

THE PETAL

JANUARY 2020

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



PEPPERMINT LACE

A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be 2020! Out with the OLD! In with the NEW!

Well, sometimes OLD is good – especially if you have a beautifully grown Fisherman’s Paradise to enter in our show. Fisherman’s Paradise is more than 25 years OLD, so you might want to enter it in Class 41 “Vintage Violets” – or, since it’s a registered variety, you may want to enter it (along with 2 other registered, standard varieties) in Class 1 “AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties of the same type.”

Some of you attended the AVSA convention in Houston, and some of you attended the Dixie convention in Jacksonville. Whatever convention you attended, I feel certain that you

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

came home with some NEW varieties to add to your collection. Whether the plants were simply NEW to you, or were NEW on the market, I hope you’ve been pampering them, feeding them and grooming them so you can enter them in our show. We’re hoping that EVERY member will enter either the Horticulture Division or the Design Division – maybe even both!

And speaking of designs. . . if you’ve never entered the Design Division but would like to, but you have questions or would like some hands-on help, please let me know. I will be happy to arrange a time to meet with you and help you. Every member has the ability to make a dish garden or terrarium – you don’t have to have special talents – you just need to sign up for one or both of these, select an appropriate container, gather some plants to use in the garden, and then use your imagination to create a beautiful miniature garden!

In the meantime, we've decided on what we're going to do for our display at the Florida State Fair. As you know, the Florida State Fair is held annually at the Florida State Fairgrounds just east of Tampa, February 6 through 17, 2020. As I mentioned last month, this year the horticulture displays will not be competitively judged and each participating club will receive \$350. Even though our display will not be judged, we want to make it beautiful and eye-catching. AND. . .one participating club will receive an extra \$150 if voted best by the people's choice.

Keep in mind that our 2020 show is February 27-29. We set up on Thursday, the 27th, including plant and design entries. The show is judged the morning on Friday, the 28th, and is open to the public at noon on Friday and all day on Saturday. The show ends at 3 pm on Saturday, the 29th. Be sure to check the Grooming Schedule beginning on page 51 of your Yearbook so you'll know what you should be doing NOW to get your plants ready for show!

I hope to see you at the next meeting!

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: January 2nd, 2020
at 7 PM
Common Ground Christian Church
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

THE PROGRAM:

“STREPTOCARPUS”

To be presented by Terry Jordan

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE PLANTS:
Sheryl Herold and Mary Lou Harden

DAY MEETING: January 17th, 2020
at 10 AM
Seffner-Mango Library Public Meeting Room
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

THE PROGRAM:

“STREPTOCARPUS”

To be presented by Terry Jordan

INSPIRATIONAL: Amanda Mendoza

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE PLANTS:
Lynn Bandy and Amanda Mendoza

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING: December 14th, 2019

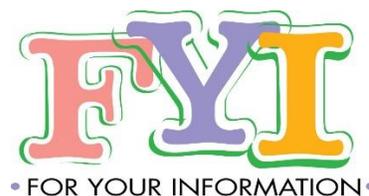
THE PROGRAM:

“AFRICAN VIOLET BINGO”

DAY MEETING: December 15th, 2019

THE PROGRAM:

“AFRICAN VIOLET BINGO”



NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee has been appointed and will give its report at the January 2020 meeting. Kathy Glenn is chair of the committee. Please give Kathy your suggestions, or better still – how about volunteering to serve as an officer! TAVS needs volunteers!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/6 Lucille Chester
1/13 Linda Baggett
1/17 Therese Lynam



FEBRUARY 6TH THRU THE 17TH

FLORIDA STATE FAIR

FEBRUARY 28TH and 29TH

TAVS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
“TAVS IS A NIFTY FIFTY”

APRIL 11TH AND 12TH

USF SPRING PLANT SALE



HOW YOU CAN HELP –

Set-up at the Fair will be Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 1 pm. It usually takes us between one and two hours to complete our set-up. The more people helping, the less time it will take! We need members to volunteer spending time at our booth, passing out flyers, talking to guests, telling them about our club meetings and encouraging them to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. Sign-up sheets will be available at both of our January meetings. During set-up on February 2, we'll get complimentary tickets for all of our members who can help at our booth during the Fair. You'll be able to spend some time at our booth, then visit all the other displays in the Family Living Center, as well as tour the entire Fairgrounds, and maybe even take a ride on the Ferris Wheel!



Showtime is just around the corner! Dates are February 27-29 – that's Thursday through Saturday. Set-up and entries are on Thursday, February 27, beginning at 10 am. We'll need help setting up tables, covering the tables, getting the plant sales room ready, and then beginning the entries process for both horticulture and design. When you come for set-up, be sure to bring some food to share – a casserole, sandwiches, fried chicken, etc., etc. We'll have lunch together and have leftovers for those working late, and more leftovers for Friday for members and for the judges.



Therese Lynam still recovering from her fall and fractured pelvis.
 Bonnie Smith and George Grundhoff were both recently in the hospital.
 Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our members facing difficult times.



CORRESPONDENCE

This month we received three notes of Thanks for the awards we provided for the Dixie AVS convention in Jacksonville.
 Carolee Carter for her Best in Class 40,
 Catherine Carter for her Best in Class 31 and
 Bobbie Johannsen for her Best Gesneriad collection.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Night Meeting Minutes
December 14th, 2019
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by Vice-President Jim Boyer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present at tonight's meeting were:
 Jim Boyer, Angela Newell, Dawn Newell, Kathy Glenn, Terry Jordan, Jean Krauchik, Steve

Whidden, Mary Lou Harden, Natalia Lukashova, and Anita Adlin.

