

THE PETAL

JANUARY 2025

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



WINTRY ROSE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome 2025! With the New Year comes a new round of events. First up is the Florida State Fair. We will need help setting up the booth and keeping the violets watered & the literature stocked for the entire run of days as well as teardown. Typically TAVS sets up the Sunday before the fair opens. We also need club members to provide demonstrations, two per weekend.

Times are TBD. If you can provide me with another pair of hands for these demos or want to do a demonstration of your own, please let me know.

Our presence here alerts the community to our own club show later in the month.

Speaking of our show, our show theme this year is African Violets Take a European Holiday. I hope your African violets are growing well and pointed toward the show. A large number of entries would be a good problem to have!

Money towards awards should be given to Mary Lou.

Regardless of what you do to help, your participation will help make both of these events a success.

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

January 2nd, 2025 ZOOM Meeting 7pm

Shawn Edwards "Secrets of Showing African Violet Trailers"

Shawn won Best in Show in AVSA'S 2024 Convention/Show with her "Brazos Belle"

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: **Tampa African Violet Society**
Time: **Jan 2, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time** (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89542503993?pwd=jbxWWQC6EVbYtvaDJJrgO50uB5NpEY.1>

Meeting ID: 895 4250 3993
Passcode: 518277

January 17th, 2025 Day Meeting 10am Seffner-Mango Public Library

"In the Home Stretch"

Jim Boyer will be presenting final show preparations, including grooming tips for show plants and completing entry forms.

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!



1/21 Todd Grandy



Todd Grandy took a nasty fall, was badly bruised, no broken bones, hospitalized, but is now recovering at home

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



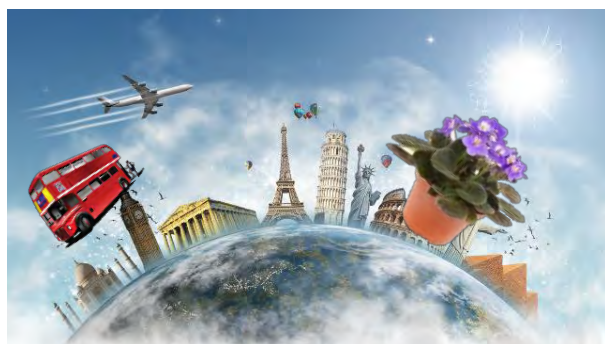
FLORIDA STATE FAIR

February 6th – 17th, 2025

TAVS SHOW AND SALE:

February 21st and 22nd, 2025

“AFRICAN VIOLETS TAKE A EUROPEAN HOLIDAY!”



MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

December 15th, 2024,
Seffner-Mango Public Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

by President Mary Beth Bryant at 10:25 am.
Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATION: Sandi Soto

YOU NEVER KNOW

By Helen L. Marshall

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light-
The way you live may not matter at all,
But you never know-it might.

And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the better,
With a broader and brighter view,
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing to the right;
Of course, it may not matter at all,
But then again, it might.

ROLL CALL:

Attending: Jim Boyer, Lynn Bandy, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Glenn Shelton, Pat Rutzke, Stuart Swayze, Sandi Soto, Jean Karauchick, Sheryl Herold, and Celia Howe.

PROGRAM:

“Holiday Party and Gift Exchange”

BUSINESS MEETING:

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER REPORT: Was given by Glenn Shelton

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Florida State Fair will be from February 6th - 17th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ZOOM Meeting 01/02

Shawn Edwards "Secrets of Showing African Violet Trailers"

Shawn won Best in Show in AVSA'S 2024 Convention/Show with her "Brazos Belle"

January 17th, 2025
Day Meeting 10am
Seffner-Mango Public Library

“In the Home Stretch”

Jim Boyer will be presenting final show preparations, including grooming tips for show plants and completing entry forms.

01/25 AVSA Virtual Circle
LED Lighting

BIRTHDAYS: 12/11 Celia Howe 12/17
Tona Bell-Rosenthal 12/25 Jim Boyer

RAFFLE: Plants supplied by Sandi Soto

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:23 am

Lynn Bandy
Recording Secretary

RECIPE BOX



Recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

CROCK POT POTATO SOUP

INGREDIENTS

-
- 10 slices cooked bacon, diced
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour

- 1 (12-ounce) can evaporated milk or half-and-half or heavy cream
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- optional toppings: chives, extra shredded cheddar cheese and bacon

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add diced potatoes, diced onion, minced garlic, bacon, parsley and chicken broth to the slow cooker. Season with salt and pepper. Stir and cook for 6-8 hours on low or on high for 3-4 hours, until the potatoes are fork tender.
2. Once the soup has cooked, add butter to a medium saucepan over medium heat and melt. Whisk in the flour until completely combined and gradually add in the evaporated milk or heavy cream, depends which one you are using. Whisk the flour mixture until smooth. With the heat on the lowest stove setting, let the mixture cook until it starts to simmer and is getting thicker, stir occasionally.
3. Immediately add the milk-flour mixture to the slow cooker and stir to combine.
4. Using a potato masher, mash about 3/4 of the potatoes.
5. Stir in the shredded cheddar cheese and sour cream. Stir well, until fully combined and creamy. Taste for seasoning, add salt and pepper to taste. Continue cooking the soup on low for 30 minutes or on high for 15 minutes.

COOK'S NOTES

1. If the soup is too thick, add more chicken broth.
2. Serve warm, garnished with bacon, cheese and sour cream.
3. The soup can be refrigerated for up to 3 days

African Violet Society of America

GROWING TIPS



September, 2024

The next type in the series on learning foliage types is quilted. According to the [AVSA Handbook](#), "Quilted [foliage]: Leaves have distinct raised areas between the veins. Some leaves have pie-crust edging."

"Cajun's Hot to Trot" (Hybridized by Belinda Thibodeaux, 2022) is a gorgeous example of variegated dark green and white, plain, heart-shaped, *Quilted* foliage with single fuchsia sticktite pansy/variable thin white-edged blooms. This example shows how several foliage types and characteristics can be combined in one leaf. It has quilted foliage on a plain, heart-shaped leaf. While the overall shape is plain, the leaf base is

indented where it attaches to the petiole to form a heart shape, and the texture of the leaf is quilted.

There are many named cultivars with quilted foliage, such as "Cajun's Hot to Trot" pictured above (photo credit: Belinda Thibodeaux / AVSA). You can look up other varieties on the [AVSA website](#) and using the [First Class African violet computer program](#). Keep an eye out for one of the many varieties with quilted foliage to add to your collection the next time you are looking for a new addition.

Happy Growing!
Chris Brooks, AVSA
marketing@avsa.org

Become a MEMBER

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY (TAVS)

Annual Membership (April 1 to March 31st)
Current dues are \$15 per year.
Includes an annual Yearbook and monthly Newsletter *The Petal*
Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa African Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:
www.tampafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:

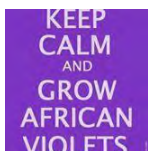
twitter.com/TAVSviolets

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

[instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/](https://www.instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Tampa African Violet Society



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>

Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS)

Dixie has an annual convention and membership meeting in the Southeast (Last year in Birmingham, AL) 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

THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY(GS)

Has an annual convention at different locations in the U.S.

Publish a quarterly magazine, *Gesneriads*. Individual annual dues are \$25 payable to Gesneriad Society, Inc.

Mail to:

Bob Clark, Membership Secretary
1122 East Pike Street
PMB 637
Seattle, WA 98122-3916

TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY (TBGS)

Monthly meetings at the Seffner-Mango Library, third Saturday

Annual Membership is \$10

Send dues to

Jo Anne Martinez, Treasurer
809 Taray de Avila
Tampa, FL 33613

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.

FOR SALE!

Former member Linda Geller has a commercial plant stand she is selling.

Cost: \$100



The dimensions are:

**4 shelves
52.5 wide
72" high
19" Depth**

If interested contact Mary Beth Bryant or Mary Lou Harden



**Table top plant stand with LED lights
\$25 Mary Lou Harden**

PHOTOS FROM SANDI SOTO



BOB'S OMEGA



K'S SWEET SILAS



PHNOM PENH

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LOVE BUG

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy February, everyone. As you all know, this is our busiest month in the calendar year. Community outreach events this month include the Florida State Fair, the Carrollwood Conservancy Plant Sale and of course, our own club show. Dates and times are listed here in The Petal and reminder emails will be sent out as well. This time of year it's "all hands on deck"!

See you soon,
Mary Beth

OUR MEETINGS

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

February 6th, 2025 ZOOM Meeting 7pm

Mel Grice, Englewood, OH, Editor of Gleanings,
"These are Some of my Favorite Gesneriads"

February 14th, 2025 Day Meeting 10am Seffner-Mango Public Library

Sandi Soto – "
"No Dawgs Allowed" – Growing & Grooming for Show

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: **Tampa African Violet Society Meeting**

Time: **Feb 6, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time**
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81449433170?pwd=XQvrrM6vIDsSZG2AIHIFU8yPREEI0.1>

Meeting ID: 814 4943 3170

Passcode: 619636

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



Sheryl Herold's Mother passed away on Friday January 24th in Wisconsin, surrounded by family.

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 6th – 17th, 2025

Plant Sale at Carrollwood Village Park,

4680 W Village Drive, Tampa 33624 – 9am – 3pm on February 15.

TAVS SHOW AND SALE: February 21st and 22nd. 2025

“AFRICAN VIOLETS TAKE A EUROPEAN HOLIDAY!”



WE NEED SHOW ENTRIES!

If you're planning to enter the Design Division -- which includes Interpretive Plant and Flower Arrangements as well as Dish Gardens, Natural Gardens and Terrariums - - registration cutoff is February 15. So, don't wait! Please let Mary Lou Harden (mlhard@verizon.net or 813-924-2686) know as soon as possible so we will have adequate space for the designs.

MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MINUTES OF MEETING January 17, 2025

The TAVS January 17, 2025, day meeting was called to order at 10:52 a.m. by Mary

Lou Harden, followed by the pledge of allegiance and inspirational by Jean Krauchik.

Members attending: Pat Rutzke, Tammi Fitzgerald, Joan Reynolds, Stuart Swayze, Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto, Jim Boyer, Jean Krauchik and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was guest, Sandy Schultz, of Viola's Violets & Gifts in Punta, Gorda, FL.

Program: Final Show Preparations, including grooming tips for show plants and completing entry forms, by Jim Boyer.

Business Meeting: The minutes of the December 13, 2024, meeting were approved as published in the Petal.

Standing Committee Reports:

Celeste Christman, Hospitality Chair, requested that members sign up to bring food to the show.

Treasurer's Report: Report submitted by Glenn Shelton

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Florida State Fair, February 6-17**
 - a. Need help at initial set-up on Sunday, February 2, at 1 pm
 - b. Plants will go in on Tuesday, February 4.
 - c. Need members to give demonstrations Saturdays and Sunday during Fair
Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant and Sandy Schultz – times/dates TBD
 - d. Need members to greet the public mornings & afternoons. Members signed up.
- 2. Plant Sale at Carrollwood Village Park, 4680 W Village Drive, Tampa 33624 – 9am – 3pm on February 15.**
- 3. TAVS Show, February 21-22, set-up on February 20, at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church.**
 - a. Need every member to help with set-up, covering tables, focal point, education and more.

- b. Hospitality Chair Celeste Christman asked members to sign up to bring food to share for lunch and throughout the show.
- c. Need ENTRIES! Both plants and designs.
- d. Need Awards, both designated and non-designated. Members signed up.

New Business:

Election of Nominating Committee:

The following were elected to serve as the Nominating Committee: Mary Beth Bryant, Chair, Tammi Fitzgerald and Celeste Christman. Nominating Committee Report will be presented at the February meeting and election of officers will be at the March meetings.

Request for someone to either assist Lynn Bandy with publication of The Petal, or to undertake its publication. New Member Sandy Schultz volunteered to assist with publication of The Petal and will contact Lynn Bandy.

Birthdays: Todd Grandy, January 21

Announcements:

February 6 Zoom meeting – Mel Grice, Englewood, OH, Editor of Gleanings, “These are Some of my Favorite Gesneriads”

February 14 day meeting – Sandi Soto – “No Dawgs Allowed” – Growing & Grooming for Show

Roll call by Jean Krauchik. 9 members and 1 guest.

Plant Raffle was held. Plants furnished by Sandi Soto and Mary Lou Harden.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Mary Lou Harden
Secretary Pro Tem

RECIPE BOX



Recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy

Chili's Copy-cat Chocolate Molten Lava Cake Recipe

- 4oz Semi-Sweet Chocolate
- ½ cup butter (1 stick)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 3 whole eggs
- 1 egg- YOLK ONLY
- 6 tbsp flour
- Vanilla Ice Cream

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. In a microwave safe bowl combine chocolate and butter. Microwave for 1 minute and 20 seconds. Whisk until the chocolate has melted and is smooth.
3. Add the powdered sugar and whisk till combined.
4. Add the 3 WHOLE eggs and 1 egg YOLK, whisk till combined.
5. Add 6 tbsp of flour and whisk until combined again.
6. Liberally spray 4 small (1 cup) custard cups with cooking spray, and evenly fill with batter.
7. Bake on a cookie sheet in the oven for 13-15 minutes until the outer edges are set and the center is soft set.
8. Remove from oven and let cool for 2-3 minutes before inverting onto a plate.
9. Top each cake with a scoop of vanilla ice cream

**African
Violet
Society of
America**

GROWING TIPS



October, 2024

The next type in the series on learning foliage types is ruffled. According to the [AVSA Handbook](#), "Ruffled, wavy, or fluted: Leaves have serrated or ragged edges."

"Cajun's Royal Knockout" (Hybridized by Belinda Thibodeaux, 2012) is a gorgeous example of medium green, ovate, quilted, *Ruffled* foliage with semidouble-double bright purple star/frilled green-edged blooms. This example shows again how, like last month's example, several foliage types and characteristics can be combined in one leaf. It has ruffled foliage on a ovate quilted leaf.

There are many named cultivars with ruffled foliage, such as Cajun's Royal Knockout" pictured above (photo credit: Belinda Thibodeaux / AVSA). You can look up other

varieties on the [AVSA website](#) and using the [First Class African violet computer program](#). Keep an eye out for one of the many varieties with ruffled foliage to add to your collection the next time you are looking for a new addition.

