

# THE PETAL

## JANUARY 2022

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



**BALLET SNOWCONE**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, Violet Friends. . . and Happy New Year!

Although we experienced many good things in 2021, I'm sure we're all hoping for even better things in 2022! Let's pray that we remain in good health and that TAVS will continue to grow and prosper!

We were happy to welcome these new members during the past year:

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

Celeste Christman, of Parrish, Chad Masterbergen, of Tampa, and Dorothea Zimmer, of Brooksville. One of the benefits of having an annual show and participating in events such as the Florida State Fair and the plant festivals at USF Botanical Gardens is our exposure to the public and reaching out to new people.

We're now approaching our busiest time of the year. Two big events are coming up in February. First will be the Florida State Fair which runs from February 10 through February 21. Please check out the article which you'll find later in this issue which will tell you how you can help.

Immediately after the Fair will be our Show and plant sale at Temple Terrace United Methodist

Church on Busch Boulevard in Temple Terrace. Later in this issue you'll find information about the show, including ways you can help.

Now it's time to focus on our January meetings. The January 6 night meeting will be by Zoom. Our guest presenter is Glenda Williams of McDade, TX, and her program will be about growing African violet trailers. You'll find more information about the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

The January 21 day meeting will once again be at my home and we'll be packaging and pricing supplies as well as mixing soil and packaging it.

Hope to see you at our next meetings!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10AM.

The night meetings will continue to be via ZOOM.

Beginning in February, we will once again be meeting at the Seffner-Mango Public Library as a meeting venue for our **Friday morning meetings**.

The library address is:  
410 N. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## JANUARY MEETINGS

**Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm via ZOOM**

**Glenda Williams of Ambrosia Violets AKA  
Glenda's House of Violets  
McDade, Texas**

## "Fun with Nature's Special Treasures - Trailers"

African Violet trailers have a more natural look like plants grown in the wild. Some fill their containers with flawless beauty. Some give us that "Bad Hair Day" look. Some are voracious



bloomers, while others must be coaxed to share a single bloom. Trailers can be both fun and frustrating to grow. The joy of growing trailers is their unique ability to be forgiving. Do you have a favorite trailer? Join us for an overview of AV trailers, their unique growth habits, how to select an appropriate growing container and growing medium, fertilizer and amendments, lighting, humidity, grooming techniques, and showing. Be sure to bring your questions for a brief Q & A at the end of the presentation!

Glenda will also share with us what she's doing for the 2022 AVSA convention and tell us a little about her business. Glenda's memberships include:

- African Violet Society of America (2nd Vice President 2021-current, Past 3rd VP 2019-2021, Past Director 2015-2017);
- Lone Star African Violet Council (Past President 2018-2021);
- Central Texas Judge's Council (Past President 2015-2019);
- Lone Star African Violet Council, Independent Member



**“Rhinestone Cowgirl”**

Underwater design by Glenda Williams  
AVSA

**January 21<sup>st</sup> day meeting will be at Mary Lou Harden’s home.**

This will be a potluck luncheon and we will be preparing supplies, as well as mixing and bagging soil and Perlite for sale at our show and the USF Spring Sale

**Please Note:** If you are planning on attending this meeting, please bring a mask as the Perlite for soil mixing is very dusty!

We're planning our programs for this year. If you have suggestions for a specific topic, please let our program chair know. Contact Mary Lou Harden at [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



### **TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY –**

Normally meets the third Saturday monthly via ZOOM, however meetings for December and January are on hold.

### **FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

February 10 through February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

### **TAVS SHOW AND SALE**

**“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, 5030 E Busch Blvd, Temple Terrace, FL 33617

**April 30, 2022 –** Spring meeting of the African Violet Council of Florida. Location TBD.

### **AVSA Convention and Show**

**“Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas,”**

May 29-June 5 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel,  
Little Rock AR

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

**HELP NEEDED!  
FLORIDA STATE FAIR SET-UP – A  
GALAXY OF VIOLETS  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – 1 PM**

**FLORIDA STATE FAIR.** . . February 10-21. We'll be putting in our display on Sunday, February 6, at 1 pm. As you know, we were unable to have our show last year. Since we had already selected our theme, "Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space." and had prepared a show schedule, we used that theme for our display at the Fair. For this year's Fair display, we'll use a related space theme, "A Galaxy of Violets."

Here are some of the things we need:

1. Members helping with the setup which should take only about two hours. So please plan to come and help.
2. The plants will be placed on Tuesday, February 8, beginning at 10 am. We'll need help with making labels for the plants and then placing the plants in the display.
3. During the Fair – members who can spend an hour or two at the booth, greeting the public, handing out show information and culture folders
4. During the Fair – members who will check the plants and water them, if necessary. This usually is done once or twice a week.

Everyone who helps in any way at the Fair will receive free entry passes.

**“VIOLETS CELEBRATE THE  
WONDERS OF SPACE”  
AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW & PLANT  
SALE**



Show dates are Friday and Saturday, February 25 and 26. Set-up begins at 1 pm on Thursday, February 24.

**ALL MEMBERS** need to help with set-up which includes setting up and placing tables, covering the tables, placing Section and Class Cards along with ribbons to separate the classes.

Members need to sign up to help with plant sales. I hope all of you are growing plants to enter in the show. We'll talk more about the Fair and the Show at our next meetings.

**EVERYONE HELPS WITH BREAKING DOWN  
THE SHOW AND CLEAN-UP!**

**SHOW AWARDS.** As you know, our show will be competitively judged and the winners in each Division and Section will receive both ribbon and cash awards. We also usually have other types of awards, such as gift certificates or plant-related supplies. Awards will also be given for the best Novice exhibit and the best AVSA Collections and Dixie Collections.

We rely on the generosity of our members as well as some commercial growers and African violet friends to provide the awards. SO, we ask our members to be generous and donate an award. Awards may be designated to a particular violet or class or may be undesignated and used where needed.

Please bring your awards to our January 15th meeting – we'll have a sign-up sheet there.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## DON'T HAVE ANY PLANTS FOR THE SHOW?



Do you have a KITTEN. . . or a COW. . . or a LAMB. . . or an ELEPHANT?



Perhaps a WATERING CAN. . . or an IRISH LEPRECHAUN?

Here are pictures of some decorative containers – all purchased at thrift shops. If you don't already have a container, please visit a thrift shop. You should be able to find one or more there, and they won't be expensive.

**EVERYONE can enter Class 40 in Section VII.** The Schedule describes this class as "African violet plant in an unusual, novel or decorative container." The Rules state that entries in Class 40 **MUST BE** planted in the container. This simply means that you've got to remove the plant from its pot and plant it directly into the container



### Other things to consider:

1. The plant should not overpower the container, nor should the container overpower the plant.
2. The exhibitor must have grown the plant for 3 months prior to the show.
3. An award will be given to the best entry in this class.



**So. . . please find a container and let's have lots of entries in this class!**



1/20 Pamela Van Durme  
1/21 Todd Grandy



Bonnie Smith is continuing to have some health issues.  
Celia Howe has also been having health issues.  
Mary Beth Bryant is having medical issues and was hospitalized emergently on December 10<sup>th</sup>, but is back home recovering.  
Mary Beth's husband was also recently hospitalized but is back home and doing well.  
Angelina Grundhoff has been ill.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



Sandy Soto's Mother passed away in early December.  
Prayers for her and her family.



### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:12 AM, followed by The Pledge Of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Glenn Shelton

**ROLL CALL:** 15 Members 1 guest

**PROGRAM:**

Jim Boyer regaled us with Violet Trivia. All members were tasked with providing definitions for certain violet phrases and methodologies. Many questions were answered and some great prizes were given away.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 19th, 2021, meeting were approved as published.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, reported expenditures: \$133.96 to include ZOOM fees, AVSA awards, and supplies. Revenue \$30.00 from dues. Current balance in checking: \$3569.28, and savings: \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported the Executive committee met and decided to continue with monthly night meetings via ZOOM. Starting in February the day meetings will be the third Friday, at 10am, and will be in person at the Seffner-Mango Public Library. The library address is:

410 N. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

The programs for the meetings:

January 6<sup>th</sup> will be by guest presenter, Glenda Williams of Ambrosia Violets, McDade, TX, discussing trailers.

January 21<sup>st</sup> day meeting will be at Mary Lou Harden's home.

This will be a potluck luncheon and we will be preparing supplies as well as mixing and bagging soil and Perlite for sale at our show and the USF Spring Sale

**Please Note:** If you are planning on attending this meeting, please bring a mask as the Perlite for soil mixing is very dusty!

Signup sheets are available for contributions to awards for our show, and for people to sign up to assist with sales at our show.

We will also need members to sign up to assist with the cash register.

We are planning to have some demonstrations during the show, so if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer to do a demonstration, please let Mary Lou know.

If anyone needs supplies, please let Mary Lou Harden know via email, text or phone prior to the meeting. [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) 813-924-2686

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **TAVS: SHOW AND SALE**

**"Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space".**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

The 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, Georgia, May 28 to June 4, 2023, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

##### **TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY:**

Normally meets the third Saturday monthly via ZOOM, however meetings for December and January are on hold.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Show:** Plans are moving along for our annual show and sale.

Our theme: **"Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space"**.

Mary Lou Harden and Jean Krauchik, Show Co-Chairs.

Still need Committee Chairs for:

1. Awards (If you have an award, it is suggested you bring this to either of the in-person meetings in December or January.)
2. Plant Sales-You don't need to be there the entire time; it just requires you to be sure people are signed up to cover the sales room during the sale.
3. Properties-Tom Shaeffer will be picking up the supplies which are being stored at Mary Lou's and will deliver to the show site.
4. Help with cash register- Lynn Bandy will be helping but will need additional hands.

#### **FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

February 10 through February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 set up will be on Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

We already used our Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space" focal point last year, so if anyone has some ideas for a booth design be sure to let Mary Lou know.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Members at the night meeting voted to donate \$50.00 to AVSA for awards.

Members at the day meeting voted to also approve this.

Terry Jordan suggested having a "Silent Auction" at the in-person meetings to help raise additional funds for the club. She stated this was a profitable measure at her club in Virginia Beach.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

December Birthdays, Celia Howe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Jim Boyer on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Amanda Mendoza on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Bonnie Smith has been having some health issues.

Celia Howe has also been having health issues.

Mary Beth Bryant had been planning to attend today's meeting but was hospitalized emergently yesterday. Angelina Grundhoff has been ill. Sandy Soto is the main caregiver for her mom. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**SHOW AND TELL:**

Mary Lou showed us Cajun's Li'l Sprinkles and Jim Boyer showed us Rob's Scrumptious.

**RAFFLE PLANTS:** Several members provided raffle plants.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Lynn E Bandy, Day Recording Secretary



August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

***Up. Down. All Around. Understanding the Three Basic Plant Nutrients***

Scott Evans MAG

Nebraska Extension Horticulturist



Have you ever noticed when you go to your favorite garden center that there are more choices of fertilizers to choose from than cereal

options at the grocery store? How do you decide which one to buy and what do all those numbers mean?

Let's clear the air of a big misconception. Fertilizer is not food. Plants make their own food and fertilizer helps them do it. When you look at the product label you will see three numbers, such as 9-3-6 or 10-10-10. These numbers represent the percentage of a specific nutrient. It is an industry standard that those numbers will always represent nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. They will always be in that order. Excluding oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon there are currently 15 or 16 essential elements that a plant needs. We are going to talk about the big three: N-P-K.

What do they do? A simplified way to remember what the big three do is: up, down, all around. Nitrogen helps with green vertical growth. Phosphorus helps with roots (and flowers). Potassium helps with overall plant health. Generally speaking these are the three elements that the plant needs the most to be happy and healthy.

Nitrogen is the most needed nutrient for plants. Nitrogen promotes green growth and helps with other biological processes. When a plant is lacking nitrogen symptoms of deficiencies will show up in older leaves first. We will also see poor new growth that will be lighter in color. Most species and older cultivars of violets naturally have a light green color to their leaves. Knowing what your plant should look like will help determine if the plant is lacking nitrogen. Too much nitrogen can promote rapid green growth, brittle leaves, and poor flower formation.

When you look at the product label you will notice that nitrogen could have two or three different types. Most often we see ammoniacal, nitrate, and urea nitrogen listed. Typically urea is not plant ready until converted to ammonium by bacteria. That bacteria may or may not be present in a potting mix. Using only one formulation of nitrogen can also affect the soil pH (acidity or alkalinity). It is best to use a product that has at least two formulations of nitrogen such as ammoniacal and nitrate. This will help reduce the chances of the soil pH swings[1].

Phosphorus is the second most needed nutrient. Phosphorus helps with root development, encourages flowers, and other biological functions. When a plant is deficient in phosphorus we often see leaf tips on older leaves browning following by turning dark green with a purplish hue on the backside of the leaf or the petiole. This can be challenging to diagnose because many of our violet cultivars have a red back. When a plant has too much phosphorus we see it exhibited through micronutrient deficiencies.

Most fertilizers use the phosphate formulation of  $P_2O_5$ .

Potassium is the third most needed nutrient for plants. Potassium helps with the overall plant health. It will aid in the movement of water, nutrient flow, carbohydrates, and other biological processes. When a plant is lacking potassium we will see weak stems, yellowing of older leaf tissue (chlorosis) followed by localized death of tissue. It is rare to see potassium toxicity in the plant. However, if it does occur we will see micronutrient such as zinc, magnesium, and manganese become deficient.

Most products will use the soluble potash formulation of  $K_2O$ .

Soil pH and temperature of the growing space will also affect the availability and uptake of nutrients by the plants. Traditionally speaking most plants, including violets, prefer a soil pH around 6. This will allow all of the macro and micro nutrients to be available for uptake. Both warm and cool growing conditions can affect the availability of nutrients such as nitrogen. Ideally it is best to keep the temperature between 68°F to 82°F (20°C to 27°C). Remember that grow lights will produce some heat and keeping a thermometer on your stands will allow you to monitor. New LED lights produce less heat so you may need to adjust your growing space accordingly.

Which fertilizer ratio do you choose from? Garden centers are flooded with endless options. An industry standard is the 3-1-2 or a 1-1-1 ratio. This provides the plants with the essential nutrients that a plant needs to be happy and healthy. We often forget that most

fertilizers deliver the nutrients in a form of a salt. These salts can build up when using larger percentage numbers. Some newer natural based products bypass the salts. However, they use manures, meal-based ingredients and oils. Those come with a pronounced aroma which may or may not be desirable in a home setting. Please remember that organic does not mean it is safer and everything is a chemical. When using any fertilizer remember that more is not better and always follow the labeled instructions.

More growers have switched over from tap water to reverse osmosis (RO) water. If this is your case you may want to choose a fertilizer that contains a portion of our micronutrients. The RO process does an excellent job removing impurities from the water and in some cases it will remove micronutrients. Look for a product that will also contain sulfur, iron, manganese, and zinc.

When deciding on what to use try to buy the smallest size available. This way if your plants react poorly to the product you are not left with a quart or gallon of something you may never use again. If you decide to switch products try it first on a few plants for three months before introducing to the whole collection. This way you can monitor for any issues. Finally, if it isn't broke, don't fix it. If you found a product that you get great results with, there is no need to change.

[i] [http://greenhouse.cornell.edu/crops/factsheets/nitrogen\\_form.pdf](http://greenhouse.cornell.edu/crops/factsheets/nitrogen_form.pdf)

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

*It's strawberry season again!*

## STRAWBERRY PRETZEL SALAD

### Topping

2 packages (4-serving size each) Jell-O® strawberry-flavored gelatin  
2 cups boiling water  
2 boxes (16 oz each) frozen sweetened strawberries, thawed

### Crust

2 cups pretzels, crushed  
3/4 cup butter, melted  
3 tablespoons sugar

### Filling

1 container (8 oz) Cool Whip frozen whipped topping, thawed  
1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened  
1 cup sugar

### Steps

- 1  
Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in strawberries; refrigerate until partially set, about 1 hour 45 minutes.
- 2  
Heat oven to 350° F. In medium bowl, mix Crust ingredients. Press into ungreased 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Bake 10 minutes. Cool on cooling rack.
- 3  
In medium bowl, beat Filling ingredients with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Spread over cooled crust. Cover and refrigerate until cool and gelatin topping in bowl is partially set.
- 4  
Carefully spoon gelatin topping over filling. Refrigerate 4 to 6 hours or until firm. To serve, cut into 4 rows by 3 rows.

If you have a recipe you would like to share just send it to [nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com)

## MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography

Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!!

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com) Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

## Visit us at:

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampaafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampaafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

[@tampaafricanviolets](#)

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**  
[johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.





# THE PETAL

## FEBRUARY 2022

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

**SECRET LOVE**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear TAVS members and friends,

Amazingly, 2022 came roaring in and here we are at the end of January! So. . .we're quickly moving along to a very busy month of February. First on the agenda is the Florida State Fair which runs from February 10 through the 21<sup>st</sup>. We'll be setting up our booth on Sunday, February 6, and then placing plants on

Tuesday, February 8. For those who help with setup, you'll receive a free pass to the Fair.

Later in the month, we'll have our annual show and plant sale in Temple Terrace. Dates are February 25-26. Detailed information is later in this newsletter. We're hoping every member will have at least one entry in the show – whether it's an entry in horticulture or in the design division. If you need guidance on making a dish garden or terrarium, be sure to come to our February 18 meeting at the Seffner-Mango Library. We'll be doing a demonstration at the meeting.

Please consider donating an award for the show – it can be any amount – all donations are appreciated. You can mail your donation to

Glenn Shelton or bring it with you to the February 18 meeting.

In the meantime, please help us advertise the show by telling your friends. If you would like some flyers to pass out to friends or businesses, please let me know and I'll be glad to send them by email attachment or by USPS.

Members are welcome to bring healthy, young African violets and gesneriads, as well as leaf cuttings to sell at the show. Each one must have the price clearly marked on a tag or stake as well as the seller's sales number.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the show, please let me or Jean Krauchik know. Looking forward to seeing you at the State Fair and our Show!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 in The Seffner-Mango Public Library

The library address is:  
410 N. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## FEBRUARY MEETINGS

**Thursday February 3rd at 7pm via ZOOM**

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM ON CONTAINER GARDENS**

Our February 3 night meeting will feature a special program presented by Karyn Cichocki of Lafayette, New Jersey, on Container Gardens. In AVSA shows, there are 3 classes: (1) Dish Gardens, (2), Terrariums, and (3) Natural Gardens. In Gesneriad shows, there are also 3 classes. However, Dish Gardens are called "Tray Landscapes."

Karyn is a life member of AVSA and holds a Master judging certificate. She is a member of the African Violet & Gesneriad Society of New Jersey, as well as several state societies and enjoys participating in the horticulture and design sections of their shows and conventions.

Her violet collection consists mostly of species, semiminiature and miniature girl and mosaic foliage plants but she also grows a few trailers and standards. Besides indoor gardening, She also enjoys outdoor gardens and bird watching.

Karyn's program will be a PowerPoint that she and Jill Fischer put together for a webinar they did for the Gesneriad Society. Although most of the plants featured in the program are other gesneriads, the landscape plan is the same as for African violets. The program contains pictures of what types of containers you can use for all 3 types of gardens, accessories, tools and then followed by step by step pictures of putting a dish garden together.

Here's a picture of Karyn taken in Ecuador in 2007 -- she's holding a bouquet of *Drymonia* cuttings.

“



**FEBRUARY DAY MEETING**  
Friday, February 18, 2022  
Seffner-Mango Library, 410 Kingsway Road,  
Seffner

The February day meeting will be held at the Seffner-Mango Library. The library's meeting room is large, so I hope all members will plan to come. We'll be finalizing details about our show and there will be a dish garden demonstration.

We will not be serving refreshments, but everyone is welcome to bring your own snacks and bottled drinks.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!

# CALENDAR of Events

**February 11-12, 2022 -- 9 am to 3 pm, First Lakeland AVS Display and Plant Sale.** Christ Lutheran Church, 2715 Lakeland Hills Boulevard, Lakeland, FL 33805.

### FLORIDA STATE FAIR

February 10 through February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

### TAVS SHOW AND SALE

**"Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space".**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, 5030 E Busch Blvd, Temple Terrace, FL 33617

**March 12, 2022 – Lakeland Spring Obsession, a Garden, Art and Music event,** Lake Crago Park, 525 Lake Crago Drive, Lakeland, FL 33805. 8 am to 3 pm. First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL.

**April 30, 2022 –** Spring meeting of the African Violet Council of Florida. Location TBD.

### AVSA Convention and Show

**"Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas,"**

May 29-June 5 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel, Little Rock AR

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

### HELP NEEDED!

### FLORIDA STATE FAIR SET-UP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – 1 PM

We'll be putting in our display on Sunday, February 6, at 1 pm. As you know, we were unable to have our show last year. Since we had already selected our theme, "Violets

Celebrate the Wonders of Space.” and had prepared a show schedule, we used that theme for our display at the Fair. For this year’s Fair display, we’ll use a related space theme, “A Galaxy of Violets.”

