

THE PETAL

JANUARY 2023

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

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.



TOUCHES OF FROST

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, Violet Friends. . . and Happy New Year!

I hope all of you have had a special time with family and friends during Christmas and Hanukkah and will be well rested and ready for an amazing new year! Those members who attended our December day meeting at the library will tell you that we had plenty of wonderfully delicious food and a fun time playing

Violet Bingo! I'm looking forward to more good times like that!

Now we're approaching our busiest time of the year. Two big events are coming up in February. First will be the Florida State Fair which runs from February 9 through February 20. Please check out the article which you'll find later in this issue which will tell you how you can help.

Immediately after the Fair will be our Show and plant sale at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church on Busch Boulevard in Temple Terrace. Later in this issue you'll find information about the show, including ways you can help.

JANUARY MEETINGS.

January 5 Zoom Meeting. Now it's time to focus on our January meetings. The January 5 night meeting will be by Zoom. This is one you won't want to miss! Our guest presenter is Dale Martens, and her program will be about growing and hybridizing Streptocarpus, among other things. You'll find a few pictures of some of her hybrids at the end of this newsletter. Dale has been very active in the Gesneriad Society. Beginning in 2010 and continuing until 2022, she wrote a column for each issue of *Gesneriads*, the Gesneriad Society's quarterly Journal, on *Back to Basics*. She continues to be a part of the Gesneriad Hybridizer's Association. And you'll

find several of her seminars on the YouTube channel.

January 20 day meeting at Seffner-Mango Library. Members are asked to bring their Project Plants for a pre-show Show! Plants will be critiqued by our judges for the sole purpose of advising on continuing care. Following the meeting, we'll be mixing and packaging soil in preparation for our show and the Spring Plant Festival at USF.

Hope to see you at our next meetings!

Mary Lou Harden

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner-Mango Public Library. The library address is: 410 N. Kingsway Rd. Seffner, FL 33584-3602

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

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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



1/20 Pamela Van Durme
1/21 Todd Grandy

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night meetings via Zoom! We will have a program to begin and lots of



Per George Grundhoff on December 6th Angelina slipped and fell, injuring her head and face. She was taken to a trauma center where they learned she had a brain bleed. She was unable to talk for 2-3 days. She has had weakness in her legs. She also broke her right elbow but they couldn't do surgery because of her other problems, so she can only use her left hand. She's doing better,

but George assists her when she walks. She needs surgery for another issue but won't be able to have it for at least 3 months.

Their oldest son from New Hampshire was here for a few days but left December 18th to return home.

George and Angie will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary on January 31.

George thanks their TAVS friends for their prayer support.

Thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy Kast who had a recent fall with hip fracture. She is currently in a rehab facility. To send a card, mail it to the home address and Jerry will take to her.

Mary Lou Harden is recovering from recent surgery, doing well and on the mend.

Bonnie Smith has moved to an Independent Living facility in Sun City.

Celia Howe is recovering after some setbacks.

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



FLORIDA STATE FAIR
February 9th through the 20th

TAVS Annual Show and Sale

February 24th and 25th, 2023
“VIOLET INVASION”

2023 AVSA Convention
May 28th – June 4th
Atlanta, GA

USF SPRING PLANT SALE
April 8th and 9th, 2023

HELP NEEDED!
FLORIDA STATE FAIR SET-UP
“VIOLET INVASION”
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – 1 PM

FLORIDA STATE FAIR. . . February 9-20. We'll be setting up our display on Sunday, February 5, at 1 pm.

Here are some of the things we need:

1. Members helping with the setup which should take only about two hours. So please plan to come and help.
2. The plants will be placed on Tuesday, February 7, beginning at 10 am. We'll need help with making labels for the plants and then placing the plants in the display.
3. During the Fair – members who can spend an hour or two at the booth, greeting the public, handing out show information and culture folders
4. During the Fair – members who will check the plants and water them, if necessary. This usually is done once or twice a week.

Everyone who helps in any way at the Fair will receive free entry passes.

TAVS SHOW – “VIOLET INVASION”
FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023

TAVS SHOW: Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, 5030 East Busch Boulevard in Temple Terrace. Set-up begins at 1 pm on Thursday, February 23. ALL MEMBERS need to help with set-up which includes setting up and placing tables, covering the tables, placing Section and Class Cards along with ribbons to separate the

classes. Members need to sign up to help with plant sales. I hope all of you are growing plants to enter in the show. We'll talk more about the Fair and the Show at our next meetings.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ENTER IN THE DESIGN DIVISION?

SIGN UPS ARE REQUIRED FOR DISH GARDENS, TERRARIUMS, NATURAL GARDENS. . . AS WELL AS FOR THE PLANT AND FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS. If you are entering any of the design classes, it's important that you register with the Design Administrator, Mary Lou Harden. We need the information so we can have all the necessary niches on hand as well as the required space.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of December 1st, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:01 pm.

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol, Sandi Soto, Pam VanDurme, Angela Newell, Jim Matula, Todd Grandy, Stuart Swayze, Celeste Christman, Sheryl Herold, Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending were guests, Jeanne Katzenstein, Sarasota, FL (speaker), Johnnie Berry, Atlanta, GA, and Kathy Spissman, Tucker, GA.

PROGRAM: Jeanne Katzenstein, of Sarasota, FL, presented a power point slide program on the Gesneriad family. She furnished two handouts which will be sent to those attending.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 3, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The December 16 Day Meeting – 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library will feature a pot-luck brunch and African Violet Bingo.

The January 5 night meeting program will be by

Zoom with guest speaker Dale Martens on her Streptocarpus hybrids.

The January 20 Day Meeting – members will bring their project plants for critique.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society will have its December meeting by Zoom, a business meeting, on December 19, at 7 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Members were encouraged to follow the 2023 Grooming Schedule to get their plants ready for show.

Angela Newell is requesting donations for show awards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

December Birthdays: 12/11 Celia Howe; 12/25 Jim Boyer; 12/29 Amanda Mendoza
Show Schedules are now available.
Yearbooks are available.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of December 16th, 2022, Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM by Mary Lou Harden President followed by the pledge of Allegiance

INSPIRATION: Mary Lou Harden

Members brought their favorite food items and enjoyed brunch.

ROLL CALL: 14 members attending were Mary Lou Harden, Jim Matula, Sandi Soto, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Mary Beth Bryant, Glenn Shelton, Phyllis Panozzo, Stuart Swayze, Bonnie Smith, Pat Rutzke, Jim Boyer and Lynn Bandy

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 18th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

PROGRAM:

A rousing game of Violet Bingo with great prizes

OFFICER REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$4862.28 and savings of \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

Glenn reminded everyone he was taking donations for Feeding Tampa Bay

JANUARY MEETINGS:

NIGHT MEETING:

We'll have a special guest presenter at our January 5 Night Meeting which will be by Zoom. Dale Martens who is well known throughout the Gesneriad world for her beautiful Streptocarpus hybrids, will share with us about her successful hybrids, hybridizing and other secrets to success in growing and showing gesneriads.

DAY MEETING:

Our January 20 Day Meeting will be at the Seffner-Mango Library and will be a pre-show SHOW! We want to see how your project plants are doing. So. . .bring the project plants you're growing for our February show and we'll have a mini-show. . .and yes. . .prizes will be awarded!

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AVSA: Our show is now listed on their website!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Our 2023 Show: How are your plants doing?

Ribbons were ordered by Glenn Shelton.

Angela Newell is awards chair and is requesting awards.

Members voted to purchase plants for the show from Harmony. Celeste Christman will pick them

up prior to the show.

Members voted to reimburse her for mileage.

Ideas were requested for getting new members. Some suggestions for people signing up and paying at show were free plants, raffle basket, Goodie bags.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will be electing a nominating committee at our January meeting. Positions up for vote will be President, Vice President and Secretary.

We have completed the application process for The Florida State Fair.

We will be having a planning meeting the first week in January, most likely via ZOOM.

A soil mixing party will be following the day meeting at Mary Lou's house.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 12/11 Celia Howe, 12/25 Jim Boyer and 12/28 Amanda Mendoza

The show schedule is available. Thanks to Sandi Soto for printing them up for us.

If you would like an email copy let Mary Lou Harden know. mlhard@verizon.com.

Bonnie Smith is now mostly moved into her Independent Living facility,

Celia Howe continues to recover.

Nancy Katz is doing well with her recovery after hip replacement.

Stuart Swayze had eye surgery and will be having his other eye done in the new year.

Mary Lou is recovering from her surgery.

Angelina Grundhoff had a fall with a resultant brain bleed and fractured elbow. She will be needing surgery in the future.

SHOW AND TELL:

Pat Rutzke showed a Cajun variety.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Provided by Mary Lou Harden

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by Glenn Shelton

Holiday Fruit Salad

Choose fruits that appeal to you.

I chose Mandarin oranges and apricots from the can, fresh washed grapes and sliced cold bananas.

I used the original style Cool Whip.

I added some real vanilla extract and cinnamon. I placed the Cool Whip in a large mixing bowl and added the vanilla and cinnamon to taste.

You might

substitute with Nutmeg or other spices and/or combine them to taste.

I added each fruit and folded each into the Cool Whip until all were added. You may add more or less of any of the fruits you have chosen.

After the taste is perfect for you and all is mixed,

Place the mixture in a serving bowl and refrigerate until served.

The preparation is very simple; the most challenging part is deciding what fruits and spices to use.

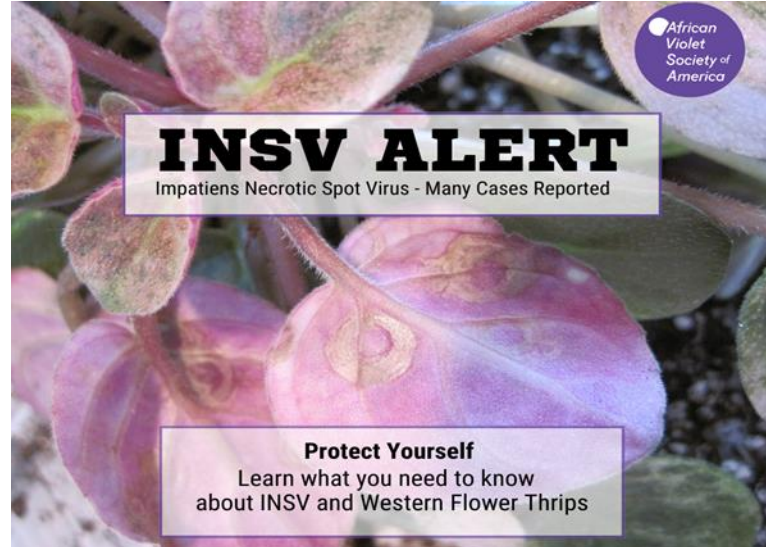
Thank you for telling me that you enjoy this simple salad.

Merry Holidays! GLENN

African Violet Society of America

GROWING TIPS

DECEMBER 12th, 2022



What You Need to Know Now About Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV)

By Sandy Skalski

If you are active on social media, or belong to an African violet or gesneriad club, you may have heard talk of people losing their plants to a virus called INSV (Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus). What is INSV and how can you protect your collection? Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) is a common plant virus that infects hundreds of different species of ornamental and food crop plants. It is found in all areas of the world and is responsible for millions of dollars in crop losses every year. Once infected, plants must be destroyed since there is no cure and the infected plants become a source of infection for other plants. Each plant viruses has particular ways of spreading from plant to plant. This process is called 'vectoring'. Insects, mites, aphids, nematodes, tools and even your hands can

vector specific plant viruses. The main vector for INSV is the Western Flowering Thrips (WFT), *Frankliniella occidentalis*. Several other species of thrips are potential vectors, but WFTs are the most important. WFTs acquire the virus in one of their two larval stages, when they feed on an infected plant. An uninfected adult cannot acquire the virus even when it feeds on an infected plant and thus cannot transmit it. If a female thrips lays her eggs on an infected plant, the emerging larvae will feed on the plant and become infected. Once the larvae have the virus, it multiplies in their salivary glands. Each time the new adult thrips feeds, it transmits the virus through their saliva. It takes an adult thrips only five minutes of feeding to transmit INSV. This is why when thrips show up in your collection, you need to act fast to eliminate them. Experts disagree as to whether INSV can be transferred by infected sap on your hands or on your tools. Thrips feeding deposits virus particles directly into the vascular system of plants, which then spread throughout the plant. Typical grooming of plants with hands or tools tends to crush plant cells, which is not conducive to moving the virus into the plant. The good news is that by following the best practice of sanitizing tools between plants, you can avoid the slim possibility of plant-to-plant transmission via infected sap. I wipe my tools with 91% isopropyl alcohol. You can also use Physan 20 or a 10% bleach solution. What does INSV look like? Virus symptoms show up as damaged plant tissue and can be easily confused with fungal diseases, poor culture and physical damage. The damage you see is related to the immune response from the plant. Sniffles, cough and fever can mean you have a cold, the flu or Covid 19. Similarly, necrotic spots, ring spots, line patterns, stunted growth, blackened petioles, distorted leaves, mottling, and mosaic patterns are all possible virus symptoms. The question is, which virus? If you suspect you have a plant infected with a virus and don't have a reason to suspect INSV or another virus in particular, the best course of action is to take or send the plant to your state or local agricultural extension. They can test for all of the 'big four'; INSV, tomato spotted wilt (TSW), cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) and tobacco mosaic virus (TMV). Once you know what virus plagues your plant, you can buy test kits for that particular pathogen from Agdia (www.Agdia.com). Tests

are sold in kits of five or twenty-five tests. Be sure to read all of the instructions carefully. If possible, use symptomatic tissue. The test calls for a one-inch square of tissue. If you use significantly more tissue, you may get inaccurate results. False positives are extremely rare and are usually related to testing red plant tissue. False negatives are more common. Although the virus is all through the plant, it is not evenly distributed. You may have chosen a leaf with a low level of virus or perhaps the plant was recently infected. There are two main ways INSV can enter your collection. An infected thrips can enter your growing area. INSV is a common virus that infects outdoor plants like basil and tomatoes. It also infects many perennials and weeds like chickweed. WFTs are unlikely to survive in areas with cold winters. However, INSV can survive in weeds or perennials. The second way you can get INSV is to bring an infected plant into your collection. Most of the time, the new plants you buy or are gifted look strong and healthy. Violets infected with INSV can look perfectly healthy. The virus can stay dormant for many months. Sometimes a change in temperature or stress on the plant can bring on symptoms. If the virus-infected plant enters your collection and you get thrips, the thrips can spread the virus to the rest of your plants. If new plants look sick right out of the box, don't take a chance. It might be shipping stress, but it might be something much more serious. The same goes for any plant infested with pests, especially thrips. Bag any plants with pests and dispose of them. How can you protect your collection from INSV? First, keep thrips out of your growing area. Thrips can live for more than a month and an infected thrips can transmit the virus its entire life. If they show up in your collection, make eliminating them quickly your Job #1. Second, isolate all new plants and leaves. Consider new plants and leaves quarantined until they prove to be healthy. A six-month isolation is common among seasoned growers. I isolate new plants for one year, in a warm room, far from my main collection. The trash can is your friend. If your new plants are not thriving after an isolation of six to twelve months, there's a good chance they aren't healthy. Don't risk the rest of your collection for these few. What should you do if you suspect you have a plant or plants infected by a virus? Always remove questionable plants

from your growing area and isolate them in another room, preferably in a sealed container or zippy bag. If the plant was not isolated, get a diagnosis via your local agricultural extension or purchase test kits. This is especially important if you've also had a recent thrips problem. In the next issue, I'll discuss INSV in more detail, and include more photos of symptoms on violets and gesneriads. Plus, I'll share information about three other common viruses that can infect African violets and gesneriads; tomato spotted wilt (TSW), cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) and tobacco mosaic virus (TMV).