Happy Growing!
Chris Brooks, AVSA
marketing@avsa.org

Become a **MEMBER**

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floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa African Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

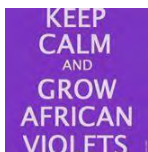
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VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:
instagram.com/tampafricanviolets/

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Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,
287 Fennel Way, SW,
Atlanta, GA 30331
[.johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) www.davs.org

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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

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Publish a quarterly magazine, *Gesneriads*. Individual annual dues are \$25 payable to Gesneriad Society, Inc.

Mail to:

Bob Clark, Membership Secretary
1122 East Pike Street
PMB 637
Seattle, WA 98122-3916

TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY (TBGS)

Monthly meetings at the Seffner-Mango Library, third Saturday

Annual Membership is \$10

Send dues to

Jo Anne Martinez, Treasurer
809 Taray de Avila
Tampa, FL 33613

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

nybleb@aol.com

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

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the material herein.

PHOTOS FROM SANDI SOTO



Humako Inches



Yvon Baby

The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



March 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.



TAVS booth at the 2025 Florida State Fair
February 6-17, 2025

A message from our President

We have made it through the state fair, the conservancy sale and our club show. YAY! Thanks to all those who gave demonstrations, showed plants, sold plants, provided food or helped set up or tear down displays or just showed up to offer encouragement. These events were a success because of your ideas, muscle and determination. I could not be prouder of what we as a group have accomplished.

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 Road, Seffner, FL 33584

ZOOM Meeting - Thursday, March 6 @ 7pm
Jim Matula will be presenting "Growing Violets in Cooler Temps"

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215748842?pwd=JCF8aVAgdauBXge3enyANmGdhmm2G.1>

Meeting ID: **832 1574 8842**

Passcode: **923488**

Day Meeting - Friday, March 21 @ 10am
Seffner-Mango Public Library

Mary Beth Bryant, Show Chair, will be presenting "Post Show Recap" and Show Awards



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! Club business meeting will follow.

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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!

Member Birthdays

There are no Member Birthdays this month

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.



"Baby's First Bloom" - Yvon Decelles (8727)
04/25/1998 (J. Brownlie)

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society
February 14, 2025
Seffner-Mango Public Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by Mary Beth Bryant, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Pat Rutzke, Mary Beth Bryant, Stuart Swayze, Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto, Jean Krauchik, Sandy Schultz, Lynn Bandy, Celia Howe and Mary Lou Harden.

PROGRAM: "Growing for Show is a Game" presented by Sandi Soto.

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the January 17, 2025 meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

Standing Committee Reports: Celeste Christman, Hospitality Chair, confirmed food sign up items to bring to the show.

Officers' Reports: Mary Lou Harden thanked everyone for their awards donations. Mary Lou Harden stated that designs were still needed for the show and reminded everyone that if they were submitting a design they needed to register same with her.

Treasurer's Report: Pending.

Unfinished Business:

Florida State Fair, February 6 - 17: Breakdown of the booth will be Tuesday, February 18 at 1pm. Anyone who is available is asked to help.

Plant Sale at Carrollwood Village Park, February 15 from 9am - 3pm,
4680 W. Village Drive, Tampa 33624

TAVS Show, February 21 - 22: Set-up on February 20 at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church

- a. Need every member to help with set-up, covering tables, focal point, education and more. Set up starts at 1pm, plant registration will begin at 2pm.
- b. Hospitality Chair Celeste Christman asked members to sign up to bring food to share for lunch and throughout the show.

- c. Need ENTRIES! Both plants and designs.
- d. Need awards, both designated and non-designated. Members signed up

New Business:

Nominating Committee: The following members were nominated:

President - Sandi Soto

Vice President - Mary Beth Bryant

Treasurer - Glen Shelton

Corresponding Secretary - Lynn Bandy

Voting will take place at the March 21 meeting.

BIRTHDAYS: Deanna Hinds and Anita Adlin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 6, 2025 ZOOM Meeting - Jim Matula will be presenting "Growing Violets in Cooler Temps"

March 21, 2025 Day Meeting - Mary Beth Bryant, Show Chair, will be presenting "Post Show Recap" and Show Awards

ROLL CALL: Jean Krauchik, 10 members.



Alice in Wonderland (Storytella)
Photo by Sandi Soto

Foliage Type

Spooned or Cupped: Leaves
are concave with high edges
like a spoon.



LE-Carnival Night



NOVEMBER 4, 2024

The next type in the series on learning foliage types is spooned or cupped. According to the AVSA Handbook, "Spooned or Cupped: [Leaves are] concave with high edges like a spoon."

"LE-Carnival Night" (Hybridized by E. Lebeteskaia, 2019) is a gorgeous example of medium green spooned foliage. It has beautiful single-semidouble purple large wavy star/white eye, pink and coral puff fantasy blooms.

There are relatively few named cultivars with spooned foliage similar to LE-Carnival Night (LE-Karnaval' naia Noch) pictured above (photo credit: Vladimir Kalgin / AVSA). You can look up other varieties on the AVSA website and using the First Class African violet computer program.

Keep an eye out for a variety with spooned foliage to add to your collection the next time you are looking for a new addition.

Happy Growing

Chris Brooks, AVSA

marketing@avsa.org

Recipe Box



SKILLET MACARONI & CHEESE

COOK'S ILLUSTRATED "THE BEST SKILLET RECIPES"

- 3 1/2 Cups Water, plus extra as needed
- 1 (12-oz) can evaporated milk
- 12 ounces (about 3 cups) elbow macaroni
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon hot sauce (adjust to taste)
- 6 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 6 ounces cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Salt and ground black pepper

Bring 3 1/2 cups water, 1 cup of the evaporated milk, the macaroni, and 1/2 teaspoon salt to a simmer in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over high heat. Cook at a vigorous simmer, stirring often, until the macaroni is tender and the liquid has thickened, 9 to 12 minutes. Wisk the remaining 1/2 cup evaporated milk, the cornstarch, mustard, and hot sauce together in a small bowl, then stir into the skillet. Continue to simmer until slightly thickened, about 1 minute. Off the heat, stir in the cheese one handful at a time, adding water as needed to adjust the consistency of the sauce. Stir in the butter, season with salt and pepper to taste.

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Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)
Current dues are \$15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:

www.tampaafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:

Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

Visit us on Instagram:

Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/

Find us on Facebook

Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

sandylovesviolets@gmail.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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"Babies Ready to Pot Up!"
Photo by Sandy Schultz



Rob's Boolaroo (8053) 03/05/1994
(R. Robinson) Semi-miniature trailer
Photo by Sandy Schultz

The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



April 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

A message from our **New** President

Spring has sprung, and the calendar be damned! It's too hot too soon, and there's nothing we can do about it now but get ready for the April USF Plant Sale. Now, about me, your new President: They cut another hole in my head, no doubt trying to let the demons out (!!), with limited success. So, I likely won't be presiding at our April day meeting, as their next project is to remake the skin on my forehead with some nasty formula no doubt concocted by witches! If there are young children in your life, make sure they know that without SPF 963 and a hat, the sun is NOT their friend.



Steffano's Azure Diamonds (11157)
03/21/2019 (S. Covolo)
Photo by Sandi Soto

Enough about me! Well, no. My final college major was Organizational Studies, with a focus on Organizational Change. If you like for things to stay just as they've always been, remember that I was elected under protest (mine), so you were warned! Keep in mind, however, that any changes in how TAVS operates will be changes a majority at least agrees to try. It may take some convincing to get to the "let's give it a whirl" point, and if things don't work out, there's always retreat!

So let's focus on TAVS and on YOU! I'd like each of you to give some thought to the following questions:

- ☉ Would meeting on the weekend improve our odds of growing our membership?
- ☉ Is the Florida State Fair (February) the best use of our members' time and resources?
- ☉ Is the one-day Carrollwood Conservancy Plant Sale (also February) something we have volunteers and time to be involved with if we continue with the Florida State Fair?

A message from our **New** President (continued)

- ⊗ Are the USF Botanical Gardens Spring & Fall sales beneficial to TAVS and something we should continue to support?
- ⊗ What programs can we offer to help YOU grow African violets that make YOU happy?
- ⊗ How can TAVS' most involved members encourage you to grow plants you'd be proud to enter in our 50th Anniversary Show in February 2026 and beyond?

The fact that I'm asking these questions doesn't mean I'm opposed to any specific activities that have long been on our calendar, but other than our Annual Show & Sale, I'm not married to any of them. That said, it never hurts to look at what you're doing and think critically and constructively about whether continuing "as-is" is worthwhile financially, or for group dynamics, or just plain fun! After all, we do like each other and enjoy our time spent together, right?

Like I said, there were signs that I really didn't want to take this job. That's because I tend to do everything I do with everything I have, which means I take it seriously, not lightly. I'm here for some serious fun, and a hobby I expect will last my lifetime, and I want it to be the best lifetime I can have. Hope you'll join me to make it so!

Sandi Soto

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 Road, Seffner, FL 33584

ZOOM Meeting - Thursday, April 3 @ 7pm

Our presenter is Heidi Dillenbeck, the owner of Enchanted Gardens.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOEY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=86059105773>

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

Day Meeting - Friday, April 18 @ 10am

Seffner-Mango Public Library

Someone will be presenting something. It's going to be a surprise!



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! 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, 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!



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- ⊗ Jim Matula - April 4
- ⊗ Mary Lou Harden - April 9
- ⊗ Lynn Bandy - April 17

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



Rhapsodie Juliana (6985)
11/19/1988 (Holtkamp)
Photo by Sandi Soto

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society
March 21, 2025
Seffner-Mango Public Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:13am by Mary Beth Bryant, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant. "You all make time for TAVS, our shared love of African violets gives us all inspiration. And we made it through February!"

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Sandi Soto, Celeste Christman, Sandy Schultz, Laura Fellows (our newest member), Stuart Swayze, Joan Reynolds, Jim Boyer, Tammi Fitzgerald and Sheryl Herold.

SHOW REPORT: Sandi Soto, Asst. Show Chair, reported we had good turnout, but the results were disappointing. We earned maximum number in most categories, but the lone AVSA collection failed to meet the requirements for the AVSA Gold Rosette. With regards to our exhibits, most were excellent, with 60 plants and 10 designs receiving blue ribbons. A few plants were immature, and there were some staging errors including some plants in the wrong class and others needing grooming. Design division was very good, and Education was noted as Excellent in the judges' comments. Mary Beth Bryant applauded the efforts of new members showing for the first time, and 9 out of 15 active members showed plants or designs in our February Show & Sale. There were 67 horticulture exhibits and 14 designs, good numbers for our small membership.

Tammi Fitzgerald asked if there is a way to better broadcast our annual show & sale to increase attendance - advertising in the newspaper? Social media directed to gardening clubs? Is there a way to measure attendance to see trends over time? Perhaps bringing flyers to the fall USF show? Next year will be our 3rd time at the same venue, and we will need to come up with a theme ahead of time. Our 2026 show will also be TAVS' 50th Anniversary show.

PROGRAM: "TAVS February 2025 Show & Sale Awards". Mary Lou Harden recognized all the people who participated in our February Show & Sale, we had wonderful participation with a lot of people helping, even if they didn't have plants to show. A complete list of all the awards presented and photos from the show are included in this month's issue.

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the February 14, 2025 meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

Officers Reports: VP Mary Lou Harden didn't have anything to report.

Treasurer's Report: From 2/13/25 to 3/19/25 - Glenn Shelton sent the Treasurer's Report. The Carrollwood Conservancy sale was profitable, as was the annual show plant sale.

Unfinished Business:

USF Show April 12 & 13 - Setup changed by USF to Friday, April 11. If you can assist in setup, please be at USF at 11am. Tampa Gesneriad Society will NOT be attending, so there will be less setup, and we should be done quickly. Sandi Soto will send out an email blast with confirmed set-up date and time. This is a great opportunity, good

foot traffic, it usually sells out, it's a worthwhile event for TAVS. We will need sale plants; plants from Florida State Fair/ our show & sale went to Glenn Shelton. We may not need a large plant order from Peacock Cottage.

Jim Boyer suggested we post a big sign at the fall USF Show with dates for our February Show & Sale. We could possibly post on a whiteboard or easel (people could take a picture to remind themselves) and print out flyers. We would need to pick a theme early to have it ready for the fall USF Show.

New Business: No correspondence.

The following members were nominated, nominations were closed, seconded by Sheryl Herold. Our new TAVS Officers are:

President - Sandi Soto

Vice President - Mary Beth Bryant

Treasurer - Glenn Shelton

Corresponding Secretary - Lynn Bandy

BIRTHDAYS: There were no member birthdays in March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April 19, 2025 @ 2pm EST African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) Spring Zoom Meeting - Min Bui, Ph.D. will be presenting "In the Dark About Lighting?" Contact Jim Boyer if interested.

March 23, 2025 @ 4pm EST AVSA Virtual Circle for AVSA members - Barbara Stewart will be presenting "A Bug's Life ... and Death", alternative non-chemical ways to control insects.

April 3, 2025 Zoom Meeting - Our presenter is Heidi Dillenbeck, the owner of Enchanted Gardens.

April 18, 2025 Day Meeting - Mystery presentation, what will it be? Show up to find out!

ROLL CALL: 11 members.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:15am, raffle followed.

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PLANTS!

The Petal is looking for photos of your beautiful plants to share with our readers. So snap a couple of pics the next time you water and send them to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com or text them to **904-955-2947**. NOIDS are fine, but please include the plant name if you have one.



Recipe Box



Our members love to grow violets, but we also love to eat! Have a great recipe to share? Don't want to type it all out? Just scan a copy of the recipe and send it to The Petal Editor at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source so we can give credit.

African
Violet
Society of
America

GROWING TIPS

AVSA's series on learning foliage types will be continued in next month's issue of The Petal.

