

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

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

