

# THE PETAL

## JANUARY 2018

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



**NEW YEARS EVE**

### **A Message from the President**

I hope all of you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. Most of us celebrate the December holidays in some fashion, and it's interesting how we all celebrate them differently – ranging from the day of celebration to the hour, to the foods we prepare and how and when the gifts are given. For me, the best part of Christmas and Hanukah observances is the fact that happiness and peace rule (at least most of the time!).

We now have before us an unblemished New Year. This brings us an opportunity to do things in a better way, to make ourselves better, to make our club better and stronger, to encourage each other in our desire to grow better and more beautiful African violets, and to

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

reach out to others and share the joy of growing violets. For most of us, working with our plants is a great stress reliever!

2018 will start with a bang—not just fireworks, though. The Florida State Fair begins early in February and then our annual show is the latter part of February. I hope all of you will volunteer to help with the Fair and with our show. These are not jobs that one person can do! We need lots of help with both so if you are asked to help in a specific way, please say YES! We will need volunteers to staff our display at the Fair on a daily basis. Entry tickets will be available to those who volunteer, and we're asking each member to be at our booth a couple of hours in the morning or in the afternoon. If every member will help at least once, then no one should have to be there more than one time. We'll have a sign-up sheet at the January meetings.

If you have plants that you think "might" be good enough to enter in our show, bring them to one of the meetings and we'll take a look and give you some help.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 4 in Tampa, or Friday, January 19 in Seffner.

Mary Lou Harden

## Thank You!

Thanks to all who donated to our annual holiday project. This year's donations were sent to Trinity Café, which has been serving the homeless and hungry in Tampa for 16 years. There are 2 locations – one on Busch Boulevard and another on Nebraska Avenue. Trinity Café is a non-profit organization that provides a 3-course meal every Monday through Friday and breakfast on Saturday to the poor and working poor. It is funded through donations and government grants and relies on the support of volunteers. At least 32 volunteers are needed each day at each location. Meals are served in a restaurant-like atmosphere and guests are warmly welcomed and treated with respect. More information can be found at [Trinitycafe.org](http://Trinitycafe.org).

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for office during 2018:  
President – Mary Lou Harden  
First VP – Cece Lane  
Second VP – Jim Boyer  
Treasurer – Therese Lynam  
Recording Secretary Day – Roxanne Carney  
Recording Secretary Night – Angela Newell  
Corresponding Secretary – Cece Lane

## TAVS Show

Only 8 weeks remaining until show time! We need entries in Horticulture and Design. Please send me an email letting me know approximately how many plants you are planning (hoping!) to enter, as well as the design classes you want to enter. We need entries in both!

**WHY HAVE A SHOW?** We sponsor a show each year primarily to display our beautiful African violets and to educate the public. The people who come to our shows expect to see plants and designs like they've never seen before—new varieties, different bloom colors and types, and beautiful foliage. They are also intrigued with the entries in our Design Division.

Don't expect someone else to carry the weight! **OUR GOAL IS THAT EVERY MEMBER HAVE AT LEAST 3 ENTRIES IN THE SHOW!** If you don't have 3 entries for Horticulture, then plan to enter a design. It could be a dish garden, natural garden, terrarium or an underwater arrangement. You can prepare an entry for the Unusual or Novel Container class. And by all means, you should enter the Club's Project Plant class.

If you need encouragement or help with preparing a design entry, including one of the container garden classes, please let me know and I'll be glad to help you. Last year we had a design workshop at my home a month prior to show time and Pat Rutzke was a quick learner – her underwater arrangement took first place! You can do it, too!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/6 Lucille Chester  
1/13 Linda Baggett  
1/14 Therese Lynam  
1/25 Mary Alice Carver  
1/25 Ellen Weber



**CHAMPAGNE TASTE**

# OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

## **NIGHT MEETING –January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 PM**

**Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Mary Lou Harden

**Refreshments/Raffle Plants:** Linda Baggett, Mary Lou Harden and Elaine Onofrey

### **THE PROGRAM:**

**“Miniature plant choices for container/dish gardens”**

**To be presented by Mary Lou Harden**

Mary Lou will show us what plants are best for container and dish gardens. Get your containers and saucers ready for the show!!!

Be sure to bring any of your plants you think you may be entering for “pre-judge” advice from our experts.



## **DAY MEETING – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Jim Matula

**Refreshments/Raffle Plants:** Jim Matula, David Matthews and Lynn Bandy

### **THE PROGRAM:**

**“Final preparations for our show”**

**To be presented by Mary Lou Harden**

Mary Lou will go over final preparations for showing your plants and readying your container/dish gardens and your designs!

Be sure to bring any of your plants you think you may be entering for “pre-judge” advice from our experts.

## **Florida State Fair Planning Meeting**

There will be a meeting on Friday, January 12, at 10 am at my home in Seffner to plan our State Fair exhibit. As a reminder about our theme, here are the words to the song “What A Wonderful World,” on which our show theme is based:

I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom for me and you  
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white  
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night  
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

The colours of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky  
Are also on the faces of people going by  
I see friends shakin' hands, sayin' "How do you do?"  
They're really saying "I love you"

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself, what a wonderful world  
Oh yeah!

So, please be thinking about how we can best utilize our space and have a great display. Our space is 10'x10', with 5-foot sides and it's 8 feet high. **Our set-up time will be 10 am on Saturday, February 3. Placement of plants will be 10 am on Tuesday, February 6.** Please plan to help!

## SOIL MIXING PARTY

There will be a soil mixing party immediately after the January 19th Day Meeting at the home of Mary Lou Harden in Seffner. Please plan to help! We need soil to sell at our show and at the Spring USF Sale in April. It will take about 1 hour. Thanks for helping!

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**“TRAILERS!”**

Presented by: Cece Lane

Cece gave a demonstration of grooming and repotting trailers.



**DAY MEETING: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**THE PROGRAM:**

**“GROWING AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS”**  
A DVD presentation by Dr. William Price

Jim Boyer presented this video with LOTS of great information on trailers.

**COMING**  
**EVENTS**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Florida State Fair**

Florida State Fairgrounds  
4800 US Highway 301  
North Tampa, FL 33610

**Come see us at our booth!!!**

**February 9-10, 2018**

**African Violet Club of Ocala show and sale**  
Southeastern Livestock Pavilion,  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL 34470.  
Free admission and parking. Information: 352-351-3639.

**February 22nd-24th, 2018**

**Tampa African Violet Society Annual Show**

**WHAT A  
WONDERFUL  
WORLD**

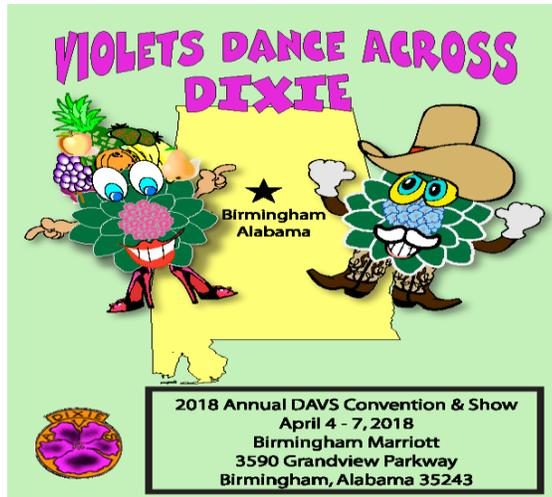
**OF VIOLETS**

Fellowship Hall  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa FL 33603

**July 3-7, 2018**  
**Gesneriad Society Convention & Show,**  
Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference  
Center, Framingham, MA.

April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

DAVS Annual Show



Birmingham Marriott  
Birmingham, AL

**AVSA JUDGING SCHOOL**  
**April 4, 2018**

Dixie will offer an AVSA Judging School at the Birmingham Convention on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, beginning at 8 am. The School is for anyone who would like to become an AVSA judge, for those who need to renew their certification, or for those who just want an informative class on growing, showing and judging African violets. Dixie's Judges' Chair, Sue Hoffmann, of Virginia Beach, VA, will teach the class. If you would like to register for the class, please email Sue at [violetsue123@outlook.com](mailto:violetsue123@outlook.com).

**May 20-27, 2018**  
**African Violet Society of America and African Violet Society of Canada Convention & Show, "African Violets CAN link US Together,"**  
Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel, Buffalo, NY.

## MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**December 7th, 2017**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:07 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Angela Newell

**GUESTS:** Dawn Newell (daughter of TAVS Club member, Angela Newell)

**REFRESHMENTS:** Christmas Party covered dish dinner – all members brought a dish to share.

**PROGRAM:** "Grooming and Repotting Demo on Trailers", presented by Cece Lane..

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the November 2, 2017, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was not available to be presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone of annual dues for:

**TAVS** –\$15.00 due in April.

**AVCF** –\$10.00 due January 1.

**AVSA** –\$35.00, and that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY.  
**DAVS** –\$15.00 due in February.  
**THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY** – \$25.00.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Members reported on how their 2018 Club Project Plants are doing so far.

Mary Lou reminded us that the theme for the 2018 TAVS Annual Show will be: “What a Wonderful World of Violets” and that the show will be held at Common Ground Church in Tampa, February 22-24, 2018.

Anita Adlin, who served as liaison between TAVS and Broward Elementary School for National Teach-In Day on November 16, 2017, along with Jean Krauchik, reported on the presentations given to the children that day and stated that it was a really nice experience, and that the children enjoyed it. It was suggested that our Club make this an annual event to participate in as a way of getting children involved in the growing of African violets.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jean Krauchik collected monetary donations from Club members present for the annual Christmas charity donation. Mary Lou Harden suggested that the Club send the donations collected to Trinity Café which serves the homeless in Tampa. The Club has sent donations to this charity for the last two years and previous to selecting Trinity Café, the Club sent Christmas donations to Metropolitan Ministries. The Club voted to send this year’s donations to Trinity Café.

Mary Lou Harden reported that the Club needs to increase its public relations efforts regarding our annual Show and its new venue. Mary Lou also stated that we need to increase our advertising efforts.

Jean Krauchik reported that there is a big plant sale taking place on December 10, 2017, at The Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo, Florida.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that:

- now is the time to look over your plants and to repot any plants that you plan to enter in our Show.
- the TAVS day meeting on December 15, 2017 will have a program on “Growing African Violet Trailers” using a DVD by Bill Price.
- TAVS needs someone to volunteer to learn how to maintain the TAVS website and keep it up-to-date. Dawn Newell offered to look over the website to determine what is involved with getting it up-to-date, with the possibility of taking over this position for the Club.
- the Club now has a Square credit card account and the Club needs someone to volunteer to learn how to use this account for our upcoming 2018 Annual Show.

Mary Lou encouraged members to visit the Club’s Facebook page, to like us, and to post a note.

**TIP OF THE DAY:** Cece Lane gave a suggestion of using hairpins for holding down plant cuttings and leaves.

**RAFFLE PLANTS** Raffle plants were provided by Mary Lou Harden. Anita Adlin also brought in leaves to share.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Day Meeting**  
**December 15th, 2017**  
**410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:20 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GUESTS:** Esther Jones, Mary Lou's sister visiting from Ohio, and Patsy Monk visiting us from Parrish, FL.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Annual Christmas Pot Luck

**PROGRAM: "GROWING AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS"**

A DVD presentation by Dr. William Price presented by Jim Boyer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 17th, 2017, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mary Lou presented the treasurer's report which will be filed.

**ROLL CALL:** Linda Bennett reported 12 members and 2 guests.

**OFFICER REPORTS:** Mary Lou reported that the program for the January 4 evening meeting will be on "Miniature plant choices for container/dish gardens" and program for the day meeting will be on Final preparations for the show.

Mary Lou suggested you bring in any plants that you think may be show worthy for a Judges 'sneak peek'.

Mary Lou reported that Jerry O'Keefe has withdrawn from his show assignments because of health issues and these duties will be taken over by Mary Lou and others.

Lynn Bandy requested members to submit member profiles, interesting articles and recipes they would like to share.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Election of officers will be in February

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Cece Lane is recovering from knee surgery, Lynne Wilson is recovering from thoracic surgery and Therese Lynam is still feeling under the weather.

Jim Boyer announced names of those who would be judging our show.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The new Yearbooks are available.

The Nominating Committee will be reporting their recommendations at the January evening meeting.

Members voted to send Christmas donations to Trinity Café.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Luetta Donalds, Maria Whidden, Celia Howe, Roxanne Carney, Jim Boyer and Elaine Onofrey.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Pat Rutzke brought in "Blue Denim" blossoms. Terry Jordan brought in a succulent "Donkeys Ears" to share.

**TIP of the day:** Patsy Monk gave us a rundown on how she procures and utilizes worm castings for her violets.

Tom Schaefer stated that he is now using Humic Acid ½ tsp in a gallon of water and also at other times Fulvic Acid and "Fish" fertilizer.

**Raffle:** Terry Jordan and Tom Schaefer

**Raffle plants and leaves:** provided by Terry Jordan and Annie Pirone. Patsy Monk provided a donation of worm castings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Secretary Pro Tem**

# RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Mary Lou Harden*

## TUT'S TOFFEE

Cover jellyroll pan with aluminum foil (one sheet – no tears or cracks).

Arrange 7 rows of saltine crackers of 5 crackers each over the foil

In microwave bowl, cook for 4 minutes or until dissolved (I usually do 4 minutes, stir, then an additional 1-2 minutes):

2 sticks butter

1 cup brown sugar (packed)

Stir to mix, then pour over crackers. May have to spoon-spread it to cover crackers.

Bake 20 minutes at 350.

Remove from oven. Immediately sprinkle over top one 12-oz pkg chocolate chips. When chips are softened, spread to cover crackers. While still warm, cover top with 1 cup medium chopped pecans.

Refrigerate or freeze until cold. Then break apart. Stores well in freezer.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy [nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com) and it will be included in the next Petal.

The day meeting group was lucky enough to have a guest; patsy monk who shared some of her expertise (and worm poop for the raffle) on worm castings for the group. As a group we all felt this would be fun to share with everyone so we asked patsy to write up an article for the newsletter and she kindly complied!!!

Thanks patsy for your article!!!!

## Vermiculture

Such an unusual word that means the acquisition of a natural product: worm poop. It is a soil conditioner, it can stabilize toxins and has beneficial microbes that reduce or even eliminate harmful fungi and bacteria in soil. Sounds too good to be true? Well, it is good and true, but more amazing, you can make it happen.

### Information that is sad but very true:

-200 pounds of kitchen scraps are thrown away by the average family each year.

-Americans produce 96 billion pounds of food waste alone in a year.

-Americans throw away 25% of the food they prepare.

Vermiculture is the process of growing worms for their poop.

Eisenia Fetida is the worm of choice for bin life. They are smaller and thinner. They eat more and, therefore, reproduce more. They stay higher in the composting bin, which makes them ideal as a composting worm.

