

THE PETAL

FEBRUARY 2024

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampaafricanviolets.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



VELVET VALENTINE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Goodbye, January. Hello February, the club's busiest month.

First up is the Florida State Fair. Setup will be this Sunday, February 4th at 1 pm. Come on out, see the new setup of the hall and help us decorate our booth.

Important: The fair is now asking clubs to perform 2 – 30 minute demonstrations each weekend. Time slots are set by the fair and are TBD. As soon as the times are known, I will let the club know via email. If you can help either Mary Lou or myself run these demonstrations, please contact us. We could always use an extra set of hands!

Most important is our own club show

Sign-up sheets have gone around for awards donations and hospitality. There is still time to decide your involvement. Cash (and only cash at this time) should be given directly to Mary Lou. Let Celeste or Jean know if you intend to bring food, drink or other supplies. We need members for set-up and tear-down. We need members on the floor both days of the show to greet people, bag or box purchases, stock supplies and run errands. I hope to see all of our members help out in some way.

That said, hasn't the weather been crazy? I think the ups and downs have helped, not hindered, my African violets bloom. Some of my violets will be headed to the show. How about yours? Do you have a blooming violet or two or three sitting on the shelf? Don't think they aren't good enough or worthy enough. Consider entering them in the show. More plants = more entries = bigger, better show. It costs nothing and you might just come away with a ribbon. ☺

The day meeting on the 19th will be devoted to answering your show related questions and helping fill out your entry sheets.

Also this month, the Nominating Committee will give their report on the slate of officers for the coming year. Elections will be held in March with installation in April.

With all this going on, keep an eye on your inbox for more details as they happen. 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

February 1st ZOOM Meeting

“Help I need water...and it’s too hot in here!”
To be presented by Chris Brooks, President of the Acadiana AVS, LA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89947614945?pwd=eHdGK1hSazNXemx3SllwakFvUGM2QT09>

Meeting ID: 899 4761 4945
Passcode: 892088

February 16th Day meeting

Final show preparations, including grooming tips for show plants and completing entry forms-Jim Boyer

We will be gathering for lunch after the meeting.
All welcome!

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!



2/4 Deanna Hinds
2/20 Anita Adlin



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 2-3, 2024, First Lakeland African Violet Society, Annual Show & Plant Sale,

Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Highlands Blvd,
Lakeland Florida 33805

**FEBRUARY 8th Thru
FEBRUARY 19TH**

FLORIDA STATE FAIR

FEBRUARY 23RD AND 24TH

TAVS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

“ART THROUGH THE AGES”

**TEMPLE TERRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5030 E BUSCH BLVD
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617**

CENTRAL FLORIDA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

ART IN BLOOM

Judged show and sale

Beardall Senior Center, 800 S. Delaney Ave., Orlando, FL 32801.

Friday March 1st- 12 noon to 4pm
Sales room opens at 10am
Saturday March 2nd -10am to 3pm

March 9, 2024, Frist Lakeland African Violet Society, African Violet Plant Display & Sale at Spring Obsession, Munn Park, 201 East Main Street, Lakeland, FL



THANKS TO THESE SHOW AWARD DONORS

TAVS MEMBERS:

NOTE: If you haven't yet given your donation, PLEASE bring it in CASH to the February day meeting and give to Awards Chair, Mary Lou Harden. And, if you haven't but would like to make a donation to our show awards, please also bring to the day meeting.

Anita Adlin
Lynn Bandy
Grace Bel
Jim Boyer
Heidi Cavillo
Mary Beth Bryant
Celeste Christman
Tammy Fitzgerald
Todd Grandy
Sheryl Herold
Mary Lou Harden
Jean Krauchik
Jim Matula
Joan Reynolds
Pat Rutzke
Tom Schaefer
Glenn Shelton
Sandi Soto
Stuart Swayze

COMMERCIALS:

Enchanted Gardens, Heidi Dillenbeck,
Delanson, NY

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Paul Sorano,
Dolgeville, NY

Maril Products, Inc., Tustin, CA



ATTENTION, DESIGNERS!

