

THE PETAL

FEBRUARY 2021

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



VALENTINE TRAIL

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS members and friends!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

At this time one year ago we were making last-minute preparations for our annual show and plant sale! Hard to believe that it was only one year ago! We've had inquiries from some of our faithful followers asking when we'll have another show. As you know, we've cancelled the 2021 February show. Whether it will be feasible to reschedule it for later in the year remains to be seen.

In the meantime, AVSA's convention will be virtual from May 30-June 6 which means all of

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

us can participate. The Dixie AVS 2021 convention is currently scheduled for October 13-16 in Murfreesboro, TN.

Hopefully, the USF Spring Plant Festival will go forward in early April and also the Florida State Fair later that month.

I hope all of you will join us for our February 19 Zoom meeting. Carolee Carter will present the program. We'll also have election of officers.

Hope your violets are looking beautiful!
See you at the meeting.

Mary Lou Harden

OUR MEETINGS

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we are holding meetings only 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 a **Zoom** meeting on Friday, February 19th, at 10 am.



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.



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.

This month's program is from Carolee Carter.



Carolee Carter's Routine

Well, where do I begin? How does Carolee take care of her violets? Here's a current photo of my stands. What happened to all those standards I used to grow?



First of all, I always have to bring in the episcias from the lanai in the winter because they are sensitive to temps under 50°. I had a lot of room for them on my guest bedroom stands because I had a virus take hold of my plants early last year, and I wound up sending the entire collection to their “great reward” in the sky – or should I say the dump! I then thoroughly cleaned the trays and entire stand with Physan 20. I did a lot of research as to what virus had managed to take hold of them. Here are a few photos of the damage

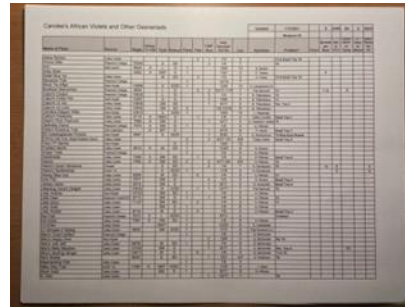


I ruled out INSV, and suspected cyclamen or broad mites. Yet, when I used my microscope, I was unable to detect any signs of them. I didn't have thrips or mealy bugs. I did the usual routine of spraying once a week for three weeks with Avid, and kept watch for any signs of good regrowth. I finally got tired of looking at them and out they went! I didn't even set down leaves because I was wary of whatever else it might have been. And . . . I'm not one of those growers who “crown” their plants because I don't have the patience to watch for new growth

to finally emerge. (Don't know why I don't have the same feeling about setting down leaves!)

Because of the kindness of friends, I was able to replenish my stands with plants (mostly semis and minis) as well as many leaves that are now in the stage of being separated into baby plantlets. When the weather gets warmer, I'll order some of the favorite standards that I lost and move on!

I keep a detailed spreadsheet with all of my varieties listed, their pertinent information, whether the variety is a plant, plantlet or leaf, when it was repotted, its location on the stands and issues I've observed, etc. (See photo) It helps me target when to repot as well as keep track of details.



Here's my usual routine for the care of my plants:

- I tend to repot my semis/minis every months, my standards every 4 months and my trailers every six months or so.
- I've tried many different potting mixes (ProMix BX, ProMix HP, FertaLoam, Baccto, Foxfarm Ocean Blend, and I'm still not totally in love with any of them. I found that I needed to be very careful with those that have mycorrhizae in the mix by really limiting any additional fertilizer in my water. The only things I add to any mix I choose are lots of perlite (probably 40%) and horticulture charcoal.
- Once they are repotted, I do not use any fertilizer for the first month or so because, again, many of the potting mixes contain fertilizer – read the labels!

When I do add fertilizer, I rotate between Plant Marvel, DynaGro Grow or Bloom, Optimara, and Better-Gro Orchid Plus.



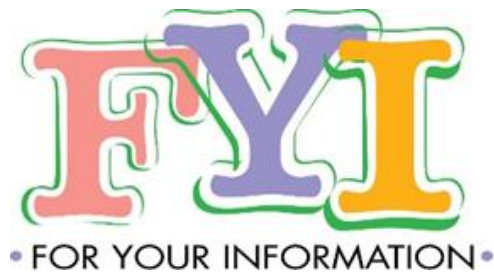
- As you can see from the photo, I wick-water the plants and use a sandwich bag inside the pot that I can throw away once algae forms. My water is rain water, and I check the pH every couple of months to ensure it's in the correct range.
- During the winter months when the heat is on I have a humidifier running in the room to add enough humidity to make them happy.
- Once a week I check each plant thoroughly, removing dead leaves/blossoms.

When I am growing for show, I follow the Pauline Bartholomew schedule that I tweak a bit because of weather conditions.

I'm happy to report that I haven't seen any evidence of the virus in my collection since I tossed and cleaned, and I hope that continues.

One final word of caution – remember to isolate any plants you purchase for at least one or two months in a different room.

This is a photo of my small isolation stand. I learned the hard way that despite my confidence in the source of some of the new plants I received early last year, it proved to be a disaster.



