

THE PETAL

OCTOBER 2021

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



OCTOBER SEAS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Those of you who attended last month's ZOOM meeting already know that I have stepped down as our show co-chair. Mary Lou Harden generously stepped up and will take my place alongside our other co-chair, Jean Krauchik. Now however, I must also step down as your president. My heart is not stable (I have a pacemaker) and I need surgery.

Thank you all for your support and know that although I will no longer be acting as your president, I will continue to be as active in the club as my health will allow.

Mary Beth

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

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM.

Notification of whether the meeting will be in person or via ZOOM will be posted in The Petal. If via ZOOM an email will be sent with ZOOM connections.

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

OCTOBER MEETINGS

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 7th 7pm via
ZOOM**

Jim Boyer will tell us how to grow
Sinningias.

Sinningia is a genus of about 75 species, most of which are native and/or endemic to Brazil. They are easy to grow and don't require a lot of space.



SINNINGIA "WHITE SPRITE"

FRIDAY OCTOBER 15th 10AM via ZOOM

Catherine Carter of The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Club will be discussing Miniatures and semi-miniatures.

CATHERINE'S BIOGRAPHY

Growing African Violets has been one of my hobbies since 1970. As a military family we moved 14 times. Those changes in residence provided me with the opportunity of belonging to many African Violet clubs and meet many violet growers.

My husband's grandmother got me started with 3 violets in 1970. I had never noticed violets before. I promptly killed 2 of them.

Members of The Corpus Christie Texas Violet Club taught me how to wick water and saved the last of my original plants! Frances King in San Diego, California continued my violet education and taught me about light stands, how to grow show plants, and encouraged me to become a violet judge.

We also lived in Monterey, California, Virginia Beach, Virginia and Pensacola, Florida (3 times), Powder Springs, Georgia, Rome, Georgia, Ft. Meyers, and Jacksonville, Florida, now for the third time.

While in Virginia Beach, Mary Boland, Carol Van, and Laurene Jones taught me to make and judge arrangements and natural gardens,

how to write a show schedule and how to set up a show.

My husband and I have been married since 1970, we have 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Our younger son, his wife and 14-year-old daughter live with us along with a part American Foxhound/Springer Spaniel who runs the household. I am originally from Ft Meyers, Florida where my parents (Mom 94 and Dad 96) still live.



CATHERINE CARTER

We are still actively seeking a meeting venue for our Friday morning meetings. Any suggestions can be forwarded to Mary Beth Bryant at thebryants333713@gmail.com

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.

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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/Mary Lou a few days before the meeting with a link to access the meeting. Hope to see you then!



10/22 Lisa Villabol



George Grundhoff had recent eye surgery and is now home recuperating. We wish him well.

Mary Beth Bryant will be having some cardiac procedures performed, we wish her success.

Angela Newell is having some health issues but is recovering. Get Well soon!

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

CALENDAR of Events

TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY –
Meetings are 3rd Saturday each month at 10 am.

AVCF:
The African Violet Council of Florida’s plant display and sale last weekend in Lakeland was a great success. Bonnie Smith, Glenn Shelton, Jim Boyer and Mary Lou Harden helped with setup and the sale. The Council’s Spring meeting will be Saturday, April 30, 2022.

USF PLANT SALE:
Dates are October 9th and 10th.

Our chapter agreed to participate again with the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.

Set-up will be Friday, October 8, at 11 am -- need help setting up the tents and tables.

We are going to need support from our membership to make this successful. While we will need help setting up and working the sale, the primary need is plant material to sell. If you have plants for sale please be sure to have them labeled with name, price and your sales number. (Number can be found in the Yearbook)
Please help in as many ways as you can.

FLORIDA STATE FAIR
February 2nd through February 21st, 2022

TAVS SHOW AND SALE
“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.
February 24th, 25th and 26th, 2022 at The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL

DIXIE AVS: Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of September 17th, 2021 Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:05 AM.

INSPIRATION: Mary Lou Harden

ROLL CALL: 11 Members

GUESTS: Johnnie Berry, Carolee Carter

PROGRAM:

Jere Trigg, of Spanish Fort, Alabama spoke about hybridizing African Violets. Jere became interested in growing African violets when he was given a plant 40 years ago, and he quickly developed an appreciation for their beauty and ease of culture. Since his retirement, he has been experimenting with African violet hybridization and has produced hundreds of seedlings from his cross pollinations.

One of Jere's first successful and most popular crosses was a chimera which he named **Jere's Roll Tide** pictured here. He has produced many beautiful cultivars which are seen in African violet and Gesneriad shows throughout the country.



MINUTES: The minutes of the August 20th, 2021, meeting were approved as published.

We did have a ZOOM meeting (our first) on September 2nd, but were only able to get through part of the program before technical issues stopped the remainder of the meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Mary Lou Harden reported the following programs:

October 7th Night Meeting via ZOOM: King James will be doing the program on Sinningias, Minis, and Semi Minis.

October 15th Day Meeting via ZOOM: Program TBD

November 4th Night Meeting: Tentatively, Beth Baker of Memphis, Tennessee, will be discussing some of the "weird" African violets – the wasps, the bells, and the bustles.