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



Join us on Twitter:

twitter.com/TAVS_violets

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine 6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office
PO Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720.

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
nybleb@aol.com

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.



Dale's Polar Canary



Dale Martens with her prize-winning Streptocarpus 'Dale's Polar Canary'



Streptocarpus 'Morning Magic'

Paul Sorano owner of [Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses](#) named this beautiful mutation, Streptocarpus 'Morning Magic'. Paul gifted me several of my variegated "Polar" hybrids to replace those I lost during the INSV disaster. 'Morning Magic' is the sport of my hybrid Streptocarpus 'Dale's Polar Canary'. He asked me if I wanted to name it, but he's so good with names. For comparison, the photos on the preceding page are 'Dale's Polar Canary'.



Dale's Scarlett Macaw
hybridized and grown
by Dale Martens

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CAJUN'S LIL LOVE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, Violet Friends,
Wow! Here we are at February—a very busy month for us!

FLORIDA STATE FAIR. Initial set-up at the State Fair is Sunday, February 5, at 1 pm. We

need help in setting up our display. We don't anticipate a lengthy time for the setup, so come and give us a hand. **Plants will be placed in the display on Tuesday, February 7, at 10 am** and we'll need your help with that also.

VIOLET INVASION. Show time is just four weeks away! I hope you're encouraging your show plants to bloom! As you know, our goal is for EVERY member to be a participant in the show with five entries. However, if your plants are not cooperating with you, remember that you can always enter a dish garden, terrarium or natural garden, and you can also enter the decorative/unusual container class.

FIRST LAKELAND AVS SHOW. In the meantime, our friends at First Lakeland African Violet Society are hard at work preparing for their annual show on February 10th and 11th at Christ Lutheran Church, 2715 Lakeland Hills Boulevard in Lakeland. Their plant sale is 9 am to 4 pm each day. The show opens after judging at Noon on Friday. I encourage you to support them – and take a friend with you. If you need more information, contact Mary Jane DiLorenzo at 863-637-1517.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. A Nominating Committee was elected at the January meetings. Members are Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant and Anita Adlin. We're looking for candidates for President, Vice President and Secretary. We

need **YOU** to step up to the plate and offer your services to the Club. The committee's report is due no later than our February 17 meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS. The February night meeting is Thursday, February 2, at 7 pm by Zoom. I will be presenting the program on Creating Natural Gardens. They are not difficult to prepare and can be very beautiful, so I hope you can attend the meeting.

The day meeting is Friday, February 17—yes, right before our show! Jim Boyer will be reviewing final show preparations, including preparing your entry forms.

AWARDS DONATIONS. If you would like to make a donation for show awards, please send to Angela Newell, 8205 Vassar Circle, Tampa, FL 33634.

A busy month! However, I'm looking forward to all the good things that will happen as we're working together as a **TEAM!**
Hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday!

Mary Lou Harden

OUR MEETINGS

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The library address is:
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2/20 Anita Adlin



Thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy Kast who had a recent fall with hip fracture. She is currently at home recovering.

Mary Lou Harden is recovering from recent surgery, doing well and on the mend.

Bonnie Smith has moved to an Independent Living facility in Sun City.

Celia Howe is recovering after some setbacks. And was able to make it to the January 20th day meeting. Welcome back Celia!

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



FIRST LAKELAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Annual show on February 10th and 11th
Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Boulevard in Lakeland.
Their plant sale is 9 am to 4 pm each day.

FLORIDA STATE FAIR February 9th through the 20th

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February 24th and 25th, 2023
“VIOLET INVASION”**

**GARDENFEST
March 25 and 26th
Tampa Garden Club
Bayshore Blvd, Tampa**

**2023 AVSA Convention
May 28th – June 4th
Atlanta, GA**

**USF SPRING PLANT SALE
April 15th and 16th 2023**

HELP NEEDED! FLORIDA STATE FAIR SET-UP “VIOLET INVASION”

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – 1 PM
FLORIDA STATE FAIR.** . .February 9-20. We'll be setting up our display on Sunday, February 5, at 1 pm.

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entering any of the design classes, it's important that you register with the Design Administrator, Mary Lou Harden. We need the information so we can have all the necessary niches on hand as well as the required space.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of January 5th, 2023, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:10 pm.

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol, Sandi Soto, Pam VanDurme, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Jim Boyer, Anita Adlin, Phyllis Panozzo, Sheryl Herold, and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending were guests, Dale Martens (speaker), Johnnie Berry, Atlanta, GA, and Kathy Spissman, Tucker, GA.

PROGRAM: Dale Martens, from Davenport, Iowa, presented a power point slide program, "A Close-Up Look" at several Gesneriads, including *Seemania gymnostoma* which has glandular trichomes or hairs with a liquid on its tips, *S. brasiliensis*, *S. richii* 'Robson Lopes,' and *Columnnea schiediana*, as well as others. She also discussed problems with the INSV virus.

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 1, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The January 20 Day Meeting – members will bring their project plants for critique. Show Entry Forms will also be available. Final plans for the booth at the State Fair will be discussed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society's January meeting is on the 21st.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Florida State Fair – February 9-20. Celeste Christman described the pirate ship she is making out of card stock. Will

be further discussed at the January 20 meeting.

- Annual Show – Further discussion and preparations at the January 20 meeting.
- Angela Newell is requesting donations for show awards.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Invitation to participate in Tampa GreenFest on March 25 and 26. Celeste Christman will contact Leona Immenhausen at leeimmen@yahoo.com for information.
- Without objection, Sandi Soto was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. The remaining two members will be elected at the January 20 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January Birthdays: Pamela Van Durme 1/20 and Todd Grandy 1/21

Bonnie Smith has moved to Sun City Center. Angela Grunhoff is recovering from a fall. Stuart Swayze will have a second eye surgery. Nancy Kast is in rehab in Dade City.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of January 20th, 2023 Meeting Seffner-Mango Library

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Matula at 10:25am.

INSPIRATION: Jim Boyer

ROLL CALL: 10 members attending were Lynn Bandy, Celeste Christman, Jim Boyer, Jim Matula, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, Celia Howe, Pat Rutzke,

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 17th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

OFFICER REPORTS:

February 2nd Zoom Meeting. This is one you won't want to miss! Our own Mary Lou Harden will be demonstrating creating natural gardens, and grooming show plant entries.

February 17th day meeting at Seffner-Mango Library. Jim Boyer will be going over final show preparations including filling out entry forms, checking in with all committee chairmen to be sure we have everything we need.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TBGS:

Next meeting on January 21st at 10am at the Seffner-Mango Public Library

AVSA: Our show is now listed on their website!

Jim Matula reported there were several very interesting articles in the latest edition of the magazine.

Elena Korshunova-hybridizer of the EK Russian series, Sandy Skalski on INSV and Kurt Jablonski's article on Grooming for show

DIXIE AVS: Getting ready to publish newsletter in early February.

AVCF: Linda Price is working with The Beardall Center in Orlando to arrange an agreeable date and cost for a show there sometime in the Spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Our 2023 Show: How are your plants doing?

Angela Newell is awards chair and is requesting awards. Sign up and bring checks or items to the next meeting.

Celeste Christman reported that Harmony would not be able to provide plants in bloom for our show.

Jim Boyer proposed ordering from Optimara, Sandi Soto seconded, all members approved ordering from Optimara.

Jim Matula proposed a \$50.00 donation to the AVSA awards in Terry Jordan's name, Jim Boyer seconded, all members voted unanimously in favor.

Jim Boyer went over how to fill out the entry form.

REMEMBER: Use only pencil to fill out!

DO NOT: Fill in either the exhibitor or Entry numbers, these will be given to you at the time of entry.

It is not necessary to fill out the hybridizer section unless you are submitting a collection, but you must include the registration number.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sandi Soto was elected to the Nominating committee at the night meeting, Mary Beth Bryant and Anita Adlin volunteered to serve and were unanimously voted in by members.

Positions up for vote will be President, Vice President and Secretary.

Please contact any of these members if you would like to be considered for any of these positions, or if you have suggestions for members who might like to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: Pamela Van Durme 1/20 and Todd Grandy 1/21

Due to Mary Lou's illness, our soil mixing party was cancelled, we will now be meeting to mix soil, just after the Florida State Fair setup on February 5th.

Bonnie Smith is now moved into her Independent Living facility,

Celia Howe continues to recover and was able to join us at the meeting. Good to see her again. Welcome back Celia!

Nancy Kast is doing well with her recovery after hip replacement and is now at home.

Stuart Swayze had eye surgery and recovering.

Mary Lou is recovering from her surgery.

Angelina Grundhoff had a fall with a resultant brain bleed and fractured elbow. She will be needing surgery in the future.

SHOW AND TELL:

Mary Beth Bryant, and Anita Adlin brought in their project plants.

TIPS: Celeste Christman told everyone about a new fertilizer she has been using with great success. Liqui-Dirt. It can be found on Amazon

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

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy just in time for Super Bowl

BAKED HOT CRAB DIP RECIPE

YIELD: SERVES 4-6

TOTAL TIME: 45 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

- about 12 ounces lump crab meat
- 1 (8 oz) package of cream cheese (softened)
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 medium onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon fresh cracked black pepper
- 4 green onions, chopped
- Serve dip with chips, crackers, bread or vegetables.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In large bowl, combine cream cheese, lemon juice, onion, Worcestershire, mayo, parmesan cheese, black pepper and green onions.
3. Gently fold in lump crab meat until it's combined into the cheese mixture.
4. Add the crab dip mixture into a medium casserole or baking dish.
5. Bake crab dip for about 25 minutes or until dip is hot and bubbly.
6. Serve with your favorite chips, crackers, bread or vegetables.



January 2, 2023



You won't fully understand until you see both sides

Make it a routine to look at the top and the

underside of leaves. Examine for disease, injuries, pests or just dust. You might even spot a sucker or a new blossom stem.

It pays to take a closer look. Just don't dump the violet out of its pot!

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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Tampa African Violet Society



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twitter.com/TAVS_violets

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JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine 6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office

PO Box 22417

Beaumont, TX 77720.

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

nybleb@aol.com

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.

DESIGN DIVISION

The theme **VIOLET INVASION** is based on an event that takes place annually in Tampa, Florida. Founded in 1904, the event celebrates the legend of Jose Gaspar (nicknamed Gasparilla), a mythical Spanish pirate captain who supposedly operated in southwest Florida. Each year, on Gasparilla Day, a band of marauding pirates aboard the *Jose Gasparilla*, a replica pirate ship, arrive in Tampa Bay, stage an invasion of the City of Tampa and demand that the Mayor surrender the key to the City.

Section X – Interpretive Flower Arrangements

Designs using cut African violet blossoms. Dried, treated, painted, colored and fresh-cut plant materials as well as man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant material, live or dead creatures and national flags are not permitted. Accessories, bases and backdrops and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by class description. Only one exhibit per exhibitor per class.

Class 52. “TAMPA SURRENDERS THE CITY KEY TO PIRATES.” The Mayor is forced to surrender the key to the pirates. A flower arrangement to be staged in a white foam board niche 14”H x 11”W x 10”D (12” may be used for depth of niche). A key must be used in the arrangement. Limit 3

Class 53. “BURIED TREASURE” — Rumor has it that when Jose Gaspar died, he left an untold fortune of treasure buried somewhere along Florida's coast. To this day, it has yet to be found. A flower arrangement in a white cardboard niche 28”H x 23”W x 12”D deep (15” may be used for depth of niche). Limit 3.

Class 54. “DRESS LIKE A PIRATE.” Pirates have gained a reputation for wearing bright and distinctive clothing and accessories during the Golden Age of Piracy (1690-1730). However, Pirates were first and foremost seamen and so they wore the clothing typical of all mariners of the period. It is true, though, that some pirates, especially the captains, did dress to impress, and colorful silks or feathered hats were a way to demonstrate success to one’s victims and crew alike. A flower arrangement in a white foam board niche 22”H x 18”W x 12”D (15” may be used for depth of niche). Limit 3.

Class 55. “GASPARILLA PARADE OF PIRATES” – Over 300,000 people came to see the Parade of Pirates at the city-wide celebration in 2020. Everyone hopes to catch some of the colorful beads and trinkets that the pirates throw into the crowds as they pass by. An underwater arrangement, completely submerged, in a clear container not to exceed 16 inches. To be staged on mirrored risers. Limit 3

Section XI – Interpretive Plant Arrangements

Designs using one or more blooming African violet plants removed from the pot, with their rootball encased in plastic or other material. Dried, treated, painted, colored and fresh-cut plant materials, as well as man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant material, live or dead creatures and national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by class description. Only one exhibit per exhibitor per class.

Class 56. “GASPARILLA DANCE” – Everyone who comes to the dance dresses like a Pirate and brings an appetizer to share for a Gasparilla-themed dance with music by a well known DJ-singer. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white cardboard niche 28”H x 23”W x 12” D (15” may be used for depth of niche). *Limit 3*

Class 57. “GASPARILLA FOR KIDS.” Kids can create pirate-themed arts and crafts and participate in other activities such as board games and sports. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white foam board niche 20”H x 15”W x 11” D (14” may be used for depth of niche). *Limit 3*

Class 58. “FLOATS AND MARCHING BANDS” – There’s also a night parade on 7th Avenue in Ybor City in which there are many decorated floats and several marching bands. Thousands of people line the street to see the floats and enjoy the rousing music. A plant arrangement in a white foam board niche 14”H x 11”W x 10”D (12” may be used for depth of niche). Limit 3.

THE PETAL

MARCH 2023

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

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.



TOUCH OF SPRING

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello TAVS members and friends,

Our 47th annual show is now in the history books. . .and what an outstanding show it was! The show received a score above 95 points and was awarded AVSA's Standard Show Achievement Award (SSAA)! That's terrific! Although we didn't have as many entries as we had hoped for, the quality and creativity of exhibits in both horticulture and

design were outstanding! You'll find a list of winners elsewhere in this newsletter. Awards will be presented at our March night meeting – March 17.

Thanks to all members (and spouses and friends) who assisted in any way during the show – from set-up on Thursday to the conclusion of the show and take-down on Saturday afternoon. Everyone helped by bringing kitchen supplies as well as wonderful food! The following Show committee chairmen deserve special recognition:

Celeste Christman, Show Chair, Focal Point, Properties
Mary Lou Harden, Show Schedule, Publicity, Design Administrator, Awards
Kathy Glenn, Entries, Hospitality, Facebook
Jean Krauchik, Hospitality Assistant
Jim Boyer, Classification, Judges & Clerks, Novice Administrator
Mary Beth Bryant, Plant Placement, Show Plant Sales, Cashier
Pam Van Durme, Plant Sales
Jim Matula, Club Supplies
Lynn Bandy, Publicity
Sandi Soto, Education, TAVS flyers, Section & Class Cards
Sheryl Herold, Education
Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
Gladys Cook, Website

Everyone, Set Up and Clean Up

Other members who helped included Celia Howe, Pat Rutzke, Lisa Villabol, Anita and Howard Adlin and Stuart and Kathy Swayze. We were happy to see Jerry and Nancy Kast – Nancy is doing well following her recent surgery. Also was good to see Tom and Sharon Schaefer – Tom is the outgoing president of Tampa Rose Society and has been super busy with the Rose Society, but he has continued to help us with set-up and take-down at our Florida State Fair exhibit. And we were especially pleased to see former member Linda Geller, whose husband recently passed away.

