

# THE PETAL

## APRIL 2021

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society  
[www.tampaafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampaafricanviolets.com)



**SPRING MEADOW**

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Just as a reminder of why we invest time and money in growing African violets, here's a photo of Sister Sylvia, a chimera. Although it's an older variety, it is strikingly beautiful. If you're a Facebook or Instagram follower, you've no doubt seen many new hybrids now or soon-to-be available. Some are spectacular!



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

Tampa African Violet Society exists to give you and others the opportunity to learn all about the culture and propagation of African violets (Saintpaulia) and their relatives.

Although we've had some significant challenges during the past year, TAVS is on the move and is gearing up for a bright future. We're making plans now for some Fall activities and our annual show in 2022.

The African Violet Council of Florida will meet in Lakeland for a one-day display and plant sale. I encourage all our TAVS members to be growing plants for the display and sale. The Council will also have its Fall meeting during this time. Set-up will be Friday, October 1, and the display and sale will be Saturday, October 2.

We also anticipate being part of a plant sale at USF Botanical Gardens in mid-October. TAVS is committed to helping its members learn best practices in growing and showing

African violets. If you have questions or need help with any aspect of your growing, don't hesitate to ask another member or one of your officers. We're here to help!

So . . . please take advantage of every opportunity to learn. Attend meetings where you can learn and interact with other growers. And share your love of African violets with others! Hope to see you at our meeting on Friday, April 16, in Seffner!

**Mary Lou Harden First Vice President**

## OUR MEETINGS

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we are still only holding meetings once a month.

These meetings will be the third Friday at 10AM.

We will send out an email to inform you if the meeting will be virtual via Zoom or in person.



This month's meeting will be an "In Person" meeting on Friday, April 16th, at 10 am. It is the club's 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary and we will be installing our new officers.

The meeting will be held at 10am

Mary Lou Harden's

902 W Old Hillsborough Ave.

Seffner, FL 33584

If anyone has any plants or leaves they would like to share for the raffle bring them along!

Remember! If you need any supplies, now would be a good time to get them. Just send Mary Lou an email with your requests before the meeting. [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net)



Annual dues are due this month. Dues are \$15. If paying by check please make out to TAVS. Bring your dues to the April meeting, or mail checks to:

Glenn Shelton

7142 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N

Pinellas Park, FL 33781

## IN THE FUTURE



Mary Beth Bryant will be hosting the virtual meetings via Zoom!

We will have a program to begin and lots of time for any questions. Then, we will open it up and do some show and tell. So, get your precious blooming babies camera ready. I know we all want to see some flowers!

What's that you say? You don't know how to Zoom?! No problem. You don't need to have a Zoom account or download anything permanently to your computer, or tablet or phone. Be on the lookout for an email from Mary Beth with directions that are really easy. I promise.

You will receive an email message a few days before the meeting with a link to access the meeting. Hope to see you then!

If you know someone who might be interested in attending this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible so they can be added to our list.

# CALENDAR of Events



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3 Angela Newell  
April 4 Jim Matula  
April 9 Mary Lou Harden  
April 11 Terry Jordan  
April 17 Lynn Bandy



Anita Adlin had heart surgery on April 1. She is now at home and doing well—says Howard is taking good care of her. She will be doing cardiac rehab. Please let Anita know you are thinking of her. Cards may be sent to her at 8573 Acorn Ridge Court, Tampa, FL 33625, or email her at [Asadlin@verizon.net](mailto:Asadlin@verizon.net).

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings!  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com), [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net)

**USF PLANT SALE**  
**CANCELLED**

**THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR**  
Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

We'll be setting up our display at the State Fair on Sunday, April 18, at 1 pm. Volunteers needed! We're usually there between 1 and 2 hours. Any help you can give is appreciated!

We will need people to help water plants in the display during the fair and of course PLANTS!!!

If you can help reach out to Mary Lou Harden @ [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) or Mary Beth Bryant @ [mbbryant3@gmail.com](mailto:mbbryant3@gmail.com)

**AVSA ANNUAL CONVENTION & SHOW**  
A Cyber Convention – “Celebrating African Violets Through The Years”  
May 30 – June 6, 2021

**TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY**  
Virtual Convention and show  
July

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show- has been rescheduled to 2022

**AVCF:**  
The African Violet Council of Florida will host a plant display and sale Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Christ Lutheran Church in Lakeland. Setup will be Friday October 1st.



**Since we were not meeting on a regular basis the Executive committee came up with a brilliant plan to have members share their growing tips and styles, in lieu of regular scheduled programs.**

**We're planning our programs for this year. If you have suggestions for a specific topic, please let our program chair know. Contact Mary Lou Harden at [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).**

**This month's article is from Mary Beth Bryant**

Hi, Everyone. I thought I should step in and do a show and tell about myself and my violet growing area. First, and foremost, I am married and have been for 30 years to my wonderful husband, Lee. You will hear how he's helped with my violets later. He teaches government and economics at St. Pete High. We have one human daughter, Victoria, who lives in Colorado and works for FEMA. We also have one doggie daughter named Wheatie. She is my faithful companion, but doesn't care a lick about violets!