Upcoming Events



African Violets Take a European Holiday

TAVS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW & SALE

FEBRUARY 21 - 22, 2025

AWARDS

SANDI SOTO – 27 EXHIBITS

Entries Chair

Set-up, covering tables

Horticulture Sweepstakes

23 blue ribbons

Second Best in Show

Best Chimera

10 Best in Class

Cashier

GLENN SHELTON, TREASURER

13 exhibits – 13 blue ribbons

Best in Show

Best Experienced Exhibit (Standing Rule #2)

Best Standard

Best Miniature

Best Semiminiature

Best Lyon

7 Best in Class

STUART SWAYZE

2 exhibits

LYNN BANDY

Publicity & Petal Editor

JEAN KRAUCHIK

Dish Garden

Assisting where needed

JOAN REYNOLDS

2 Novice entries

(Novice award, Standing Rule #2)

MARY LOU HARDEN

32 exhibits – 32 blue ribbons

Best Trailer

Best Gesneriad

Best Design

Best Streptocarpus

Best Club Project, Seasoned Grower

Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement

Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement

Best Container Garden

Best Natural Garden

Best Terrarium

Best Dish Garden

12 Best In Class

Design Sweepstakes (9 blue ribbons)

PAT RUTZKE - 2 exhibits

1 Best in Class

2nd Best in Design

MARY BETH BRYANT

Entries and Cashier

1 exhibit

1 blue ribbon

1 Best in Class

Show Plant Sales

JIM BOYER

Classification Chair

Judges' Chair

His famous stew

TAVS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW & SALE AWARDS (CONTINUED)

LISA VILLABOL

Exhibitor - 1 exhibit

ANGELA NEWELL

Judge & Club & Show support

CELESTE CHRISTMAN

Plant Sales & Club Supplies

Kitchen/Food organizer

TAMMI FITZGERALD

Education Chair

CELIA HOWE

Assisting where needed

SANDY SCHULTZ

Commercial Vendor – Petal Editor

Assisting where needed

SHERYL HEROLD

Assisting with set-up and where needed

JIM MATULA

Assisting where needed

ANITA ADLIN

Club & Show support

GLADYS COOK

Publicity & Posting show photos on our website

We thank the following for their financial support & donations:

ANGELINA & GEORGE GRUNDHOFF

TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY

LYNDON LYON

JO'S VIOLETS - JO SCHRIMSHER

HEIDI DILLENBECK, ENCHANTED GARDENS

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA

CELIA HOWE

PAT RUTZKE

CELESTE CHRISTMAN

GLENN SHELTON

JIM MATULA

JIM BOYER

JOAN REYNOLDS

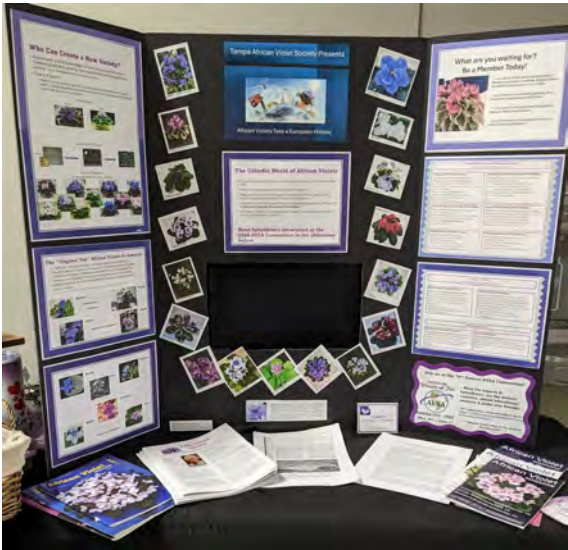
SANDI SOTO

JEAN KRAUCHIK

MARY LOU HARDEN

TAVS Standing Rule #2: A \$25 cash award will be given by TAVS to the Best Club Project Plants at its annual show, one award for best novice exhibit and one for best experienced exhibit.

TAVS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW & SALE



Educational Display
Tammi Fitzgerald



"Sharon Gartner"
Best in Show
Glenn Shelton



**Best Interpretive
Flower Arrangement**
Mary Lou Harden



"Sharon Gartner"
Second Best in Show
Sandi Soto



"Harbor Blue"
Sandi Soto



Best Design
Mary Lou Harden



"LE-Erica"
Mary Lou Harden



"Primulina tabacum"
Best Gesneriad
Mary Lou Harden



"Shirl's Hawaiian Lei"
Best Miniature
Glenn Shelton

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Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

sandylovesviolets@gmail.com

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"Primulina omen"
Mary Lou Harden



"Ma's Debutante"
Sandi Soto

The Petal

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May 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

**The 79th Annual AVSA Convention is
less than 4 weeks away**

A message from our President



Happy May!

We're off to a hot summer, rain storms and maybe even hurricanes, but your current and past Presidents and your new Petal editor are looking forward to a trip to the AVSA Convention. Sandy Schultz will be driving, and we wish her a safe and uneventful trip. She may even be chaperoning some standard African violets if Mary Beth or I can convince one or two plants to be in show shape. We'll fly to Overland Park in the Kansas City area of Kansas on May 27 and spend four full days immersed in African violets! What could be more fun? This time, we plan on remembering to take all the right pictures, and bring back stories to share with TAVS in June or July.

**Overland Park, KS
May 25 - June 1, 2025**

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 Road, Seffner, FL 33584

A message from our President (cont.)

Speaking of The Petal, Lynn Bandy faithfully put a newsletter out every month, with little or no contributions from any of us, including me! Every issue, she included a recipe from her own collection, always asking that we share OUR recipes. Did anyone, ever? Sandy has asked that we pitch in and send her recipes, pictures of our African violets or other gesneriads, and even any tips and tricks we think would help others with growing their plants. With apologies to Lynn, I'm finally trying to do my part, and have sent 3 recipes, and several pictures of some of my plants. Sandy would appreciate more contributions, and so would I! Besides, it's another way to keep up with the wonderful people in this wonderful club! Send your contributions by email to sandylovesviolets@gmail.com.

Remember those things I asked you to think about in the last issue? I'll be sending out a survey sometime this summer, probably by email, to see how you all REALLY feel about our activities. You can help us be the best African violet society we can be by participating.

Finally, let's start planning now for what I think is TAVS 50th show! We need to get a show theme in place, and start working on making it the best show yet! I hope to have a show related surprise for each of you in September or October. Will let you know a month in advance which meeting it will be, so mark your calendars for the 3rd Friday of those and EVERY month!

Remember the May Pole!
Sandi Soto

ZOOM Meeting - Thursday, May 1 @ 7pm
Our presenter is Ronn Nadeau: "The Seed Man".

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86954538028?pwd=xkHmflQcFc4KRashfjGC8bN5yXMs0k.1>

Meeting ID: 869 5453 8028

Passcode: 082969

Day Meeting - Friday, May 16 @ 10am

Seffner-Mango Public Library

"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" Mary Beth Bryant will be talking about common African Violet Pests and Diseases.



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! 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, 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!



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

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

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

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society
April 18, 2025
Seffner-Mango Public Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by Mary Beth Bryant, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Laura Fellows, Jim Rogers, Jean Krauchik, Stuart Swayze, Jim Boyer, Lynn Bandy, Celia Howe, Pat Rutzke and Sheryl Herold.

GUESTS: Ruth and Andrea Kauzleamar, Patsy Monk, Shameka and Arya Bandy.

PROGRAM: "Show and Tell" - Tips and ideas to make life easier when dealing with your African Violets! Presented by Jim Boyer

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the March 21st, 2025 meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

Officers Reports: Vice President May Beth Bryant reported the USF sale was a resounding success! Our plant supply was sold out on all three days. This included the plants purchased from Peacock Cottage along with several members going into their stocks and supplying additional plants for Saturday and Sunday. Florida State Fair: We are still waiting on payment from the Fair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April 19, 2025 @ 2pm EST African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) Spring Zoom Meeting- Min Bui, Ph.D. will be presenting "In the Dark About Lighting?" Contact Jim Boyer if interested.

May 1st, 2025 Zoom Meeting- Our presenter is Ronn Nadeau: "The Seed Man"

May 16th, 2025 Day Meeting - "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" Mary Beth Bryant will be talking about common African Violet Pests and Diseases.

AVSA Annual Convention May 25th through June 1st- "Violets are Worlds of Fun", Kansas City, KS.

TAVS dues of \$15 are due this month.

BIRTHDAYS: Jim Matula April 4th, Mary Lou Harden April 9th and Lynn Bandy April 17th.

SHOW AND TELL: Pat Rutzke brought in "Ma's Jamaica Farewell". Celia Howe brought in "Loose Noodle" and "LE Moonlight Sonata"

ROLL CALL: 11 members.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:25am, raffle followed.
Lynn E Bandy Correspondence Secretary

Foliage Type

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.



Cajun's Fickle Flirt



DECEMBER 2, 2024

The final type in the series on learning foliage types is variegated. According to the AVSA Handbook, 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."

"Cajun's Fickle Flirt" (Hybridized by Belinda Thibodeaux, 2010) is a gorgeous example of variegated foliage. It also has beautiful light pink, single wavy star blooms with raspberry eyes and veins.

There are several distinct types of variegation, such as mosaic, Tommie Lou, crown, and chimera. I have included graphics of these types of variegation above. Mosaic variegation has variegation in the center of the leaf with green around the edge, while Tommie Lou variegation is

the opposite with variegation around the edge of the leaf and green in the center. Crown variegation is, as the name implies, a variegated crown that becomes progressively more green as the leaves age and grow outward. Finally, chimera variegation has foliage with two contrasting shades or colors, one along the central vein and the other on both outside edges.

You can look up other varieties with variegation on the AVSA website and using the First Class African violet computer program. Keep an eye out for varieties with different types of variegation to add to your collection the next time you are looking for a new addition.

Photo credits: Belinda Thibodeaux, AVSA

Happy Growing!

Chris Brooks, AVSA

marketing@avsa.org



Welcome New Members

TAVS is delighted to welcome, in alpha order:

Elise Bryant

Laura Fellows

Sherry Hozier Griffin

Andrea Kanzleamar

Ruth Kanzleamar

Elizabeth Magill

Sandy Schultz



Recipe Box



Sandi's Mom's Black Beans

- 1 can Bush's SEASONED RECIPE Black Beans
- ½ cup minced yellow onion
- 3-4 large pegs of garlic, minced
- Olive oil
- Pepper, freshly ground preferred
- Katsup – 1 LARGE squirt
- ½ cup low sodium chicken broth (optional)
- 1/8 tsp sugar
- 1/2 cup minced yellow onions for serving over beans

Saute minced onion & garlic in olive oil until it smells yummy. Add black beans and stir to mix with onion & garlic. I use a pepper grinder and add pepper to the point where I think it's almost too much, I've never measured. Using a squeeze bottle of katsup, squeeze in a generous amount – at least a tablespoon, then stir in 1/8 teaspoon sugar. Cover, turn heat to simmer, and cook for at least 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add chicken broth if you prefer more liquid. Serve over yellow (preferred) or white rice, with a sprinkling of raw yellow onion.

Have a great recipe to share? Don't want to type it all out? Just scan a copy of the recipe and send it to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source.

Upcoming Events



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Cajun's Hot Expectations (10584)

1/11/2013 (R. Thibodeaux)

Photo by Sandi Soto

The Petal

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June 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.



And the Winner is...



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Best in Show and Best Miniature
Hunter's Whitetail Fawn (11244)
07/17/2019 (K. Muzalewski)
Grown by Janis Theophanes

A message from our President

We're late! A lot happened between the end of May and the beginning of June, and as a result, other things didn't happen. The Petal is late, the June Zoom was cancelled due to illness, and no one seems to know who, if anyone, took the May minutes and attendance.

May ended with a bang as Mary Beth & I flew to Kansas for the 2025 AVSA Convention, while Sandy Schultz drove up with all her precious cargo (candles, shirts, and general AV-themed goodies). She also carried Sharon Gartner, my memorial AV that was too big to carry on a plane safely. Our plane left Tampa 40 minutes late, and the connection in Atlanta was at least 3 hours late, so instead of arriving fresh and energized at about 6:30pm, Mary Beth and I arrived after 11pm,

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 Road, Seffner, FL 33584

A message from our President (cont.)

exhausted and grouchy. A good night's sleep, and we were off and running!

Convention is a special event in so many ways. You meet new people every year, and this being our 3rd Convention, there were a lot of friendships from the previous 2 to renew! It's like one big family reunion where the family is so big it can take years to know them all! We spent a lot of time with Jim Matula, which we always enjoy, and we came home with lots of new African violets we didn't need.

As a Board nominee, I started with a Board meeting that was probably the shortest one on record. We were done within 90 minutes. Mary Beth started with Judging School, and we both took the written exam and plant judging section at the same time. Still no word on whether we passed, but either way, we get to attend Judging School in July, taught by our own King James. More on that elsewhere.

TAVS was represented by three entries. I carried 2 semiminatures on the plane (Rob's Slap Happy and Ness' Crinkle Blue), and of course standard Sharon Gartner. Sharon was moved from the multicolor class by the show committee, and wound up in New Cultivar from Seed! Judging was Thursday, with the winners from Best in Class all the way to Best in Show announced at the Awards dinner. Much to my surprise, my name was announced as winning 2 Best in Class, and 3rd Best New Cultivar! All 3 entries received 1st



**2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Best in Show and Best Miniature
Hunter's Whitetail Fawn
Grown by Janis Theophanes**

Place ribbons, Rob's Slap Happy and Sharon Gartner won Best in Class, and Sharon Gartner of course won the new cultivar award.

A highpoint of Saturday was the program "Next Level Design." Four experienced design contestants competed to create two designs. The first, an underwater design, had to be completed in 10 minutes, using 5 items from a limited selection, one of which had to be the container, and another the plant they'd use for both designs. They had 20 minutes to complete the 2nd design. Complete with the Jeopardy theme . . . What a riot, and what a great idea!

Saturday was downhill from there. Mary Beth stood in for me at my Board Induction Ceremony and Dinner, as I was one of many to succumb to Influenza A. Eventually, we were both sick, and I brought flu home to my hubster, while Sandy Schultz, who may or may not have had the flu, at least shared the cough.

Next year! Dallas here we come!
Sandi Soto



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Best in Class
Rob's Slap Happy (9040)
 05/31/2001 (R. Robinson)
 Semiminiature
 Grown by Sandi Soto



2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
3rd Best New Cultivar and Best in Class
Sharon Gartner
 Grown by Sandi Soto





2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
"The Breakfast Club"

2025 AVSA Convention, Kansas City
Ness' Crinkle Blue (8136)
01/19/1995 (D. Ness)
Semiminiature
Grown by Sandi Soto



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- ✿ Jean Krauchik - June 3
- ✿ Stuart Swayze - June 17
- ✿ Bonnie Smith - June 27

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



Our Atlanta and Dixie AVS friend Johnnie Berry is in the hospital in Atlanta. Surgery was scheduled for Wednesday, June 11. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. If you'd like to send her a card, her daughter will be picking cards up from Johnnie's home and hand delivering them to her. Her address is:

Johnnie Berry
287 Fennel Way SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

Zoom Meetings

The ZOOM Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 5 was cancelled due to illness.

Day Meeting - Friday, June 20 @ 10am
Seffner-Mango Public Library

"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" Mary Beth Bryant will be talking about common African Violet Pests and Diseases.