I hope to see you this Thursday at 7 pm for our Zoom meeting when we'll be discussing the show – the things we did well and those we may need to improve. Until then, get some rest!

Mary Lou Harden

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner- Mango Public Library.

The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584-
3602

MARCH MEETINGS

Thursday, March 2 – 7 pm by Zoom – Show Recap and Jim Boyer will tell us about propagation techniques with Chimeras.

Friday, March 17 – 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library – Show Recap and Show Awards will be presented. We'll also have election of officers.

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



3/22 Phyllis Ann Panozzo



Bonnie Smith is now moved into her Independent Living facility,

Stuart Swayze is on the mend, but now his wife Kathy is having some health issues.

Angelina Grundhoff is doing much better.

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

FLORIDA STATE FAIR

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with our display at the Florida State Fair. Our staging was perhaps the best we've ever done—from the background, the pirate and the parrot – as well as the Pirate's treasure chest – and the beautiful plants. All of our club information, including membership application was taken, so hopefully we'll get some new members as a result of our terrific display.

USF SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, April 15—16, at USF Botanical Gardens – PLEASE be growing plants for the USF sale – ALL Gesneriads are welcome, so pay attention to your plants and do your best to bring them into bloom for the sale. Also, if you have any of the Club plants which were not sold at the show, please give them some special attention so they will be blooming for the USF sale.



CENTRAL FLORIDA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

ANNUAL DISPLAY AND SALE

March 3rd and 4th 10am to 4pm
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave, Orlando FL 32801
For Information Contact Linda Price
Laprice41@yahoo.com

GARDENFEST

March 25 and 26th
Tampa Garden Club
Bayshore Blvd, Tampa

USF SPRING PLANT SALE

April 15th and 16th 2023

2023 AVSA Convention

May 28th – June 4th
Atlanta, GA

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of February 2nd, 2023, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7 pm.

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol, Sandi Soto, Pam VanDurme, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Anita Adlin, Todd Grandy, Glenn Shelton, Celia Howe, Stuart Swayze and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was guest, Johnnie Berry, Atlanta, GA.

PROGRAM: Creating Natural Gardens and Grooming Show Plant Entries, by Mary Lou Harden.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 5, 2023, meeting were approved as published.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The February 18 Day Meeting – Jim Boyer will give information and instructions on final show preparations.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society's February meeting is on the 18th at Seffner-Mango Library.

AVSA needs donated items for the Convention goodie bags. Members were asked to give this consideration and it will be discussed further at the Day meeting. Dixie AVS – First quarter newsletter is out. There are negotiations with Birmingham Botanical Gardens for a show this Fall. AVCF – Linda price is negotiating with Beardall Center in Orlando to arrange for a Council show sometime this Spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Nominating Committee members Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto and Anita Adlin will submit their report at the February 18 Day Meeting.
- Florida State Fair – February 9-20. Celeste Christman reported she has received the standard plants from Selective Gardener (Optimara) and the pirate ship she is making is almost complete. Members were asked to meet at the Fair grounds on Sunday, February 5, at 1 pm for initial set-up.
- Annual Show –Members were asked to arrive at TTUMC by 12:30 pm on February 23 and to bring a covered dish. Set-up begins at 1 pm and entries at 1:30 pm. Mary Lou will contact Kathy Glenn about any special foods needed.

- Angela Newell is requesting donations for show awards.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was discussion about the invitation we received to participate in Tampa GreenFest on March 25 and 26. Without objection, we will not participate this year. Mary Lou will inform Leona Immenhausen at leeimmen@yahoo.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January Birthday: Anita Adlin – 2/20. Bonnie Smith is getting adjusted to her new digs at Sun City Center. Angela Grunhoff reports that she is doing much better. Stuart Swayze reported that he is doing well following his eye surgeries. Nancy Kast is now at home, continuing to recover from her fall.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of February 17th, 2023
Meeting
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10:18 am followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATION: Mary Beth Bryant

ROLL CALL: 11 members attending were Mary Lou Harden, Lynn Bandy, Celeste Christman, Jim Boyer, Jim Matula, Jean Krauchik, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, , Pat Rutzke, Stuart Swayze and Sheryl Herold

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 20th, 2023, meeting were approved as published.

PROGRAM: Jim Boyer went over final show preparations including filling out entry forms.

REMEMBER: Use only pencil to fill out!

DO NOT: Fill in either the exhibitor or Entry numbers, these will be given to you at the time of entry.

It is not necessary to fill out the hybridizer section unless you are submitting a collection, but you must include the registration number.

OFFICER REPORTS:

TREASURER REPORT: Given by Mary Lou Harden. Will be filed.

March 2nd Zoom Meeting. Show Recap and Jim Boyer will be presenting Chimeras - propagating techniques and we will have Election of new officers.

March 17th day meeting at Seffner-Mango Library. Show awards will be presented and we will have Election of new officers.

Please note: This meeting will be held in the Computer lab, not in our usual meeting space.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TBGS:

Next meeting on February 18th via ZOOM.

AVSA: Members voted to place a half page ad in the Souvenir book at a cost of \$50. Discussion about donations for convention goodie bags.

DIXIE AVS: February newsletter is out! Negotiations underway with Birmingham Botanical Gardens for a show in the fall.

AVCF: Linda Price is working with The Beardall Center in Orlando to arrange an agreeable date and cost for a show there sometime in the Spring. **SPECIAL ORDER:**

Nominating Committee Report:

Mary Beth Bryant presented the

committee's report:

Current Nominations are: President: Mary Beth Bryant , Vice President: Celeste Christman and Secretary: Lynn Bandy. Glenn Shelton will continue on as Treasurer.

Elections will be at the March Meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

STATE FAIR: February 9-20th.

Our 2023 Show: How are your plants doing?

Mary Lou Harden is now awards chair and is requesting awards. Sign up and bring checks made out to TAVS to the show or mail to Glenn Shelton

Celeste Christman will be picking up plants for show from the Peacock Cottage in Ocala members voted to reimburse her for travel expenses.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members voted to not participate in Tampa Greenfest on March 25th and 26th .

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS: Anita Adlin 2/20

We will be meeting to mix soil, just after the meeting today.

Bonnie Smith is settled in her Independent Living facility,

Stuart Swayze is on the mend, but now his wife Kathy is having some health issues.

Angelina Grundhoff is doing much better.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Mary Lou Harden

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy

GLAZED BERRY SQUARES

- 2 cups Graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup sugar divided
- ½ cup melted butter
- 12 oz cream cheese
- 1 ½ cups Cool Whip
- 1 ½ cup Blueberries
- 1 ½ cups sliced Strawberries
- 1 ½ cups boiling water
- 1 pkg (6oz) Strawberry Jello
- 1 ½ cups ice cubes

Mix Graham cracker crumbs, ¼ cup of sugar and butter, press into bottom of a 9x13 baking dish.

Beat cream cheese and remaining sugar in medium bowl until well blended. Whisk in Cool Whip and spread over crust. Top with berries. Add boiling water to gelatin mix in large bowl, stir until gelatin is dissolved. Add ice cubes stir until melted.

Pour over berries.

Refrigerate 4 hours until firm.

African
Violet
Society of
America

GROWING TIPS

February 20th, 2023

Beautiful Violet Relative:

Sinningia

EDITORIAL

Dave Zaitlin

Alan LaVergne



Sinningia is a genus of ~75 species, most of which are native and/or endemic to Brazil. *Sinningia* is a highly diverse genus in the New World Gesneriaceae, and is thus a genus of many contrasts: species can be erect and tall growing (*S. sceptrum*, *S. mauroana*) or very small, stemless rosettes (*S. pusilla*, *S. concinna*, *S. minima*). Most have tubers, but a few species do not (examples are *S. schiffneri* and *S. barbata*). Almost all species are perennials but one, *S. nordestina*, appears to be an annual. Many species live on nearly vertical rock faces, but there are several that are truly terrestrial (*S. sellovii*, *S. allagophylla*, *S. curtiflora*) and a few, such as *S. douglasii* and *S. cooperi* are often encountered growing as epiphytes on trees. In addition, *S. glazioviana* grows on riverbanks, sometimes with its tuber under water. *S. tuberosa* and *S. helioana* actually grow in deep shade inside the mouths of caves on cave walls and while most of the species are pollinated by either insects (bees) or hummingbirds, *S. brasiliensis* is pollinated by bats and *S. tubiflora* is visited

at night by hawkmoths. In addition, there is also considerable diversity in flower shape, size, and patterning. Corolla colors can be white, yellow, lavender, dark purple, pink, orange, or red.

Sinningias are popular with plant hobbyists because most are not challenging to grow, many species are long-lived, and the flowers are unusual and attractive. Several species are widely grown outside gesneriad circles and include *S. pusilla*, *S. eumorpha*, *S. cardinalis* and *S. leucotricha*.

In fact, *S. leucotricha*, sometimes called “Brazilian Edelweiss”, is often seen at cactus and succulent shows (under its old invalid name *Rechsteinaria leucotricha*), because these folks like its large “caudex”, a structure that is actually a stem tuber in the genus *Sinningia*.

By far the most familiar member of the genus is *Sinningia speciosa*, which has been known in the horticultural trade under the common name Florist’s gloxinia or just ‘gloxinia’, for 200 years. This long-lasting error dates back to 1817, when plants of *S. speciosa* imported in 1815 from Brazil were placed in the genus *Gloxinia* (a rhizomatous genus in the Gesneriaceae) by Joachim Conrad Loddige. His nursery in the village of Hackney (now a borough of London), was the first to offer the plants for sale. The common name ‘gloxinia’ is still with us, although today it is usually applied to the cultivars of *S. speciosa* with upright (peloric) flowers, rather than wild forms of the species that have nodding flowers. The peloric cultivars are quite distinct from the wild *S. speciosa*, although the two types can be crossed to produce fertile progeny. In addition to being peloric, the flowers of these cultivars are also quite large and come in colors (such as dark red) that are not found in species growing in nature. Research is currently underway to understand how the process of domestication changed the wild *S. speciosa* into the Florist’s gloxinia in less than 200 years.

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](#)



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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
nybleb@aol.com

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SHOW AWARDS

Won by Sandi Soto

Best in Show, Best Standard "Ma's Pink Beetles"

Best AVSA Standard Collection: "Ma's Arctic Sky," "Ma's Debutante," "Ma's Pink Beetles"

Best DAVS Standard Collection: "Buckeye Exotic Dancer," "Cajun's Fascinating Fury," "Suncoast Lavender Silk"

Best Semiminiature, Best in Class 29, "California Sunset"

Best in Class 9, "LE-Eseniia"

Best in Class 12, "Rhapsodie Cora"

Best in Class 14, "Ma's Jamaican Farewell"

Best in Class 19, "K's Simply Put"

Best in Class 41, "Berry Splash"

Education Table

Won by Glenn Shelton

Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection: "Orchard's Wonder Twin,"

"Orchard's Bumble Magnet," "Shirl's Hawaiian Lei"

Best Miniature: "Orchard's Bumble Magnet"

Best in Class 11, "Optimara Maui"

Won by Mary Lou Harden

2nd Best in Show, Best in Class 18, "RS-Bell Ringing"

2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: "Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler," "Frozen in Time,"

"Hunter's Tranquility"

2nd Best DAVS Standard Collection: "Hunter's Tranquility," "Suncoast Lavender Silk,"

"Buckeye Seductress"

Best Design, Best Interpretive Flower Design, "Buried Treasure"

2nd Best Design, "Dress Like a Pirate"
Best Interpretive Plant Design, "Floats and Marching Bands"

Best Container Garden, Best Natural Garden

Best Terrarium

Best Dish Garden

Horticulture Sweepstakes (21 blue ribbons)
 Design Sweepstakes (10 blue ribbons)
 Best Trailer, LE-Erika
 Best in Class 10, "Amour Elite"
 Best in Class 48, Nautilocalyx pemphidius
 Best in Class 49, Episcia 'Suomi'
 Best Gesneriad, Best in Class 50, Episcia Pink'Acajou'
 Best Streptocarpus, 'OD Geshart'
 Best in Class 47, "Kohleria amabilis bogotensis"

**JIM BOYER
 MARY BETH BRYANT
 CELESTE CHRISTMAN
 MARY LOU HARDEN
 SHERYL HEROLD
 JEAN KRAUCHIK
 JIM MATULA
 PAT RUTZKE
 GLENN SHELTON
 SANDI SOTO
 STU SWAYZE
 PAMELA VAN DURME**

Won by Celeste Christman

Best in Class 40, "Harmony Glacier"
 Best in Class 52, "Tampa Surrenders the City Key to the Pirates"

Won by Jim Matula

Best Species, Best in Class 37, "S. 5b clone grotei Silvert"

Won by Pam Van Durme

Best Chimera, Best in Class 24, "Roller Rink"
 Best in Class 27, "Lil Glimpse o' Spring"
 Best in Class 30, "Dean's Sonata"

Won by Mary Beth Bryant

Best in Class 32, "Jolly Dear"



PICTURES FROM THE FAIR



We thank the following who donated awards for this show:

**TRAVIS VIOLETS, TRAVIS DAVIS,
 Ochlocknee, GA
 JO'S VIOLETS, JO SCHRIMSHER,
 Victoria, TX
 LYNDON LYON GREENHOUSES, INC.,
 Dolgeville, NY
 ANITA ADLIN
 LYNN BANDY**



PICTURES FROM OUR SHOW







THE PETAL

APRIL 2023

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

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.



BUCKEYE CELEBRATION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello TAVS members and friends,

At both of our March meetings, we heard many good comments and suggestions for how we can make next year's show (our 48th!) even better. One of the ways we can do that is to **START NOW** improving our growing methods – and **NOT** neglecting our plants! As award winners can tell you, coming up with a Best in Class, Best in

Section or Best in Show ribbon requires constant attention to our plants. So I encourage each of you to begin now to select some violets to which you will pay special attention during the coming months, and who knows. . . YOU may be a winner!

Now we turn our attention to the **USF SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL**. . . **just two weeks away!** We'll be setting up at the Botanical Gardens on Thursday, April 13, at 10 am and we will need help at that time. **PLEASE** plan to come and help. If we have adequate help, it will take us only about an hour to set up.

The Festival will be Saturday and Sunday, April 15—16, from 10 am until 3 pm each day, at USF Botanical Gardens. We'll need help both days, arranging plants on tables, greeting the public and helping with sales. We will need containers – cardboard boxes/flats -- for our customers, so **PLEASE** be collecting some and bring them with you. We can also use small plastic containers in which to place the sold plants.

Also, bring your violets and other Gesneriads that you'd like to sell. They must be tagged and priced. And, if you have any of the leftover Club plants which were not sold at the show, please be sure to bring them.

Our Annual Meeting is Friday, April 21, at 10 am at the Seffner-Mango Library. We're asking everyone to bring a dish to share – but please keep it simple. Drinks and tableware will be provided.

In the meantime, I hope to see you next Thursday, April 6, at 7 pm for our Zoom meeting. The program will be on the Species. See you then!

Mary Lou Harden

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner- Mango Public Library.

The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

APRIL MEETINGS

Thursday, April 6th –TAVS anniversary-night meeting via Zoom will feature a program on The Species

Friday, April 21st -10 am at Seffner-Mango Library —TAVS anniversary - day meeting will feature a program on The Species. Bring a dish to share.

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



- 4/3 Angela Newell
- 4/4 Jim Matula
- 4/9 Mary Lou Harden
- 4/17 Dorothea Zimmer
- 4/17 Lynn Bandy



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



USF SPRING PLANT SALE
April 15th and 16th 2023

AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA

Spring Meeting, Plant Display & Sale, and
Judge's School
Friday - Saturday, May 5 and 6
Beardall Senior Center
800 South Delaney Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

2023 AVSA Convention
May 28th – June 4th
Atlanta, GA

MEETING MINUTES
TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of March 2nd, 2023, Zoom
Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7 pm.