Feeding your new soil friends can be confusing at first. Their menu includes **Greens**: vegetable/some fruit scraps (low acid), plain pasta, teabags (no metal staples) and coffee grounds with the paper filters.

**Browns**: shredded newspaper (no shiny ads), shredded cardboard, paper, paper egg cartons, dry leaves, junk mail (no plastic windows on envelopes).

Some form of **grit**: well ground up egg shells or fine sand. Worms have a gizzard, not teeth. Grit will make breaking down of food easier.

It takes several months of 'processing' to begin to utilize the castings, which is another (nicer) name for 'poop'. Castings can be put into your soil mix, used as a side dressing or as a Tea to water your plants (label it well!)

To build your own Vermiculture bin, you can do an on line search or contact your local Florida Extension office. The office in Palmetto, Manatee County, carries a 3 tray bin for \$50.00. It includes all necessary information from constructing the bin and growing worms to harvesting castings.

What convinced me this was something to do was the fact that we were frequently throwing out salad scraps, pasta, sweet potato left overs and always have newspapers for the recycle bin. We tried the outside composting but have nocturnal foragers on our property. This way, they have less access to the bin as it is in my office.

My personal experience with worm poop is limited. It includes my few African Violets which are now thriving and blooming profusely. This is something I honestly have not seen in years. Our Jaboticaba has been fed several times over the summer and is in bloom again now. (Email monkpatsy2@gmail if you want to see photos). Our orchids are sprayed with worm tea and look super.

So, I guess it is fair to ask, 'Is it great for everything?'  
I suspect not, as that would be too good to be true. Then, the following book came along just in time to help answer this question.

A good resource is **Worms Eat My Garbage** (2nd edition) by Mary Appelhof. On page 114, she discusses Chemistry and Castings. She does admit "often having a pH8 or higher, worm castings may not be suitable for acid-loving plants".

Figure 31 pg 114, is of 9 small potted African violets. "different potting media affect the health of African violets." She follows this up with a nice discussion of the experiment. Three plants

were in 100% potting soil. Three plants were in an equal mix of castings, perlite and Michigan peat. Three plants were in 100% castings. The bottom line was the plants in the equal mixture were "distinctly more vigorous, larger, greener leaves, and more robust". She goes further to discuss the findings and possible explanation of results.

It was exciting to see the plants of choice for this experiment are the ones that are near and dear to our hearts.

By far, please realize, I am not an expert in the subject. However, as a nurse, I do understand good nutrition is significantly important for people, plants and pets.

I do hope this has sparked your interest in some way.

Respectfully submitted for publication by patsy monk  
(editors note: the legal spelling of patsy's name is all lower case and not a typo on my part!)

## MEET THE MEMBER

Still waiting for the next member to fill out their Biography Interview Questions form so they can be featured right here next month. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

## 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!! +

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

# Become a MEMBER

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

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

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** [www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org](http://www.africanvioletcouncilofflorida.org)

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

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

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## FEBRUARY 2018

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LOVE POTION

### A Message from the President

2018 has indeed started off with a bang! Wow! We're just a week away from setting up at the Florida State Fair, and a scant 4 weeks before show! No time for wringing of hands . . .we'll just do what needs to be done!

Tom Schaefer, Lynn Bandy, Mary Kay Ross and I had a productive meeting to plan our display for the Fair. Several members have already signed up to help at our booth during the Fair. If you haven't selected a spot, you can sign up at the February 1 meeting or on February 3 when we set up at the Fair. There is more about the Fair elsewhere in this newsletter.

At the January Day meeting we discussed in great detail what it takes to put on a show. The

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duties of each committee were reviewed and all members were quick to volunteer when a need was discussed. For more information about our Show, be sure to read the article titled "Here's the Scoop" you'll find in this newsletter.

Since our show is at a new venue, we need everyone's help in getting the word out. Flyers are available for you to take and post on a bulletin board at your condo, at your local Walmart, laundromat, garden center, feed store or church. E-mails have been sent to all the African violet clubs and individual growers in Florida, and postcards have been mailed to everyone on our USPS list. If you have a connection with anyone in the broadcast or publisher market, please let me know or do what you can to promote our show.

The election of officers will be held at our February meeting and officers will be installed at our annual meeting in April.

I hope your plants are performing well and that every member will have at least three entries in the show. Remember that if you only have one or two entries in Horticulture, you can easily

create a beautiful dish garden or terrarium. A show doesn't happen without entries!

I look forward to seeing you at next week's meeting in Tampa!

Mary Lou Harden



If you're following our Grooming Schedule on pages 54-55 of the Yearbook, you have no doubt already noticed that Weeks 5 and 4 were

omitted! So, here is the schedule for Weeks 5 and 4:

**5 Weeks before Show .....January 14-20**

- Top Water with 12-36-27 formula (bloom booster)
- Rotate Plants
- Check symmetry, remove suckers and rearrange leaves

**4 weeks before show.....January 21-27**

- Water with Bloom Booster
- Rotate Plants
- Check symmetry, remove suckers and rearrange leaves
- Remove spent blossoms and stubs

## FLORIDA STATE FAIR

**SET-UP DAY: Saturday, February 3, at 10 am**

We need help setting up our display at the Fair on Saturday, February 3. When we have sufficient help, it takes only a couple hours to get the basic display put together. We cover the walls with large pieces of fabric, get the overhead poles fastened in, put the electrical cords in place, then lay the carpet. There'll be signage to put up as well as our education board. We also have a couple small tables to set in place and cover. The smaller table will be used for our culture folders, club information and cards for the public to use if they want information or to receive our e-newsletter.

**PLANT PLACEMENT DAY: Tuesday, February 6, at 10 am**

We need help putting the violets in the display on Tuesday, February 6. The violets will need to be unpacked and groomed. Some of the violets will be placed in baskets with decorative netting material. ALL violets must be labeled, using plant stakes. We need people to prepare and place the labels, and do whatever else is needed to make ours a lovely, attractive display.

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!** . . .one of my mother's favorite sayings. Remember: We are all part of a club and each member is important! One member can't do it all, but together we can make a difference. . .so PLEASE help us at the Fair!



## ON SHOW SET-UP

Thursday, February 22, is SHOW SET-UP DAY – and we need all hands on deck! You'll be glad to know that NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. . .YOU'LL GET ON-THE-JOB TRAINING!

**We will begin setting up the showroom at 12 Noon.** We will need as many people there as possible to help with set-up. Tom Schaefer has volunteered to assist Stage Manager David Matthews with room set-up. Together, they will make sure that everything goes smoothly and efficiently.

Here's what happens at set-up:

- The tables will be set in place. There are round tables and rectangular tables.
- All tables will be covered with skirting and a top cover.
- A curtain must be installed to separate the kitchen area from the show room.

- The Sales tables must be readied, our shelf installed, and Club supplies arranged in a pleasing way.
- The education display will be set up near the entrance.
- The focal point will be set up in the show room near the kitchen.
- The Club sale plants must be removed from boxes, priced and set on the sales tables.
- Club supplies—soil, perlite, fertilizer, pots, etc., must be priced and placed on the tables. Jim Matula is in charge of supplies for the show.
- The Entries process will be set up and entries for workers begins at 1 pm. Entries forms will be available at both February meetings as well as set-up day.

Since the entire set-up process takes a few hours, we ask everyone to please bring food for all the workers to share. Any leftovers will be refrigerated and used on Friday. We are also providing lunch at the church for the Judges so bring something for their lunch.

Regarding entries: All horticulture entries should be free of dust, dirt, perlite, etc., on the foliage. Use a soft brush to clean the leaves. All horticulture entries must be slip-potted and all plant stakes must be removed. Be sure to water your plants before entering them in the show.

- Bring completed Entries sheet with you. Be sure this is filled out in PENCIL
- If you are selling any of your entries, be sure to fill out one of the show plant sales forms.
- If you have finished entering your plants, please pitch in and help wherever needed.
- Return early Friday to check the entries – make sure each entry has a card.
- If necessary, clean the tables.
- Check to see that each design entry has an entry card AND a 3x5 card listing materials used.

So. . .plan to come and help share the load. It's always a busy time, but we have a lot of fun!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/8 Steve Whidden  
2/20 Anita Adlin



## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

### **NIGHT MEETING –February 1st, 2018 at 7 PM**

**Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Cece Lane

**Refreshments/Raffle Plants:** Cece Lane, Mary Kay Ross and Theresa Lynam

### **THE PROGRAM:**

#### **“Final Preparation for Show”**

**To be presented by Angela Newell**

Angela will be helping us with leaf cleaning, removing suckers and filling out the entry sheet (IN PENCIL)

Be sure to bring any of your plants you think you may be entering for “pre-judge” advice from our experts.

**DAY MEETING – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Jerry O’Keefe

**Refreshments/Raffle Plants:** Celia Howe, Jerry O’Keefe and Tom Schaefer

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Making a Dish Garden”**

Mary Lou will be a leading workshop on dish gardens. Be sure to bring a small saucer container and some small plants and get some help for the Expert!!!

Be sure to bring any of your plants you think you may be entering for “pre-judge” advice from our experts.



**Election of Officers**

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for office during 2018:  
President – Mary Lou Harden  
First VP – Cece Lane  
Second VP – Jim Boyer  
Treasurer – Therese Lynam  
Recording Secretary Day – Roxanne Carney  
Recording Secretary Night – Angela Newell  
Corresponding Secretary – Cece Lane

**RECENT PROGRAMS**

**NIGHT MEETING: January 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

**“Miniature plant choices for container/dish gardens”  
Presented by Mary Lou Harden**

Mary Lou showed us what plants are best for container and dish gardens.

**DAY MEETING: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Final preparations for our show”**

**Presented by Mary Lou Harden**

Mary Lou went over final preparations for showing your plants and readying your container/dish gardens and your designs!

**COMING**

**EVENTS**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**FLORIDA STATE FAIR**

Florida State Fairgrounds  
4800 US Highway 301  
North Tampa, FL 33610

**Come see us at our booth!!!**

February 9-10, 2018

## AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF OCALA

Show and sale

Southeastern Livestock Pavilion,  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL 34470.  
Free admission and parking. Information: 352-  
351-3639.

February 22nd-24th, 2018

## TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW



Fellowship Hall  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa FL 33603

### SHOW HOURS

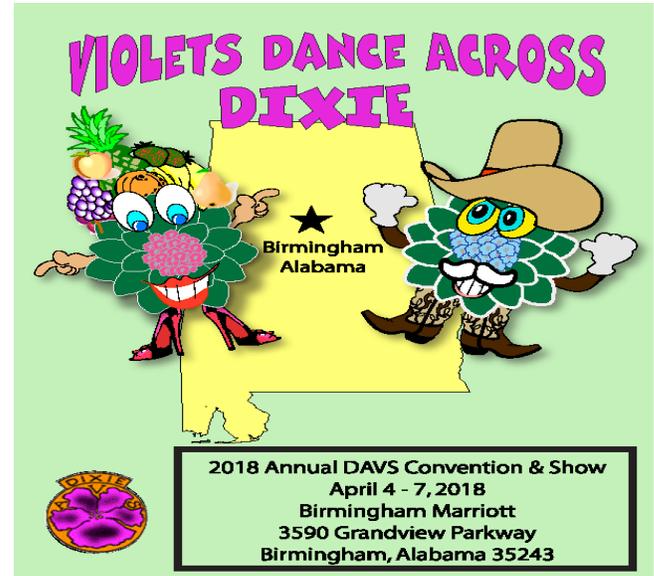
Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup> Noon to 5pm  
Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> 9am to 3pm

### PLANT SALE HOURS

Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am to 5pm  
Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> 9am to 3pm

April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## DAVS ANNUAL SHOW



April 4, 2018

## AVSA JUDGING SCHOOL

Dixie will offer an AVSA Judging School at the Birmingham Convention on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, beginning at 8 am. The School is for anyone who would like to become an AVSA judge, for those who need to renew their certification, or for those who just want an informative class on growing, showing and judging African violets. Dixie's Judges' Chair, Sue Hoffmann, of Virginia Beach, VA, will teach the class. If you would like to register for the class, please email Sue at [violetsue123@outlook.com](mailto:violetsue123@outlook.com).

May 20-27, 2018

## AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

Convention & Show, "African Violets CAN  
link US Together"

Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel, Buffalo, NY.

July 3-7, 2018

## **GESNERIAD SOCIETY**

**Convention & Show,**  
Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference  
Center, Framingham, MA.

# **MEETING MINUTES**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Mary Lou Harden

**REFRESHMENTS:** Linda Baggett, Mary Lou Harden, Elaine Onofrey

**PROGRAM:** Mary Lou gave a presentation on dish gardens. She used a large plant to start and used other plants with different textures and coloring. Plant bark was used to separate areas. Second plant is smaller than the first and ferns add a nice mixture. She suggested using plants with different types of foliage and including a piece of wood and mondo grass to look like a natural scene. She also suggested making the dish garden in advance so you can observe it from day to day to see if you want to change anything. Use a miniature African violet for your dish garden and, if necessary, remove leaves to make sure it is the right size. Fern can be placed in front of larger plants to fill in empty spaces. When all the plants are placed, cover the soil with sheet moss to give your garden a finished look. You can use a mirror at the lowest point of your garden to make a little pond. Mary Lou sometimes covers the mirror with plastic wrap and sprinkles with water to

make it look real. She encouraged members to gather all the necessary materials – then just get in there and do it!!!

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the December 7th, 2017, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was not available to be presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone of annual dues for:

**TAVS** –\$15.00 due in April.

**AVCF** –\$10.00 due January 1.

**AVSA** –\$35.00, and that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY.

**DAVS** –\$15.00 due in February.

**THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY** – \$25.00.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou encouraged everyone to enter their project plant in the show. Awards will be given for the best project plant and best novice project plant – and since there are a standard and a miniature project plant, there were be a total of 4 awards for the project plant this year

**2018 Show- What a wonderful world of Violets.** Mary Lou is show chair. The show will be held at Common Ground Church in Tampa February 22-24. Set-up will be Thursday, February 22 beginning at Noon. Members were asked to sign up for helping at the show and also for donating awards.

The president thanked members for their generous donations to our charity-Trinity Café

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Members agreed that we should send post cards to those on our mail list because of change of venue. Members were asked to spread the word about our show.

**Florida State Fair – February 7-18.** There will be a planning meeting for our booth at the Fair at Mary Lou's home on Friday January 12 at 10am. Brenda Gregory from the Fair reports that our display will be in the same area at the Fair as last year. Set-up day is Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 12 noon

Mary Lou reported we have leftover decorations from the AVSA convention. Members agreed that they should be donated to a school or perhaps to a Children's Home.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Members who have been ill or had surgery: Cece Lane is having further procedures, Charles Fisher, Betty Wise, Susan Buys, and Therese who had hernia surgery today.

January Birthdays: Lucille Chester, Linda Baggett, Therese Lynam, Mary Alice Caver, Ellen Weber.