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society
May 16, 2025
Seffner-Mango Public Library

A MEETING WAS HELD ON THIS DATE BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE TOOK MINUTES. I THINK WE WERE TOO DISTRACTED PLANNING FOR THE CONVENTION.



Michaelmoelera vietnamensis
Photo by Mary Lou Harden

Recipe Box



Hawaiian Carrot Pineapple Cake Submitted by Tammi Fitzgerald

For the cake layers

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups grated carrots
- 1 1/2 cups pineapple chunks
(not crushed and well-drained)
- 1/2 cups chopped walnuts (optional)

For the cream cheese drizzle and filling

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2-3 tbsp milk or pineapple juice
(to thin for drizzling)

Garnish

- Shredded carrots
- Pineapple wedges or tidbits

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and line three 8-inch round cake pans

In a bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. In another bowl, beat sugar, eggs, oil, and vanilla until well combined. Stir in grated carrots, then gently fold in pineapple chunks and walnuts.

Divide batter evenly among the pans. Bake 25–30 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cakes cool completely.

Prepare the cream cheese drizzle: Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar and vanilla. Thin with milk or pineapple juice until pourable but thick.

Assemble the cake: place one layer on a serving plate, drizzle with cream cheese frosting, and add pineapple chunks between layers. Repeat for all layers. Drizzle the entire cake generously with the cream cheese mixture, letting it cascade down the sides. Garnish with shredded carrots and pineapple tidbits or wedges on top. Chill slightly before serving for best texture.

Tropical, moist, and decadently layered—this cake is a visual and flavorful showstopper!



Upcoming Events

Learn What the Judges are Looking For!

Judging School will be held on July 26th at:

Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland Florida 33805

Class will start at 9am with the following agenda:

- 9am-12pm – Presentation
- 12pm-1pm – Lunch
- 1pm-2pm – Practice Judging
- 2pm-4pm – Written Test & Judging Test

For the school to be accredited there must be at least 5 attendees of which at least 3 must take the exam. You will need to register with Jim Boyer before the school. Send him your name, address, phone number, email address & your AVSA membership number.

If taking the test, Jim will need proof of 3 blue ribbons. The cost is \$15. The questions all come from the 2022 Growers', Exhibitors' & Judges' Handbook & any update in the AVSA magazine. If only auditing the cost is \$10. No proof of ribbons is required.



Yvon Decelles (8727)
04/25/1998 (J. Brownlie)
Photo by Mary Beth Bryant

DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
"SHOW"
"Treasures in Grandma's Attic"

September 11, 12 & 13, 2025
Petals From The Past Garden Center
16034 County Road 29
Jemison, Alabama 35085
For more information: DAVS.org

THE AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA
PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AVSA JUDGED SHOW
VIOLET TREASURES
October 31-November 1, 2025



SAVE THE DATE!
2026 AVSA CONVENTION
MONDAY, 5/25/26 - SUNDAY, 5/31/2026

AVSA
Dallas 2026

VIOLETS ARE TEXAS STARS

Become a **MEMBER**

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)
Current dues are \$15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:
www.tampaafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:
Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

Visit us on Instagram:
Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/

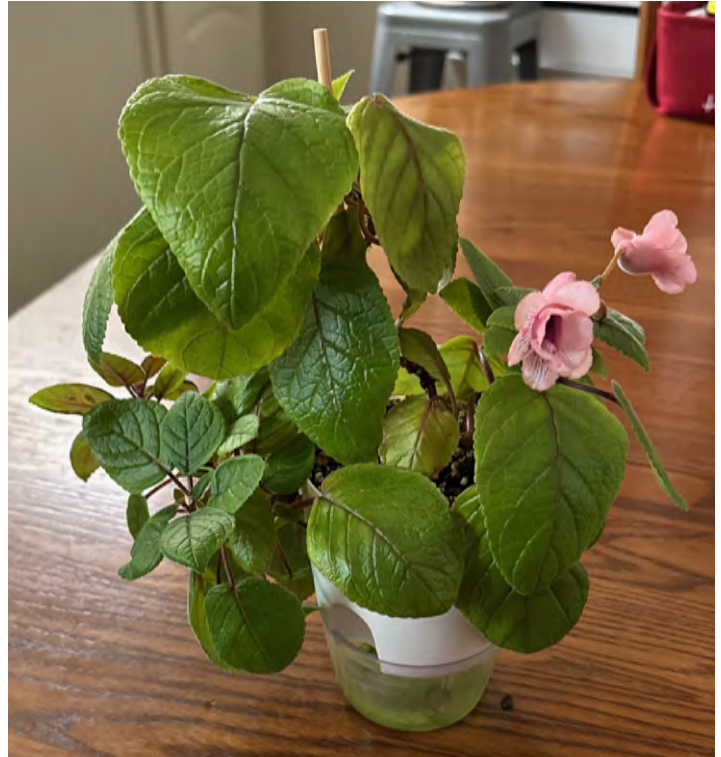
Find us on Facebook
Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz
Petal Editor
sandylovesviolets@gmail.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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Party Dress
Photo by Tammi Fitzgerald

The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



July 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

A message from our President

It was great to see all the smiling faces at the June meeting, including guests Irene and Michael Kilcomons! We hope they'll join us again, but without contact information (email and/or phone), we may have a problem letting them know. In case my mind is absent at future meetings, I hope someone thinks to let guests know we'd love to include them on our mailing list!

Another welcome face was our Treasurer Glenn Shelton. We know Glenn will be AWOL during tax season, but we still miss him when he's away for those months. We especially appreciated him for the excellent presentation on how he grows his miniature and semi-miniature African violets. It was an excellent program, with a bit of hands-on grooming. I enjoyed it, but those minis are just too small for my fingers to groom! Give me a large standard, and I'm a lot more comfortable!



Tête à Tête (6347)
08/26/1986 (Malinich)
Photo by Sandi Soto

I hope we'll see everyone at the July evening ZOOM meeting this Thursday at 7 PM. Mary Beth has or will send out the link, and we'll be joined by AVSA Immediate Past President Mary Corondon, who'll talk about her favorite subject, African violets! On a sad note, those of you who regularly participate in the ZOOM meetings will remember Johnnie Berry, a friend of TAVS who often attended. Johnnie was a constant at AVSA Conventions, who was missed this year due to

A message from our President (cont.)

some medical issues. She passed away on June 20th. We'll miss her for her wonderful smile, her kindness, and her shared love of AVs and other gesneriads.

And speaking of meetings, for the past several months, our meetings at the Seffner-Mango Library have been moved from the large, airy front room to the small computer lab. We were informed that with the post-COVID revival of "Story Time" for the kids, we'll be permanently in the computer lab. With that in mind, make sure you read the "We're Moving" article elsewhere in this issue of The Petal!

That's it for now!

Sandi



Day Meeting -

Friday, July 18 @ 10am

NEW LOCATION

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

President Sandi Soto will be presenting "A Journey to the Usumbara Mountains - Discovery of The Species".

ZOOM Meeting

ZOOM/Evening Meeting -

Thursday, July 3 @ 7pm

Our presenter is Mary Corondan of Fairview, TX, Immediate Past AVSA President, Chair of AVSA Judges and Past President LSAVC. Mary will share some of her award-winning AV entries and discuss judging procedures.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=86059105773>

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

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! 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, 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!

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 our **NEW LOCATION:**

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334



Remembering Johnnie Berry

(From African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta and AVSA Facebook posts)

It is with deep sadness that the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta shares the passing of our beloved member and friend, Johnnie Berry. She passed away on June 20, 2025 after a brief illness, surrounded by her loving family.

To say Johnnie was a plant lover would be an understatement. She was a Master Gardener, member of eight plant clubs, plus the Garden Clubs of Georgia. At one time she held the title of Treasurer for four different clubs and also held several other positions within these organizations.

Ultimately, African violets and other gesneriads became Johnnie's passion and in 1981 [she] discovered and joined The African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta (AVCGA). She rarely missed a meeting over these last 40-plus years and twice served as club president. She shared her knowledge with everyone and grew hundreds of plants that she shared in "round robins" with club members and anyone who needed a start. She

was also an African violet and gesneriads judge during all this time.

Johnnie's other memberships included our regional society, the Dixie African Violet Society, attending many of its conventions, having held the titles of Treasurer and Membership Coordinator for many years. She was also a member of our national society, the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), attending national conventions and judging at many of them. She served on several AVSA committees and was a Director in 2016-2017. Just last year she was awarded the AVSA's prestigious Mabel and Glenn Hudson Award for Outstanding Affiliate Leadership. She was also a member of the Gesneriad Society, where she also served as a Director for two years.

Johnnie was a vital and active participant in all the clubs and societies of which she was a member. We know that her loss will leave a void that will be felt by the AVCGA each time we enter our meeting space.

Rest in Peace, sweet Johnnie.



Johnnie Berry receives the Hudson Award from Linda Hall



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- ❁ Nancy Kast - July 3
- ❁ Pat Rutzke - July 12
- ❁ Sandy Schultz - July 21
- ❁ Roselind Rovinsky - July 22

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

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society

June 21, 2025

Seffner-Mango Public Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Sandi Soto, Celeste Christman, Stuart Swayze, Jim Boyer, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Tom Schaefer, Glenn Shelton, Ruth Kanzelmar and Sharon Updike.

GUESTS: Irene and Mike Kilcomons.

PROGRAM: Glenn gave an informative program on what works for him growing his miniature and semi-miniature African violets. He brought several specimen plants and had members critique them.

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the May meeting could not be approved as none were taken.

Officers Reports: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Glenn Shelton read aloud.

Unfinished Business: Sandi reminded us we needed a show theme ASAP. By accord, the show theme for 2026 is "Hats Off to Violets" (pending agreement from Night Meeting attendees).

Sandi prompted the membership for ideas and suggestions for upcoming programs, both in-person and by ZOOM.

Jim Boyer reminded everyone that the Judging School is in Lakeland July 26th from 9-4 and \$15.00 will cover the cost of the course.

New Business: Library staff notified us that the move to the smaller meeting room is permanent. Mary Beth Bryant proposed looking into whether or not the Extension Office on the corner of US 301 and W Old Hillsborough Ave could hold our in-person meetings instead. Tom Schaefer agreed to find out if they could accommodate us.

BIRTHDAYS: Jean Krauchik, Stuart Swayze and Bonnie Smith celebrated birthdays in June

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TB Gesneriad Society: Next meeting is Saturday, June 22 at 10am at the Mango Seffner Library.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:45am, raffle followed.

Recipe Box



Dot Nelson's Forgotten Cookies

(Sandi's Boss' wife)

2 egg whites

½ tsp salt

2/3 cup sugar

½ cup chopped nuts

6 oz package chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350° degrees. Beat egg whites & salt together until stiff. Gradually beat in sugar. Fold in nuts & chocolate chips. Spoon onto greased cookie sheet. Place in oven. **TURN OVEN OFF AND FORGET ABOUT THE COOKIES. DO NOT OPEN FOR 1 HOUR.**



AE - Little Imp
Photo by Sandi Soto

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PLANTS!

The Petal is looking for photos of your beautiful plants to share with our readers. So snap a couple



of pics the next time you water and send them to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com or text them to **904-955-2947**. NOIDS are fine, but please include the plant name if you have one.



TAVS is Moving!

With the permanent loss of the large meeting space at the Seffner Mango Library, it was decided at the June day meeting to investigate other possible locations, and WOW! We moved fast, thanks to Mary Beth Bryant's suggestion that we check with the Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES), and Tom Schaefer volunteering to go by the Extension Service office on his way home. It's a done deal!

The meeting dates for the remainder of 2025 are listed below, but it's also easy to remember they're the 3rd Friday of every month. (The night meetings are the 1st Thursday . . .)



- ☼ July 18
- ☼ August 15
- ☼ September 19
- ☼ October 17
- ☼ November 21
- ☼ December 19

Our new meeting space is rated to hold 30 people, and in the event they have to move us due to other commitments, it would be temporary rather than permanent.

For inquiring minds, if you've ever been to Mary Lou Harden's home on Old Hillsborough, the new location is just up (or down) the road. The address is 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334. Depending on where you're coming from, your drive may be 5 minutes shorter or 5 minutes longer! There's ample parking, and a ramp available for anyone who needs it.

So, same time, same dates, different location!



Upcoming Events

Judging School will be held on July 26th at 9am:

Christ Lutheran Church
 2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
 Lakeland Florida 33805

You will need to register with Jim Boyer before the school. Send him your name, address, phone number, email address & your AVSA membership number.

If taking the test, Jim will need proof of 3 blue ribbons. The cost is \$15. The questions all come from the 2022 Growers', Exhibitors' & Judges' Handbook & any update in the AVSA magazine. If only auditing the cost is \$10. No proof of ribbons is required.

DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
"SHOW"
"Treasures in Grandma's Attic"

September 11, 12 & 13, 2025
 Petals From The Past Garden Center
 16034 County Road 29
 Jemison, Alabama 35085
 For more information: DAVS.org

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society

July 3, 2025

Night meeting via ZOOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Sandi Soto.

ROLL CALL: The 9 members attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Sandi Soto, Celeste Christman, Glenn Shelton, Jim Matula, Angela Newell, Sheryl Herold and Lisa Villabol.

PROGRAM: Mary Corondan, immediate past president of AVSA, gave a presentation showing her award winning entries through the years and insights on how to expertly judge not only plants but designs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June Day Meeting were approved as corrected: the location of the Extension Office is CR579 & W Old Hillsborough Ave, not US301 and W Old Hillsborough Ave.

MOTIONS: The motion was made and seconded to accept Hats Off to Violets as the show theme for 2026. The motion passed.

Glenn Shelton moved to make an award to a member. The motion was 2nded & passed and will be presented at the July day meeting.

SHOW BUSINESS: Sandi Soto appointed Mary Lou Harden Design Chair. She will be responsible for writing the design portion of the show schedule.

There will be a project plant. It will be a semi miniature & will come from Sandi Soto's collection.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: Ideas for upcoming programs either in-person or by ZOOM, included Pest & Diseases, a re-scheduling of Minh Bui's program on lighting, a "how to" demonstration on creating full spectrum lighting with LED strips, and Kathy Lahti on tips and tricks when growing and showing. Mary Lou Harden reminded us that Winston Goretsky is scheduled for the October 2nd ZOOM meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ☼ Mary Beth Bryant announced that the Judging School will be held in Lakeland on Saturday July 26th from 9-4.
- ☼ The African Violet Council of Florida Show & Sale will be held in Lakeland October 31-November 1. Members who wish to show have 4 months to get their plants ready.
- ☼ Lynn Bandy has been in the hospital, but is now out & doing better.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.