REFRESHMENTS: Tonight's meeting was our Annual Christmas Party and each member brought a covered dish to share. The food and desserts provided by our members was delicious and enjoyed by everyone present.

INSPIRATIONAL: Provided by Terry Jordan.

PROGRAM: The Program tonight, "African Violet Bingo", was presented by Jim Boyer. It was a fun activity that our members really enjoyed. Jim provided goodie bags and everyone took one home.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the October 3 and November 14, 2019, night meetings were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Lou presented the Treasurer's Report. The report will be filed.:

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jim Boyer reported that Kathy Glenn will chair the Nominating Committee for the selection of officers for the 2020-2021 year, and that two additional people are needed to serve on this Committee with Kathy Glenn. The Nominating Committee's report is due by the January 2, 2020 night meeting.

A cash collection was collected by Jean Krauchik which will be donated to a local charity. Terry Jordan motioned for the selection of Trinity Café as the charity to receive this year's donations from the Tampa African Violet Society. Steve Whidden seconded the motion. The motion passed for the money collected tonight to be donated to the Trinity Café.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden discussed committee assignments for our upcoming Show in February, 2020.

Mary Lou Harden reported that we need to make our plans for the upcoming Florida State Fair and that this year will be different for the displays exhibited at the Florida State Fair because there will be no competitive judging. Instead, each display booth will receive \$350.00. There will also be People's Choice voting for the best display, and the winner of the best display will receive an additional \$150.00 from the Florida State Fair. The dates for the Florida State Fair this year are February 6-17, 2020.

Mary Lou Harden asked if a committee meeting should be held to make plans for the upcoming Florida State Fair, and members agreed that a meeting after Christmas should be held to make plans for the Tampa African Violet Society display.

Mary Lou Harden discussed that the next TAVS night meeting will be on Thursday, January 2, 2020, and asked if we needed to move the date due to it being the day after the New Year's Day holiday. Members at tonight's meeting felt it wasn't necessary to move the date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Lou Harden announced that Therese Lynam recently fell and broke her pelvis, but she is doing better. Mary Lou requested that members send a card to Therese Lynam.

SHOW & TELL:

Mary Lou Harden brought in her plant to show off, *RM-Royal Laces*, a Russian standard and *Columnnea Carnival*.

Mary Lou Harden discussed that Tampa African Violet Society may possibly assist the Gesneriad Club at the Gesneriad Society

Convention next summer. Mary Lou reported that any member of TAVS can sell their plants or enter exhibits in their Show because TAVS is an affiliate member of the Gesneriad Club.

Natalia Lukashova reported that she needs a club yearbook. Mary Lou Harden will either email Natalia an e-version of the yearbook or Angela Newell offered to deliver a copy of the yearbook to Natalia as Natalia wasn't sure if she would be able to make it to the January 2, 2020 meeting.

RAFFLE PLANTS: There was no raffle held tonight. Instead, leaves were brought in by Terry Jordan and distributed to the members, and baby plants grown and brought in by Natalia Lukashova were also distributed to members present at tonight's meeting

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Day Meeting Minutes
December 15th, 2019
Seffner-Mango Library Public Meeting Room
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10:20 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

REFRESHMENTS: Christmas Pot Luck

PROGRAM: "VIOLET BINGO"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 15th, 2019, day meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Was presented by Mary Lou Harden

ROLL CALL: Lynn Bandy: 12 members were present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The nominating committee chaired by Kathy Glenn will give its report at the January meetings.

Donations made by members this month will be given to Trinity Cafe

NEW BUSINESS:

The Florida State Fair will be February 6th through the 17th. This year the booths will not be judged. Every group that participates will be paid \$350.00, however there will be a People's Choice Award of \$150.00. This is a great opportunity for us to get our Club out there to the public. Members are encouraged to help in the planning, set up, and manning of the booth in addition to supplying plants. A planning meeting will be taking place Saturday December 28th, 2019 at 10am at the Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard Tampa, FL 33603. We will be going to lunch at the Panera down the road for lunch after the meeting.

Therese Lynam is chair for awards for our show in February. If anyone is associated with or would be able to ask any vendors, groups or suppliers for awards donations please do so and notify Therese if you are able to obtain any.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that set up for our show will be Thursday February 26th at 10am. Entries and Classification will begin at 3pm. Any and all are encouraged to come out and lend a hand. Please bring a covered dish as many members will be there all day and part of the evening.

Both meetings in January on Streptocarpus will be presented by Terry Jordan

BIRTHDAYS: Luetta Donalds, Maria Whidden, Celia Howe, Jim Boyer, Patsy Monk, Amanda Mendoza and Carla Alter.

SHOW & TELL:

Mary Lou Harden brought in a gesneriad, Columnea Carnival, a standard violet Powder Keg, a Russian variety RM Royal Laces with a beautiful double white blossom which she uses in her designs, an Optimara Maui, a terrarium and a dish garden.

TIPS: When doing a dish garden have the back higher than the front and be sure to cover the back of your dish garden as you do not know what the placement in the show will be.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm

Lynn Bandy- Day Recording Secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

THE UGLY DIP

- 1 can black beans rinsed and drained
- 1 11oz can SHOEPEG white corn
- 1 bunch cilantro chopped
- 1 bunch green onions chopped
- 4 oz crumbled feta cheese
- Salt , pepper, garlic powder to taste

DRESSING

- 1/4 c apple cider vinegar
- 1/8 c extra light tasting olive oil
- 1/4 c sugar

Mix vinegar, olive oil and sugar then add to other ingredients and chill at least 4 hours
Serve with Pita chips or chips of your choice



Just send it to nybleb@aol.com

MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a form copy or want to submit your story just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

December 9th, 2019

Pink Leaves?