January 19th day meeting - Final Preparations for Show by Show Chair

February 1 Night meeting - Final Preparations for Show by Angela Newell

TAVS website: Angela's daughter Dawn is looking to see whether she might be able to update the website.

We now have a Square credit card account-need someone to learn this for the show

**SHOW AND TELL:** Nancy Kast showed a beautiful plant Sinningia Anne Crowell.

Jerry Kast brought Blueberry Kisses by Lyndon Lyons

Anita Adlin brought Episcia Acajou  
Mary Lou showed Edge of Darkness and Libra

**RAFFLE**

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

**Jean Krauchik, Secretary Pro Tem**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of Day Meeting  
December 15th, 2017  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:12 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Jim Matula

**GUESTS:** Liz Taylor and Barbara Binford

**REFRESHMENTS:** Jim Matula, Lynn Bandy and David Matthews

**PROGRAM: “Final preparations for our show” presented by Mary Lou Harden.**

Mary Lou went over final preparations for showing your plants and readying your container/dish gardens and your designs!

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 15, 2017, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Mary Lou presented the treasurer’s report which will be filed.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn Bandy

**OFFICER REPORTS:** Mary Lou reported that Jerry O’Keefe has withdrawn from his show assignments because of health issues and these duties will be taken over by Mary Lou and others.

Therese Lynam and Lynn Bandy are committee chairs for entries.

Jim Boyer is chair for Classification.

Jean Krauchik is chair for plant placement and Glenn Shelton is chair for final plant placement

Davis Matthews is staging chair and Tom Schaefer has agreed to assist him in this role Jim Boyer is chair for Judges and clerks. Roxanne Carney is chair for plant sales and Angela Grundhoff is chair for show plant sales Mary Lou and Lynn Bandy are chairs for Publicity. Mary Lou has printed flyers, contacted multiple publications and sent out postcards promoting the show.

Therese Lynam is chair for awards, please contact her if you would like to contribute any money or items for awards.

Cece Lane and Mary Kay Ross are Education chairs

Barbara Lopez is the chairperson for the Hospitality committee. Members were asked to sign up to bring kitchen supplies for the show. EVERYONE is asked to please help with setup, bring food for the event, including the Judges' lunch, and clean up.

Mary Lou suggested you bring in any plants that you think may be show worthy for a Judges 'sneak peek'.

Lynn Bandy requested members to submit member profiles, interesting articles and recipes they would like to share.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Election of Officers:** will be at the February meetings. The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for office during 2018:  
President – Mary Lou Harden  
First VP – Cece Lane  
Second VP – Jim Boyer  
Treasurer – Therese Lynam  
Recording Secretary Day – Roxanne Carney  
Recording Secretary Night – Angela Newell  
Corresponding Secretary – Cece Lane

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mary Lou announced that the upcoming evening meeting on Final Preparations for show will be presented by Angela Newell and the day meeting will be a dish/container garden workshop to be presented by Mary Lou. Be sure to bring your containers and small plants for the workshop, miniature violets will be available for purchase at the show set up. Also bring any "Prospective" entries for pre-show evaluation.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The new Yearbooks are available.

Members voted to send a donation to AVSA in memory of John Cook of Cape Cod Violetry.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Lucille Chester, Linda Baggett, Therese Lynam, Mary Alice Carver, Ellen Weber

**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Lou brought in her Pink Watercolor and showed us how to remove some spent blossoms.

Mary Lou also brought in this month's AVSA magazine which showcases one of Angela Newell's entries and one of Mary Lou's design entries at the AVSA convention, as well as other Florida violet growers.

**TIP of the day:**

Tom Schaefer stated that he is still using Humic Acid ½ tsp in a gallon of water and reports floriferous blooming of his plants in his Family room.

Jim Boyer presented us with multiple ways to transport your plants to show.

First: don't use newspapers, this leaves lint on your leaves. Instead use rolled/bunched up plastic grocery bags, rolled towels, cereal boxes with an X cut into them to set your plants in and rubberized shelf liner to keep them from sliding. David Matthews says he uses apple crates.

Jim Boyer stated he has used a mixture of coffee grounds, Hydrogen Peroxide and water to control powdery mildew. He has agreed to write an article explaining the process for the next Petal.

**Raffle:** Tom Schaefer

**Raffle plants and leaves:** provided by Terry Jordan and Annie Pirone. Many thanks to them from Lynn Bandy and Jim Matula!!!!

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Secretary Pro Tem**

## MEET THE MEMBER

Still waiting for the next member to fill out their Biography Interview Questions form so they can be featured right here next month. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Jim Matula*

### Jim's Hearty Tortellini Soup

2 cloves garlic, crushed  
1 Tablespoon butter  
2 (13 1/2 fluid oz) cans Chicken broth  
1 8oz package fresh or frozen tortellini  
1 10oz package fresh or frozen spinach,  
thawed  
1 16oz can tomatoes drained and coarsely  
chopped  
Grated Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan, over medium heat, cook garlic in butter for 2-3 minutes. Add broth and tortellini, heat to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer for 10 minutes. Add spinach and tomatoes, simmer 5 minutes more. Serve topped with cheese

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy [nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com) and it will be included in the next Petal.

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

### 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!! +

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

# Become a MEMBER

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

**Visit us at:**

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

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**

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

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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.



**VALENTINE TRAIL**

# THE PETAL

## MARCH 2018

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



**IRISH CASTLES**

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

### **A Message from the President**

Hello, Violet Friends,

**WE DID IT. . .AND IT WAS A SUCCESS!**  
Thanks to every member who helped us with our show! As you know, it's a big undertaking – it doesn't happen by chance. We spend lots of time preparing for the show, transporting all of our properties to the venue, getting the show room arranged, tables covered and skirted, exhibits classified and entered and the exhibits then placed in their proper sections and classes. It takes time and it requires members working together to put on a successful show.

Thanks to all of you who brought food to share! Each of you deserves a Special Award Ribbon because we had plenty of food and it was ALL very good!

We need to say a special thank you to Barbara Lopez for heading up the food and kitchen crew! Barbara was there early and stayed late, getting the food organized and making sure we had all the eating utensils necessary and doing a lot of clean-up.

David Mathews and Tom Schaefer designed the arrangement and set up of the show room. Others helped with covering and skirting the tables. Cece Lane and Mary Kay Ross designed the education tables. Mary Lou designed the focal point and several others helped setting it up.

Jim Matula handled sale of supplies; Angela Newell took credit card sales; Lynn Bandy, Jim Matula and Angela handled the cash register. Jerry and Nancy Kast, Barbara Matthews, Glenn Shelton, Bonnie Smith, Terry Jordan and Annie Pirone helped with plant sales, as did others from time to time, and Terry and Annie demonstrated how to separate plantlets from the mother leaf.

Several members were "Jack of all trades" and helped wherever and whenever needed -- Celia Howe, Jean Krauchik, Linda Bennett, Robert

Cameron, Pat Rutzke, Kathy Glenn, Lisa Villabol and Angelina Grundhoff. Angelina also handled sale of show plants and Robert assisted with staging and properties.

Jim Boyer was Judges' Chair and Terry Jordan and Jean Krauchik served as Judges' clerks.

Therese Lynam, along with husband Lee and daughter Angel, transported some of our supplies and got us ready for plant sales.

Special thanks to Tom Schaefer who picked up our big containers full of supplies from Mixon Ink and also returned the supplies to Mixon where they are stored. . .and to Linda Bennett who transported all the club supplies to and from the venue.

And that's just covering our show. The two weeks prior, we were fully engaged in producing a beautiful display at the Florida State Fair, in which we placed 4<sup>th</sup>! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Fair, from set-up to spending some time at our booth, to dismantling the display.

Now it's time to take a breather! Next on our agenda is the Dixie AVS annual convention and show in Birmingham, AL, in early April, the Spring meeting of the African Violet Council of Florida which is being planned for early May, and the AVSA annual convention and show in Buffalo, NY, in late May.

Hope to see you at our meeting on Thursday in Tampa when the show awards will be presented.

Mary Lou Harden

## A Message from the Vice President

Well, we made it thru another one & it turned out GREAT!!!!

A lot of uncertainties with the new venue & some difficulties - not the least of which was that \$\$\$@\*&\*\*\* computer & printer.

I need some help. When you have a few minutes jot down a few ideas that you may have that might improve our efficiency & email

them to me. I will compile a list & before next year's show we will attempt to correct them. Some issues (filling out the entry sheet correctly, i.e.) will be addressed in our meetings just before the show. For my own part I've printed out the complete instructions (60 pages) for entries & will LEARN the \*&^\$@ @% thing.

Let me hear from you.  
KING JAMES so orders.

## THE SECRET IS OUT!

Now we know the names of the 2018 Project Plants! The miniature is Jolly Orchid and the standard is a Russian/Ukraine variety, Vat Light in the Night. Both are beautiful plants and we hope to see both of them again in next year's show!



## AND THE WINNERS ARE

**Best in show:** Wrangler's Dixie Celebration- Glenn Shelton

**Second best in show:** Cajun's Freckled Face Kid- Glenn Shelton

**AVSA Standard Collection:**

**First/Gold-** Glenn Shelton

Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Cajun's Freckled Face Kid and Silverglade Dolls

**Second/Purple-** Angela Newell

**Best Standard:** Wrangler's Dixie Celebration- Glenn Shelton

**Best Miniature:** Jolly Fun- Jim Matula

**Best Semi-miniature:** Jolly Dear- Angela Newell

**Best Trailer:** Rob's Humpty Doo- Jerry Kast

**Best Novice:** Frozen in Time- Kathy Glenn

**Best Gesneriad:** Drako- Terry Jordan

**Best Vintage:** Tommie Lou- Barbara Matthews

**Best Variegata:** Buckeye New Dawn- Angela Newell

**Best Chimera:** Yokuko- Angela Newell

**Best Project Plant, Novice:** Standard: Kathy Glenn

**Best Project Plant, Seasoned Grower: Mini:**  
 Angela Newell  
**Best Strep:** Terry Jordan  
**Best Epesia:** Robert Cameron  
**Best Design:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Best Design: Novice:** Celia Howe  
**Interpretive Plant:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Interpretive flower:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Natural Garden:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Terrarium:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Dish Garden:** Celia Howe  
**Container:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Design Sweeps:** Mary Lou Harden  
**Horticulture sweeps: TIE-** Glenn Shelton and  
 Terry Jordan

To be presented by Awards Chair Therese  
 Lynam

**DAY MEETING – March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10 AM**  
**Public Meeting Room**  
**Seffner-Mango Library**  
**410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Jerry O’Keefe

**Refreshments/Raffle Plants:** Jerry O’Keefe,  
 Roxanne Carney and Mary Lou Harden

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Decorating With Violets**  
**To be presented by: Mary Kay Ross”**

Mary Kay will be highlighting interesting and  
 unique ways to decorate with your violets

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following have been elected to serve as  
 officers in 2018-2019. Installation will be in  
 April.

- President – Mary Lou Harden
- First VP – Cece Lane
- Second VP – Jim Boyer
- Treasurer – Therese Lynam
- Recording Secretary Day – Roxanne Carney
- Recording Secretary Night – Angela Newell
- Corresponding Secretary – Cece Lane

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

3/7 Betty Wise  
 3/7 Ellie Wenzke  
 3/13 Paulette Kautz



**OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Meetings are held twice a month the first  
 Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us,  
 visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

**NIGHT MEETING –March 1st, 2018 at  
 7 PM**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Anita Adlin

**Refreshments/Raffle Plants:** Anita Adlin,  
 Angela Newell and Nancy Kast

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Presentation of Show Awards”**

**RECENT PROGRAMS**

**NIGHT MEETING: January 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

**“Final Preparation for Show”**  
**To be presented by Angela Newell**

Angela helped us with leaf cleaning, removing  
 suckers and filling out the entry sheet (IN  
 PENCIL)

**DAY MEETING: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**THE PROGRAM:**

““Making a Dish Garden”

Mary Lou led a workshop on dish gardens.

**May 20-27, 2018**

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA**

**Convention & Show, "African Violets CAN link US Together”**

Adam’s Mark Buffalo Hotel, Buffalo, NY.  
**July 3-7, 2018**

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY**

**Convention & Show,**

Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**

**Minutes of Evening Meeting**

**February 1st, 2018**

**Common Ground Christian Church**

**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:08 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Cece Lane

**REFRESHMENTS:** Cece Lane, Mary Kay Ross and Therese Lynam

Mary Lou Harden asked for members present at tonight’s meeting to stuff Welcome Bags with handouts and other items, which will be distributed to the public at the TAVS Annual Show on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

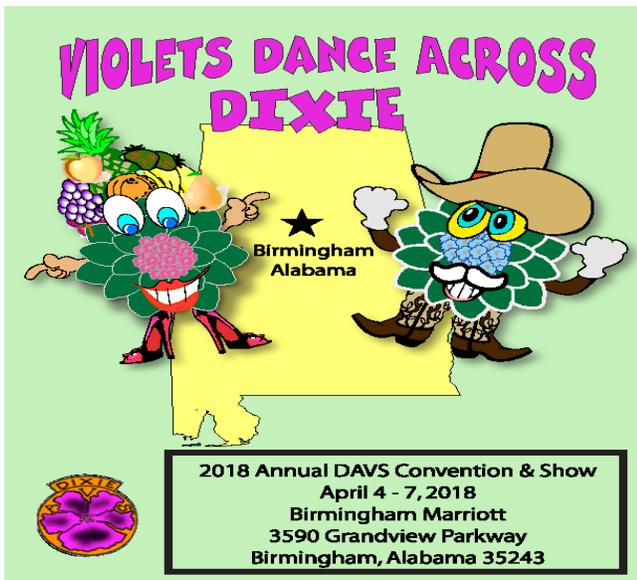
**PROGRAM:** “Final Preparation for Show: Leaf Cleaning, Removing Suckers, and Filling Out Entry Sheet (A Discussion and Demonstration)”, presented by Angela Newell.

**COMING**

**EVENTS**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**DAVS ANNUAL SHOW**



Mary Lou Harden distributed copies of the 2018 Show Exhibitor's Form to members present to fill out for their Show plant entries. Mary Lou Harden also asked members present to let her know how many plant or design entries they will have for the Show so that she will have an idea of how many tables to have set-up for the Show.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the January 4th, 2018, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was not available to be presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone of annual dues for:

**TAVS** –\$15.00 due in April.

**AVCF** –\$10.00 due January 1.

**AVSA** –\$35.00, and that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY.

**DAVS** –\$15.00 due in February.

**THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY** – \$25.00.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mary Lou Harden presented the Nominating Committee Report for 2018-2019 Officers:

President – Mary Lou Harden  
First Vice President – Cece Lane  
Second Vice President – Jim Boyer  
Treasurer – Therese Lynam  
Recording Secretary/Night – Angela Newell  
Recording Secretary/Day – Roxanne Carney

Kathy Glenn motioned to accept the Nominating Committee Report and Terry Jordan seconded the motion. The motion was approved to elect the Officers as presented by the Nominating Committee.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that the Florida State Fair is February 7-18, 2018 and TAVS will be participating in this event with a booth. Set-up is Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 10:00AM. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to help staff our booth at the Fair. Mary Lou Harden will have Fair entry tickets for members working our booth, but you need to let Mary Lou know that you need an entry ticket.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden opened the floor for a general discussion about the upcoming 2018 TAVS Annual Show, "What a Wonderful World of Violets", February 22-24, 2018, at Common Ground Church in Tampa. Mary Lou requested that each member bring a food item to donate to the Show on Friday (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) or Saturday (February 24<sup>th</sup>) for Show Judges and Show workers.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Angela Newell reported that her daughter, Dawn Newell, is willing to take over the position of maintaining the TAVS website for the Club.