Here are some of the things we need:

1. Members helping with the setup which should take only about two hours. So please plan to come and help.
2. The plants will be placed on Tuesday, February 8, beginning at 10 am. We’ll need help with making labels for the plants and then placing the plants in the display.
3. During the Fair – members who can spend an hour or two at the booth, greeting the public, handing out show information and culture folders
4. During the Fair – members who will check the plants and water them, if necessary. This usually is done once or twice a week.

Everyone who helps in any way at the Fair will receive free entry passes.

## “VIOLETS CELEBRATE THE WONDERS OF SPACE” AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW & PLANT SALE



Show dates are Friday and Saturday, February 25 and 26. Set-up begins at 1 pm on Thursday, February 24.

**ALL MEMBERS** need to help with set-up which includes setting up and placing

tables, covering the tables, placing Section and Class Cards along with ribbons to separate the classes.

Members need to sign up to help with plant sales. I hope all of you are growing plants to enter in the show. We’ll talk more about the Fair and the Show at our next meetings. **EVERYONE HELPS WITH BREAKING DOWN THE SHOW AND CLEAN-UP!**

**SHOW AWARDS.** As you know, our show will be competitively judged and the winners in each Division and Section will receive both ribbon and cash awards. We also usually have other types of awards, such as gift certificates or plant-related supplies. Awards will also be given for the best Novice exhibit and the best AVSA Collections and Dixie Collections.

We rely on the generosity of our members as well as some commercial growers and African violet friends to provide the awards. SO, we ask our members to be generous and donate an award. Awards may be designated to a particular violet or class or may be undesignated and used where needed.

Please bring your awards to our February 18th meeting – we’ll have a sign-up sheet there.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff have been having some health issues.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of January 6, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:06 pm.

Mary Lou introduced guest presenter Glenda Williams of Ambrosia Violets, McDade, TX.

Glenda presented a PowerPoint educational program about growing African violet trailers. She also gave us a tour of our green house and business.

**ROLL CALL:** 11 Members and 1 guest

#### BUSINESS MEETING:

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

The January 21<sup>st</sup> day meeting will be at Mary Lou Harden's home.

This will be a potluck luncheon and we will be preparing supplies, as well as mixing and bagging soil and Perlite for sale at our show and the USF Spring Sale

The February 18 meeting will be in person at the Seffner-Mango Public Library, 410 North Kingsway Road, Seffner.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### TAVS: SHOW AND SALE

**"Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space".**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. 2022 at The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL. Signup sheets are available for contributions to awards for our show, and for people to sign up to assist with sales at our show. We will also need members to sign up to assist with the cash register and to do demonstrations during the show.

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS: FLORIDA STATE FAIR

February 10 through February 22, 2022. Set up will be on Sunday, February 6, at 1pm.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January Birthdays: Pamela VanDurme, Todd Grandy

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina Grundhoff and Sandi Soto..

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of January 21st, 2022 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 11:48 AM.

**INSPIRATION:** Pat Rutzke

**ROLL CALL:** 10 Members

#### PROGRAM:

In lieu of a program this month everyone helped mix soil and package supplies in anticipation of our upcoming show.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 10th, 2021, meeting were approved as published.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, reported expenditures: \$729.05 to include ZOOM fees, AVSA, Dixie, and AVCF dues, supplies for show including ribbons, and table rental for

USF Spring Sale. Revenue \$109.00 from raffles, Roll call and supplies. Current balance in checking: \$2949.23, and savings: \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

Monthly night meetings will continue via ZOOM. Starting in February the day meetings will be the third Friday, at 10am, and will be in person at the Seffner-Mango Public Library.

The library address is:

410 N. Kingsway Rd.

Seffner, FL 33584-3602

The programs for the meetings:

February 6<sup>th</sup> will be by guest presenter, Karyn Cichocki of New Jersey an active member of the Gesneriad Society and Design Division winner, will be presenting a Power Point program on container gardens, with special emphasis on Dish Gardens.

February 18<sup>th</sup> day meeting at 10am. Again In lieu of a program we will be going over final preparations for our show.

We will not be providing food, but if you would like, you can bring pre-packaged snacks and drinks for your own consumption.

Signup sheets are available for contributions to awards for our show, and for people to sign up to assist with sales at our show. Start saving small boxes for the sales room.

We will also need members to sign up to assist with the cash register.

We are planning to have some demonstrations during the show, so if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer to do a demonstration, please let Mary Lou know.

If anyone needs supplies, please let Mary Lou Harden know via email, text or phone prior to the meeting. [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) 813-924-2686

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **TAVS: SHOW AND SALE**

**“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 at The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL

**AVCF:** Spring meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> in Altamonte Springs

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

The 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, Georgia, May 28 to June 4, 2023, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

### **TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY:**

Normally meets the third Saturday monthly via ZOOM, however meetings for January are on hold.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Show:** Plans are moving along for our annual show and sale.

Our theme: **“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

Mary Lou Harden and Jean Krauchik, Show Co-Chairs.

Still need Committee Chairs for:

1. Awards (If you have an award, it is suggested you bring this to either of the in-person meetings in December or January.)
2. Plant Sales-You don't need to be there the entire time; it just requires you to be sure people are signed up to cover the sales room during the sale.
3. Properties-Tom Shaeffer will be picking up the supplies which are being stored at Mary Lou's and will deliver to the show site.
4. Help with cash register- Lynn Bandy will be helping but will need additional hands.

## **FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

February 10 through February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 set up will be on Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

We already used our Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space” focal point last year, so alternate focal point ideas were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The purchase of blooming plants for both the State Fair and the show, was discussed and members decided to purchase plants from Laura Perdomo. Celeste Christman and Terry Jordan will be picking up plants for the State Fair on Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> and Carolee Carter will be picking them up on Friday February 25<sup>th</sup> for the show. Terry Jordan will also be donating a box of mixed Standards and Semi-mini’s for the show.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

January Birthdays, Pamela Van Durme on 1/20 and Todd Grandy on 1/21.

Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff have been having some health issues.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Lynn E Bandy, Day Recording Secretary



August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**MIXING IT UP**

Written for the 2019 November-December issue of the *African Violet Magazine*

By Sandra Skalski, Columnist of “My First Violets”

Whether your first violets are starter plants or mature plants, at some point, you will need to repot them. Repotting once or twice a year enhances growth, and fresh growth encourages

blooming. What will you use for a potting mix? My first violets were gifts from my grandmother when I was 10 years old. As a young girl, I had no idea what a “soilless mix” was, and even if I knew, I still would have selected the closest thing at hand... the endless supply of soil in my backyard. That wasn’t the best decision and those violet are long gone, but now I know a good deal more about what makes a good potting mix for African violets.

What does a potting mix do? Physically a potting mix provides a substrate to anchor the roots for the plant to grow. It makes water and oxygen available to the roots. Chemically , the mix holds the nutrients the plant needs. In the wild, African violets grow in crevices and loose substrate on rocky cliffs or porous rocks. You want a potting mix that approximates these conditions: evenly moist but well-draining, slightly acidic, and with a loose crumbly texture. Potting mixes suitable for African violets contain no actual soil’ that is why they are called soilless mixes. Here are some tips to help you make a good decision for your plants’ mix.

**POTTING MIX INGREDIENTS**

The most common ingredients in potting mixes are sphagnum peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and dolomite lime. Sphagnum peat moss comes from a bog plant that grows in low-pH, poorly draining environments. Since other plants cannot grow under these conditions, peat moss is free of weeds and weed seeds. It also has good water-holding capacity, which makes it ideal for houseplants and container gardens.

Perlite is made by heating a type of volcanic rock to a very high temperature. The water trapped in the rock expands, creating a light, porous material. There are various type of perlite, sorted by the average size of the particles, from very fine to quite chunky. Look for coarse or horticultural grade perlite. If it is sold by a numerical grade, look for grades 3 or 4.

Vermiculite is made by heating up a type of laminated rock. It expands into a very light material that has excellent water-holding capacity and can improve soil aeration. In general, perlite drains better than vermiculite.

Dolomite lime is a powder-fine ground rock that is used to adjust the pH and add calcium and magnesium to the potting mix. Most peat moss has a pH of around 3.5 to 4, which is well outside the ideal pH for African violets and most other plants. Unless you are buying pure peat moss, most commercial potting mixes have some added dolomite lime to adjust the pH. Be sure to look for the powdered dolomite. The granular type is for lawns and gardens.

Coir now is included in many commercial potting mixes. Coir is ground-up coconut husks. Compared to peat moss, coir has higher water retention, a finer texture and a neutral pH. Many growers have had success using this material, but I have found that I need to use a lot more perlite to make a mix suitable for wick-watering.



## YOUR POTTING MIX

There is no single, perfect potting mix. The best potting mix for your plants depends on your growing conditions, including the general temperature and humidity, and how your water and fertilize your plants. If you wick water or mat water, you will want to use a potting mix that contains 40% to 60% perlite. If you buy a ready-made mix, look for words like “wicking mix” to let you know that this is a well-draining material.

The African violets you buy in the supermarket or big box store might be in a much heavier mix that holds a good bit of water. This makes sense because once these plants leave the greenhouse, their care won't be as consistent. When people get them home, it is easy to overwater them and kill them with kindness. Your violets still can grow in these mixes as long as you are careful to water them only when the top inch or so of the soil feels dry to the touch.

If you are a new grower with a small number of plants, consider getting your potting mix from

one of our AVSA commercial growers or an eBay supplier recommended by another grower. They've already done the work for you to blend an optimal mix, especially for African violets. As a new grower, you have many things to learn, and having a tried and true potting mix can eliminate one variable.

Many popular horticultural supply companies offer bags of potting mix especially for African violets. They usually come in 8-quart sizes, so it is ideal for the hobbyist with a small collection. Some of these mixes contain fertilizer, so if you choose to use them, be sure to cut back on your own fertilizer for the first few months after you repot. These blends are sold to be used straight out of the bag, but they generally are heavier mixes with very little perlite. I have had success mixing these blends evenly (50/50) with coarse perlite or a 40% mix to 60% coarse perlite. The percentage of perlite can vary because of factors like coarseness or individual growing conditions. Even variations in the base mix can affect the water-holding capacity of the final product. Start with a 50/50 blend and adjust as needed.



If you have a lot of plants or you just like to “do it yourself,” you can easily blend your own African violet potting mix. A good place to start is with either Pro-Mix BX or Pro-Mix HP, or a similar commercial mix. These brands are readily available in garden centers or horticultural supply stores. One drawback is that the base-mix comes in large bags or compressed bales. Depending on the number of plants you have, that might mean you have a very large supply of potting mix.

If it seems like that much potting mix will be more than you can foresee using, consider teaming up with your local club or growing

friends to share the cost of materials. Mixing up a good potting mix could be a fun club activity, and a good opportunity to learn about potting mix and repotting violets. There are a lot of good recipes, probably as many as there are growers. Talk to successful growers; most of them will be happy to share their recipes.

## OTHER ADDITIONS

I don't add vermiculite to my potting mix because I wick water, and I think the vermiculite makes the mixture hold too much water. The Pro-Mix I use contains mycorrhizae, which are beneficial fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with the roots and enhance their ability to absorb water and nutrients. Since the mycorrhizae in the base mix don't have a long shelf-life, I add some additional mycorrhizae before I pot up my plants. I adjust my pH with dolomite lime to a range of 6.5 to 6.8. This is a good pH range, however many successful growers do not test or adjust their pH since most base mixes already have some dolomite lime added.

You might have read a lot about fertilizers and additives some growers include in their potting mixes. Before you start adding a laundry list of "special" additives, be sure first that you can tell whether any positive or negative changes to your plants are related to the potting mix and not some other change. No matter how promising you think the improvements or additives are going to be, try the new mix on just a few plants at first. Even the most experienced growers have made the mistake of moving an entire collection to something new, only to discover weeks or months later that perhaps they should have given it a test-drive first.

That wasn't so hard, was it? Is it time for your plants to be repotted? Buy some of your favorite mix or mix up a batch and get to it. No matter what potting mix you choose, you will find that the best "additive" of all is your time and consistent care.

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

## Secret Kiss Cookies

1 cup butter softened  
½ cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 cups flour  
1 cup finely chopped walnuts  
30 kisses  
1 1/3 cups confectioners' sugar  
2 Tbs baking cocoa

In a large bowl cream the butter, sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Gradually add flour, and mix well, fold in walnuts. Refrigerate dough for 2-3 hours until firm

shape into 1 inch balls, flatten balls and place a kiss in the center of each, pinch dough together around kiss. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake at 375 for 12 minutes until set but not browned. Cool for 1 minute remove from pan to wire rack

Mix together 2/3 cup confectioners sugar and cocoa. While cookies are still warm roll 1/2 in chocolate mixture and ½ in remaining confectioners sugar

If you have a recipe you would like to share just send it to [nbybleb@aol.com](mailto:nbybleb@aol.com)

## MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not

get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!! +

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club’s website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets) ) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com) Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you’re interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

**Visit us at:**  
[www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.** [johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com)  
[www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**,

is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price,  
President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

### **PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MARY BETH BRYANT**



Beautiful blooms of Trinket 'Summer Skies'



Beautiful foliage of Trinket 'Summer Skies'





# THE PETAL

## MARCH 2022

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



**MANS IRISH RED**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### THANKS, TAVS MEMBERS. . .WE DID IT!

It was a beautiful show at the Temple Terrace  
UM Church in North Tampa!

We wondered how we would fare since this was a new location and also since we did not have a show in 2021. All of us were pleasantly surprised that a lot of people came to see the show and our plant sales were quite good. One thing our members did that I thought was outstanding was their enthusiastic reception and greeting when visitors came and the fact

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

that our members were so personable and engaged so warmly with our guests. That's what it's all about – we're here to share our knowledge and love of violets with others and we want to encourage them to learn to grow and love violets too!

Putting on a show is a lot of work, but when all of us pitch in and do our part, it's not a burden to any one of us. So. . .be thinking about a theme for next year's show! In the meantime, we'll discuss the show at our March meetings and hopefully come up with some practical ideas to improve how we do our shows.

Thanks again to everyone who helped put on the show. As a result of the show, we got some new members as well as some renewals.

Hope to see you this Thursday at 7 pm by Zoom!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 in The Seffner-Mango Public Library.

The library address is:  
410 N. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## MARCH MEETINGS

**MARCH NIGHT MEETING**  
Thursday March, 3rd at 7pm via ZOOM

**MARCH DAY MEETING**  
Friday, March 18th, 2022  
Seffner-Mango Library,  
410 Kingsway Road, Seffner

We will not be serving refreshments, but everyone is welcome to bring your own snacks and bottled drinks.

## MARCH PROGRAMS

Both of our March programs will focus on our show. We'll hear from some of our award winners and we want to hear from all members as to the positives and any negatives. We want to learn from this experience and hear your ideas on how to improve our annual show.

So...we hope you will join us on **Thursday, March 3, at 7 pm for our Zoom meeting** and again on **Friday, March 18, at 10 am for an in-person meeting at the Seffner-Mango Library**. We'll have a plant raffle at the Day Meeting on March 18 – so please bring a plant to donate to the raffle.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

**The April 7 Night Meeting (by Zoom)** will feature Laura Perdomo, owner of The Peacock Cottage in Ocala. Laura has been growing violets for several years and will be telling us about her method of growing and propagating violets. She will also give us a tour of The Peacock Cottage.

**The April 15 Day Meeting** is our Annual Meeting and installation of officers at the Seffner-Mango Library.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol, Angelina and George Grundhoff have been having some health issues.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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

# CALENDAR of Events

## **“Lakeland Spring Obsession”**

### **A Garden, Art and Music event,**

March 12, 2022

Lake Crago Park, 525 Lake Crago Drive,  
Lakeland, FL 33805. 8 am to 3 pm. First  
Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL.

## **USF SPRING PLANT SALE**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

TAVS will be participating in USF Botanical  
Gardens’ Spring Plant Festival and we’ll be  
joined by the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.  
We’ll need help setting up our tents and tables  
on Friday, April 8. . .AND. . .we need members  
bringing plants for the sale and helping with  
sales on both Saturday and Sunday.

## **African Violet Council of Florida.**

**Spring Meeting, Saturday, April 30,** in  
Altamonte Springs, FL. Place will be announced  
in the forthcoming issue of The Florida  
Connection.

## **AVSA Convention and Show**

### **“Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas,”**

May 29-June 5 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel,  
Little Rock AR

## **DIXIE AVS:**

Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022  
Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

# **“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

**THANKS—AND CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR EXHIBITORS!**

Although we were hoping for 100% participation  
by members as exhibitors in our show, we’re  
happy to report that the following eleven  
members had entries in either horticulture or  
design, or both:

Jim Boyer  
Mary Beth Bryant  
Mary Lou Harden  
Terry Jordan  
Nancy Kast  
Jean Krauchik  
Jim Matula  
Pat Rutzke  
Glenn Shelton  
Sandi Soto  
Pamela Van Durme

## **THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AT THE SHOW!**

A show is not possible without the help of many  
members! Our sincere thanks to the following  
for all of their assistance at the show:

**Tom Schaefer:** Chair of Staging and  
Properties, for transporting all the supplies  
needed for set-up of the show as well as  
supplies for the sale.

**Carolee Carter:** our former member—now a  
part of the newly formed Blooming Violets of  
Marion County (Ocala)—who served as one of  
our judges and brought us plants from The  
Peacock Cottage.

**Celeste Christman, Bonnie Smith and Terry  
Jordan:** who transported plants and supplies  
from Seffner to the show in Temple Terrace.

**Lynn Bandy and Kathy Glenn:** who handled  
cash register and credit card sales. Lynn also  
served as Co-Chair for Entries as well as  
Publicity. Kathy did a great job of advertising on  
our Facebook page. Also, several people  
showed interest through our website and we  
thank **Gladys Cook** for helping get the word  
out.

**Kathy Glenn,** our Chef and Classification  
Chair, and **Jean Krauchik** who was in charge  
of Hospitality. Jean also served as Show Co-  
Chair.

**Jim Boyer** who was responsible for Judges  
and Clerks, and was also Entries’ Chair, Novice  
Administrator, and handled awards ribbons.

**Mary Beth Bryant** who was in charge of Show  
Plant Sales.

**Roselind Rovinsky** who was responsible for Plant Placement.

**Glenn Shelton**, our Treasurer, who assisted with set-up and take-down.

**Sandi Soto** who served as Education Chair and along with her husband assisted with room set-up and take-down.

**Jim Matula** who was responsible for Club Supplies.

**Terry Jordan** who gave several demonstrations on growing and propagating streptocarpus, donated plants for the sale and helped with set-up and take-down.

**Pat Rutzke, Jerry and Nancy Kast, Pamela Van Durme and Natalia Lukashova** assisted with set-up, furnished plants for the sale or helped with plant sales.

### **THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR AWARDS DONATIONS:**

(Awards will be presented at the March 18 Day Meeting)

Jos Violets  
McDonald's  
African Violet Council of Florida  
Lynn Bandy  
Jean Krauchik  
Mary Beth Bryant  
Kathy Glenn  
Mary Lou Harden  
Jim Boyer  
Celeste Christman  
Anita Adlin  
Terry Jordan  
Sandi Soto

### **RE-CAP OF FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

Many thanks to the following for helping at the Fair:

**SET-UP** – Stuart Swayze who brought his grandson Connor and Connor's friend Pablo (from Chile), who were visiting Stuart from Maryland. Connor and Pablo were fantastic! Both are young and strong – and they're the ones who climbed the ladders and did the bulk of the work in putting up all the background work for our display!

Others who helped were Jean Krauchik, Pat Rutzke and Lynn Bandy. It was Lynn's son John who was very creative and made our

rocket. Kudos to John! Tom Schaefer was also on hand and was Superman -- swooping in to masterfully saw some PVC pipe like a pro! And. . .so that we would have plenty of lovely plants for the display, we thank Celeste Christman who, along with Terry Jordan, drove to Ocala to pick up plants for us. Several of our members attended the Fair and spent some time at our booth, engaging the public and passing out literature. Many thanks to everyone who helped at the Fair!



### **TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of February 3rd, 2022, Zoom Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:05 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** 10 Members and 8 guests

For the benefit of guests, Mary Lou called attention to the following upcoming events:

1. Florida State Fair, February 10-21
2. First Lakeland AVS Show and sale – February 11 and 12
3. Tampa AVS show and sale, February 25-26
4. AVCF Spring meeting at Altamonte Springs, April 30

### **PROGRAM:**

She then introduced guest presenter Karyn Cichocki of Lafayette, NJ, who presented a PowerPoint program about container gardens, with special emphasis on Dish Gardens, called Tray Landscapes by the Gesneriad Society.

