. And even though we had computer and printer and computer program problems at our Show, causing all the entry cards and tally sheets to be hand written, we received the SSAA award – and we did put on a beautiful show. The plant sale at USF was one of our most successful. Thanks to everyone who helped with any and all of these projects – they can't be done by one person – it takes all of us working together to make them happen.

If you haven't paid your dues (\$15), please renew your membership at the May 4 night meeting or mail a check to Therese Lynam, 1403 Compton Street, Brandon, FL 33511. Dues cover the period from April 1 through March 31 each year.

Now we're making preparations for 2017-2018. A new yearbook is being prepared and Cece Lane is working on our programs. If you would like to suggest a program, a topic or a speaker, please send an email message to Cece at Cecel@verizon.net.

Also, I encourage ALL members to take advantage of the AVSA convention when it comes to Orlando the end of May and beginning of June. If you want to register for only one entire day at the convention (Thursday, Friday or Saturday), the cost is \$35. However, if you become a member of AVSA (annual membership cost is \$35), you will receive 6 beautiful magazines throughout the year AND your membership will allow you to go to the convention to see the show and buy plants and supplies in the sales room. The sales room at AVSA conventions is unlike any other sales room – the Commercial's plants are spectacular! There's more convention information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Enjoy your violets, and I hope to see you at our meeting on May 4 in Tampa!

Mary Lou



We need to select a show theme for 2018. Got any ideas? Please jot them down and bring with you to the next meeting or send by email to Mary Lou at mlhard@verizon.net.

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –May 4th, 2017 at 7 PM
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

Inspirational: Nancy Kast

“African Violet Pests and Other Problems”
To be presented by Mary Lou Harden

Mary Lou will be telling us how to recognize, and treat pests and other problems affecting our plants.



DAY MEETING – May 19th, 2017 10 AM
Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

Inspirational: Mary Fisher

“Methods of Propagation: Starting New Plants from Leaf Cuttings, Suckers and Seeds”

To be Presented by Robert Cameron

Robert will be showing how to start new plants from leaves, suckers and seeds. Be sure to attend, this is a GREAT way to get new plants without spending money!!!



COMING EVENTS



Gesneriad Society Convention July 4 to July 8, 2017

The Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society would like to invite you to the 2017 Gesneriad Society's Annual Convention – **Gesneriads Gone Wild!**

This year's convention will be held at the Hilton Omaha, Nebraska.



AVSA 2017 CONVENTION INFORMATION

May 30 – June 3, 2017

Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive
8001 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 351-2420

Showroom Schedule during Convention Week

The Showroom is open to members registered for the convention on Thursday evening, following the Awards Banquet.

The Showroom is open to the public on:

Friday, June 2, 2017 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, June 3, 2017 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Note: *There is a \$5.00 admission charge for people who are not AVSA members. Join AVSA at the door, and this fee is waived. AVSA members who are not registered with the Convention and show their AVSA membership card, will receive a \$1.00 discount.*



African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Plant Sale. October 26-28, 2017

USF Fall plant sale: Date to be announced

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/13 Robert Cameron

5/13 Mary Fenner

5/17 Jerry Kast

5/24 Angelina Grundhoff

5/28 Jerry O'Keefe



RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING –April 6th, 2017

“I’m a Tool Addict”

Tools that make Life Easier for the African Violet Addict!

Presented by Tom “The Tool Man” Schaefer



Tom gave an entertaining and informative program with lots of tips and suggestions for the use of various tools to maintain your African Violets

DAY MEETING – April 21st, 2017

“What Kind of Pots, What Size, Individual Reservoirs or Plant Trays, What is Matting and Where Do I Get It, Trays, Mats, Wicks Presented by Glenn Shelton

Glen gave a very informative presentation on various pots, pot sizes, wicking and some VERY interesting containers he uses for his always award winning plants. Save your applesauce containers and Ragu jars everyone!!!!



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Minutes of Evening Meeting

April 6th, 2017

Common Ground Christian Church

4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

The meeting was called to order by First Vice President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:12PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Cece Lane

GUESTS: Andre “Annie” Pirone visited from Lakewood Ranch, Florida. She came with Terry Jordan.

REFRESHMENTS: Anniversary Pot Luck

PROGRAM:

Tom Schaefer presented, “I’m a Tool Addict! Tools that Make Life Easier for the African Violet Addict”.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the March 2, 2017, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

HISTORIAN’S REPORT:

Jim Boyer reported that the Club has a Dropbox account (an electronic archive) to store the history of our Club. Jim has scanned in the Club’s newsletters which go as far back as the 80’s. The meeting Minutes are not completely scanned in.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVCF - Mary Lou reported that the AVCF will have a show in late October of this year. Mary Lou also reported that annual dues are due for AVCF membership and are \$10.00.

AVSA – Mary Lou reminded members of the upcoming AVSA Convention May 28-June 4, 2017, in Orlando and encouraged members to register to attend the Convention. Mary Lou stated that the AVSA Convention information and registration forms for the Convention can be downloaded from the AVSA website.

DAVS – Mary Lou reported that DAVS puts out a quarterly magazine for its members which Mary Lou publishes and dues are \$15.00. DAVS will have a meeting at the AVSA Convention. Lynne Wilson is the President of DAVS

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Lynne Wilson presided over the installation of the new officers for the upcoming year. The new slate of officers installed are as follows:

President – Mary Lou Harden
First Vice President – Cece Lane
Second Vice President – Jim Boyer
Treasurer – Therese Lynam
Recording Secretary Day – Roxanne Carney
Recording Secretary Night – Angela Newell
Corresponding Secretary – Cece Lane

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mary Lou reminded members that the USF Plant Sale will be April 8-9, 2017. Set-up for the sale was today (April 6th) and it went very quickly. Mary Lou reported that Saturday has good booth coverage, but on Sunday more help is needed

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou suggested that donations, and not flowers, be sent to a charitable fund in honor of Sandra's husband, David Kerns, on behalf of TAVS. This will be discussed again at the May meeting.

Mary Lou reported that Jim Boyer will hold a teaching school at the AVSA Convention in Orlando on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. Mary Lou encouraged members to sign up for Jim's class. Jim Boyer stated that anyone signing up for the teaching school needs to purchase the Judge's Handbook from the AVSA office which

the class is based upon. Jim also stated that to take the test after the teaching school, you must have proof of 3 blue ribbons awarded, but not if you are only auditing the class.

Mary Lou brought up the issue of project plants for next year's annual show. It was decided to wait until next month (the May meeting) to decide if the club will have project plants for the 2018 annual show. Mary Lou reported that participation with project plants has not been good by club members.

Mary Lou reported that we need to come up with a theme for the 2018 Annual TAVS Show. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

Mary Lou stated that any members wanting to share a room during the AVSA Convention or needing transportation should contact her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Lou Harden extended her thanks to the many TAVS members who have donated to the Homeless Ministry at Common Ground Christian Church. Mary Lou reported that the Homeless Ministry especially needs toiletry items and women's personal care items.

RAFFLE/RAFFLE PLANTS:

There was no raffle tonight. We will have the raffle at next month's meeting.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

SHOW AND TELL:

Tom Schaefer brought in Toy Silver (semi-miniature episcia). Mary Lou Harden brought in Arctic Frost (standard) and Ness' Cranberry Swirl (semi-miniature).

TIPS:

Jim Boyer suggested that the use of urea-based fertilizers may possibly cause the centers of your plants to become distorted, to bunch up, and never recover. He has had problems with his plants that he feels might have been caused

by using urea fertilizers. He switched to non-urea fertilizers and the issues with his plants seem to have resolved.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Minutes of Day Meeting

April 21st, 2017

410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Jim Boyer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Angelina Grundhoff

REFRESHMENTS: Anniversary Pot Luck

PROGRAM: "What Kind of Pots, What Size, Individual Reservoirs or Plant Trays, What is Matting and Where Do I Get It, Trays, Mats, Wicks

Presented by Glenn Shelton

BUSINESS MEETING:

The minutes of the March 17th, 2017 meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer's report for April 1st, 2017, was received. A copy of the report will be filed with the original of these minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Linda Schwambach and Carolee Carter sent thank you notes for serving as judges at our show.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Mary Lou Harden will be giving a program on pests and other problems at the May night meeting and Robert Cameron will be discussing methods of propagation at the day meeting in

May. Contact CeCe Lane if you have ideas for club programs.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The show committee reports that the Farm Bureau building has sold. Plans were discussed about alternate locations including Common Ground church. After much discussion, it was proposed to hold the show at Common Ground church which would also include tables and kitchen for \$100/day. The day meeting approved the proposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

It was announced that the USF sale was our most successful sale. Many thanks to all that participated.

Terry Jordan is looking for volunteers for maintaining the AVSA showroom. Let her know if you can volunteer a few hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was proposed to make a \$100 donation to Labrador Rescue of Florida in memory of Dave Kerns and was unanimously passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jim Boyer will be holding a judging school at AVSA on May 31st from 8-12 with testing at 2PM. There is also a new AVSA judges handbook this year.

Birthdays: Virginia Barthelemy, Lynn Bandy, Mary Lou Harden, Terry Jordan and Angela Newell.

ROLL CALL: Therese Lynam

RAFFLE: Conducted by Therese Lynam

SHOW AND TELL:

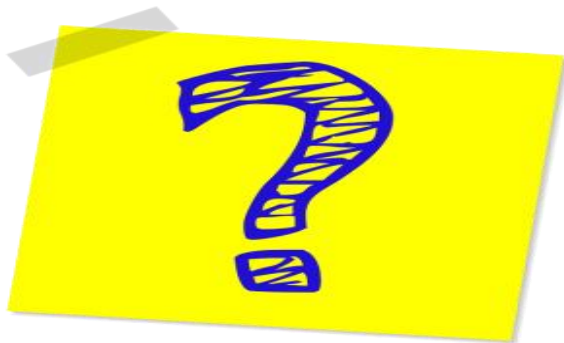
Robert Cameron showed off a gorgeous pink violet and several Kohlerias.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Roxanne Carney, Mary Lou Harden, Barbara Lopez and Terry Jordan.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Who will be featured next month?? Send a short article on who you are, your family, your hobbies, and why you became a member to nybleb@aol.com along with a photo if available and it could be YOU!!



MOTHERS LOVE

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Lynn Bandy*

QUICHE

1 9 inch pie crust
1 cup chopped ham
1 small onion diced
1-1 1/2 cups shredded cheese (I used a Colby Jack, Cheddar mix)
4 eggs
1 cup milk
1/4 tsp garlic powder

Set oven to 400 degrees
Pre bake empty crust for 5 min
Reduce oven to 375 degrees
In a bowl beat 4 eggs with milk and garlic powder
Once crust has been prebaked, place ham, onion and cheese in pie shell; pour remaining ingredients over cheese and ham
Bake for 45-50 min, until puffy and golden brown, center will be slightly firm.

You can switch it up by using bacon and Swiss cheese or substituting well drained spinach for the meat. Be creative!

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

April 24th, 2017

All Thumbs with Mini Violets? Here's Help!



Photo by Marjorie Bullard

**Precious Red - hybridized
by Hortense Pitman**

Ah, Those Adorable Minis...

They are often the hit of the show, drawing the most "oohs and ahs" from growers, showers, and the public. But they can also be utterly frustrating, causing some to give up on growing them altogether!



Best in Show Winner, Thousand Oaks African Violet Society - Blue Scoundrel - hybridized by P. Sorano/Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Yes, those miniature African violets can be very challenging, especially if you feel as if you're "all thumbs" when it comes to handling the tiny plants in their early stages. But with a bit of tweaking to your growing routine, you can overcome the challenge and actually enjoy the mini experience!

Tricks and Tools



When we think of miniatures, it helps to think small beginning with the tools. The large pots, spoons, trimmers, and other objects we use on standards or even

semi-miniatures aren't as helpful as much smaller versions of them. Cocktail spoons, manicure scissors, blunt tweezers, (which you can possibly *repurpose* from your own household!) and other everyday implements can come in very handy (pardon the pun!). So do small - very small -

pots. Many [commercial vendors listed on the AVSA website](#) carry thumb-pots perfect for minis.



Because they are so small when they're just starting out, miniature violets can be tricky to handle and water. Again, think *small* when repotting, fertilizing, and [grooming](#) them - *Small* steps, *small* amounts (of fertilizer), and *small* motions. Don't move a mini up directly from a thumb-pot to a 2-inch pot. Let it grow gradually from pot size to pot size so that its root system can become well-established. Reduce the amount and frequency of fertilizer you apply to miniatures, especially when they are young. Trim and clean minis gently and slowly, being careful to encourage the same good symmetry and perfection that you do for all of your violets - in *smaller* motions!

Enjoy!



2014 Inductee to AVSA's Honor Roll of African Violets -- [Rob's Chilly Willy](#) miniature hybridized by Ralph Robinson/ The Violet Barn

If you're tense and worried when working with your miniature violets, you might be more likely to err - breaking a leaf, marring the center, or fumbling the entire plant. But if you remember to slow down and enjoy your minis, you might find that you'll be more relaxed about it - *and* reap the benefits by seeing a miniature grow up not too big, not too small, but just right!

For More Information...