Become a **MEMBER**

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)
Current dues are \$15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:

www.tampaafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:

Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

Visit us on Instagram:

Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/

Find us on Facebook

Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

sandylovesviolets@gmail.com

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

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Deep Purple Dreaming
(Sinningia)

Photo by Mary Lou Harden

The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



August 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AFCF) and the Gesneriad Society.



Over the past few months, TAVS has been growing! Like many other African violet societies, a lot of our members didn't return after COVID for reasons known only to them. But also like other AV societies, new members are finally being added to the rolls! We'd like to welcome Ruth Kanzleamar, Michael & Irene Kilcomons, and Sharon Updike to the TAVS family. We're also happy that Fern Azarian, who has been a member but was unable to attend meetings, was at the day meeting in July, and hopes to be a regular attendee in the future. If I've missed someone (very likely!), please let me know so we can include them in the welcome next month.

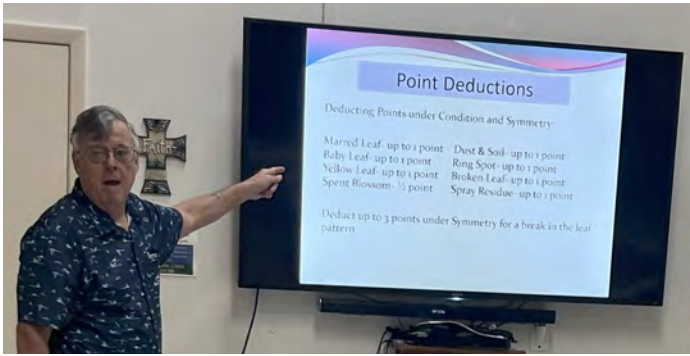
A message from our President

Happy August, my friends!

The further we get into 2025, the closer we get to tolerable weather. It's currently too hot to do anything, and of course, we have to keep doing things!

On July 26, TAVS was a sizeable presence at the AVSA Judging School taught by our own Jim Boyer, aka King James. Members attending included Mary Beth Bryant, Tammy Fitzgerald, Celia Howe, Angela Newell, Sandy Schultz, and yours truly. We weren't alone, as there were a number of people from other Florida AV societies. This was my 3rd judging school, and I have to say it was the best, due to Jim being open to questions and discussion. I always learn something new (that's why I keep going!), and I hope all our members got something positive, and useful, from the experience.

A message from our President (cont.)



Jim Boyer (aka King James) leading AVSA Judging School Saturday, July 26, 2025

As we look to August, the scheduled speaker for our ZOOM meeting on Thursday, August 7 was Johnnie Berry. Sadly, we won't have that pleasure, but we were able to reschedule Dr. Minh Bui, since we cancelled the June ZOOM due to Mary Beth, VP & ZOOM Goddess Extraordinaire, and I, ZOOM Mediocre Substitute, having Post-Convention plague... Watch for the email from Mary Beth with the final word on our Thursday program.

Our August Day Meeting, 8/15/2025, will feature our own Celeste Christman, who will talk about propagation techniques and potting up the resulting offspring, in her presentation **"This Could Be the Start of Something Big!"**

Finally, it's Project Plant Time!!

PROJECT PLANT TIME!!

I'll be bringing the Project Plants to the August meeting, and everyone who plans to show should definitely try to be there! As usual, you won't be told the name of the plant until after the show, but it's a nice one, and one of the easiest to grow in my opinion. Even if you don't enter any other

plant or design, I hope you'll all put in the effort to grow a project plant and enter it. Remember, there's a lovely rosette, AND a nice cash prize for the NOVICE Project Plant class winner! I can say this with complete confidence because I'll be funding the award myself!

See you soon!

Sandi Soto



Bob Serbin (8292)

09/21/1995 (J. Brownlie)

Photo by Sandy Schultz



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- ✿ Gladys Cook - August 7
- ✿ Sandi Soto - August 27

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



ZOOM/Evening Meeting - Thursday, August 7 @ 7pm

Our presenter is Min Bui, Ph.D. who will talk about lighting, growing and showing his African violets.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=84098526347>

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

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Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334



Day Meeting -

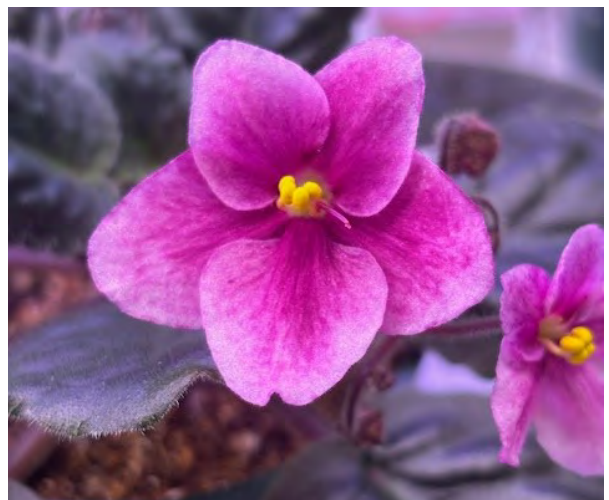
Friday, August 15 @ 10am

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Celeste Christman will talk about propagation techniques and potting up the resulting offspring, in her presentation **"This Could Be the Start of Something Big!"**



Smooch Me (8776)

11/14/1998 (K. Stork)

Photo by Sandi Soto



MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society

July 18, 2025

New Location: Hillsborough County Extension Office at 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: “Don’t hold onto a mistake just because it took you so long to make it.” - Sandi Soto

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Bonnie Smith, Sharon Updike, Ruth Kanzleamar, Michael and Irene Kilcommons, Fern Azarian, Tom Schaeffer, Jim Boyer, Glenn Shelton, Mary Lou Harden, Celeste Christman, Mary Beth Bryant, Jean Krauchik, Stuart Swayze, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, and Sandi Soto.

The meeting was held at our new location at the Hillsborough County Extension Office at 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL. The Extension Office meeting room was spacious, with a raised platform and projection screen for the speaker/presenter, and plenty of tables and chairs. This will be the new TAVS meeting location for the remainder of 2025. TAVS will likely renew the meeting space in December 2025 for TAVS meetings in 2026. Housekeeping notes: the tables and chairs are already in place and do not need to be moved or stacked. If TAVS has to set room, return to CLASSROOM style. Please close the meeting

room doors during meetings as there are people working in the offices in the corridor. Cover tables for food or demonstrations, and wipe down surfaces, take out any trash, and turn off lights when finished.

PROGRAM: Sandi Soto presented a program entitled “A Journey to the (maybe) Usumbara Mountains – Discovery of the Species.”

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes from the July meeting were approved as presented in The Petal.

Treasurer’s Report: Glenn Shelton reported that TAVS is still trying to straighten out the charges with USF for the October 2024 Fall Plant Sale at the Botanical Gardens.

A motion was made and approved to make two donations of \$50.00 each to the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS) and the African Violet Society of America (AVSA) in memory of Johnnie Berry.

A motion was made and approved to present Lynn Bandy with a gift of \$100 in appreciation for her years of work taking the TAVS meeting minutes, and creating and distributing The Petal, the TAVS newsletter each month.

VP Report: Mary Beth Bryant asked us to please wear your TAVS name badge. New members may order a badge through Glenn, and please make sure that we have your email address for The Petal, the TAVS newsletter.

Mary Beth requested ideas for future meeting topics: long necks, plant and pest problems, repotting. We need everyone to gather up hats from various time periods

for our upcoming show themed *Hats off to Violets* in February 2026.

SHOW & TELL: Glenn Shelton brought a large potted Eucadonia in bloom. Eucadonia is a rhizomatous plant.

Fern Azarian is completing her Master Gardener certification through the Extension Service and brought in some miniature African violets to ask questions about, and get help with. Glenn Shelton helped Fern by giving an impromptu repotting demonstration, including wicks, and provided a lot of very informative repotting and wick watering tips.

BIRTHDAYS: Nancy Kast, Pat Rutzke, Sandy Schultz and Roselind Rovinsky celebrated July birthdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sandi Soto polled attendees on how many are interested in club project plants to grow out and display at the TAVS show in February.

Mary Lou Harden announced that the Gesneriad Club would be meeting at her home on Saturday, July 19, 2025.

Jim Boyer reminded everyone that Judging School would be held on July 26, 2025 at the Christ Lutheran Church located at 2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland, FL.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:45am.



**Sandi Soto leading program
"A Journey to the Usumbara Mountains -
Discovery of The Species"**

Program Notes

On July 18, 2025 Sandi Soto gave a presentation on the discovery of the original African violets in the wild, the importance of preserving species in the wild and in cultivation, and tracing their journey from the wild into cultivation. The first African violets were discovered in the late 19th century by Baron Walter von Saint Paul-Illaire in the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania. He found the plant in 1892, near modern-day Tanzania, and sent specimens back to his father in Germany. The father then shared them with a botanist at the Royal Botanic Garden in Hanover, Germany.

The plant was later named *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *ionantha* being the Latin term for "violet-like." In 1893 the first African violets were commercially grown from seed, and in 1926 African violet seeds were imported into the US. Slides were shown of wild African violets growing from cliff faces, rocks, and trailing plants that looked like *S. clone grotei* Silvert spreading out over the ground.



***S. clone grotei* Silvert
Photo by Mary Lou Harden**

Recipe Box



Have a great recipe to share? Don't want to type it all out? Just scan a copy of the recipe and send it to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source.

A traditional Middle Eastern salad, tabbouleh is one of my favorite summer dishes. Light, refreshing and easy to make, I'll often top it with garbanzo beans or falafel.

Tabbouleh

From *The Complete Vegetarian Cookbook*

Ingredients:

Salt and pepper

3 tomatoes, cored and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

1/2 cup medium-grind bulgur, rinsed

1/4 cup lemon juice

6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 1/2 cups minced parsley

1/2 cup minced fresh mint

2 scallions, sliced thin

Toss tomatoes with 1/4 teaspoon salt in fine-mesh strainer set over bowl and let drain, tossing occasionally, for 30 minutes: reserve 2 tablespoons drained tomato juice. Toss bulgur with 2 tablespoons lemon juice and reserved tomato juice in bowl and let sit until grains begin to soften, 30 to 40 minutes.

In large bowl, whisk remaining 2 tablespoons lemon juice, oil, cayenne, and 1/4 teaspoon salt together. Add drained tomatoes, soaked bulgur, parsley, mint, and scallions and toss gently to combine. Cover and let sit at room temperature until flavors have blended and bulgur is tender, about 1 hour.

Before serving, toss to recombine and season with salt and pepper to taste.



WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PLANTS!

The Petal is looking for photos of your beautiful plants to share with our readers. So snap a couple



of pics the next time you water and send them to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com or text them to **904-955-2947**. NOIDS are fine, but please include the plant name if you have one.

PROJECT PLANT TIME!!



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PROJECT PLANT

The project plant for 2026 is a semi-miniature with crown variegation. You'll get the newly potted baby fitted with a wick and a reservoir. The soil is light enough for Florida, with lots of perlite to keep it that way, so it may not need repotting for several months. Keep an eye on The Petal, as there will be little "blurbs" with information on care in every issue, right through February. For the next month, recommendations are:

- ☼ Don't let the wick dry out, and if it does, set the potted plant in a bowl with a small amount of the water you usually use for your African violets, and let it soak up all it wants for about 20 minutes. That will re-wet the wick without packing down the potting mix as top watering CAN do.
- ☼ Because it's crown variegated, and variegation goes away when the plant gets too warm, keep it on a lower shelf if possible. As we all learned way back in school, warm air rises, and cold air falls.
- ☼ Look at it daily. Most days, you won't do anything but look. If you do that, and there's an issue (very low water, plenty of water but the plant looks droopy, etc.) you'll see it before it becomes a problem.

Good luck & happy growing!

Upcoming Events

An advertisement for a show by the Dixie African Violet Society. The background is a detailed illustration of a cluttered attic with wooden floors, a rocking chair, and various trunks and boxes. A purple African violet plant is in the foreground. At the top center is a circular logo with a purple flower and the word 'DIXIE' above it. Text in the center reads 'DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY "SHOW" "Treasures in Grandma's Attic"'. At the bottom, it says 'September 11, 12 & 13, 2025' and 'Petals From The Past Garden Center 16034 County Road 29 Jemison, Alabama 35085'. For more information, it lists 'DAVS.org'. There are two small images of African violet plants at the bottom corners.

DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
"SHOW"
"Treasures in Grandma's Attic"

September 11, 12 & 13, 2025
Petals From The Past Garden Center
16034 County Road 29
Jemison, Alabama 35085
For more information: DAVS.org

THE AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA
PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AVSA JUDGED SHOW

VIOLET TREASURES

October 31-November 1, 2025



SAVE THE DATE!