"Rose Bouquet," grown by Michael Klimmik, was featured as *Violet of the Day* on the AVSA Facebook page recently.

Hybridized by G.T. Smith, its beautiful mosaic variegation with both white and pink on the leaves makes a stunning background for the double pink flowers. This cultivar varies a great deal from one grower to another, particularly in the amount of pink seen in the variegation.

But what makes the leaves pink? Dr. Jeff Smith explained in his column "In Search of New Violets" in the November/December issue of the African Violet Magazine:



"Pink variegation is caused by the plant producing a red pigment on the underside of the leaves. The ability to produce the red pigment is a genetic dominant trait. When the green chlorophyll is absent, the combination of the red lower epidermis with non-green foliage produces various shades of pink. The red pigment shows more intensely in plants that are homozygous-dominant for the trait. Changes in light conditions also can cause higher amount of red pigment to be produced. The more red pigment, the more intense the pink will be in the variegation."

Get your copy of the *African Violet Magazine* as a benefit of membership in the African Violet Society of America.

Join 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! www.AVSA.org

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!!!!!! +

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

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do "on the job" training. Please contact Gladys directly at gladyscook9320@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

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.Tampaafricanviolets.com

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampaafricanviolets.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

Kathy Glenn asked members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook page. kathybear555@gmail.com

Join us on Twitter:

[AfricanViolets@TAVS_violets](https://twitter.com/AfricanViolets@TAVS_violets)

Glenn Shelton manages this site and has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at shelgl@tampabay.rr.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, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.** 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
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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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LOVE IS

A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,



Set-up at the Fair will be this Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 1 pm. A few of you signed up to help us with set-up. With several people helping, we should be able to set up in less than 2 hours. .so MEET ME AT THE FAIR THIS SUNDAY AT 1 PM! The more people helping, the less time it will take!



During set-up time, we'll get complimentary tickets for all of our members who can help at our booth during the Fair. You don't have to be an expert while volunteering at our booth. We just need your presence! You can pass out flyers about our club and about our February show. You can talk to guests and tell them about our club meetings and about the joys of growing African violets. Encourage them to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter and to become a TAVS member!

By volunteering, you'll be able to spend some time at our booth, then visit all the other displays in the Family Living Center, as well as

tour the entire Fairgrounds. There are always wonderful crafts, art work, and woodworking exhibits to see. And it's always fun to visit the rabbits, turkeys, chickens, cows, horses and dogs!

See you at the Fair!

Meantime, I hope to see you at the next meeting on Thursday, February 6!

Mary Lou Harden President

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: February 6th, 2020
at 7 PM

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

THE PROGRAM:

“FINAL PREPARATION FOR SHOW”
To be presented by Angela Newell

Growing Tips

Election of Officers

INSPIRATIONAL: Lisa Villabol

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE PLANTS:
Terry Jordan and Mary Lou Harden

DAY MEETING: February 21st, 2020
at 10 AM

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

THE PROGRAM:

“FINAL PREPARATION FOR SHOW”
To be presented by Jim Boyer

Election of Officers

INSPIRATIONAL: Peggy Waibel

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE PLANTS:
Celia Howe and Peggy Waibel

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING: December 14th,
2019

THE PROGRAM:

“STREPTOCARPUS”
Presented by Terry Jordan

DAY MEETING: December 15th, 2019

THE PROGRAM:

“STREPTOCARPUS”
Presented by Terry Jordan



Glenn Shelton has obtained Master Judge status. This process takes over 20 years to complete and this is a GREAT accomplishment. Way to go Glenn!!!



Therese Lynam who is recovering from her fall and fractured pelvis will be moving to Atlanta to live with her daughter. Therese will be greatly missed as she has been a pillar of this society for many years.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our members facing difficult times.



DIANE HERAS, Wesley Chapel, FL. Members of Tampa AVS were deeply saddened to learn of the passing away on December 11, 2019, of Diane Heras due to complications from cancer. Diane was a member of TAVS from 2007 to 2013. She was extremely talented and creative. Not only did she grow many varieties of African violets, she was a gifted floral designer. In addition, she created beautiful and imaginative focal points for TAVS shows as well as for African Violet Council of Florida shows Dixie African Violet Convention shows, and AVSA Convention shows. She was the original developer, maker and distributor of Dandy Pots. Diane will be sorely missed.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/8 Steve Whidden
2/11 Martha Morgan
2/20 Anita Adlin



If you are assigned either refreshments or the Inspiration for a meeting and you are unable to fulfill these duties please make arrangements with another member to take your place or as a last resort notify one of the officers so they can make arrangements. You can find these assignments in the Yearbook or the Petal publishes them for the upcoming meetings.



FEBRUARY 6TH THRU THE 17TH
FLORIDA STATE FAIR



FEBRUARY 28TH and 29TH

TAVS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
"TAVS IS A NIFTY FIFTY"



IT'S FEBRUARY. . .AND IT'S SHOW TIME!

Dates are February 27-29 – that's Thursday through Saturday. Set-up and entries are on Thursday, February 27, beginning at 10 am. We'll need help setting up tables, covering the tables, getting the plant sales room ready, and then beginning the entries process for both horticulture and design. When you come for set-up, be sure to bring some food to share – a casserole, sandwiches, fried chicken, etc., etc. We'll have lunch together and have leftovers for those working late, and more leftovers for Friday for members and for the judges.

The show will be judged the morning of Friday, February 28, and will be open to the public from noon until 5 pm. Plant sales on Friday are from 9 am until 5 pm. Both show and plant sales on Saturday are from 9 am until 3 pm. Invite your friends!

Remember: If you need help with a design, please let me know and I'll be happy to help (mlhard@verizon.net or 813-924-2686).

MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Night Meeting Minutes
January 2nd, 2020
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by President Mary Lou Harden, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present at tonight's meeting were: Mary Lou Harden, Steve Whidden, Sheryl Herold, Anita Adlin, Angela Newell, Terry Jordan, and Jean Krauchik.

REFRESHMENTS: Refreshments for tonight's meeting were provided by Sheryl Herold and Mary Lou Harden.

INSPIRATIONAL: Provided by Mary Lou Harden.

PROGRAM: The Program tonight, "Streptocarpus", was presented by Terry Jordan. Terry's program also included handouts on the care of streptocarpus. Terry demonstrated how to start new streptocarpus from cuttings, and she had plenty of streptocarpus plants for members to choose from to start their own cuttings while at the meeting. Terry also provided streptocarpus cuttings and some supplies for members to take home with them to start their cuttings at home.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the December 5, 2019 night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was not available. Mary Lou Harden reported that Therese Lynam is no longer able to continue as the club treasurer as she will be moving to Georgia, and that Glenn Shelton has volunteered to take on the treasurer's position for the club.

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TAVS: Mary Lou Harden stated that the TAVS yearly membership dues of \$15.00 are due next month (February of each year).

AVCF – Mary Lou Harden stated that yearly membership dues are \$10.00.

AVSA – Mary Lou Harden stated that the yearly dues for AVSA are \$35.00.

DAVS – Mary Lou Harden stated that the yearly membership dues are \$15.00.

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY – Mary Lou Harden stated that the annual dues are \$25.00 and that the 2020 Gesneriad Society Convention and Show will be held in St. Petersburg, FL.

TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY – Mary Lou Harden stated that the annual dues are \$10.00, and that this group holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month in Tampa.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden read off the Nominating Committee’s Report for Kathy Glenn, as Kathy was unable to be present tonight to give the Report herself. The slate of Officers nominated for the upcoming year (2020-2021), are as follows:

- President: Angela Newell or Kathy Glenn**
- First Vice-President: Robert Cameron**
- Second Vice-President: Jim Boyer**
- Treasurer: Glenn Shelton**
- Day Recording Secretary: Lynn Bandy**
- Night Recording Secretary: Kathy Glenn or Angela Newell**

Mary Lou Harden reported that the TAVS Annual Show is coming up on Friday, February 28-Saturday, February 29, 2020. Set-up for the Show, entries drop-off, and classification of entries will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2020. Mary Lou stated that all members are needed to sign-up to help with set-up for the Show, to work positions during the Show, and to help with break-down of the Show. Mary Lou also requested that members donate and bring

food and drink items to the Show to feed the Show Judges and workers during the Show.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that set-up for the Florida State Fair will take place on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 1:00PM, and that it shouldn’t take very long if enough members sign-up to help out. Mary Lou also stated that members are needed to sign-up to volunteer to cover our booth at the Florida State Fair, February 6-17, 2020. Mary Lou stated that she will have Fair tickets for all members who sign-up to cover our booth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Lou Harden announced that at the January 17, 2020, day meeting, Terry Jordan will present her program, “Streptocarpus”. The February 6, 2020, night meeting program will be presented by Angela Newell on, “Final Preparations for Show” and also on “Filling Out Entry Sheets”.

Mary Lou Harden stated that more design entries are needed for our Annual Show and that Mary Lou is willing to teach any member wanting to learn how to put together a design, a dish garden, or a terrarium. Mary Lou stated that she has some great ideas to share on putting together a Show design using Legos for those members who want to learn how to do a design to enter our Show. Mary Lou passed around extra Lego sets for those members who wanted to learn how to put a design together using Legos.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Raffle plants provided tonight were from Mary Lou Harden.

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

Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Day Meeting Minutes
January 17th, 2020
Seffner-Mango Library Public Meeting Room
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Jim Boyer at 10:15 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATION: Lynn Bandy

REFRESHMENTS: Lynn Bandy and Mary Lou Harden

GUESTS: Jim Rogers and Joan Hoffman

PROGRAM:

“STREPTOCARPUS”
Presented by Terry Jordan

Terry gave us a very informative program highlighting growing, repotting and propagating streptocarpus.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 13th, 2019, day meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

TREASURER’S REPORT: There was no report available

ROLL CALL: Lynn Bandy: 17 members and 2 guests were present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The nominating committee chaired by Kathy Glenn have announced their nominations.

Angela Newell or Kathy Glenn have accepted the nomination for President.

Robert Cameron has accepted the nomination for 1st Vice President.

Jim Boyer will run again as 2nd Vice President

Glenn Shelton has accepted the nomination for Treasurer.

Jim Matula will continue as Corresponding Secretary.

Lynn Bandy will continue as day recording secretary.

Angela Newell or Kathy Glenn will be the night recording secretary.

The group will elect our new officers at our February meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made for the group to donate \$100 to the AVSA in memory of Richard Alan Nicholas AVSA’s immediate past president. This was seconded by Terry Jordan and passed with a unanimous vote by the group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Florida State Fair will be February 6th through the 17th. This year the booths will not be judged. Every group that participates will be paid \$350.00, however there will be a People’s Choice Award of \$150.00. This is a great opportunity for us to get our Club out there to the public. Members are encouraged to help in the planning, set up, and manning of the booth in addition to supplying plants.

Set up for the Fair will be Sunday February 2nd at 1pm. Enter the fairgrounds via the Orient Road entrance and follow the road to the building.

A sign up sheet to volunteer to man the booth during the fair was passed around.

Therese Lynam is chair for awards for our show in February. A sign up sheet for awards was passed around.