The African Violet Society of America website [FAQ area](#) has many useful tips about caring for African violets, including miniatures. Back issues of the African Violet Magazine with information on growing [miniatures](#) are available for [purchase](#).

Happy Growing!
Maureen Pratt
African Violet Society of America, Membership and Promotion Committee

News from the [African Violet Society of America](#)

Just Announced! The following AVSA [Commercial Vendors](#) will be selling at the [AVSA Convention in Orlando](#) -- Sales Room opens on

June 1.

[Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses](#)

[The Violet Barn](#)
[Buckeye Violets](#)
[Hajner Hybrids](#)

[Mrs](#)

[Strep](#)

[Streps](#)

[Bloomin Jungle](#)

[Violet Gallery](#)

[Fancy Bloomers](#)

[The Peacock Cottage](#)



[The AVSA Convention Sales Area can be a riot!](#)

Please help support AVSA educational efforts and [join the African Violet Society of America](#).

As a bonus, you'll receive 6 issues annually of the beautiful full-color African Violet Magazine.

Join AVSA Today!

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

AVSA JUDGING SCHOOL

AVSA is sponsoring a Judging School on Wednesday, May 31, at the Wyndham Orlando Resort Hotel. The lecture will be from 8 a.m. to Noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The exam begins at 2 p.m. Cost is \$10 payable to AVSA. Requirements (if taking the test) are: AVSA membership card must be shown at the door and proof of 3 blue ribbons. The test will be based on the latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, 13th Edition, revised in May 2016, plus any updates. The teacher is our own Jim Boyer (King James). Congratulations, Jim!

Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) mlhard@verizon.net. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member:
THERESEJOAN@aol.com

Visit us at:

www.Tampafricanviolets.com

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Subscription to the *African Violet Magazine* (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** www.AVSA.org

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, *The Dixie News*, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.** johnniepearl@aol.com www.davs.org

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, *The Florida Connection*, is \$10 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

HELP!!!! +

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this publication are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors or editor, nor the Tampa African Violet Society can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Tampa African Violet Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material herein.

FROM MARY LOU:

Here are pictures of 2 of my favorite Episcias -- Kee Wee and Pink Panther. The violet is our 2017 Project Plant, Pink Watercolor



Kee Wee



Pink Panther



Pink Panther



Pink Watercolor

THE PETAL

JUNE 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



JUNE ROSE

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of TAVS,
Summer may not have **officially** arrived – but summer **has** arrived! The violets in my air-conditioned house are doing just fine. The violets in my garage are not faring as well. Some of them seem to be panting and look a little droopy. I'm trying to keep up with the watering schedule – which is now more often than in cold-weather months. The water just evaporates much more quickly in the heat. I keep telling myself, "This, too, shall pass!"

It is true that extreme temperatures, either hot or cold, cause stress in some plants, and especially in African violets. Violets prefer a temperature of about 70 degrees F. Although most violets will tolerate temperatures ranging between 60 and 80 degrees or higher, they will perform best when there's a variation of no more than 5 degrees either way.

If your violets are not in air conditioning, it is especially important that you maintain good air circulation. A ceiling fan or desk-top fan can be a great help. If you're growing on lighted plant stands, clip-on fans are another alternative.

If during hot weather your plants are not performing well, are not flowering and the leaves begin to wilt, it's most likely due to your plants protesting the high temperatures.

Several of our members are registered for AVSA's annual convention and show coming to Orlando the week of May 28. The show is open to the public on Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3. Having the AVSA convention and show in our back yard is a great opportunity for us – and I hope all of you will take advantage of the opportunity to at the very least go to see the show. You'll be so glad you did!

Thanks to Linda Baggett and Therese Lynam for searching out and obtaining all the items needed for the centerpieces and table favors for two of the banquets at the convention. Thanks also to everyone who attended this month's Day meeting (including some guests!) who put together the table favors for one of the banquets! TAVS members and friends are the best! Hope to see you at the AVSA convention. .and at our June meetings!

Mary Lou



Actually, We need someone to "Name That Show"! Please help us select a theme for our 2018 show! This year's theme was "Hats Off to our American Heroes." Other recent themes have been "Storybook Violets," "Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss," "Fantasy of Flight," "A Violet Paradise," "An African Violet Safari" and "Love at First Sight." Look on page 54 of our current Yearbook for a complete list of our show themes. Whatever theme is chosen, it must lend itself to ideas for the class titles in the

Design Division of our show. With that in mind, Lynne Wilson has suggested "What a Wonderful World of Violets." So, get your thinking caps on and send me your ideas. Let's come up with a great theme.

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

**NIGHT MEETING –June 8th, 2017 at 7 PM
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

*****Please Note: This meeting will be the SECOND Thursday so as not to interfere with the AVSA convention in Orlando.

Inspirational: Therese Lynam

"Critique of the AVSA convention and Show-show room, Workshops and Behind the scenes"
To be presented by Jim Boyer



African Violet Society of America

Promoting and Growing the African Violet since 1946

**DAY MEETING – June 17th, 2017 10 AM
Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

Inspirational: Sandra Kerns

**“AVSA Convention and Show: What I Learned from my first AVSA show”
To be Presented by Jerry O’Keefe and Robert Cameron**

at the door, and this fee is waived. AVSA members who are not registered with the Convention and show their AVSA membership card, will receive a \$1.00 discount.

COMING EVENTS



Gesneriad Society Convention July 4 to July 8, 2017

The Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society would like to invite you to the 2017 Gesneriad Society’s Annual Convention – **Gesneriads Gone Wild!**

This year’s convention will be held at the Hilton Omaha, Nebraska.



AVSA 2017 CONVENTION INFORMATION

May 30 – June 3, 2017

Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive
8001 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 351-2420

Showroom Schedule during Convention Week

The Showroom is open to members registered for the convention on Thursday evening, following the Awards Banquet.

The Showroom is open to the public on:
Friday, June 2, 2017 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday, June 3, 2017 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Note: *There is a \$5.00 admission charge for people who are not AVSA members. Join AVSA*



African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Plant Sale. October 26-28, 2017

USF Fall plant sale: Date to be announced

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/2 Linda Geller
- 6/3 Jean Krauchik
- 6/21 David Matthews
- 6/21 Barbara Lopez
- 6/27 Mary Kay Ross
- 6/27 Bonnie Smith
- 6/29 Cinda Huntley



RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING –May 4th, 2017

“African Violet Pests and Other Problems” Presented by Mary Lou Harden

As usual Mary Lou gave an informative and enlightening presentation about pests, problems and solutions.

DAY MEETING – May 19th, 2017, 2017

“Methods of Propagation” Presented by Robert Cameron

Robert gave a very informative presentation on various soil mixtures, containers and various methods of starting new plants including suckers, seeds and interesting leaf propagation methods.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of Evening Meeting May 4th, 2017 Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:05PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Nancy Kast

GUESTS: Susan Stringfellow visited this evening and also joined the Club.

REFRESHMENTS: Nancy and Jerry Kast.

PROGRAM:

Mary Lou Harden presented: “African Violet Pests and Other Problems”

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 6th, 2017, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVCF - Mary Lou Harden reported that the AVCF is busy helping prepare for the AVSA Convention. Mary Lou reported that the AVCF is also preparing for their Fall Show which will be in Clearwater, October 26-28, 2017 (Thursday – Saturday). Mary Lou reported that the AVCF will no longer be holding its Fall Show on Sundays.

AVSA – Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone of the upcoming AVSA Convention in Orlando, May 28 – June 4, 2017, and encouraged members to register to attend the Convention even if only for one day. Mary Lou also reminded members that Jim Boyer will be conducting a Judging School at the AVSA Convention. Mary Lou reported that TAVS is putting together the table favors and center pieces for two of the Convention banquets.

DAVS – Mary Lou Harden reported that DAVS is planning their Annual Convention in March of next year and that there will be no DAVS Show this year because of the AVSA Convention.

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY - Nancy Kast reported that the Gesneriad Society will hold their Annual Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in July of this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden expressed her thanks to all the members who helped with the USF Plant Sale; it was a success. Critiques from this year’s USF Plant Sale from the members at tonight’s meeting produced

comments/suggestions for improvements for future USF Plant Sales as follows:

- Need two sales tables to check people out at the front of the booth, instead of one table.
- Ability to take credit cards from customers might improve sales.

The Project Plant for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show was discussed again and it was decided to continue with this club project

Mary Lou Harden stated that we need ideas for a theme for next year's TAVS Annual Show. Mary Lou reported that the Farm Bureau building has been sold and we will need a new venue for the 2018 TAVS Show. Mary Lou reported that the day meeting group voted to rent Common Ground's Fellowship Hall for \$300.00 for the weekend. Mary Lou stated that she will present this idea to her church. Jean Krauchik will also look into a different church facility that she feels may be a possibility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that Kent Stork recently passed away. He was an African violet hybridizer and a commercial grower. His wife, Joyce Stork, is a past-president of the AVSA. A discussion was made regarding donating \$50.00 to the AVSA in memory of Kent Stork. Terry Jordan motioned that TAVS make this donation and Anita Adlin seconded the motion. The motion passed for TAVS to donate \$50.00 to the AVSA in memory of Kent Stork.

Mary Lou Harden reminded members that the June night meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month, June 8, 2017, and not the usual first Thursday of the month, due to the AVSA Convention taking place the first Thursday of the month. Jim Boyer will give a presentation at the June night meeting about

the events that took place at the 2017 AVSA Convention.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

RAFFLE PLANTS: Plants were provided by Mary Lou Harden and Terry Jordan provided leaves.

RAFFLE: Mary Lou Harden

SHOW AND TELL:

Jerry Kast brought in a streptocarpus, Geronimo. Nancy Kast brought in a mini "sinningia", Tinker Bell. Mary Lou brought in two of the same plants that she had grown which were the 2017 club project plant, named Pink Watercolor. Mary Lou presented one of these plants to new member Susan Stingfellow, and the other plant Mary Lou donated to the raffle table.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:49PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of Day Meeting May 19th, 2017 410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:20 am by President Mary Lou Harden followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

GUESTS: Lorraine and Bob Mendrala, and Sandy Tennant

REFRESHMENTS: Jerry O'Keefe, Mary Lou Harden and Therese Lynam

**PROGRAM: "Methods of Propagation"
Presented by Robert Cameron**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 21st, 2017, meetings were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER REPORT:

Due to the Treasurer's absence, the Treasurer's report will be given next month.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Contact CeCe Lane if you have ideas for club programs.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVCF: is preparing for the AVSA convention and also planning a Fall show to be held in Clearwater October 26th-28th.

AVSA: convention is in Orlando May 28th to June 4th. Let Mary Lou know if you can help with the centerpieces and table favors for the Thursday or Saturday evening banquets.

DAVS: annual dues are \$15 due in February.

The Gesneriad Society: Dues are \$25

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

We hope to have a project plant for 2018 distributed at the August meetings. Lynne Wilson submitted "What a Wonderful World of Violets" as a 2018 show theme. A list of possible show themes was distributed and members were asked to submit suggestions to Mary Lou. The club helped put together table favors for one of the AVSA banquets. Annual dues of \$15 are due.

NEW BUSINESS:

We need ideas for inspiring children and youth to learn about African Violets. There was discussion about the possibility of our volunteering to do programs during the Nation's Great Teach-In Day which will take place in Hillsborough County schools during November. Common Ground church is available for the 2018 show if the Farm Bureau is not available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We mourn the passing of Kent Stork, AV hybridizer of Tatanka and Pow Wow and commercial grower.
- May Birthdays include: Robert Cameron, Mary Fenner, Jerry Kast, Angelina Grundhoff and Jerry O'Keefe.
- June 8th night meeting will have Jim Boyer talking about the AVSA convention. The June 17th day meeting will have Jerry O'Keefe and Robert Cameron telling us about their first experience at an AVSA convention.
- Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com
- Facebook. Like us! Post a note.
- Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month to NYBLEB@aol.com.

ROLL CALL: Lynn Bandy

RAFFLE: Conducted by Roxanne Carney

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Roxanne Carney, Jerry O'Keefe and Terry Jordan.

TIPS: Angela Grundhoff wanted to point out to everyone her "mistake" while grooming her plants for the show: Suckers have 4 leaves and new blooms only have 2!!!!

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary



ACA'S SUMMER PARFAIT

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Lynn Bandy*

AUNT FLOSSIE'S CHEESECAKE
Oven 350 10" spring form pan

1 ½ cups sugar
5 eggs
32 oz whipped cream cheese
1 tsp Vanilla
1 stick sweet butter
2 Tbs corn starch
16 oz sour cream

Before starting have all ingredients at room temperature

Wrap bottom of springform pan with aluminum foil (to prevent water bath seeping into pan)

Mix together sugar, cream cheese, butter and sour cream

When mixed well add eggs one at a time beating well between each

Add Vanilla and corn starch, mix well

Pour into 10" spring form pan

Place pan in ¼" warm water

Bake at 350 for one hour

Turn off oven, crack door and let sit for one hour

Cool on rack for 1 hour more

Cool in refrigerator before removing from pan

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Who will be featured next month?? Send a short article on who you are, your family, your hobbies, and why you became a member to nybleb@aol.com along with a photo if available and it could be YOU!!

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

May 8th, 2017

Is Your AV Collection in Constant Motion?