Glenn Shelton reported a check was sent to The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church to reserve their fellowship hall for our 2022 show in February, the 24th -26th. The fee for the weekend is \$350.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, reported expenditures: \$455.00 to include Yearbook printing and Show Venue reservation. Income from plant stand sale and a gift, \$65.00 with a current balance in checking: \$3462.79, and savings: \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TAVS: Next meeting October 7th at 7pm via ZOOM. Jim Boyer will be discussing growing sinningias.

September 17th Day: meeting via ZOOM.

AVCF: Will be holding a show and sale October 1st and 2nd in Lakeland. October 1st will be setup they will also be holding their Fall Membership meeting that weekend
Members were encouraged to both participate and attend this show/sale.

Jim Boyer requested showers to please double tag your plants with both your AVF and AVSA sale numbers.

AVSA: 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

USF Plant sale: October 9th and 10th. We will be participating in this event so remember to keep those plants growing!!!!

Show: Plans are moving along for our annual show and sale.
Our theme: "**Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space**".

Due to health reasons Mary Beth Bryant will be stepping down as show Co-Chair. Mary Lou Harden agreed to assist Show Chair Jean Krauchik. Any other help will be greatly appreciated!

Yearbooks have been published and mailed to all members. Please let Mary Lou Harden know if you have not received your yearbook.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Glenn Shelton has been in touch with the prize ribbon supplier and is working with Jim Boyer to procure the necessary ribbons for our show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Carolee Carter shared that the newly formed club "Blooming Violets" out of Ocala had their first meeting and at present have 9 members.

Mary Lou Harden announced that the dates for The Florida State Fair are February 10th through the 21st, 2022. Further discussion will be made regarding participation.

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

Lynn E Bandy Day Recording Secretary

August 9th, 2021

This is an excerpt of a five-part series from The African Violet Society. I will be posting a portion of the series for the next four months.

WATERING AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Sandra Skalski

Seasoned growers will tell you that proper watering is one of the most important skills you will learn in growing African violets. In fact, overwatering may be the number one cause of violet demise. The good news is there are many good ways to water African violets, and this is an easy skill to learn.

WATER QUALITY

In most locations, tap water will be fine, but the quality of tap water can vary. Chlorine levels may fluctuate, depending on the season. In some areas, tap water may have high amounts of chlorine, chloramines, or dissolved solids. All these things may adversely affect your African violets. Your water supply company can give you information on water quality, or you may have your water independently tested. In general, it is a good idea to fill a jug with water and let it sit overnight to let any chlorine dissipate. You may also use bottled water, filtered water, or reverse osmosis water. Water from a water softener may contain dissolved salts, and this will be a problem for your African violets.

Many growers use rainwater, with good results. While rainwater is generally free from some of the common contaminants in tap water, like chlorine and chloramines, it can acquire

contaminants during collection. For example, roof runoff may contain pollen, roofing chemicals and bird droppings. Be sure the water you collect is clean and free from particulates and other contaminants.

It is a good idea to test your water pH periodically. Tap water can fluctuate with the seasons, since chlorine and chloramines levels tend to be higher in the warmer months. If your pH is outside the ideal range for African violets (6.5-7.5), you may adjust it using pH up or down products which are sold in aquarium or hydroponics stores. These stores also sell products that reduce or eliminate chlorine and chloramines.

Many growers will add their liquid or granular fertilizer to a jug of water and then use that solution to water their plants. The fertilizer is used at a low strength so that there is a low but constant level of fertilizer for consistent blooming and growth. For example, if the directions say to use 1/4 teaspoon per gallon per week, use 1/8 teaspoon.

TOP or BOTTOM WATERING

Casual growers (or growers with smaller collections) commonly use top or bottom watering. Water the plants either from the top or the bottom when the top half inch of the soil is somewhat dry. Put your finger in the top of the soil to test for dryness or lift the pot to feel the weight (pots with dry soil feel lighter than those with moist soil).

A dish or saucer is used under the pot to catch drainage. To water from the top, pour the water through the soil, taking care to keep water off the leaves. To water from the bottom, add the water directly to the saucer. When watering from the bottom, it may take a couple hours for the plant to absorb the water up to the top of the pot. In either case, pour off any water remaining in the saucer after a few hours.

Advantages:

- There is little preparation involved, other than having a saucer available.

- You can check each individual plant to identify its exact water needs.

Disadvantages:

- Can be time consuming, especially if you have a lot of plants.
- Vacation watering can be a problem.
- It is easy to over-water plants which can lead to root rot.

If the plants become very dry or wilt, do not flood the plant with water right away. A dry root system cannot absorb water; the roots need time to “plump up” before they are able to draw water again. Just add a tablespoon of water on top of the soil, and then repeat every hour or so until the soil is fully moist and the roots are ready to function again. It may help to place the plant in a plastic bag to provide extra humidity to help it recover.