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol, Sandi Soto, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Anita Adlin, Todd Grandy, Jim Boyer, Kathy Glenn, Sheryl Herold and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was a guest, Julie.

PROGRAM: Chimeras – Propagation Techniques, by Jim Boyer

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 2, 2023, meeting were approved as published.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The March 17 Day Meeting – Show awards will be presented.

April 6 night meeting – Program on The Species

April 21 day meeting – TAVS Anniversary – Program on The Species

ELECTION: The following were elected to serve during 2023-2024:

Mary Beth Bryant, President
Celeste Christman, Vice President
Secretary, Lynn Bandy
Treasurer, Glenn Shelton

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **USF Plant Sale – April 15-16.**
Members were asked to volunteer to help at the sale and to bring plants for sale.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Birthday: Phyllis Panozzo – 3/22
Lynn Bandy had surgery yesterday – is home now and doing well.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of March 17th, 2023
Meeting
Seffner-Mango Library

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10:20am followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATION: Sheryl Herold

ROLL CALL: 8 members attending were Mary Lou Harden, Celeste Christman, Jim Matula, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, Pat Rutzke, Stuart Swayze and Sheryl Herold

MINUTES:
The minutes of the February 17th meeting

were approved as noted: 1 correction - awards were given out at the March Day meeting, not the night meeting as stated

PROGRAM: Mary Lou shared a handout that got us all thinking about our African violets in the most fun way.

OFFICER REPORTS:

TREASURER REPORT: Given by Mary Lou Harden. Copies of the report were distributed. Our show made money this year. Sandi Soto questioned the amount of \$326.28 for plants as being too low, considering we bought plants from 2 different sources. Celeste said all invoices had been turned in, so this will be investigated.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee – the slate of officers was read and there being no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the slate was unanimously elected.

President – Mary Beth Bryant
VP – Celeste Christman
Secretary – Lynn Bandy
Treasurer – Glenn Shelton

USF:

Celeste will need help getting the tents from Dr. Martinez's office-it really takes more than 1 person to carry them.

Mary Lou then sent around the sign-up sheet asking for help one or both days. We will set up on Thursday, April 13th at 10:30 am.

The Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society is responsible for taking money as the clubs have agreed on a rotation.

Celeste will also investigate the make and model # of our cash register in the hopes of selling it, rather than storing it from year to year.

TBGS:

Next meeting on March 18th the Seffner-

Mango Library.

AVSA:

Registration is now open for convention.

OLD BUSINESS:

OUR SHOW

We discussed what went well and what we can do better with regards to the show.

Celeste Christman mentioned moving the educational display away from the judging area.

Mary Beth Bryant said she had no idea stake placement was so important to the look of the plant and the judges. Mary Lou mentioned that in future, members might place the stakes in their own plants, since they know them best.

According to the church secretary we are welcome back again next year.

Celeste, our show chair, gave out the awards and thank yous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements:

March Birthdays – Phyllis Panozzo – 3/22

Lynn Bandy had surgery and is home, but is continuing to have a few issues. She is getting better each day and doing well.

Show & Tell:

Mary Beth brought a blossom of Allegro Daydream Believer, a semi mini hybridized by Janet Stromborg and shared leaves of Primulina longii.

A plant raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am

Mary Beth Bryant
Secretary Pro Tem

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy

Amish Broccoli Salad...Amazing!!!!

- 1 head broccoli, chopped
- 1 head cauliflower, chopped...
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 pound bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Combine the chopped broccoli and cauliflower in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, sugar, and salt to make a creamy dressing. Add the dressing to the broccoli-cauliflower mix, stirring to evenly coat the vegetables. Stir in the bacon and the cheese, reserving a small amount to sprinkle on top of the salad just before serving.

African Violet Society of America

GROWING TIPS

MARCH 13th, 2023

Different Types Have Different Likes



Each of the three [types of African violets](#) look and act differently. They need different care in the growing room.

Single Crown hybrids are the most common. Thousands of named varieties have been bred, each to have unique traits. They are meant to be grown in a rosette pattern with one center of growth.

Trailing hybrids (often called trailers) are bred to have many crowns (or centers of growth) and to bloom freely. Many flower colors are available. [Special growing techniques](#) will produce impressive size and form in your trailers.

Species first grew in nature with flowers in shades of lavender. Species are often labeled "[Saintpaulia](#)" which is the scientific name for African violets. Care varies, often based on where each species was found growing.

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

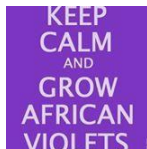
Visit us at:

www.tampafricanviolets.com

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

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Tampa African Violet Society



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twitter.com/TAVSviolets

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine (6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office
PO Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720.

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 is \$10 per year. which includes a quarterly newsletter, **(The Florida Connection,)**

Information: Linda Price, President,
laprice41@yahoo.com.

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor

nybleb@aol.com

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

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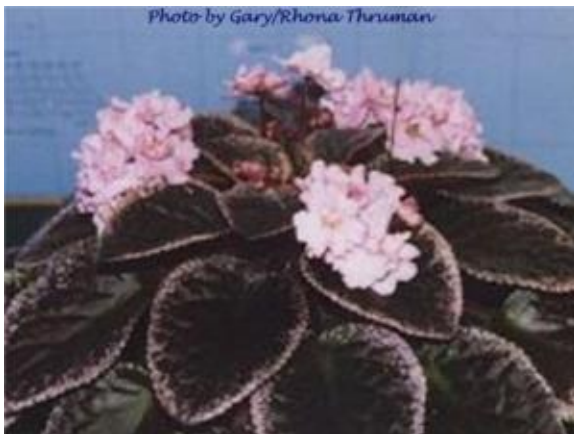
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MAY APPLE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello TAVS members and friends,

Hello and welcome to my first president's message of the year. At the close of the April day meeting, TAVS installed officers for the next two years. I can tell you that your newly elected board members are ready, willing, and able to hit the ground running!

Among other things we will be working to provide you with interesting programs all year long. So, if you have a suggestion or

really want us to deep-dive into a specific topic, please let us know. We want to hear from you!

The USF Spring Plant Sale went well. This event was a huge success for TAVS, thanks to your participation. More on that in a minute.

Don't Forget: Dues are now due. If you haven't already paid, please put a check in the mail to Glenn.

See you soon,

Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

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The library address is:
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Seffner, FL 33584-3602

May 4th ZOOM meeting-special guest-Terri Vicenzi on Streptocarpus.

May 19th Day meeting-The Famous Trio-Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto and Mary Beth Bryant-

These are my Favorite Gesneriads-I'll Tell you Why!

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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5/5 Kathy Glenn
5/9 Mary Beth Bryant
5/17 Jerry Kast
5/17 Natalia Lukashova
5/24 Angelina Grundhoff



A note from member Stu Swayze

I'm not fatally ill but I've just finished 6 weeks of physical therapy for hip & knee problems. I get around fairly well. I really benefitted from the PT and am doing exercises at home plus I've started using machines at our fitness center. I expect by next month I'll be in shape to attend the next day meeting. Obviously a bum hip doesn't affect my ability to be on the zoom call.

Mary Lou spoke with Bonnie Smith who has had multiple falls in the past few weeks, and is now in a rehab facility down in Sun City.

We wish Stu and Bonnie best wishes for a quick recovery!

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

USF Spring Plant Sale

We had a very smooth setup on Thursday morning. The tents went up quickly and easily thanks to the efforts of Mary Lou, Celeste, Sandi, Jean and Sheryl. Many hands do make quick work! Saturday was the busiest day with good, steady crowds. Though the weather warmed up and there was a threat of rain, we sold a lot of African violet plants and supplies. Under the tent helping out were Celeste, Sandi, Mary Lou, Jean, Sheryl and Anita. The Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society was well represented by Mary Jane DiLorenzo, Jeanne Katzenstein, Penny Johnson, Marian Yeager, Fred Hendershot and Nancy Kast. There was a

wonderful spirit of camaraderie and a good time was had by all.



AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA

Plant Sale Only- Saturday May 6th from 9am to 3pm at The Beardall Senior Center 800 South Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801

2023 AVSA Convention
May 28th – June 4th
Atlanta, GA
REGISTER NOW!

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of April 6, 2023 Meeting
Night Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 7:05 pm

ROLL CALL: 10 members attending were Mary Lou Harden, Jim Matula, Mary Beth Bryant, Todd Grandy, Dorothea Zimmer Sandi Soto, Stuart Swayze, Sheryl Herold, Kathy Glenn and Lisa Villabol

PROGRAM:

A video on Bringing Home New Violets was a last minute switch due to technical difficulties with the CD on African Violet Species.

Mary Lou then asked each of us about our habits regarding the buying/ bringing home new plants. It seems most everyone in the club is careful and isolates for a period of

time.

Mary Lou reminded us that it is not only pests, but symptoms of INSV that we need to watch out for.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 2, 2023 meeting were approved as published.

Day Meeting:

4/21 – Attendees to bring food to the library to celebrate our club’s anniversary.

AVCF:

The council is hoping to have a display and sale in Orlando May 5th and 6th. Mary Lou will get confirmation of the dates.

AVSA:

Registration is now open for convention. When asked if anyone was going, Jim Matula, Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden all raised their hands.

USF:

Celeste will get help with the tents from Dr. Martinez’s office and meet us at USF Thursday, April 13th at 10:00 am.

Kathy Glenn mentioned that Gordons/GFS and Sam’s Club were good places to pick up boxes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April Birthdays

Angela Newell	4/3
Jim Matula	4/4
Mary Lou Harden	4/9
Dorothea Zimmer	4/17
Lynn Bandy	4/17

Dues are due in April.

Lynn Bandy is getting better each day and doing well.

Show & Tell:

Mary Lou showed African Violet Rob’s Vanilla Trail and Lisa Villabol showed

African Violet Silverglade Apples.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 Pm.

Mary Beth Bryant
Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Minutes of April 21st, 2023 Meeting
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10:18 am followed by the pledge of allegiance.

INSPIRATION: Celia Howe

ROLL CALL: 10 members attending were Mary Lou Harden, Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, Pat Rutzke, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Celia Howe, Lynn Bandy and Sheryl Herold. Two Guests were Sue Hendley a past member and her son.Ray.

MINUTES:
The minutes of the March 17th meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

PROGRAM: Mary Beth Bryant and Sandi Soto shared an AVSA video on "The Species".

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
NEW OFFICERS**

President: Mary Beth Bryant
Vice President: Celeste Christman
Treasurer: Glenn Shelton
Secretary: Lynn Bandy

OFFICER REPORTS:

May 4th ZOOM meeting-special guest-Terri Vicenzi on Streptocarpus.
May 19th day meeting-The Famous Trio-Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto and Mary Beth Bryant-
These are my Favorite Gesneriads-I'll

Tell you Why!

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TBGS:
Next meeting on May 20th 10am at the Seffner-Mango Library.

AVCF: Plant Sale Only- Saturday May 6th from 9am to 3pm at The Beardall Senior Center 800 South Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801

AVSA:
Registration is now open for the convention.

The AVSA magazine has many interesting articles this month including Tally Time- some of the most popular/winningest plants, My First Violets by Kurt Jablonski and an article on outer leaves.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Report on the USF plant sale:

The plant sale was a huge success with record sales and an emerging camaraderie between the two groups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April Birthdays –

4/3 Angela Newell
4/4 Jim Matula
4/9 Mary Lou Harden
4/17 Dorothea Zimmer
4/17 Lynn Bandy

Mary Lou spoke with Bonnie Smith who has had multiple falls in the past few weeks and is now in a rehab facility down in Sun City.

Show & Tell:
Mary Lou showed us a beautiful Party Dress , a sinningia hybridized by Thad Scaggs.

A plant raffle was held.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Lynn E Bandy
Secretary

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy*

Lemony Lemon Brownies

Ingredients:

3/4 cup all-purpose flour {King Arthur All-Purpose Flour}
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt {Sea Salt}
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
2 large eggs
2 tablespoons lemon zest
2 tablespoons lemon juice
For the tart lemon glaze:
4 tbsps lemon juice
8 tsps lemon zest
1 cup icing sugar

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
Grease an 8x8 inch baking dish with butter and set aside.
Zest and juice two lemons and set aside.
In the bowl of an electric mixture fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the flour, sugar, salt, and softened butter until combined.
In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, lemon zest, and lemon juice until combined.
Pour it into the flour mixture and beat for 2 mins at medium speed until smooth and

creamy.
Pour into baking dish and bake for 23-25 mins, should turn golden around the edges. Allow to cool completely before glazing. Do not overbake, or the bars will dry.
Filter the powdered sugar and whisk with lemon zest and juice.
Spread the glaze over the brownies with a rubber spatula and let glaze set.
Cut into bars and serve.



APRIL 3RD, 2023

Violet Magic * Eight Tips for Successful Repotting

Reprinted from the 2017 January/February issue of the [African Violet Magazine](#)
Kent and Joyce Stork

Many of us know someone who is a magician with plants. Everything seems to thrive in that person's care. The difference between a magic green thumb and a hapless brown thumb is often found in the subtle techniques of repotting. That's especially true with African violets. Sick violets often recover if repotting is done well. Healthy violets often become weak if repotting is done poorly. Great transplanting skills can make violets thrive. Here are some repotting tips to help you develop your green thumb.

Tip #1 Choose the right potting mix for your climate.

A quality African violet potting mix should provide good water-holding capacity and ample air pockets to guarantee healthy roots. Growing violets in a humid climate will

require a higher percentage of large-particles such as coarse perlite and/or coarse vermiculite. In a very dry climate, it is helpful to use more water-holding components such as sphagnum peat moss, coconut coir, and coarse vermiculite. In simpler terms: 1) If you have many problems with root rot, add more perlite to your mix. 2) If your violets tend to dry out too quickly, add more peat moss to your mix.

Tip #2 Begin by moistening the potting mix.

Very dry potting mix may become air-borne and cause coughing. Dry potting mix draws moisture out of delicate violet roots, causing the roots to wither. Pre-moistening your potting mix will eliminate both problems. Add approximately 1 part warm water to four parts of potting mix and stir vigorously to force the peat to absorb the water. The end result should have a moist crumbly texture which is neither dusty nor dripping wet.

Tip #3 Never pack the mix as you repot.

Always pile the mix loosely around the cutting or plant. Packing down the soil eliminates air pockets, increases the chances of root rot, and will actually stunt the violet's growth. Air pockets in the mix will discourage rot diseases and allow roots to flourish. Adding water after repotting will compact the soil to some degree, but this is unavoidable. As needed, you may add a little more potting mix to the top of the pot to stabilize the plant.

Tip #4 Keep the pot small and shallow.

African violet roots generally do not grow deep or wide. In nature violet roots grow into the cracks in limestone or in mossy areas above the rocks, epiphytically. Violets grown indoors do not require a lot of room for the roots, so the pot should always be smaller than the plant. A confined area for roots provides a mild threat to the violet's existence, and as such it triggers blooming. At full bloom, show violets are expected to be three times wider than the pot in which

they are grown. Position the plant so that all leaves and stems are above the soil line and only the roots are buried.

Tip #5 Repot often.

Any potted plant has a lot of chemistry going on in its pot. Water, fertilizer, and potting mix components interact and change chemically over time—usually for the worse. Fresh quality potting mix provides an ideal environment for the roots, but after just a few months that environment may be much less satisfactory. The effects of these chemical changes are more dramatic in smaller pots. For best results, repot violets growing in pots smaller than 3" every 2-3 months; repot violets in 4" or larger pots every 6-12 months.