Angela Newell volunteered to take on the position of learning to use the TAVS Square credit card account for our upcoming 2018 Annual Show.

Mary Lou Harden reported that the February 16, 2018 TAVS Day Meeting will have their election of Officers for 2018-2019. The Program will be on "Making a Dish Garden" to be presented by Mary Lou Harden.

Mary Lou Harden reported that Show awards will be presented at the March 1, 2018, TAVS Night Meeting,

Mary Lou Harden encouraged members to visit the Club's Facebook page, to like us, and to post a note.

**RAFFLE:** Raffle plants were provided by Mary Lou Harden. Anita Adlin also brought in leaves to share.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of Day Meeting  
February 16th  
, 2017  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:20 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATION:** Celia Howe

**GUESTS:** Kathy Kessler

**REFRESHMENTS:** Celia Howe, and Tom Schaefer

**PROGRAM:** "Making a Dish Garden"

Mary led a workshop on dish gardens.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the January 19th, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was not available to be presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn Bandy

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mary Lou announced that our booth placed fourth and our neighbors the Gesneriad Society placed second!!

Set up for the show will be at 12N, any and all are encouraged to come and help out.

We will need Pot Luck for both days as this year we will be feeding the judges in house instead of taking them out.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**BIRTHDAYS:** Lucille Chester, Linda Baggett, Therese Lynam, Mary Alice Carver, Ellen Weber

**Raffle:** Jim Boyer

**Raffle plants and leaves:** provided by Terry Jordan and Annie Pirone.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Secretary Pro Tem**

## **MEET THE MEMBER**

**This month's member profile is from Lisa Villabol**

**Early Childhood**

Where were you born?  
Dobbs Ferry New York

Any particular childhood memories?  
1964 World's Fair

Who was the most influential person to you as a child?  
My Father

Did you have any pets? What kind?  
Yes: cats mostly

What did you do during the summertime?  
Summer Camp

Did you have any nicknames?  
No

### **Grade School/High School**

What was your favorite subject?  
History

What was your favorite sport?  
Swimming

How would you describe yourself as a student,  
both socially and academically?  
Overcoming the shock of moving from an all-  
girls school to a regular coed high school

What extracurricular activities did you  
participate in as a teen?  
Drama Club

What was your favorite music/band/dance in  
high school?  
The Rolling Stones and David Bowie

12. What would people you know find surprising  
about you as a teen?

### **College**

Did you attend college? Yes  
Where? HCC

What subject(s) did you study and why?  
Liberal Arts

Did you get a degree? Yes

In what? AA in Liberal Arts

### **Career**

Describe your work career – jobs.  
Sales. US Navy and Department of VA

### **Family**

Do you have children? No

### **African violets – Plants**

When and how did you become interested in  
growing African violets?  
As a Child my Grandmother liked them

How many violets do you have?  
20 plus

What do you love the most about growing  
African violets?  
Their beauty

Do you grow any other types of plants?  
Peace Lily indoors and herbs and flowers  
outdoors

What do you like to do in your spare time?  
Gardening, reading, crafts and movies.

Thanks Lisa!!!!

Still waiting for the next member to fill out their  
Biography Interview Questions form so they can  
be featured right here next month. If you did not  
get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email  
Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send  
one to you!!!!



**IRISH LASSIE**

# RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by King James*

CREAMY SAUSAGE STEW (Therese)  
10-12 Servings (about 1 1/2 cups each)

10-12 small to medium red potatoes, cut into quarters  
1 large sweet onion, cut into eighths  
1 large green pepper, cut into 1" pieces  
1 large sweet red pepper, cut into 1" pieces  
2 packages smoked Polish sausage (26 oz), cut into 1" slices  
1/3 cup veggie oil  
1 tablespoon basil pesto or dried basil  
2 teaspoons salt  
1 teaspoon pepper  
1 pint heavy whipping cream  
3 tablespoons cornstarch  
3 tablespoons water

Preheat oven to 350F.

Place potatoes in a 5 qt roasting pan. Add onions, peppers and sausage; toss gently. Combine oil, basil, salt and pepper. Pour over the meat and vegetables; toss well.

Cover and bake 45 minutes; stir. Add the cream; cover and bake 30-40 minutes longer or until potatoes are tender. May need additional liquid (1/2 & 1/2).

Combine cornstarch and water; stir into stew. Place on stovetop and bring to a boil, stirring constantly until thickened.

NOTES: 6-23-13 Added 1 link of mild Italian & 1 of linguica (a mild Portuguese sausage). Don't

think it improved the stew. Cut the potatoes into quarters next time. Use a very large red pepper or 2 small ones. Had to use a large casserole dish & transferred to a pot at the end. 2-25-16 Used combo of new potatoes, Yukon Golds & russets. Worked fine. Kielbasa works best. 7-30-16 Used the small stock pot. Took a LOT longer to roast the veggies. Put on baking sheet & cover. Add to pot with cream. 2-20-18 Added leftover fresh mushrooms & green onions. Worked fine.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy [nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com) and it will be included in the next Petal.

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

## 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!!



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

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)

# Become a **MEMBER**

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

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

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

**Visit us at:**

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

## **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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**

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

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.



**IRISH ANGEL**

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*Here are some photos from the design category from Mary Lou Harden*



**DUBLIN IRELAND**



**QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA**



**BEIJING CHINA**

# THE PETAL

## APRIL 2018

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



**SPRING CARDINAL**

### **A Message from the President**

Hello, Violet Friends,

Happy Anniversary, TAVS! April 2018 marks Tampa African Violet Society's 48-year Anniversary! We may be the oldest African violet club in the State of Florida! We can say with certainty that we continue to be one of the largest and finest clubs in Florida. We've been successful not only because we are all about growing and showing the world's favorite flowering houseplant, but also because our members step up to the plate when there's work to be done and we enjoy getting together each month to learn more about our wonderful hobby.

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

We've just made it through another busy season. We enjoyed a successful State Fair display as well as our annual show. Next on the agenda is the Spring Plant Festival at the USF Botanical Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15. I hope you will volunteer to help with this event.

In the meantime, the Dixie African Violet Society will host its annual show and convention in Birmingham, Alabama, April 4-7. Lynne Wilson is president of Dixie and several from our club will be attending.

At both of our April meetings, members should bring a dish to share. At the night meeting on April 5, we'll learn how to convert China cups into decorative containers for African violets. At the day meeting on April 20, we'll be given tips on different ways to use African violets in decorating your home for a special occasion or even for a wedding.

Thanks to Terry Jordan for supplying our 2019 project plants. They'll be available soon.

Hope to see you at one of the April meetings!  
Mary Lou Harden

## A Message from the Vice President

Still asking for some help!  
When you have a few minutes jot down a few ideas, or suggestions that you may have that might improve our show for next year and either email them to me or bring them to the meetings. I am compiling a list and will share with the group at our monthly meetings. Hopefully this will aid us in having our next show run smoothly.

Let me hear from you.  
KING JAMES so orders.  
[Jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:Jasb39@gmail.com)

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

**NIGHT MEETING –April 5th, 2018 at 7 PM**  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

**Inspirational:** Mary Kay Ross

**Refreshments:** Anniversary Pot Luck

### THE PROGRAM:

#### Fancy That!

Therese Lynam will be showing us decorative containers for African Violets and demonstrating how to drill holes in teacups

Presidents Annual Message  
Historians report

Installation of Officers

**DAY MEETING – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10 AM**  
Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

**Inspirational:** Jim Boyer

**Refreshments;** Anniversary Pot Luck

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Decorating With Violets  
To be presented by: Mary Kay Ross”**

Mary Kay will be highlighting interesting and unique ways to decorate with your violets

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: March 1st, 2018**

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Presentation of Show Awards”**

**Presented by Awards Chair Therese Lynam**

**DAY MEETING: March 16th, 2018**

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Growing Gesneriads for Flowers”  
Presented by Glenn Shelton**

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

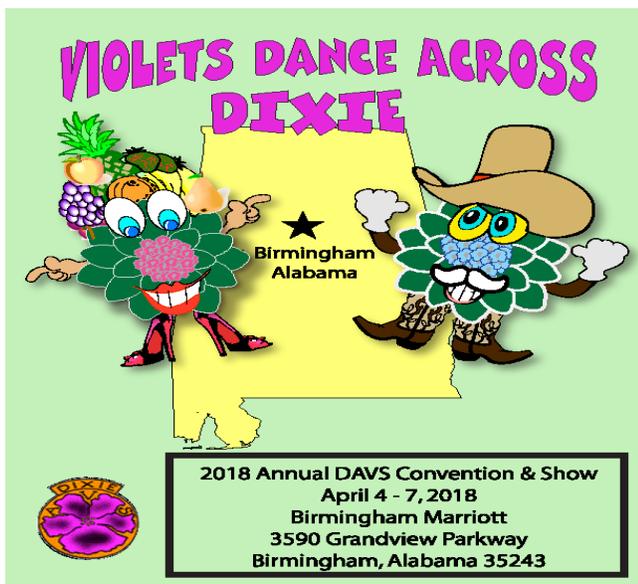
4/3 Angela Newell  
4/4 Jim Matula  
4/9 Mary Lou Harden  
4/11 Terry Jordan  
4/17 Lynn Bandy  
4/23 Virginia Barthelemy



# COMING EVENTS

April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## DAVS ANNUAL SHOW



April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

## USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

The Spring plant sale at USF is Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15. If you're bringing plants to sell, you should arrive between 7 am and 8:30 am. All vehicles must be out of the gardens by 9 am. We need volunteers. . especially on Saturday morning. That's when we have the heaviest traffic and we need members there to help people select plants and supplies, answer questions, hand out flyers, and help with the check-out process. We will have culture folders available, business cards,

and membership applications. You don't have to know everything there is to know about the club or the plants – you can always refer customers to the people who will have the answers.

Set-up will be on Thursday, April 12, about 12:30 pm. The more help we have at set-up, the less time it takes – usually an hour to 1-1/2 hours.

We also need members to bring their sale plants which should have been already priced.

So please come and help! And thanks for volunteering!

May 12, 2018

## African Violet Council of Florida Spring meeting and luncheon

The Ivy House Restaurant  
106 NW Main St.  
Williston, FL 32696

May 20-27, 2018

## AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA Convention & Show, "African Violets CAN link US Together"

Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel, Buffalo, NY.

July 3-7, 2018

## GESNERIAD SOCIETY Convention & Show,

Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA.

# MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**March 1st, 2018**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lou Harden, at 7:09 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Anita Adlin

**REFRESHMENTS:** Anita Adlin, Angela Newell and daughter Dawn Newell, Nancy Kast, and Jean Krauchik.

**GUESTS:** Cathy Kessler was a visitor at tonight's meeting. Susan Stringfellow, who is a member but has been away for awhile, is back now and attended tonight's meeting.

**PRESENTATION OF SHOW AWARDS:** Mary Lou Harden

**PROGRAM:** "How to Fix an Unruly, Terribly Neglected African Violet", presented by Mary Lou Harden. (Mary Lou demonstrated her technique by breaking down a bedraggled Spanish Moss African violet plant to restart it, and members took home leaf cuttings from the plant.)

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the February 1st, 2018, night meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was not available to be presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that the annual dues for TAVS are \$15.00 and will be due next month (in April).

**AVCF:** Mary Lou Harden reported that the annual dues to join AVCF are \$10.00. The Spring Meeting for the AVCF will be May 12, 2018 in Ocala, Florida. There will be also be a Fall meeting with a Show, possibly also in Ocala.

**AVSA:** Mary Lou Harden reported that the annual dues for AVSA are \$35.00, and that the 2018 AVSA Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY. Mary Lou Harden encourages every TAVS member to be a member of the AVSA.

**DAVS:** Mary Lou Harden reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00 and are due in February of each year. The DAVS Annual Convention will be held April 4-April 7, 2018 in Birmingham, Alabama.

**THE GESNERIAD SOCIETY –** Nancy Kast reported that the Gesneriad Society Annual Convention will be in Framingham, Massachusetts, July 3-July 7, 2018. Nancy reported that some wonderful trips have been planned this year for the Gesneriad Society Convention.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that the TAVS Florida State Fair booth was successful.

Mary Lou Harden asked for comments and suggestions from members regarding the 2018 TAVS Annual Show. Comments and suggestions that were made by members included:

- Mary Lou Harden and Jim Boyer made the Annual Show happen.
- We need to better educate members before the next Annual Show on filling out their own Exhibitor Entry Sheets

before bringing their plants to be entered into the Show.

- We need more member plants to sell at the Annual Show. Everybody needs to contribute by growing and selling member-grown plants as these are what visitors to the Show Sales area want to purchase. There were very few member-grown plants for sale this year.
- We need better lighting in the Show room.
- We need a different table set-up in the Show room. Use of the round tables was confusing and difficult to follow the flow of the Show Schedule. It was suggested to use rectangular tables instead next year and not to use the round tables.
- More help is needed by members overall with Annual Show from set-up to clean-up.
- More help in the Sales room area is needed, including helping with operating the cash register.
- A suggestion was made to place a TAVS Newsletter Sign-Up Sheet at the cash register for visitors to provide their contact information in order to send the monthly newsletters and notifications of our Annual Show to visitors.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden opened the floor for a general discussion about the upcoming 2018 TAVS Annual Show, "What a Wonderful World of Violets", February 22-24, 2018, at Common Ground Church in Tampa. Mary Lou requested that each member bring a food item to donate to the Show on Friday (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) or Saturday (February 24<sup>th</sup>) for Show Judges and Show workers.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The TAVS March day meeting will be held on March 16, 2018, and Mary Kay Ross will give a presentation on "Decorating with Violets".

The TAVS April night meeting will be held on April 5, 2018 and will be our TAVS Annual Anniversary Meeting. Each member should bring a covered dish to share. The program will be presented by Therese Lynam, although Cece Lane may cover this program for Therese. The program will be on "Fancy That – How to Drill Holes in China Cups and Decorative Containers".

Mary Lou Harden reported that she will not be in attendance at the TAVS April 5<sup>th</sup> night meeting as she will be attending the DAVS Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mary Lou Harden reported that Angela Newell has agreed to take over responsibility for the TAVS Square credit card account.