**2026 AVSA
CONVENTION**

MONDAY, 5/25/26 - SUNDAY, 5/31/2026



**VIOLETS ARE
TEXAS STARS**

Become a **MEMBER**

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)
Current dues are \$15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:
www.tampaafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:
Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

Visit us on Instagram:
Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/

Find us on Facebook
Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz
Petal Editor
sandylovesviolets@gmail.com

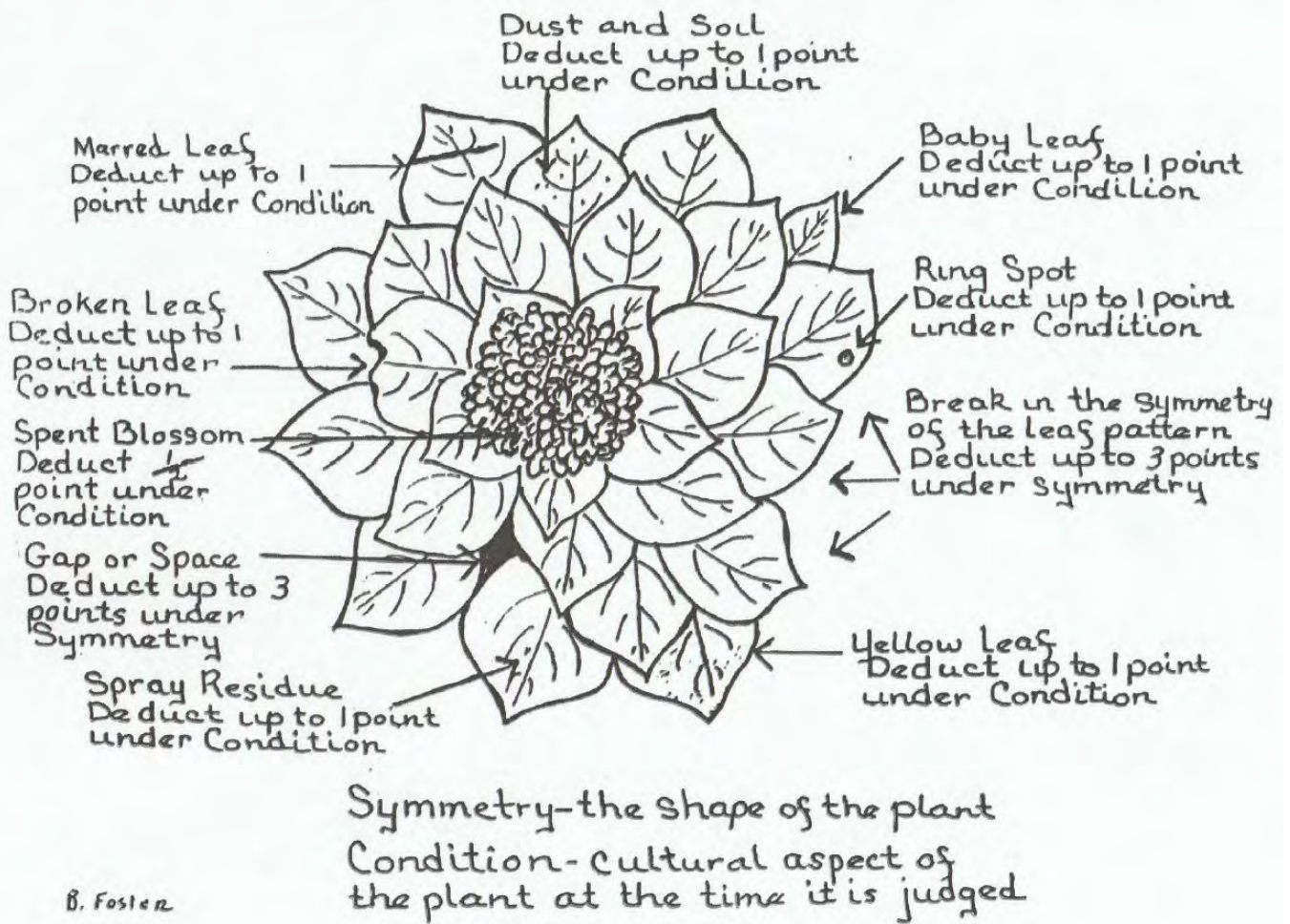
The Petal is published monthly by the Tampa African Violet Society.

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.

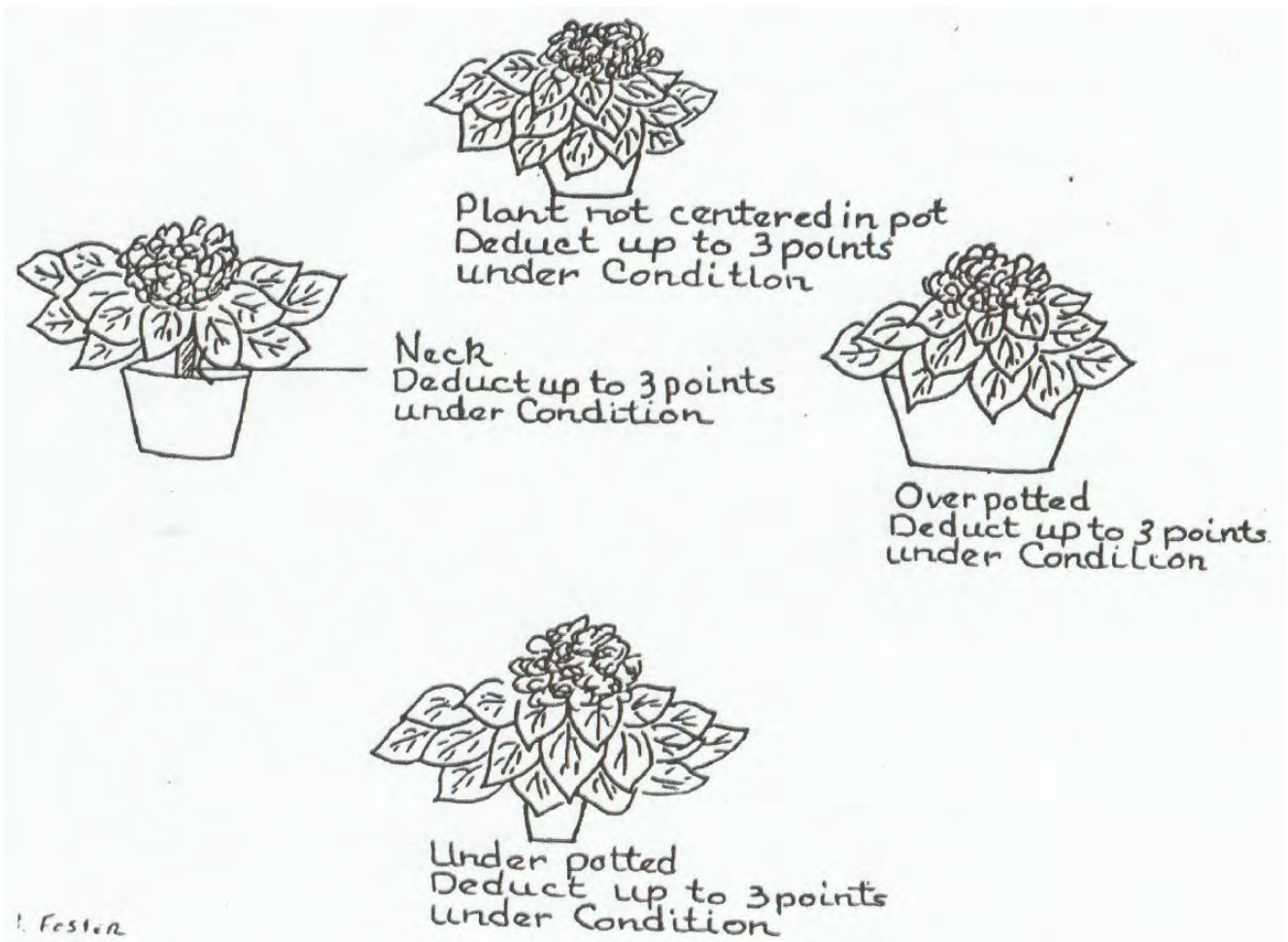
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Cajun's Rum Boogie
2019 (B. Thibodeaux)
Photo by Mary Beth Bryant



Images from Mary Corondan's ZOOM Presentation July 3, 2025 on Judging Procedures



The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



September 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) and the Gesneriad Society.



Achimenes 'Peach Glow'
Photo by Mary Lou Harden

A message from our President

Happy September, everyone!

The August meeting was, in my opinion, one of the best we've had! Mary Beth Bryant, our esteemed VP, gave an excellent presentation on

pests that pester African violets, and the response was unexpectedly good. You know a program is good when there's a lot of audience interaction, and questions. Kudos to all of you for your participation.

So, how are your project plants coming along? I don't think it would be a bad idea to bring them with you to a few of our meetings in the coming months, as long as you can transport them safely. If they're growing just fine, maybe only bring them in once, especially if all you need is some help with grooming. Once Stuart has his plant, 12 will be "in training," and I expect to see 12 entered in our February show! Wouldn't it be great if there were 12 blue ribbons, and the judges had a hard time picking the Best in Class plant because they were all so good?!

Mary Beth, as VP and Program Chair, is still working to put together our live and ZOOM programs for the next year. A few really good ideas have been presented, including: a live demo of how to set up or assemble lighting; navigating the beastly AVSA website; tips and tricks for living

A message from our President (cont.)

with African violets. If there are particular speakers you'd like to hear from, or to hear from again, please put a bug in Mary Beth's ear, or in mine.

Speaking of programs, Robbie McMeel, President of Dixie African Violet Society, will be our ZOOM speaker on September 4, and our own Celeste Christman will talk about Episcia, a beautiful and varied cousin of the African violet at our September 19 meeting. I hope at least some of you are planning to enter plants or designs in the AVCF (African Violet Council of Florida) show. It will be at Lakeland's Christ Lutheran Church October 31 – November 1 and will feature a lot of wonderful sale plants, as well as an opportunity to see what varieties AV growers from around the state are showing. Setup is Thursday, October 30, and if you have nothing exciting planned, we'd love for you to join us! Since TAVS is a member of AVCF, all TAVS members can enter plants in the show. Only **INDIVIDUAL** members of AVCF can offer plants for sale, but you can still buy!

That's all for now folks!

Sandi Soto



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

🌸 Sheryl Herold - September 13

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.

nybleb@aol.com or mlhard@verizon.net



**ZOOM/Evening Meeting -
Thursday, September 4 @ 7pm**

Robbie McMeel, President of Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), our regional organization, will be talking about DAVS and their upcoming show.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?
pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz0
9&omn=81437642622](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=81437642622)

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

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 our **NEW LOCATION:**

**Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334**

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! 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, 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!

MEETING

Day Meeting -

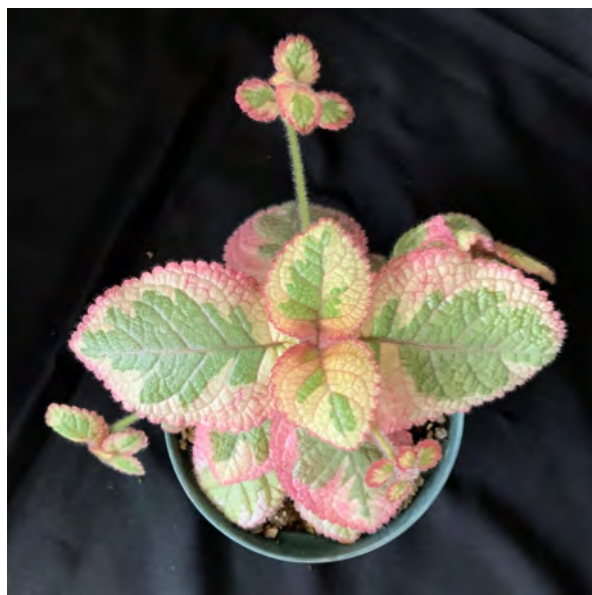
Friday, September 19 @ 10am

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Celeste Christman will talk about Episcia, a beautiful and varied cousin of the African violet.



Episcia Pink Dreams

Photo by Mary Lou Harden



MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society

August 7, 2025

Night meeting via ZOOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Sandi Soto.

ROLL CALL: The 13 members attending were Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Glenn Shelton, Celeste Christman, Fern Azarian, Angela Newell, Lisa Villabol, Briony Tomalesky, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Michael Kilcomons and Irene Kilcomons. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: Minh Bui was the speaker and the program was entitled "Lighting, Growing and Showing African Violets".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved as amended.

MOTIONS: Angela Newell motioned that TAVS sponsor the 2027 AVSA convention. Motion was not seconded and tabled after a discussion. It was decided that Sandi Soto speak first to Jim Boyer so that TAVS can recommend sponsorship of the AVSA convention to AVCF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Day Meeting program will be presented by Celeste Christman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Tampa African Violet Society

August 15, 2025

Day Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald, Anita Adlin, Jean Krauchik, Fern Azarian, Sheryl Herold, Sandy Schultz, Glenn Shelton, Ruth Kanzleamar, Andrea Kanzleamar, Michael Kilcomons, Irene Kilcomons and Celia Howe. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: Mary Beth Bryant presented a program entitled "Insects & Pests of African Violets" with a handout.

SHOW & TELL: Glenn Shelton brought Hunter's Slippery When Wet and Mary Lou Harden brought in So Big.

BIRTHDAYS: Gladys Cook and Sandi Soto celebrated August birthdays.

MOTIONS: There were no motions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:45 am.

ADDENDUM: The following members will be heading committees at the February show & sale:

Show Chair - Sandi Soto

Awards - Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald

Education - Fern Azarian

Schedule - Mary Lou Harden

Staging - Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden

Classification - Jim Boyer, Mary Beth Bryant

Entries - Sandi Soto

Focal Point - Celeste Christman

Placement - ???

Judges - Jim Boyer

Hospitality - Jean Krauchik, Sandy Schultz

Greeter - Tammi Fitzgerald

Publicity/Flyers - Ruth Kanzleamar

Novice Administrator - Jim Boyer

Design - Mary Lou Harden

Club Supplies - Mary Lou Harden

Set Up - All

Clean Up - All



Hunter's Slippery When Wet (11237)

07/17/2019 (K. Muzalewski)

Grown by Glenn Shelton



So Big (B. Elkin)

Grown by Mary Lou Harden

Recipe Box



Ozark Pudding is a light, fluffy cake filled with apples and nuts. It's easy to make and even better with a dollop of whipped cream or ice cream. On a historical note, it was supposed to have been a favorite dessert of President Harry Truman.

Sandi's 1st Mother-in-Law's Ozark Pudding

1 large egg

3/4 cup sugar

1/8 tsp baking powder

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/8 tsp salt

1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

1/2 cup chopped apples

1 tsp vanilla

Beat egg and sugar together till smooth. Set aside. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add egg mixture and blend. Add nuts, apples and vanilla.

Bake in greased cake pan at 350° for 35 minutes. Allow to cool. Delicious alone, even better under a scoop of ice cream

Have a great recipe to share? Don't want to type it all out? Just scan a copy of the recipe and send it to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source.



With the AVCF (African Violet Council of Florida) show coming up in October, here's a timely reminder from AVSA about grooming.

African Violet Society of America

GROWING TIPS

Don't Forget to Groom.
Your African Violet Will Thank You!

AVSA
African Violet Society of America

Every so often I like to remind all my violet friends to take a moment to groom their plants. It is a good habit to develop so that it becomes part of your regular routine. There are also new growers out there who may not know the benefits of basic grooming.

GROWING TIPS (cont.)

Leaving an untidy African violet reminds me of one of those zombie apocalypse movies. The lone survivor is left to hold out against the undead horde in a ruined landscape. Just like in those movies and TV shows, leaving healthy flowers and leaves surrounded by rotting corpses of long dead flowers and leaves makes the healthy plant easy pickings for disease to spread. Dust and dirt scattered about surrounds the plant in filthy ruins.