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

Treasurer's report showed a checking account balance on January 18, 2022, of \$2,949.23.

The February 18 day meeting will be at the Seffner-Mango Public Library and will focus attention on our show. There will also be a demonstration on making a dish garden.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS: SHOW AND SALE**

**“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.** February 25 and 26, 2022, with set-up on Thursday, February 24 at 1 pm, at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL. Signup sheets are available for contributions to awards for our show, and for people to sign up to assist with sales at our show. We will also need members to sign up to assist with the cash register and to do demonstrations during the show.

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

February 10 through February 22, 2022. Set up will be on Sunday, February 6, at 1pm.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina Grundhoff and Sandi Soto..

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of March 18th, 2022**  
**Meeting**  
**Seffner-Mango Public Library**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:12 AM.

**ROLL CALL:** 10 Members

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the January 21, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mary Lou Harden reported expenditures of \$327.41 and income of \$163. Current balance in checking as of February 17, 2022, is \$2,784.72. The report will be filed.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

March 3, 2022, is monthly night meetings by Zoom.

The March 18 day meeting will be held at the Seffner-Mango Public Library, 410 N. Kingsway Rd.. Seffner, FL 33584-3602 Show awards will be presented, there will be critique of our show, and Jim Boyer will discuss pros and cons of the various types of lighting for African violets.

Signup sheets are available for contributions to awards for our show, and for people to sign up to assist with sales at our show.

Start saving small boxes for the sales room.

We will also need members to sign up to assist with the cash register.

We are planning to have some demonstrations during the show, so if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer to do a demonstration, please let Mary Lou know.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**AVCF:** Spring meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> in Altamonte Springs

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

**SPECIAL ORDER:** Nominating Committee report was presented as follows: **President, Mary Lou Harden; Vice President, Jim Matula; Treasurer, Glenn Shelton; Secretary, Lynn Bandy. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers was unanimously elected.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

The Fair continues through Monday, February 21, 2022. Admission tickets were distributed to members.

**TAVS: SHOW AND SALE**

**“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

February 25 and 26, 2022, at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL

Our theme: **“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

Set-up is Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 1 pm. Members are encouraged to come on Thursday to help set up, cover and skirt tables. Members are to bring food for set-up day as well as for the Judges’ luncheon on Friday. Members were encouraged to sign up to donate awards, to help with plant sales, and to give repotting or propagating demonstrations. Tom Shaeffer will be picking up skirting as well as supplies which are being stored at Mary Lou’s and will deliver to the show site. Lynn Bandy will be working the cash register, but we need another person or two to help with the cash register.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

February Birthdays: Anita Adlin  
Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff, Lisa Villabol, Jim Matula’s wife.  
Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**PROGRAM: Mary Lou Harden demonstrated how to make a dish garden.**

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants/leaves furnished by Terry Jordan and Mary Lou Harden.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

## RECIPE BOX



*This month’s recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

### TERI’S SPECIAL CABBAGE

½ pound bacon chopped  
1 Shallot (or small onion) thinly sliced  
1 small head green cabbage cored and chopped  
¼ cup cider vinegar  
¼ cup brown sugar  
Salt and pepper to taste

Render bacon in skillet, remove and keep 2 TBS of bacon fat in pan.  
Saute shallot until clear. Return bacon to pan and add remainder of ingredients, cook until cabbage is tender.

## MEET THE MEMBER

### Celeste Christman

Celeste started growing African violets and joined TAVS in 2020 – she says she needed something new to do-- due to Covid! She now has over 25 violets. She says she loves the wide variety of blooms and leaves, but she also hates their fragility!

In addition to violets, she also grows Orchids, Zinnias, Desert Roses, Cacti, Bromeliads, Lantana plus a few others.

And, since that’s not enough to keep her busy, she has 4 Australian Shepherd dogs, 2 Maine Coon kittens, assorted barn cats, 2 horses, Watusi cattle, Macaws and African Greys, as well as tropical fish!

Celeste was born at the Marine Base at Camp Lejeune, NC, but grew up in St. Pete Beach and has fond memories of walking over the Vina del Mar bridge to go to Sunshine Elementary School on Pass A Grille Way. She says it was her maternal Grandfather who taught her how to fish, boat and garden.

Celeste is a former SIU Field Investigator. She is currently a Realtor at CENTURY 21 and says she loves helping all people buy or sell their home, but retirees are very special to her and she works very hard to take good care of them. She works all over the greater Tampa Bay area.

In addition to all that, she says she has no spare time! She works 7 days a week -- and aspires to be retired!!

TAVS welcomes Celeste Christman!

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)



February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022



## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!! +

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do "on the job" training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com) Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

# Become a **MEMBER**

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:  
[floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

## Visit us at:

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

[@tampafricanviolets](#)

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

**African Violet Society of America (AVSA).** Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

**AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100,  
Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:  
**Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,  
287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**  
[johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com)  
[www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

**African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).  
[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

# PHOTOS OF "THE SHOW"

Submitted by Mary Lou Harden



Best Design, The Goldilocks Planet by Pat Rutzke



Ma's Arctic Sky, by Sandi Soto



Rebel's Splatter Kake, Part of AVSA Standard Collection, by Sandi Soto



Strep Full Moon Sport, by Mary Beth Bryant



Strep Peggy by Mary Lou Harden



Aeschynanthus 'humilis', Best Gesneriad, by Nancy Kast



Nautilocalyx 'pemphidius' by Mary Lou Harden



Frozen in Time, part of Best AVSA Standard Collection, by Mary Lou Harden



Tiger, part of Best AVSA Standard Collection, by Mary Lou Harden



Focal Point by Celeste Christman and Mary Lou Harden  
 Rocket by John Bandy, son of Lynn Bandy



Buckeye's



# THE PETAL

## APRIL 2022

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



Photo by Pat Addison  
**SHADES OF SPRING**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS members and friends,

Now that you've had a few weeks to rest, it's time to get in gear for the plant sale at USF Botanical Gardens. As you know, at the 2021 Fall Plant Festival, there weren't quite as many vendors as there were pre-pandemic. I'm hoping all of the vendor slots will be filled at the Spring sale next weekend—April 9 and 10. Complete information about the Festival and how you can help are elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

I'm looking forward to our Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 7, when Laura Perdomo will be with us. Laura is a great grower, and she is an extremely talented lady – so please join us on Thursday.

Our April 15 day meeting is our annual meeting when we'll install officers, hear reports and enjoy a pot-luck luncheon. The meeting will be at the Seffner-Mango Library, and I hope to see you there. Please invite a friend to come with you!

Also, if you haven't paid your dues, now is the time – so come to the meeting prepared to renew your membership -- \$15 for the year – what a deal!

I hope you and your plants are doing well. Plants are like people – they like special attention – so don't forget to water and feed them on a regular basis. They will reward you beautifully!

Hope to see you at the April 7 Zoom meeting and in person on April 15!

Happy growing!  
Mary Lou

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 in The Seffner-Mango Public Library.

The library address is:  
410 N. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## APRIL MEETINGS

### APRIL NIGHT MEETING

**Thursday April, 7th at 7pm via ZOOM**

Our night meeting will be featuring Laura Perdomo, owner of The Peacock Cottage in Ocala. Laura has been growing violets for several years and will be telling us about her method of growing and propagating violets. She will also give us a tour of The Peacock Cottage.

### APRIL DAY MEETING

**Friday, April 15th, 2022**

**Seffner-Mango Library,  
410 Kingsway Road, Seffner**

This will be a pot-luck luncheon meeting – so please bring your favorite dish to share. We'll also have a plant raffle, so please bring a plant to donate to the raffle. If you don't have a plant, bring a cutting or leaf for propagating.

Our own Celeste Christman will be talking about growing Epicias, we will be having our annual meeting and installing our new officers.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/3 Angela Newell  
4/4 Jim Matula  
4/9 Mary Lou Harden  
4/11 Terry Jordan  
4/17 Lynn Bandy



Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Pat Rutzke, and Mary Beth Bryant, have been having some health issues.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Celeste Christman on the recent loss of her Mother.



### USF SPRING PLANT SALE April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

TAVS will be participating in USF Botanical Gardens' Spring Plant Festival and we'll be

joined by the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, helping with sales on both Saturday and Sunday.

### African Violet Council of Florida.

**Spring Meeting, Saturday, April 30**, 11 am to 1 pm, Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, 897 West Town Parkway, Altamonte Springs, FL, 32714.

### AVSA Convention and Show

#### "Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas,"

May 29-June 5 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel, Little Rock AR

### DIXIE AVS:

Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022  
Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.



**USF Spring Plant Festival April 9-10.** TAVS will be participating in USF Botanical Gardens' Spring Plant Festival, and we'll be joined by the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society. Here's how you can help:

- Meet us at USF Botanical Gardens on Friday, April 8, at 10 am to help set up our tents and tables.
- You can bring your sale plants on Friday at set-up time or bring them on Saturday morning BEFORE 8:30 am! Remember that **ALL CARS MUST BE OUT OF THE GARDENS BEFORE 9 AM.**
- Saturday, April 9 – **Saturday mornings are always the busiest for plant sales! So PLEASE come early to help finish our set-up and be prepared to assist customers find the plants and supplies they're looking for.**

- Also. . .don't be shy! Offer our customers a box in which to place their (many) plants.
- Help the cashier to make sure all the price tags are removed from the sale plants.
- Sunday, April 10 – Need members to arrive BY 8:30 AM.
- Both Saturday and Sunday – encourage customers to sign up for our monthly E-newsletter.
- Give customers an AVSA magazine and a TAVS culture folder and information about our meetings.

**HOURS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY – 10 am to 3 pm – However, Botanical Gardens Members can come as early as 9 am – so we need workers at the Gardens BEFORE 9 AM EACH DAY.**



## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of March 3rd, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:07 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** 11 members

**PROGRAM:** In lieu of a program the members discussed our recent show, what needed to be amended and/or changed to improve our show for next year.

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mary Lou Harden reported expenditures of \$1469.75 which included multiple expenditures for the show. Income of \$49.00 from Raffle plants, roll call and supplies, and a net gain, including from the show, of \$602.39. Current balance in checking is \$3387.21. Savings account balance of \$3755.42 The report will be filed.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society:** Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Seffner-Mango Public Library

**AVCF:** Spring meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am at The Golden Corral, 897 W Town Parkway, Altamonte Springs

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Theme for 2023 show:

Put on your thinking caps and let's come up with a stellar theme for next year's show!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff, Lisa Villabol, Jim Matula's wife. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of March 18th, 2022 Meeting

#### Seffner-Mango Public Library

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:12 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Mary Lou Harden

**ROLL CALL:** 12 Members 1 guest

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 18th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

King James regaled us with information on types of lighting. These included fluorescent lights and LED lights.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mary Lou Harden reported expenditures of \$1469.75 which included multiple expenditures for the show. Income of \$49.00 from Raffle plants, roll call and supplies, and a net gain, including from the show ,of \$602.39. Current balance in checking as of March 17, 2022, is \$3387.21. Savings account balance of \$3755.42 The report will be filed.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, night meetings by Zoom. Our night meeting will be featuring Laura Perdomo, owner of The Peacock Cottage in Ocala. Laura has been growing violets for several years and will be telling us about her method of growing and propagating violets. She will also give us a tour of The Peacock Cottage.

**The April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022** day meeting will be held at the Seffner-Mango Public Library, 410 N. Kingsway Rd.. Seffner, FL 33584-3602 this will be our annual meeting to include Installation of Officers and a Potluck luncheon. Our own Cleleste Christman will be talking to us about growing Epicias.

**Elected Officials:**

- President:** Mary Lou Harden
- Vice President:** Jim Matula
- Treasurer:** Glenn Shelton
- Secretary:** Lynn Bandy

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society:** Meeting tomorrow March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Seffner-Mango Public Library

**AVCF:** Spring meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am at The Golden Corral, 897 W Town Parkway, Altamonte Springs

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5,2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**FLORIDA STATE FAIR recap:**

We had a great turnout for the fair and got many new requests for The Petal. In addition, we received \$350.00 just for having a display!

**TAVS: SHOW AND SALE**

**“Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”.**

Feedback from the show was informative and enlightening.

The main topics addressed were better organization of food, a working printer, better understanding of the cash register, more in-depth education on the growing process, more education regarding the different aspects of categories and the different roles members play,

It was decided that going forward more emphasis would be placed on the show itself for future meeting programs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Theme for 2023 show:

Put on your thinking caps and let’s come up with a stellar theme for next year’s show!

Show awards were presented. A complete list of winners is included at the end of the newsletter.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, and Pat Rutzke. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants/leaves furnished by Terry Jordan and Mary Lou Harden.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

# RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

## Amish Broccoli Salad...Amazing!!!!

- 1 head broccoli, chopped
- 1 head cauliflower, chopped...
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 pound bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Combine the chopped broccoli and cauliflower in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, sugar, and salt to make a creamy dressing. Add the dressing to the broccoli-cauliflower mix, stirring to evenly coat the vegetables. Stir in the bacon and the cheese, reserving a small amount to sprinkle on top of the salad just before serving.

## MEET THE MEMBER

Last Month we featured Celeste Christman!

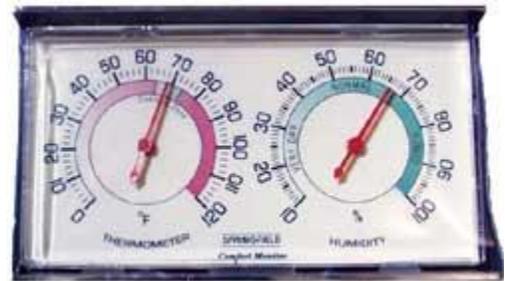
Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

African  
Violet  
Society of  
America

# GROWING TIPS

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Perfect Temperature for Violets



The perfect temperature range for violets is 65° to 80° F. At 65° growth is very slow, but violets can survive and the flower colors are often deep and rich. At 80° F growth is fast but the flowers don't last long and the color is less intense.

Many growers keep a gauge near the plants to record temperature and humidity both day and night.

Temperature changes of more than 10 degrees in 24 hours may spell trouble with diseases like powdery mildew.

Temperature changes from one season to the next may cause a change in the growth pattern of leaves. Big changes aren't ideal, and you should pay attention.

Many would say that the mid-70s are the perfect temperature, which isn't always possible. Some varieties thrive in cool and others thrive in warm. Find the varieties that like the temperatures you prefer and you can all be happy.

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!!

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club’s website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets) ) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com) Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you’re interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

### Visit us at:

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.** [johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.



## Tampa African Violet Society 2/25-2/26 2022 "Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space"

Best in Show Horticulture  
Jolly Dear  
Won by: **Glenn Shelton** from Pinellas Park, FL

Best Semiminiature  
Jolly Dear  
Won by: **Glenn Shelton** from Pinellas Park, FL

Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection  
Jolly Dear  
Rob's Antique Rose  
Rob's Boogie Woogie  
Won by: **Glenn Shelton** from Pinellas Park, FL

Best Miniature  
Imp's Blue Arsenic

Won by: **Jim Boyer** from Palm Harbor, FL

Best Gesneriad  
Aeschynanthus humilis  
Won by: **Nancy Kast** from Dade City, FL

Best Design  
"The Goldilocks Planet"  
Won by: **Pat Ruttzke** from Seffner, FL

Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement  
"The Goldilocks Planet"  
Won by: **Pat Ruttzke** from Seffner, FL

Best Streptocarpus  
Best Streptocarpus by a Novice  
Streptocarpus Full Moon Sport  
Won by: **Mary Beth Bryant** from St Pete, FL

Best Novice  
Ma's Pink Beetles  
Won by: **Sandi Soto** from Tampa, FL

2<sup>ND</sup> Best AVSA Standard Collection  
LiK-Tanets Flamingo  
Ma's Arctic Sky  
Rebel's Splatter Kake  
Won by: **Sandi Soto** from Tampa, FL

2nd Best Design  
"Dish Garden"  
Won by: **Pamela Van Durme**, Clearwater, FL

Best Container Garden  
"Dish Garden"  
Won by: **Pamela Van Durme**, Clearwater, FL

Best Dish Garden  
"Dish Garden"  
Won by: **Pamela Van Durme**, Clearwater, FL

Best Standard  
Buckeye Exotic Dancer  
Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

2nd Best in Show Horticulture  
Buckeye Exotic Dancer  
Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement  
"The Space Race"

Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

Best Terrarium  
"Terrarium"

Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

Best Natural Garden  
"Natural Garden"

Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

Best AVSA STANDARD Collection  
Tiger

Buckeye Exotic Dancer

Frozen in Time

**Mary Lou Harden**, Seffner, FL

Horticulture Sweepstakes

20 blue ribbons

Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

Design Sweepstakes

9 blue ribbons

Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL

Additional Exhibitors:

Terry Jordan

Jim Matula

Jean Krauchik

**SOME PRETTY PHOTOS  
SUBMITTED BY  
MARY LOU HARDEN**





# THE PETAL

## MAY 2022

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



SEASCAPE

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Dear TAVS Members and Friends,**

**WE DID IT! YES.** . . We had a very successful sales event at the USF Botanical Gardens in early April! Thankfully, the weather was perfect for the event which was one of the main reasons the Gardens had the highest attendance ever on opening day! We owe our success to all those who volunteered their time and those who brought plants or leaves. And thanks to the early efforts of Jim Matula and all those who worked with him in packaging and pricing, we were able to sell a lot of supplies. Special thanks to Bonnie Smith who donated her time and truck to pick up all the tents and supplies, both in Tampa and Seffner, and then

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

return tents and unsold supplies. Also helping with cash and credit sales were Pam Van Durme, Kathy Glenn and Mary Beth Bryant. And, although he was working and unable to help at the sale, we thank our treasurer, Glenn Shelton who, along with Mary Beth, handled all the income and distributed the money to members and to the Gesneriad Society. It was wonderful to have so many of our members— as well as some spouses!-- helping. Thanks, TAVS!

With all of the Spring activities completed, hopefully we can now spend some time with our plants – potting up the babies, putting down leaves and paying special attention to those violets that we hope to enter in the 2023 show! So. . . take a brief rest and then start getting your sales plants ready for the Fall Plant Festival at USF and your show plants ready for next February!  
Happy growing!

*Mary Lou Harden*

# 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 in The Seffner-Mango Public Library.

The library address is:  
410 N. Kingsway Rd.  
Seffner, FL 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## MAY MEETINGS

### MAY NIGHT MEETING

Thursday May 5th at 7pm via ZOOM

Our night meeting will be by Zoom and will feature **Adrienne (Annie) Rieck from Olympia Fields, Illinois.**

Adrienne "Annie" Rieck has been actively growing African violets since the mid-1990s. Her first attempt, however, was back in the wayback, when she was in college. Someone gave her a leaf to root, which promptly rotted. Her second attempt was a gift she could never get to bloom a second time. The third time was the charm: a violet rescue from a Jewel grocery store in Chicagoland, the discovery of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA), and the advent of the Internet, set Annie on the path to growing and showing her plants. She is an AVSA Senior Judge, an AVSA Life Member, an AVSC Life Member, an Honorary Life Member of the Illinois African Violet Society (IAVS), and a past member of Missouri Valley African Violet Council (MVAVC), Hoosier African Violet Society (Crown Point, IN); and Ventura County African Violet Society (Ventura, CA) where she was also a past president.

Annie was the host of video podcast *All About African Violets*, which was in production from 2012 - 2022.

At AVSA's 2020 cyber convention, Annie led a workshop entitled "African violets 101: Wait! It's Not Just for Beginners." She was also the host of the All About African Violets podcast – which many of you have seen.

However, in 2021 Annie was diagnosed with cancer and subsequently had surgery in late

October. She has since learned that she is cancer free!

Annie will tell us what she's doing now with violets and what she thinks is important for us to know about having success with growing African violets.

A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent a few days prior to the meeting.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a most informative meeting.

See below Annie's post from January 16, 2022, captioned "Keep Moving Forward. . .", which tells about her experience with cancer and gives insight into what's been going on in her life.

## Keep Moving Forward



A :- ) January 16, 2022

Hello Everyone!

Once again, I find myself in the position of saying goodbye. *All About African Violets* will not be returning to production in 2022.