Mary Lou Harden reported that Dawn Newell, Angela Newell's daughter, has agreed to take over responsibility for the TAVS website.

Kathy Glenn volunteered to take over responsibility for the TAVS Facebook account.

#### **TIPS:**

Jim Boyer stated that Spanish Moss, which was the African violet plant that Mary Lou Harden used in her presentation and demonstration tonight, is a good vintage plant to grow, and could possibly be a best standard show plant for next year's Annual Show.

Kathy Glenn made the suggestion to remember to label your plants when you transplant them and don't forget to do this, because you won't remember the names later on.

#### **SHOW AND TELL:**

Lisa Villabol brought in an African violet that she had obtained earlier as a raffle plant. The plant didn't have a name and she requested help from members at tonight's meeting in

trying to identify the plant. Several members thought it might be an Optimara African violet and it was suggested that Lisa visit the Optimara website to try and identify the plant from pictures on the Optimara website.

Jerry Kast brought in Ness' Crinkle Blue, a semi-miniature and Bellonia Spinosa.

**RAFFLE:** Raffle plants were provided by Mary Lou Harden and Jerry Kast. Anita Adlin also brought in leaves to share

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of Day Meeting  
March 20th, 2017  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:15 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GUESTS:** Carolee Carter

**REFRESHMENTS:** Mary Lou Harden, Linda Bennett, Bonnie Smith and Therese Lynam

**PROGRAM: "Growing Gesneriads for Flowers"**

Glenn Shelton gave us an overview of the different types of Gesneriads and how to grow them.

Glenn says they are very easy to root and if you want your plants to have larger center leaves be sure to pick off errant stollens.

Glenn brought in some very beautiful and very "Happy" examples, some of which were award winners for his late wife Barbara.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mary Lou Harden and will be filed with the minutes.

**ROLL CALL:** Mary Lou Harden

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Jim Boyer presented awards:

Glenn Shelton for Best in show, Best Collection  
Jim Matula for Best Miniature  
Barbara Matthews for Best Vintage  
Celia Howe for Best Container Garden  
Robert Cameron for Best Episcia  
Linda Bennett for Novice

Jim Boyer stated that he was compiling a list of suggestions to improve next year's show.

Please forward any you may have to Jim at [Jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:Jasb39@gmail.com)

Mary Lou Harden stated that we received \$350.00 from the Florida State Fair \$250.00 for participating and \$100.00 for winning 4<sup>th</sup> Place.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden stated that she was hoping we would get better member participation in the coming months for shows, meetings and sales. A request was made for members to volunteer to chair USF Plant sales, The Florida State Fair and next year's show.

If interested please let Mary Lou or Jim know!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Set up for the USF plant sale will be at 12N, on Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> any and all are encouraged to come and help out.

The USF sale is Saturday and Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. All members are asked to give a hand where you can.

The April meetings are our annual Anniversary  
Pot Luck

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
**Election of Officers**

**SHOW AND TELL:**

Jim Boyer brought in two examples of the  
miniature project plant: Jolly Orchid.

Mary Lou Harden brought in "Party Dude" a  
miniature sinningia.



Mary Lou showed us how she uses a small  
"fruit" container as a terrarium for her mini  
sinningias.

**TIP OF THE DAY:**

David Matthews told us how he uses a  
Malathion spray to eliminate mealy bugs: BUT  
be sure to wear gloves and rinse your plants off  
as the Malathion will cause leaf damage if  
allowed to stay on the leaves

**BIRTHDAYS:** Betty Wise, Ellie Wenzke and  
Paulette Kautz

**Raffle:** Jim Boyer

**Raffle plants and leaves:** provided by Terry  
Jordan and Annie Pirone.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned  
at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Secretary Pro Tem**

## MEET THE MEMBER

### This month's member profile is from Glenn Shelton

#### **My African Violet History**

By Glenn Shelton

I began by taking care of my girlfriend's violets  
while she was student teaching. At that time  
violets didn't thrill me at all. My first encounter  
with gorgeous African violets was at a florist  
shop, in Glendale Mall in Indianapolis, where I  
worked nearby. I was fascinated at their beauty  
and bought two. I set up a very simple light  
stand and was rewarded amazingly. These two  
never stopped blooming and always had at  
least 40 blooms open. This was 1975.

Later I moved to West Lafayette, Indiana, the  
home of Purdue University. I met a lady who  
grew some beautiful violets. She introduced me  
to the African Society of America magazine.  
That magazine was my only connection for  
years with others who grew violets.

In the early 80s I had since moved to Florida  
and was teaching school full time in Clearwater.  
I was at a complete crossroads with the violets.  
Either I had to become a better, more  
knowledgeable grower or give them up  
completely. So I contacted a local club in St.  
Petersburg. Sandra Williams held the meeting  
in her beautiful home on Tierra Verde.  
However, I could only attend their meetings in  
the summer since they only met in the morning.  
That didn't work. So, I looked to Tampa which  
had a night meeting.

So my history evolved greatly and quickly. I was  
surrounded by excellent growers who loved to  
share their growing tips. Margaret Ritchie, a  
most loving kind, soul, was my mentor. She  
always had time for me. I loved going to her  
home or just talking with her. She was in my life  
until her passing.

The club rapidly grew, and many excellent growers showed their gorgeous plants. The club continued to be kind and helpful. Shows had 400 or more violet entries. There were shows in malls and thousands came to be a part of our shows. I am greatly indebted to Tampa African Violet Society for all the kind, loving support that I have received for so many years. I have learned volumes it seems, and my life has been completely enriched by the many wonderful members who are a part of this long history.

I guess one of the highest points in this history was seeing my wife, Barbara, grow beautiful violets. She was so happy with her plants and prizes. She did so well. Her plants were blessed.

My theme or motto is that a beautiful African Violet is a gift that I am entrusted. I recognize and respect its beauty since I am just the caretaker and no more.

Thanks for reading my memory lane.



Still waiting for the next member to fill out their Biography Interview Questions form so they can be featured right here next month. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Linda Bennett*

Dear fellow members,

I am sharing with you the most precious and delicious recipe I have ever been given. Why? The food speaks for itself and why precious??? My Dad tore it from the Sunday paper November 5, 1972, because now that I was finally out on my own, I enjoyed cooking for my family and friends in my own home and this recipe has never failed to please. So Bon appetit!!

Drain 1 can (13 1/4oz) pineapple chunks, reserve 1/2 cup liquid, cover, refrigerate fruit. Combine 1/2 cup pineapple juice, 1/2 cup Heinz 57 sauce, 2 Tablespoons dry white wine, 1 Tablespoon salad oil, 1/2 Teaspoon salt, and dash of pepper. Pour this over 2 pounds beef sirloin tips that have been cubed to 1 inch. Cover and refrigerate for 2-3 hours.

Thread 4-5 pieces of meat and 5-6 pieces of pineapple on each 12inch skewer. Brush with marinade sprinkle with salt and pepper and broil 3 inches from heat for 5 minutes on each side for medium rare.

Makes 6 servings

I still have the original recipe along with a 5 cents off coupon!!!

Compliments: Linda Bennett's Dad

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share just email it to Lynn Bandy [nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com) and it will be included in the next Petal.

## Propagation: Making Little Ones Out Of Big Ones\*

by Paul Kroll

I love propagation! I have been very successful over the many years of growing in propagating from seeds and from cuttings of all sorts. Of course, I went through that novice stage where I couldn't bear to toss a leaf, but soon got over that, the decision being made by running out of space!

Learning to propagate different types of cuttings takes a bit of study, and some trial and error depending upon your growing conditions. You may need to cover your cutting(s) by sealing them in a clear bag, or perhaps just inverting a bag over the container until the cuttings take root and can be weaned from their terrarium conditions. Leaf cuttings are probably most popular for African violets and many of the gesneriads. Be certain to cut the petiole short; do not leave it long. Three quarters of an inch to one inch is plenty on standard sized leaves and even shorter on the miniature and semi-miniature leaves. I usually take a slice off the top of the leaf blade as well. That seems to make that 'mother leaf' pay attention to forming baby plants as opposed to actually growing itself. If the leaf is large, I usually cut it down to a wedge: a triangle above the petiole. It really does not need more than that to do its job.

Some plants, such as *Streptocarpus*, can be put down two ways: by cutting the (long) leaf in sections and inserting the stem into the rooting medium just as you would an AV leaf, or by cutting the midrib vein out of the leaf and putting down the two halves, barely inserting them into the rooting medium. Baby plantlets will emerge from each of the side veins.

I must admit that I have much more success putting these cuttings down using the first method above. I have lost more doing it the second way. When propagating vine-type gesneriads, I like to cut the vines into sections so that there are two leaf nodes (stripped of their leaves) to plant below the soil surface and two leaf nodes above the soil. This allows for good root growth and good growth from the nodes above the soil surface. Once growth has begun and established itself, those new growths can be pinched and even more

branching will occur, eventually forming a compact, bushy plant.

Propagating from stolons or runners is another easy way to put cuttings down. With *Episcia*, for instance, taking each small stolon and inserting it into the rooting medium will result in new plants quickly. *Episcias* are similar to annuals in that they need to be taken apart and/or separated when they outgrow their pot, tray, or enclosed container.

Some genera require barely moist rooting medium and may require barely inserting the stem or petiole into that rooting medium. I am thinking here of *Petrocosmea* leaf cuttings. I cut the petioles short, and barely insert them into the barely moist rooting medium. I usually use a plastic salad container with a lid that seals it. I don't even open that container until I see sizable baby plants.

Most of the time, I use SOLO cups with the bottom edges cut so there is drainage for my cuttings. I put a tablespoon of coarse perlite in the bottom and then add my rooting medium. Enclosing the newly-planted cuttings for a week or three will help them to establish more quickly. Then, you can gradually wean them from the terrarium/"incubator" conditions. I have been asked often for my recipe for rooting medium. It is one that really works well for me and has for many years. I got this recipe many years ago from Carol Schreck, a wonderful grower from Florida. Rooting Medium 4 parts coarse vermiculite 2 parts milled sphagnum moss 1 part coarse perlite ½ part horticultural charcoal.

\*Reprinted with permission from *The Violet Connection*, Vol. 66, #2, March 2018

Mel Grice, Editor

Article submitted by Mary Lou Harden



## UPDATES FOR YEARBOOK:

Phone numbers

Angelina Grundhoff 727-221-4290

George Grundhoff 727-200-5690



## NEW MEMBERS:

Carolee Carter, Cathy Kessler and Carla Alter

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

## 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!! +

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

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**Visit us at:**

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**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)

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

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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.



**EASTER MORNING**

# THE PETAL

## MAY 2018

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



**AMADEUS**

### A Message from the President

Hello, Violet Friends,

Dear Violet Friends,  
Another busy month for violet lovers! In this issue of the Petal, you'll find some pictures from the Dixie convention held in Birmingham in early April. The Early Bird African Violet Club of Birmingham were hosts and they did a terrific job. Their membership is not large but all of their members pitched in and served wherever needed. I'm happy to report that Floridians took home many of the awards. Kurt Jablonski of Miami Beach won Best in Show and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Show Horticulture, as well as Best AVSA Standard Collection, Best Dixie Standard Collection and Best Dixie Semiminiature Collection, Horticulture Sweepstakes in addition

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

to several other awards. Carolee Carter of Ocala and a member of TAVS won Best Vintage Violet and Terry Jordan of Lakewood Ranch and a TAVS member won Best Streptocarpus. I was pleased to win 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Show Design, Best Interpretive Plant and Flower Arrangements, and Design Sweepstakes.

Have you ever felt that your plants would never be show-quality and that you could never win an award? Think again. Stephanie Newman from Hoover, Alabama, who entered the Birmingham show as a Novice, won 2<sup>nd</sup> Best AVSA Standard Collection, Best Miniature, Best Novice and Best Wrangler! So start thinking positively!

Next on our agenda was the Spring plant sale at USF on April 14 and 15. Robert Cameron and Tom Schaefer handled setup on Thursday, assisted by Jim Boyer, Bonnie Smith, Jean Krauchik and me. We had wonderful participation by several of our members throughout the weekend, for which we are truly grateful! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the sale. We must give special thanks to Angela Newell, as well as her husband and daughter, who handled the cash register and credit card sales during the entire time! Thank you, Angela! We had a nice selection of plants

and supplies and, although we don't yet have the figures, I think we did very well. Remember that we participate in the USF plant sales twice a year – in April and in October. So please be growing some plants to sell in the Fall. Several people signed up at the USF sale to receive our monthly newsletter and we were pleased that one of our customers became a member. Because of the storm threats on Sunday, the event closed at 2 pm. Thanks to all who came to help with the take-down.

Our 2019 Project Plants will be available at our May meetings for \$3 each. We want every member to grow one of the project plants and then enter it at next year's show. As you know, the Club gives a nice award for the Best Project Plant and the Best Project Plant grown by a Novice. Thanks to Terry Jordan for growing the project plants for us.

I hope to see you at one of our May meetings – May 3 in Tampa or May 18 in Seffner. At the night meeting, we'll learn about our affiliates—AVSA, DAVS, AVCF and GS. At the day meeting, we'll learn about insects and bugs that prey upon African violets.

Don't forget to let me know in advance if you need supplies!

Mary Lou Harden President

## A Message from the Vice President

Still asking for some help!  
When you have a few minutes jot down a few ideas, or suggestions that you may have that might improve our show for next year and either email them to me or bring them to the meetings. I am compiling a list and will share with the group at our monthly meetings. Hopefully this will aid us in having our next show run smoothly.

Let me hear from you.  
KING JAMES so orders.

[Jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:Jasb39@gmail.com)

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

### NIGHT MEETING –May 3rd, 2018 at 7 PM

**Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Lynne Wilson

**Refreshments:** Lynne Wilson, Mary Lou Harden

#### THE PROGRAM:

##### “Introducing Our Affiliates”

Lynne Wilson will be giving us an overview of all of our affiliate programs.



### DAY MEETING – May 18th, 2018 at 10 AM

**Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library**

**410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Lynn Bandy

**Refreshments:** Angelina Grundhoff, Mary Lou Harden and Pat Rutzke

#### THE PROGRAM:

##### “Insects, Bugs and More”

Cece Lane will educate us on identification, elimination and prevention of pesky critters.

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: March 1st, 2018**

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Fancy That!”**

**Presented by: Mary Kay Ross**

Mary Kay showed us decorative containers for African Violets and demonstrated how to drill holes in teacups.

