

# THE PETAL

## JANUARY 2024

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society  
[www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://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**

*Photo by Marjorie Bullard*



**SAPPHIRE ICE**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and welcome, 2024! January is the start of a busy Spring show season for a lot of African Violet clubs, including TAVS. We are now just under 2 short months from our own club show. Keep growing those plants. We need every member to enter single African violets, collections, designs or container gardens. Whatever tickles your fancy, whichever AV or gesneriad you have growing on your shelves, there is a category for it. Just check the show schedule. However, if you are like me, you tend to downplay your growing efforts and think that your plants

aren't good enough. The phrase "they aren't show quality" reverberates in your mind.

Nothing could be further from the truth! It costs nothing to enter and you may surprise yourself. Wouldn't it feel great to win a ribbon? If you have questions or need help, now's the time to ask. Our aim is to present a spectacular show full of award winning plants to the general public.

Speaking of help, the next Virtual Circle, presented by AVSA, will be January 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. The zoom presentation will focus on the upcoming national show to be held in Arizona in April. It costs AVSA members nothing and puts you in touch with experienced growers from all over the US and abroad. You do have to log into the AVSA site and register, but as I said it is free. If you aren't a member of AVSA, consider joining. The AVSA website with members only content, African Violet Magazine, the Virtual Circle and the camaraderie is worth the yearly cost.

Mary Beth Bryant

# 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

## January 4th ZOOM Meeting

“Spa Day for Your Violets”

To be presented by Bobbi Johannsen, Jacksonville, FL

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473516654?pwd=ZFBTOUFZdC9zRG1VQnE1QTIWSiFXZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 7351 6654

Passcode: 439177

## January 19th Day meeting

“Design Workshop and Container Gardens”

To be presented by Mary Lou Harden.

This is always a very fun and informative presentation, Be sure to attend!

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!



1/21 Todd Grandy



# 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

It is with a heavy heart to report the passing of Pat Hancock on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Pat was an icon in the violet world and contributed a great deal through her phenomenal hybridizing.

She suffered a massive stroke on her 95th birthday from which there was no hope for recovery, but it is good to know that she is now in a better place.

Thoughts and prayers are with her family as well as her numerous violet friends. Pat was greatly loved, and she will be greatly missed.



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



**FEBRUARY 8th Thru FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

**FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> and FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup>**

**TAVS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**

**“ART THROUGH THE AGES”**

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



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  
December 15th, 2023,  
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:25am. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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, Tammi Fitzgerald, Joan Reynolds, Jim Rogers, Jim Boyer, Celia Howe, and Mary Lou Harden. Guests: Heidi Cavillo ,and Esther Kirk

**PROGRAM:**

Our Annual Christmas Potluck along with a Special "Secret Santa" provided by the TAVS board!  
Was good to see everyone in their red and favorite Holiday attire!

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 17th, 2023, meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

**OFFICERS REPORT:**

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Glenn Shelton reported.

**OUR SHOW:**

Sandi Soto show chair distributed the Show Schedules.  
Mary Lou Harden requested members to sign up for awards donations and to contact any resources members may feel would be willing to donate.  
Jim Boyer reported that we have our panel of judges lined up for the show.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion regarding the Florida State Fair display. Mary Lou Harden and Tom Schaeffer visited the fairgrounds to assess the new booth setup. Tom Schaeffer stated they would be having another meeting at the fair grounds on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**January 4th ZOOM Meeting**  
"Spa Day for Your Violets"

To be presented by Bobbi Johannsen, Jacksonville, FL

**January 19th Day meeting**

"Design Workshop and Container Gardens"  
To be presented by Mary Lou Harden.  
This is always a very fun and informative presentation, Be sure to attend!

**SHOW AND TELL**

Pat Rutzke brought in a trailer LE Erika

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am

**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 Celia Howe. Everyone LOVED her Grape Salad at the Christmas Potluck.*

**GRAPE SALAD**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 8 ounces cream cheese {softened}
- 1 cup sour cream
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 pounds red or green seedless grapes
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup toasted walnuts or pecans chopped.



## DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl mix cream cheese, sour cream granulated sugar and vanilla, fold in grapes and mix well.

In a small bowl combine nuts and brown sugar

Sprinkle the brown sugar/nut mixture over top of the grape mixture.

Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Serve well chilled.

NOTE: more details on line

[https://www.tasteof](https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/creamy-grape-salad/)

[home.com/recipes/creamy-grape-salad/](https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/creamy-grape-salad/)



NOVEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

There is quite a bit of interest in growing African violets semi-hydroponically (semi-hydro for short). Many people use a medium such as leca (expanded clay balls) with some success. Semi-hydro is a simpler method than a full hydroponic setup. It does not require active circulation of the water and fertilizer or aeration with pumps. It can actually be done similarly to wick watering.

Hydroponics and semi-hydro are not new growing methods for African violets and were mentioned in the AVSA magazine as far back as 1948, its second year of publication. A book from the 50's, "All about African Violets : the Complete Guide to Success with America's Favorite House Plant," contained an image and caption discussing growing African violets semi-hydroponically in coarse vermiculite. There has not recently been much mention of using this well-known soil amendment as a semi-hydro medium for African Violets. It is chemically inert and holds water well, which

makes it a good candidate for a semi-hydro medium. As long as a coarse size is used, vermiculite also maintains enough air space for the roots. Why has this method of growing gone out of fashion? Vermiculite is used with great success as a medium for rooting cuttings and bloom stalks. Maybe it should be given more consideration for growing full-size plants.

If you would like to experiment with this method, the process is fairly simple. Remove as much of your regular mix as you can from the roots of a spare African violet plant. Better yet, start with a sucker or rootless plant to easily remove all the old mix. Replace your regular mix with coarse (1/8-1/4 inch) vermiculite. Wick water with a dilute fertilizer solution typical for wicking or a hydroponic fertilizer with a slightly acidic pH. Let's see how it works together. You can post your results in the comments on the AVSA Facebook post for this article.

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 January 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](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://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.Africanvioletsofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsofamerica.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](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

**Visit us at:**

[www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVSviolets](https://twitter.com/TAVSviolets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

[@tampafricanviolets](#)

**Lynn E Bandy**

**Petal Editor**

[nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com)

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