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that set up for our show will be Thursday February 26th at 10am. Entries and Classification will begin at 3pm. Any and all are encouraged to come out and lend a hand. Please bring a covered dish as many members will be there all day and part of the evening.

Both meetings in February will be on Final preparations for the show. Angela Newell will be doing the night meeting and Jim Boyer will be doing the day meeting.

Glenn Shelton has been awarded Master Judge status. This process actually takes over 20 years to complete

BIRTHDAYS: Lucille Chester, Linda Baggett and Therese Lynam.

RAFFLE PLANTS: provided by Terry Jordan and Carolee Carter.

RAFFLE: conducted by Robert Cameron

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm

Lynn Bandy- Day Recording Secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by ????????

**Note: there are no recipes!
Why you say?????
Because no one submitted any!!!!**



Just send it to nybleb@aol.com

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AVSA

Weekly Growing Tip

February 3rd, 2020

What do you do with your used soil when you repot?

Cristy Boothe asked that question in the Facebook Group African Violet Addicts recently. She got many responses, mostly about using it in the garden.

Yvonne McKain Barineau had a more thoughtful answer, "I put old potting mix in the garbage. Not only do I not want to take a chance and spread undetected pathogens and pests, I've heard that Marathon is hard on the bee population." She went on to quote the EPA with reference to the active ingredient

in Marathon (imidicloprid), "This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on the foliage of blooming crops or weeds."

Old potting mix may also contain pathogens or pests such as thrips or soil mealybugs. This is why most nations reject any imported plant material growing in a potting medium.

Handle old potting mix with care!

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King James leading the meeting



Plants ready for raffle at the day meeting

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

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EASTER MORNING

A Message from the President



Dear Violet Friends,

Could we have anticipated – while we were having such a great time at our show less than a month ago – that our country – indeed the whole world – would come to a standstill? I still find it hard to believe we're in a crisis condition. I am reminded of an old song, popular after WW2, "What a Difference a Day Makes – 24 little hours." Of course that's always been true, but it has been brought to our attention in a huge and unexpected way.

I hope all of you – our members – are staying safe and healthy, following all the guidelines about distancing yourself, washing hands often, and avoiding groups of more than ten. If any of you are in need of help, please let me know. We will do our best to look out for one another! Meanwhile, this will be my last message to you as your President. Congratulations are in order for our newly elected President, Angela Newell, as well as the other officers – Robert Cameron, First Vice President, Jim Boyer, Second Vice President, Lynn Bandy, Day Secretary, Kathy Glenn, Night Secretary, Jim Matula, Corresponding Secretary, and Glenn Shelton, Treasurer.

According to our Bylaws, newly elected officers are to assume their duties at the conclusion of the meeting in which they are installed. The installation was scheduled for our April 2, 2020, meeting. Since we will not be meeting on April 2, there will obviously be no installation of officers. According to Robert's Rules of Order, even if a formal installation ceremony is prescribed, **failure to hold it does not affect**

the time at which the new officers assume office. So. . . these newly elected officers will begin their duties on April 3.

I'm sure all of you are aware that our sister clubs have had to cancel their shows and plant sales, including the USF Spring Festival, the Green Thumb Festival in St Petersburg, other local events, and the AVSA annual convention and show. While we can't predict when we may be able to meet again, I encourage each of you to spend more time with your violets. Use this down-time to do your repotting.

If you need any supplies, you can call me or send me an email message and let me know what you need. We have plenty of soil, perlite, vermiculite, fertilizer, pots of all sizes, plant trays and domes. Also let me know when you will come to pick it up. I'll be glad to get your order together and can leave it by my gate in order to keep the distancing guidelines.

As you know, we have lost two more dear members – Therese Lynam, who served as our treasurer and hospitality chair for many years, and Lynne Wilson who served us in several capacities, including president, secretary and vice president. Their obituaries, along with that of Betty Wise, are included in this newsletter.

We'll keep you advised as to when we will be able to meet once again. So stay tuned and stay safe and healthy!

MARY LOU HARDEN President

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday.

At this time we have postponed meetings until the threat of Covid-19 has passed.

We will notify you once we know when we will be meeting again.

FEEDING YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS

The focus of our April meetings is **FERTILIZER: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT**

Here's the nut-shell version of what you need to know about fertilizers for your violets.

TAVS recommends that African violets be fertilized using the constant-feed method, so that every time you water the plants, they will get a small amount of fertilizer. You can use any well balanced fertilizer, such as 20-20-20, which contains equal parts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. You can also use fertilizers that are produced specifically for African violets. Whatever your choice, use only 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water. If directions call for one teaspoon fertilizer per gallon of water, reduce the amount to just 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. **Avoid fertilizers with high urea nitrogen content.**

With regard to fertilizers with urea nitrogen content, Dr. Optimara advises: "While it is often cheaper to use than other sources of nitrogen, urea is known to cause Root Burn on African Violets. The damage caused by Root Burn reduces an African Violet's ability to properly absorb water and nutrients. The most obvious signs of this are pale leaves and diminished flowering. Therefore, when selecting a fertilizer suitable for African Violets, make sure that it does not contain urea nitrogen. This can easily be determined by looking at the Guaranteed Analysis on the fertilizer label. If urea nitrogen is used, it will be listed."