**DAY MEETING – April 20th, 2018**

**“Decorating With Violets**

**Presented by: Mary Kay Ross”**

Mary Kay highlighted interesting and unique ways to decorate with your violets



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/13 Robert Cameron

5/17 Jerry Kast

5/24 Angelina Grundhoff

5/28 Jerry O'Keefe



# COMING

# EVENTS

**MAY 4 and 5 2018**

**The Central Florida African Violet Society**

**Annual Show and Sale**

**Friday, May 4, 2018 Noon to 4 P.M.**

**Saturday, May 5, 2018. 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

Beardall Senior Center  
800 S. Delaney Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32801

**May 12, 2018**

**African Violet Council of Florida**

**Spring meeting and luncheon**

The Ivy House Restaurant  
106 NW Main St.  
Williston, FL 32696

**May 20-27, 2018**

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA**

**Convention & Show, "African Violets CAN link US Together"**

Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel, Buffalo, NY.

**July 3-7, 2018**

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY**

**Convention & Show,**

Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA.



### Thoughts and prayers to fellow members:

Cece Lane and Lynne Wilson – both at home and recovering nicely following surgery.  
Bonnie Smith- who spent a few days in the hospital but is now home.  
Therese Lynam, Betty Wise and Kathleen Pape undergoing further treatment.

## MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Meeting minutes unavailable at time of publication. Will be published in next issue.**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Day Meeting**  
**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:18 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Jim Boyer

**GUESTS:** Martha Morgan (new member)

**REFRESHMENTS:** Annual Anniversary Pot Luck

### **PROGRAM: “Decorating with Violets Presented by: Mary Kay Ross”**

Mary Kay highlighted interesting and unique ways to decorate with your violets.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**CORRESPONDENCE:** We received two Thank You notes from Stephanie Newman an award winner at the Dixie Convention.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer’s Report was unavailable but will be filed with the minutes.

**ROLL CALL:** Mary Lou Harden

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden stated there **will** be a program for the upcoming day meeting but at this moment the presenter is unknown. The evening program will be presented by Lynne Wilson.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden stated that the USF Plant sale was a huge success despite the early closing on Sunday due to weather. Sales figures were not available yet. She wanted to give a “special” shout out to Tom Schaefer and Robert Cameron for their help in setting up and tearing down (in a great hurry) the tents!

**AVSA:** Mary Lou Harden wanted to remind everyone about the upcoming AVSA convention in Buffalo, NY.

Carolee Carter expanded a bit on what to expect and Terry Jordan is looking for a roommate!

**DAVS:** The Dixie Convention was a great show. There were great plants and exceptional designs.

Lynne Wilson was elected President.

**AVCF:** The AVCF will be holding a meeting in Williston, FL May 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Ivy House. Our own Jim Boyer is up for election as President and Carolee Carter is nominated for First Vice President. Any and all are welcome to attend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone about supplies and put in a request for others to help in the future with transporting, labeling and pricing for events.

Terry Jordan and Annie Pirone donated plants for this year's Project plant. The plant is a semi-miniature and are being sold for \$3. Everyone is encouraged to purchase and grow at least one!

**TIP OF THE DAY:**

Mary Kay Ross showed us her "trick" for keeping the water in her reservoirs clean. She just uses a small plastic bag and when the water turns green she changes it out.

Carolee Carter stated that she has found if she uses this water for other plants they seem to root faster.

A question was presented on what ply everyone uses for their wicks, it was determined by several members that the ply really did not matter.

Jim Boyer stated that he bought a ceramic drill bit and that he would bring his drill and bit to the next meeting for anyone wanting to drill holes in tea cups etc.

**BIRTHDAYS:** April Birthdays included Angela Newell, Jim Matula, Mary Lou Harden, Terry Jordan, Lynn Bandy and Virginia Barthelemy.

**Raffle:** Jim Boyer

**Raffle plants and leaves:** provided by Terry Jordan and Annie Pirone.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Day Recording Secretary**

## MEET THE MEMBER

### This month's member profile is from Carolee Carter

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and moved to Ogden Dunes, Indiana, on Lake Michigan when I was 12. I attended Indiana University and graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration. I moved to Chicago's Near Northside to my first apartment and began working in a non-profit organization whose agenda was right in the midst of the Richard J. Daley years of Chicago politics and the high-fashion "Magnificent Mile" of North Michigan Avenue.

After living in Chicago, I moved to Maryland for a few years, where I worked for the President of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (it's that organization that tests cars with dummies in them!). After four years in Maryland, I again moved, this time to South Florida, where I was married to Clive and began working for a major newspaper company (Knight-Ridder). I was the Executive Assistant to the Publisher of The Miami Herald and later to the Vice Chairman of that company (same person).

During the time when I lived in Ft. Lauderdale, I "stumbled" upon an African violet show that was being held in the mall I usually frequented. "I couldn't believe how beautiful they were". After buying a dozen or so plants, I discovered that there was a club whose meetings were close to my home and they met at a time when I wasn't working! It was The Violet Patch of South Florida.

My collection grew and grew, and I soon became President of the Violet Patch after being mentored by the late Marilyn Goldstein. I was also very active in AVCF. Then, my company decided to move its

headquarters to San Jose, California, and I was asked to join the team with a three-year contract and all expenses paid. Who could refuse? So, off Carolee and Clive went to a town called Morgan Hill, just south of San Jose. The closest violet club was 70 miles north in San Mateo, but I made the trip every month without fail. And soon, I became president of that club too. "I was a glutton for punishment!"

I was also active in the Northern California Council as well as the Judges Council of Northern California. I was then sponsored by Barbara Elkin of AVM Vintage Violet fame to become an AVSA board member, a position I held for three years. I have attended 16 national conventions.

After five years of life in gorgeous Northern California, I retired from Knight-Ridder, and Clive and I decided to move one more time. Despite its immense beauty, the rumors are true – living in California is very expensive. For various reasons, we decided upon Central Florida, and after a search of a dozen or so communities, fell in love with Ocala.

"But it had no violet club!" Carolee lamented. "I began working at Kids Central, and then at Progress Energy until 2007 when I really, really retired! It was during that time I discovered two gals from the St. Pete area had moved to Ocala, and the three of us met to talk about forming a club in Ocala. In January 2007, the African Violet Club of Ocala was born – and you guessed it, I was elected President." She rejoined Dixie AVS and served as President of the Florida Council from 2011-12.

"The reason I gravitated into growing African violets was because I loved flowers so much. Working all week and not having the advantage of enough daylight hours to nurture an outside garden was one of the most important reasons I loved the potential of growing such beautiful plants indoors. Every year, hybridizers throughout the country (and now from Russia, Poland and Japan) have simply wowed me every time I see their new introductions. I currently have

about 125 AV varieties and also grow episcias and a few other gesneriads."

"I have had the wonderful pleasure of making so many friends around the country from simply attending, judging and showing plants at the local, state and national levels. And all of the AV groups on Facebook have kept me connected with so many AV friends around the country. But, despite so many high-tech diversions in today's world, simply walking into my violet room and staring at the beauty they share with me is a joy and allows me to relax from whatever stresses the day may have offered!"

Other hobbies? "Besides African violets, I'm thoroughly engrossed in the art of rubber stamping & creating artsy greeting cards. I quilt – but not bedspreads! Mostly my quilts are wall hangings with a landscape theme. I also am a photographer and belong to a small photography group and post on Flickr. I do machine embroidery too as well as other crafty things like book folding! I volunteer at Hospice of Marion County and belong to the Ocala Star-Banner's Reader's Forum that meets once a month to discuss what was good or bad about the news reporting that month and how they could do better. Last, I do yoga, play bridge and a card game called hand and foot!"

Other family members and pets? "Clive (who passed away in 2014) has a grown son and daughter, who live in Southern Maryland and Virginia with whom I am very close. I have four grandchildren between the ages of 17 and 29. After owning many dogs and cats over the years, I currently have a polydoxyl cat named Cheddar (six toes on his front paws and five on his back paws) and a Morkie named Snickers (that's a mix of a Maltese and a Biewer's Terrier)."

"And that's the truth folks!"

Want to be the next member to be featured in our newsletter???? Simply fill out a Biography Interview Questions form. If you did not get a copy from Mary Lou Harden just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com and she will send one to you!!!!

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Carolee Carter*

### **Tortellini Salad with Roasted Peppers, Parmesan and Fresh Basil**

1 lb. or 2 (9-oz.) packages of cheese-filled tortellini  
2/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1 red bell pepper  
1 green bell pepper  
½ cup frozen petite peas  
6T freshly grated Parmesan cheese  
½ cup chopped fresh basil  
Salt, if desired & freshly ground pepper to taste  
1 tsp. red pepper flakes, if desired

Bring a large pot of water to a boil; add salt, then pasta. Cook uncovered over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, about 8 minutes or according to package directions. Drain, rinse gently with cold water, and drain well. Transfer to a large bowl. Add olive oil and toss to combine. (It might appear that there is too much oil, but it will be absorbed by the remaining ingredients.)

Preheat broiler. Broil bell peppers about 2 inches from heat source, turning about every 5 minutes with tongs until pepper skin is blistered and charred – about 15 to 25 minutes. Transfer to a Ziplock freezer bag (it is thicker) and close the bag. Let the peppers stand 10 minutes.

Peel off the skin from each pepper using a paring knife. Halve peppers lengthwise & discard seeds and ribs. Drain well on paper towels & pat dry. Halve pepper pieces crosswise; cut each half in thin lengthwise strips about ¼-inch wide.

Add Parmesan cheese to the salad & toss. Add pepper strips, peas & basil and toss unto combined. Season to taste with salt, red pepper flakes, and pepper. (Salad can be kept, covered, up to 1 day in refrigerator. Bring to room temperature before serving)

Makes 4 main-course or 8 first-course servings.

## AVSA WEEKLY GROWING TIP

April 9, 2018

### **Violet Growers Kill a Lot of Violets!**

"The difference between a novice grower and an expert one is the expert has killed more plants."

David McClelland, African Violet Buddies

Violets die pretty often. They can be a challenging plant to grow and many people say that they can't keep them alive. If that's you, you can learn more about the skills at our website.

But wait... why are the expert growers "killing" African violets?

**To Limit Collection** - Growing every violet you can find and rooting every leaf that breaks will soon make your fun hobby into a lot of work. Good growers carefully select the violets that do best for them and keep just one or two. That means less watering, more time to grow them well, and a prettier collection.

**To Get Rid of Problems** - The easiest way to keep violets healthy is to throw away anything that looks suspicious -quickly. Very few violets are so valuable that it is worth the risk of losing everything to save them. And when you dispose them, do it right! Seal suspicious plants in sealed bags before you put

them in the trash so that bugs or disease are confined.

**To Develop Quality New Hybrids** - Seedpods from hybrid crosses produce a lot of little seedlings. Hybridizers often find that only 1% of the seedlings will have the exact combination of traits they wanted. The rest are discarded, often into a compost bin for recycling in the garden. It's brutal life making such decisions.

**To have more vigorous plants** - Most growers want violets that grow well, bloom true to the variety, and don't require extra attention just to keep them alive. Choosing the strongest and truest plants is wise, whether at a sale, when removing suckers, or when selecting which babies to save from leaf cuttings. In the latter case, it means that many if not most of the babies from a leaf will be discarded. Saving weak strains of your favorite varieties will not make you love them more. Add them to the compost heap and nature will re-purpose them.

**Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!**



**NEW MEMBERS:**

Martha Morgan and Melody Burk

## Got Problems?

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

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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.



INGRID

### PHOTOS FROM DAVS CONVENTION



LYNN WILSON DAVS PRESIDENT



BUCKEYE CRANBERRY SPARKLER BY  
KURT JABLONSKI



CAJUNS NO FEAR BY  
KURT JABLONSKI



BUCKEYE SEDUCTRESS BY  
STEPHANIE NEWMAN



JOLLY ORCHID



CAJUNS CODE BLUE  
BY KURT JABLONSKI



# THE PETAL

## JUNE 2018

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



AMADEUS

### A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,

Both of our May programs were excellent and informative. Lynne Wilson helped us in our knowledge and understanding about our affiliates. Our goal is for every member of Tampa AVS to become also a member of our national/international organization—**African Violet Society of America**. AVSA Membership includes 6 issues of the African Violet Magazine which is always filled with beautiful color photos of outstanding African violets or their cousins along with helpful articles about culture and growing know-how. Every AVSA member I know will tell you that the magazine itself is well worth the cost of membership, currently \$35 per year.

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

We also recommend membership in **Dixie African Violet Society** which is a regional violet society with individual members mostly from thirteen Southeastern states. Dixie publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Dixie News*, and annual membership fee is \$15.

There's also the **African Violet Council of Florida** with individual members from Florida. The Council publishes a quarterly newsletter, "*The Florida Connection*," has a Spring membership meeting and a Fall meeting and show, both of which usually take place in different locations in Central Florida. Annual membership fee in the Council is \$10.

Our Club is also an affiliate of **The Gesneriad Society, Inc.**, a national society which publishes a quarterly magazine, "*Gesneriads*." The local Gesneriad club is Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society which meets monthly in Tampa and has an annual membership fee of \$10.

We received many good suggestions at our May meetings as to ways we can increase membership as well as member participation in Club activities. It was suggested that we establish a new committee with the title "Communications." This committee would oversee all aspects of social media, including but not limited to the Website, Facebook,

YouTube, Twitter and Instagram. Although Gladys Cook has moved from Tampa, she is still managing our Website for which we are grateful. Dawn Newell has volunteered to help with the Website. Kathy Glenn has undertaken our Facebook account and is doing a great job. Glenn Shelton will be posting on Twitter and Martha Morgan will assist with Instagram and has volunteered to look into YouTube and web postings. Thanks to each of these members for their willingness to help!

Our 2019 Project Plants are still available for \$3 each. They will be available for purchase at both of our June meetings. The concept of having a project plant where each member grows the same variety for entry in the show is a means of creating interest and a bit of a challenge. It is always interesting to see the variations in these member-grown plants. Sometimes there will be variations in the blossom color or blossom size. Sometimes the foliage will appear to be a little different and often, some plants will be bigger than others. So, consider it a challenge. We want every member to grow one of the project plants and then enter it at next year's show. As you already know, the Club gives a nice award for the Best Project Plant and the Best Project Plant grown by a Novice. By the way, this year's Project Plant is a miniature. Its name will be kept secret until after judging is complete at the 2019 show!

I hope to see you at one of our June meetings – June 7 in Tampa or June 15 in Seffner. At the night meeting, we'll learn just how easy it is to grow African violets, and Jim Boyer will present an overview of AVSA's "First Class" program—a computer program that allows you to quickly and accurately look up species and cultivar names and descriptions found in the Master List of Species and Cultivars. The program includes over 8,000 photos. At the day meeting, we're going to hear from "Tom, the Tool Man." Tom Schaefer will demonstrate the simple "tools" he uses in growing his African violets. You'll love it!

Don't forget to let me know in advance if you need supplies!



To Terry Jordan who won 16 blue ribbons in the annual show sponsored by Tidewater African Violet Society, Norfolk, Virginia. The show was held April 26-28 at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Terry also won Runner-up Sweepstakes and Best in Class for her Streptocarpus. Terry and her husband are at their summer home in Virginia Beach, VA.