Tips for Finding the Perfect Place for Your Plants

Whether you grow your African violets and other gesneriads on stands or in [natural light](#), the placement of the individual plants in your collection might be a puzzle or, at least, a work in progress. But before you move and remove your entire collection *again* as you seek better growing results, here are a few tips for finding those ideal spots.



Look Around. Is there a window near your stand that might be giving the plants on the top shelves an extra dose of rays? Or, is there a vent that blows hot or cold, depending on the season - and impacts the temperature on one or more levels of your growing space? Consider all of these things and more before you make a

move, and determine which plants might benefit from the overall conditions of specific shelves.

Cool Feet/Warm Feet? (or, Roots?). When placing your plants, note any heat generated by grow tubes below. If your tray is too near this source of warmth, the roots of your plants might also be affected. Or, you might want to use the "warming tray" for growing out seedlings, starting seeds, or propagating leaves.

Take the Measure of the Space. Many growers like to keep a certain distance

between the lights and their plants depending on the size, variety, and type of foliage. A quick tour of your growing space, ruler or tape measure in hand, might yield some surprising information about whether your plants are getting enough light (or too much) and whether a small height adjustment might help. Try [using a light meter](#) at different times of the day to determine how much and when light hits your shelves. The meter doesn't have to be a fancy, expensive model; even one of the many phone apps will do as long as you are consistent in using it.



Constantly moving your collection around can

be disruptive to the plants' growing cycle and one of the impediments to getting the best results from your efforts. Sometimes, however, moving is for the best, and with good preparation, your plants will be able to settle in and thrive!

For more information on finding the perfect location for your African violets and other gesneriads, take a look at [Paul Kroll's article, "Location, Location, Location!"](#) on the [African violet Society of America](#) website.

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

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Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member:
THERESEJOAN@aol.com

Visit us at:

www.Tampafricanviolets.com

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Subscription to the *African Violet Magazine* (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:
AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. www.AVSA.org

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, *The Dixie News*, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:
**Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,
287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**
johnniepearl@aol.com www.davs.org

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, *The Florida Connection*, is \$10 per year. Send check with contact information to:
Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

HELP!!!!!!

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

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THE PETAL

JULY 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

JULY FOURTH

A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of TAVS,

The long-awaited AVSA convention has come and gone and what a great convention it was. TAVS members outdid themselves in helping whenever and wherever they could. Jim Boyer's Judging School was well attended and I hear that everyone who took the test passed it! Congratulations to all, and especially to Angela Newell and Angelina Grundhoff who took the class for the first time and both passed! So Tampa AVS has two new Student Judges.

In addition, Terry Jordan took the class and is now an Advanced Judge.

Jerry O'Keefe wore several different hats. He was Judging School Teacher's Assistant and Traffic Chair, helping the commercials unload and get set up in the sales room. Robert Cameron served as Properties Chair and I was in charge of centerpieces and table favors for the banquets. Cece Lane and Mary Kay Ross were there from start to finish, helping with the banquets and wherever else they were needed. In addition, Pat Rutzke, George and Angelina Grundhoff, Jerry O'Keefe and Lynne Wilson all helped place the centerpieces and table favors at the banquets.

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WATERMELON SUMMER

A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of TAVS,

As we prepare for our 2017-2018 year, I want to thank all of you for pitching in and volunteering to help. We are blessed that so many of our programs are presented by our own members, and all of you have been extremely generous in bringing refreshments and giving the inspirational at our monthly meetings. In addition, we count on member support at the USF Spring and Fall Festivals and at our own annual shows. When there's such great teamwork, the club flourishes.

Our July meetings were well attended and we had guests at both of them. Those attending the night meeting had a great time playing Violet Bingo and at the same time learning some violet terminology. Thad Scaggs' program on Hybridizing at the day meeting was excellent and most interesting. I hope some of our members will try their hand at hybridizing. Thad made it sound pretty simple although he gave warning that it requires patience.

The topics at our August meetings were chosen especially because weather conditions, such as protracted hot weather, have some bearing on the use of fertilizer and may affect the amount of blooms. And speaking of hot weather, we're reprinting an article from the August 2012 issue of *The Dixie News* entitled "Summertime Violet Growing." The article was written by Jay

Sespico, a past president of TAVS. I think you will find it helpful and a little humorous.

Although African violets don't like the hot weather, some of the other gesneriads do. I grow a lot of Episcias, and they prefer warm weather. On the other hand, Streptocarpus do not like warm weather – they prefer quite cool temperatures.

I look forward to seeing you at the night meeting on August 3.

Mary Lou

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –August 3rd, 2017 at 7 PM

**Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

Inspirational: Sandra Kerns
Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Kathie Gorman, Sandra Kerns

THE PROGRAM:

“More may not be better! How much fertilizer should I use??? How will I know if I'm using too much???? What kind is best????!”

To be presented by King James Boyer



Come join us as Jim gives us his VAST knowledge about the whys and wherefore's of fertilizer for your African Violets

DAY MEETING – August 18th, 2017 10 AM

**Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library**

410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

Inspirational: Barbara Lopez
Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Linda Bennett, Barbara Lopez and Pat Rutzke

THE PROGRAM:

“Plant Problems: Why don't my plants bloom, Washed out and yellow foliage, Tight centers??? Back to Basics.

To be Presented by Lynn Bandy



Come join Lynn as she displays some of her problem plants, solicits some expert discussion and helpful tips/hints from other members and leads the group in an “Are you a Violet Expert?” quiz!!!!!!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 Linda Bennett
- 8/3 Kathie Gorman
- 8/7 Gladys Cook
- 8/9 Cece Lane
- 8/11 Kathleen Pape
- 8/13 Debra Altenbernd
- 8/27 Mary Fisher



COMING

EVENTS



African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Plant Sale. October 26-28, 2017 Holiday Inn Clearwater/St Petersburg airport. "Violets Go To The Beach" is this year's theme.

USF Fall plant sale: USF Botanical Gardens: October 14th from 10 am to 4 pm and October 15th from 10 am to 3 pm.



NOW'S THE TIME TO REPOT. . .

If you have plants you'd like to sell at the October USF Botanical Gardens Fall Festival or at the Council show in Clearwater in late October, NOW is the time to repot. All sale plants should have been potted up sufficiently in advance of a sale so that plants are quite stable in their pots -- no chance of their leaning or tilting or even falling out of their pots! We owe it to the public to be excellent in what we do!

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING –June 8th, 2017

PROGRAM: "African Violet Bingo! It's all about terminology!"

Presented by Therese Lynam

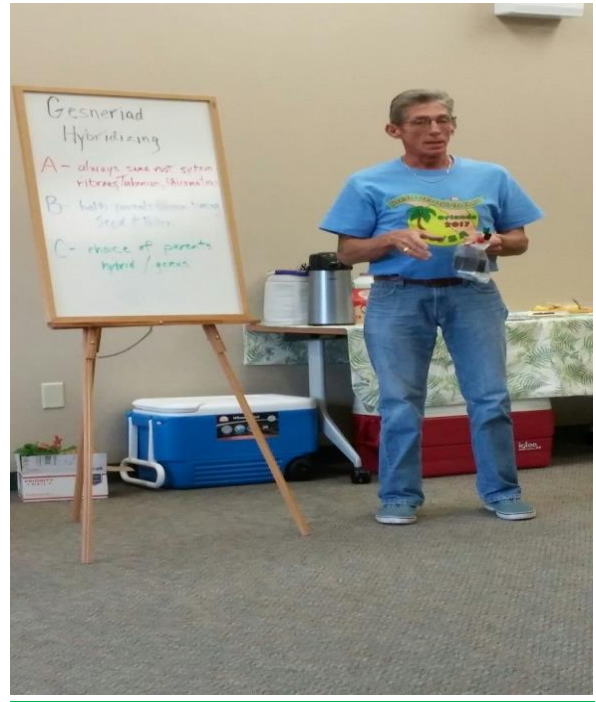
Members learned some African Violet Terminology and won some GREAT prizes!!

DAY MEETING: June 16th, 2017

PROGRAM: "Gesneriads: The ABC's of Hybridizing"

Presented by visiting lecturer Thad Skaggs

Thad gave us some background information on hybridizing, how he got started in the process and some great tips on doing it ourselves!!



There is also a 45 minute presentation on the gesneriad web site presented by Thad on Episcias.

[The Gesneriad Society](http://www.gesneriad.org)

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of Evening Meeting July 6th, 2017 Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:06PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Cece Lane

GUESTS: Maria and Steve Whidden. (Maria Whidden is a former TAVS member.)

REFRESHMENTS: Mary Lou Harden and Therese Lynam

PROGRAM: “African Violet Bingo. It’s all About Terminology”, presented by Therese Lynam.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 6, 2017, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER REPORT:

Therese Lynam reported a balance of \$5,851.71 in the checking account as of June 30, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Therese Lynam

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that the USF Fall Plant Festival will be October 14-15, 2017. Set-up for this is usually on the Thursday before the Festival opens, but set-up this early will probably not be necessary because of the ease in the set-up of the new tents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that membership dues for AVSA (\$35), DAVS (\$15) and AVCF

(\$10) are due now. AVSA’s 2018 Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY.

AVCF: Mary Lou Harden reported that the AVCF is preparing for their Fall Show to be held in Clearwater, FL, October 26-28, 2017.

AVSA: Mary Lou Harden reported that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be in Buffalo, NY.

DAVS: Mary Lou Harden reported that Dates for the Dixie convention are yet to be determined. DAVS dues are due in February of each year and annual dues are \$15.00.

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY: Mary Lou reported that annual dues for The Gesneriad Society are \$25.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that the club Project Plant for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show will be available at both of the August meetings.

Mary Lou Harden reported that additional suggestions for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show from Lynne Wilson are: “What a Wonderful World of Violets”, “African Violet Mysteries”, and “The African Violet: Magical, Mysterious & Marvelous!” The theme choice made by TAVS day members was “What a Wonderful World of Violets”. Therese Lynam moved to accept this theme for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show. Cece Lane seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved, and the 2018 Show Theme will be “What a Wonderful World of Violets”.

Mary Lou Harden reported that yearly TAVS dues of \$15.00 are due now. The Yearbook will be published soon and we need to get members’ information updated for the Yearbook.

Mary Lou Harden brought up for discussion the idea of our Club participating in the National

Teach-in Day in November at one or more schools to help children learn about growing African violets. Mary Lou Harden asked for volunteers to plan this activity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thad Scaggs will be guest speaker at the July 21, 2017, day meeting and his presentation will be about Episcias and the “ABC’s of Hybridizing”.
- At the August 3, 2017, night meeting, Jim Boyer will give a presentation on the use of fertilizers.
- The Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society will have a sale at the USF Botanical Gardens on September 9, 2017.
- We need pictures for posting on our website, so please send your pictures to Gladys Cook or Mary Lou Harden.
- TAVS is on Facebook and members are encouraged to like us and post a note.
- Therese Lynam reported that TAVS received a thank you card for the \$50.00 donation made from TAVS to the AVSA Booster Fund in memory of Kent Stork who passed away recently.
- Our guest tonight, Maria Whidden, stated that she is looking for a source for Pink Cadillac, a standard that she wants, and asked if anyone knew of a source that might have this variety.

SHOW AND TELL: Anita Adlin brought two of her plants of Opera’s Paolo, a standard (one was very small-sized and the other a little bigger-sized), that she had just transplanted and wanted some help in diagnosing some growing problems she was experiencing.

TIPS: Tom Schaefer reported that he is using humic acid in his water, about 3-4 drops per gallon, to water his plants. He feels it gives his plants a boost.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Plants were provided by Mary Lou Harden.

RAFFLE: Mary Lou Harden

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Day Meeting
July 21st, 2017
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by First Vice President Jim Boyer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

GUESTS: Susan Cartonia invited by Celia Howe

REFRESHMENTS: Mary Lou Harden, and Tom Schaefer

**PROGRAM: “Gesneriads: The ABC’s of Hybridizing
Presented by visiting lecturer Thad Skaggs**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 17th, 2017, meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER REPORT:

Therese Lynam reported a balance of \$5,851.71 in the checking account as of June 30, 2017.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The night program will be on fertilizers by Jim Boyer and Lynn Bandy will be giving the day program on plant problems.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Our show theme will be "What a Wonderful World of Violets".
Jerry O'Keefe will be our Co chair.
The project plant will be available at the August meetings.
DAVS annual dues are \$15 due in February.
The Gesneriad Society is \$25.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The show theme "What a Wonderful World of Violets" submitted by Lynne Wilson was voted and passed by the day group.
Common Ground church is available for the 2018 show if the Farm Bureau is not available due to new ownership.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerry O'Keefe reminded us the Fall USF sale is coming up and asked members to grow plants. This would be a good time to repot so plants are established for the sale.
A reminder for anyone showing at the Council show that the 14 week growing schedule is starting. This will be at the Holiday Inn Express by St. Petersburg Clearwater airport October 26-28th and the theme is Violets go to the Beach. Additional judges are needed for this show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Birthdays: Ron Gilbert, Nancy Kast, Cheryl O'Berry, Pat Rutzke, and Lynne Wilson. Facebook. Like us! Post a note.
- Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month to NYBLEB@aol.com.