Tip #6 Avoid disturbing roots during repotting if you want to keep enjoying the flowers or buds.

Whenever the fibrous roots of violets are disturbed, the roots tend to stop functioning. This may cause open flowers to collapse, and developing buds may open much smaller in size than usual. To preserve flowers and buds, lift the entire root ball from the pot and set it into a larger pot (this may be easier if the plant has been watered a day or so ahead of transplanting.) Add fresh potting mix around the edges as needed. This gentle move to a larger pot is sometimes called a "soft" transplant.

Tip #7 If you must disturb the roots, remove buds, flowers, and older outside leaves.

Sometimes it is necessary to pot a plant down (into a smaller pot) or to refresh the soil (removing all of the old mix). Disturbed roots will not function well until new roots are generated. Because flowers, buds and outer leaves will die from lack of water, simply remove them during the repotting process. This also allows you to bury the neck that is (or will be) exposed by those lost leaves. This harsher repotting is often called a "hard" transplant.

Tip #8 Reduce shock by enclosing

repotted violets in a clear plastic bag or a dome.

In average or dry climates, leaves will often wilt suddenly after a hard transplant. This is because the process of transpiration (the natural process of releasing water to the air through the leaves) continues whether or not roots are functioning. Transpiration may be reduced by increasing the humidity around the leaves. This can be done by enclosing the repotted plant in a closed environment (once the violet has been watered). Possible enclosures include clear domes, disposable plastic food containers, or large inflated clear plastic bags. Violets may stay safely inside these enclosures (out of direct sunlight) for a month or more, often without additional watering or need for attention. During that time it is normal to see condensed moisture inside the enclosure.

Happy Repotting!

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

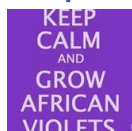
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Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. www.tampafricanviolets.com

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JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine (6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office

PO Box 22417

Beaumont, TX 77720.

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 is \$10 per year. which includes a quarterly newsletter, **(The Florida Connection,)**

Information: Linda Price, President,
laprice41@yahoo.com.

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

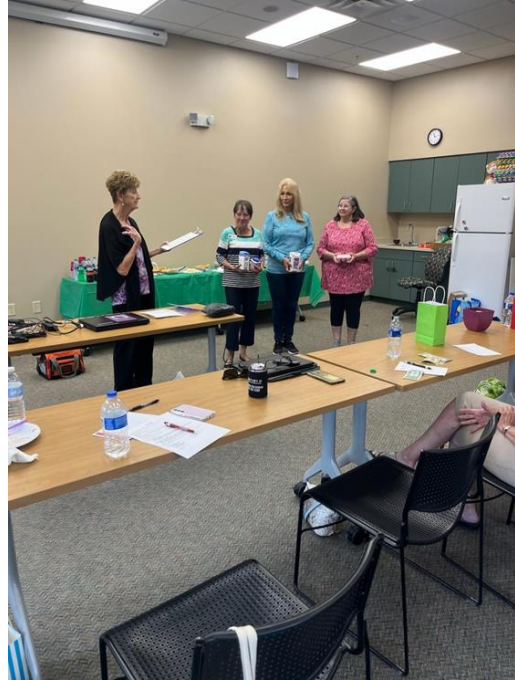
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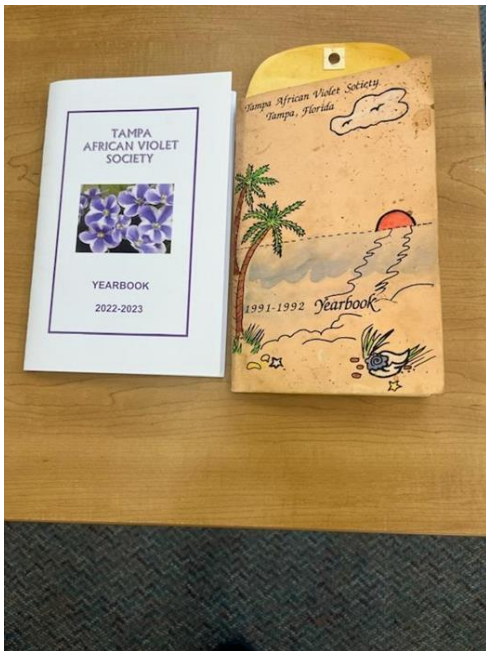
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Tampa African Violet Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material herein.

Thanks Celia Howe for these photos!



The installation of officers



Our guest brought in a copy of a yearbook from 1991-1992

From Mary Lou Harden



USF Plant sale

**Back Row: Penny, Fred, Jean, Mary Beth and Mary Lou
Front Row: Mary Jane, Sandi and Sheryl**

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BIG DADDY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello TAVS members and friends,

As I write this, we are in the middle of Memorial Day Weekend. I intend to grill some fish and vegetables and maybe sip something cool and refreshing.

More importantly, I am preparing to go to Atlanta and the AVSA Convention.

TAVS own Jim Boyer is overseeing the

judging school. Sandi Soto and Jim Matula will also attend and help to represent our club.

It is my first national convention and I am very excited! I want to take time to soak it all in—the people, the symposiums and the plants.

THE PLANTS!!

I simply cannot wait to get to the sales room! Of course, whether leaves or plants, I will be sharing my bounty with TAVS members. *smile*

Due to time constraints at the convention, there will be NO night ZOOM meeting Thursday, June 1st.

The day meeting Friday, June 16th will feature oral reports and impressions of all things relating to the convention.

See you when I get back from Atlanta,

Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner- Mango Public Library.

The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584

June 16th day meeting- Oral reports and impressions of the AVSA Convention

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



6/3 Jean Krauchik
6/17 Stuart Swayze
6/27 Bonnie Smith



Sandi Soto is scheduled for surgery 06/09/2023.

Bonnie Smith and Angelina Grundhoff are both recuperating.

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



TO: All Dixie African Violet Society Members

FROM: Robbie McMeel, Interim Convention Director

As we have all been in lockdown for the past few years due to COVID, DAVS will **finally** be able to sponsor a show/convention this year! Because of the super-expensive prices venues want to charge, the board has decided to have a 3-day show this year. We were able to secure

the Birmingham Botanical Gardens hall in Birmingham, Alabama, at a reasonable price. We were notified that the dates we requested were granted, which are Thursday October 19, Friday October 20, and Saturday October 21, 2023. More details on times and events will be forthcoming.

In years past, all of the events were held within one complex, but as mentioned above, it is now cost prohibitive for the Society. We will be getting information on local hotels/motels that are close to the show venue, along with local eateries. Each member will be responsible for their own hotel/motel reservations and eats. No meals will be provided by Dixie or Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). We will be inviting vendors to participate, as there is a room that can be used for them. We will try to have 1 or 2 speakers as in the past, but will need to see what time will be available for this. As this is our first year doing it this way, we will need to see what time will allow. Also, we will have a general membership meeting to take care of any business need be.

The Birmingham Club has offered to host the show, **but we will need help from all members to make this a good show.** As always, we will ask for your input for future shows, so that we can continue having this yearly event. We want all members to have a great time and get a chance to visit with old friends and make new ones.

So. . . **State Directors and ALL Dixie Members.** . . please help us get the word out by contacting all the affiliates and individual members in your state and let's plan to have a wonderful convention in Birmingham!

Respectfully,
Robbie McMeel

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
May 19, 2023,
Seffner-Mango Library

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:22 am.

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Anita Adlin, Jean Krauchik, Jim Boyer, Tom Schaefer, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Stuart Swayze and Mary Lou Harden.

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Celia Howe.

PROGRAM: “**These Are My Favorite Gesneriads – I’ll Tell You Why,**” by **Mary Beth Bryant – Primulinas**
Celeste Christman – Episcias
Sandi Soto – African Violets

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 21, 2023, meeting were approved as distributed.

NEW BUSINESS:

By general consent, it was agreed that the June 1 night meeting be cancelled since some of our members will be away, attending the AVSA convention in Atlanta.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The President reminded members to pay dues.

May Birthdays: Kathy Glenn (5/5), Mary Beth Bryant (5/9), Jerry Kast (5/17), Natalia Lukashova (5/17), and Angela Grundhoff (5/24)

Concerns: Angelina Grundhoff, Bonnie Smith, Sandi Soto (surgery 6/9)

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings furnished by Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by

Lynn Bandy

It's Vidalia Onion Season!

VIDALIA ONION PIE

INGREDIENTS

1 cup ritz cracker crumbs
4 tablespoons butter, melted
2 cups vidalia onions, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons butter
2 eggs
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
1 dash pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
paprika

DIRECTIONS

Mix Ritz cracker crumbs and 4 tablespoons melted butter.
Press mixture into an 8-inch pie plate. Bake for 10 mins
Saute onions with 2 Tablespoons butter until clear, not brown; spoon into pie crust.
Beat eggs with milk, salt, and pepper and pour over onions.
Sprinkle with cheese and paprika.
Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes or until firm in the center.

*African
Violet
Society of
America*

GROWING TIPS

March 20th, 2023

GROOM, GROOM, GROOM

Step one in a best practice violet growing regime should be the very regular removal of dead flowers."

Mary Schaeffer

GROOM, GROOM, GROOM

Written by Mary Schaeffer, *For*
Beginners Columnist

African Violet Magazine May-June 2014

When most people think of taking care of their violet collection, they think about watering, repotting, fertilizing and perhaps getting their plants ready for a show. For many people, grooming is something that only comes into serious consideration when they are getting plants ready for a show. This is unfortunate because regular grooming can make the difference between a blue-ribbon winner and a plant which stays home.

Flowers

Most growers will remove dead or fading flowers on a regular basis. This is something that should be done as soon as the flowers fade. The stalks of dead flowers are ugly. While it sounds easy enough, it's something you need to stay on top of. Of course, the more serious grower, concerned primarily about their annual shows, keep their violets disbudded nearly year-round and don't have this problem. But for the rest of us who like to enjoy their violets year-round, step one in a best

practice violet growing regime should be the very regular removal of dead flowers.

Leaves

Likewise look for small immature leaves below older leaves and remove them. This is very important when the plants are young. The small leaves were the first to emerge on the young plant but they never grow larger. They have to be removed at some point if you want a strong healthy plant, so remove them as soon as other leaves are growing above them to a larger size. They are easy to identify. They are typically the ones on the bottom which are smaller than those on the next row of leaves above them. Also, on a regular basis, remove yellowing leaves. Again, these tend to be the bottommost row. They do not add to the strength of the plant, but rather detract from it. Also, they are unsightly. Remove them early on and your plants will be stronger. The plant's energy can go into supporting healthy leaves and producing new ones.

Suckers

Lastly, be on the lookout for suckers. Suckers are those secondary side-shoots that, left alone, soon produce another full crown – ruining the symmetry of the rosette of leaves. Once removed, suckers may be rooted to produce another plant. However, they sap energy from the primary crown and (until separated) both crowns will produce fewer flowers. The trick with suckers is to distinguish them from bloom stalks. When they are quite small, that may take a little detective work. Look closely at the emerging growth (between the leaf axils.) If it has only two leaves, it may be a bloom stalk. Once it has three or more, it is definitely a sucker. Carefully remove the sucker, for if you are not careful, you might damage the mother plant. The smaller the sucker, the easier it is to remove. You may use a dull pencil, a small knife, your fingernails, or my favorite – a tool called a “sucker plucker.” Every week or two, look at your plants. Pick up each violet and look at it closely for spent flowers, small leaves, yellowed leaves, and

suckers. Remove all of them.

Washing Your Plants

While we don't really grow violets for their foliage, the leaves on a well-grown violet can be quite beautiful. That doesn't happen without some effort. Think about your home. No matter how good your housekeeping is, eventually dust gets in. And dust doesn't discriminate. It lands equally on all surfaces, including the space where your violets live. Left unchecked, that dust will block the pores of the foliage and leave the plant with an overall dull appearance.

Removing that grime is relatively easy. Wash your plants. Don't use a dusting product (it's oily.) Also, washing is much easier if you do it when the plant is not in bloom – but you probably figured that out already.

Take the plant to your sink and give it a good spritzing. If your sink has a sprayer attachment, you may use that. If not, mist the plant, using a plastic sprayer bottle, being gentle not to break leaves. The water used should be room temperature or warmer, but of course not scalding hot. Give each plant a nice gentle shower making sure you thoroughly cover every leaf. Since you've already got the plant at the sink, this might be a good time to leach the soil as well. This involves pouring a cup (or more) of clear plain water into the top of the pot and through the roots to help rid it of any fertilizer salts which may have built up in the pot. This is especially important if you bottom water.

Don't let the plant stand in the water that drains off the plant, for violets don't like wet feet. You might check the center of the crown to make sure no water has settled in there. Gently dab the excess water up with a tissue to remove it.

If you are growing under lights, you may return the plants whenever you want to their usual location since the moisture on the leaves is unlikely to cause any damage. If you grow in natural light however, let the plants dry thoroughly before returning them to a window with direct sunlight.

Concluding Thoughts

Spend a little time grooming each of your plants on a regular basis and they'll repay you by blooming their heads off – and isn't that why we grow them?
Content updated 2020

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

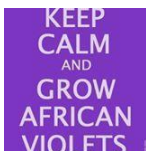
Visit us at:

www.tampafricanviolets.com

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

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Tampa African Violet Society



Join us on Twitter:

twitter.com/TAVSviolets

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine (6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office
PO Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720.
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 is \$10 per year, which includes a quarterly newsletter, **(The Florida Connection,)** Information: Linda Price, President, laprice41@yahoo.com.

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

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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JULY 2023

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www.tampafricanviolets.com

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CAJUN'S STORM WATCH

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello TAVS members and friends,

AVSA convention 2023 in Atlanta is now part of history. I hope that you enjoyed hearing my first impressions (on a first convention!) and caught the excitement in my voice. I am definitely going next year. It is a great opportunity to put names and faces together and make new violet friends.

As an aside, if you haven't yet looked at the pictures on the AVSA website, please do. You will see what fun we had.

Though the heat and humidity and lack of rain is getting to me, my African violets are doing well. Staying inside to escape the heat leads me to spend more time in the plant room. I have taken trays off the stands and looked, really looked at all my violets giving extra attention where needed. I even had a few surprise me-looking at you, RS Zimniy Tsvdok and Trinket Terrific. How are your own African violets doing?

Another easy way you can beat the heat is to join me this Thursday night at 7 pm for our ZOOM meeting. This program has been put together by Glenn Shelton and will showcase speakers from some of our affiliate clubs. As an especial treat we will hear from Mary Corondan, who was just installed as AVSA President.

Lastly, I have a couple of reminders: USF Fall Plant Sale will be here before we know it, please be thinking about how you can help out either with setup or sales or both.

Though our own club show is further out, we still need to come up with a theme. Jim Boyer sent out a listing of show themes. Did

you like any of them? Do you have an idea of your own that you would like to share? If so, great ! Please let us hear from you. See you soon,

Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner- Mango Public Library.

The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584

July 6th ZOOM Meeting

Glenn Shelton will be presenting speakers from some of our affiliate clubs.

July 21st Day meeting

Celeste Chrisman will be presenting Leaf and Blossom Types.

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



7/3 Nancy Kast

7/12 Pat Rutzke

7/22 Roselind Rovinsky



Sandi Soto had surgery 06/09/2023.

Bonnie Smith sends greetings and says she misses everyone.

She's ready now to start building her violet collection and will be happy to accept donations of plants or leaves. If you would like to donate a plant or some leaf cuttings, please bring them to the day meeting on July 21 and we'll make a special delivery to Bonnie in her new home in Sun City.