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

### **NIGHT MEETING –June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 PM**

**Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Lynne Wilson

**Refreshments:** Lynne Wilson, Therese Lynam

#### **THE PROGRAM:**

#### **“OVERVIEW OF AVSA’S FIRST CLASS PROGRAM”**

To be presented by Jim Boyer

### **DAY MEETING – June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Barbara Lopez

**Refreshments:** Barbara Lopez, Mary Lou Harden and Robert Cameron

# COMING

# EVENTS

## THE PROGRAM:

### “TOM THE TOOL MAN”

To be presented by our very own “Tool” expert Tom Schaeffer.

## RECENT PROGRAMS

### NIGHT MEETING: April 5th, 2018

#### THE PROGRAM:

#### “Introducing Our Affiliates”

Lynne Wilson gave us an overview of all our affiliate programs.



### DAY MEETING – April 20th, 2018

#### THE PROGRAM:

#### “Insects, Bugs and More”

Cece Lane educated us on identification, elimination and prevention of pesky critters.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/3 Jean Krauchik  
6/21 David Matthews  
6/21 Barbara Lopez  
6/27 Mary Kay Ross  
6/27 Bonnie Smith  
6/29 Cinda Huntley



July 3-7, 2018 – 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gesneriad Society Convention & Show, hosted by the New England Gesneriad Society, Framingham, MA, Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA. <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

September 8, 2018 – Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society’s Gesneriad Celebration at USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Information: JoAnne Martinez, President, [4jam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:4jam@tampabay.rr.com).

October 4-6, 2018 – African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Sale, "Violet Vibes in the Fabulous Fifties," Hilton Garden Inn, 3839 Don Emerson Drive, Lakeland, FL 33811. Information: Jim Boyer, President, [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

October 13-14, 2018 - Fall Plant Festival, USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. <http://gardens.usf.edu/>



#### Thoughts and prayers to fellow members:

Therese Lynam, Betty Wise, Jerry O’Keefe and Kathleen Pape  
Hope to see you all soon.

# MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**May 3rd, 2018**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

The monthly meeting of Tampa African Violet Society was held Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 7 pm in Tampa. President Mary Lou Harden welcomed members and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Lynne Wilson

**REFRESHMENTS:** Lynne Wilson and Mary Lou Harden

**PROGRAM:**

**“Introducing Our Affiliates”**

Lynne Wilson gave us an overview of all our affiliate programs.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Minutes of the April 5, 2018, meeting were not available.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer’s Report was unavailable but will be filed with the minutes.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The President announced that TAVS dues of \$15 were due in April. The African Violet Council of Florida’s Spring meeting will be held in Williston, FL, on Saturday, May 10. The AVSA Convention will be held May 20-27 in Buffalo, NY. Terry Jordan and Carolee Carter plan to attend. The President also mentioned that TAVS would like every TAVS member to also be a member of AVSA.

Project plants are available for \$3 each. The Project Plant is a miniature.

Jim Boyer is collecting comments and suggestions regarding our annual show. Jim will

be teaching a class on First Class which is the AVSA’s computer-based listing of over 18,000 African violet varieties.

There was discussion regarding suggestions for improving our participation in the USF Botanical Fall and Spring sales.

The President commended Kathy Glenn for the great work she’s doing on the TAVS Facebook page.

We need a theme for our 2019 show, and someone to serve as Show Chair and co-chair.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

May Birthdays- Robert Cameron, Jerry Kast, Angelina Grundhoff

May 18<sup>th</sup> day meeting-Cece Lane on insects, Bugs and more

June 7<sup>th</sup> Night meeting-AVSA’s First Class Program- Jim Boyer

June 15<sup>th</sup> Day meeting-Tom Schaefer- Tom the tool man

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik. Nine members were present.

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** Mary Lou Harden

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:45pm

Jean Krauchik

Since the Minutes from the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 evening meeting were unavailable they are included below:

**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 5, 2018**  
**4207 North Boulevard**  
**Tampa, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Second Vice President Jim Boyer, on behalf of

President Mary Lou Harden, at 7:05PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. (Mary Lou Harden was attending the DAVS Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.)

**GUESTS:** Mike Baldree (who found information about TAVS through our Facebook page). Dawn Newell was visiting. Also visiting were Patsy Monk and Linda Bennett (both TAVS day meeting members).

**REFRESHMENTS:** This meeting was a covered dish dinner with all members in attendance bringing a covered dish in honor of the TAVS 48<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary.

**PROGRAM:** "Fancy That!", presented by Mary Kay Ross. (Mary Kay demonstrated how to use decorative containers for potting up African violets. Jim Boyer gave some pointers on drill bits to be used for drilling the holes in china cups for planting African violets in.)

Jim Boyer also gave a short presentation on "Growing Tips" for African violets.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** Jim Boyer

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jim Boyer stated there is no USF Spring Plant Festival Chair Person in place for our Club. The USF Botanical Gardens will hold its Spring Plant Festival on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. (Rain is expected on both days.) Jim Boyer stated that members who will be helping with the TAVS booth should arrive around 9:00AM on both days. The Spring Plant Festival will run from 10:00AM until 4:00PM on Saturday and until 3:00PM on Sunday. Jim Boyer asked for as many members as possible to come out to help.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Jim Boyer stated that the AVCF will hold its Spring Meeting on May 12, 2018 at the Ivy House in Williston, Florida.

Kathy Glenn stated that she is still not receiving the TAVS newsletter. Angela Newell questioned if all of the new members who recently joined TAVS have been added to the newsletter list to begin receiving the monthly newsletter.

Kathy Glenn gave an update on the TAVS Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Dawn Newell gave an update on the TAVS ongoing website improvements. Dawn Newell also requested photos from recent TAVS Club events from our members for uploading to the website.

#### **TIPS:**

Lisa Villabol made the suggestion of reusing K-cup pods for starting African violet leaves. The coffee from the K-cup pods can go into a compost bin and the plastic container is now ready to use as it already has a hole in it.

#### **SHOW AND TELL:**

Jerry Kast brought in Elegant Emerald (a miniature). Nancy Kast brought in Aghensis (a sinningia). Anita Adlin brought in some plants for help with diagnosing growing problems.

**RAFFLE PLANTS:** There was no raffle of plants tonight. Instead, the raffle plants that were provided by Patsy Monk (from the TAVS day meeting) and leaves from Kathy Glenn were distributed to members who wanted them.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:44PM.

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Day Meeting**  
**May 18th, 2017**  
**410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:15 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Lynn Bandy

**GUESTS:** Karen Cavanaugh, Peggy Warper and Dani Wagatt all friends of Carolee Carter from Ocala and Fred Matthews.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Angelina Grundhoff, Pat Rutzke, Mary Lou Harden and Therese Lynam

**PROGRAM: "Insects, Bugs and More"**

Cece Lane educated us on identification, elimination and prevention of pesky critters.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was unavailable but will be filed with the minutes.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden stated the night meeting will be an overview of the AVSA First Class program presented by Jim Boyer and the day meeting will be presented by Tom Schaefer our "Resident Tool Man"

Cece Lane is our "Program Director" and she will be taking ideas for upcoming programs for next year. If you have an idea or would like to present a program contact her at;  
[cecel@verizon.net](mailto:cecel@verizon.net)

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There was a very long discussion regarding the various committees and people needed to both chair and assist with said committees. Jim Boyer will be compiling the list and send a "Blast" email to all members

**AVSA:** Glenn Shelton has been appointed our liaison for the AVSA. Glenn showed us the AVSA magazine and told everyone just how interesting and vital the magazine is and encouraged everyone to join this great group.

Glenn also suggested that members who are interested could join together to do a bulk order to one of the commercials which would save shipping charges. Lyndon Lyon was selected as the commercial. Members who are interested in placing an order should contact Glenn at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

**DAVS:**

Lynne Wilson this groups President is our appointed liaison.

**AVCF:** The AVCF held a meeting in Williston, FL May 12<sup>th</sup>. Our own Jim Boyer was elected as President and Carolee Carter was voted First Vice President.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

It's that time of year again to choose our Show Theme. Mary Lou will post some of the suggestions that were proposed in the past. We hope to be able to vote on a Show Theme in either July or August.

Project plants are available for \$3 each. Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the shop!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone about supplies and put in a request for others to help in the future with transporting, labeling and pricing for events.

**ROLL CALL:** Mary Lou Harden. Seventeen members and four visitors.

**SHOW AND TELL:**

Mary Lou brought in a standard simnigia: Ozark Purple Zebra, a semi-mini Jolly Fun and a beautiful unnamed Optimara violet.

**TIP OF THE DAY:**

Jim Boyer told us about an organic solution that Tom Schaefer uses with great success. Jim Promised to get the "Recipe" from Tom to share with all.

**BIRTHDAYS:** May Birthdays included Robert Cameron, Jerry Kast, Angelina Grundhoff and Jerry O'Keefe.

**RAFFLE:** Lynn Bandy

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** Carolee Carter

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Day Recording Secretary**

## 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 form copy or want to submit your story just email Lynn @ NYBLEB@aol.com.

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Pat Rutzke*

A Kale salad was **VERY** popular at the day meeting. When member Pat Rutzke was asked for the recipe she admitted it was a "bagged" salad from Publix. Way to go Pat!!!!

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

### 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!! +

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

## Become a MEMBER

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

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

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

Look for us soon on Twitter and Instagram!!!!

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** [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.



Our very own "King James" in all his glory!!!!



# THE PETAL

## JULY 2018

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

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society



**JOLLY MARS**

### **A Message from the President**

Dear Violet Friends,

Now that Summer has officially arrived, and temperatures are in the 90s, it's a good time to stay indoors and repot some violets! With just a little over 3 months before the African Violet Council of Florida show, this is the perfect time for last repotting of show plants. And since the show is in Lakeland, TAVS should be well represented with many entries. If you have some plants you think might make it for the show, but have questions, bring the plants to one of our meetings and some of our more experienced members will be happy to give you some helpful hints and advice.

Continue to give your plants a light application of fertilizer throughout the summer months. Take a close look at your plants every day. With higher humidity, the foliar mealybugs may take a liking to your violets—thrips, too. It's a whole

lot easier to prevent the bugs than it is to eradicate them after they've infested your collection.

Have you looked at our Website or Facebook recently? These are great tools in reaching other interested violet growers. Also, be sure to check the postings on Twitter and Instagram. The more comments posted, the more people we reach.

Jim Boyer did a great job at the June night meeting explaining AVSA's First Class program. Before First Class was created, AVSA periodically published a BIG BOOK listing all the African violets along with the name of the hybridizer, registration number and description of the violet. Needless to say, it was cumbersome. First Class has replaced the BIG BOOK. It is a computer program with all the same information, along with pictures of many of the violets, making it simple, easy and quick to find the information you're looking for. It is extremely helpful to the persons handling Classification at our show.

Those who attended the June day meeting were entertained by Tom Schaefer, also known as Tom, the Tool Man. Tom demonstrated many of the tools he uses (or not!) when working with his violet collection.

We're still looking for a theme for our 2019 show. We'll decide at our July meetings, so, as my mom would say, "put your thinking cap on!" Hope to see you at our July meetings.

Mary Lou Harden Club President



#### IN MEMORY OF RITA FITZSIMMONS

Rita Fitzsimmons, described by many as "a gal on the go," passed away on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Rita was very active in Tampa AVS well into her 80's. She loved growing and showing African violets and worked every show and plant sale, assisting wherever needed. She served as Ways & Means Chair for many years and never sought credit or accolades. She was a great example of servant leadership. Rita was also extremely active in her church, sewing costumes for the church's Christmas pageant for over 100 children. She also sewed quilts and crocheted blankets for AIDS babies. Rita was a member of AVSA, Dixie AVS and the AV Council of Florida. She will be missed.

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

**NIGHT MEETING – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 PM**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Maria Whidden

**Refreshments:** Lynne Wilson, Jean Krauchik and Maria Whidden

#### THE PROGRAM:

**"The Discovery, Habitat, And Origin Of The Saintpaulia"**

A DVD by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing  
To be presented by Cece Lane

**DAY MEETING – July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10 AM**  
**Public Meeting Room**  
**Seffner-Mango Library**  
**410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Barbara Lopez

**Refreshments:** Barbara Lopez, Jim Matula, and Robert Cameron

#### THE PROGRAM:

**"Columnneas and Aeschynanthus"**  
To be presented by Robert Cameron

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

#### THE PROGRAM:

**"OVERVIEW OF AVSA'S FIRST CLASS PROGRAM"**

Presented by Jim Boyer

**DAY MEETING – June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

#### THE PROGRAM:

**"TOM THE TOOL MAN"**

Presented by our very own "Tool" expert Tom Schaeffer.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/3 Nancy Kast  
7/12 Pat Rutzke  
7/12 Lynne Wilson  
7/31 Elizabeth Graham



Roselind Rovinsky, Riverview  
Nina Megginson, Thonotosassa  
Dolores Areias, Brandon  
Karen Cavanaugh, Ocala  
Peggy Waibel, Ocala



Congratulations to Angela Newell for winning the AVSA's 2017 4<sup>th</sup> Best African Violet Society Award for her article "A Summer Road Trip to my First AVSA Convention". Her article was initially published in our very own Petal!



### Thoughts and prayers to fellow members:

Therese Lynam, Betty Wise, Jerry O'Keefe and Kathleen Pape  
Hope to see you all soon.



**July 3-7, 2018 – 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gesneriad Society Convention & Show**, hosted by the New England Gesneriad Society, Framingham, MA, Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA. <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

**September 8, 2018 – Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society's Gesneriad Celebration** at USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Information: JoAnne Martinez, President, [4jam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:4jam@tampabay.rr.com).

**October 4-6, 2018 – African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Sale, "Violet Vibes in the Fabulous Fifties,"** Hilton Garden Inn, 3839 Don Emerson Drive, Lakeland, FL 33811. Information: Jim Boyer President, [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

**October 13-14, 2018** - Fall Plant Festival, USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

**February 7-18- Florida State Fair**

**February 23-24 TAVS Annual show and sale**  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**June 7th, 2018**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden, at 7:08PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Lynne Wilson

**REFRESHMENTS:** Lynne Wilson and Therese Lynman

**PROGRAM:**

**“AVSA’s First Class Program”**  
presented by Jim Boyer. Cece Lane also gave a presentation on “Easy to Grow Violets”.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the April 5<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> night meetings were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Therese Lynman reported that she is having IT problems and is unable to present the Treasurer’s Report. The Report will be presented later.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Mary Lou Harden reported that the 2018 AVSA Convention was held in Buffalo, NY, but

she did not attend. Carolee Carter will give a report on the AVSA Convention at the day meeting of the TAVS and Terry Jordan will give a report at the night meeting of the TAVS.

**DAVS:** Mary Lou Harden reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00 and are due in February of each year.