Okay, to the violets. I have always loved plants of all kinds, including violets and orchids. I grew lots of things before I married and so did Lee. Well, being married, working full-time and raising a family is not conducive to growing anything. I just didn't have the time. Fast forward to 2017, the year I went to our state fair. I came home with an alsobia, don't remember which one.

From there, I progressed to violets. I found people online. That's how I met Camille. She and I attended a show in Lakeland. The Lakeland show is where I met Glenn Shelton. Through him, I joined TAVS. The rest, as they say, is history.

As to my growing area, it has changed drastically. When I first started, I was growing in natural light. My kitchen window faced east, so it had room for 3 minis and semi-minis. I also have a converted breezeway between the garage and the house. It has great, big windows on both sides with tile floors and a ceiling fan. The west facing windows have a shelf running the entire length which is just perfect for my violets and other plants. Well, I nurtured and cosseted and most of my violets thrived. I thought this was easy! I wanted to expand my collection.

So.....in 2019, my husband took 2 shelving units and added ropes of LED lights. I now had 8 shelves to play with! I was careful and moved most if not all of my plants to the shelves. Most of the violets went into shock, as did I. I lost a lot of plants. Glenn was there, as was Mary Lou, to provide advice. Things began to grow normally for me.

Just before the pandemic hit in March of 2020, I purchased a bigger grow cart from Mary Lou and that's where and how I grow violets to this day.





## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Meeting Minutes

Virtual March 19th, 2021 10AM

The meeting was called to order by First Vice President Mary Lou Harden at 10:08 AM.

**INSPIRATION:** An Irish Blessing by Mary Lou Harden

**ROLL CALL:** 11 Members

**PROGRAM:** Kathy Glenn fielded questions from the group following her article in the March Petal and gave us some of her growing tips

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 19, 2021, meeting were approved as published.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Submitted by Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, Total Monthly Expense of \$14.99 and income of \$15.00, leaving a balance of \$4,275.36 as of March 18, 2021. The report will be filed.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**TAVS:** The 2021 show has been cancelled. Future show plans may be considered at a later date.

We are still trying to locate a meeting venue in Tampa for when the Covid mandates are lifted and we can begin meeting again in person. We are also seeking a venue for our future show in 2022.

If you have any ideas/suggestions forward them to either Mary Lou Harden at: [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) or Jim Boyer at: [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

**AVSA:** AVSA will host a virtual convention "Celebrating African Violets Through The Years"

May 30—June 6, 2021. Details are in the January-February African Violet Magazine.

The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

The 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, Georgia, May 28 to June 4, 2023, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.

**DIXIE:** the October 13-16 convention and show have been rescheduled to 2022.

**TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Meets the third Saturday monthly in Dr. Martinez Office in Tampa.

The Gesneriad Society is having a virtual convention and show - members can have up to 5 entries which must be submitted during the month of May. The show will be available for viewing on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Florida State Fair-** The application was filed to put in a display. Dates are April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The theme for the display is **Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space.**

Set up is April 18. An email will be sent regarding times.

We will need volunteers for setup, people to help water plants in the display during the fair and of course PLANTS!!!

If you can help reach out to Mary Lou Harden @ [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) or Mary Beth Bryant @ [mbbryant3@gmail.com](mailto:mbbryant3@gmail.com)

## SHOW AND TELL:

Carolee Carter showed us Lil Glimpse of Spring and Orchard's Bumble Magnet  
Mary Lou Harden showed us Episcia Kee Wee, Canadian Clone- Cleopatra  
Cherokee Trail, Powder Keg and Cajun's Le Bon Ton Roule  
Roselind Rovinsky showed us Cajun's Royal Knockout and Mermaid's Kiss  
Lisa Villabol showed us her beautiful but unnamed plant grown in natural light.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be an in person meeting at Mary Lou Harden's home. 10 am.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

Lynn Bandy- Day Recording Secretary

## RECIPE BOX



*. This month's recipe submitted by  
Lynn Bandy*

### CARROT SOUFFLE

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs peeled carrots  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons vanilla  
2 tablespoons flour  
3 eggs  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  lb margarine, softened

1. Steam or boil carrots until extra soft& drain well.
2. While carrots are warm, add sugar, baking powder and vanilla.
3. Whip with mixer until smooth.
4. Add flour and mix well.
5. Whip eggs separately and add to mixture, blending well.
6. Add margarine and blend well.
7. Pour mixture into baking dish-ABOUT HALF FULL--as the souffle will rise.
8. Bake@ 350 about 1 hour or until top is light brown.

I know by now you are all getting tired of my recipes!!!!!!!

If you have a recipe you would like to share just send it to [nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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 or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

## 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](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

# HELP!!!!!! +

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_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](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our **TWITTER** account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages. [kathybear555@gmail.com](mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

### Visit us at:

[www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://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](mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com)

### Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/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](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

### VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

[@tampafricanviolets](https://www.instagram.com/tampafricanviolets)

## 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](http://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](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://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, 5036 Paradise Pond Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**  
[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

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

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**Episcia Kee Wee**

### **Some of Mary Lou Harden's Show and Tell plants**



**Episcia Canadian Clone Cleopatra**

### **Roselind Rovinsky Photos of her show and Tell Plants**





**Cajun's Royal Knockout**



**African Violet Mermaid's Kiss**



