

THE PETAL

MAY 2021

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



MA'S LAVENDER PRINCE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thanks to all who attended the April meeting at Mary Lou's.

As your new President, I think the most important thing on my agenda is to find a meeting place, now that COVID is on the ropes.

The state fair is over and done and I'd say our booth was a success! Plenty of people stopped by and looked. We even got several names of people who are interested in the club and want more information. I will connect with them and maybe we will see new faces at our next meeting!

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

We will zoom on May 21st at 10:00 am. We will have a program which you won't want to miss! How's that for a teaser?

See you then,

Mary Beth Bryant President

OUR NEW OFFICERS



First Vice President Mary Lou Harden

Treasurer Glenn Shelton

Second Vice President Jim Matula

President Mary Beth Bryant

Not pictured Lynn Bandy Correspondence secretary

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.

MAY ZOOM MEETING FRIDAY MAY 21ST 10AM



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.



Annual dues were due in April. 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 62nd Ave. N
Pinellas Park, FL 33781



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 5 Kathy Glenn
May 9 Mary Beth Bryant
May 17 Jerry Kast
May 24 Angelina Grundhoff



JoAnne Martinez, a past president of TAVS, had hip replacement surgery this week. She is now home and doing well.

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



Mary Lou Harden's sister (Queen) Esther Jones passed away on April 21 in Marion, Ohio, following a brief illness. She celebrated her 97th birthday in November 2020

Posted by the Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society

"Our President and the very heart of our club, Sharon Gartner, has lost a long battle with cancer. She was diagnosed in early Spring 2020. She fought hard, enduring many treatments and much pain, always with an upbeat, positive attitude. In the end, the treatments were too much and she passed away on April 22, 2021. We have always loved her, but during this year, we learned how much Sharon really loved us. We recognized how much she did for us all of these years. Even now, the full extent of her service and influence is amazing to see. Our club will go on. We will fulfill the legacy she worked so hard to leave for us. There will never be anyone else like her. Each of us has been blessed by her in some way, both large and small. She will never be forgotten. ♡"

CALENDAR of Events

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.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Interview with Ken Froboese Hill Country African Violets & Nursery Boerne, TX By Mary Lou Harden

Our program this month will feature Ken Froboese of **Hill Country African Violets & Nursery**, a premier garden center and nursery in Boerne, Texas. Ken says his family started their flower and plant business over 40 years ago with just African violets. However, many of their clients wanted education on different types of plants and foliage along with flower combinations in pots and hanging baskets so they have expanded the business over the years and now they have 11 greenhouses that have flowers, plants, shrubs, trees, as well as the African violets.

When Ken was asked why he opened the nursery, he responded, "It's been so long ago I can't remember." He says the nursery is really "a family gathering place." It's a family-friendly nursery. When asked why people should shop at his nursery, Ken replied, "You'll see what a REAL nursery looks like! When you are ready to 'Step UP' from the box stores -- plants for this area -- cared for by people who care for plants -- we're different! Come on by, we would love to help you."

Ken has been a commercial member and supporter of AVSA for many years. He is a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls, TX, and the Dixie AVS. I first met him at a Dixie convention in San Antonio many years ago and have seen him at many AVSA conventions since then.

This program is an interview of Ken Froboese by John Dromgoole, host of The New Garden, on the subject of African Violets.



Inside view of one of Ken's 11 greenhouses

Another short article from The AVSA Growing Tips

How Many African Violets Are There?



African violets were **first discovered** in 1884 by European explorers. In 1892, Baron Walter Von Saint Paul sent

samples (probably seed) of **one species** back to Germany which lead to the first scientific description.

African violets were most notably cultivated commercially beginning in 1926 when Armacost and Royston of West Los Angeles imported seed and developed the "Original Ten" hybrids for sale.

The African Violet Society of America first organized in 1946. In the second issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, published in 1949, it was reported that there were about 150 varieties of African violets grown in the United States.

That number rapidly grew through the years. Today, the official *African Violet Master List* (First Class for All software) includes **over 19,000 varieties**. For many reasons, not all existing varieties were listed officially. Hybridizing continues across the world and more varieties will be added soon. How many violets? Too many to count!



**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of April 16, 2021, Meeting
Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Second Vice President Jim Boyer at 10:12 AM. Mary Lou Harden served as Secretary. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mary Beth Bryant presented the program, telling about her growing methods, her conditions of growing and discussed the importance of proper lighting, watering and other culture do's and don'ts.

ROLL CALL: 12 Members and 2 guests.

GUESTS: Angelina's friend/neighbor, Leah, whose home is in Pittsburgh and who wanted to see how we grow African violets. Stuart Swayze's wife, Kathy.

Mary Lou Harden installed the newly elected officers:

**Mary Beth Bryant, President
Mary Lou Harden, First Vice
President**

**Jim Matula, Second Vice President
Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
Lynn Bandy, Recording and
Corresponding Secretary,**

The minutes of the March 19, 2021, meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, reported a bank balance as of today of \$4,290.36. The report will be filed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TAVS: The May meeting will be by Zoom. We are still looking for a meeting venue in Tampa, as well as a venue for our 2022 show.

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 at 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 2nd, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Florida State Fair. Dates are April 22nd to May 2nd. Set up will be Sunday, April 18 at 1:00 pm. The theme for the display is "Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space." Volunteers are needed for setup and to bring plants.

Mary Lou Harden demonstrated how to repot a violet with lots of elongated leaves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The May 21 meeting will be by Zoom at 10 am.

PLANT RAFFLE. Raffle plants were provided by Stuart Swayze, Jim Boyer, Angelina Grundhoff and Mary Lou Harden.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Mary Lou Harden, Recording Secretary Pro Tem

RECIPE BOX



*. This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy
This is a GREAT recipe to make for Mother's Day!*

Strata

9-12 slices white bread, crusts removed
1 pound sausage/bacon browned, drained and crumbled
2 cups grated cheddar cheese

8 eggs
2 cups milk
1 TBS Worcestershire sauce
8 drops tabasco sauce
1 tsp Paprika

Liberally Grease a 9x13 dish
Smooch bread slices into bottom of pan and up sides slightly, add sausage/bacon, then cheese. In a blender mix eggs, milk and remaining ingredients, pour over cheese. Cover with saran wrap and let casserole sit for at least four hours, preferably overnight. Cook at 350 for 35 to 45 min, until bubbly and puffed up. Let casserole sit for 5 min before slicing.

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 nyleb@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

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 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

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

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

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. Information: Linda Price,
President, laprice41@yahoo.com.
www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nyleb@aol.com

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herein.

**Some Photos from our meeting on April 16th
submitted by Roselind Rovinsky**

Mr. Handsome: George Grundhoff



Our own King James!

**SOME PHOTOS OF OUR DISPLAY AT THE
FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

Submitted by Mary Lou Harden







Our own member Anita Adlin submitted an entry in the Art Division

Another beautiful plant from Mary Lou Harden's collection



Sinningia 'Party Dude'