ROLL CALL: Therese Lynam

SHOW AND TELL: Jerry O'Keefe brought in Pink Watercolor, and Tatanka. Mary Lou Harden brought in Fisherman's Paradise and Emerald Lace.

RAFFLE: Conducted by Therese Lynam

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Roxanne Carney, Jerry O'Keefe, Mary Lou Harden and Angelina Grundhoff

Meeting adjourned 12:00 Noon.

Roxanne Carney: Day recording secretary



SUMMER SUNSHINE



Summertime

Violet Growing

(Or, how to keep your violets from becoming a trendy hors d'oeuvre)

by Jay Sespico
Jaysesp@gmail.com

I think that I loved summer even before I loved African violets. But, I loved both things as early as preadolescence. When I was a young boy growing up in the "South Towns," the suburbs of Buffalo, New York, I could hardly wait for summertime to come. The longer days and the bright sunshine meant a welcome relief from the long gray winters, and a chance to be outside and finally be warm. With great excitement I eagerly anticipated those carefree ten weeks between June and September, when there was no school and the promise of vacation travel to anyplace different lingered in

the air. There is nothing quite like the summertime of school days, when you feel no call to work or the pressure to provide. On the other hand, there is nothing like having a job and the pay check that comes with it; and with that pay check come some few dollars of discretionary income with which you can purchase some African Violets. A few purchases here, and a few purchases there, and all of a sudden your collection has become very large. In the meantime, I found my way to the Sunshine State and learned how to grow violets all over again in the subtropics. I discovered that Florida is a wonderful place to grow violets, especially in the winter and spring, and especially if you don't leave plants in the car. One of my first discoveries was that one couldn't leave one's violets unattended in one's vehicle, because in a closed, unattended vehicle in Florida it gets hot enough to roast a chicken. After I finally got the steamed green bean smell out of the car, I began to discover some ways to keep myself and my violets growing happily during the tropical heat of summer.

There is no need to dread the hot season of the Florida summer if you take care to tend your plants well and recognize the signposts of heat stress. Heat stress in African violets manifests itself in many different ways and is the foremost problem to look out for in summertime. When violets first begin to exhibit heat stress, they tend to show a general malaise in plant vigor. Often, the color of the leaves begins to yellow slightly throughout the entire surface of the leaf and the center crown tends to lift up towards the light, even when there should be enough light provided. In its more advanced stages, the foliage becomes more predominantly yellow and the whole plant begins to lose vigor and symmetry as the leaves spoon inversely, giving the plant a very unkempt and unruly appearance. Heat stress in its most advanced stages makes the foliage as brown as the aforementioned roast chicken. A wise grower wouldn't want to get to this last stage, because from here, there is no recovery.

I can hear the questions forming in your mind just now: How would I know so intimately well all of the stages of heat stress? Because I only grow violets in one place in my home, every

conceivable space there is, including my garage where the day time temperatures get to 120 degrees during the summer. And, because I have burned up more violets than I can count - - that's how! I confess that I have burned up so many violets that I have wracked my brain trying to come up with creative ways to use them. Knowing their edible nature, I have seriously considered serving them as hors d'oeuvres with some diced tomatoes and a little Pancetta. But, all the culinary creativity in the world wouldn't be as rewarding or as beautiful as a healthy, thriving African violet in bloom.

Surprisingly, violets will grow in the extreme heat if they are well cared for and those twin angles of cultural perfection -- humidity and air movement -- are present. The longer that I grow violets, the better I understand how important air movement and humidity are to good plant care. The two factors work in conjunction with each other and balance each other out. If you have good air movement in your home and the humidity is low, the plants will dry out as if they were facing a brisk Santa Ana wind. If humidity is present and there is no flow, your plants will be subject to fungus rot and powdery mildew.



Another important factor to consider is how to keep your plants well watered. In Florida this means wick watering. There has been a lot of discussion about whether to wick water your plants or not, but in the subtropics, I find it the only way to keep a large collection going. Our violets transpire copious amounts of water through their leaves at this time of year, much more than they did even a few weeks earlier. One of the reasons for this is that the temperatures are generally up and you are most likely growing your violets in the preciously purchased rarified ethers of the central air conditioning unit. Central air makes living through the Florida summers much more bearable. However, they are notorious for sucking untold gallons of water out of the air. The plants are transpiring



profuse amounts of water through their leaves to compensate for the dryer conditions and it hardly seems that we get the reservoirs full when they become dry, almost as we watch. I have taken to using very large reservoirs for wick watering. I use the large sized ground coffee containers, as large as 48 ounces, because a large trailing African violet in an eight-inch pot will drain the water out of one of these in as little as two weeks. It is more important now than it ever will be to keep your plants well watered, because a plant with a dry wick can dehydrate to the point of wilting in as little as one day.

I really try to keep ahead of the watering at this time of year and one of the best ways of doing that is by making an appointment with my plants. I try to shoehorn 20 minutes of time devoted strictly to watering two or three times a week. When I water, I do simply that, just water! I don't groom or admire or fuss with the plants in any other way. That can be done in snippets of time whenever you walk by the light stands. Also, when I water a violet I water the entire shelf of violets and fill all the reservoirs at the same time, not just the one plant whose reservoir has gone dry. In this way I avoid the problem of forgetting that one plant at the back of the shelf that has gone dry and inevitably died while I wasn't looking. If you want to keep your collection in good shape and you make watering a discipline, your plants will reward you with beautiful, healthy, symmetrical growth and even a good show of blooms.



There are some things that will happen to your summer collection of violets that you should not worry about and naturally occur due to higher temperatures, longer hours of daylight, and ramped up plant metabolism. These symptoms really are not a cause of stress to the plant and will completely disappear after the hottest part of the summer has passed. The first and foremost is the general reduction in leaf variegation. Rob Robinson of The Violet Barn has written in his many columns that temperature is the primary factor in plant variegation and I agree with him.



I have noticed a remarkable difference in the foliage of my plants year after year as the outdoor temperatures in our climate climb into the nineties. Even though I'm keeping my violets as cool as I can in the air-conditioning, really dramatic variegation, especially in the standard plants, seems to be a thing of the past. The variegation doesn't disappear entirely, and with the cooler temperatures of the fall it returns once more in all its many hues.

The second change that you might notice at this time of year occurs in plants that have blooms with white or green edges, especially with the older varieties. Those plants that have exhibited beautiful Geneva edges during the winter months tend to exhibit a less pronounced edge in the summertime and, if they contain green in the edge, the edge may disappear altogether.



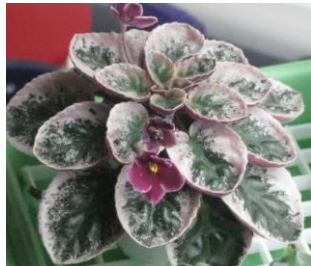
The third factor is the lessening of fantasy spots in the blossoms. This is because flower pigment is expressed more fully in blossoms that take a longer time to mature. In other words, blossoms that take more time to open have more color because the plant has more time to manufacture pigment to put into them. With higher temperatures the blossoms that took nine or ten weeks to open during the cooler months can open in as little as four to six weeks during the summertime and generally have less color. But, this is no cause for alarm, the fantasy and the edges, like variegation, will return to their former glory with more moderate temperatures.



There are a couple of myths about getting through the summer that sound like they would work well, but that I reject entirely. One of these is that you should reduce the amount of fertilizer you use at this time of year. I really find it an odd notion that, just at the time when the plants are working the hardest and producing the most growth, anyone would consider it a good idea to cut down on the amount of nutrients that are important for healthy growth. To me this is tantamount to training an Olympic athlete for the summer games and deciding arbitrarily to put him on a

highly restricted diet. If you are using your fertilizer in small amounts (1/8 to 1/4 tsp. of granular fertilizer per gallon of water) by all means keep that same formula going even during the summer. The plant needs those elements to build all the new growth that it will produce during this time.

The second myth is that disbudding is the best way to keep your plants from transpiring too much water and thus keeping the watering schedule easier. This really isn't true at all.



During the summer months, African violets drink tremendous amounts of water no matter what, and unless you are growing for show, they should not be entirely disbudded. If a plant is entirely disbudded, its higher metabolism rate makes it want to produce bloom so earnestly that it often times begins to sucker very badly from the leaf axils, and sometimes the suckering is so bad that the plant is entirely ruined and nothing can be done except to start over again. I find that it is best to let the plant have only two or three bloom stalks at a time. This way the plant can throw some of its overactive energies into producing some blooms, but not so much as to ruin the symmetry.

I hope you will find some of the things I have discussed interesting and helpful. Just because it is getting hotter doesn't mean that you have to stop enjoying your plants or, even worse, serve them as hors d'oeuvres. Well cared for violets will bloom and grow well even during the hot months of June, July, August, and September. There is no other plant I know of that is as abundantly floriferous as an African violet, and the times when I have been diligent about caring for my violets they have rewarded me with good growth and plenty of bloom. And, after all, isn't that why we grow them?

Reprint from *The Dixie News*, August 2012

Here is another interesting article this one submitted by Jerry O'Keefe

GROOM, GROOM, GROOM

By Mary S. Schaeffer

When most people think of taking care of their violet collection, they think about watering, repotting, fertilizing, and perhaps getting their plants ready for a show. For many people, grooming is something that only comes into serious consideration when they are getting plants ready for a show. This is unfortunate because regular grooming can make the difference between a blue ribbon winner and a plant that stays at home.

Regular Grooming

Most growers will remove dead or fading flowers on a regular basis. This is something that should be done as soon as the flowers fade. The stalks of dead flowers are magnets for bugs. So, as much as possible, keep that door shut. While it sounds easy enough, it's something you do need to stay on top of. Of course, the more serious grower concerned primarily about their annual shows keep their violets disbudded year round and don't have this problem. But, for those of us who like to enjoy their violets year round, step one in a best practice violet growing regime should be the very regular removal of dead flowers.

Likewise- especially if you are growing plants from leaves- look for small immature leaves and remove them. This is very important when the plants are young. The small leaves have to be removed at some point if you want a strong healthy plant, so remove them as soon as you can. These leaves are easy to identify. They are typically the ones on the bottom that are smaller than those on the next row of leaves.

Also, on a regular basis, remove yellowing leaves. Again, these tend to be in the bottom most circle. They don't add to the strength of the plant, but rather detract from it. Also, they are unsightly. Remove them early on and all-in-all, your plants will be stronger. The plant's energy can go into supporting healthy leaves and producing new ones.

Lastly, be on the lookout for suckers. Suckers are those alternate heads that if left alone soon produce another crown. They can be rooted to produce another plant. However, they sap

energy from the mother plant and until separated, both heads will produce fewer flowers.

The trick with suckers is to distinguish them from bloom stalks. When they are quite small, that can take a little detective work. Look closely at the emerging growth. If it has two leaves, it is likely to be the bloom stalk. If it has three, it will be a sucker. Carefully remove the sucker, for if you are not careful, you might damage the mother plant. The smaller the sucker, the easier it is to remove. You can use a pencil, small knife, your fingernails, or my favorite, a tool called a sucker plucker. Of course, if you are regularly disbudding a violet in preparation for a show, it won't matter if it's a sucker or a bloom stalk, you'll remove it.

Every week or two, look at your plants. I'm not talking about going into your plant space and kind of gazing over the lot of them. Rather, pick up each violet and look at it closely for spent flowers, small leaves, yellowed leaves and suckers. Remove all of them.

Washing your plants

While we don't really grow violets for their foliage, the leaves on a well grown violet can be quite beautiful. That doesn't happen without some effort. Think about your home. No matter how good a housekeeper you are eventually dust gets in. And, dust doesn't discriminate, it lands equally on all surfaces, and that includes the space where your violets live. Left unchecked, that dust will block the pores of the foliage and leave the plant with an overall dull appearance.

Removing that grime is relatively easy. Wash your plants- but don't use Pledge or some other cleaner meant for dusting. By the way, washing is much easier if you do it when the plant is not in bloom- but you probably figured that out.

Take the plant to your sink and give it a good spritzing. If your sink has a sprayer attachment, you can use that. If not, you can buy a plastic bottle for this purpose relatively inexpensively. Don't gently mist the plant, but do be gentle. The water used should be room temperature or warmer, but not of course, scalding hot. Give each plant a nice gentle shower making sure you thoroughly cover each leaf.

Since you've already got the plant at the sink, this might be a good time to leach your plant as

well. This involves taking a cup of clear, plain water and pouring it through your violet to help rid it of any fertilizer salts that may have built up in the pot. This is especially important if you bottom water.

Don't let the plant stand in the water that drains off the plant, for violets don't like wet feet. You might check the crown of the violet to make sure no water has settled in there. If some has, either tilt the plant so it pours out or dab it up with a tissue or paper towel. If you are growing in natural light, make sure the leaves are dry before returning the plant to a sunny position. If the sun has passed for the day, you can return it when you want for the leaves will be dry by the time the sun comes through the next day. If you need to return the plant to a sunny window, pat the leaves dry.

If you are growing under lights, you can return the plants whenever you want. The water on the leaves is unlikely to cause any damage.

