

The Petal

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



July 2026

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

What a lapse! Please let me apologize for not realizing sooner that the extension office would be closed for Juneteenth. Flexible TAVS members met at the office anyway and then went on to lunch at Bob Evans. The tab was picked up by the club. The turnout was great and a good time was had by all.

It looks as though July will come in with a bang and in more ways than one: it is so dang hot outside! Climbing temps really are the enemy, so be careful out there.

Last week I did have a good reason to go out as Sandi Soto and I gave a hands-on program to the Dade City Garden Club. Seventeen people got their hands dirty by purchasing soil and planting leaves then learned tips about grooming and symmetry. Several attendees later said that they will look for our booth at USF's Fall Plant Sale. FYI, Sandi Soto will be giving a presentation on pests to the Blooming Violets of Marion County on August 1st. It is great to see TAVS members doing their best to reach out to the public and promote African violets.

See you soon *Mary Beth, President*

A reminder for the participants of "Grow It to Show It" - we need a list of ALL your named plants so we can help



you figure out what to work on. The sooner we get that information, the better. Contact Sandi Soto with your list ASAP!



Zoom/Evening Meeting -

Thursday, July 2 @ 7pm

A viewing of the DVD "Growing African Violet Trailers" by Dr. Bill Price

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=81611119229>

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!



Fisherman's Paradise (4843)

06/04/1982 (B. Sisk)

Photo by Sandy Schultz



Day Meeting -

Friday, July 17 @ 10am

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

Glenn Shelton will be giving a program on fertilizers.



MEETING MINUTES

Due to the closure of the HCAES on Friday, June 19, 2026 for the Juneteenth holiday, there was no TAVS in-person meeting. A group of TAVS members went to brunch instead!



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.

Community



Outreach



On June 23, 2026 President Mary Beth Bryant and VP Sandi Soto gave a hands-on presentation on leaf planting, grooming tips and symmetry to the Dade City Garden Club.



On July 14, 2026 Master Gardener Fern Azarian will be giving a presentation at the New River Branch of the Pasco County Library on African violet botanical history, classification, care, culture and propagation.



On August 1, 2026 VP Sandi Soto will be giving a pest presentation to the Blooming Violets of Marion County.



MY FAVORITE PLANT RIGHT NOW!

New African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) President Laura Perdomo asked members to join a Zoom 'show and tell' meeting Saturday, June 27. The assignment? Show your CURRENT favorite African violet, and tell everyone why it's your favorite. Laura would like to make this a regular quarterly event, just to keep members in touch and interested, as well as thinking about their plants.

I think about 8 members, new and otherwise, joined the Zoom at 3 PM, and Laura started us out by thanking Mary Beth Bryant for hosting, then explaining again what she was asking us to do. She demonstrated by introducing her own current favorite, Buckeye Seductress. Laura told us a little about the hybrid, and describing how it grows and shapes without a lot of work. It's generally a very symmetrical plant, as well as a generous bloomer!

I wasn't taking names (would have if I thought ahead of time!), but the next (new) member, Hope, shared LE-Rimma, a Russian/Ukrainian hybrid that was lovely and well grown. Carolee Carter shared her gorgeous Rose Bouquet, of which I am very jealous. This is a beautiful hybrid, but not one I can grow with any success! Then it was my turn. I of course have only one favorite, Rob's Slap Happy, hybridized by Ralph Robinson. I quickly explained how it was the 1st AV I failed to kill (thanks to YouTube University), and it's the reason I now have ~400 African

violets. We had been asked to show a plant in bloom, so I had a young plant blooming for the first time, and the original plant bought in 2019.



Slap Happy the Younger
Photo by Sandi Soto



Slap Happy the Older
Photo by Sandi Soto

Someone identified only as 'Plant Showcase' shared a NOID, and explained that she had lost all her named plants to root rot, and was currently enjoying a number of unnamed African violets given to her by friends while she waits for her replacement plants to grow up!

Mary Beth shared Jere's Crimson Tide, and Jeff Smith's Genetic Blush, both beautiful young African violets. Crimson Tide should be a contender at our February show!

Before we closed, with plans to get together again in about 3 months, I brought out another Buckeye Seductress to demonstrate the effects of environment: namely, more vs less variegation, and more vs less white in the blossoms. Laura then reminded everyone about "Summertime Fun Times!" coming up July 25 in Ocala, with programs, four vendors, and food! There were 20 more spots available as of Saturday. Sounds like a good time for everyone, and another opportunity to buy more African violets! If you're interested, look for more info in The Petal!

Sandi Soto. VP



Jere's Crimson Tide



**African Violet
Summertime
Fun Times!
Saturday
July 25, 2026**

Have you signed up yet for the Summertime Fun Times mini-African violet conference? There's still room if you haven't signed up yet. Let's get out of the heat and geek out with our fellow African violet enthusiasts! There will be FOOD, a leaf exchange, a raffle and silent auction, seminars as well as hands on activities. And did I mention VENDORS? It's a great way to spend a Saturday so bring your friends. You don't have to be a TAVS or AVCF member, everyone is invited! Don't wait until the last minute, you don't want to miss out on this opportunity. See the next page for more information and contact Laura Perdomo at the Peacock Cottage to reserve your ticket. See you there!

The African Violet Council of Florida
& Blooming Violets of Marion County
Proudly Present

African Violet Summertime Fun Times!

Come join the fun at this awesome summer
African violet mini conference!

Saturday, July 25th, 2026
Breakfast and Coffee at 9:45
Conference 10:30–3:30
Lunch Included

Ft. King Presbyterian Church
13 NE 36th Ave. Ocala, FL 34470

\$20 for Council members
\$30 Non-members
Email Laura Perdomo

Today to reserve your ticket!

For more info:

Thepeacockcottage@gmail.com

Are you looking for a break from the summer heat and an opportunity to meet up and geek out with other AV-minded enthusiasts? Then join us for a mini African violet conference later this month! Open to Florida Council and non-council members, this day-long conference includes breakfast and lunch, fun activities, vendors and a leaf exchange. For more information on the African Violet Council of Florida, visit their website at <https://africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club/>

See you soon in Ocala!



This Saturday on July 4, 2026 the United States of America will celebrate its 250th birthday or semiquincentennial, marking the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Have fun this very special 4th of July but stay safe:

- 🌸 There are burn bans in effect in several counties on the Florida SW Coast. Check with burn bans in your area before setting off fireworks.
- 🌸 The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public firework show. Never use fireworks around pets and keep them indoors during firework displays - many pets are fearful of loud noises and can become scared, lost or disoriented.
- 🌸 The Weather Channel reports that the U.S. could see record-setting heat - slow down, stay hydrated and spend time indoors.



Glenn Shelton is looking for Super-Thrive - please contact Glenn directly if you have any extra bottles lying around you'd be willing to sell.

Side Note

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

Visit us on Instagram:

[Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/](https://www.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.

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