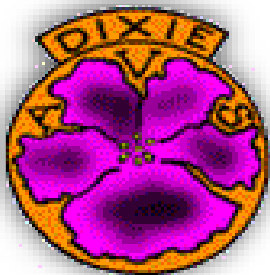
Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings!
nybleb@aol.com, mlhard@verizon.net



October 14th and 15th, 2023
USF FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday 10AM to 4, Sunday 10 AM to 3.
9:30 entry for members both days
Admission: \$5 for general public, free for members.
Free entry for children 12 and under.

OCTOBER 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST, 2023



Dixie African Violet Society
Show/Convention
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, Alabama

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
June 16th, 2023,
Seffner-Mango Library

The meeting was called to order
by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:20 am.
Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Jim Boyer, Stuart Swayze, Glenn Shelton, Lynn Bandy, and Mary Lou Harden.

PROGRAM: "AVSA Convention recap"

Mary Beth Bryant, Jim Matula and Jim Boyer shared some of their experiences from the AVSA Convention in Atlanta.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 19th, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Glenn Shelton reported there were no changes since previous report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion regarding our participation in the fall USF plant sale.

It was decided that we would participate in the fall sale.

There was some discussion regarding the amount of participation we could/would expect from The Gesneriad Society going forward.

A suggestion was made about having some signs made:

Follow us on Facebook!

Join us in our ZOOM meetings.

Join us at our in-person meetings.

Follow us on Twitter!

Glenn Shelton reported he would be working closely with Gladys Cook to update/upgrade our Web page.

Discussion about our annual show in February.

Mary Lou Harden will be contacting the Temple Terrace United Methodist Church to secure the venue.

Jim Boyer will be sending out an email with "Show Theme" suggestions.

We will be making a decision on the show

theme at the July day meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The President reminded members to pay dues.

June Birthdays: 6/3 Jean Krauchik, 6/17 Stuart Swayze and 6/27 Bonnie Smith.

Sandi Soto had surgery on June 9th. Recovering.

Next night meeting will be “Introducing our Affiliates” presented by Glenn Shelton.

Next day meeting will be on Leaves and Blossom Types presented by Celeste Christman.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings furnished by Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Lynn E Bandy recording secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

DISNEY DOLE WHIP

INGREDIENTS

2 cups frozen pineapple chunks
1 cup vanilla ice cream

DIRECTIONS

Place all ingredients in a blender; cover and process until thick, stopping and scraping sides as needed. Pipe into 2 bowls or glasses, topping each with a swirl.



JANUARY 30th, 2023

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS HUMIDITY

QUESTION: How much humidity do African violets need? **Answer:** African violets can tolerate humidity as low as 10%, but that is so dry that tiny buds rarely survive to open as flowers. To encourage flower development, it is best to aim for 30-60%. Fungus diseases often thrive in higher humidity and may be almost uncontrollable over 60%. Oddly, when a violet crown has no roots, we recommend enclosing it in a Ziploc bag or in a dome with 100% humidity for a month or two. That high level of humidity restricts evaporation from the leaves and allows excellent conditions for roots to form. That treatment is not recommended in warm tropical climates where disease spores may be more prevalent.

QUESTION: What is the range of humidity the plant is use to and what temperature range? I am putting some in a vivarium with the humidity around 80-90% plus the amount of water needed. I mist once or twice a day. **Answer:** If the humidity range is actually in the 80-90% range, you may not need to add much water at all. African violets in nature commonly grow in a range of 30- 60% humidity with temperatures ranging from the low 60's to the 80's

Fahrenheit. At high humidity, fungus diseases are more likely to thrive, especially in an enclosed environment. I would suggest trying just one African violet in the vivarium to see how it does for a few months before you try more. Updated 07-2020

Become a **MEMBER**

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Visit us at:

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

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Information: Linda Price, President, laprice41@yahoo.com.

www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

nybleb@aol.com

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**SMOKEY
EYES**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello TAVS members and Whew, it sure is **HOT** outside!
If it's any consolation, the months are flying by. Here we are in August, which means our 2024 club show entitled "Art Through the Ages" is a mere 6 months out. It's time to start assessing your collection and giving extra attention to plants you are considering entering. Having backup plants for show is also a very good idea as African violets do not always behave as we'd like.
If you have questions or concerns about any of your plants, I encourage you to let one of

us know. Though it's hard to see a plant on ZOOM, it's not impossible. Better yet, bring your plants to a day meeting and let us help you with it.

Besides working on our show, TAVS members are working on programs as well as a new yearbook. If you need to update your information for the yearbook, now is the time. Don't wait, send Mary Lou an email.

See you soon!
Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

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Seffner, FL 33584

August 3rd ZOOM Meeting
Primulinas

August 18th Day meeting
Mary Lou Harden will be presenting
Miniature Choices for Container Gardens

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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8/7 Gladys Cook
8/10 Gloria Latter
8/27 Sandi Soto



Nancy Kast fell and broke her other hip. She is currently in rehab. Below is her address if you would like to send a note or card.
Nancy Katz
C/o Lakes at Lutz Health and Rehab
19091 North Dale Mabry Hwy
Lutz, fFL33548

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



**October 14th and 15th, 2023
USF FALL PLANT SALE**

Saturday 10AM to 4, Sunday 10 AM to 3.
9:30 entry for members both days
Admission: \$5 for general public, free for members.
Free entry for children 12 and under.

OCTOBER 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST, 2023



**Dixie African Violet Society
Show/Convention**
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, Alabama

MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
July 21st, 2023,
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order
by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:16 am.
Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Jim Boyer, Stuart Swayze, Glenn Shelton, Lynn Bandy, Sandi Soto, Anita Adlin, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Tom Schaefer, and Mary Lou Harden.

PROGRAM:

Celeste Christman presented the program Leaf and Blossom Types. She provided a great handout with beautiful photos. If you are interested in getting one contact either Celeste or myself and we will get one to you.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 16th, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

OFFICERS REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT:

Glenn Shelton reported.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OUR SHOW:

Sandi Soto has volunteered to be the Show Chair

The evening group suggested and approved the Show Title "Art Through The Ages". The day members voted and approved the title.

The Tampa Gesneriad Society approached Mary Lou Harden with a request to have a display and sales tables in conjunction with our show.

The Executive Committee met and suggested some "Conditions" for their participation.

- A. They would provide half of the fee for the church rental
- B. They would participate in both set up and tear down
- C. They would provide and maintain their own cash/credit sales.
- D. They would accept a proposed layout of both sales tables and display tables.

Jim Boyer made a motion to approach the TBGS with the above conditions. Sandi Soto seconded the motion. All members were in agreement and passed said motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Our own Mary Lou Harden was awarded a Continued Service Award from The American African Violet Society! Congratulations Mary Lou!

Discussion regarding our participation in the fall USFplant sale. October 14th and 15th A suggestion was made about having some signs made in an attempt to capture younger members.

Follow us on Facebook!
Join us in our ZOOM meetings.
Join us at our in-person meetings.
Follow us on Twitter!
Celeste Christman will be looking into the use of a QR code also.

A suggestion was made to look into Apple Pay, Cash App etc in addition to Square for sales.

Glenn Shelton reported he would be working closely with Gladys Cook to update/upgrade our Web page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The President reminded members to pay dues.

July Birthdays: 7/3 Nancy Kast, 7/12 Pat Rutzke and 7/22 Roselind Rovinsky

Sandi Soto had surgery on June 9th.
Recovering.

Nancy Kast fell and broke her other hip.

The August 3rd ZOOM meeting program is TBD

The August 18th Day program Mary Lou Harden will be presenting Miniature Choices for Container Gardens

SHOW AND TELL

Anita Adlin brought in "Frozen in Time"

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings furnished by Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Lynn E Bandy recording secretary



Our very own Mary Lou Harden received this award from The AVSA!



RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy*

CHOCOLATE LASAGNA

Ingredients

36 Oreo cookies (regular, not double stuffed)
6 tablespoons butter, melted
8 oz cream cheese, softened
¼ cup granulated sugar
3¼ cups cold milk, plus 2 tablespoons, divided
12 oz tub Cool Whip, divided
2 – 3.9 oz packages chocolate instant pudding mix
½ cup mini chocolate chips

Instructions

In a large food processor, crush Oreo cookies into fine crumbs. Make sure there are no large chunks left.

In a medium bowl, mix melted butter into cookie crumbs using a fork. When the butter is thoroughly mixed in, transfer it to a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Using a spatula, press the crumbs down into the bottom of the baking dish as evenly as possible. Put baking dish in refrigerator while you work on the next step.

In a medium bowl, mix the cream cheese with an electric beater until fluffy. Add the 2 tablespoons of cold milk and sugar and mix well. With large spoon or spatula, mix in 1¼ cups of the Cool Whip until combined. Spread cream cheese mixture over cookie crust. Return baking dish to refrigerator and let chill for 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, mix together chocolate instant pudding and 3¼ cups cold milk with electric beater or whisk until the pudding starts to thicken. Spread the pudding over the cream cheese layer.

Return baking dish to refrigerator and let chill for 10 more minutes.

Have a seat on your couch and dream of how delicious this heavenly dessert is going to be. Start to drool.

Spread remaining Cool Whip over the pudding layer and sprinkle mini chocolate chips over the top. (Feel free to use more than ½ cup of the chocolate chips if you want more!)

Chill in fridge for 4 hours or freezer for 1 hour.

*African
Violet
Society of
America*

GROWING TIPS

Getting the Planting Depth Just Right

Some growers struggle to know how deep to plant young violets when repotting. It's important, because when a violet plug is planted too deep, it may not survive



See where the arrow is pointing, right between the leaf axils and the roots? That is the critical point for potting. The roots should be entirely below and the leaf axils entirely above the level of the soil.

Here is the same violet plug planted at exactly the correct soil depth.



No soil is piled into the center of the plant where it could overwhelm the growth point or trigger suckers to develop.

Plant violets at the right depth for success.

Become a **MEMBER**

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Visit us at:

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

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laprice41@yahoo.com.

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Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

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

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SOME PHOTOS FROM MARY LOU HARDEN



AV LIVE WIRE



AV LIVE WIRE

THE PETAL

SEPTEMBER 2023

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
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a little common sense and remember that



**RAINY DAY
WISHES**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hurricane season is a fact of life here in Florida. Whenever a storm comes our way, I hope that during your preparations, you give some thought to your African violets as well. Do you grow at or near a window? Consider moving them away to a safer spot to protect against wind damage. Do you display them on a low table? Maybe move them to higher spot to protect against water damage.

Whether you have 1, 10, 20 or 200 plants, make sure that they are protected. Just use

though your plants are replaceable, you are not!

Though the temperatures here may not feel like it, Fall is the start of another show season as many African violet clubs around the country will have their own show and sale in the coming months. Close to home are the USF Fall Sale, October 14-15th in Tampa, FL and Dixie African Violet Society Show and Sale, October 19-21st in Birmingham, AL. I hope that TAVS members participate in both these events.

Between now and our own club show in February, we will have programs designed to help you get the most out of your own plants. Our September zoom meeting will feature Glenda Williams, who will talk about trailers. The September in-person meeting will feature Glenn Shelton whose wide ranging program "Decapitation and Other Stuff People Are Too Scared to Do!" is sure to be a big help to all of us. ☺

See you soon,
Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

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

Seffner- Mango Public Library.
The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584

SEPTEMBER 7th ZOOM Meeting
Glenda Williams, will talk about trailers.

SEPTEMBER 22nd Day meeting
Glenn Shelton will be presenting his wide ranging program "Decapitation and Other Stuff People Are Too Scared to Do!" This is sure to be a big help to all of us.



9/13 Sheryl Herold

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



Nancy Kast has been released from the rehab center and returned home. She and Jerry will be moving soon to be closer to their children due to their health issues. Please keep Nancy and Jerry in your thoughts and prayers.

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



October 14th and 15th, 2023
USF FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday 10AM to 4, Sunday 10 AM to 3.
9:30 entry for members both days
Admission: \$5 for general public, free for members.
Free entry for children 12 and under.

OCTOBER 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST, 2023



**Dixie African Violet Society
Show/Convention**
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, Alabama

MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
August 18th, 2023,
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order
by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:20 am.
Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Glenn Shelton

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Jim Boyer, Anita Adlin, Glenn Shelton, Lynn Bandy, Sandi Soto, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Bonnie Smith, and Mary Lou Harden.

PROGRAM:

Mary Lou Harden gave us an informative overview of types of plants you could use for container gardens for our show. Her very informative handout will be included

as an attachment with the Petal mailing.

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 21st, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

OFFICERS REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT:

Glenn Shelton reported.

OUR SHOW:

Mary Beth announced she had yet to be able to touch base with the Tampa Gesneriad Society President to discuss the terms of their participation in our show.

Sandi Soto show chair requested volunteers to fill show committee chair positions. Multiple members volunteered and Sandi will publish the list along with the show schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August Birthdays: 8/7 Gladys Cook, 8/10 Gloria Latter and 8/27 Sandi Soto

Nancy Kast has been able to return home from Rehab, however due to her and Jerry's health issues they will be moving closer to family.

Mary Lou Harden is currently working on the yearbook.

Discussion regarding our participation in the fall USF plant sale. October 14th and 15th

Per Glenn Shelton plants were already ordered for sale.

Jim Boyer suggested looking into African Violet Nerds Facebook page as a fun resource.

JUDGING SCHOOL

Jim Boyer announced there will be a

Judging School on November 4th, 2023, at The Seffner-Mango Library. Registration for the school is \$20.

Contact Jim Boyer if you would like to register.

jasb39@gmail.com

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings furnished by Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Lynn E Bandy recording secretary

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy*

GLAZED LEMON POUND CAKE

INGREDIENTS

CAKE

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened, plus more for pan
- 3 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled), plus more for pan
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup low-fat buttermilk
- Zest of 2 lemons, finely grated
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup fresh lemon juice (about 2 lemons)
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups sugar

- 5 large eggs

GLAZE

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 to 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees, with rack in lowest position. Butter and flour two 4 1/2-by-8-inch (6-cup) loaf pans.
2. In a small bowl (or liquid measuring cup), combine buttermilk with lemon zest and juice. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, salt, baking powder, and baking soda.
3. With an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
4. With mixer on low, add flour mixture in three parts alternately with the buttermilk mixture in two, beginning and ending with flour; beat just until smooth (do not overmix).
5. Divide batter evenly between pans; smooth tops. Bake until a toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean, 50 to 60 minutes (tent with foil if browning too quickly). Cool 15 minutes in pan. Turn out cakes onto a rack; cool completely before glazing.
6. Set rack with cakes over a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Pour glaze over cakes, letting it run down the sides; let dry, about 30 minutes.

The batter can also be baked in a 12-cup buttered and floured nonstick Bundt pan; the cooking and cooling times are the same.

GROWING TIPS

AUGUST 14, 2023

I FORGOT TO WATER MY VIOLETS AND NOW THEY ARE AS DRY AS THE DESERT!

NOW WHAT?

We've all made the mistake of forgetting to water one of our violets. You might not notice until its soil is a dry block and your beautiful plant is all droopy. It's very tempting to give that thirsty violet one large drink. Unfortunately, that large drink could do more harm than good. Just like you wouldn't take someone who is dehydrated and give them a quick dunk in a swimming pool, you don't want to treat you violet that way either!