I want to assure you that I'm healthy and strong. I am very lucky that my cancer was caught so early (Grade 1). Endometrial cancer is very treatable and has a 99% cure rate. From the beginning, I focused on being in that 99% and I am 😊 The treatment for me was a complete hysterectomy along with a couple of lymph nodes. I had this surgery on October 29, 2021. My surgery was minimally invasive and done on an outpatient basis (!) I am still amazed that I had major abdominal surgery and came home the same day! My surgeon did the Sentinel Lymph Node procedure on me – giving me a 90% LESS chance of ever developing lymphedema in my legs. The pathology came back about a week later with the result: No Residual Cancer. Anyone who has ever received that result knows that it means that I am cancer-free (Yahoo!!!!). It also means that the cancer had not spread from the polyp where it was initially found. Because it had not spread, I did not even need to have chemo or radiation. My final results were Grade 1, Stage 1A. This was the best possible news for me! Again – I

know how lucky I was and continue to be. My 6-week recovery period went smoothly, and I have recovered well. [My cancer journey](#) is chronicled on my personal blog. Feel free to share that link with anyone who might benefit from it.

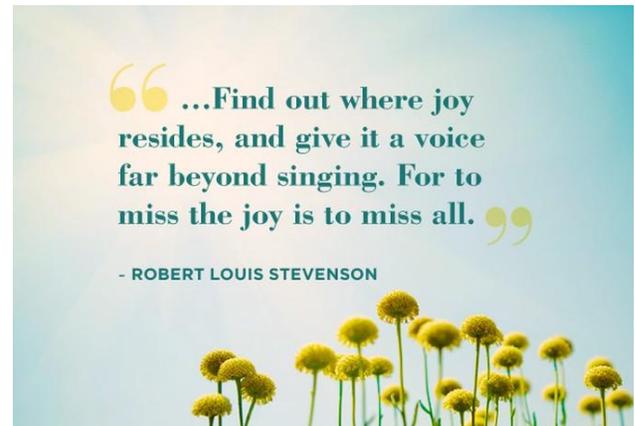
You can see that I have MUCH to be grateful for. And I am. Grateful. But receiving a cancer diagnosis changes everything, you guys. It really does. So much happened to me last year – I actually underwent four surgeries: two oral surgeries, one of which happened before I was vaccinated; and two gynecological surgeries. Four surgeries in one year in the time of COVID . . . it was a lot to process. It's *still* a lot to process.

But learning I had cancer and then learning I was cancer-free – those two things had the biggest impact on me. These are life-altering events, and everything is different because of them. I feel like I have been given a second chance in my life and I'm making decisions on how I want my life to look as I keep moving forward. And so, while it's not an easy decision, it's time for me to say goodbye. I want to thank Douglas the Digital Dude for all of his behind the scenes help over the years. He's seriously amazing, you guys! I would be remiss if I did not thank my resident experts, Joyce Stork and Dr. Jeff Smith. Big thanks, too, to everyone who helped defray the costs of production – and, of course, to all of you for watching. *All About African Violets* has always been a labor of love for me and I'm glad you have all enjoyed it. If you learned something from it, so much the better 😊 I plan to keep posting the occasional photo of my plants on Instagram. [Here is a link](#) if you want to take a look at what's on the stands from time to time.

And finally, I encourage you to find your joy. I did and it brought me this podcast.

Again, thank you all for watching. I wish you all the best – keep growing! And remember: Limit. Your. Collection!!!

Annie 😊  
Endometrial Cancer Survivor since 29 Oct 21



**MAY DAY MEETING**  
**Friday, May 20th, 2022**  
**Seffner-Mango Library,**  
**410 Kingsway Road, Seffner**

Our day meeting will feature Mary Beth Bryant who lives in St. Petersburg, FL, with her husband Lee. As you know, Mary Beth is our Immediate Past President and is the person who schedules and runs all of our Zoom meetings. At this year show in Temple Terrace, Mary Beth won awards for Best Streptocarpus grown by a Novice, Best Decorative Container class, and Best Semiminiature. She will demonstrate and tell us about her experience in growing and showing African violets as well as some of the cousins.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/5 Kathy Glenn  
5/9 Mary Beth Bryant  
5/24 Angelina Grundhoff



Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Pat Rutzke, and Mary Beth Bryant, have all been having some health issues, but are fortunately all recovering well.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



Here is a list of our newest members

**Dorothea Zimmer from Brooksville, FL**  
**Carmen F Sierra from Tampa, FL**  
**Natalia Lukashova from Tampa, FL**  
**Jasmine Stockton from Riverview, FL**



**AVSA Convention and Show**  
**“Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas,”**  
May 29-June 5 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel,  
Little Rock AR

**DIXIE AVS:**  
Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022  
Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.



## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of April 7th, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:03 pm..

**ROLL CALL:** 14 Members and 2 guests attended

**PROGRAM:** Laura Perdomo of the Peacock Cottage in Ocala was guest presenter. Laura told the history of the Peacock Cottage which she opened in 2015 in an 1100 square foot shop. Her husband Frank retired from teaching in 2020 and joined her in the business and in 2021 they expanded, doubling the size of their shop. Laura showed us the African violets she sells, as well as many other types of plants.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the March 3, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** In the absence of the Treasurer, Mary Lou Harden reported that the balance in checking as of March 17, 2022, is \$3,387.21. The report will be filed.

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

May 5, 2022, is monthly night meeting by Zoom.

The April 15 day meeting will be held at the Seffner-Mango Public Library, 410 N. Kingsway Rd.. Seffner, FL 33584-3602. Program will be by Celeste Christman on Episcias.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**AVCF:** Spring meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> in Altamonte Springs

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

#### USF BOTANICAL GARDENS PLANT

**FESTIVAL.** Members were encouraged to help with set-up on Friday, April 8, and to bring sale plants and help at the sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April Birthdays: Angela Newell, Jim Matula, Mary Lou Harden, Terry Jordan and Lynn Bandy

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff, Lisa Villabol. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of April 15th, 2022 Meeting Seffner-Mango Public Library

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:12 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Lynn Bandy

**ROLL CALL:** 10 Members 1 guest

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the March 18th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

#### PROGRAM:

Celeste Christman presented a very informative program on growing Episcias.

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mary Lou Harden reported expenditures of \$321.60 which included stamps and plant purchases for the

show. Revenue of \$228.00 from Raffle plants, roll call and supplies, and name tags. Current balance in checking as of April 14, 2022, is \$3293.61. Savings account balance of \$3755.42 The report will be filed.

**May 5th, 2022**, night meetings by Zoom.  
Pending

**The May 20th, 2022** day meeting will be held at the Seffner-Mango Public Library, 410 N. Kingsway Rd.. Seffner, FL 33584-3602

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:**

**President:** Mary Lou Harden

**Vice President:** Jim Matula

**Treasurer:** Glenn Shelton

**Secretary:** Lynn Bandy

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society:** Meeting tomorrow April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Seffner-Mango Public Library

**AVCF:** Spring meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am at The Golden Corral, 897 W Town Parkway, Altamonte Springs

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**USF SPRING SALE recap:**

We had a great turnout for the sale and got many new requests for The Petal. Suggestions were made regarding cashier and table placement for the fall show. These will be compiled and discussed further.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**TAVS: SHOW AND SALE**

We are in the process of deciding on a "Theme" for our show.

Put on your thinking caps and let's come up with a stellar theme for next year's show!

A decision was made to go forward with a project plant for this year. Suggestions were made for either a mini or semi-mini plant.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, and Pat Rutzke. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

Bonnie Smith who despite multiple health issues has been a tremendous help to the club during The Florida State Fair, The show and the USF plant sale.

While helping with set up for the USF plant sale her truck was hit and sustained some damage not covered by her insurance.

A motion was made and seconded to have the club "donate" \$200.00 towards these repairs with our Thanks for being such a great helper!

April Birthdays: Angela Newell, Jim Matula, Mary Lou Harden, Terry Jordan and Lynn Bandy.

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants/leaves furnished by Terry Jordan and Mary Lou Harden.

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

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

**RECIPE BOX**



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

# Lemon-Almond Bars

## Ingredients

2 3/4 cups granulated sugar, divided  
3/4 cup butter, softened  
2 tablespoons plus 1 tsp. lemon zest, divided  
3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, divided  
1/2 teaspoon table salt, divided  
Vegetable cooking spray  
6 large eggs  
1/4 cup chopped crystallized ginger  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2/3 cup fresh lemon juice  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
1/2 cup sliced almonds  
Garnish: powdered sugar

## Step 1

Preheat oven to 350°. Beat 1/4 cup granulated sugar, butter, and 1 tsp. zest at medium speed with a heavy-duty electric stand mixer 2 minutes or until creamy. Stir together 2 cups flour and 1/4 tsp. salt. Gradually add to butter mixture, beating until just blended. Coat a 13- x 9-inch pan with cooking spray. Press dough into bottom of prepared pan. Chill 15 minutes.

## Step 2

Bake at 350° for 15 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from oven; reduce oven temperature to 325°.

## Step 3

Whisk together eggs and 2 cups sugar. Process ginger and 1/2 cup flour in a food processor 1 minute or until ginger is finely chopped. Stir in baking powder. Whisk ginger mixture into egg mixture. Whisk in lemon juice and remaining 2 Tbsp. lemon zest; pour over crust.

## Step 4

Bake at 325° for 15 to 20 minutes or until filling is just set. Remove from oven.

## Step 5

Stir together remaining 3/4 cup flour, 1/2 cup sugar, and 1/4 tsp. salt in a small bowl. Stir in melted butter until well blended. Stir in almonds. Sprinkle over hot lemon mixture, and bake 20 to 25 more minutes or just until lightly golden.

Cool completely in pan on a wire rack (about 1 hour). Cut into squares.

## MEET THE MEMBER

Last Month we featured Celeste Christman!

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)



April 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

## GETTING THE PLANTING DEPTH JUST RIGHT

Some growers struggle to know how deep to plant young violets when repotting. It's important, because when a violet plug is planted too deep, it may not survive.



See where the arrow is pointing, right between the leaf axils and the roots? That is the critical

point for potting. The roots should be entirely below and the leaf axils entirely above the level of the soil.

Here is the same violet plug planted at exactly the correct soil depth.



No soil is piled into the center of the plant where it could overwhelm the growth point or trigger suckers to develop.

Plant violets at the right depth for success.

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!! +

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club’s website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets) ) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com) Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email

pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you’re interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

### Visit us at:

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

**African Violet Society of America (AVSA).** Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact

information and check payable to AVSA to:  
**AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100,  
Beaumont, TX 77707.**  
[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:  
**Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,  
287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**  
[johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

**African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).  
[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

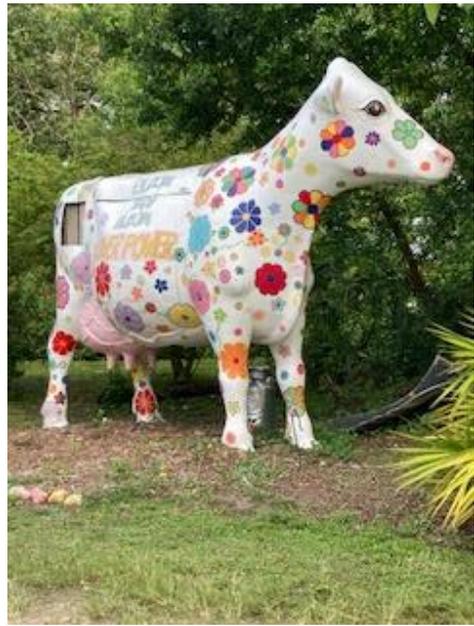
Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com)

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.

**HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS FROM USF  
COMPLIMENTS OF ROSELIND ROVINSKY**





## TAVS Show Financial Report 2022

<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Type	Amount		
Temple Terrace UM Church	\$ 350.00		
Ribbons		<b>Sale of Plants and Supplies</b>	
1st half payment	\$ 220.51	Square	\$ 914.92
Last half	\$ 220.00	Cash	\$ 1,108.22
AVSA	\$ 23.00	Sub total	\$ 2,023.14
Liability Insurance			
AVSA	\$ 120.00		
Violets			
Peacock Cottage	\$ 231.50		
Show			
Table Covering	\$ 40.64		
AVSA			
Tags	\$ 29.91		
Show			
Ink for printer	\$ 80.24		
Judges			
Show	\$ 90.00		
Violets			
Peacock Cottage	\$ 310.00		
Member Plants	75% \$ 1,081.87		
		<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 2,023.14
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>Net Loss</b>	\$ 774.53
	\$ 2,797.67		

Note: Some of the bought plants carried forward to the Spring USF sale

Note: \$364.88 of the income came from the 25% from member plants

Note: \$576.39 of the sale money came from resale of Peacock violets and supplies  
 $\$2,023.14$  (income) -  $\$1,081.87$  (mem 75%) -  $\$364.88$  (club 25%) =  $\$576.39$









# THE PETAL

## JUNE 2022

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



**AJOHNS BRIDE IN WHITE**

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

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

The month of May is almost completely behind us – and many of us are glad to see it go. It didn't begin well for us as we learned of the passing on May 1 of our dear member Terry Jordan. Terry was certainly a beacon of light and positivity. All of us will miss her.

May is the month when schools are closing their doors for the summer. Many of us are planning trips to the beach and to other cities and states to visit family. However, TAVS will still be in business during the summer months. We're planning programs that will help you know what to do with your plants so that you will have the most beautiful African violets! Let's

face it – growing African violets can be therapeutic! When we see a gorgeous and beautifully grown violet, it brings us a sense of calm and peace. So, let's take advantage of the opportunities to learn.

Since the pandemic caused major changes to life in general, your TAVS board has made the following changes regarding meetings. As you know, from the time the club first began in 1970, we have had a night meeting and a day meeting. Initially, both were in Tampa where meetings were held at the Seminole Garden Center. When the City of Tampa made significant changes to the building and the charge to meet there rose significantly, we were forced to make some changes. At that time, both meetings were in-person.

Night meetings will continue to be by Zoom, as they have for the past few months. We continue to have excellent speakers and programs for the night meetings. Night meetings will focus on the program. The business portion will be limited to only items that must be presented to members and to any items of concern to members.

Day meetings will continue to be in-person at the Seffner-Mango Library. Members will bring their own snack and drink. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the club for any guests.

I'm happy to report that Celeste Christman will be Show Chair for our 2023 show! I will be assisting her as we put together a show committee. So, expect a call from one of us about how you can help with our show.

Hope to see you at our meeting on Thursday!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## JUNE MEETINGS

### JUNE NIGHT MEETING

Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm via ZOOM

Our night meeting will be by Zoom and will feature **Natalie Lukashova**.

### JUNE DAY MEETING

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 10 AM  
Seffner-Mango Library,  
410 Kingsway Road, Seffner

Our day meeting will feature Glenn Shelton who lives in Pinellas Park, FL. Glenn is our club Treasurer. At this year's show in Temple Terrace, Glenn won awards for Best in show Horticulture, Best Semi-Miniature, and Best Semi-Miniature Collection.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



All of us at TAVS were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear member and friend, Terry Jordan. Terry was a great supporter of our club, as well as other local, regional, and national African violet clubs. She especially loved growing and showing Streptocarpus and enjoyed sharing them with club members. She was a cheerful and willing helper at our shows and plant sales at USF Botanical Gardens. We loved Terry and will miss her.

## Obituary

Alice Terry Dryden Jordan passed away on May 1, 2022, in Norfolk, VA at the age of 75. Although Terry's death was quite unexpected, she did leave this world peacefully with her husband by her side.

Terry is survived by her beloved husband of 33 years, Joseph E. "Joe" Jordan, Jr.; cherished daughter, Carolyn Ponte of Marianna, FL; dearest step-daughter, Gwen Vila (Robert) and precious grandson, Logan Vila of Apex, NC; brother and friend, William "Bill" Musser (Missy) of Charleston, SC; step-sister, Sweet Gibson of St. Pete Beach, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

Born on April 11, 1947, in Marianna, FL, Terry graduated from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in 1969 and later attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. At various times in her life, she lived in Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil and Florida.

Terry was passionate about life and lived it to its fullest. Her love for family and friends ran deep. She was an avid traveler and never met a stranger she didn't like. She enjoyed photography and playing bridge and delighted in raising and showing African Violets. Throughout her life, Terry was actively involved in supporting a variety of organizations, including the work of several churches.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Alice Musser; father, George Eastman Dryden, Sr.; step-father, Dr. Marc James Musser, Jr.; sisters Mary Ellen Dryden and Dorothy Dryden Heffernan; brother, George Eastman Dryden, Jr.; step-sister, Sister Klingermann; and step-brother, Matt Dryden, Sr.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 14 at King's Grant Baptist Church, 873 Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA at 10:00 am. Private burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the African Violet Society of America, the American

Heart Association or the American Cancer Society. Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.hollomon-brown.com](http://www.hollomon-brown.com).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6/3 Jean Krauchik  
6/17 Stuart Swayze  
6/27 Bonnie Smith  
6/29 Cinda Huntley



Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, and Pat Rutzke, have all been having some health issues, but are fortunately all recovering well.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



**AVSA Convention and Show**  
“Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas,”  
May 29-June 5 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel,  
Little Rock AR

**DIXIE AVS:**  
Convention and Show has been cancelled

**USF FALL PLANT SALE**  
October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>



## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of May 5th, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:08 pm..

**ROLL CALL:** 8 Members and 2 guests attended

**PROGRAM:** Annie Rieck of Olympia Fields, IL. Annie showed us her growing space and answered many questions about growing violets.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the March 3, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** In the absence of the Treasurer, Mary Lou Harden reported that the balance in checking as of March 17, 2022, is \$3,387.21.. She also noted that annual dues of \$15 are due as of April 1.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**  
The May 20 day meeting will be held at the Seffner-Mango Public Library, 410 N. Kingsway Rd.. Seffner, FL 33584-3602. Program will be by Mary Beth Bryant.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show October 12-15, 2022 Doubletree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.

**TBGS** meeting is Saturday, May 21 at 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library.

### NEW BUSINESS:

By unanimous consent, members voted to donate \$100 to AVSA in memory of Terry Jordan.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May Birthdays: Kathy Glenn, Mary Beth Bryant and Angelina Grundhoff  
Health concerns: Pat Rutzke, Bonnie Smith, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff, Lisa Villabol. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Meeting**  
**Seffner-Mango Public Library**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:12 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Mary Lou Harden

**ROLL CALL:** 7 Members 1 guest

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 15th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Mary Beth Bryant presented a very informative program on growing African Violets and their cousins.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Glenn Shelton gave the Treasurer's report along with the USF Plant sale report. The report will be filed.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**, night meetings by Zoom. Will be presented by Natalia Lukashova.

**The June 17th, 2022** day meeting will be presented by Glenn Shelton.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society:** Meeting tomorrow May 21st at the Seffner-Mango Public Library.

In June they will meet with The Begonia Society on June 25<sup>th</sup> and will have guest speaker Bruce Pearson from Tropical World Nursery. The meeting will be held at Famous Tate Warehouse on 56<sup>th</sup> Street in Tampa. In addition to bringing some rare plants for sale Bruce is also taking special orders so you can check out his website and place your order for delivery to the joint meeting.

**AVCF:** Spring meeting was cancelled at the last minute.

**AVSA:** The 2022 AVSA Convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 29 to June 5, 2022 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel.

**DIXIE AVS:** Convention and Show has been cancelled due to Hotel issues.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

We have sent a request to The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church to have our show there February 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2023 with set up on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Celeste Chrisman has agreed to be show Chair with Mary Lou Harden as Co-chair.

We need to select a show theme. Lynn sent you a list of possible show themes.

Mary Beth Bryant suggested a Mardi Gras theme.

Discussion and voting will take place at the June meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A donation was made to AVSA in memory of Terry Jordan approved by both evening and day members.

A decision was made to go forward with a project plant for this year. Suggestions were made for both a semi-mini and trailer plant.

A suggestion was made to expand our show and possibly open it up to AVCF members also. Mary Lou Harden will contact AVCF President to discuss.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Angelina Grundhoff and Pat Rutzke. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

Bonnie Smith declined the donation given to her by the group. Although very grateful for the gesture, she felt it unnecessary as she is always willing to help.

May Birthdays: Kathy Glenn, Mary Beth Bryant and Angelina Grundhoff.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Lou showed off a beautiful Streptocarpella "Concord Blue".

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants/leaves furnished by Mary Lou Harden.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

### SUMMER SPINACH STRAWBERRY SALAD

#### Ingredients

- 5-6 Cups Fresh Baby Spinach
- 2 Cups Strawberries, cut to bite size
- 5 oz Gorgonzola Cheese
- 8 Strips Cooked Bacon, chopped (optional - but so good)
- 1/2 Cup Dried Cranberries
- 1/2 Cup Pecans, bite size, toasted
- **Directions**  
Clean spinach, place in large bowl and top with ingredients. Add desired amount of dressing, toss and enjoy.

#### SWEET BALSAMIC DRESSING

- **Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil or canola
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons good balsamic vinegar

- 1/8 teaspoon dry mustard (or a little squeeze of yellow or Grey Poupon mustard)
- Few twists of fresh cracked pepper Or use 1/8 tsp of reg ground pepper

#### Directions

Whisk all the ingredients together, until sugar and oil are blended. It takes a few minutes for the oil and sugar to blend. Keep whisking....it will blend!