Take a little time to snip off spent blooms as they begin to fade and remove those old tired leaves. Clean up soil and dust off of the leaves and shelving or windowsill. Remove flower stalks once all the flowers are spent and groomed away. Gently help new leaves to lay correctly and new flower stalks to make their way out from between the leaves.

Don't leave an otherwise healthy plant surrounded by a post industrial landscape riddled with the corpses of violet blooms long dead. They attract mold, rot, and vermin just like in those movies you have to hide under a blanket to watch!

Happy Growing!
Chris Brooks, AVSA

marketing@avsa.org

For more information on grooming, check out the article "Groom, Groom, Groom" by

Mary Schaeffer

May-June 2014 issue of African Violet Magazine
(<https://africanvioletsofamerica.org/learn/violets-101/2742-2/>)

Upcoming Events



DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
"SHOW"
"Treasures in Grandma's Attic"

September 11, 12 & 13, 2025

Petals From The Past Garden Center
16034 County Road 29
Jemison, Alabama 35085

For more information: DAVS.org

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VIOLET TREASURES

October 31-November 1, 2025



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floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:
www.tampaafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:
Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

Visit us on Instagram:
Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/

Find us on Facebook
Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz
Petal Editor
sandylovesviolets@gmail.com

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

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Queen of Clubs (10866) - First Bloom

09/27/2016 (K. Stork)

Photo by Sandy Schultz

The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



October 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

THANK YOU!

A big shout out to the members who contributed to this month's Petal: Celia Howe, Briony Tomalesky and Mary Lou Harden, and a nod to Stu Swayze for his update on planting from seed. This is YOUR newsletter, members; it's your pictures, recipes, stories and tips that makes this publication special!

Sandy Schultz, Petal Editor

A message from our President

I can't believe it's October! Before you know it, the year will be gone, and we'll be oohing and aahing over New Year's Eve fireworks. But first, we have to get through October . . .

Don't forget – first thing up is our Zoom night meeting on October 2. Winston Goretsky will present a program on The Gesneriad Society and



Rob's Loose Noodle (2001)
05/31/2001 (R. Robinson)
Photo by Celia Howe

The Gesneriad Web, two great resources of information on African violets and other gesneriads. You all know I don't grow ANYTHING but African violets, but I absolutely love The Gesneriad Web for African violet info. Check it out when you can.

The USF Fall Plant Sale is coming up fast! We'll set up on Friday, October 10 at 11:00AM, and the early warning system says I need to admit I MAY have to leave before setup is done. My hubster

A message from our President (cont.)

has a 3:23PM flight out of Tampa and I'll have to have him at the airport by 2:00PM, so hopefully we can get done with setup by 1:00PM and I can hustle out of there!

Saturday the Botanical Gardens will open early for member sales, so we will need to be ready to go by 8:30AM, or as I think of it, midnight! Glenn Shelton and Mary Beth Bryant will pick up our order from Peacock Cottage; if you have been growing any plants to sell, it's time to get your tags ready with the name of the plant, the price, and your sales number. Fingers crossed here that we have a very successful sale so we can add to our coffers!

Friday October 17 is our next day meeting, and unless I lost my memory, King James will be presenting the program. If any of you are having problems with, or have questions about, your project plants, this would be a good time to bring them in for some eyes-on help. If they're doing fine, wait until January for that pre-show check-up.

When that's all over, I have about 9 days before I fly to Springfield, MO, for what I expect will be the last dog show I attend as VP of the Akita Club of America. I'll get home on the Sunday before the Florida African Violet Council (FAVC) show, and have only a few days to get all my show and sale

plants ready for that, so I fully expect to lose my mind that week! Throw in a medical appointment I can't reschedule, and it looks like I'll be a basket case, assuming I wasn't one to begin with.

Just a reminder that since TAVS is a member of FAVC, you can show even if you aren't an individual member of the Council. What you can't do is sell plants, unless you've paid your dues to be a Council member. I'd love to see TAVS member plants or designs in the show, so I hope you're making plans to be there! If you'll be entering the design division, be sure to let Mary Lou know ASAP.

That's it for now, and as usual, I went on far too long!

Sandi



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- 🌸 Celeste Christman - October 15
- 🌸 Lisa Villabol - October 22

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.

Our Meetings

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Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334



**ZOOM/Evening Meeting -
Thursday, October 2 @ 7pm**

Winston Goretsky will present a program on The Gesneriad Society and The Gesneriad Web, two great resources of information on African violets and other gesneriads.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?
pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz0
9&omn=85051536010](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=85051536010)

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

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MEETING

Day Meeting -

Friday, October 17 @ 10am

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

**Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension
Service (HCAES)**

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Jim Boyer will be talking about judging school and what it takes to be a judge.



MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society

September 4, 2025

Night meeting via ZOOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by President Sandi Soto. Mary Beth Bryant, Secretary Pro Tem.

ROLL CALL: The members attending were Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Jim Matula, Stuart Swayze, Joan Reynolds, Tammi Fitzgerald, Angela Newell, and Briony Tomalesky. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: Robbie McMeel, President of Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), our regional organization, spoke about DAVS and their upcoming show.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved without objection.

No Treasurer's Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Happy Birthday to Sheryl Herold on the 13th

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Tampa African Violet Society

September 19, 2025

Day Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:12am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Beth Bryant, Secretary Pro Tem.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Fern Azarian, Sandy Schultz, Ruth Kanzleamar, Celia Howe, Stuart Swayze, Jim Boyer and Sharon Updike. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: Celeste Christman talked about The Care and Cultivation of Episcias.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved without objection.

MOTIONS: There were no motions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Set-up for USF Fall Sale is Friday, October 11 at 11:00 am.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:30 am.

ADDENDUM: The following members will be heading committees at the February show & sale:

Show Chair & Schedule - Sandi Soto

Awards - Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald

Education - Fern Azarian

Schedule - Mary Lou Harden

Staging - Celeste Christman, Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden

Classification - Jim Boyer, Mary Beth Bryant

Entries - Sandi Soto

Focal Point - Celeste Christman

Placement - ???

Judges - Jim Boyer

Hospitality - Jean Krauchik, Sandy Schultz

Greeter - Tammi Fitzgerald

Publicity/Flyers - Ruth Kanzleamar

Novice Administrator - Jim Boyer

Design Schedule - Mary Lou Harden

Club Supplies - Mary Lou Harden

Set Up - All

Clean Up - All



From Briony Tomalesky, TAVS Member and President Dunedin Garden Club -

I have been an amateur African violet grower for 40+ years on/off. I have grown minis and standards. I do not use wick watering - always top water and use clay pots. I quickly learned that I couldn't grow them on the pool deck in the summer - too hot/muggy. I was successful growing on the bathroom windowsill (west frosted glass) and east window with a shelf. I purchased grow lights and set them for 8 hours. My story to share is what happened with my Optimara DaVinci "thumb print" (8319). The flowers were beautiful, but the plant grew lopsided (picture A).



**Optimara DaVinci
Picture A**



Optimara DaVinci
Picture B



Optimara DaVinci
Picture C

It had a gorgeous flower that “glistened” like it had been spray painted with a soft glitter (picture B). Unfortunately, when I repotted it, I lost the mother plant. I took several leaf cuttings when I repotted - always “in case” - and the first leaves grew! I was so excited! (picture C) To my shock, when the first plant bloomed it was a PINWHEEL! (picture D) Pretty, but nothing like the mother plant. When the second plant bloomed, it was like a Monet watercolor - mottled (picture E).



Optimara DaVinci
Picture D



Optimara DaVinci
Picture E

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Do you have any growing tips/hints for your favorite gesneriad? Or perhaps a story about your experiences as a grower and lover of African violets? Send your “Show & Tell” to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com.



Recipe Box



Toffee Bars - Submitted by Mary Lou Harden

Graham Crackers (about 1/3 pound)

1/2 lb. butter (2 sticks)

1/4 cup brown sugar, packed

1/4 cup white sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup chopped nuts

Oven Temp: 350 Cook Time: 10-12 minutes

Cover jelly roll pan with aluminum foil. Cover pan with graham crackers, broken into singles.

Place butter and sugars in microwave bowl and cook in microwave for about 4 minutes or until sugars are dissolved. May want to stir and heat another minute or two. Add vanilla.

Drizzle mixture over graham crackers and spread evenly with spoon. Cover generously with chopped nuts. Bake at 350 for 12 minutes. Let cool for a few minutes, then refrigerate for a couple hours (makes it easier to remove from the pan). Remove from pan. Separate or break apart pieces. (Enjoy all the little morsels that fall apart while you’re doing this!) Store in tight-covered container. Keeps nicely in refrigerator or freezer.

Upcoming Events

THE AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA
PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AVSA JUDGED SHOW

VIOLET TREASURES

October 31-November 1, 2025



**Rescheduled
Show Date!**

Christ Lutheran Church

2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33805

Hours

Friday: Sales Room, 11 am - 6 pm
Show Room, 1 - 6 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm

Information

Mary Jane DiLorenzo
863-647-1517
africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club
Facebook: AVCF

Free admission and parking

Become a MEMBER

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)

Current dues are \$15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:

www.tampafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:

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

Visit us on Instagram:

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

Find us on Facebook

Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

sandylovesviolets@gmail.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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Hats Off to Violets

Presented by the
TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY (TAVS)
February 20-21, 2026

SHOW HOURS
Friday, February 20 - Noon to 5pm
Saturday, February 21 - 9am to 3pm

PLANT SALE HOURS
Friday, February 20 - 9am to 5pm
Saturday, February 21 - 9am to 3pm

Temple Terrace United Methodist Church
5030 E. Busch Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33617

The Petal

Monthly publication of the
Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)
www.tampaafricanviolets.com



November 2025

The Tampa African Violet Society is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

A message from our President

Happy (almost) Thanksgiving!

Life has been busy, when I keep thinking it should finally be calming down. Seems I'm always wrong about those things. Letting you know what's going on is one of the things I'm responsible for, and although the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) show set several of us back a bit, it's now time to catch up! You'll find a report on the AVCF show elsewhere in *The Petal*, but right now I'm going to concentrate on our participation in the Florida State Fair.

In 2026, it *feels* like the fair is later than usual. Setup must be done between January 30 and February 3. The last day of the fair is February 16, with removal of displays to take place February 17 and 18. The fair is asking for something different this year. To quote the information we've received, "...we're moving away from the traditional displays. We're encouraging horticulture societies...to design unique, engaging



Deep Purple Dreaming

Sinningia

Photo by Mary Lou Harden

A message from our President (cont.)

displays or exhibits that showcase the beauty and importance of agriculture in fresh, imaginative ways. Our goal is for the area to be vibrant, inspiring, and approachable for guests of all ages.” That sounds wonderful...but our show setup date is Thursday, February 19. The show judging is February 20, and we close at 3PM on February 21. This is a lot of activity in a short period of time, and we don’t yet know whether we’ll be expected to do four 30-minute programs as we have been the past couple of years.

I’m asking you to think about this prior to our November 21 meeting and come prepared to discuss whether YOU have the time and energy to help make our long-standing participation possible in 2026. This is a decision we need to make as TAVS; it shouldn’t be made by the Board, but by our members. Both the day meeting and ZOOM meeting attendees will have an opportunity to be involved in deciding whether to participate or not. The only caveat, in my mind, is that if we drop out of the Florida State Fair for a year, we may not have an opportunity to be part of the fair in future years.

If you’re not at the day meeting, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to wish you all a beautiful Thanksgiving, spent with family and friends!

Sandi Soto, President

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:

**Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334**



Our thoughts and well wishes go out to TAVS member Todd Grandy who is currently in the hospital in satisfactory condition.



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- 🌸 Tom Schaefer - November 1
- 🌸 Glenn Shelton - November 19

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.



**ZOOM/Evening Meeting -
Thursday, November 6 @ 7pm**

Here come the Russians! We will see two short videos showcasing some of their hybridizers, their shows and even their retail shop.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?
pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOEY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz0
9&omn=82307270619](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOEY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=82307270619)

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

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! 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, 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!



Day Meeting -

Friday, November 21 @ 10am

**Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension
Service (HCAES)**

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Mary Beth Bryant and Sandi Soto will be presenting a leaf potting program, demo, and hands on



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Tampa African Violet Society

November 6, 2025

Night meeting via ZOOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by President Sandi Soto. Mary Beth Bryant, Secretary Pro Tem.

ROLL CALL: The members attending were Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Lisa Villabol, Fern Azarian, Sheryl Herold, Michael Kilcomons, Celeste Christman, Stuart Swayze, Joan Reynolds, Tammi Fitzgerald, Angela Newell, and Briony Tomalesky. There were no guests.

PROGRAM: A program was given on Russian African violets by The House of Violets in Moscow, Russia, Vladamir and Tatiana Kalgin, proprietors. Member discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No newsletter or minutes.
No Treasurer's Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

Sandi Soto reported on the recent AVCF show held in Lakeland.

Member discussion on what to do (and when) for upcoming club Christmas party. Tammi Fitzgerald will research river cruise prices.

Member discussion on embroidering individual tee shirts or other items such as aprons with TAVS logo and member name.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Tampa African Violet Society

October 17, 2025

Day Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:12am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald, Jean Krauchik, Sandy Schultz, Glenn Shelton, Celeste Christman, Jim Boyer, Joan Reynolds, Stu Swayze, and Pat Rutzke. There were no guests.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Lou Harden

TIP OF THE DAY: "When in doubt, repot" – Celeste Christman

PROGRAM: Jim Boyer presented a program about show judges and judging.

SHOW & TELL: Glenn Shelton brought "Frozen in Time."

The minutes of the September 19, 2025 meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: Glenn Shelton presented the treasurer's report, Sandi Soto did not have anything to report and Mary Beth Bryant was not in attendance.

MOTIONS: There were no motions.

NEW BUSINESS: Sandi Soto asked the members to consider what events the group wishes to participate in during the coming year. She also asked members to consider what we are or could be doing for our members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jim Boyer has been invited to teach about African violets to Palm Harbor Elementary School as part of the Great American Teach Out.

November 21, 2025 – Mary Beth Bryant and Sandi Soto will be presenting a leaf potting program, demo, and hands on class.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:37 am, followed by a raffle.



**Glenn Shelton with
Frozen in Time (9167)
02/03/2003 Sorano**

Potting Party!

In our wonderful new location, we have room to do more “hands on” stuff, so that’s what we’re going to do! POTAVS & The Veep will be bringing a selection of leaves, wicks, perlite, potting mix, and mini-greenhouses, plus anything else we know you need when potting. We’ll demonstrate how WE do things, and we may impose on some other longtime growers (Mary Lou, Glenn, King James, plus!) to demonstrate their methods. Then, all of us who THINK we know what we’re doing will work with small groups of those who just aren’t comfortable starting AVs from leaves, or who simply want to see if one of our methods works better. Come prepared to get your hands dirty, and if you have spare newspaper or a potting mat, feel free to bring it with you, as we will have to clean up before we leaf/leave!