Concluding Thoughts

If you were lucky enough to go to the convention in Cherry Hill in 2011, you probably saw some of Sandy Skalski's beautiful violets. She won many ribbons and prizes including Best-in-Show. Our local club was fortunate enough to have her come speak at one of our meetings. She talked about how she grows her violets.

She grooms on a very regular basis, working closely with her plants every Thursday evening. Does that mean she misses Scandal and Grey's Anatomy on TV? But I am digressing. Anyway, her advice was to "pick, pick, pick". And, this applies in spades if you are growing trailers. But, trailers are a topic for another column. Spend a little time grooming each of your plants on a regular basis and they'll repay you by blooming their heads off- and isn't that why we grow them?

Reprinted from the May-June 2014 African Violet Magazine

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted

by Lynn Bandy

Lemon squares

Ingredients

For the crust:

1/2 pound unsalted butter, at room temperature

1/2 cup granulated sugar

2 cups flour

1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

For the filling:

6 extra-large eggs at room temperature

3 cups granulated sugar

2 tablespoons grated lemon zest (4 to 6 lemons)

1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 cup flour

Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

For the crust, cream the butter and sugar until light in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Combine the flour and salt and, with the mixer on low, add to the butter until just mixed. Dump the dough onto a well-floured board and gather into a ball. Flatten the dough with floured hands and press it into a 9 by 13 by 2-inch baking sheet, building up a 1/2-inch edge on all sides. Chill.

Bake the crust for 15 to 20 minutes, until very lightly browned. Let cool on a wire rack. Leave the oven on.

For the filling, whisk together the eggs, sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice, and flour. Pour over the crust and bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until the filling is set. Let cool to room temperature.

Cut into triangles and dust with confectioners' sugar.

We need some new recipes!!! I'm sure you are tired of all my old recipes!!!!

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www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org



Exhibit by Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses at AVSA convention

.....
Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this publication are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors or editor, nor the Tampa African Violet Society can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Tampa African Violet Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material herein.

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Nancy Lee Simmons and Pat Rutzke



Robert Cameron, Jim Matula and Roxanne Carney at the July 21st meeting



Day members enjoying Thadd's lecture



Celia Howe and guest Susan Cartonia at the Friday Day meeting

THE PETAL

SEPTEMBER 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



SUNCOAST ANTIQUE LACE

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,

It's hard to believe that the summer months have flown by and September is here! I had hoped by now to have finished the repotting process, but other things have intervened and I'm just now starting. The trays with my Episcias look like a jungle—they needed repotting 3 months ago. However, it's now just a matter of clipping off the stolons and potting them up, after which I'll place them under cover for about 4 weeks until roots are forming. Yes, it's a never-ending process!

As you know, our 2018 Project Plants are now available. This year you have a choice between

a standard and a miniature. It's our goal to have every member grow a Project Plant, and then enter it in the show. There will be a total of 4 classes in next year's show for the Project Plants. There will be separate classes for the standard and the miniature, and each will have a class for Novices. The best exhibit in each of these classes will receive a \$25 cash award from the Club. So get started right away!

The new Yearbooks will be available at both September meetings. The yearbook has a list of our officers and committee chairmen, members and meeting information and a grooming schedule. In addition, that's where you'll find our Bylaws and Standing Rules as well as a listing of our monthly programs. Cece Lane has put together some great programs for the year.

Several important events are coming up very soon. The Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society is having its annual plant sale at USF on Saturday, September 9, from 10 am until 2 pm. They will have a good variety of Gesneriads for sale, so this would be a good time to add to your collection.

We'll have 2 events in October. First will be the annual Fall plant sale at USF on October 14 and 15. Members are encouraged not only to bring plants for the sale but also to spend a few hours there, helping in our booth. Second will be the annual show of African Violet Council of Florida scheduled for October 26-28 at the Holiday Inn St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport. I'm hoping our members will support the Council by entering plants and designs in the show.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday, September 7, when Nancy Kast will tell us how to grow Streptocarpus and will demonstrate the proper way to divide a Strep and repot it.

Happy growing!

Mary Lou



Richard Nicholas, newly elected President of AVSA, wrote the following:
"We have just received word, sadly, that John Carter, a former president of AVSA, has passed away. John was fighting a second battle with cancer. He will be truly missed by hundreds of friends. He, and his wife Judy, have done so much for his church, for the Rose Society, his Tulsa violet club, and certainly for the African Violet Society. John was my friend and I am very saddened by this loss. Heaven has a wonderful new angel. Go with God." Please keep Judy and the family in your prayers.

NEW YEARBOOKS

Our new Yearbooks will be available at the September meetings. If you don't plan to keep your old yearbook, please return the plastic covers and plastic combs (spiral binding) so they can be recycled. Thanks!

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –September 7th, 2017 at 7 PM

**Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

Inspirational: Mary Lou Harden

Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Linda Baggett, Steve Whidden and Mary Lou Harden

THE PROGRAM:

“STREPTOCARPUS”

To be Presented by Nancy Kast

Nancy will demonstrate how to successfully divide a mature plant, how to repot and give us growing tips

DAY MEETING – September 15th, 2017 10 AM

**Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

Inspirational: Jim Boyer

Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Jim Boyer, Barbara Matthews and Mary Lou Harden

THE PROGRAM:

“THE DISCOVERY, HABIT AND ORIGIN OF THE SAINTPAULIA”

A DVD by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing



To be presented by Cece Lane

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING –June 8th, 2017

**PROGRAM: “More may not be better!
How much fertilizer should I use???
How will I know if I’m using too
much???? What kind is best???”**
Presented by King James Boyer

Jim gave us tips and pointers about how,
what, when and where to fertilize!

DAY MEETING: June 16th, 2017

**PROGRAM: “Plant Problems: Why don’t
my plants bloom, Washed out and yellow
foliage, Tight centers???** **Back to Basics.”**

Presented by Lynn Bandy

Lynn gave a quiz “Are You a Violet Expert” and
showed us some examples of how NOT to grow
violets

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/12 Sandra Kerns
9/13 Sheryl Herold
9/14 Joni Hartzler
9/21 Joanne Martinez



COMING EVENTS



Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society will have a
plant sale from 10 am to 2 pm at USF Botanical
Gardens



**African Violet Council of Florida Annual
Show & Plant Sale.** October 26-28, 2017
Holiday Inn Clearwater/St Petersburg airport.
“Violets Go To The Beach“ is this year’s theme.

USF Fall plant sale: USF Botanical Gardens:
October 14th from 10 am to 4 pm and October
15th from 10 am to 3 pm.



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Evening Meeting
August 3rd, 2017
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:09 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Cece Lane

GUESTS: Maria and Steve Whidden

REFRESHMENTS: Mary Kay Ross, Cece Lane, Jim Boyer, and Therese Lynam

**PROGRAM: “More may not be better!
How much fertilizer should I use???
How will I know if I’m using too
much???? What kind is best???”**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the July 6th, 2017, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER REPORT:

Reported by Mary Lou Harden. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that every year Tampa African Violet Society donates a money award to AVSA, AVCF, and DAVS shows. A motion was made by Lynne Wilson to contribute \$50 each to these organizations again for next year. Nancy Kast seconded the motion. The motion passed and Mary Lou Harden stated that the treasurer of our Club will be asked to send \$50.00 to each organization.

Lynne Wilson read an invitation from the AVSA to members to attend the 72nd AVSA/Canadian Joint Convention to be held next year in Buffalo, NY.

Cece Lane made a request for members to volunteer to give presentations at our meetings so that these can be printed in the Yearbook.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVCF – Mary Lou Harden reported that the AVCF is preparing for their Fall Show in Clearwater, FL, October 26-28, and has been advertising for it already. It will be held at the Holiday Inn on Ulmerton Road. Tom Schaefer will be giving a presentation on “Tools That Make Life Easier for the African Violet Addict”.

AVSA – Mary Lou reported that the annual dues for AVSA are \$35.00, and that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY.

DAVS – Mary Lou also reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00 and are due in February of each year.

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY – Nancy and Jerry Kast had just come back from the Gesneriad Society Annual Convention which was held in Omaha, NE this year. Nancy Kast reported that there were a lot of sinningia exhibits in the show. A kohleria (Kohleria Golum), won Best in Show and an achimenes won 2nd Best in Show. The Gesneriad Society will hold their Annual Convention next year in Boston, MA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported the following:

- Club Project Plants are available now and are \$4.00 each. There will be two classes to choose from for the Project Plant – one is a miniature and the other is a standard.

- The theme for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show will be: "What a Wonderful World of Violets". Jerry O'Keefe and Mary Lou Harden will serve as co-chairs. The Show will be held at Common Ground Church in Tampa, as the Farm Bureau building will not be available for us to use. We need more lighting for the Show at Common Ground Church.
- Annual TAVS dues of \$15.00 are due now. The Yearbook will be published soon and members' information needs to be updated for the Yearbook.
- Our Club will participate in the National Teach-in Day, perhaps at Broward Elementary School which is near Common Ground Church. Anita Adlin reported that this event will be held in schools the week before Thanksgiving Day in November. Mary Lou will look into which school might be best for us, and Anita Adlin will get more information for us about this event.
- The USF Fall Festival will take place October 14-15. Jerry O'Keefe is chairing the event. Mary Lou stated that workers are mostly needed on Saturday of the event as Sunday is not as busy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A refreshment sign-up sheet was passed around and Mary Lou Harden requested that everyone needs to sign-up to bring refreshments to at least two night meetings.

Mary Lou Harden reminded all members that if you are not going to attend a meeting that you are assigned to bring refreshments for, you are still responsible to get a replacement to bring the refreshments in your place.

Mary Lou Harden reported that the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society will have a sale on

September 9, 2017, at the USF Botanical Gardens.

SHOW AND TELL:

Jerry Kast brought in Mac's Misty Meadow, a semi-miniature to share. Nancy Kast brought in a species she grew from seed, an aeschynanthus (species), and a sinningia (Anne Crowley).

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants were provided by Mary Lou Harden and Cece Lane

RAFFLE: Mary Lou Harden

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of Day Meeting August 18th, 2017 410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL

The TAVS day meeting was called to order at 10:20 am by First Vice President Jim Boyer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Barbara Lopez

REFRESHMENTS: Linda Bennett, Barbara Lopez and Pat Rutzke

PROGRAM: "Plant Problems: Why don't my plants bloom, Washed out and yellow foliage, Tight centers???" Back to Basics."

Presented by Lynn Bandy

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes from the July 21st, 2017, meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER REPORT:

Reported by Mary Lou Harden. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

OFFICER REPORTS:

First VP Cece Lane stated that Nancy Kast will discuss growing Streptocarpus and demonstrate how to divide and repot Streptocarpus at the September 7 night meeting and that at the day meeting on September 15, there will be a DVD presentation by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing on The Discovery, Habit and Origin of the Saintpaulia

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that she and Jerry O'Keefe will be our 2018 Show Co-chairs, Lynn Bandy will help with Entries, Mary Kay Ross and Cece Lane will handle Education and Jim Boyer will chair Classification. Jerry O'Keefe offered to help inventory the ribbon awards. Mary Lou will be preparing the show schedule.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Project Plants are available, and there are two choices -- a standard and a miniature. All Project Plants are \$4. There will be both novice and veterans class with a \$25 award for each class.

The Florida Council show is October 26-28th at the Holiday Inn St. Petersburg/Clearwater airport on Ulmerton Road.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerry O'Keefe reminded us the Fall USF sale is coming up, at the Botanical Gardens on October 14 and 15. Jerry asked members to grow plants, and asked that members sign up for two hour time slots for the sale. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at both meetings.

Mary Lou passed around "Interview" questionnaires for members to fill out and forward to Lynn Bandy so she can write "Meet Our Members" articles for the Petal. Please help out and complete these.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Birthdays Linda Bennett, Gladys Cook, Mary Fisher, Cece Lane and Kathleen Pape.
- Facebook. Like us! Post a note.
- Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month to NYBLEB@aol.com.

ROLL CALL: Lynn Bandy

TIP: Jim Boyer's tip of the day: Don't ask Lynn Bandy about growing violets!!! LOL

RAFFLE: Conducted by Roxanne Carney

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants and leaves provided by Roxanne Carney and Barbara Lopez.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 Noon.

Roxanne Carney: Day Recording Secretary



SUMMER SUNSHINE

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Celia Howe*

Fruit Cobbler

Use any fruit - Just use one to one & 1/2 cups of fruit -- too much fruit keeps it from having a nice crust.

One stick of butter - Put in baking dish (13" x 9") in preheated 350 F. oven and melt.

In a bowl, stir together one cup self-rising flour, one cup sugar, and one cup milk. Add one teaspoon vanilla. Add cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg or other spices in the amounts you wish to include.

It will be a thin batter. Pour over butter -- don't stir.

Lay fruit on top.
Sprinkle with cinnamon.

Bake at 350 F. for about one hour - Watch for even browning.

Perfect with vanilla ice cream on top.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy nybleb@aol.com and it will be included in the next Petal.

MEET THE MEMBER

Tom "The Tool Man" Schaefer

Tom was born in Steubenville, Ohio and has fond childhood memories of picking and throwing Buckeyes from their tree, starting a vegetable garden and playing little League baseball. The most influential people in Tom's life were his parents, neighbors and teachers. Although Tom did not have any animals growing up he now has 2 shelter dogs. Favorite summer pastimes were baseball and gardening, but tennis became a favorite sport in college. Elvis was his favorite artist, and he dabbled in swing and ballroom dancing!