So, be sure to read the label and be consistent in your fertilizing regimen from week to week

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING: March 5th, 2020

“PRESENTATION OF SHOW AWARDS”

Awards Chair

THE PROGRAM:

“PANEL DISCUSSION ON POTS”

Plastic, Oyama, Clay, Ceramic, Dandy

Moderator: Jim Boyer

DAY MEETING: March 20th, 2020

Postponed



Lynne H Wilson Obituary
JULY 12, 1946 – MARCH 12, 2020

Wilson, Sandra Lynne (Hanselman) age 73, passed away on March 12, 2020 after a 5 year battle with lung cancer. She was born in Battle Creek, MI, and adopted at birth by Dorothy and George Hanselman of Kalamazoo, MI. When Lynne was 12, the family moved to Belleair, FL. After attending local schools, she graduated from Howey Academy, in Howey-in-the-Hills, FL. She married Bill Wilson of Tampa, and moved to Gainesville where he was a student, and worked as a Medical Assistant until the birth of their daughter, Sarah. They returned to Tampa where she was a homemaker, Girl Scout leader, and volunteer. Later she developed a passion for African Violets, and over the years was president of the Tampa African Violet Society, the African Violet Council of Florida, and the Dixie African Violet Society, which includes all of the southern states. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, William L Wilson, her daughter Sarah Anne Wilson and son-in-law Evan Shurak, sister and brother-in-law Jan and Leonard Zitnik, and nieces and nephew Wendy, Lisa, and Jackson. In deference to the current virus problem, a celebration of life will be held at a later date to avoid travel and being in a large group. The family would like to thank the doctors and staff at Moffitt Cancer Center for everything they did to help Lynne.

Therese Lynam Obituary
January 15, 1941 – March 9, 2020

Lynam, Therese J, 79, of Brandon, passed away on March 9, 2020. Therese had a heart of gold and was always willing to help anyone who needed her. Her passion was growing African Violets and helping the homeless when she

could. She was involved with the Nifty 50's and played in the bell choir at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Therese enjoyed having her nails done and they stopped people in their tracks on how beautiful they were. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Guy Caputo; second husband, Lee Roberts; parents, Thomas and Therese Lynam; and brother, Frank Lynam. Therese is survived by her loving family, 3 children, 3 siblings, and 3 grandchildren. There will be a memorial service scheduled at a later date.

Betty J. Wise nee Long Obituary
March 7, 1944 – February 29, 2020

Betty J. Wise, nee Long, 75, of Plant City, Florida, formerly of Seattle, Washington and Washington, D.C., born on March 7, 1944 in Plant City, entered into eternal rest on February 29, 2020. She was a graduate of the University of Washington, and a retired auditor for the Federal Aviation Administration. She loved her family, and friends and enjoyed gardening, arts & crafts, and traveling. She is survived by her children, Alicia Wise and husband Ian Barnes of London, England, and Jonathan Wise of Brooklyn, New York; grandchildren, Thom, Alex, and Elena; siblings, Thelma Hull, Martha Bauldauf, Mary Fewox, Hugh Long, and Gladys Kelley; and many extended family, and friends. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 4:00 P.M. at Plant City Commons Community Garden, 2001 East Cherry Street, Plant City 33563. Memorial contributions may be made to the Garden at plantcitycommunitygarden.com. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com.



BONNIE SMITH is experiencing some complications recovering from cataract surgery.

From our member Kathy Glenn

So many people are using this time at home to clean, garden, craft, sew and cook. I'm a bit jealous, because my time at home has been spent in a recliner with my leg elevated, primarily watching the movies I have saved on my DVR. Two weeks ago, I pulled a ligament(s) in my right knee and continued to work in a brace for a week. Since the restaurant is currently closed, I have been taking doctors orders to elevate and heal. It takes about 1200mg of Ibuprofen to get me off the couch, so I'm not getting too much else accomplished. I am thankful for this time to heal and am looking forward to being on my feet again soon! Y'all take care, stay home, and wash your hands!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our members during these difficult times.



Annual dues of \$15 are due this month.

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Jim Boyer*

UPSIDE DOWN WAFFLE AND EGG CUPS 12 servings

12 frozen mini waffles, toasted
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (8 oz)
9 ounce pkg frozen cooked breakfast sausage links, thawed and chopped
6 eggs, lightly beaten
3 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
Maple Syrup

Preheat oven to 375F. Grease twelve 2 1/2" muffin cups.

Place mini waffles in prepared muffin cups. Sprinkle with 1 cup of the cheddar cheese. Top with sausage and remaining 1 cup cheddar cheese.

In a medium bowl combine next five ingredients (through salt). Spoon it over filling in muffin cups. Bake 15-18 min



Just send it to nybleb@aol.com

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AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

March 2nd, 2020

ARE THESE THRIPS OR APHIDS?



Did You Guess Aphids?

That may surprise you if you have never experienced the nymph stage of aphids shedding their skins. The skins are more commonly found on leaves, but in this case the aphid shed occurred on the flowers. Seeing the photo, many would have leaped to diagnose this as a bad infestation of thrips. No thrips were present in these blossoms and the pollen sacs were entirely intact.

Is there an easy way to tell the difference?

Yes! Blow sharply into the center of a blossom. Thrips will exit the pollen sac and move about on the petals. The skin shed by aphids is simply debris -- it will blow off the petals.

What can be done to control aphids?

The University of California recommends first monitoring closely for aphids (and for the ants

which often are present at the same time feeding on aphid honeydew.) Ladybugs and other biological predators may also be effective. Washing with insecticidal soap is a recommended treatment. Several pesticides are effective. (Note: UC suggests treating with oil -- this may be *TOXIC FOR VIOLETS*.) Aphids are common in nature and rarely kill a plant.

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5/5 Kathy Glenn
5/9 Mary Beth Bryant
5/13 Robert Cameron
5/17 Jerry Kast
5/24 Angelina Grundhoff
5/24 Lee Ann Tepper

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Celia Howe*

JAMBALYA

Serves 4

4 Tbs vegetable oil, divided
1 Lb chicken breast cubed
2 links Andouille Sausage
1 Creole Vegetables*
2 tsp. Cajun Seasonings
2 Cups Chicken Stock
1 (14.5oz) can diced tomatoes
1 Cup white rice

*Creole Veggies
1 Cup diced yellow onions

1 Cup diced red pepper
1 Cup diced green pepper
¾ Cup chopped celery
½ oz garlic
½ oz parsley

Add 2 Tbsp. oil to a Dutch oven and heat over medium high. Saute' the chicken and transfer to a large bowl.