Reservations are required for the Design Division of our Show. If you are planning to enter a Dish Garden, Terrarium or Natural Garden, you will need to register. Please contact the Design Administrator: Mary Lou Harden, mlhard@verizon.net.

AND. . .if you plan to enter any of the other design classes, **reservations are**

required so that the appropriate niches are available and adequate space is reserved for the design division.

MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
January 19th, 2023,
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:18am. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATION: Anita Adlin

ROLL CALL:

Attending were: Mary Beth Bryant, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Lynn Bandy, Sandi Soto, Bonnie Smith, Jim Matula, Jim Boyer, Celia Howe, Grace Bel, and Mary Lou Harden.

Guests: Esther Kirk

PROGRAM:

“Design Workshop and Container Gardens” Presented by Mary Lou Harden.

I have attached her handout to the Petal email.

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

OFFICERS REPORT:

TREASURERS REPORT:

Mary Beth Bryant reported.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Celeste Christman through Lynn Bandy is sending around a sign up sheet for food for the show.

OUR SHOW:

Mary Lou Harden requested members to sign up for awards donations and to contact any resources members may feel would be willing to donate.

If you signed up for an award Mary Lou is requesting you pay her in cash.

Jim Boyer reported that we have our panel of judges lined up for the show, and now have Jim Matula and Jean Krauchik as clerks.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Florida State Fair display.

Set up will be February 4 at 1pm.

We are now required to do four demonstrations. Two on each Saturday and two on each Sunday. February 10, 11, 17 and 18.

Mary Lou Harden will be sending out an email with times and requests for participants.

NEW BUSINESS

February 1st ZOOM Meeting

"Help I need water...and it's too hot in here!"
To be presented by Chris Brooks, President of the Acadiana AVS, LA

February 16th Day meeting

Final show preparations, including grooming tips for show plants and completing entry forms-Jim Boyer.

Mary Lou Harden made a motion to send a \$100 donation to the AVSA in Memory of Pat Hancock, Jim Matula seconded, all members approved.

Nominating committee:

Members Sheryl Herold, Anita Adlin and Sandi Soto have volunteered for this committee.

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



JANUARY 22nd, 2024



With so many options for wick material out there, you might be curious to know which one actually wicks water the best. I never gave it much thought since I've always used acrylic four-ply yarn with no issues other than one occasionally drying out on me. After some discussion with other growers, I became more curious. I devised a simple experiment to evaluate a few of the more common choices.

This is the experiment I conducted. I cut three equal lengths of nylon paracord, #18 three-ply nylon yarn, #18 braided nylon mason's twine, acrylic "baby" yarn, and four-ply acrylic yarn. I then thoroughly washed

with soap and dried the wicks. They were then hung from a small table and secured with tape to an empty glass baking dish. Water with a dark blue dye was added to the dish, and a ten minute timer was started. At the end of ten minutes, the length that the water had traveled was measured. After an hour the order had not changed, so I did not record those results.

Now, off to the races! Who will win?

Here are the photo finish results!!

Nylon paracord: 5.5 inches, 5.5 inches, 5 inches

Twisted Nylon: 6 inches, 6 inches, 6 inches

Braided Nylon: 6.5 inches, 6 inches, 6.25 inches

Acrylic baby yarn: 2 inches, 2.5 inches, 2 inches

Acrylic four-ply yarn: .75 inches, .5 inches, .25 inches

These tongue-in-cheek race results lead me to two conclusions. First: nylon is by far a better wicking material than Acrylic. Second: it is important to wet your wicking material to "prime the pump" since we know that acrylic does work as a wicking material, but apparently acrylic has a much harder time starting than nylon when dry. This leads to another problem for acrylic. If an acrylic wick manages to dry out, it would be much less likely than a nylon wick to begin working again on its own.

After more than thirty years wick watering with four-ply acrylic, it looks like I might be switching to braided nylon!

Happy Growing!
Chris Brooks
marketing@avsa.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)

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF)

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 send your renewal or new dues to the Treasurer: Mary Jane DiLorenzo, 345 Enclave Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803, <https://africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club>

African Violet Society (DAVS)

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

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.