Giving your plant a little bit of water and then waiting for it to absorb into the soil and then giving it a little more and waiting again, gives the roots and soil a chance to re-hydrate slowly and thoroughly. If you water the entire root ball with a large amount of water all at once, it can cause problems. It could cause white spiderweb like patters on the leaves from absorbing too much water too quickly or damage already fragile roots. The soil might not fully re-hydrate from one fast watering and could be left with dry pockets of soil or only a wet surface. Treat your violet like that dehydrated person in the desert, let it sip water a little at a time and slowly recover. This will return the soil to its evenly moist state and allow your plant to recuperate at a leisurely pace it can handle.

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SOME PHOTOS FROM MARY LOU HARDEN



SINNINGIA PARTY DRESS

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**MAS
WICKED
WITCH**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy October! Have you been dreaming of cooler weather? I know I have been and so have my African violets. Finally, the calendar is catching up to us. I hope we have good weather for the USF sale which is coming up in 2 weeks. My fingers are crossed. ☺ Setup is Thursday, Oct 12th at 10 am in Tampa. Please come and help. Likewise, we need everyone to pitch in and help on the sale days. Answering questions, boxing sold plants for customers, keeping

the booth stocked with plants and supplies and taking tags so amounts can be rung up are jobs which are vital to our success. It is work, but it is also a lot of fun. We get to talk about our favorite plant with members of the community, many of whom come to see us at every sale!

I was present at the AVCF Fall Meeting held via Zoom this past Saturday. Stephen Covolo-Hudson gave a program on hybridizing. My favorite plant of his, Steffano's Azure Diamonds, is a real beauty. The business meeting accomplished a great deal including deciding to have a show in the fall of 2024! Details still to be worked out by show co-chairs Bobbi Johannsen and Cathy Carter, both of Jacksonville. Linda Price, President, appointed Mary Lou Harden as Chair and Cathy Carter to the Nominating Committee. The remaining three appointments to the Nominating Committee were Sandi Soto (congratulations, Sandi!), Carolee Carter and Mary Jane DiLorenzo. It was gratifying to see so many TAVS members on this zoom call. If you are not yet a member of AVCF, please consider joining. After all, it is our state organization.

We will be meeting for lunch following the Friday October 20th in person meeting.

Please join us at:
Bob Evans, 11720 Tampa Gateway Blvd.,
Seffner FL 33584. 😊

See you soon,
Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner- Mango Public Library.

The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584

OCTOBER 5th ZOOM Meeting

.Dale Martens, Sherrard, IL: "HydraFiber and Other Gowing Suggestions".

OCTOBER 20th Day meeting

Tom Schaeffer: "Plant and Soil Chemistry"

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



AVSA Virtual Circle Presentation
by Sandi Soto

If you'd like to be more successful with your African violets, you should consider joining the African Violet Society of America (AVSA) so you can take advantage of their Virtual Circle Zoom presentations. On November 12 at 2PM Eastern time, noted AV fancier Kathy Lahti will present "Preparing Violets for Show," including selection, grooming, and even how to transport your AVs safely. Like the rest of us, Kathy has a busy life, and can't devote all her time to her plants. She freely admits to having AVs that look like palm trees! I'm hoping to hear how she turns palm trees into prize winners!

The goal of the Virtual Circle is to provide information to AVSA members, particularly those who don't have a local affiliate club. While attendance at the Zoom presentation is limited to AVSA members, you can sign up for a Digital Membership for only \$28 a year, and get all the benefits of regular membership EXCEPT your "African Violet Magazine" will be a pdf rather than in print. I enjoyed interviewing Kathy for the AVSA website article you can read at:

<https://africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/virtual-circle/>.

A second Virtual Circle Zoom, focused on the upcoming AVSA Convention, will take place in January, with a third currently planned for July. Depending on interest and attendance, the Virtual Circle committee will consider offering up to 4 Virtual Circles annually.



10/15 Celeste Christman
10/22 Lisa Villabol



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



October 14th and 15th, 2023 USF FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday 10AM to 4, Sunday 10 AM to 3.
9:30 entry for members both days
Admission: \$5 for general public, free for members.
Free entry for children 12 and under.

OCTOBER 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST, 2023



**Dixie African Violet Society
Show/Convention**
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, Alabama

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY September 15th, 2023, Thonotosassa Library

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:14 am. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jim Matula, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Glenn Shelton, Lynn Bandy, Sandi Soto, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Bonnie Smith, Lisa Villabol, and Mary Lou Harden.

Guests: Tom and Jean Smith, and new members Grace Bel and Jim Rogers.

PRORAM:

Glenn Shelton presented a very informative program “Decapitation and Other Stuff People Are Too Scared to Do!” He provided us with many ideas and suggestions for repotting, soil mixing, infestation prevention and decapitating our plants.

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 18th, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

OFFICERS REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT:

Glenn Shelton reported.

OUR SHOW:

Mary Beth announced she was able to touch base with the Tampa Gesneriad Society President to discuss the terms of their participation in our show and is awaiting their decision.

Sandi Soto show chair reported that the show schedule was presented to AVSA for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

September Birthdays: 9/13 Sheryl Herold

Mary Lou Harden completed the Yearbook and distributed them to attending members.

USF Plant sale: October 14th and 15th
Set up will be 10/12 at 10am

Per Glenn Shelton plants were already ordered for sale.

Mary Beth Bryant and Sandi Soto will be going to The Peacock Cottage on Friday 10/13 to pick them up. ROAD TRIP!

Project Plants are available for members.

JUDGING SCHOOL

There will be a Judging School on

November 4th, 2023, at The Seffner-Mango Library.

Registration for the school is \$20. Contact Jim Boyer if you would like to register.

jasb39@gmail.com

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings furnished by Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Lynn E Bandy recording secretary

RECIPE BOX



This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

PUMPKIN DIP

- 1 30oz can pumpkin pie filling
- 1 10 oz container Cool Whip
- 4 4 serving packets instant vanilla pudding

Mix all ingredients, chill, serve with ginger snaps and/or Vanilla wafers

African Violet Society of America	<h1 style="margin: 0;">GROWING TIPS</h1>
--------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

MIXING IT UP

Written for the 2019 November-December issue of the *African Violet Magazine*

By Sandra Skalski, Columnist of “My First Violets”

Whether your first violets are starter plants or mature plants, at some point, you will need to repot them. Repotting once or twice a year enhances growth, and fresh growth encourages blooming. What will you use for a potting mix? My first violets were gifts from my grandmother when I was 10 years old. As a young girl, I had no idea what a “soilless mix” was, and even if I knew, I still would have selected the closest thing at hand... the endless supply of soil in my backyard. That wasn't the best decision and those violet are long gone, but now I know a good deal more about what makes a good potting mix for African violets.

What does a potting mix do? Physically a potting mix provides a substrate to anchor the roots for the plant to grow. It makes water and oxygen available to the roots. Chemically, the mix holds the nutrients the plant needs. In the wild, African violets grow in crevices and loose substrate on rocky cliffs or porous rocks. You want a potting mix that approximates these conditions: evenly moist but well-draining, slightly

acidic, and with a loose crumbly texture. Potting mixes suitable for African violets contain no actual soil' that is why they are called soilless mixes. Here are some tips to help you make a good decision for your plants' mix.

POTTING MIX INGREDIENTS

The most common ingredients in potting mixes are sphagnum peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and dolomite lime. Sphagnum peat moss comes from a bog plant that grows in low-pH, poorly draining environments. Since other plants cannot grow under these conditions, peat moss is free of weeds and weed seeds. It also has good water-holding capacity, which makes it ideal for houseplants and container gardens.

Perlite is made by heating a type of volcanic rock to a very high temperature. The water trapped in the rock expands, creating a light, porous material. There are various type of perlite, sorted by the average size of the particles, from very fine to quite chunky. Look for coarse or horticultural grade perlite. If it is sold by a numerical grade, look for grades 3 or 4.

Vermiculite is made by heating up a type of laminated rock. It expands into a very light material that has excellent water-holding

capacity and can improve soil aeration. In general, perlite drains better than vermiculite.

Dolomite lime is a powder-fine ground rock that is used to adjust the pH and add calcium and magnesium to the potting mix. Most peat moss has a pH of around 3.5 to 4, which is well outside the ideal pH for African violets and most other plants. Unless you are buying pure peat moss, most commercial potting mixes have some added dolomite lime to adjust the pH. Be sure to look for the powdered dolomite. The granular type is for lawns and gardens.

Coir now is included in many commercial potting mixes. Coir is ground-up coconut husks. Compared to peat moss, coir has higher water retention, a finer texture and a neutral pH. Many growers have had success using this material, but I have found that I need to use a lot more perlite to make a mix suitable for wick-watering.

YOUR POTTING MIX



There is no single, perfect potting mix. The best potting mix for your plants depends on

your growing conditions, including the general temperature and humidity, and how your water and fertilize your plants. If you wick water or mat water, you will want to use a potting mix that contains 40% to 60% perlite. If you buy a ready-made mix, look for words like “wicking mix” to let you know that this is a well-draining material.

The African violets you buy in the supermarket or big box store might be in a much heavier mix that holds a good bit of water. This makes sense because once these plants leave the greenhouse, their care won't be as consistent. When people get them home, it is easy to overwater them and kill them with kindness. Your violets still can grow in these mixes as long as you are careful to water them only when the top inch or so of the soil feels dry to the touch.

If you are a new grower with a small number of plants, consider getting your potting mix from one of our AVSA commercial growers or an eBay supplier recommended by another grower. They've already done the work for you to blend an optimal mix, especially for African violets. As a new grower, you have many things to learn, and having a tried and true potting mix can eliminate one variable.

Many popular horticultural supply companies offer bags of potting mix

especially for African violets. They usually come in 8-quart sizes, so it is ideal for the hobbyist with a small collection. Some of these mixes contain fertilizer, so if you choose to use them, be sure to cut back on your own fertilizer for the first few months after you repot. These blends are sold to be used straight out of the bag, but they generally are heavier mixes with very little perlite. I have had success mixing these blends evenly (50/50) with coarse perlite or a 40% mix to 60% coarse perlite. The percentage of perlite can vary because of factors like coarseness or individual growing conditions. Even variations in the base mix can affect the water-holding capacity of the final product. Start with a 50/50 blend and adjust as needed.

If you have a lot of plants or you just like to “do it yourself,” you can easily blend your own African violet potting mix. A good place to start is with either Pro-Mix BX or Pro-Mix HP, or a similar commercial mix. These brands are readily available in garden centers or horticultural supply stores. One drawback is that the base-mix comes in large bags or compressed bales. Depending on the number of plants you have, that might mean you have a very large supply of potting mix.

If it seems like that much potting mix will be

more than you can foresee using, consider teaming up with your local club or growing friends to share the cost of materials. Mixing up a good potting mix could be a fun club activity, and a good opportunity to learn about potting mix and repotting violets. There are a lot of good recipes, probably as many as there are growers. Talk to successful growers; most of them will be happy to share their recipes.



OTHER ADDITIONS

I don't add vermiculite to my potting mix because I wick water, and I think the vermiculite makes the mixture hold too much water. The Pro-Mix I use contains mycorrhizae, which are beneficial fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with the roots and enhance their ability to absorb water and nutrients. Since the mycorrhizae in the base mix don't have a long shelf-life, I add some additional mycorrhizae before I pot up my plants. I adjust my pH with dolomite lime to a range of 6.5 to 6.8. This is a good pH range, however many successful growers

do not test or adjust their pH since most base mixes already have some dolomite lime added.

You might have read a lot about fertilizers and additives some growers include in their potting mixes. Before you start adding a laundry list of “special” additives, be sure first that you can tell whether any positive or negative changes to your plants are related to the potting mix and not some other change. No matter how promising you think the improvements or additives are going to be, try the new mix on just a few plants at first. Even the most experienced growers have made the mistake of moving an entire collection to something new, only to discover weeks or months later that perhaps they should have given it a test-drive first.

That wasn't so hard, was it? Is it time for your plants to be repotted? Buy some of your favorite mix or mix up a batch and get to it. No matter what potting mix you choose, you will find that the best “additive” of all is your time and consistent care.

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

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

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.

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SOME PHOTOS FROM MARY LOU HARDEN



ACHIMENES PEACH GLOW

THE PETAL

NOVEMBER 2023

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

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



**COUNTRY
CIDER**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

October and the USF Fall Plant Sale is now history. TAVS made a net profit of \$237.69, which is decent considering that the college now takes 20% instead of 10% of our gross sales. On a more positive note, I think we did much better on the intangible side of things. TAVS member Gladys Cook and her son, Johnny, came down from Tallahassee expressly for this event. Together they collected email addresses, pointed out the QR code and talked up our new and improved club website and Instagram page. The response from the public was extremely

positive. I can't thank them enough for all the technical assistance they provided and continue to provide.

I would also like to acknowledge those who drove over to the college two days in a row just to set up the booth. Mary Lou, Celeste, Sandi, Jean and new member, Jim Rogers-- it wouldn't have gotten done without your help. Thanks as well to everyone who helped out over the course of the sale.

Whatever you did, whether you took money/tags, bagged plants and supplies or just answered questions from the public, you helped promote our club. It was work, but it was worth it. Plus, we had cake! We celebrated Celeste's birthday with a yummy cheesecake. 😊

Since it's the month of Thanksgiving, I will tell you what I am grateful for. I am grateful for each and every club member. I don't expect 100% participation at every single event because that's unrealistic. Rather my motto is "Do what you can when you can". I hope I continue to recognize your contributions, large or small. Together we are Tampa African Violet Society.
Mary Beth

P.S. Let's go eat together! Join me at Bob Evans after the day meeting on the 17th. Please join us at:

Bob Evans, 11720 Tampa Gateway Blvd.,
Seffner FL 33584. ☺

See you soon,
Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM at The Seffner- Mango Public Library.

The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584

NOVEMBER 2nd ZOOM Meeting

"Welcome to Peacock Cottage" presented by
Laura Perdomo, Ocala, FL

NOVEMBER 17th Day meeting

"Growing and Grooming for Show"
Presented by Sandi Soto

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden will be hosting the virtual night 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! The club business meeting will follow.

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!



AVSA Virtual Circle Presentation
by Sandi Soto

If you'd like to be more successful with your African violets, you should consider joining the African Violet Society of America (AVSA) so you can take advantage of their Virtual Circle Zoom presentations. On November 12 at 2PM Eastern time, noted AV fancier Kathy Lahti will present "Preparing Violets for Show," including selection, grooming, and even how to transport your AVs safely. Like the rest of us, Kathy has a busy life, and can't devote all her time to her plants. She freely admits to having AVs that look like palm trees! I'm hoping to hear how she turns palm trees into prize winners!

The goal of the Virtual Circle is to provide information to AVSA members, particularly those who don't have a local affiliate club. While attendance at the Zoom presentation is limited to AVSA members, you can sign up for a Digital Membership for only \$28 a year, and get all the benefits of regular membership EXCEPT your "African Violet Magazine" will be a pdf rather than in print. I enjoyed interviewing Kathy for the AVSA website article you can read at:

<https://africanvioletsofamerica.org/virtual-circle/>.

A second Virtual Circle Zoom, focused on the upcoming AVSA Convention, will take place in January, with a third currently planned for July. Depending on interest and attendance, the Virtual Circle committee will consider offering up to 4 Virtual Circles annually.



11/1 Tom Schaefer
11/19 Glenn Shelton



One of AVSA's cherished members passed away Wednesday, October 11th. Jere (Jerry) Trigg, 76, was a talented grower and hybridizer of African violets and a Master Gardener. He began growing African violets in the mid 1970's and started hybridizing as far back as 1980. He became a much more active hybridizer after his retirement in 2011. Some of his named varieties are Jere's Star Burst, Jere's Cranberry Spinner, Jere's Lunar Eclipse, Jere's Roll Tide, and Jere's Kaleidoscope. He was also known for sharing his knowledge through presentations given at AVSA affiliated clubs, to other interested groups, and on Facebook. He was a kind man and generous with his time and knowledge of African violets to many in our violet community.