#### Tips

- You can add more or less of each ingredient - do what you prefer.
- Top with grilled chicken breast - a favorite in our house!
- To toast pecans - place in skillet on medium high heat, stirring until lightly toasted.
- If you plan on serving the entire salad, go ahead and add the dressing a little at a time, blending until you reach desired amount. If not, keep dressing separate and add individually.

## MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

*African  
Violet  
Society of  
America*

**GROWING  
TIPS**

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Is it time to

## LIMIT YOUR COLLECTION?

At some point, most growers hit their limit and realize that violets can be overwhelming. Violets reproduce so easily. When that happens, the hobby is more work than fun. You do not need to grow every clone from every leaf. Several growers recommend keeping only two of a variety (1 + insurance) and tossing the rest (either to those who want them or to the trash). That allows these growers to choose the strongest and to take excellent care of them.

Another grower wrote 52 years ago about keeping her collection to just three! You may enjoy her sage advice in a vintage article from the June 1970 African Violet Magazine.

## HOLD IT!

Lillian Lewis Bodine, St. Louis MO African Violet Magazine, June 1970, page 22

The African Violet Magazine is always filled with wonderful information about the propagation of African violets by a simple method involving a leaf from a well-loved plant with very little trouble or time. Gardening magazines frequently have material about an easy way to fill you home and that of your friends with these lovely plants.

Well!

It is time that somebody tells the world that it IS possible to have as few as THREE violet plants without the owner having to prove that she is a citizen in good standing even if she sticks to the minimum. Violet growers somehow all too often prove that they can grow and GROW and GROW even when there is a plant housing problem. Many homes have so many violet plants that there is little room for any other kind of plant or any other kind of decoration. It is time that those who love violets but won't move out to give them room, speak up.

I love African violets. I like to arrange the flowers and to combine these delicate little beauties with other plant material to make bouquets for my home or to give to my friends. However, I only want to grow about three plants. It is as hard to do this as it is to make

the proverbial attempt to eat only one potato chip. But if you try hard to keep your mind on what you are doing, you CAN overcome any tendency toward violet addiction. In any case, I have limited space for plants and I enjoy contrasting leaf shapes and plant structure, so I do not want all of my house plants to be of one kind. I do want some healthy violet plants which will give me plenty of bloom so that I can pinch off one or two stems now and then to use in an arrangement. For this reason, I have learned to dispose of a plant that doesn't earn its way.

## Dispose of them

I had help in learning to control any idea of hoarding an unhealthy plant. A long time ago I was given a beautiful violet plant by a dear friend, Neva Anderson. I suffered and bled over this plant and every time a leaf drooped, I used all the remedies I'd ever heard about.

The plant continued to suffer and one day when Neva came by, she said, "What would you have done if I'd sent you a box of cut flowers?" When I said I'd have disposed of them long ago when they faded, she said, "Then use that same method on the violet."

Well – from that moment I ceased to be a slave to any growing thing. I keep violets until they are too shabby and then OUT with them and I get another and keep my total at three.

No – I do not replace the one I gave up with another of the same kind. I pick and choose until I find one that is worthy of being in such select company and try to grow it. I have favorites and some are old well-loved varieties and others are newer. Frequently they are gift plants and new to me and that is fun too. I don't mean to be so arbitrary about the number three that I would refuse a beautiful plant if my quota were already filled. But I do mean that I would make no effort to propagate plants no matter how beautiful unless I wanted one just like one which was on its way out. In that case, I might grow a second in order to preserve a special shape and color of plant and bloom.

In deciding for yourself how many plants you can cope with, there are three elements to be considered: time, space, and energy. If all of these are unlimited in your life, you can grow violets by the dozens or hundreds and all is well. But if there is a limit to your supply of any one of these elements, you need to be careful.

Don't let your plants become a burden. You may have all the time in the world and plenty of energy but if you lack space, you should limit your plants to the number that looks uncrowded. Crowded plants look uncomfortable and cannot develop to their greatest potential.

### **Few are Better**

If you have limited time for your plants, you should decide how many you can care for without pushing yourself or neglecting some phase of their culture. A few well-grown plants are infinitely superior to many shabby and neglected ones. If you have plenty of space and time but there are many places where you must expend your energy, then be very sure that you don't let your plants become too demanding. All the joy can go out of working with something as lovely as violets if you are too exhausted to enjoy every minute of the time you work with them. Limitations of your time, of your space, and of your energy are what can tell you how many violets you can grow without the sacrifice of either the plants or of time and energy. If violets are grown for the sheer joy of it, they should not become a burden in any way. Grow the number that is comfortable for you and let it go at that.

### **NEED SUPPLIES?**

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

### **HELP!!!!!!**

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: [NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do "on the job" training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com) Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Become a **MEMBER**

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

### **Visit us at:**

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

### **FIND US ON FACEBOOK**



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

### **Join us on Twitter:**

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

### **VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:**

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:

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

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.



Streptocarpella Concord Blue  
By Mary Beth Bryant



Kid Karla by Mary Lou Harden











# THE PETAL

## JULY 2022

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



**MORNING THUNDER**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our Tampa AVS family and friends!

In case you hadn't noticed, summer is officially here! For me, that means doing any outside work early in the day before the full sun is bearing down, and then spending afternoons inside where it's cool, removing baby plants from the mother leaf and potting them up, and repotting the more mature violets and other gesneriads.

Keep in mind that the Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens is in early October and now is the perfect time to pot up any starter plants and to repot those plants you would like to sell at the event.

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

Terry Jordan's husband, Joe, has generously donated all of Terry's violet supplies and plant stands to TAVS. Thanks to Jim Boyer and Celeste Christman and her husband for picking up the supplies at the Jordans' home in Lakewood Ranch.

Some of the supplies are used and some are new. Many of them will be made available to TAVS members at the July 15 day meeting – which will be at my home in Seffner.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but know there are some supplies which you could use, please let me know or arrange with another member who lives near you and we'll make sure all our members are able to share some of Terry's supplies which Joe has so generously donated to us.

Our meetings in August will be focused on preparations for our 2023 show. We'll take a look at each of the show committees and learn about the responsibilities of each.

I hope you'll be able to attend both of our July meetings. The Streptocarpus program is one of the best I've seen. You'll get some great advice and learn some new methods of growing. Everyone who grows African violets has most likely had a problem with insects or other pests. Jim Boyer will give us tips and information on how to avoid problems. Enjoy your plants. . .and stay cool!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## JULY MEETINGS

### JULY NIGHT MEETING

Thursday July 7th at 7pm via ZOOM

The July 7, 2022, night meeting will feature a program titled **GROWING STREPTOCARPUS HYBRIDS TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**. This is a very informative Powerpoint presentation originally created for the 2016 Gesneriad Society Convention by Karen Allen. Karen grows over 150 Streptocarpus varieties and shares her considerable expertise on the best way to grow Streptocarpus hybrids to their full potential. Here are photos of Streptocarpus hybridized by Karen Allen. (Photos from the Gesneriad Society website.)



*Streptocarpus* '3S-Fernweh', 2016, IR161351, hybridized by Karen Allen, VA



*Streptocarpus* '3S-Camberleigh'

### JULY DAY MEETING

Friday, July 15th, 2022 10 AM  
Mary Lou Harden's Home

The July 15 day meeting will be all about **INSECTS AND PESTS** that sometimes invade African violet collections. Jim Boyer will tell us the signs to look for and available remedies.

### NOTE:

**CHANGE OF VENUE FOR DAY MEETING.** The July 15 meeting will be at the home of Mary Lou Harden.

This will be a brunch pot luck so be sure to bring something to share!

Please send email to [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) if you need address or directions.

## TERRY JORDAN'S SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS:

Here are some of Terry Jordan's supplies donated to TAVS by her husband Joe Jordan:

Plastic flower pots of all sizes

Oyama Pots

Plant Trays

Plastic Domes

Small tools -- sucker pluckers, scissors

Perlite

Potting Soil

Watering cans

These will be available at the July day meeting.



7/12 Pat Rutzke

7/22 Roselind Rovinsky

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



Health concerns: Stu Swayze, Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol and Pat Rutzke. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



**DIXIE AVS:**

Convention and Show has been cancelled

**USF FALL PLANT SALE**

October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>



**MEETING  
MINUTES**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of June 2nd, 2022, Zoom  
Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Beth Bryant at 7:10 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** 13 Members and 1 guest attended

**PROGRAM:** Natalia Lukashova showed many of the Ukranian African violet varieties she is growing and told about procedures she uses in propagating her violets and gave tips on caring for them.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the May 5, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

July 7, 2022, is monthly night meeting by Zoom.

July 15, 2022, is the monthly day meeting.

The Chair announced that the Executive Committee is reviewing bylaws and proposed amendments will be presented at the July meetings.

June Birthdays: Jean Krauchik, Stu Swayze, Bonnie Smith and Cinda Huntley

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Angelina and George Grundhoff, Lisa Villabol. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Meeting  
Seffner-Mango Public Library**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:15 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Mary Beth Bryant

**ROLL CALL:** 13 Members

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the May 20th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Glenn Shelton presented a very informative program on the basics of growing African Violets

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$4,627.67. The detailed report will be filed.

**The July 7, 2022**, night meeting via ZOOM will feature a Powerpoint program on growing Streptocarpus.

**The July 15, 2022** day meeting will feature a program on pests that cause problems for African violets by Jim Boyer.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** cancelled its June 25 meeting.

**AVCF:** Voted to join TAVS for our 2023 Show.

**AVSA:** The 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, GA.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**2023 SHOW – February 24-25.** The Chair reported that we're awaiting a response from Temple Terrace United Methodist Church regarding the use of their facility for our show. Members agreed that the theme of our show will be "Violet Invasion."

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The chair reported that the Executive Committee has reviewed the bylaws and recommends several amendments. Copies of the bylaws and proposed changes will be sent to members and the amendments will be discussed and voted on at the July meetings.

Jim Boyer reported that the African Violet Council of Florida has accepted our invitation to join us at our 2023 show. Details will need to be worked out.

The Chair reported that the Old Fashioned Garden Circle in Tampa has requested a speaker at their meeting in Tampa on Wednesday, October 5. Jim Boyer volunteered to present a program for them and Mary Beth Bryant volunteered to assist.

Semiminiature Project Plants were available for a donation of \$2 to the Club.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Health concerns: Stu Swayze, Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol and Pat Rutzke. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

June Birthdays: Jean Krauchik (3), Stu Swayze (17), Bonnie Smith (27), Cinda Huntley (29)

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants/leaves furnished by Mary Lou Harden and Sandi Soto.

**SUPPLIES:** Due to a surplus of hospitality supplies, members were given an opportunity to take what they could use.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Jean Krauchik Secretary Pro Tem

## **RECIPE BOX**



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

#### **DIRT CAKE**

##### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 package Oreos
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- ½ Cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 Cup powdered sugar
- 2 small boxes (3.4 oz size) instant vanilla pudding
- 3 Cups milk
- 1 large tub (16 oz size) Cool Whip
- Chocolate candy rocks (optional)
- Strawberries with hulls intact (optional)

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Crush cookies until they resemble soil. Press about half into the bottom of a 9x13 dish. Set aside.
2. In the bowl of your mixer beat the cream cheese, butter, sugar, and vanilla until light and fluffy. In a separate bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes until thick. Fold in Cool Whip.
3. Gently fold pudding mixture into cream cheese mixture until combined.
4. Spoon filling on top of the crushed Oreos.
5. Press strawberries into the filling until just the green pokes out of the top (optional). Top with remaining crushed oreos.

### Tips:

This can also be placed in a plastic pail using golden oreos in place of chocolate to resemble sand using a sand shovel to serve.

Gummie candies/worms can be used in place of the strawberries.

# MEET THE MEMBER

This month's member is **Sandi Soto**

## Early Childhood

1. **Where were you born?** Tampa, specifically MacDill AFB.
2. **Any childhood memories?** Nothing specific, just a wonderful childhood. My Dad was in the Air Force, so we moved around a bit.
3. **Who was the most influential person to you as a child?** Both my parents. They taught me the importance of honesty, and being ethical in your dealings with others. They weren't big on church, but they definitely were on being moral, kind, and as generous as possible. And VOTE! I couldn't have had better parents.

**4. Did you have any pets? What kind?** Yes, we always had dogs and cats. I also managed an occasional Guinea pig!

**5. What did you do during the summertime?** Lots of outside play, unsupervised. It was a different world at that time.

**6. Did you have any nicknames?** Blondie

## Grade School/High School

**7. What was your favorite subject?** English! Was Editor-in-Chief of the HS paper my senior year, so I also loved Journalism class.

**8. What was your favorite sport?** Hated sports until I hit 30, and discovered soccer. I played goalkeeper for 5 years, was all-star goalie for the Women's Over 30 Leagues, and now love most sports.

**9. How would you describe yourself as a student, both socially and academically?** Excellent academically, somewhat shy socially. I tend not to say much unless I have something to say.

**10. What extracurricular activities did you participate in as a teen?** To be honest, nothing memorable. Journalism and high school chorus were about it.

**11. What was your favorite music/band/dance in high school?** I was raised with music on either the radio, or the "record player." I had too many favorites to mention, but honorable mentions to PPM, Simon & Garfunkle, and the Everly Brothers.

## College

**12. Did you attend college?** Florida State University until I got married (completed about 1½ years). Many years later, post-divorce and while working, enrolled in Eckerd College PEL

program (now defunct) at the insistence of my 2<sup>nd</sup> (MUCH better) husband and my then boss, and graduated with a BA in Organizational Studies (how organizations work).

## Career

**13. Describe your work career – jobs.** Mainly a Veterinary Medical Technician for 20+ years, then a Laboratory Tech/Manager in a Medical Microbiology Lab at USF. Retired, and ran the Clinical Virology Symposium from home for my former Med Micro boss.

## Family

**14. Do you have children?** No, but 1 stepson, a Colonel in the AF. So I have 3 step-granddaughters and a step-grandson. The youngest is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at UCF in Orlando. The oldest works for something related to NASA, one twin is in med school, and the other is in accounting in NJ after graduating from UCF.

## African violets – Plants

**15. When and how did you become interested in growing African violets?** Note that my main interest for 35+ years was breeding, training and showing Japanese Akita dogs. When my Dad died, Mom needed a lot of help, and I really couldn't go driving or flying to dog shows anymore, so there was an opening for something else. I was given 3 AVs by one of the Clinical Virology speakers. I managed to keep them alive for about a year, and bought a few others at Publix (!!). Of maybe 10 AVs over a few years, I probably kept 2 or 3 alive, but just barely and by accident. Then, maybe 4 years ago, I was dragged (kicking and screaming, of course) to the USF Spring Plant Sale, where I fell in love with an AV designated as "Slap Happy." I liked it so much I looked up how to care for AVs. Then I found out there were actual NAMED AVs! And CLUBS!! I joined AVSA (seemed like a good idea at the time), and discovered The Violet Barn in their magazine, and I instantly had what Natalia Lukashova described at the June 2 night meeting as an addiction.

## 16. How many violets do you have?

Headcount is 152 +/- 5. That includes juvenile and adult plants. Of those, 59 +/- 5 I plan to keep for myself. The rest are either the few I bought for the flower but don't like the plant, or, the majority, I'm growing out for the October USF Plant Sale. The +/- is because I guessed how many are in a mini-greenhouse I didn't have the energy to get off an upper shelf and count. Current favorites in my collection are Ma's Jamaica Farewell, Harmony's Little Stinker, and RM Vacation in Rome; will probably have different favorites tomorrow.

## 17. What do you like most about growing African Violets?

I like the variety, and that looking at them, especially when they're in bloom, makes me smile. All the violets AND the things I need for them cost me less than one new dog, and that doesn't hurt either! New violet TOP price \$30; quality Akita pup average price \$2500, plus airfare to ship if I can't find one locally. But I will get a pup down the road. My Akita, Song, is old, and my cat, Shadow, is young. Shadow loves dogs, so there will be another in my future.

## 18. Do you grow any other types of plants?

Not intentionally! I have 2 Peace Lilies – a 13 yo from my Dad's memorial service, and the new one from Mom's. My husband has banana plants, several varieties of mulberry trees, papaya trees, avocado, and plumeria (I know I missed some). One plumeria had a seed pod, which is apparently a rare occurrence, so of course, when the pod matured, I had to try germinating and planting the seeds. We waited a bit too long, so of the 88 seeds, only 19 germinated (thank the plant gods!!!!), and we now have 15 seedlings, with 4 more likely. Once they go outside, they're no longer my responsibility (again, thank the plant gods!!)

## 19. What do you like to do in your spare time?

These days, I love to read, take care of my AVs, watch tv (especially Lightning in the NHL playoffs, and Tampa Bay Rays). I'm still "recovering" from being chief caregiver to my

much-loved and missed Mom, so I often like to do absolutely nothing! My nothing is often interrupted due to the fact that I own what is probably the largest Fantasy Football “empire” in the world (65 12-team leagues, >400 owners; low cost, no money winning, just fun playing). I was also nominated for a 2-year term as VP of the Akita Club of America, and I have yet to learn to say no, so . . . My only hope is that someone will run against me, and I’ll find out later this month that I lost!!

Thanks Sandi!

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)



APRIL 25th, 2022

## CONTAINER GARDENS: TERRARIUMS

Terrariums are just miniature landscapes created in a clear, covered, container. The choice of the container and appearance of the landscape is entirely yours!

### Step #1: Collecting plants and materials.

Nearly anything can be grown inside a glass container. What makes a good terrarium, however, is a miniature landscape that can be easily maintained to keep its intended appearance. For this reason, it is very important to use only plants that can grow (and not outgrow) within the confines of the container.

Use plants that are naturally small-leaved, don't grow too quickly, and can easily be maintained. Using these plants allows you to keep the original appearance of the landscape for a longer period of time, with a minimum of effort.

Don't use large, fast-growing plant material that is “cut down” to a size to fit into the container. They'll soon overwhelm slower-growing material planted with it and outgrow the container. Also, be careful about using too many blooming plants, or plants that easily shed their leaves. Old blooms and leaves will more quickly decay in the humid atmosphere inside a terrarium.

The choice of container is yours. Any clear, waterproof, container will do. Anything from a fine piece of crystal to an old mayonnaise jar. Unless you are adept at using tweezers, choose a container with a large enough opening for your hand—this will make planting and maintaining your terrarium easier.

### Step #2: Add drainage material and soil.

Since your container is not likely to have drainage holes in the bottom, it's important to have a place for excess water to collect, so that plant material doesn't become overwatered. One way to provide this is to put a thin layer of perlite or horticultural charcoal in the bottom of the container. These materials will absorb little water and will provide good drainage. Charcoal has the advantage of being black (less visible) and freshens the soil in the container.

After the layer of drainage material is placed in the bottom, you can add your potting mix. Don't overfill the container. Since you'll be using small plants with small root systems, it isn't necessary to have more than a few inches of soil. To create some “depth” to the planting, mound the soil higher on one side (usually the back) than the others.

A light, porous, “soilless” (peat-based, no topsoil) mix is better, since too heavy a mix can retain too much water, a more serious problem when growing plants inside a closed container. We use our regular potting mix, a little over 50% of which is perlite and vermiculite. Use soil that has been

premoistened (moist, not soggy), since it will be easier to work with. Also, if it's too wet or too dry, it will be more difficult to keep the plant material and container clean.

### **Step #3: Place non-plant material.**

Start your landscape by placing your large, non-plant material, like wood or rock into the container. We prefer to use natural materials, since we intend to create miniature view of what we might see in nature.

Like an outside garden, such a piece can act as the "anchor" around which plant material can be placed. This piece also provides some height and scale to the planting, making it more "three dimensional" and providing a background for the plants that will be added.



### **Step #4: Add plant material.**

To make planting easier, you can remove much (or most) of the soil and rootball. Pruning the roots of a larger plant will slow their growth and help keep them small. Also, the layer of soil in the container shouldn't be more than a few inches deep, and won't accommodate plants with very large root systems.

### **Step #5: Placing plant material.**

Add the larger, taller, plant material first—like planting trees and shrubs first in your garden. Use plants of differing heights, shapes, and textures. This is what makes your planting a "landscape" rather than just "plants in a glass jar".

If getting your hand into the container to place plants is difficult, use long-handled tweezers to make a planting hole and then grasping and placing plants.

The same principles that apply in landscaping an any garden apply here, in miniature.

Place taller plants, or "trees" from middle to back, use intermediate plants to represent "shrubs", and smaller, low-growing material as "ground cover".

Use materials of different colors or textures, either as focal points of the planting, or to highlight (or hide) other materials. Since this is a miniature representation of a natural scene, it isn't necessary to use artificial or man-made materials or accessories.