Tom's favorite subjects in school were math and science where he describes himself as an "average" student, although A's and B's were his grades and he loved learning all types of things. Tom had a varied college education studying Math, Chemistry and Physics, starting out at Milligan College for freshman year, transferred to Texas A&M for his sophomore year, West Liberty State College for his junior year and finally graduating with a BA in Science Education from USF. Tom also served in the US Army.

Tom taught Chemistry and Physics for 5 years at Tampa Catholic High School and then went on to work in construction in 1979. Tom retired in 2012. He is married with 3 adult daughters; Tom's wife is a nurse. He likes to spend his free time traveling and spending time with his grandchildren.

Tom's interest in African Violets was piqued after Mary Lou Harden gave a talk on violets at the Riverview Garden Club. He has between 20 to 40 plants and loves how pretty they are. Tom also grows gesneriads, fruit trees, vegetables and other flowering plants.

Our own Tom "The Tool Man" will be lecturing on "Tools That Make Life Easier for the African Violet Addict" at the African Violet Council of Florida's Annual Convention in Clearwater this October.

Be sure to fill out your Biography Interview Questions form so you can be featured right

here next month. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

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JOIN * LEARN * GROW



**African Violet
Society of
America
Weekly Growing
Tip!**

What Kind of Grower Are You?



Are You A Violet Expert?

Take the Quiz!

1. I water my African violets....
 - a. When I think of it or when the plants seem really dry.
 - b. Once or twice a week, on the same day(s) each week.
 - c. Constantly, using a self-watering system designed for violets.
 - d. Water?
2. When I water....
 - a. I let the violets stand in water for however long it takes to soak up the water.
 - b. I water a little bit into the top of the pot, but never enough to run out the bottom.
 - c. I use a self-watering system and occasionally water from the top to leach the soil.
 - d. I water thoroughly either from the top or bottom and empty the saucer soon after.
3. The following best describes the light my violets get:
 - a. Fluorescent T12 light 12 inches above the foliage for twelve hours a day (or T8 12 inches above for 8 hours)
 - b. Bright window light with plants sitting nearby.
 - c. Some light from windows with plants sitting toward the middle of the room.
 - d. Ceiling light units turned on for most of the day but no windows.
4. The following best describes my fertilizing habits:
 - a. Once or twice a year, if I think of it.
 - b. Once a month, following package directions.
 - c. Once a week or constantly (if using self-watering system) at a slightly weaker-than-recommended rate.
 - d. Once a week using a little more than recommended.
5. The following best describes the soil in which my violets are growing:
 - a. Good firm garden dirt.
 - b. Potting mix that is fairly dense and packs down well.
 - c. Very loose porous potting mix that is not packed down at all.
 - d. The soil mix that my violets came in when I got them.
6. The temperature in my growing space is...
 - a. Usually around 72° F during the day and a little cooler at night.
 - b. Variable, sometimes over 80° during the day and much cooler at night.
 - c. Usually below 70° all the time.
 - d. Usually warmer than 80° all the time.
7. My violets are growing in pots that are...
 - a. Made of plastic or non-porous materials.
 - b. Made of clay.
 - c. Both types
8. Measure your violet's leaf span (the diameter across the leaves), then measure the diameter of the pot in which it is growing. The ratio of the leaf span to the pot is:
 - a. 1 to 2 (the plant is half the diameter of

- the pot)
- b. 1 to 1 (the plant is the same size as the pot)
 - c. 2 to 1 (the plant is twice the size of the pot)
 - d. 3 to 1 (the plant is three times the size of the pot)

9. I repot my violets...

- a. I don't.
- b. At least once every year.
- c. Whenever I see a neck developing underneath the leaves.
- d. Whenever they start to look sick.

10. If I saw a side-shoot forming between the leaves of my violet, I would...

- a. Poke it out immediately.
- b. Remove it carefully when it was big enough to be planted in its own pot.
- c. Let it grow.

Answers (Add your points)

1. A= 0 points, B=1 point, C=2 points, and D=subtract 1 point. This question is about how often to water. Constant self-watering is the ideal way to provide consistent moisture to violets and to maximize blooming and growing. Once-week-water will still result in nice plants, but this method is vulnerable to changes in your schedule as well as abnormally low or high humidity (which will change how much water your violet demand.) Watering only when plants appear dry, or when you think about it, will result in small, tired-looking leaves and few flowers. Forget to water entirely and your hobby is at risk.

2. A= subtract 1 point, B= 0 points, C=2 points, and D=1 point Although this question also addresses watering, the issue here is how much. Again, the self-watering method wins out. It provides enough water (unlike choice B) without the risks of root rot (providing the proper porous potting mix is used) that choice A has. Notice the addition to self-watering however! Once in a while, an excellent grower will water violets from the top of the pot so that the water

runs through leaching out fertilizer salts that inevitably accumulate. If you self-water, but don't leach, subtract one point. Choice D is a very satisfactory watering method; particularly when water is occasionally add at the top of the pot.

3. A=2 points, B=1 point, C=0 points, D=1 point. Violets require fairly bright light in order to produce flowers and a flat leaf pattern. Ideally, they should be grown under fluorescent (or other new artificial light methods) as described in A. The length of day and the distance from the leaves may vary somewhat from grower to grower, depending on other factors like reflecting surfaces or natural light availability.) Subtract one point if these light are left on day and night, 24 hours. Since artificial light isn't always a possible choice, growing your plants in a location very close to a bright window, but out of hotoz intense direct sunlight, is a good substitute. Give yourself a bonus of one point if you turn your plants at least once a week to even out the amount of light to all sides. In many office situations, the option of placing violets nearer a ceiling light fixture that is lit for 12 hours a day works well. Are your violets sitting far away from adequate light? You may notice that the leaves seem to be growing upward, that your plant is leaning toward the light, and/or that your violets don't bloom well.

4. A=0 points, B=1 point, C=2 points, D=0 points It may surprise you to find that it is wise to use a conservative approach to fertilizing. A regular and frequent diet of weak fertilizer will produce better results for most growers than the other methods, especially if it is added to the constant-water reservoir. Too much fertilizer can result in a build-up of salts in the soil which causes leaves to burn. It is actually more dangerous to overuse fertilizer than to forget it entirely! On the other hand, violet do need their nutrients, and proper fertilizing will improve blooming and growing patterns.

5. A=subtract 1 point, B=0 points, C=2 points, D=0 points Neither garden dirt, nor the average potting mix that is available in stores will provide your violet roots with the amount of air and space that they need for optimum growth. Only a very loose mix that is not pack down (at all!) will allow those fine fibrous roots to thrive! Often, the soil that your violet came in will also

be too heavy because greenhouses tend to use one mix for all types of tropical plants. Try this test: poke your finger into the soil in which your violet is potted and push it all the way to the bottom of the pot. If this is impossible or very difficult, the soil is too heavy and needs to have a “soil lightener” added such as perlite or vermiculite. This airy mix is also required to be successful with constant-water methods of growing.

6. A=2 points, B=subtract 1 point, C=0 points, and D=0 points Temperature is surprisingly important in determining the overall health of violets. Temperatures which are in the mid or low 70s are ideal. The more consistent the temperature, the more consistent the growth of the leaves will be. But when temperature is consistently too warm, the leaves will often grow with invariably long stems resulting in a lanky open look. When the temperature is regularly too cool, the leaves commonly grow with stems that are too short resulting in a growth pattern that is so tight that blossom stems can't get through. Too cool temperatures may cause flowers to be deeper in color and to last longer (not an awful problem), while warm temperatures will have the opposite effect of fading colors and shortening the life of flowers. Either of those is better than widely varying temperatures during the day. Aside from the resulting problems of uneven growth, these temperature differences allow fungus to thrive.

7. A=2 points, B=1 point, C=0 points Non-porous pots (plastic is the least expensive) are really best for growing violets. Plastic pots work well with constant-water methods of growing, do not accumulate salts on the rim, are lightweight, and easy to clean. None of that is true for clay pots, which are also hard to find in the squat smaller sizes that African violets prefer. Using a combination of different types of pots requires the grower to use different watering patterns, since clay pots dry out sooner and watering must be done more often. That is not easy to track, and eventually some plants are likely to be either over- or under-watered.

8. A=subtract 1 point, B=0 points, C=1 point, D=2 points African violets like to be in small pots! Nature planted them on moss and in crevices on rocky cliffs with a compact root

system, and they have never needed big spaces since then. Violet leaves should always cover the entire pot and extend beyond the edge. This allows the roots to fill the entire pot, maximizing their use of available water, and providing a gentle threat to survival that triggers the reproductive cycle of blooming.

9. A=subtract 1 point, B=2 points, C=2 points, D=0 points It is important to repot violets frequently—not into a bigger pot but into fresh potting mix which buries any exposed neck. Regular repotting is not as stressful as desperation repotting (when your violet is no longer thriving.) In fact, violets that are repotted yearly may live for forty or fifty years! You may use either the calendar (once a year) or your eyes (see a neck and repot that violet) as a successful guide. Subtract two points if you forget to look.

10. A=2 points, B=2 points, C=0 points Side-shoots on violets are called “suckers.” Growers have a choice of eliminating them immediately or using them for propagation purposes sometime later. Suckers with four to six leaves should be removed. Some growers prefer to poke them out when they have just three or four leaves, but do be careful that it really is a sucker and not a flower stem! Allowing suckers to grow to full-sized crowns will put them in competition with the original plant. Eventually it will have a bushy form, and often flowers are reduced in size or number. It won't kill the plant to leave it, but good growers know better.

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

nybleb@aol.com

The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

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THE PETAL

OCTOBER 2017

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampafricanviolets.com



Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

FALL COLORS

A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

We've had an interesting and sometimes scary past few weeks. All of us did a lot of praying that we would be kept safe and not suffer a lot of damage. I've heard from most of our members and it seems that the majority fared quite well, with little or no damage to people or property. However, several have reported minor to extensive damage to trees and plants. A few were blessed with no loss of electricity, some lost power for an hour or so, but most of us lost power for a few days – and that's no fun. Still, we all have a lot to be thankful for! Our friends in Texas, as well as other parts of Florida and

even further north, and the Caribbean islands, including Puerto Rico, had a tremendous amount of damage, with loss of life and home. Continue to pray for them, and send donations to the groups who are helping them put their lives back together.

As you know, we felt it wise to cancel both of our September meetings. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange to have the programs rescheduled.

Now, it's back to business and if you're like me, you've got plenty of plants that need to be repotted. The African Violet Council of Florida's show is October 26-28 -- just 4 weeks away! I hope our members will support the show by entering plants and designs, and help out wherever needed. The show will be at the

Holiday Inn at the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport, 3535 Ulmerton Drive in Clearwater. It's an hour's drive from Tampa and is quite easy to get to.

Our own Jerry O'Keefe is the Show Chair and he is also chairing the Hospitality Suite, which means he needs donations of snack items, potato chips, popcorn, cookies, pastries and soft drinks. If you have some goodies you would like to donate, please bring them to the night meeting on October 5 or the day meeting on October 20 and we'll see that they get to Jerry. Or you can donate cash which will be used to buy soft drinks, water and coffee.



In the meantime, we'll be participating in the Fall Plant Festival at USF's Botanical Gardens on Saturday, October 14 (10am to 4pm), and Sunday, October 15 (10am to 3pm). We need member plants to sell, and members who can attend, at least for a few hours, and help sell plants and supplies and greet the public. Free admission tickets will be available at the October night meeting.

I hope to see you at the October 5 night meeting! You'll get your new Yearbook at the meeting!

Mary Lou Harden

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/17 Annie Pirone
10/21 Charles Fisher
10/22 Lisa Villabol



OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

NIGHT MEETING –October 5th, 2017 at 7 PM

**Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

Inspirational: Jean Krauchik

Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Anita Adlin, Jean Krauchik and Angela Newell

**THE PROGRAM:
“CHIMERAS – PROPAGATION
TECHNIQUES”**

To be presented by Jim Boyer
King James will show us how to properly propagate Chimeras

DAY MEETING – October 20th, 2017 10 AM

**Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

Inspirational: Jim Boyer

Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Jim Boyer, Barbara Matthews and Mary Lou Harden

THE PROGRAM:

**“Design
Workshop”**

**To be presented by
Mary Lou Harden**

Mary Lou “Designer Guru” will show us the tips and techniques to award winning designs



COMING EVENTS



**“VIOLETS, A DAY AT THE BEACH”
AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA
SHOW
Holiday Inn – St. Petersburg/Clearwater
Airport
3535 Ulmerton Drive, Clearwater, FL**

Thursday, October 26 – 1pm – 3pm - Entries
for Convention workers
3pm – 9pm - Horticulture and Design Entries

Friday, October 27 – 9am – Judging the Show
Noon – 6pm – Show open to the public
7pm – Awards Banquet

Saturday, October 28 – 10am – 3pm – Show
open to the public

DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Hospitality Suite at the AVCF Show is a place where you can relax for a few minutes, enjoy some snacks and visit with violet friends from around the State. Jerry O’Keefe is in charge of Hospitality and needs your help. He’s asking for donations of snack items, chips, crackers, cookies, pastries, veggie trays, fruit, soft drinks, bottled water and coffee. You can bring your donations to either the October night meeting or the October day meeting and we’ll see that Jerry gets them.