Remove sausage from casing and add to pot. Break up and brown sausage. Transfer to the bowl with chicken.

To the same pot, add remaining 2 Tbsp. oil and saute' the veggies minus the parsley. Add rice, chicken stock, tomatoes, cajun seasoning, chicken and sausage and bring to a boil.. Reduce heat to simmer, stirring occasionally, until rice is cooked (about 20 minutes).

If you prefer shrimp: Add them after the rice is completely cooked and cook until shrimp are pink (2-3 minutes).

Serve in bowls and garnish with the parsley.



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AVSA Weekly Growing Tip May 11th, 2020

Violets Arrive Alive & on Time?



Violet vendors and collectors are currently reporting many problems with the delivery of violet orders.

The pandemic has caused tremendous stress for the shipping industry. Air flights have been reduced and freight companies have thinner staffing. Packages often require two weeks or more to be delivered.

What can be done to insure a perishable violet shipment arrives before plants die?

Pay for Express Shipping

Olive Ma Robinson of the Violet Barn reports that orders sent with Express shipping receive the highest priority. They may still be delayed, but Express shipments arrive sooner and losses are insured. This makes it painless for the

vendor to replace the shipment when problems occur.

Check the Weather Forecast

Pay attention to the weather (especially lows and high temperatures) along the delivery route. Do not place an order during a time when it would be unsafe for the package to sit unattended for several days. Vendors cannot outguess storms, and eBay sellers are required to ship immediately.

Handle Shipping Problems Responsibly

Unpack immediately, and groom off damaged leaves. Contact the vendor that same day if you believe plants cannot recover. Violet vendors want satisfied customers, but they have no control over what happens once the package is shipped.

If you gamble that the plants will survive dangerous weather or that the shipping companies will suddenly be operating at 100%, prepare to lose. Be fair with vendors and they will be fair with you too.

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Submitted by Mary Lou Harden

Primulina Jade Moon in full bloom



Episcia "Star of Bethlehem"



Submitted by Amanda Mendoza



Picasso



Margaret

Submitted by Rosalind Rovinsky



EPSICIA Thad's Gold Fever



AV Cajun's Royal Knockout



EPSICIA "PINK DREAM"



AV Cajun's Royal Knockout

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JUNE 2020

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BLUSHING BRIDE

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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

CALENDAR *of Events*

September 24-26, 2020

African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Sale, "The Show Must Go On!"

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 East Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando, Florida.
 Information: Debbie Wesch
 at dwesch1@tampabay.rr.com or 352-634-1664.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Day Meeting Minutes - June 19, 2020
902 W Old Hillsborough Ave., Seffner, FL
33584

The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Jim Boyer at 10:20 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members attended: Jim Boyer, Glenn Shelton, Mary Lou Harden, Linda Bennett, Jim Matula, Tom Schaefer, Angelina Grundhoff, Susan Buys, Roselind Rovinsky and Bonnie Smith. George Grundhoff attended as a guest.

The Chair stated that meetings are currently on hold until September because of the coronavirus pandemic. Members will be informed if a meeting is scheduled in the interim.

The Chair reported that as of now, the African Violet Council of Florida show is still scheduled to take place September 24-26 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 East Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando, Florida. Debbie Wesch and Linda Price are show co-chairs.

It was decided we would not prepare a Yearbook for 2020-2021 but members will receive a complete membership list, either by email or by mail if the member does not have email. When meetings resume, programs will be announced in advance in the monthly newsletter.

There was discussion about TAVS annual show which will be February 26-27 in Tampa. The Chair asked that members submit show themes which he will send by email to members.

By general consent, members voted to send a \$300 donation to AVSA in memory of Betty Wise, Lynne Wilson and Therese Lynam. The Treasurer will send a check.

There was a discussion regarding viruses which attack African violets. The cure is to throw the violet away.

Glenn Shelton, Mary Lou Harden and Jim Boyer brought plants for Show & Tell.

Linda Bennett conducted the raffle. Plants were provided by Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden.

Jim Boyer presented a brief program using the Optimara culture folder which shows the many

foliage and bloom types of African violets, as well as culture information.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS: Jean Krauchik, Bonnie Smith.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

Mary Lou Harden, Recording Secretary Pro Tem

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

June 22, 2020

AVSA has a weekly “Growing Tip” that arrives via email



Violet growers sometimes use the term *culture break* to describe a change in the pattern of growth. We have two examples to help you understand.

Susan Swanson shared this photo of a violet repotted in April because of problems with yellowing leaves. The new center leaves are coming in with a better green color. It is a new pattern of growth – a culture break.

The culture break is unattractive, but her plant is healthier. As it grows, and the outside leaves are removed, the culture break will no longer be evident.



Amy Cash-Allison shared this photo of a variegated violet she had neglected. After she repotted and began fertilizing again, a distinct culture break became noticeable.

When changes occur in fertilizer, temperature, watering, or light, the new center growth will be the first to show the difference. Culture breaks may also warn you of a developing problem such as pest, disease, or changing soil pH.

Your violet is "talking" to you when a culture break develops ... pay attention!

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! www.AVSA.org

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted
by Jim Boyer*

REUBEN CASSEROLE

16 oz sauerkraut well drained
12 oz corned beef
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
1/4 cup bottled 1000 island dressing
1/2 cup mayo
1 tomato sliced
4-6 slices pumpernickel
4 tbsp butter, melted

Cut crusts off of bread slices, cut into 1/2" cubes, toss with butter & toast.