This year we will not be issuing a hard copy yearbook. An email was distributed with the electronic edition of the membership directory. If you do not have email or did not receive this, please contact Mary Lou Harden or Glenn Shelton at the email address below or by telephone.

In lieu of meetings and programs due to the uncertainty of the Covid 19 virus, we will be adding programs to the monthly newsletter The Petal.

As email will be our main avenue of communication for the time being please check if your information is correct in this electronic directory. If incorrect or if you think someone was omitted in error, please contact Glenn Shelton or Mary Lou Harden.

Glenn: floridainorchids@gmail.com

Mary Lou: mlhard@verizon.net,



February Birthdays

2/20 Anita Adlin



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

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings!



USF PLANT SALE

Saturday and Sunday April 10th and 11th

THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR

Thursday April 22nd through Sunday May 2nd

TAVS Annual Show and Sale

CANCELLED

AVSA Annual Convention & Show

A Cyber Convention – Diamond Celebration

Celebrating 75 Years

May 30 – June 6, 2021



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Meeting Minutes

Virtual January 15th, 2021 10AM

The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Jim Boyer at 10:05 AM.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

ROLL CALL: 12 Members

GUESTS: From Florida--Carol Ann Burrell (Sebring), Bobbi Johannsen (Jacksonville), Mary Jane DiLorenzo (Lakeland), Jerry O'Keefe (Longwood); We also had guests from Ohio.

PROGRAM:



Our guest speaker for the meeting was Kathy Spissman, from Tucker, Georgia. Kathy worked at Rich's Department Store for 35 years. She retired in 2001. She has been Convention Director for Dixie AVS for many years and has also been a leader in the Greater Atlanta African Violet Club for many years. Kathy is also a member of the Gesneriad Society and

has grown and shown many beautiful Gesneriads in both Gesneriad and African Violet conventions and shows. Kathy is Convention Chair for AVSA's 75th Anniversary Convention and Show scheduled for sometime in 2022 in Atlanta.

Kathy a 40 year grower with over 100 lights in her basement alone, gave a very informative presentation including a great many tips on soil, fertilizer, lighting and propagation of Gesneriads.

Kathy also has an EBay Store where she sells plants and supplies. Check her out on EBay at <http://www.ebay.com/str/mrsstrepstrepplantsandsupplies>

TREASURER'S REPORT Submitted by Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, showing a balance as of 01/15/2021 of \$4440.31. The report will be filed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

AVSA: The uncertainties of Covid-19 caused the AVSA Executive Committee to opt for a cyber convention in 2021. Planning is now underway, but details are not yet ready to reveal.

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

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

DIXIE: Their show is still currently scheduled for October in Murfreesboro, TN.

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

The Nominating Committee presented their report.

Nominations:

President: Mary Beth Bryant
1st Vice President: Mary Lou Harden
2nd Vice President: Jim Matula
Treasurer: Glenn Shelton
Correspondence Secretary: Lynn Bandy
Day Recording Secretary: Lynn Bandy

Nominations from the floor and voting will take place at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou Harden reported that the Common Ground Church will no longer be available for meetings. We are asking all members to investigate possible meeting places for the Tampa area.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Lynn Bandy- Day Recording Secretary

RECIPE BOX



. This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

ROASTED MUSHROOM SOUP

8 ounces fresh baby portobello mushrooms, halved
4 ounces fresh shiitake mushrooms, stemmed and halved
2 tablespoons olive oil
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 ½ cups reduced-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
1 tablespoon butter ½ cup chopped onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons dry sherry or dry white wine
4 teaspoons all-purpose flour
1 cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 400°F. In a 15x10x1-inch baking pan combine portobello and shiitake mushrooms. Drizzle with oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper; toss to coat. Spread mushrooms in a single layer. Roast, covered, for 30 minutes. Roast, uncovered, for 15 to 18 minutes more or until mushrooms are tender, but still moist. Cool slightly.

In a food processor or blender combine half of the mushrooms and ¾ cup of the broth. Cover and process or blend until smooth.

In a medium saucepan heat butter over medium heat until melted. Add onion and garlic; cook about 5 minutes or until onion is tender, stirring occasionally. Carefully add sherry. Simmer, uncovered, about 1 minute or until most of the liquid is evaporated. Stir in flour; cook and stir for 1 minute. Stir in the remaining mushroom halves, the pureed mushrooms, the remaining ¾ cup broth, and cream. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, about 10 minutes or until mixture is slightly thickened.

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

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.

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.

Glenn Shelton manages our **TWITTER** account (twitter.com/TAVS_violets) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to floridainorchids@gmail.com

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook page asked members to email pictures of named

African violets so she can post to our Facebook page. kathybear555@gmail.com

Become a **MEMBER**

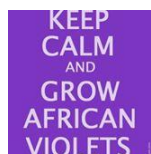
WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:
floridainorchids@gmail.com

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:

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

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, 5036 Paradise Pond Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**
www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
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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.

Some Photos from Our Last Meeting



Raffle Plants

Some of Mary Lou Harden's gorgeous plants



Live Wire



Live Wire Closeup



Emerald Lace



Emerald Lace Closeup