ALSO. . .we need 3 or 4 volunteers who can serve as a hosts or hostesses in the Hospitality

Suite either on Friday morning, October 27 (10 to 11:30 am), Friday afternoon, October 27 (2 to 4pm) or on Saturday, October 28 (10 to Noon). If you can help, please let Jerry know. His email address is euph2201@cfl.rr.com.

USF FALL PLANT FESTIVAL

USF Botanical Gardens

Saturday, October 14 – 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, October 15 – 10 am to 3 pm

NEEDED: Member plants for sale – Member receives 75% and Club receives 25% of sale price

NEEDED: Members to help with selling plants and supplies on Saturday and Sunday.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the October 5 night meeting – or you can send an email to Jerry O’Keefe at euph2201@cfl.rr.com.



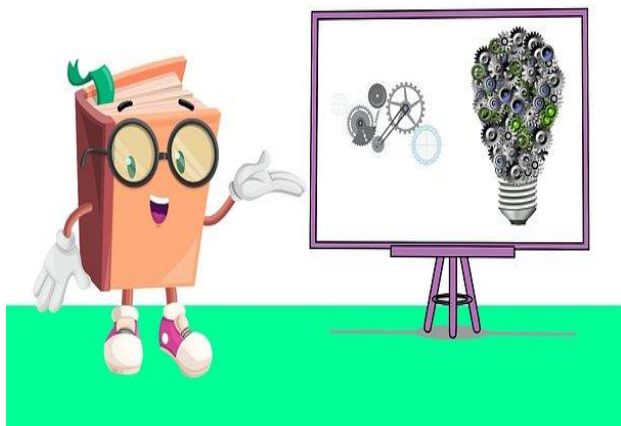
TEACH-IN-DAY – HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOLS

As you know, Anita Adlin has been getting information about Hillsborough County’s Annual Teach-In-Day when members of the public are invited to come to a school and teach the students about their field of expertise. In our case, it will be how to grow African Violets.

The date for the Teach-In-Day is Thursday, November 16th, the week before Thanksgiving. Anita has arranged for us to go

to Broward Elementary School, 400 West Osborne Avenue, Tampa 33603. The school has almost 400 students. Specific details are being worked out.

If you would like to help with this project, please let Mary Lou know (mlhard@verizon.net).



AUTUMN BLUES

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Celia Howe*

LIGHT AND FLUFFY PUMPKIN PANCAKES

- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 TBS sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 1 pinch ground clove
- 1 cup 1% low-fat milk (can be any kind)
- 6 TBS canned pumpkin puree
- 2 TBS melted butter
- 1 egg

Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, spices and salt in a bowl.

In a separate bowl whisk together milk, pumpkin, melted butter, and egg.

Fold mixture into dry ingredients.

Spray or grease a skillet and heat over medium heat: pour in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup batter for each pancake.

Cook pancakes about 3 minutes per side.

Serve with butter and syrup.

Makes about six 6-inch pancakes.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy nybleb@aol.com and it will be included in the next Petal.

MEET THE MEMBER

Celia Howe

Early Childhood

1. **Where were you born?** Sarasota, FL
2. **Any particular childhood memories?** I didn't have siblings. Sarasota was still the way it was back in the 1920's all through my school years. There were not any "hotels" on nearby Longboat Key — mostly just scattered simple beach cottages that you'd drive through the woods to get to someone's cottage. A favorite memory, before I entered 1st grade, was going to Longboat Key and we'd be the only ones at the beach. Our family enjoyed picnics at Myakka River State Park — my grandfather would have cut down a small Cabbage Palm tree (Sable Palm) for the Swamp Cabbage that was inside of it — would cut the cabbage into pieces; put it into a pot with bacon and a small amount of water over an open fire. He would fry freshly caught fish. Another family memory was digging for clams in Sarasota Bay or spending the day on a party fishing boat. One more good time during my teens was during the couple of years my uncle was stationed at MacDill Air Force Base and we'd join his family for Thanksgiving dinner in the base's Mess Hall with the Servicemen and Servicewomen.
3. **Who was the most influential person to you as a child?** My Aunt who was in the Woman's Army Corps (WAC). Although she spent much of her service time in Europe, she once was stationed in Virginia and I got to stay in the army barracks with her one night when I was about age 8. That was a thrill for me at the time. We learned so much about the world through her and our other family members who also served in our military and were stationed in different countries.
4. **Did you have any pets? What Kind?** Through the years, we had rabbits and a couple of Chihuahua dogs and parakeets.

5. **What did you do during the summertime?** I usually participated in the school system's summer programs. Some outstanding memories were: 1. A couple of summers, I spent a week at the YMCA camp in Deland, FL. 2. The summer I was age 14, I went with my best friend & her mother to visit their family in Ontario, Canada — they took me to see Niagara Falls and a special event featuring the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. 3. The summer I was age 16, I went with a group of 50 boys and 50 girls to Windsor, Connecticut to work on a Tobacco Farm. That was a wonderful experience. Aside from getting up at 5:30 A.M. to get ready for work, they treated us to a day in New York City, movies, dances, "Christmas in July" and life on the farm (saw a calf being born — and saw how dairy cows should be treated — I'm remembering soft music and soft blue lighting at night for those cows in a beautiful barn!)

6. **Did you have any nicknames?** Yes, my mother nicknamed me "bunny" when I was still a baby. The name stuck and family still call me that.

Grade School/High School

7. **What was your favorite subject?** I was fortunate to always be in the Sarasota County School system. So, I enjoy going to the High School reunions as I know many classmates from Grade School. I always enjoyed English. I liked writing and research projects.
8. **What was your favorite sport?** I enjoyed playing soccer in gym class.
9. **How would you describe yourself as a student both socially and academically?** Academically, I was an average student. I learned to play the violin starting in 5th grade by the Suzuki method through the school's music program. I played the violin in the school orchestra through Junior High. I became quite good at playing, even won the top rating in the only competition I had entered. I haven't played the violin since Jr. High.

10. What extracurricular activities did you participate in as a teen? I was a member of the "Pep Squad" and the Future Nurses Club.

11. What was your favorite music/band/dance in high school? I loved the pop music of the 1960's, especially the Beach Boys.

12. What would people you know find surprising about you as a teen? I had been more of an extrovert.

College

13. Did you attend college? Where? I attended Manatee Junior College In Bradenton as a teen, obtaining an AA degree. Twenty years later, when we moved to Ft. Myers I attended USF for my last 2 years of college (At that time USF had a campus connected to Edison Jr. College).

14. What subject(s) did you study and why? I studied accounting because of my work experience.

15. Did you get a degree? Yes In What? I have an Accounting Degree from USF.

Career

16. Describe your work career - jobs. I have always worked in bookkeeping or accounting departments. My first job was as a bookkeeper at the then St. Armand's Palmer Bank on St. Armand's Key in Sarasota. My husband's first job out of college took us to Hartford, Connecticut where he was in a special career management program at the Hartford Insurance Group. I worked in The Hartford's statistical department. Later we moved to Jacksonville Beach and I worked in the accounting department of Crowley Maritime Corporation, a world-wide maritime shipping company in Jacksonville for 11 years. We moved to Ft. Myers where I completed college and afterwards worked for a Raytheon Company one year before we moved to the Tampa area. In Tampa I've worked for a beautiful plant nursery and K Force, a country-wide staffing agency. I retired in 2004 to spend more time

with my parents who had health issues at the time.

Family

17. Do you have children? We do not have children. Joe and I met as teenagers (I was 16 and he was 18), we married after 5 years of dating. We will celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary in June.

African violets - Plants

18. When and how did you become interested in growing African violets? When I worked at Crowley Maritime in Jacksonville, I had a window cubicle and started with an African violet on my desk that a family member had given me. I'd pick up an African Violet (Nameless) in a Home Depot-type store from time to time to set on my desk. All of those plants did very well and attracted the attention of my co-workers. I don't think any of us had any idea of there actually being an African Violet Society of America. When I was leaving the company to move to Ft. Myers, I was asked "Who would I be giving my African Violets to?" I assumed I'd be taking the plants with me. But, that apparently wasn't going to be allowed, so I picked someone who asked for the plants the most. Once I was living in the Tampa area I learned about the TAVS annual shows at the East Lake Mall through the newspaper. I attended at least a couple of those fabulous shows and even the National AVSA show of 1997 at The Trade Winds Island Resort in St. Pete. It was many years later that I learned through my 2nd cousin about the meetings of TAVS. I joined at my first meeting, not realizing how active the club is year-around. I am not able to participate in everything, but I am enjoying the meetings and love, love the other members and working with them when I can.

19. How many violets do you have? I cannot spare the space for grow lights at this time nor do I have many windows. I only have space for about 25 plants.

20. What do you love the most about growing African Violets? I love that they look so cheerful.

21. **Do you grow any other types of plants?** I have created a “park” in my backyard with paths where I crowd numerous plants and trees.

22. **What do you like to do in your spare time?** My various involvements are: My husband, Joe and I are to be the directors of our camping club starting next year, I am treasurer on the board of trustees who oversee the maintenance and beautification of the exterior properties of the 1,084 homes in our subdivision, Joe and I are members of the Tampa Audubon Society Club, I am a member of the Riverview Garden Club and Joe and I travel as much as possible — recent trips have been to Washington & Oregon, North Carolina and Connecticut. I would love to have more “down time” to read the classic novels.



Be sure to fill out your Biography Interview Questions form so you can be featured right here next month. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

September 11th, 2017

You Can Grow Again!



How to Recover from a Total Loss

It can happen to anyone...Pests or a virus can weaken and destroy plants. A move, neglect, or an over-zealous plant sitter can kill a collection. And a natural disaster, such as the recent hurricanes in Texas and Florida, can literally wash away everything, including African violets.

Of course, people and other considerations come first, especially with natural disasters. But eventually, the devastation of loss will give way to a desire to rebuild and regrow. Here are some tips for how to move ahead and how AVSA and our awesome members can help!

Your Plan and the People Who Can Help

After you have repaired and cleaned or tossed all existing growing supplies, write down a plan to recollect and regrow:

- Assess your growing space and routine and make changes to avoid another disaster in the future (see "Disaster Preparedness and African Violets" in the May-June 2015 issue of African Violet Magazine for some helpful tips).
- Develop a timeline and budget for reconstructing your collection - give yourself plenty of time to get back to where you want to be.
- Consider growing differently; for example, if your light stands no longer function, try growing in your windows (past AVSA

Growing Tips, such as this one from August 22, 2016, can help).

- Write down a "wish list," noting the variety, size, and growing requirements of each plant.

Once you have your plan, put the word out to other growers and benefit from AVSA's resources, too!

- AVSA online affiliate clubs are an easy place to visit to let other growers know what's on your wish list and can answer your questions as you re-acquire plants.
- Commercial vendors with AVSA connections can help you fulfill your wish list, too. They refresh their websites regularly, so check back with them often.
- AVSA local and national shows good places to network and obtain plants, too. They are also excellent opportunities to learn more about the best of successful growing techniques.

With a plan and patience, you will be able to fashion a beautiful collection of African violets once again. And with the people of AVSA, you'll have the resources and support to get back to growing like never before!

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) mlhard@verizon.net. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

HELP!!!!!!

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com
Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member: THERESEJOAN@aol.com

Visit us at:

www.Tampafricanviolets.com

JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA). Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** www.AVSA.org

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**
johnniepearl@aol.com www.davs.org

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF). Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**
www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

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Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

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BURNT AUTUMN

A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Fall Plant Festival at USF's Botanical Gardens—from set-up to conclusion. Special thanks to Jerry O'Keefe who served as chair for the event. It was a great success, the Club sold many plants and supplies, and we were able to talk to many people about the joy of growing African violets. USF also sponsors a Spring Plant Festival, usually in mid-April, and I hope all our members will be growing plants to sell.

Now we're participating in the African Violet Council of Florida's show October 26-28 at the Holiday Inn at the St. Petersburg/Clearwater

Airport, 3535 Ulmerton Drive in Clearwater. Tom Schaefer will be giving a presentation on Friday as "Tom, the Tool Man." Jerry O'Keefe was serving as Show Chair but had to step out of that position for health reasons. Hopefully with rest and less stress, Jerry will be just fine. Thanks to all of you who have donated goodies for the Hospitality Suite.

Several members will be helping us at Broward Elementary School on November 16 for Hillsborough County's Annual Teach-In-Day when members of the public are invited to come to school and teach the students about their field of expertise. In our case, it will be how to grow African Violets. This will be a great opportunity to introduce some third-graders about African violets.

Next week at our night meeting, Angela Newell will be helping us prepare for our annual show in February. Angela will tell us how to select and prepare plants for show, as well as how to determine the correct pot size. At the November 17 day meeting, Therese Lynam will be hosting us for African violet Bingo, which is always a lot of fun as well as a learning experience. I hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings!

Mary Lou Harden

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

NIGHT MEETING –November 2nd, 2017 at 7 PM

**Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

Inspirational: Cece Lane

Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Cece Lane, Mary Kay Ross and Terry Jordan

THE PROGRAM:

“IT’S TIME TO PREPARE FOR SHOW!”