### **Step #6: Covering the soil.**

We like to cover the soil, with either low-growing plants or mosses once all of the plants have been placed. Shape and press the moss in between the plants and other material. Should you want to add more plants after placing the moss, simply create a hole in the moss and plant into it.

If mosses aren't available we might use fine (orchid) bark, or other natural, neutral-colored material to cover the soil surface. These mosses will eventually turn brown and die, but even then they look attractive. Should you wish to keep that "green" look, you can easily remove the old moss, or simply place sheets of new moss over the old.

### **Step #7: The finished terrarium.**

Our last step is to place a miniature blooming plant into the planting—which would be necessary to exhibit in many shows. As before, select a miniature plant that won't outgrow the container, like a miniature violet or other gesneriad. Plants with blue, white, or other pastel colored (not multicolored) blooms are

best, since these are the colors one most often sees in nature.

Finally, clean excess debris from the container. Use a small brush to get rid of loose soil stuck on the glass. Small particles of soil can be washed from the plant leaves and wood when you water the planting. Do this gently and carefully. Provide only as much water as the plants need—don't overwater, especially if you intend to keep the container covered.



#### **Step #8: Maintaining your terrarium.**

Place your terrarium in a bright location free of direct (hot) sunlight—the glass can magnify the sunlight and heat will be collected inside, roasting the plants. Artificial light is good for this reason (bright but not hot), though we've grown many near (not in) windows. Water when needed, and lightly—rather than pouring water, try “spraying” water into the container.

Trim plants that become overgrown, pinching off tips of too-tall plants, and removing dead or decaying material. To limit plant growth even more, trim the *roots*, by poking a sharp (modeling) knife into the soil around the plant—this will cut the roots, which will limit the size of the plant. Properly maintained, plantings can be kept attractive for a year or more before replanting.

Give it a try, have fun, and good luck!

#### **NEED SUPPLIES?**

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou

Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!!



Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages. <mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com>

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

**Visit us at:**

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

***Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).*** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,**

**287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**  
[johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com)      [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.











# THE PETAL

## AUGUST 2022

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



**ACAS SUMMER PARFAIT**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS members and friends,

Hope you AND your violets are doing well. Summertime is not a time for neglecting your plants. Just like you, they need to eat and drink! It's very important that you give your violets the food and water they need even in the hot

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

summer days. Some growers suggest reducing the amount of fertilizer during the hot months – and I've tried doing that and have seen no appreciable difference in the plant growth. I think you already know that water is essential – but too much water usually spells death to violets. Remember Goldilocks? Not too hot and not too cold, but just right. . .for us violet growers, it's not too much (water), and not too little, but just enough.

Impossible as it may seem, we're now into the month of August – which means we have about 9 weeks to get our plants ready for the Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens. As you know, TAVS relies on its members to bring plants and leaf cuttings to the event.

Additionally, our annual show is only a few months away and we're counting on ALL our members to enter their plants in the show. YES. . .we're aiming for 100% participation in the show. With over thirty club members, if each member will plan to have a minimum of 5 entries, we should be able to have at least 150 entries in horticulture. . .so that's our goal! Add design entries to that and we'll have a truly outstanding show!

Both August meetings will focus on the show committees and we're asking members to step up and **volunteer** to serve as a committee chair or to serve on a committee. With this newsletter, you're also receiving a list of all the committees we'll need, as well as a job description. Our Show Chair, Celeste Christman, will be looking for **YOU** to volunteer. As the handout states, it's "An Army of One." We'll all have different areas of responsibility, but we'll all be working toward the same goal—a magnificent show!

Look forward to seeing you Thursday at 7 pm for our Zoom meeting. In the meantime, please look over the attachment and be prepared to **VOLUNTEER** your services!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## AUGUST MEETINGS

**Thursday, August 4 – 7 pm – by Zoom**

**Friday, August 19 – 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road, Seffner**

Both meetings will be focused on our annual show scheduled for February 24-25, 2023, at Temple Terrace United Methodist Church. All committee chairpersons must be in place so we will have adequate time to plan and prepare for our show. We need 100% participation in helping put on the show, and our goal is to have 100% participation by members in entering plants and designs in the show. So be prepared to volunteer and bring along any suggestions. Also, please bring at least one "Show & Tell" plant.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



Phyllis Panozzo and Gloria Latter!



8/7 Gladys Cook  
8/10 Gloria Latter  
8/27 Sandi Soto



Health concerns:  
Bonnie Smith, Lisa Villabol and Pat Rutzke.

Received a note from Celia Howe, she has had a negative Mammogram and Ultrasound, is on the mend and looking forward to joining us again at the meetings!

New member Phyllis Panozzo had a recent fall with a traumatic brain injury, but is on the mend.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



#### **AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA**

Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm.  
Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen."

#### **USF FALL PLANT SALE**

October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

#### **TAVS Annual Show and Sale**

February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

"VIOLET INVASION"



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of July 7th, 2022, Zoom Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Beth Bryant at 7:04 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Attending were Kathy Glenn, Mary Beth Bryant, Glenn Shelton, Todd Grandy, Stuart Swayze, Sheryl Herold, Lisa Villabol, Celeste Christman, Pamela Van Durme, Sandi Soto, Dorothea Zimmer and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was a guest, Gloria Latter

**PROGRAM:** Powerpoint program by Karen Allen on growing Streptocarpus.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the June 2, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Glenn Shelton, Treasurer, reported a current checking account balance of \$4,627.67 and savings account balance of \$3,755.42. The report will be filed.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** will meet Saturday, July 16, at 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library.

**African Violet Council of Florida** – Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm. Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on “Culture, Pests or Pathogen.”

**Dixie African Violet Society** – Dixie’s Board will be meeting the week of July 13 to discuss future meetings, shows and conventions.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Awaiting response from Temple Terrace United Methodist Church as to approval of their facility for our 2023 show.
2. Amendments to Bylaws – will be taken up later in this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request for speaker by Old Fashioned Garden Circle, Tampa, on October 5 at 10 a.m. Jim Boyer volunteered to present and Mary Beth Bryant volunteered to assist.
2. Project Plant – Trailer – will be available at the July 15 day meeting. A \$2 donation to the club is suggested. The semiminiature will also be available.
3. Some of Terry Jordan’s supplies will be available for members at the July 15 meeting at the home of Mary Lou Harden.

**BYLAWS:** All of the amendments proposed by the Executive Committee were unanimously adopted by the members present. The amendments will be presented to the members attending the July 15 day meeting for approval. A copy of the amendments is attached to these minutes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

July 15, 2022, is the monthly day meeting. August meetings will focus on our 2023 show

July Birthdays: 12-Pat Rutzke and 22-Roselind Rovinsky

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Lisa Villabol and Stu Swayze are doing well.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, Todd Grandy and Pamela VanDurme all showed some of their beautiful violets and other gesneriads.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting  
Mary Lou Harden’s Home**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:19 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Mary Beth Bryant

**ROLL CALL:** 10 Members 1 guest Gloria Latter

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the June 17th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Mary Lou Harden presented a very informative program on Insects and pests.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$4,657.67. The detailed report will be filed.

**Our August meetings will be centered on our 2023 show-Committees.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at The Seffner Mango Library.

**AVCF:** Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Guest presenter is Joyce Stork on "Cultures, Pests or Pathogen".

**AVSA:** Jim Matula reported that the magazine will be delayed and that the 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, GA, May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>. Members discussed trying to attend this convention.

**DIXIE AVS:** Dixie is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Bylaws- Proposed amendments;**

The proposed amendments were read, discussed and approved by members.

**2023 SHOW – February 24-25.** The Chair reported that we're awaiting a response from Temple Terrace United Methodist Church regarding the use of their facility for our show.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Semi-miniature and trailer Project Plants were available for a donation of \$2 to the Club.

Some of Terry Jordan's supplies will be available for members at the conclusion of today's meeting. There are currently 33 members. So e.g. -50 trays- if you need a tray, each member can take 2- so night members can also have some.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Celia Howe, Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol and Pat Rutzke. New member Phyllis Panozzo had a recent fall with a traumatic brain injury, but is on the mend. Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

July Birthdays: Pat Rutzke-12 Roselind Rovinsky 22.

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants/leaves furnished by Mary Lou Harden and Sandi Soto.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

## **RECIPE BOX**



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

### **LEMON COOLER CREAM CAKE**

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package lemon cake mix
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 (3 ounce) packages lemon flavored Jell-O® mix
- 1 cup milk
- 1 (3.4 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Prepare cake and bake according to package directions in a 9x13 inch baking dish. With a fork, poke holes all over top of cake. Combine 1 cup hot water and 1 cup cold water with one package of lemon gelatin. Stir until gelatin is dissolved, and pour mixture over cake. Chill in refrigerator until cool. In large bowl stir together milk, vanilla pudding mix and remaining package of lemon gelatin until powders are dissolved. Fold in whipped topping and spread mixture over cake. Refrigerate until serving

## **MEET THE MEMBER**

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so

inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)



## **WATERING AFRICAN VIOLETS**

By Sandra Skalski

Seasoned growers will tell you that proper watering is one of the most important skills you will learn in growing African violets. In fact, overwatering may be the number one cause of violet demise. The good news is there are many good ways to water African violets, and this is an easy skill to learn.

### **WATER QUALITY**

In most locations, tap water will be fine, but the quality of tap water can vary. Chlorine levels may fluctuate, depending on the season. In some areas, tap water may have high amounts of chlorine, chloramines, or dissolved solids. All these things may adversely affect your African violets. Your water supply company can give you information on water quality, or you may have your water independently tested. In general, it is a good idea to fill a jug with water and let it sit overnight to let any chlorine dissipate. You may also use bottled water, filtered water, or reverse osmosis water. Water from a water softener may contain dissolved salts, and this will be a problem for your African violets.

Many growers use rainwater, with good results. While rainwater is generally free from some of the common contaminants in tap water, like chlorine and chloramines, it can acquire contaminants during collection. For example, roof runoff may contain pollen, roofing chemicals and bird droppings. Be sure the water you collect is clean and free from particulates and other contaminants.

It is a good idea to test your water pH periodically. Tap water can fluctuate with the seasons, since chlorine and chloramines levels

tend to be higher in the warmer months. If your pH is outside the ideal range for African violets (6.5-7.5), you may adjust it using pH up or down products which are sold in aquarium or hydroponics stores. These stores also sell products that reduce or eliminate chlorine and chloramines.

Many growers will add their liquid or granular fertilizer to a jug of water and then use that solution to water their plants. The fertilizer is used at a low strength so that there is a low but constant level of fertilizer for consistent blooming and growth. For example, if the directions say to use 1/4 teaspoon per gallon per week, use 1/8 teaspoon.

### **TOP or BOTTOM WATERING**

Casual growers (or growers with smaller collections) commonly use top or bottom watering. Water the plants either from the top or the bottom when the top half inch of the soil is somewhat dry. Put your finger in the top of the soil to test for dryness or lift the pot to feel the weight (pots with dry soil feel lighter than those with moist soil).

A dish or saucer is used under the pot to catch drainage. To water from the top, pour the water through the soil, taking care to keep water off the leaves. To water from the bottom, add the water directly to the saucer. When watering from the bottom, it may take a couple hours for the plant to absorb the water up to the top of the pot. In either case, pour off any water remaining in the saucer after a few hours.

**Advantages:**

There is little preparation involved, other than having a saucer available.

You can check each individual plant to identify its exact water needs.

**Disadvantages:**

Can be time consuming, especially if you have a lot of plants.

Vacation watering can be a problem.

It is easy to over-water plants which can lead to root rot.

If the plants become very dry or wilt, do not flood the plant with water right away. A dry root system cannot absorb water; the roots need time to "plump up" before they are able to draw water again. Just add a tablespoon of water on top of the soil, and then repeat every hour or so until the soil is fully moist and the roots are ready to function again. It may help to place the

plant in a plastic bag to provide extra humidity to help it recover.

If the plant is limp but the soil is very wet, act quickly. Place the plant on a wad of paper towels or folded newspapers to help draw out the extra water. You may lose the outer rows of leaves, but, if the center survives, the plant will be saved.

### **WICK WATERING**

Wick watering is a convenient way to water violets, especially if you have a large collection. Before you begin wick-watering, be certain that you have the correct pot size and potting mix, or you may end up with rotted plants because the soil was too wet.

The potting mix must be very porous so that there is plenty of air around the roots even when the mix is wet. Use a potting mix that is at least fifty percent coarse perlite. Growers with high humidity may need more perlite to get adequate porosity. If you buy your potting mix, look for words like 'wicking mix' as an indication that the mix is suitable for this type of watering.

The potting mix should be moistened before you begin potting your violet, or the wicking process may not function properly. The wick should be 6 to 8 inches long (for a 4" pot) and must be a synthetic material such as acrylic, rayon, strips of old pantyhose, nylon yarn or cording. Wick watering takes advantage of capillary action to pull water through your plants.

Insert a wet wick when repotting by stringing it through the drainage hole in the pot and up to the top rim, then adding potting mix and the violet. Alternatively, you may put the wick in after potting by using a hook such as stiff wire, a crochet hook or a long darning needle. Push the straight end of the tool into a hole on the bottom of the pot, catch the wicking material in the hook, and pull on the tool at the top of the pot to bring it on through. Be careful not to puncture any leaves.

The wick should dangle out of the bottom of the pot and into a reservoir of water below. The pot itself should not contact the fertilizer water.

The reservoir may be as simple as a plastic food container, or recycled glass jars. Make two holes in the cover – one for the wick and the other big enough to add more water to the reservoir (so that you do not have to remove the top).

Some people wick water with a community reservoir for many plants, such as a large water-filled tray with "egg crating" laid on top. Egg crating, which is used to diffuse fluorescent light fixtures, may be found in hardware stores or online. A community reservoir is convenient — you must fill only one reservoir instead of many. But there is a significant downside. Pests like soil mealybugs and some fungi (phytophthora and rhizoctonia) can spread from one plant to all the others on the same community watering system.

Advantages:

Less time consuming than watering individual plants.

Large reservoirs can keep the plants watered for weeks; no vacation watering issues.

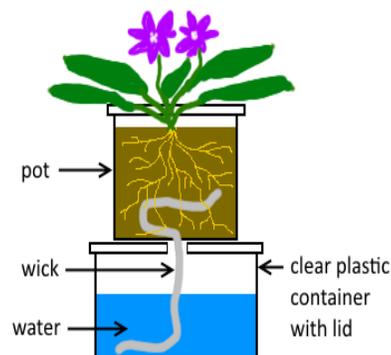
Disadvantages:

Algae often grows in the reservoir. To resolve, line the reservoir with a sheet of plastic which extends over the sides of the reservoir. You can throw out the plastic when it turns green instead of washing out the whole reservoir. Or, add one tablespoon of 3% hydrogen peroxide to a gallon of fertilized water to prevent algae growth.

The plant may not soak up the water. To resolve, pour water through the top of the pot to try to get the capillary action going. If the pot is broad and shallow (such as for trailing violets,) two or three wicks may be needed.

The plant may become too wet. In that case, repot with potting mix which contains more perlite.

Wick Watering African Violets



### **MAT WATERING**

Mat watering is similar to wick watering. Plants are placed on a damp absorbent mat. You can place pots directly on the mat, but some people use wicks in those pots to be sure there is

contact with the mat. Both the wick and the mat material must be synthetic. Old (or cheap) blankets or synthetic felt or fleece may be cut to size for the mat. Add water to the tray on a regular schedule, just enough to keep the mat moist. Use a porous soil mix like that used for wick watering. Mat watering works very well for small plants.

Some growers lay their matting over plastic egg-crating, which is elevated above the water. The egg-crating is cut to sit on the rims of the tray. The matting is cut and laid on the crating with one or more “tails” dangling on the side into the tray of water below. These tails will wick water and keep the matting moist for a longer time. The matting must be fully moist for the wicking action to work properly.

Advantages:

Fewer reservoirs to fill, compared to individual wick watering.

Disadvantages:

The mat may dry out very quickly.

If the shelf is not level, some of the plants may not get enough water.

Pests and diseases, such as soil mealybugs and some fungi such as phytophthora (crown rot) can spread very quickly through community watering.

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!!



Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [\\_NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:_NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club’s website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages. <mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com>

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you’re interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

**Visit us at:**

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



**Tampa African Violet Society**

**Join us on Twitter:**

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

**VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:**

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year. Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,**

**287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**  
[johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

## TERRY JORDAN'S SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS:

There are still some miscellaneous used pots for anyone who has not already gotten some of Terry's items.



This photo of our day meeting members looking over the vast collection of items donated to our club from Terry Jordans husband was sent to him along with our note of thanks .

His response back:

Hanging in there, Mary Lou. I know Terry would be so happy they will help others to enjoy African violets as much as she did.











# THE PETAL

## SEPTEMBER 2022

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



ACAS SUMMER PARFAIT

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS Members and Friends,

I don't know about you, but I am quite ready for September! July and August always seem to pass by so slowly – but this year, the weeks have been flying by. My goal has been to repot ALL of my African violets and other Gesneriads – and I'm happy to report that I have almost completed the task. However, the plants I first

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

re-potted are telling me that it's time to once again repot them! It's too bad we're not having a show or plant sale in the next couple weeks, because I have some beautiful plants I'm sure someone would love to have!

I hope you're growing plants for the USF Fall Plant Festival which will be the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October. **Your plants don't have to be large or show-quality, but they must be beautifully grown and of course disease free.** If you have questions about your plants, don't hesitate to contact Jim Boyer or Glenn Shelton. We'll also need fresh-cut, packaged and labeled leaf cuttings. We'll be setting up for the sale on Thursday morning, October 6, and we'll need help with the set-up. Our September night meeting is this Thursday, September 1. Becky McMeel of Houma,

Louisiana, will be showing us how she is interpreting one of the design classes from our show schedule – Violet Invasion. Becky is a member of Dixie, AVSA and her local club is Louisiana Lagniappe AVS. Becky is a consistent winner with her designs at AVSA and Dixie Conventions, as well as her own club. Some photos of her entries in the AVSA 2021 Cyber Convention are included in this newsletter. You'll receive the Zoom link shortly for this weeks meeting.

Our Day meeting is Friday, September 16, and Jim Boyer will be explaining and demonstrating the different propagation techniques. Our Show Schedule has been sent to AVSA for approval. As soon as it is approved, copies will be made available to all members. And. . .we have new Yearbooks which will be available at our September meetings. So, PLEASE put our meetings on your calendar. . .and don't forget to join us! You'll be glad you did!  
Hope to see you Thursday!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

**Thursday, September 1st – 7 pm – by Zoom  
Guest Presenter:**

Becky McMeel of Houma, LA will be doing a “Niche” design with a theme from our 2023 show schedule “Violet Invasion”

**Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road,**

## Seffner

Our own “King” James Boyer will be doing a presentation on African Violet Propagation.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



9/13 Sheryl Herold



Mary Lou Harden had recent eye surgery, recovering and doing well at home.

Please keep all these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

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



**AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA**  
Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm.

Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen."

### **USF FALL PLANT SALE**

October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

### **TAVS Annual Show and Sale**

February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
"VIOLET INVASION"

### **YOU ARE INVITED. . .**

**To the African Violet Council of Florida's Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm by Zoom.** Joyce Stork, past president of AVSA, and regular columnist for AVSA, will present a program on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen." For many years, Joyce and her husband Kent had a flower shop in Fremont, Nebraska, known as Kent's Flowers and they were AVSA commercials. For over 30 years Kent and Joyce wrote a column in the African Violet Magazine which became the foundation for their book, **YOU CAN Grow African Violets.**

If you would like to attend the Zoom meeting, please contact Mary Lou Harden at [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).



**It's time for ALL of us to aim high!** We have 6 months to prepare for our 2023 show. . . and we need ALL OF OUR MEMBERS to participate. **WHAT IS OUR GOAL?** . . . that EVERY TAVS MEMBER will have at least 5 – YES FIVE – entries in the show. Each of your Executive Board members has made a commitment to that goal!

**WHY?** TAVS currently has 33 members. If each member will accept this challenge, we should have at least 150 entries in the show. When your friends – and the public – come to see our show, they're coming to see tables filled with lots of beautiful African violets, Streptocarpus, Episcias,

Columneas and any other Gesneriads you're growing, as well as dish gardens, terrariums, natural gardens and flower and plant designs. They surely don't come to see empty tables!  
**WILL YOU JOIN US?** We're encouraging ALL our members to work toward the same goal.  
**NEED HELP?** Don't hesitate to ask one of our more experienced growers to help you select your plants – plants that have proven to be good show plants. Actually, most violets can become show plants with proper growing conditions and with the right care. **WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**  
**WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE 5 AFRICAN VIOLETS?** Some of the "cousins" are easy to grow – Episcias are one of the easiest. . .and we'll be having programs on dish gardens, terrariums and natural gardens – or try your hand at one of the design classes.  
**ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!** Our goal is to have a minimum of 150 entries in the show!



## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of August 4th, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:05 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Attending were Kathy Glenn, Mary Beth Bryant, Stuart Swayze, Sheryl Herold, Jim Matula, Angela Newell, Lisa Villabol, Celeste Christman, Pamela Van Durme, Sandi Soto, Dorothea Zimmer and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was a guest, Johnnie Berry.

**PROGRAM: SHOW COMMITTEES.** Show Chair, Celeste Christman, reviewed the duties of all the show committees. The following members volunteered to serve as chairpersons: Kathy Glenn, Jim Boyer, Mary Beth Bryant, Pam Van Durme, Angela Newell, Lynn Bandy, Jim Matula, Sandi Soto, Sheryl Herold and Mary Lou Harden. The complete list of committees and their chairs will be published in the Show Schedule.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the July 7, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

On behalf of the Treasurer, the chair reported a current checking account balance of \$4,886.69. The report will be filed.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** will meet Saturday, August 20, at 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. Nancy Kast will have the program on Sinningias.

**African Violet Council of Florida** – Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm. Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen."

**Dixie AVS** is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Temple Terrace United Methodist Church has approved our use of their facility for our 2023 show at a cost of \$450.
2. Both project plants are still available for a \$2/each donation to the Club.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fall Plant Festival at USF is October 8-9, with set-up on Thursday, October 6. We need member-grown plants and leaf cuttings for sale.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August 19, 2022, is the monthly day meeting. Celeste Christman will be discussing our 2023 show and finalizing the list of volunteers.

September 1 Night Meeting – Guest presenter is Becky McMeel from Houma, LA, on Designs using African Violets.

September 16 Day Meeting at the Seffner-Mango Library – Jim Boyer will discuss and demonstrate African violet propagation.

August Birthdays: 8/7 Gladys Cook, 8/10 Gloria Latter, 8/27 Sandi Soto.

Health concerns: Bonnie Smith, Pat Rutzke, Celia Howe, Lisa Villabol and Stu Swayze are all doing well.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Several members showed some of their beautiful violets and other gesneriads.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting  
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Matula at 10:17 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** 10 Members

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the July 15th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Jim Matula went over the importance of having a show, including introducing the club and the love of growing violets to the public.

Celeste Christman went over the Committee Chair list, soliciting volunteers for multiple committees.

It was discussed that the Final Plant Placement Chairperson should be a judge or student judge. Jim Boyer stated he would help with final plant placement.

It was also suggested that we provide guests with gift bags to include club information, literature, and other goodies.

Lynn Bandy and Celeste Christman will take over this assignment.

Publicity was discussed and brought up placing ads/information in all the affiliate publications as well as local gardening clubs, and neighborhood publications.

Glenn Shelton announced that the goal for this year's show was for every member to enter at least five plants/exhibits.

A suggestion was made to have a sign-up sheet for refreshments to ensure there was enough variety.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$4886.69 and savings of \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

**SEPTEMBER MEETINGS:**

**Thursday, September 1st – 7 pm – by Zoom**

**Guest Presenter:**

Becky McMeel of Houma, LA will be doing a "Niche" design with a theme from our 2023 show schedule "Violet Invasion"

**Friday, September 15th, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road, Seffner**

Our own "King" James Boyer will be doing a presentation on African Violet Propagation.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TBGS:** August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting: 10am Seffner-Mango Public Library

**AVCF:** Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Guest presenter is Joyce Stork on "Cultures, Pests or Pathogen". This will be a ZOOM meeting. Members can email Mary Lou Harden to receive the link. Mlhard@verizon.net.

**AVSA:** Jim Matula reported that the magazine had a very informative article on Growing and showing African /violets, and that the 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, GA, May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>. Jim Boyer will be teaching a judging class at the convention.

**DIXIE AVS:** Dixie is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Semi-miniature and trailer Project Plants are still available for a donation of \$2 to the Club.

**Fall Plant Festival at USF: October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Need member-grown plants for sale. Need members to donate leaves- packaged and labeled.

Jim Boyer proposed a motion to name the "Best in Class Streptocarpus" at our 2023 show in honor of Terry Jordan. Glenn Shelton seconded the motion; a unanimous vote passed the motion.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:** 8/7 Gladys Cook 8/10 Gloria Latter 8/27 Sandi Soto.

New Yearbooks will be available in September.

#### SHOW AND TELL:

Jim Boyer announced that the show trailer project plant was a "Longofolia" -- meaning it has long, narrow and pointed leaves. Stuart Swayze showed off his "Jersey Girl" trailer and solicited some help in attaining a healthier looking plant from members.

#### PLANT RAFFLE:

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

## BOSTON CREAM PIE POKE CAKE

- 1 box yellow cake mix, plus ingredients called for on package
- 2 (3.4 oz) boxes instant vanilla pudding
- 4 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 12 oz bag chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream

#### PREPARATION

1. Prepare yellow cake in a 9x13-inch baking pan according to package instructions. Let cool completely.
2. Once cake has cooled, poke holes all over the cake using the end of a wooden spoon.
3. While cake cools, whisk together the instant pudding, milk, and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Before the pudding has a chance to set up and thicken, pour it evenly over the cake. Place in refrigerator to chill for one hour.
4. Once cake has chilled, make the chocolate ganache:
5. Place chocolate chips in a heatproof bowl and heat cream until simmering on the stovetop over low heat. (You can also heat it in the microwave.)
6. Pour hot cream over chocolate chips and let sit for 5 minutes to soften the chocolate. Stir until smooth and let cool for 10 minutes.
7. Pour chocolate over cake and smooth with a spatula. Chill in refrigerator at least 4 hours and up to overnight before slicing and serving. Enjoy!

## MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!!



Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club’s website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages. <mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com>

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you’re interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

## Visit us at:

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

**African Violet Society of America (AVSA).** Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) which includes AVSA membership, is \$35 per year.

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to: **AVSA**

**Office, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100,  
Beaumont, TX 77707.**

[www.Africanvioletsofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair, 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.** [johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

**African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**  
Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, laprice41@yahoo.com.  
[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

**HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS FROM OUR THURSDAY NIGHT MEETING PRESENTER BECKY MCMEEL. THESE ARE ALL FROM THE AVSA 2021 CYBER CONVENTION.**



**AVSA'S 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**



**ROB'S VANILLA TRAIL**



**Container Garden**



































# THE PETAL

## OCTOBER 2022

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



**MAS- WICKED WITCH**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS Members and Friends,

I hope all of you made it safely through the storm and that any damage to property was minor. Thankfully, most of us were spared flooding and extremely high winds. What we did have was bad enough!

And we're also grateful that Ian didn't decide to visit next weekend when we'll be participating in the Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens. As you already know, we're planning to put up

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

the tents on Thursday, October 6, at 10 am. Many thanks to Lynn Bandy and her husband who will be picking up the tents on Wednesday and delivering them to USF. We need volunteers to come help us get the tents up and arrange the tables.

Hours for both Saturday and Sunday are from 10 am to 3 pm. If you're bringing plants to sell, you **MUST** arrive by 8 am on Saturday as no cars will be allowed into the gardens after 8:30 and cars must be quickly unloaded and then driven to one of the parking areas to the East or South. Saturday morning is the busiest time for sales.

Saturday morning is the busiest time for sales. Customers begin arriving by **9:30 and we** are often swamped with customers until about 1 pm. We'll need lots of help—assisting customers, giving them boxes in which to place their plants

and supplies, helping the cashiers, answering questions, promoting the Club, etc., so PLEASE come and help!

Along with your sales plants, please bring small to medium-sized cardboard flats and plastic bags.

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## OCTOBER MEETINGS

**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm – by Zoom**  
**Guest Presenter:**

Guest presenter will be Robbie McMeel of Houma, Louisiana. Robbie will be showing us and talking about some of his gesneriads. He has been an award winner at AVSA and Dixie conventions with Episcias and Chrysothemis. Robbie is Vice President of Dixie African Violet Society.



**CHRYSOTHEMIS**

**Friday, October 21st, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road, Seffner**

Everyone gets a chance to participate in this Natural Garden Workshop. If you have a piece of driftwood or a seashell or stone – any natural item that has planting pockets – please bring it with you. A few pieces of driftwood will be available for the demonstration. The club will provide plant material, so join us for a fun and creative time and together we'll learn what it takes to create a Natural Garden.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



10/15 Celeste Christman  
10/22 Lisa Villabol



Celia Howe although doing better has recently had some setbacks, and Phyllis Panozzo still feeling a bit under the weather and keep Angelina Grundhoff in your thoughts.

We hope that everyone survived Hurricane Ian. Please let us know how you did, and if there is anything you need.

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



We were saddened to recently learn that long-time TAVS member Virginia Gloria Barthelemy, 93, of Tampa, FL passed away on December 20, 2021. Virginia was originally from Atlantic City, New Jersey, but at a young age, her family moved to Miami Beach, Florida, and she later married and moved to Tampa where she lived most of her adult life. Her hobbies were raising Bromeliads, Orchids, and African Violets. She was an active member of Temple Terrace United Methodist Church and was a regular volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital, Florida State Fair, and the Lowry Park Zoo. Virginia was an active member and constant supporter of TAVS for many years and attended meetings until her eye sight failed and she could no longer drive. TAVS Members send condolences to her family.



**AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA**

Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm. Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen."

If you would like to attend let Mary Lou Harden know. [MLHard@verizon.net](mailto:MLHard@verizon.net)

**USF FALL PLANT SALE**

October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>,  
10am to 3pm daily

**TAVS Annual Show and Sale**

February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
"VIOLET INVASION"



**It's time for ALL of us to aim high!** We have 6 months to prepare for our 2023 show. . . and we need ALL OF OUR MEMBERS to participate.

**WHAT IS OUR GOAL?** . . . that EVERY TAVS MEMBER will have at least 5 – YES FIVE – entries in the show. Each of your Executive Board members has made a commitment to that goal!

**WHY?** TAVS currently has 33 members. If each member will accept this challenge, we should have at least 150 entries in the show. When your friends – and the public – come to see our show, they're coming to see tables filled with lots of beautiful African violets, Streptocarpus, Episcias, Columneas and any other Gesneriads you're growing, as well as dish gardens, terrariums, natural gardens and flower and plant designs. They surely don't come to see empty tables!

**WILL YOU JOIN US?** We're encouraging ALL our members to work toward the same goal.

**NEED HELP?** Don't hesitate to ask one of our more experienced growers to help you select your plants – plants that have proven to be good show plants. Actually, most violets can become show plants with proper growing conditions and with the right care. WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

**WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE 5 AFRICAN VIOLETS?** Some of the "cousins" are easy to grow – Episcias are one of the easiest. . . and we'll be having programs on dish gardens, terrariums and natural gardens – or try your hand at one of the design classes.

**ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!** Our goal is to have a minimum of 150 entries in the show.



## MEETING MINUTES

### TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Minutes of September 1st, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Jim Matula, Lisa Villabol, Celeste Christman, Pamela Van Durme, Sandi Soto, Jim Boyer, Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending were guests Johnnie Berry and Becky McMeel.

**PROGRAM:** Becky McMeel of Houma, LA, presented a program and demonstration on creating a flower arrangement based on Class 52 of our 2023 Show Schedule.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the August 4, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

The September 16 Day Meeting – 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. Jim Boyer will have program on African violet propagation. The October 6 night meeting – Robbie McMeel will have program on Chrysothemis.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** will meet Saturday, September 17, at 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library.

**African Violet Council of Florida** – Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, at 2 pm. Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen."

**Dixie AVS** is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Both project plants are still available for a \$2/each donation to the Club.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fall Plant Festival at USF is October 8-9, with set-up on Thursday, October 6. We need member-grown plants and leaf cuttings for sale and helpers for the set-up. TAVS will be responsible for handling the sales.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

September Birthday: 9/13 – Sheryl Herold.

Health concerns: Angelina Grundhoff.

Show Schedule sent to AVSA for approval.  
Yearbooks available at September day meeting.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Sandi Soto, Mary Beth Bryant, Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden showed some of their beautiful violets and other gesneriads.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022,  
Meeting  
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10:18 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Mary Lou Harden

**ROLL CALL:** 11 Members

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the August 19th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Jim Boyer gave us an interesting and informative program on African Violet Propagation.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$4270.90 and savings of \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

**OCTOBER MEETINGS:**

**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm – by Zoom  
Guest Presenter:**

Robbie McMeel will have program on Chrysothemis.

**Friday, October 21st, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road, Seffner**

We will be having a Natural Garden Workshop. Bring a container, something from nature-natural-piece of driftwood, a sea shell, rock-something with a planting pocket.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TBGS:** September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting: 10am Seffner-Mango Public Library

**AVCF:** Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Guest presenter is Joyce Stork on "Cultures, Pests or Pathogen". This will be a ZOOM meeting.

Members can email Mary Lou Harden to receive the link. Mlhard@verizon.net.

**AVSA:** Jim Matula reported that the magazine had several informative articles, and that the 2023 AVSA Convention will be in Atlanta, GA, May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>. Jim Boyer will be teaching a judging class at the convention.

**DIXIE AVS:** Dixie is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fall Plant Festival at USF: October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Need member-grown plants for sale. Need members to donate leaves- packaged and labeled.

Set up will be at 10am on Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Glenn Shelton will be arranging the handling of the cash register and credit cards.

We will still need volunteers to assist with sales.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** 9/13 Sheryl Herold

New Yearbooks will be available today. If you were not at the meeting be sure to let Mary Lou Harden know.

**AVSA has approved our show schedule – it will be available to members soon.**

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Plants supplied by Mary Lou Harden and Glenn Shelton.

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

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

### SALTED CARAMEL BUTTER BARS

- Crust/Topping:
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 pound (4 sticks) salted butter, room temperature
- 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 
- Filling:
- 50-60 caramel candies, wrappers removed (14 oz. bag)
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 tablespoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350° F and lightly grease a 9x13-inch dish with non-stick spray.
2. For the crust, cream together butter and sugars in a large bowl for 3-5 minutes, or until fluffy and lightened in color.
3. Mix in vanilla extract, then gradually beat in flour until just incorporated, when smooth dough comes together.
4. Take 1/3 dough and gently press it into greased baking dish, then place in oven and bake for 20 minutes.
5. Wrap remaining dough tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate until further use.
6. Remove crust from oven when golden brown and let cool.
7. Place unwrapped caramels and heavy cream in a large, microwave-safe bowl and microwave for 1 minute.
8. Stir vigorously, or until smooth. If not melted after 1 minute, microwave in 30-second increments, stirring in between, until smooth.
9. Stir in vanilla extract, then pour caramel over cooled crust, sprinkling sea salt over the top.
10. Remove chilled dough from fridge and crumble pieces evenly over caramel-topped crust.
11. Once you've used all dough, place baking dish in oven and bake for 26-28 minutes, or until top crumble is light golden brown.
12. Remove baking dish from oven and let cool completely, then cut into squares and enjoy!

## MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!! +

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in “The Petal”. Submit these to: [NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club’s website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do “on the job” training. Please contact Gladys directly at [gladyscook9320@gmail.com](mailto:gladyscook9320@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages. <mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com>

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you’re interested in becoming a member: [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

## Visit us at:

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Tampa African Violet Society



## Join us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

## VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

### **African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine 6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

**AVSA Office**

**PO Box 22417**

**Beaumont, TX 77720.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:

**Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,**

**287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**

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

### **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a

quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, laprice41@yahoo.com.  
[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

**MARY LOU HARDEN'S BEAUTIFUL  
NESS' CRINKLE BLUE**



**MARY LOU HARDEN'S CAJUNS LIL  
SPRINKLES**



**MARY LOU HARDEN'S EPISCIA SUOMI**















































# THE PETAL

## NOVEMBER 2022

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



**The Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., The Dixie African Violet Society, The African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society.**

**TOUCHES OF FROST**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS Members and Friends,

Sending a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way at the Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens. Special thanks to Lynn & Jeff Bandy and to Celeste Christman who picked up the tents and tent supplies, and then returned them to storage in Tampa. Although we had just a few hiccups trying to get the tents set up, we quickly learned and the whole set-up process took only about an hour.

Special thanks also to our treasurer, Glenn Shelton, who arranged for all those who assisted

with both cash and credit sales. Having a plan in place made it possible for us to have smooth sales. Glenn says this was our most successful sale. We had an excellent variety of plants for sale, most were member grown.

Our next big event will be our annual show in February. Included as attachment with this newsletter is the 2022-2023 Grooming Schedule which will help you know what to do and when to do it regarding getting your plants ready for the show.

In the meantime, remember that we're AIMING HIGH for the 2023 show. We need ALL members to participate in the show, and our goal is for each member to have at least five (5) entries! So, please help us reach our goal!

I encourage you to attend both meetings this month – the night meeting is this Thursday, November 3, at 7 pm by Zoom, and Pamela Van Durme will be showing us how to prepare a Dish

Garden. Pam was awarded Best Dish Garden, Best Container Garden and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Design at last year's show!

For the day meeting on Friday, November 18, at 10 am at the Seffner-Mango Library, Sandi Soto will share her secrets for Growing for Show. Sandi had beautiful entries in last year's show, winning Best Novice and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best AVSA Standard Collection.

Please join us online this Thursday at 7 pm!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.

## NOVEMBER MEETINGS

**Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm – by Zoom**  
**Guest Presenter:**

Guest presenter will be Pamela Van Durme.

**Friday, November 18th, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road, Seffner**

Sandi Soto will be giving a presentation on growing for show.

## Ready, Set, SHOW!!

By Sandi Soto

If you attended the day meeting on Friday, Oct.

21<sup>st</sup>, you heard me say you had exactly 6 weeks before you needed to start "bloom boosting" the AVs you hope to show February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If you weren't there, you've lost a little time, but you still have time to succeed. I know, because I was politely informed even later last year that I "raise good enough plants to show," (thank you Glenn!). I succeeded, so you can too! Here we go . . .

Step 1 – Take a CRITICAL look at your AVs, and single out those you consider the best. When I say critical, I mean look at them the way a movie critic looks at a movie, i.e., what's good as well as what's bad. What you're looking for isn't perfection, it's POTENTIAL! Which plants have the best balance, good foliage, and decent size for the type and variety. Set those plants apart, and get to work on . . .

Step 2 – Repotting and grooming. If the plant has a neck, it's still not too late to remove a layer of the root that's equal to the length of the neck, gently scrape the neck, and repot. Use pots that are acceptable for show because you don't want to have to repeat this step. I wet the soil *with the same water I use to feed* (plant food, thrive, Physan 20, etc.), mix well to make sure it's moist, and large lumps are broken up, and prepare the pot. I'm sure we all know how to repot, so I won't bore you with my procedure. Before you put the repotted AV back on the shelf, GROOM IT! I use half-sheets of plain white paper and insert them between rows of the leaves until I see a well-shaped plant. Any leaf below the papers at that point is removed. I'll repeat this several times: you can expect an inch a month in growth from a properly repotted standard AV, so when you choose the size pot at this critical stage, think about the size your plant is LIKELY to be by the end of February, and act accordingly. If you act now, that means 4 inches larger than it is today.

Step 3 – This hurts but start disbudding now. In fact, *finish* disbudding now. It's earlier than you have to, but I've found it's a good move. I see an obvious difference in the foliage growth rate between twin plants I've repotted when one is COMPLETELY disbudded, and the other is left with a bud or two. I've been doing this a short enough time that I have to experiment! Again,

average growth is 1 inch a month for a standard AV, so your plant still has time to grow enough foliage to cover the soil area before the show.

Step 4 – Practice patience and observe. Look at those *potential* show plants daily, feed at least weekly, and maybe take photos so you can see the difference week to week. Remember that with fresh soil full of nutrients, your AV has all of November, December, January, and most of February, to grow!

On November 18 at the day meeting, I'll present details on when to start bloom boost feeding, light increases, and all the other little extras that will bring out the best in your AV, and maybe give you the thrill of a big win at our show. In the meantime, if you're disbudding, keep it up, keep feeding a balanced AV food, and enjoy your AVs every day. I know I do!!

## DECEMBER MEETINGS

**Night Meeting** – Thursday, December 1, 7 pm by Zoom – Jeanne Katzenstein will give us an overview of members of the Gesneriad family. Jeanne is a long-time member of the Gesneriad Society. She serves as part of its convention planning team and is part of the editorial staff of its quarterly publication *Gesneriads*. In 2010, Jeanne was one of the sponsors of The World Gesneriad Research Conference, an international meeting designed to bring together the world's Gesneriaceae researchers, students and lay enthusiasts. The conference was held in October 2010 with an exhibition at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL. She has also been a part of research teams who travel to other countries in search of new plant discoveries.

**Day Meeting** – Friday, December 16, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. Program is African Violet Bingo. It's a fun way to learn all about growing African violets! Prizes will be awarded.