Place kraut on bottom of 1 1/2 qt. Casserole.
Place corned beef on top. Top with cheese.

Combine dressing & mayo & spread over cheese. Arrange tomato slices on top. Cover with bread crumbs.

Cook uncovered for 12–14 mins on 70% POWER. Let stand for 3 mins
Place under broiler for 5–10 mins until top is crispy.



If you have a recipe you would like to share just send it to nybleb@aol.com

MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form copy or want to submit your story just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com

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!!!!!



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

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do "on the job" training. Please contact Gladys directly at gladyscook9320@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member: floridainorchids@gmail.com

Visit us at:

www.tampafricanviolets.com

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

Kathy Glenn asked members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook page. kathybear555@gmail.com

Join us on Twitter:

[AfricanViolets@TAVS_violets](https://twitter.com/AfricanViolets@TAVS_violets)

Glenn Shelton manages this site and has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at floridainorchids@gmail.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, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.** 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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Petal Editor
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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.

To all our Violet Friends –

Tampa AVS is happy to send a weekly “Petal-Lite” for the next 3 months so you can see WHAT’S GROWING AT MY HOUSE. The pictures in this issue and the information comes from Mary Lou Harden. We would like to see what’s growing at YOUR HOUSE, so please take a few pictures and tell us about your plants – we would like to see any plants you’re growing in the gesneriad family. We’ll also be sharing tips from the African Violet Society of America and other violet and gesneriad groups. Please don’t hesitate to submit an article you’ve found helpful. Send pictures and articles to Lynn Bandy at nybleb@aol.com.

CAN YOU NAME THIS PLANT?



Top picture taken from the front side of the plant, showing the lovely lavender blooms.



Bottom picture taken from the back side of the plant to get a better view of the girl foliage.

The story behind the plant. When Betty Wise passed away, her family asked that we come and get her plants. As you know, Betty had been ill with cancer for some time. She didn't have a big collection, and although most of her plants were in desperate need of repotting, many of them looked quite good. This violet has been in constant bloom for the past three weeks. However, it did not come with a name. If any of you think you may know its name, please let me know. In the meantime, I'm enjoying its beauty and think of Betty when I see it.

HERE'S WHAT'S GROWING AT MY HOUSE:

HAPPY EPISCIAS



Episcia Checkerboard in front

Episcia Pink Acajou in back

Episcia 'My Precious'



Following is a portion of an article about Episcias written by Mel Grice, current president of the Gesneriad Society, for publication in The Dixie News in 2010.

Episcias usually have beautifully patterned foliage with various shades of green, copper, and mahogany. Veins on their leaves are often pale green or silver creating interesting contrasts. Less commonly, leaves may be plain green. Flowers may be red, orange-red, yellow, white, pink, blue, or lavender. Interesting leaf and bloom colors, with some combinations not found in the genus *Saintpaulia*, make *Episcias* excellent companion plants for African Violet enthusiasts. Other common names for *Episcias* include “Flame Violet” and “Peacock Plant”.

Episcias come from warm areas of the world and demand warmth. They will be damaged or killed if the temperature falls below 55 degrees F. I have discovered that they are difficult to take to AV club meetings in the winter months. They quickly developed blackened areas on the leaves even though they were enclosed in boxes taking them from a warm car into the heated building. Just a few seconds of very cold air damaged the foliage.

Extra humidity seems to encourage blooms. Many people grow them in enclosed terrariums or under clear plastic domes. I have noticed that they also seem to grow faster if they are enclosed, which more closely mimics their natural habitat. My house is kept at 70 degrees all year long with either heat or air conditioning on. There are many plants in the room, which helps to increase the humidity. I do grow and bloom many *Episcias* uncovered, but they receive constant moisture from wick-watering. Perfect drainage is essential since they naturally grow on the forest floor in the litter found there. Extra perlite in the potting soil and a layer of perlite on the bottom of the pot are helpful.

Episcias are often grown in hanging baskets because of the numerous stolons, or runners, they typically produce. WARNING – anything hanging has more air circulating around it and will tend to dry out more quickly. Remember, *Episcias* like constant moisture, so you have to be vigilant with the watering can if you choose to grow them this way.

Episcias have very shallow, fibrous roots, and are often grown in wide, pan pots or even large saucers that are only an inch or two deep. Propagation is easy with all the stolons a plant produces. You can pin (like with an upside-down U-shaped wire) a stolon to the soil surface and roots will quickly develop from the leaf nodes. Or, you can fill a pan pot with potting soil and insert several stolons around the pot with the number of stolons depending on the size of the pot. Keep the number of stolons down to avoid the pot quickly becoming too crowded. Place the pot in a large plastic bag or under a clear dome and the stolons will root in a few weeks. Gradually expose them to less humid room air if you plan to grow them outside of a terrarium-like atmosphere.

Some growers treat *Episcias* more like their *Saintpaulia* cousins and grow them as a single-crowned plant. They remove all of the new stolons as they grow leaving only the main crown. The remaining leaves usually grow much larger than normal. Growers disbud the blooms until before a show like we do for African Violets and are rewarded with a mass of blooms when the plants are allowed to bloom.

WHAT ELSE IS GROWING IN MY HOUSE?



For those of you who like to grow trailers, here's VANILLA TRAIL, which is a great bloomer with lots of vibrant pink double blooms. It forms nicely and doesn't require a lot of attention.

And a lovely standard violet named Harmony's News Flash



And another of my favorite Columneas--
Columnea 'Frosty Hills' is looking quite beautiful!