Next month’s Show & Tell comes from Michael Kilcomons about his experience with ordering and growing Russian African violets from leaves. Sorry Michael, your story has been preempted by the AVCF show results!

African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) Show Report



Those of you who made it to the Council show probably also WORKED at the show, as I don’t remember seeing any TAVS members who weren’t working! The show had higher than expected entries and received AVSA’s top show award with a score of just over 95 points!

AVCF members from the Jacksonville, Lakeland, and Ocala AV societies, as well as several TAVS members, worked to get the site set up on Wednesday and Thursday, and Lakeland members provided food Thursday through Saturday. Nine individuals provided entries, with 56 African violets entered and approximately 47 other gesneriads, plus entries in the 6 design classes and the 3 natural gardens categories.

Not to brag, but without TAVS members, the show might not have gone on! Judges for the event included our own Glenn Shelton and Angela Newell, joined by our *new member* Debbie Wesch! Welcome aboard Debbie! Clerks were Tammi Fitzgerald and the inimitable King James, and everyone did a commendable job. Celeste Christman, always willing to help, handled the member sales both days.

Among the TAVS members entering plants were Mary Lou Harden, Sandy Schultz (who also had a commercial exhibit with plants and her beautiful gift items), and Sandi Soto, who among them won: Best in Show, 2nd Best in Show, Best AVSA Standard Collection, Best AVSA Species Collection, Best Standard, Best Miniature, Best Species, Best Design, Best Vintage, 15 Best in Class, 6 Best in Section, Best Dish Garden, Best Terrarium, Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement, Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement, Sweepstakes, Horticulture Sweepstakes, Horticulture Sweepstakes Runner up, and Design Sweepstakes. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

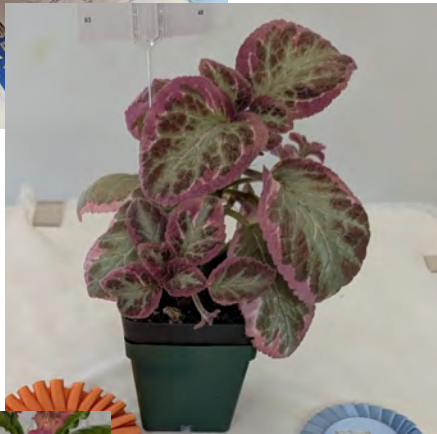
AVCF will hold its spring meeting in the spring. Some things are just obvious. We're looking at April dates, and will make the announcement as soon as a date is set for the ZOOM meeting. All TAVS members can take part in the meetings and can show in Council shows, but unless you are an individual member, you cannot sell plants (except plants entered in the shows). It's a great, friendly organization, and more TAVS members should really consider joining!



AVSA News

Your President (aka POTAVS) will be stretched a bit thinner in the coming months as she didn't have the good sense to say "OMG NO!" when asked by AVSA President Glenda Williams to Chair the Publications Committee. An update of Pauline Bartholomew's "Growing to Show" has been on Publications' back burner for a while, and Chair Sandy Skalkski had resigned due to other commitments. After about 10 days of deliberation, Sandi Soto said yes, again, and will try to get the rewrite moving starting in January. Many of the sections and chapters are complete, but there's still a lot to be done to finish the last bits and pieces, and put the whole thing back together again!

Speaking of AVSA, Convention will be in Dallas the last week of May next year and it appears TAVS will again be well represented. The S's (Sandi S and Sandy S) and Mary Beth definitely plan to attend, and may be joined by another member whose last name begins with S! Bet you can guess who that might be! There's always room for more at Convention, and we'd love it if you'd join us in Texas!



Recipe Box



Have a great recipe to share? Don't want to type it all out? Just scan a copy of the recipe and send it to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source.

Upcoming Events

Hats Off to Violets

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February 20-21, 2026

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floridainorchids@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
7142 62nd Ave, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Visit us at:

www.tampafricanviolets.com

Join us on Twitter:

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

Visit us on Instagram:

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

Find us on Facebook

Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

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December 2025

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A message from our President

Happy December TAVS!

Another year is almost gone, and another Christmas season is almost upon us! If you were in attendance at the November in-person meeting, you know that we discussed moving our Christmas meeting to a Saturday, but due to the number of members who could not attend on a Saturday, the decision was made to stick to Friday, December 19. We hope our working members can arrange a morning off to join us, but

we do understand if that's not possible. We're planning a catered Christmas brunch at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Office, and we hope to see as many TAVS members as possible. The members approved a \$15 limit for Secret Santa gifts that are plant related in some way – that should be fun!! If we remember, your VP and I, possibly joined by Tammi Fitzgerald, may just come up with some AV trivia questions and door prizes to go with them. Stay tuned!!

We haven't given up on getting nationally known speakers for our ZOOM meetings, but lately we've had a bit of difficulty making the arrangements. The Thursday ZOOM this month will feature two videos that tie in well with our November leaf propagation program. I watched both and learned better ways of separating and potting up the baby plants we all hope to be seeing break through the soil soon! The two videos raise a few interesting questions, and I'll be curious to see if your questions are the same as mine!

A message from our President (cont.)

Here's hoping you all have special wishes for the holidays that get fulfilled. Hannukah begins this year on December 14 and ends December 22, followed by Christmas December 25 and then we're on to 2026. Personally, I'd like to add a beautiful African violet, Alliance, to my collection, but I don't really NEED or want any more plants or leaves or . . . I think I have the full complement of everything I need!

Happy Holy Days!

Sandi Soto, President



A hearty holiday thank you goes out to the following TAVS members who contributed to this month's Petal: Jim Boyer, Tammi Fitzgerald, Mary Lou Harden and Michael Kilcomons. I'd like to gently remind you that this is YOUR newsletter, members; it's your pictures, recipes, stories and tips that makes this publication special.

Sandy Schultz, Petal Editor

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:

**Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334**



Merry, merry, merry birthday wishes go out this month to:

- 🌸 Celia Howe - December 11
- 🌸 Jim Boyer - December 25

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



**LE-Moonlight Sonata
Photo by Mary Lou Harden**



**ZOOM/Evening Meeting -
Thursday, December 4 @ 7pm**

You potted up a leaf and now it has sprouted. What's next? We will show you how to separate and pot up your new babies.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=84430042206>

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

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! 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, 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!



Day Meeting -

Friday, December 19 @ 10am

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Holiday Party and catered brunch!!!



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Tampa African Violet Society

November 21, 2025

Day Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:17am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald, Celia Howe, Irene and Michael Kilcomons, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandy Schultz, Glenn Shelton, Joan Reynolds and Stu Swayze. Bonnie Smith came to the meeting after a long absence. Sandy Schultz brought a guest, Michele Garber, from Punta Gorda. Michele attended the Council show last month in Lakeland.

INSPIRATIONAL: "Whatever you do, always give 100% unless you're donating blood."

PROGRAM: President Sandi Soto presented and led a leaf potting demo and hands-on potting activity

and got input from experienced growers Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden and Glenn Shelton on their potting techniques. Michael Kilcomons showed how he easily measured wicks.

SHOW & TELL: Glenn Shelton brought “Steffano’s Azure Diamonds.”

Club members held off approving the minutes of the October 2025 meeting as The Petal was published late and members had not had a chance to read it.

OFFICERS’ REPORTS: Glenn Shelton presented the treasurer’s report, Sandi Soto and Mary Beth Bryant did not have anything to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: “What have you done for me lately?” - Sandi Soto again posed the question to club members as many club members do not show or grow plants to sell. A motion was made by Sandi Soto and seconded by Sandy Schultz to have members bring an item (t-shirt, apron, golf shirt) and the club would have the member’s name and the club logo embroidered on the item. Discussion followed, looking at a January timeframe with the items ready for the club show in February. Mary Beth will check with Briony about embroidery companies and will also check with Bobbi Johannsen (Heart of Jacksonville AV Club), as the Jax club has embroidered shirts. All members agreed. Motion carried following discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

TAVS Holiday Party - Motion was made and seconded to hold the TAVS Holiday Party on a Saturday so working members could attend. The members discussed holding the club holiday party and club meeting on Saturday next month so that working members could attend. Because



Steffano’s Azure Diamonds (11157)
03/21/2019 (S. Covolo)
Grown by Glenn Shelton
Presented by Tammi Fitzgerald

several regular members cannot attend on Saturdays, following discussion the motion failed, and the club meeting and holiday party will be Friday, December 19 as scheduled.

Florida State Fair - Because the Florida State Fair booth/display would need to be broken down during the same week as our February show, the members discussed whether we can skip this year and still participate in future years. Mary Beth will find out from her Fair point of contact.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:54 am, followed by a raffle.

NOTE: We don’t always follow the rules, but anything that’s voted on should have a motion and a 2nd, and the names of person “moving” and “seconding” should be included. Technically, only that info, the wording of the motion, and the outcome of the vote are needed. Not a problem for us, but in some groups, you don’t want a contentious discussion spelled out in the minutes.

SHOW & TELL

This month's Show & Tell comes from Michael Kilcomons about his experience with ordering and growing Russian African violets from leaves.

In July 2025, I ordered some Russian African violets from Elena at www.growviolet.com. They were shipped on 7/28 and received 7/31. Each cutting was well packaged. One of the cuttings I ordered was Cosmic Art (pic #1). Pic #2 is when first opened. Pic #3 was taken 11/7. Pic # 4 shows other cuttings from the same order. Very satisfied with the quality of cuttings from Elena at Grow Violet.



207 Cosmic Art (Sorano)



We've got two delicious recipes this month, submitted by TAVS members Tammi Fitzgerald and Jim Boyer.

Love This Banana Bread - "Here's another yummy recipe that makes the moistest banana bread I've ever made. I believe the key ingredient is the sour cream." - Tammi Fitzgerald

- 1 C brown sugar
- 3 overripe bananas
- 1/4 C soft butter
- 2 large egg whites
- 1/4 C milk
- 1/4 C plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 C chopped walnuts or nuts of choice (optional)
- 2 C flour

Beat butter and sugar until mixed well and begins to fluff. Add eggs, mix. Mash bananas and add them while mixer is on low. Add milk, yogurt & dry ingredients and mix on medium. Stir in nuts if desired, then pour into pre-greased loaf pan, or 4 mini loaf pans. Bake at 350° for almost 45 min or until top is firm.



Cranberry Cherry Relish - "This is my favorite Christmas recipe. I still don't understand why I don't make it year round!" - Jim Boyer



Serves 12

- 24 oz fresh cranberries
- 1.5 cup sugar, or to taste – probably more
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup cranberry juice
- 1/2 cup amaretto
- Zest of 1 orange
- 10 oz dried cherries

Pick thru cranberries, rinse & drain well. Combine all ingredients, except cherries, in a pan. Place over medium heat; boil slowly until the berries pop open, about 10 mins.

Skim foam off surface with a metal spoon, stir in the cherries & let cool to room temperature.

Cover & refrigerate (will last up to 1 mo.).

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PLANTS!

The Petal is looking for photos of your beautiful plants to share with our readers. So snap a couple



of pics the next time you water and send them to The Petal at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com or text them to **904-955-2947**. NOIDS are fine, but please include the plant name if you have one.



TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS PROBLEM FREE

submitted by **Mary Lou Harden**

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

OBSERVE YOUR PLANTS OFTEN.

Daily is best. Whether it's your plants, your children, your husband – checking on them often is important to their (and your) well-being. If there's a problem, it's always easier to "nip it in the bud." So, if you see a sucker forming, remove it earlier rather than later. If allowed to grow, suckers often destroy the symmetry of your plant.

CONSISTENT CARE IS KEY.

- ☼ Watering – keep your plants (and you) hydrated
- ☼ Fertilizing – just like you, plants need food
- ☼ Repotting – and just like babies, plants grow – so it's necessary to "pot-up" (although sometimes you'll need to "pot-down")
- ☼ Cleaning trays, matting, pots, labels – My mom always said that "cleanliness is next to Godliness" – and just like us humans, our plants and growing areas look a whole lot better when they're clean. In addition, dirty conditions often promote fungus, hiding places for bugs and other problems.

GOOD AIR CIRCULATION IS IMPORTANT.

If you don't have ceiling or other type fans, use clip-on fans. If you don't have good air circulation, you're more apt to get problems such as mold or powdery mildew.

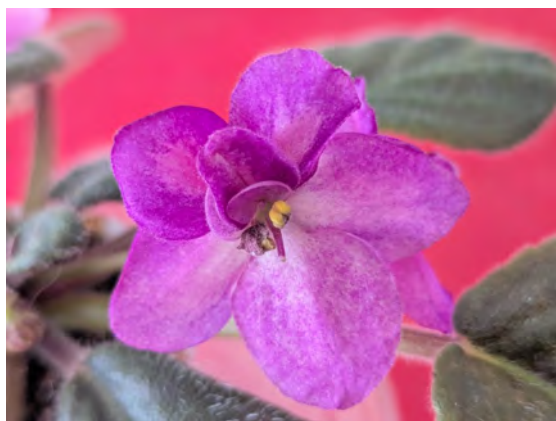
NO OVER-CROWDING!

Easy to say, hard to do! We've always got to have "just one more plant!" You'll never have a show plant if your plants are crowded or even touching other plants.

IF BUYING NEW PLANTS:

- 🌸 Buy only from reputable sources – those which have proven themselves to sell only high-quality, bug-free plants.
- 🌸 If you're concerned about buying plants and introducing them into your collection, perhaps it would be wise to just buy leaves.
- 🌸 When adding new plants to your collection, be sure to isolate for one month at a minimum. Some suggest a 3-month quarantine.

Keep in mind that **African violets are really quite inexpensive**. What's the worst thing that can happen if your plant has a problem and doesn't look good? That's right – death! Get tough on your plants. If they don't perform well, get sick or otherwise just don't bring joy to you, give them a nice funeral and buy a new plant!



Maas' Janet (4633)
11/30/1981 (M. Maas)
Photo by Sandy Schultz

Become a **MEMBER**

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)

Current dues are \$15 per year, includes an annual Yearbook and monthly newsletter, **The Petal**.

Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:

Floridainorchidsss@gmail.com

Checks payable to Tampa Africa Violet Society can be sent to:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer
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Pinellas Park, FL 33781

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