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



11/1 Tom Schaefer  
11/19 Glenn Shelton



Celia Howe although doing better has recently had some setbacks.  
Keep Angelina Grundhoff in your thoughts.

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



**TAVS Annual Show and Sale**  
February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
"VIOLET INVASION"

**2023 AVSA Convention**  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>  
Atlanta, GA

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
Minutes of October 6th, 2022, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:06 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Lisa Villabol, Sandi Soto, Dorothea Zimmer, Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was guest speaker,

Robbie McMeel.

**PROGRAM:** Robbie McMeel of Houma, LA, presented a program on growing and showing Chrysothemis.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 1, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

The October 21 Day Meeting – 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. A Natural Garden Workshop.

The November 3 night meeting – Pam Van Durme – Dish Gardens.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** will meet Saturday, November 19, at 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. Guest speaker is Kathy Spissman from Tucker, GA.

**African Violet Council of Florida** – Fall meeting on Saturday, November 5, at 2 pm. Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on "Culture, Pests or Pathogen."

**Dixie AVS** is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Fall Plant Festival at USF is October 8-9, with set-up on Thursday, October 6. We need member-grown plants and leaf cuttings for sale and helpers for the set-up. TAVS will be responsible for handling the sales.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

October Birthdays: 10/15 – Celeste Christman; 10/22 – Lisa Villabol

Show Schedules are now available.  
Yearbooks are available.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of October 21st, 2022,  
Meeting  
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10: 20 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Mary Lou Harden

**ROLL CALL:** 8 Members

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 16th, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Mary Lou Harden gave a demonstration on Natural Gardens. Plants and some different containers were provided by Mary Lou in addition to those brought in by members, and members set about designing some natural gardens along with Mary Lou's expert guidance. There were some beautiful specimens by the end of the program. Photos of everyone's designs will be included in the November newsletter.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$5160.89 and savings of \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

**NOVEMBER MEETINGS:**

**Thursday, November 3rd, 7 pm – by Zoom  
Guest Presenter:**

Pamela Van Durme will be doing a presentation on Dish Gardens.

**Friday, November 18th, 10 am at Seffner-  
Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road,  
Seffner**

Sandi Soto will be doing a presentation on growing for show.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TBGS:** November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting: 10am Seffner-Mango Public Library. Guest speaker will be Kathy Spissman of MrsStrepStreps, Atlanta, GA.

**AVCF:** Fall meeting on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Guest presenter is Joyce Stork on "Cultures, Pests or Pathogen". This will be a ZOOM meeting. Members can email Mary Lou Harden to receive the link. Mlhard@verizon.net.

**DIXIE AVS:** Dixie is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**The USF Fall Plant Festival**

There were some hiccups in set up and take down, but overall, a GREAT success! Thanks to everyone who helped in any capacity! It takes teamwork!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:** 10/15 Celeste Christman, 10/22 Lisa Villabol.

The show schedule is available today. Thanks to Sandi Soto for printing them up for us. If you would like an email copy let Mary Lou Harden know. mlhard@verizon.com.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn E Bandy*

### PUMPKIN DIP

- 1 30oz can pumpkin pie filling
- 1 10 oz container Cool Whip
- 4 4 serving packets instant vanilla pudding

Mix all ingredients, chill,  
serve with ginger snaps and/or Vanilla wafers



AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

## SECRETS TO BLOOMING SUCCESS

Written by Kent and Joyce Stork

There are many reasons why we love African violets, but the fact that they bloom tops the list. Very few other plants in the world can live in our homes and bloom so often with minimal care. Sometimes, however, even violets can pout and not bloom as well as we might like. There are a few “secret” methods that anyone can use to encourage better blooming.

### Secret One – Bright Light

It's not much of a secret that an African violet will bloom best in good light. Light is one of the primary factors plants need to produce the energy necessary for the production of blossoms. Violets that do not receive enough light will often reach their leaves upward or grow toward the light source.

Grown at the window, violets should be within twelve to eighteen inches from the glass. A large window is always preferable to a small one, and windows that face the east morning sun are ideal since they are both bright and cool.

If there is no perfect window, then the grower may wish to supplement the light with a fluorescent light fixture. As a general rule, the lights should be positioned about ten to twelve inches above the leaves and should be turned on for ten to twelve hours a day. Violets under any of the newer energy-efficient lights may need even less hours a day. If there is too little light, the leaves will usually reach up. If there is too much light, the leaves may bleach and lose their deep green color.

### Secret Two – Water

Buds dry off when violets are allowed to dry out completely, sometimes before the grower is even aware that they were forming. Violets thrive on slightly moist conditions, never being bone dry, never soggy wet, and especially never being left to stand in water for more than a few minutes.

Water from either the top (under the leaves) or from the bottom pretty thoroughly once a week and drain the excess water promptly. If the climate is a dry one, it helps to supplement with a bit of water halfway through the week to keep the soil from becoming too dry. Self-watering plants, wicking and capillary matting systems are also effective for maintaining even soil moisture.

### Secret Three – Humidity

Along with having even soil moisture, the buds will survive better when there is some humidity in the air. Drafty currents of dry air are especially hard on buds. Ideally the humidity should be at 40-50%.

## Secret Four – Fertilizing

Starving violets lack the energy to bloom. Many growers have the best success fertilizing once a week with a mild fertilizer designed for African violets. A balanced formula such as a 20-20-20 or one that has slightly more phosphorus, like a 15-20-15 will do well in most growing situations. Read the package! If the fertilizer gives directions for once-a-month watering (e.g., 1 teaspoon per gallon of water monthly), the formula may be adjusted by cutting the fertilizer ratio by 4 (e.g., ¼ teaspoon per gallon weekly).

## Secret Five – Potting Mix and Keeping the Roots Happy

Healthy violet roots can only grow in potting mixtures that don't inhibit their development. When violets have roots that fill the pot, they are more likely to bloom.

To encourage better root development, use a potting mix with lots of porosity (the fancy word for fluffy and full of air). A violet mix with plenty of perlite will allow air (and roots) to move freely through the particles of peat moss. A long-time good recipe for potting mix is one part each of Canadian sphagnum peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. If using a commercial African violet potting mix from the store, it is often best to mix it half and half with perlite to achieve a mix that won't pack into a heavy ball.

## Secret Six – Choose the Right Pot

Violets in nature do not grow in dirt. Instead, they are found clinging to moss-covered rocks. Growers have found that the best way to duplicate that environment is to keep them in pots that are one-third the diameter of the plant and usually not more than two or three inches deep. Violets tend to bloom when their roots become crowded. Bigger pots seem to allow the plant to expend lots of energy making roots instead of flowers.

## Secret Seven – Choose the Right Violets

Some violets are simply shy bloomers. They do not have the genetic tendency to bloom freely. Other violets not only bloom often, but the blossom stems carry more buds. Those are the

most desirable varieties! If a violet refuses to bloom after using all these tips, it probably isn't the grower who is at fault.

## Secret Eight – Threaten Them!

A gently threatened violet is often a blooming violet. The survival of the species instinct causes plants to increase photosynthesis and to try to make seed (by blooming) when there is a possibility of death. Confining roots in small pots or grooming off fading leaves and flowers will all stimulate the development of more flowers. Yet another simple trick is to tap the pot of a non-blooming violet firmly on a hard surface to disturb the roots. This minor earthquake often results in flowering within a month or two.

Last update 2020

## MEET THE MEMBER

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form or if you are so inclined write up your own story. If you did not get a copy of the form or just want to submit your story email Lynn @ [NYBLEB@aol.com](mailto:NYBLEB@aol.com)

## NEED SUPPLIES?

If you need supplies – pots, leaf support rings, perlite, vermiculite, soil, fertilizer, Marathon, charcoal, etc., please call or email Mary Lou Harden@ (813-689-8700 H 813-924-2686 C,) [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net).

## HELP!!!!!! +

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: [NYBLEB@AOL.COM](mailto:NYBLEB@AOL.COM).

Glenn Shelton manages our TWITTER account ([twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)) and is requesting members to send photos of their plants for him

to post. Send to [floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

Kathy Glenn who manages our Facebook and Instagram pages is asking members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

<mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com>

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

# Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:  
[floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

**Visit us at:**

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

**Tampa African Violet Society**



**Join us on Twitter:**

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

**VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:**

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

## JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES

**African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine 6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

**AVSA Office**

**PO Box 22417**

**Beaumont, TX 77720.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:

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

**African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy

Petal Editor

[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

Here are some photos of members  
Natural Gardens made at the workshop.





















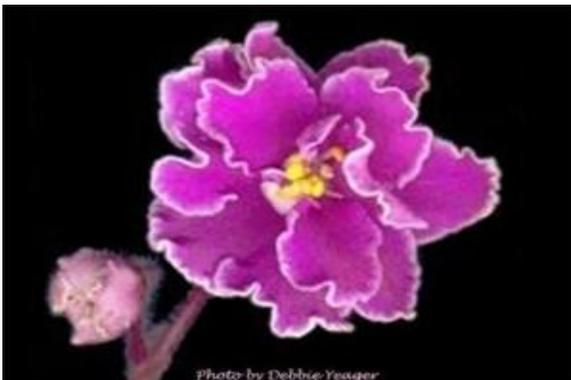


# THE PETAL

## DECEMBER 2022

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

The Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., The Dixie African Violet Society, The African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society.



SUNCOAST CHRISTMAS SPARKLER

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, TAVS members and friends,

I hope you had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving shared with family and friends. Thanksgiving is indeed a very special holiday and a time of reflection and re-evaluation. So, what's next for us?

## DECEMBER MEETINGS.

**NIGHT MEETING – Thursday, December 1, 7 pm by Zoom** – Jeanne Katzenstein of Sarasota, FL, will be introducing us to members of the Gesneriad family – probably some you've never heard of before! The Gesneriad family is large and there are many, many beautiful genera. Jeanne is a long-time member of the Gesneriad Society and has been a part of several research teams to other countries in search of new gesneriads. She is a wealth of information and we're blessed that she can join us.

**DAY MEETING – Friday, December 16, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library.** Members voted to have a pot-luck luncheon – so bring a favorite food item to share! Our program will be educational and also fun – **African Violet Bingo!** And YES, there will be plenty of nice prizes! Let's have a great turnout for this meeting.

## JANUARY MEETINGS.

### NIGHT MEETING:

We'll have a special guest presenter at our January 5 Night Meeting which will be by Zoom. Dale Martens who is well known throughout the Gesneriad world for her beautiful Streptocarpus hybrids, will share with us about her successful

hybrids, hybridizing and other secrets to success in growing and showing gesneriads.

### DAY MEETING:

Our January 20 Day Meeting will be at the Seffner-Mango Library and will be a pre-show SHOW! We want to see how your project plants are doing. So. . .bring the project plants you're growing for our February show and we'll have a mini-show. . .and yes. . .prizes will be awarded!

**SHOW PLANTS NEEDED!** With our show being just twelve weeks away, I encourage you to take a close look at your plants and give them some special TLC. Please follow the **2023**

**GROOMING SCHEDULE** which we recently provided. It tells you **WHAT** you need to do and **WHEN** you need to do it. If your plants need to be repotted, **NOW** is the time to do it! Don't wait until the last minute. And that goes for sale plants also. It's not fair to the public to sell plants that have been repotted just a few days prior to the show.

Now, we look forward to the Christmas season and opportunities to once again spend time with family and friends. I send best wishes to all our members and many other violet friends for a wonderfully blessed Christmas and New Year's! Let's all continue to pray for peace in the world! Hope to see you soon!

*Mary Lou Harden*

## 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 33584-3602

Program details for all meetings will be posted in The Petal.



**DONATIONS TO CHARITY.** As you know, TAVS asks our members to donate to a local charity during December. In the past, we've donated to Trinity Café which serves the homeless in Tampa or Feeding Tampa Bay, also serving the homeless and others in need. You can bring donations to the Day meeting or send a check made out to TAVS to:

Glenn Shelton  
7142 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave N  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

## ZOOM MEETINGS



Mary Beth Bryant/Mary Lou Harden 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!



12/11 Celia Howe  
12/25 Jim Boyer  
12/29 Amanda Mendoza



Thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy Kast who had a recent fall with hip fracture. She will be going to a rehab facility. To send a card, mail it to the home address and Jerry will take to her.

Mary Lou Harden is recovering from recent surgery, doing well and on the mend.

Bonnie Smith is in the process of moving to Independent Living.

Celia Howe is recovering after some setbacks.

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



**TAVS Annual Show and Sale**  
February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
“VIOLET INVASION”

**2023 AVSA Convention**  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>  
Atlanta, GA

**USF SPRING PLANT SALE**  
April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of November 3rd, 2022, Zoom Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 7:01 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Attending were Mary Beth Bryant, Sandi Soto, Pam VanDurme, Lisa Villabol, Anita Adlin, Angela Newell, Jim Matula, Stuart Swayze, Celeste Christman, Celia Howe, Sheryl Herold, Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden. Also attending was guest, Johnnie Berry, Atlanta, GA.

**PROGRAM:** Pam VanDurme presented a program on how to construct a dish garden.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 6, 2022, meeting were approved as published.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

The November 18 Day Meeting – 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. Program by Sandi Soto. The December 1 night meeting – Jeanne Katzenstein on Gesneriads.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society** will meet Saturday, November 19, at 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library. Guest speaker is Kathy Spissman from Tucker, GA. Kathy sells on EBay under the name MrsStrepStreps.

**African Violet Council of Florida** – Fall meeting on Saturday, November 5, at 2 pm. Guest presenter will be Joyce Stork, AVSA Past President on “Culture, Pests or Pathogen.”

**Dixie AVS** is exploring 2 possible locations for a 2023 show.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1. Glenn Shelton gave a financial overview as to the recent Plant Festival at USF.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

November Birthdays: 11/1 – Tom Schaefer; 11/19 – Glenn Shelton  
Show Schedules are now available.  
Yearbooks are available.

**SHOW & TELL:** Mary Beth showed a beautiful NOID, and Celeste showed her beautiful Live Wire.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of November 18th, 2022,  
Meeting  
Seffner-Mango Library**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 10: 16 AM followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Jim Matula

**ROLL CALL:** 10 members attending were Mary Lou Harden, Jim Matula, Sandi Soto, Celeste Christman, Jean Krauchik, Anita Adlin, Mary Beth Bryant, Glenn Shelton, Phyllis Panozzo and Lynn Bandy

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 21st,

2022, meeting were approved as published.

**PROGRAM:**

Sandi Soto presented details on when to start bloom boost feeding, light increases, and all the other little extras that will bring out the best in your African Violets.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer Glenn Shelton reported a current balance in the checking account of \$5179.90 and savings of \$3755.42. The report will be filed.

**DECEMBER MEETINGS:**

**Thursday, December 1st, 7 pm – by Zoom  
Guest Presenter:**

Jeanne Katzenstein will give us an overview of members of the Gesneriad family.

**Friday, December 16th, 10 am at Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road, Seffner**

Program is African Violet Bingo. It’s a fun way to learn all about growing African violets! Prizes will be awarded.

We will be having our annual Christmas Pot Luck so be sure to bring a dish to share.

Donations will be collected for our annual Feeding Tampa Bay donation.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**AVSA:** Our show is now listed on their website!

**TBGS:** November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting: 10am Seffner-Mango Public Library. Guest speaker will be Kathy Spissman of MrsStrepStreps, Atlanta, GA.

**DIXIE AVS:** Will be having a ZOOM meeting for all members on /Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 8:30pm EST.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Our 2023 Show:** How are your plants doing?

Angela Newell is awards chair and is requesting awards.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

We will be electing a nominating committee at our January meeting. Positions up for vote will be President, Vice President and Secretary.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** 11/1 Tom Schaefer, 11/19 Glenn Shelton.

The show schedule is available. Thanks to Sandi Soto for printing them up for us. If you would like an email copy let Mary Lou Harden know. mlhard@verizon.com.

**SHOW AND TELL:**

Glenn Shelton brought in an Emma Lee blossom and Mary Lou Harden brought in a beautiful Suncoast Lavender Silk plant.

**RAFFLE PLANTS:** Provided by Mary Lou Harden

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.

Lynn E Bandy Secretary

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Anita Adlin*

### Cucumber Sandwiches

one or two cucumbers thinly sliced

cocktail rye  
one 8oz pkg of cream cheese softened  
a generous cup of mayo  
1/2 pkg Italian Good Seasons dressing mix (dry pkg)  
Fresh dill finely chopped

Blend together cream cheese, mayo and dressing mix  
Spread mixture on rye slices,  
top with cucumber  
sprinkle lightly with dill

### Mushroom Cream Cheese Logs

1 3oz can mushroom pieces minced or can use fresh mushrooms  
1 3oz pkg cream cheese  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 pkg refrigerator crescent rolls

Drain mushrooms and mince  
blend into softened cream cheese  
add salt  
spread on crescent rolls that were divided into 4 rectangles  
roll from the long end,  
wrap and refrigerate  
when ready, cut in 1 inch pieces, bake on cookie sheet at 375 for 12 minutes  
you can bake them and then cut them if you want



NOVEMBER 21st, 2022

### INTRODUCTION TO TRAILERS

by Lisa Kampel (moderator of the [African Violet Trailers – a whole new ball game!](#) on Facebook)

Trailers may be classified as micro-miniature, miniature, semiminiature or standard according to the size of the individual leaves. The overall size of a mature trailer, regardless of its size classification, can be quite large. They are floriferous and come in most of the flower types/colors of other African violets.

Trailers have two distinct growing habits. Some trailers have short internodes or short distances between successive leaves along the stem. They produce clumping or upright growth habits. Others have long internodes and are more vining, with a sprawling growth habit.

In order for a trailer to be a show plant, it must be a single plant with no less than three crowns. Trailers are judged on form, not symmetry. The goal is to achieve a pleasing form. Try to anticipate the ultimate form of the plant and work towards that goal. Blooms should be spaced evenly around the plant from all main crowns. One crown should not have leaves noticeably different in size than the other crowns. All the crowns should be uniform in size and shape. The plant should be well groomed and in great condition, clean with no faded blooms, yellow, or marred leaves.

Trailers may be grown in different ways.

- One method keeps a trailing violet in a pot that is approximately one-third the overall diameter of the plant. This allows the plant to grow out over the sides of the pot. The crowns are often pinched out to encourage secondary growth between leaves so a pretty form develops. In this method, the main stems of the trailing growth are not allowed to come in contact with the potting mix.
- A second method of growing, called the Japanese method, is to place the plant into a broad shallow pot or tray. As the stems elongate, they are positioned/pinned to the soil. This results in a mound that extends just to the edge of the pot. Plants grown using the Japanese method can grow to be quite large.

However, no matter which method you use the

best way to produce bloom is to keep the plant pot-bound and give it plenty of light.

Grooming trailers is a necessity. All violets need to occasionally have their leaves washed and spent blossoms removed and that is also true for trailers. Grooming leaves is different for trailers. Leaves should all be the same size according to their stage of growth, but trailers tend to develop immature and off-sized leaves that need to be removed. Also marred, yellowing or old limp leaves need to be removed. You may groom with a pair of tweezers, or simply cut or pinch with your fingers.

An important grooming technique is the removal of leaves to expose center stems. This results in the growth of more dormant crowns. Removal of leaves that crowd or cover other crowns allows the crowns to grow more evenly. Another technique is staking or pinning to train or balance the growth of crowns. After removal of the leaves, small wood stakes or hairpins are used to move the crown to promote proper form.

What can be done with a plant that has minimal branching or one dominate leader? First, trim back the dominate crown. Then, thin the leaves to expose the stem to more light to encourage branching. You can also pinch out the crown to encourage the development of new crowns.

Above all, enjoy your trailer!



# Become a **MEMBER**

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member:  
[floridainorchids@gmail.com](mailto:floridainorchids@gmail.com)

**Visit us at:**

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

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## **FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

[Tampa African Violet Society](#)



**Join us on Twitter:**

[twitter.com/TAVS\\_violets](https://twitter.com/TAVS_violets)

**VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM:**

[@tampafricanviolets](#)

## **JOIN ONE OF OUR AFFILIATES**

**African Violet Society of America (AVSA).**

Membership \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine (6 issues per year)

Send contact information and check payable to AVSA to:

**AVSA Office**  
**PO Box 22417**  
**Beaumont, TX 77720.**

[www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.Africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

**Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS).** Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly color newsletter, **The Dixie News**, is \$15 per year. Send check with contact information to:  
**Johnnie Berry, Membership Chair,**  
**287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.**  
[johnniepearl@aol.com](mailto:johnniepearl@aol.com) [www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)

**African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF).**

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Information: Linda Price, President, [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

[www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

Lynn E Bandy  
Petal Editor  
[nybleb@aol.com](mailto: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.

