If the plant is limp but the soil is very wet, act quickly. Place the plant on a wad of paper towels or folded newspapers to help draw out the extra water. You may lose the outer rows of leaves, but, if the center survives, the plant will be saved.

WICK WATERING

Wick watering is a convenient way to water violets, especially if you have a large collection. Before you begin wick-watering, be certain that you have the correct pot size and potting mix, or you may end up with rotted plants because the soil was too wet.

The potting mix must be very porous so that there is plenty of air around the roots even when the mix is wet. Use a potting mix that is at least fifty percent coarse perlite. Growers with high humidity may need more perlite to get adequate porosity. If you buy your potting mix, look for words like ‘wicking mix’ as an indication that the mix is suitable for this type of watering.

The potting mix should be moistened before you begin potting your violet, or the wicking process may not function properly. The wick should be 6 to 8 inches long (for a 4” pot) and must be a synthetic material such as acrylic,

rayon, strips of old pantyhose, nylon yarn or cording. Wick watering takes advantage of capillary action to pull water through your plants.

Insert a wet wick when repotting by stringing it through the drainage hole in the pot and up to the top rim, then adding potting mix and the violet. Alternatively, you may put the wick in after potting by using a hook such as stiff wire, a crochet hook or a long darning needle. Push the straight end of the tool into a hole on the bottom of the pot, catch the wicking material in the hook, and pull on the tool at the top of the pot to bring it on through. Be careful not to puncture any leaves.

The wick should dangle out of the bottom of the pot and into a reservoir of water below. The pot itself should not contact the fertilizer water.

The reservoir may be as simple as a plastic food container, or recycled glass jars. Make two holes in the cover – one for the wick and the other big enough to add more water to the reservoir (so that you do not have to remove the top).

Some people wick water with a community reservoir for many plants, such as a large water-filled tray with “egg crating” laid on top. Egg crating, which is used to diffuse fluorescent light fixtures, may be found in hardware stores or online. A community reservoir is convenient — you must fill only one reservoir instead of many. But there is a significant downside. Pests like soil mealybugs and some fungi (phytophthora and rhizoctonia) can spread from one plant to all the others on the same community watering system.

Advantages:

- Less time consuming than watering individual plants.
- Large reservoirs can keep the plants watered for weeks; no vacation watering issues.

Disadvantages:

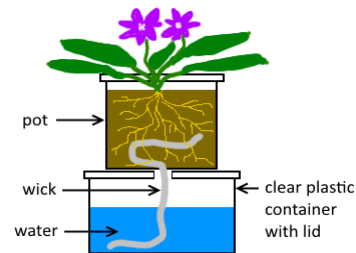
- Algae often grows in the reservoir. To resolve, line the reservoir with a sheet of plastic which extends over the sides of the

reservoir. You can throw out the plastic when it turns green instead of washing out the whole reservoir. Or, add one tablespoon of 3% hydrogen peroxide to a gallon of fertilized water to prevent algae growth.

- The plant may not soak up the water. To resolve, pour water through the top of the pot to try to get the capillary action going. If the pot is broad and shallow (such as for trailing violets,) two or three wicks may be needed.
- The plant may become too wet. In that case, repot with potting mix which contains more perlite.

- If the shelf is not level, some of the plants may not get enough water.
- Pests and diseases, such as soil mealybugs and some fungi such as phytophthora (crown rot) can spread very quickly through community watering.
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Wick Watering African Violets



MAT WATERING

Mat watering is similar to wick watering. Plants are placed on a damp absorbent mat. You can place pots directly on the mat, but some people use wicks in those pots to be sure there is contact with the mat. Both the wick and the mat material must be synthetic. Old (or cheap) blankets or synthetic felt or fleece may be cut to size for the mat. Add water to the tray on a regular schedule, just enough to keep the mat moist. Use a porous soil mix like that used for wick watering. Mat watering works very well for small plants.

Some growers lay their matting over plastic egg-crating, which is elevated above the water. The egg-crating is cut to sit on the rims of the tray. The matting is cut and laid on the crating with one or more “tails” dangling on the side into the tray of water below. These tails will wick water and keep the matting moist for a longer time. The matting must be fully moist for the wicking action to work properly.

Advantages:

- Fewer reservoirs to fill, compared to individual wick watering.

Disadvantages:

- The mat may dry out very quickly.

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

APPLE-BERRY SALSA WITH CINNAMON CHIPS

CHIPS

2 large flour tortillas
Water
1tbs sugar
½ tsp cinnamon

SALSA

2 medium granny smith apples
1 cup strawberries sliced
1 kiwi peeled and chopped
1 small orange
2 tbs brown sugar
2 tbs apple jelly

Preheat oven to 450. brush tortillas with water. combine sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle over tortillas. cut each tortilla into 8 wedges. place on pizza stone and bake 5-7 minutes until brown and crisp. remove to cooling rack.

Peel core and chop apples, zest orange, then juice. combine all other salsa ingredients in large bowl

Serve with cinnamon chips

SERVES 8

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 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

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[@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.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.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

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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.

Another beautiful photo from Mary Lou Harden



SINNINGIA "PARTY DUDE"