To be presented by: Angela Newell
Angela; last year’s BIG winner will demonstrate how to prepare plants for show, choosing correct pot size, symmetry and removal of suckers.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

DAY MEETING – November 17th, 2017 at 10 AM

**Public Meeting Room
Seffner-Mango Library
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

Inspirational: Terry Jordan

Refreshments/Raffle Plants: Celia Howe, Terry Jordan and Andrea Pirone

THE PROGRAM:

“African Violet Bingo”

To be presented by Therese Lynam



A fun way to learn Violet terminology and lingo

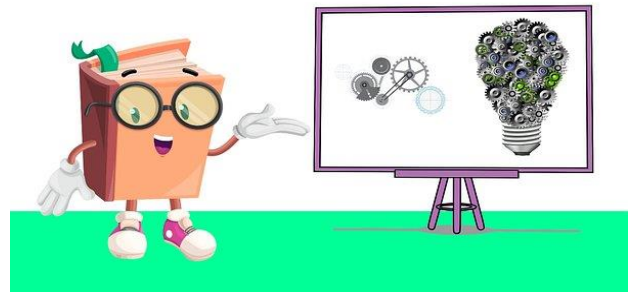


TEACH-IN-DAY – HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOLS

November 16th, 2017 Broward Elementary School

400 West Osborne Avenue, Tampa 33603.

Anita Adlin and several other members will be doing the Hillsborough County’s Annual Teach-In-Day when members of the public are invited to come to a school and teach the students about their field of expertise. In our case, it will be how to grow African Violets.



Florida State Fair
February 8th-19th, 2018
Florida State Fairgrounds
4800 US Highway 301
North Tampa, FL 33610



Come visit our booth!



“What a Wonderful World of Violets”

Tampa African Violet Society Annual Show

February 22nd-24th, 2018
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa FL 33603

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING: October 5th, 2017

THE PROGRAM:
**“CHIMERAS – PROPAGATION
TECHNIQUES”**

Presented by Jim
Boyer
King James
showed us how to
properly propagate
Chimeras



DAY MEETING: October 20th, 2017
THE PROGRAM:

“Design Workshop”

Presented by Mary Lou Harden

Mary Lou “Designer
Guru” showed us the tips
and techniques to award
winning designs



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Evening Meeting
October 5th, 2017
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

The meeting was called to order by President,
Mary Lou Harden, at 7:09PM, followed by the
Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Jean Krauchik

GUESTS: Don and Barbara Binford, Liz Taylor,
and Fred Johnson

REFRESHMENTS: Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin,
and Angela Newell

PROGRAM: “Chimeras – Propagation
Techniques”, presented by Jim Boyer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes
from the August 3, 2017, night meeting were
approved as published in "The Petal". (There
were no day or night meetings in September
due to Hurricane Irma.)

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s
Report was not available, but will be reported at
the November meeting.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TAVS: Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that annual dues of \$15.00 are due now.

AVCF: Mary Lou Harden reported that the AVCF will be hosting their Fall Show in Clearwater, FL, October 26-28, at the Holiday Inn on Ulmerton Road. The Show will be judged on Friday, October 27, 2017. Tom Schaefer will be giving his presentation as “Tom, the Tool Man” on Friday afternoon.

AVSA: Mary Lou Harden reported that the annual dues for AVSA are \$35.00, and that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY. Mary Lou reminded everyone that you will need a current passport to attend any of the Convention tours that are in Canada.

DAVS: Mary Lou Harden reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00, and are due in February of each year.

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY: Nancy Kast reported that the Gesneriad Society will hold its Annual Convention over the 4th of July weekend in 2018 in Boston, MA. Nancy Kast invited TAVS Club members to this month’s meeting of the Gesneriad Society on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 10:00AM, with guest speaker Dale Martens giving a presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported the following:

- The 2018 Club Project Plants are available now and are \$4.00 each. There will be two classes to choose from for the Project Plant – one is a miniature class and the other is a standard class.
- The theme for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show will be: “What a Wonderful World of Violets”. Jerry O’Keefe and Mary Lou Harden will be the co-chairs. The Show will be held at Common Ground Church in Tampa, February 22-24, 2018.

- Our Club will participate in the Hillsborough County Teach-in Day at Broward Elementary, which is a local school near Common Ground Church. Anita Adlin is obtaining more information about this event for the Club. The date for the event is Thursday, November 16, 2017, and the Club will be going to the school between 8:00AM and 2:30PM to participate.
- The USF Fall Plant Festival will take place October 14-15, 2017. Jerry O’Keefe is chairing the event. Mary Lou Harden stated that workers are mostly needed on Saturday of the event as Sunday is not very busy. Members can bring their plants to sell. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to help out on Saturday or Sunday.
- The new yearbooks are ready for distribution and were passed out to members attending tonight’s meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden made a request that the Club make a donation to the AVSA in memory of AVSA Past President John Carter, who passed away from cancer. (John Carter was an AVSA President before the previous AVSA President two years ago.) Lynne Wilson made a motion that a \$25.00 donation be made to AVSA and Anita Adlin seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the Club Treasurer will send a donation to AVSA in memory of John Carter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that the November 2, 2017 night meeting program will be presented by Angela Newell, and it will be on “It’s Time to Prepare for Show!” The November 17, 2017 day meeting program will be presented by Therese Lynam, and it will be “African Violet Bingo”.

Mary Lou Harden reported that TAVS needs someone to volunteer to maintain the TAVS website by keeping it up-to-date. She also made a request for members to send her pictures for posting on the website.

Mary Lou Harden reported that the Club now has a Square credit card account and the Club needs someone to volunteer to learn how to use this account for our upcoming 2018 Annual Show.

Mary Lou Harden encouraged members to visit the Club's Facebook page, to like us, and to post a note.

SHOW AND TELL: Jerry Kast brought in to share Mac's Elegant Emerald (a miniature) and Imps Graffiti Party (a semi-miniature). Nancy Kast brought in Ann's Joyful Eggplant (a sinningia) and Eucodonia Verticillate "Frances".

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants were provided by Anita Adlin and Mary Lou Harden.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of Day Meeting
October 20th, 2017
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:15 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

INSPIRATIONAL: Jim Boyer

REFRESHMENTS: Jim Boyer, Roxanne Carney and Tom Schaefer

PROGRAM: "A Design Workshop" Presented by Mary Lou Harden.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the August 18th, 2017, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal". (There were no day or night meetings in September due to Hurricane Irma.)

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was not available, but will be reported at the November meeting.

ROLL CALL: Terry Jordan

OFFICER REPORTS: The evening meeting will be on "IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR SHOW!"

And the daytime meeting will be "VIOLET BINGO"

NEW BUSINESS: The new Yearbooks are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Florida Council show is October 27-29th at the Airport Holiday Inn by St Pete/Clearwater airport. Please bring in goodies for the hospitality room if attending. Dale Martens will be at the Gesneriad meeting on October 21st.

Birthdays: Charles Fisher, Andrea Pirone, Susan Stringfellow and Lisa Villabol.

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com Facebook. Like us! Post a note.

Lynn Bandy is looking for member bios, articles or recipes for the monthly newsletter. Please provide by the 20th of the month.

Show & Tell: Pat Rutzke brought in a flower of Scandal.

Raffle plants and leaves: provided by Roxanne Carney, Angelina Grundhoff, Terry Jordan and Barbara Lopez.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45PM.

Roxanne Carney, Day Recording Secretary

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Jim (King James) Boyer*

MINI CORN DOG MUFFINS 24 servings

8.2 oz pkg corn muffin mix
2 oz cheese (your favorite), cut into 24 small cubes
4 beef franks, each cut into 6 pieces
1/2 cup honey mustard

Preheat oven to 375F. Spray mini muffin pan with cooking spray.

Prepare muffin batter as directed on package. Press 1 cheese cube and hot dog slice into batter in center of each muffin cup. Bake 10-12 min or until golden brown. Cool 5 min before removing from pans. Serve warm with mustard.

NOTES: 10-20-17 Press cheese in 1st and make sure it is pretty well covered. Otherwise when batter rises it pushes the cheese out. I used sharp cheddar.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy nybleb@aol.com and it will be included in the next Petal.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Tom Schaefer
11/17 Jane Martin
11/19 Glenn Shelton
11/25 Ellen Weber
11/27 Barbara Matthews
11/29 Linda Schwambac



MEET THE MEMBER

Roxanne Carney

I was born to Jane and Lawrence Ponader on December 20th and later brought home on Christmas day and told that I was their favorite Christmas present. My brother, Byron, followed 2 1/2 years later. We lived in the small town of Wadsworth, Ohio, about 15 miles outside of Akron. I attended K-12 in that town and then off to nearby University of Akron to receive a BS in Biology and Medical Technology. While at UA, I met my husband Joe. We married in 1976 and had our son, Michael in 1979. We moved to Florida in 1981 and I have worked at various hospital labs in St. Petersburg and recently at the blood center. Most of my career has centered around blood banking, both on the donor and patient sides. Our particular lab acts as a resource to hospital transfusion services to find compatible blood for area patients.

My love of plants and animals goes back to my childhood, my father bringing me home pets with included a possum, raccoon, rabbits, cats, dogs, birds and fish. I grew plants both outside and in, enjoying gardening and maintaining the family's yard along with my brother. I'm sure my first violet was given to me by my grandmother and it joined the other house plants inside. We lived near Granger Gardens and my father first took me to the green houses before I could drive. It was situated in a nearby town out in the country and was a lovely drive. I don't know how my father learned of it but imagine that he saw an ad in the

newspaper, probably around Valentine's or Mother's day. It was magical entering the greenhouses. How to narrow down your choices was near impossible.

My father loved vacations which included the Grand Canyon, Disneyland in California, lots of camping and fishing in Canada. I have many fond memories of these trips and was definitely a daddy's girl. As a child, my nickname was Rocky and I'm still known by that name by a few childhood friends. I loved math and science and was a good student but very shy during most of my school years. Yes, it is hard to imagine as I'm blurting out raffle numbers and giving programs for the club!

During my high school years, I got involved in Ju Jitsu, a type of martial arts. That love was later rekindled when my son wanted to take martial arts when the Karate Kid movies became popular. This led me back to martial arts and Aikido which I loved and did for many years.

I have always enjoyed music, playing the piano as a child and picking up the Irish folk harp during my 40's and 50's. Do not ask me to play since I have never been able to overcome performance anxiety. Still, I enjoy piano, harp, and Irish music. I have also dabbled in art and art/craft activities over the years. I would draw for hours as a child and teenager.

During the years, I have raised canaries, finches and had a Goffin's cockatoo named Sydney who talked and performed tricks. At this time I have a large orange and white cat named Bubba which is my baby.

Violets have come and gone at different times of my life interspersed with Bonsai, Orchids and outside beauties that we can only be grown in Florida. During the 1980's, I belonged to Sandra Williams violet group in St. Pete. We used to hold a small show and sale at the Armory around mother's day. My longtime girlfriend, Candace, tells me that I won best in show with Irish Flirt at one of these shows. I truly do not remember. When my marriage of 36 years ended in divorce about five years ago, I decided that I missed the flowers in the house and found that there was a club nearby and joined. My

collection has grown to three light carts with one shelf for the streptocarpus. My favorite thing about violets is growing and sharing the plants with others and seeing eyes light up.



Be sure to fill out your Biography Interview Questions form so you can be featured right here next month. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

October 16, 2017

When Seasons Change, So Do Violets

It's a changing time of year, and we enjoy it. Our violets do too! The fall and spring months are the most common times for [African violet shows](#) because that's when violets are predictably at their best. Sometimes we forget how different the violets look during the hottest and the coldest months, even though we try to maintain constant temperatures in our growing rooms. Today, two growers, one from Australia and one from the United States, each share photos of one of their violets for you to compare.

Grown in Hot Season

Grown in Cold Season



Here's Margaret Taylor's own hybrid 'Sunset Glow' growing in April this year as Australia was near an end of its hottest months. Note that the flowers are flattened and two-toned.

Here's Margaret's same 'Sunset Glow' growing in July, which is the coolest time of year in Australia. Note the deeper ruffles, the depth of the color, and the appearance of a white edge.



Now look at Nathan Cave's unnamed hybrid which was photographed this summer when it was hot. Note that the flower has more purple pigment in the heart and

Nathan's same plant photographed during the cooler months of winter. The flowers are showing far more white than purple and many of the flowers have double layers of petals.

that there is only a single layer of petals.

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) mlhard@verizon.net. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

HELP!!!!!! +

Gladys is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website www.tampafricanviolets.com Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Become a **MEMBER**

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15.
Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're
interested in becoming a member:
THERESEJOAN@aol.com

Visit us at:
www.Tampafricanviolets.com

JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).
Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6
issues per year) which includes AVSA
membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact
information and check payable to AVSA to:
**AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont,
TX 77702.** www.AVSA.org

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS). Annual
membership fee which includes a quarterly
color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per
year. Send check with contact information to:
**Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,
287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**
johnniepearl@aol.com www.davs.org

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).
Annual membership fee which includes a
quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**,
is \$10 per year. Send check with contact
information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573
LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**
www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

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