We could all learn from Jere's example of being willing to share his knowledge and

plants with new growers and hybridizers. This hobby is about growing beautiful African violets but more importantly, it's about sharing the love of violets with others. He will be greatly missed by his sons Marshal and Tyler, many other friends and family, as well as the African violet community.



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



FEBRUARY 8th Thru FEBRUARY 19TH

FLORIDA STATE FAIR

FEBRUARY 23rd and FEBRUARY 24th

**TAVS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
TEMPLE TERRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

**5030 E BUSCH BLVD
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617**

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY October 20th, 2023, Seffner-Mango Library

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:10 am. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant

ROLL CALL: Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jean Krauchik, Glenn Shelton, Lynn Bandy, Sandi Soto, Pat Rutzke, Bonnie Smith, Jim Boyer, Jim Rogers, Tom Schaefer, and Mary Lou Harden. Guests: Tammi Fitzgerald and Joan Reynolds, Anthony Pino and Heidi Evans

PRORAM:

Tom Schaefer "The Mad Chemist" gave us a rousing insight into the world of chemistry involving our soil and plants.

MINUTES: The minutes of the September 15th, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

OFFICERS REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT:
Glenn Shelton reported.

OUR SHOW:

Sandi Soto show chair reported that the show schedule was presented to AVSA and is still awaiting approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

October Birthdays: 10/15 Celeste Christman, 10/22 Lisa Villabol

OLD BUSINESS

USF Plant sale: October 14th and 15th
Was successful and well attended.

JUDGING SCHOOL

The Judging School scheduled for November 4th, 2023, has been cancelled

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Beth Bryant proposed participation in Florida State Fair:
Sandi Soto seconded
Members approved participation in the fair.

Mary Lou Harden proposed contributing \$100 to The AVSA in Memory of Jere Trigg.
Sandi Soto seconded.
Members approved donation.

Sandi Soto and Glenn Shelton wanted to mention the great job Gladys Cook and her son Joseph were doing with the website and to pass on to all members to be sure to visit and promote the site.

SHOW AND TELL

Jim Boyer brought in "Mac's Basic Black with Pearls" to show everyone what he thought was powdery mildew on the blossom was actually how the flower grows!

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:43

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings furnished by Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Lynn E Bandy recording secretary

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy*

PUMPKIN LATTE COFFEE CAKE

INGREDIENTS

5 eggs
2 teaspoon instant espresso coffee powder
or instant coffee granules
1 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar
2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, softened
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup canned pumpkin
1 cup buttermilk or sour milk

Streusel

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup rolled oats
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, col

In a medium bowl combine brown sugar, rolled oats, flour, and pumpkin pie spice. Using a pastry blender, cut in butter until crumbly.

Coffee Drizzle

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon light-colored corn syrup
1 tablespoon cooled Espresso or strong-

brewed coffee

In a small bowl stir together powdered sugar and corn syrup. Stir in enough cooled espresso or strong-brewed coffee (1 to 2 tablespoons) to make drizzling consistency.

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 13x9x2-inch baking pan; set aside. In a small bowl stir together two of the eggs and the espresso powder; set aside. In a medium bowl beat cream cheese with an electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Beat in the $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar, the 2 tablespoons flour, and the vanilla until smooth. Beat in egg-espresso mixture; set aside.

In a medium bowl stir together the 3 cups flour, the baking powder, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl beat butter with an electric mixer on medium speed for 30 seconds; gradually add the 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar, beating until fluffy. Add the remaining three eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in pumpkin. Alternately add flour mixture and buttermilk to pumpkin mixture, beating after each addition until combined.

Spread half of the batter in the prepared baking pan. Spoon half of the cream cheese mixture by small spoonfuls on top of the batter. Add the remaining batter in spoonfuls; carefully spread over the cream cheese mixture. Top with spoonfuls of the remaining cream cheese mixture. With a knife, swirl batter to marble. Sprinkle with Coffee Streusel.

Bake in preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 45 minutes.

Spoon Coffee Drizzle over coffee cake in a lacy pattern. Cool completely on wire rack.

WHAT IS CAL MAG? DO MY VIOLETS NEED IT?

Cal-Mag is a supplement sold by many different horticultural suppliers consisting of balanced bio-available calcium and magnesium. It may also contain other elements such as iron and other trace minerals. Calcium deficiency presents as yellowed and/or deformed new growth. Magnesium deficiency shows itself as yellowing of older growth. Calcium is important for cellular nutrient transport and enzyme activity. Magnesium is essential for creating chlorophyll.

Cal-Mag is very important for African violet growers using rain, distilled, RO, or naturally soft water to water their violets. Calcium and magnesium can be very low in soft water and nonexistent in the other types of water mentioned. It is important to add these two elements to water from these sources. Many fertilizer blends do not contain enough of these elements in their blends and depend on the water source and soil to provide these minerals.

Hard water naturally contains calcium and magnesium and most of the United States water supply is somewhat to very hard. You can test your water supply with available water hardness test strips to determine the hardness (mineral content) of your tap water, but if you use any of the other water sources mentioned, be sure to add a bottle of Cal-Mag to your violet supplies!

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

Join us on Twitter:
twitter.com/TAVSviolets

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:
[@tampafricanviolets](#)

JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

African Violet Society of America (AVSA).

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine (6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office
PO Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720.
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).
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Information: Linda Price, President,
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Lynn E Bandy
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STREPTOCARPUS OD GESHART

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DECEMBER 2023

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SUNCOAST CHRISTMAS SPARKLER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a restful, fun and food-filled Thanksgiving.

December is soon to be upon us. In all the hustle and bustle the season brings, remember to keep up with your violet chores. It is crucial that you don't ignore your African violets at this time. Good culture practices now mean success at our club show in February.

Follow the handouts & schedule Sandi Soto so kindly gave out at the day meeting last month. For those who missed that meeting, you will find pretty much the same schedule in your club handbook as well. Lynn Bandy has also attached copies to this Petal email.

Should you have any questions or concerns about your plant or plants, I suggest you get in touch with another club member to get their input. Two sets of eyes are better than one!

I want to cordially invite each and every member to the day meeting Friday, December 15th at the Seffner-Mango library, as it's our Christmas Party! Please bring a dish to share, drinks will be provided. As part of the festivities, we will play a version of Secret Santa, no purchase necessary. Nothing to bring as most of the items have been donated and are, you guessed it, African violet themed! You do not want to miss this.

Whichever holidays you celebrate, I wish you the joys of the season.

See you soon,
Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

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The library address is:
410 N. Kingsway Rd.
Seffner, FL 33584

DECEMBER 7th ZOOM Meeting
“Introducing the Gesneriad Family”
Presented by Jeanne Katzenstein from
Sarasota, FL

DECEMBER 15th Day meeting
Our Annual Christmas Potluck along with a
Special “Secret Santa” provided by the
TAVS board!
Wear RED, your ugly Christmas sweater or
your favorite Holiday attire!

ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant will be hosting the virtual night 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!

The club business meeting will follow.

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!



AVSA Virtual Circle

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The goal of the Virtual Circle is to provide information to AVSA members, particularly those who don't have a local affiliate club.

While attendance at the Zoom presentation is limited to AVSA members, you can sign up for a Digital Membership for only \$28 a year, and get all the benefits of regular membership EXCEPT your “*African Violet Magazine*” will be a pdf rather than in print.

I enjoyed interviewing Kathy for the AVSA website article you can read at:

<https://africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/virtual-circle/>.

They are currently running a membership incentive so this would be a good time to join.

A second Virtual Circle Zoom, focused on the upcoming AVSA Convention, will take place in January, with a third currently planned for July. Depending on interest and attendance, the Virtual Circle committee will consider offering up to 4 Virtual Circles annually.



12/11 Celia Howe
12/25 Jim Boyer



Thoughts and prayers go out to Members Jerry and Nancy Kast on the loss of their daughter.



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



FEBRUARY 8th Thru FEBRUARY 19TH

FLORIDA STATE FAIR

FEBRUARY 23rd and FEBRUARY 24th

**TAVS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
TEMPLE TERRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
5030 E BUSCH BLVD
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617**



**“ART THROUGH THE AGES”
TAVS’ Annual Show & Plant Sale
February 23-24, 2024**

Our annual show is coming soon! We’re super excited that we can once again share the beauty of African violets with the public.

We rely on the generosity of our members, friends, businesses and charitable organizations to provide awards for our exhibitors. We are requesting gift certificates, cash awards, gift items or products. ALL AWARDS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Please consider donating an award for our show. You can sign up for an award at one of our meetings or you can mail your award to me as Awards Chair. Checks should be made payable to TAVS:

Mary Lou Harden
902 West Old Hillsborough
Seffner, FL 33584

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY November 17th, 2023, Seffner-Mango Library

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:20 am. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Lynn Bandy

ROLL CALL:

Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jean Krauchik, Glenn Shelton, Lynn Bandy, Sandi Soto, Pat Rutzke, Bonnie Smith, Tom Schaefer, Celeste Christman, Anita Adlin, Stuart Swayze, Jim Matula, Grace Bel and Mary Lou Harden.
Guests: Heidi Cavillo

PRORAM:

Sandi Soto gave a very informative power point program on "Growing and Grooming for Show".

I have attached her handouts electronically to this Petal email.

Her takeaway: **GROW PLANTS!**

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 20th, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

OFFICERS REPORT:

TREASURERS REPORT:

Glenn Shelton reported. We have been assessed an additional fee from USF and are currently disputing this. The donation in Jere Trigg's name was sent to AVSA.

Sandi Soto reported on the success of the AVSA Virtual Circle presented this month and encouraged members to join the AVSA as they are currently having a membership incentive.

Their next meeting will be in January information regarding this program will be sent closer to the date.

OUR SHOW:

Sandi Soto show chair reported that the show schedule will be distributed at the December 15th meeting. Mary Lou Harden requested members to sign up for awards donations and to contact any resources members may feel would be willing to donate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

November Birthdays 11/1 Tom Schaefer and 11/19 Glenn Shelton

Mary Beth Bryant reported on the Temple Terrace Garden Club outreach program she and Sandi Soto gave which was very successful.

She will be doing another program at The Dunedin Garden Club in January.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Florida State Fair display. Mary Lou Harden and Tom Schaeffer visited the fairgrounds to assess the new booth setup.

NEW BUSINESS

The December meeting will be our Annual Christmas Potluck along with a Special "Secret Santa" provided by the TAVS board! Wear RED, your ugly Christmas sweater or your favorite Holiday attire!

SHOW AND TELL

Heidi Cavillo brought in her Gesneriad: Michaelmoelera Vietnamensis

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

PLANT RAFFLE: Plants and cuttings

furnished by Mary Beth Bryant and Mary Lou Harden

Lynn E Bandy Recording Secretary

RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by
Lynn Bandy*

*This makes a fun gift to share and
the bread is awesome!*

AMISH FRIENDSHIP BREAD STARTER

3 cups flour
3 cups sugar
3 cups milk

1. To prepare starter: Place 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and 1 cup milk in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag. Seal bag and knead mixture until well combined. Let stand at room temperature overnight.
2. For the next 4 days, continue kneading mixture once a day; keep at room temperature. On the sixth day add 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and 1 cup milk to bag. Seal and knead to combine; let stand at room temperature overnight.
3. For the next 3 days, knead mixture twice a day. On the 10th day, transfer mixture to a large bowl. Add 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and 1 cup milk; mix until well combined.

Measure 1 cup of the mixture into each of 3 resealable plastic bags. Seal plastic bags and give each bag

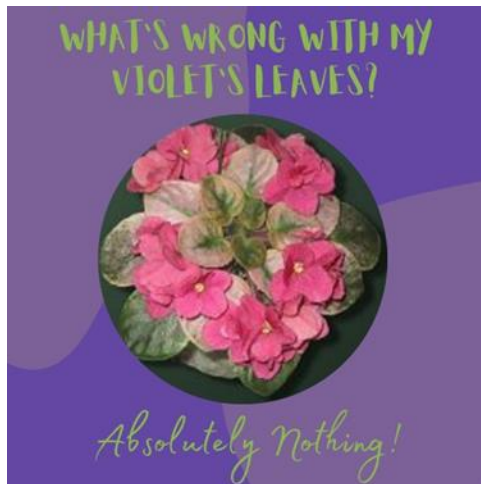
of starter mixture to a friend to make their own friendship bread.

For the Bread

- 1 cup of starter
- ½ cup milk
- 1 cup vegetable oil or ½ cup vegetable oil and ½ cup applesauce
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 ¾ cup of sugar
- 1 ½ tablespoons baking powder
- 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans (optional)
-
- Preheat oven to 330 degrees. Add oil to bowl with starter mixture along with eggs, 1/2 cup milk, and vanilla extract. Stir until well combined; set aside.
- In another large bowl, mix together 2 cups flour, 1 cup of sugar, baking powder, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, salt, baking soda, pudding, and nuts, if desired. Add dry ingredients to starter mixture and stir until well combined. Divide batter evenly between two 8-by-4-by-2 1/2-inch loaf pans.
- In a small bowl, mix together the remaining 3/4 cup sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon; sprinkle evenly over batter. Transfer to oven and bake for 1 hour. Let cool 15 minutes before removing from the pan.

OCTOBER 2nd, 2023

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY LEAVES?



Many growers might look at the picture above and think there is some sort of problem with the leaves of the plant. Is it not getting enough fertilizer? Is it some sort of insect or disease damage? No, it's crown variegation and is supposed to look that way. You can breathe easy!

Here is the description of variegation from the [AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges](#). "Variegated leaves have shades of green and can be marked with white, cream, light yellow, or rosy shades from light pink to a deep wine red". Crown variegation is when the variegation is more pronounced in the new leaves (crown). As the leaves age and grow larger, they begin to develop more green pigmentation.

This is why it is important to have the official name and description for a new plant in your collection. It will tell you the correct color, shape, and pattern of the blooms. It will also tell you the leaf color, shape, and if variegation is present. No need to keep giving that crown variegated plant extra fertilizer so it will "green up". Just enjoy your crown variegated African violet and happy growing!



**IT'S TIME TO PAY DUES FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN OUR AFFILIATES!**
African Violet Council of Florida
Dixie African Violet Society
African Violet Society of America

Annual membership in African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) runs from January 1 to December 31. Individual membership fee is \$10 per year and includes a quarterly newsletter, *The Florida Connection*. The Council has two meetings each year – one in the Spring and one in the Fall. You can either send your renewal or new dues to the Treasurer: Mary Jane DiLorenzo, 345 Enclave Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803, or give to Mary Lou Harden at the December day meeting. The Council needs our support!

<https://africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club>

Annual membership in Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS) is from February 1 through January 31. Individual 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 Society of America

(AVSA). Annual membership is not based on the calendar year, but the date membership begins. Digital membership is \$28 and individual membership (receiving a print copy of the African Violet Magazine) is \$35 per year. Membership has the following benefits:

- The *African Violet Magazine* with reliable, up-to-date information on the culture of African violets; six color issues per year
- Discounted prices on all products sold in the AVSA Store
- Opportunity to participate in the annual National Convention and Show
- Access to Members Only section of the AVSA website
- Opportunity to seek older hybrids on the Violet Preservation page of AVSA website

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

AVSA Office

PO Box 22417

Beaumont, TX 77720.

www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

Join us on Twitter:

twitter.com/TAVSviolets

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

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