**AVCF:** Jim Boyer was elected President of the AVCF at the Spring meeting on May 12, 2018 in Williston. Jim Boyer reported that plans are underway for the 2018 AVCF Show in Lakeland, Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Show theme will be “Violet Vibes in the Fabulous 50’s”. Thad Scaggs is the Show Chair for the AVCF. Judging for the Show will be on Friday morning and the Council Meeting will be on Saturday. Show set-up is on Thursday.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that The Gesneriad Society has available a Master Class on Hybridizing for purchase which is made up of four downloadable sessions of hybridizing classes. Mary Lou passed around printed hand-outs about the Master Class on Hybridizing with details and cost for members who were interested.

Nancy Kast reported that the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month and yearly dues are \$10.00

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that the TAVS 2019 Annual Show will be the last full weekend in February 2019, which is February 22-23. Set-up for the Show will be on Thursday, February 21, 2019. Jim Boyer is working on getting the computer program set up for printing the entry cards from his printer.

Mary Lou Harden reported that the 2019 Club Project Plants are available now. The Project Plant is a miniature and there are no choices this year between a miniature and a standard like there was for the 2018 Project Plant. Each plant is \$3.00. The plants were grown and provided by Terry Jordan.

Mary Lou Harden reported that we need to come up with a theme for our 2019 Annual Show by our next meeting (Thursday, July 5, 2019). Mary Lou suggested, "Violets Take a Roman Holiday" or "Violets Visit Movies of the 90's". Lynne Wilson suggested, "Fun, Fabulous, and Fantasy". Lisa Villabol suggested, "Classic Movie Stars".

Mary Lou Harden stated that we need a Show Chair for the 2019 Show and that Show Chairs from previous Shows will assist the Show Chair. Mary Lou also stated that the Club needs members to sign up for 2019 Show Committee Chair positions.

Jim Boyer stated that he is still asking members to email him with comments, suggestions, or concerns on ways to improve our Show. Jim stated that one suggestion that has been made is for the Club to rent lighting for the Show Room at the Church.

Mary Lou Harden encouraged all members to begin putting down leaves to grow and to bring the young plants in for sale at the 2019 Annual Show, as member-grown plants are what visitors to the Show and the Sales Room want to purchase. Mary Lou stated that we will not be purchasing plants from Optimara for our 2019 Show.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that Glenn Shelton made the suggestion at the day group meeting in May that our Club form a buyer's coop to purchase plants and save on shipping costs.

The day group decided on Lyndon Lyon to purchase plants from. Email Glenn Shelton if you want to purchase plants from Lyndon Lyon and he will add your choices to the group order when he places it.

Therese Lynam reported that Rita Fitzsimmons, a 96-year old former member of TAVS, passed away recently. Therese stated that Rita was a wonderful member of the Club. Therese made a motion that TAVS donate \$50.00 to the AVSA in honor of Rita Fitzsimmons. Lynne Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and Mary Lou Harden instructed the TAVS Treasurer to send a \$50.00 check to AVSA.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Kathy Glenn stated that an email was sent out tonight (6/7/18) by the AVSA asking for people to vote on their favorite varieties to grow. Kathy stated that the email from AVSA indicated that you don't have to be an AVSA member to vote.

Kathy Glenn gave an update on how our Facebook and Instagram accounts are doing.

Mary Lou Harden reported that at the July night meeting, Cece Lane will have a video presentation on "The Discovery, Habit and Origin of the Saintpaulia".

#### **SHOW AND TELL:**

Mary Lou Harden brought in Buckeye Nostalgia, a large variegated standard African violet. Mary Lou also brought in Ozark Purple Zebra (a standard sinningia), Sinningia Cardinalis, and Episcia Pink Panther.

Jim Boyer brought in Jolly Mel (a semiminiature African violet). Jim also brought in Ozark Double Snow Rose and Ozark Leprechaun Magic (both are miniature sinningias).

Lisa Villabol brought in a blossom from Alamo Explosion.

Nancy Kast brought in Columnea Kienastiana.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik.

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** Cathy Kessler held the plant raffle. Patsy Monk brought in baby starters for the raffle and distribution to members who wanted the babies. Mary Lou Harden provided leaves and plants for the raffle.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:15 pm

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of Day Meeting  
June 15th, 2017  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:18 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Barbara Lopez

**GUESTS:** Roselind Rovinsky, Riverview; Nina Megginson, Thonotosassa; and Dolores Areias, Brandon.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Barbara Lopez, Mary Lou Harden, Bonnie Smith and Tom Schaeffer

**PROGRAM: "Tom The Tool Man"**  
Our very own Tom Schaeffer gave us an informative and humorous look into his "Tool Box"



**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Report was unavailable but will be filed with the minutes.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Cece Lane is our "Program Director" and she will be taking ideas for upcoming programs for next year. If you have an idea or would like to present a program contact her at; [cecel@verizon.net](mailto:cecel@verizon.net)

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Glenn Shelton has been appointed our liaison for the AVSA. Glenn showed us the AVSA magazine and told everyone just how interesting and vital the magazine is and encouraged everyone to join this great group. You can join by logging into the AVSA site or Glenn has membership forms.

**DAVS:** Lynne Wilson this groups President is our appointed liaison. Annual dues of \$15 are due in February.

**AVCF:** Annual dues \$10. Preparations are underway for a show in Lakeland October 5-6,

with set up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Thadd Scaggs is show chair.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Annual dues \$25. Master Class on Hybridizing- 4 part computer program downloads available for \$19.95 @ <https://the-gesneriad-society.myshopify.com/collections/webinars>

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

It's that time of year again to choose our Show Theme. Jim Boyer sent an email with past show themes and suggestions. We hope to be able to vote on a Show Theme in either July or August. Bring your ideas to the next meeting or email Mary Lou Harden [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net) or Jim Boyer [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

We need a show chair for this event also! Previous show chair and co-chairs will offer help, but we encourage ALL members to take part in planning and organizing. If you are interested, please contact Jim or Mary Lou.

A suggestion was made regarding possible rental of lighting for the show, please email any suggestions for ways to improve our show to Jim.

We need a Chairman for the Florida State Fair, Show Chair and Co-chair for the USF Fall and Spring Shows.

We encourage EVERY member to put down leaves and bring plants for the USF sales and our show!

Martha Morgan and Cathy Kessler have volunteered to Chair Plant sales for the annual show.

Project plants are available for \$3 each. Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the show!

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Our Standing Rules state that each July we vote on the amount of money TAVS will donate for awards to AVSA, DAVS and AVCF. In recent years we have donated \$50 to each. Carolee Carter placed a motion that we send

\$50 each to AVSA, DAVS and AVCF for show awards, Glenn Shelton seconded and Members approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

June Birthdays: Jean Krachik, David Matthews, Barbara Lopez, Mary Kay Ross, Bonnie Smith and Cinda Huntley.

Glenn Shelton reminded everyone about the bulk order to Lyndon Lyon. They have stated an order of only 25 items would garner a 20% discount. Anticipated order would be in August. Members who are interested in placing an order should contact Glenn at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

Night Meeting July 5<sup>th</sup>- **"The Discovery, Habitat, And Origin Of The Saintpaulia"**  
A DVD by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing  
To be presented by Cece Lane.

Day Meeting: July 20<sup>th</sup>- **"Columneas and Aeschynanthus"**  
To be presented by Robert Cameron.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn E Bandy. Fifteen members and three visitors.

### **SHOW AND TELL:**

Mary Lou brought in a mini Dandy Pot with a flowering miniature. These pots are for sale, however remember you can NOT show plants in these pots.

**RAFFLE:** Cathy Kessler

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** Carolee Carter and Mary Lou Harden

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Day Recording Secretary**

# MEET THE MEMBER

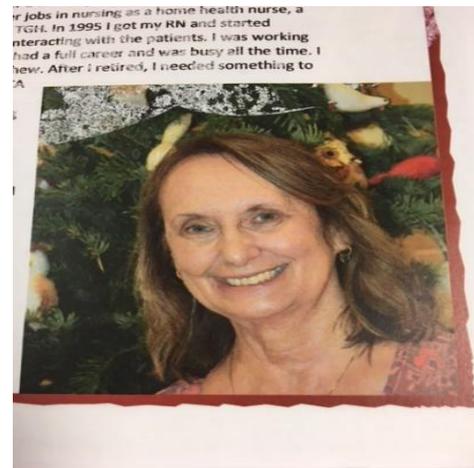
I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were a close family and I remember always having fond memories of the holidays, especially Christmas. My mother would decorate the desk we had with crepe paper that looked like bricks, so we had our own fireplace for hanging our stockings. When I was 10 my father's boss told him the shop would be moving to Tampa, Florida. I heard it was a little town and nothing like the big city I was used to. When we moved to Tampa, it was quite a change, especially the weather. I kept waiting for it to snow. But I eventually got used to the weather and made friends. I remember going to Miles Elementary School in the summer for arts and craft camp. We got on a bus and went to Hillsborough River State Park, we learned archery and hiked all around the park. I also learned how to make Georgia ice cream, I was excited till I found out it was grits, made on the campfire. I still enjoy going to that park, just not in the summer. The mosquitos will eat you alive. Lots of fond memories during that time.

When I went to school, most of friends called me Jeannie. I liked geography and geology. When I was younger I always wanted to be a geologist. I wasn't that great in math, so that never worked out. I still like rock hunting and love jewelry. It's fun to find out where gemstones come from and how they look before they're polished. I went to Chamberlain High School, home of the fighting Chiefs. Then, it was time to decide what I was going to do with the rest of my life after graduation. My best friend talked me into going to school to be a Licensed Practical Nurse. It sounded like a good idea, so I went for it. Wouldn't you know it my friend decided she was not "into" nursing and quit after 3months. Of course, she had the car and I was left learning to drive a standard shift in one night. I dreaded being on a hill, and trying to get the clutch to work, so I didn't hit the car behind me. Next car was an automatic and everyone since. After I graduated from LPN school I got a job right away at University Hospital (now Florida Hospital). They decided I needed to start at the top and was placed in ICU/CCU. That was kind of scary, being a new

nurse, but after a while I got the hang of it. It was a great experience and looked good on the resume. There were other jobs in nursing as a home health nurse, a lab, and then in the admitting office in the Transfer Center of TGH. That was where I ended up, in 1995 I got my RN and started working on the cardiac floor. I really enjoyed my job and the interacting with the patients. I was working 12 hour shifts and realized after 26 years I needed to retire. I had a full career and was busy all the time. I never had children but am very close with my nieces and nephew.

I was always interested in African Violets and when I saw the display at the Fair, I thought I'd go to one of the meetings. It was interesting, and everyone was very friendly. I am still trying to grow African Violets and maybe someday I'll be an expert. I always love to see the pretty blossoms. There are many interesting lectures and conventions that I've gone to and learned a little bit at each one. Most of all I like all the great people I get to see at the meetings.

Jean Krauchik



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

# RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Lynne Wilson*

## Butter Brickle

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup oats
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup (2 sticks) of butter, melted
- 1 box of vanilla ice cream
- 1 jar of butterscotch sauce

Preheat your oven to 400°F. Mix together the flour, oats, brown sugar, and pecans in a large bowl. Add the butter and mix thoroughly. Spread the mixture evenly on a baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes. Watch closely during the last few minutes, as the edges can start to burn.

Using a 9 x 13-inch pan, crumble half of the mixture into the bottom. Top with half of the jar of butterscotch sauce. Cover with ice cream. \* Sprinkle the remaining cookie mixture over top of the ice cream and top with the rest of the butterscotch sauce. Cover and freeze for at least a couple of hours before serving.

\*Tip: Open your box of ice cream completely and slice the ice cream into 1-inch slices. The ice cream will start to soften slightly once on top of the warm cookie mixture, so let it sit for a few minutes and then spread the ice cream so that it is an even layer.

# AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Where Did That Baby Come From?

Babies, plantlets, clones... each term refers to the same thing. When you propagate, or [put down a leaf](#), each little plant that develops has grown from one single cell on that leaf stem.



When Jeffery Smith, B.S., M.S., PhD (Botany) and AVSA Research Chair, was asked if it was a cut cell which generates the plantlet, he replied, "The injured cell puts out a signal (I'm hurt, help) and a neighboring cell responds to the message... The



message the injured cell puts out can only travel a certain distance. It probably is carried by the veins and concentrates

where a vein terminates. Unspecialized cells (such as epidermal or skin cells) near the location where the signal travels or concentrates will be the most likely to respond and divide." One cell signals danger, and another nearby cell makes an identical plantlet, which guarantees the survival of the species. It also makes our hobby more fun.



Chimeras, such as 'Yukako' seen here, cannot be propagated by leaf cuttings.

That is because a chimera has two different sets of DNA in its cells. Each plantlet from leaf propagation will carry only the set of chromosomes that were contained in the cell from which that plant generated.

Warning... propagation works very efficiently in African violets. One propagated leaf has many unspecialized cells near the cut end of the stem. That leaf may produce many clones - 10 or more is possible.

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

### 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!!



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

# Become a MEMBER

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

Visit us at:

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

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

Look for us on Twitter:

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

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** [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 2018

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



**Rob's Combustible Pigeon**

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

### **A Message from the President**

Dear Violet Friends,

Hope your violets are growing nicely and most of all, that you're enjoying them. After all, they add so much beauty to our homes. June and July brought us more excellent programs and they have also brought us some new members. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to welcome and get acquainted with Maria Dolores Areias, Nina Megginson, Roselind Rovinsky and Dang Williamson. All have attended our day meetings in Seffner and we're so happy to welcome them to our club. Those who attended the July night meeting had quite an evening. Unfortunately there was a fierce rain and thunderstorm that evening and attendance was low. Those who made it to the meeting had great difficulty getting there because of street flooding and accidents. That

included Jim Boyer who was to chair the meeting but was stuck in traffic for an hour. Thankfully, he did make it safely. For sure it was not a good night for the battery in Lynne Wilson's vehicle to die, but since it did, we're thankful that AAA finally arrived and got her going again. Thanks to everyone who was able to make it to the meeting. Now that Summer has officially arrived, it's especially important not to neglect your violets. They need to be kept on the cool side, air-conditioned if possible. Continue feeding with about a 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer each time you water them, and keep the air moving with either a ceiling fan or a clip-on fan. You can even spray mist the plants once or twice a week. However, you'll want to use warm water and you can add a small amount of fertilizer to the water. The violet leaves actually take up more nutrients through foliar feeding rather than through their root system. We finally have a theme for our 2019 show: "Dancing With Violets." It's a good theme and gives us plenty of possibilities for designers. Thanks to Carolee Carter who will be writing the schedule. Show dates are February 21-23, with set-up on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There are only 10 weeks before the African Violet Council of Florida's show and plant sale in Lakeland. The show will be held at Hilton

Garden Inn, 3839 Don Emerson Drive, Lakeland, FL. Dates are October 4-6. We're hoping that several TAVS members will not only attend but enter plants and designs in the show. Hope to see you at one of our August meetings. Until then, happy growing!

Mary Lou Harden, Club President

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

**NIGHT MEETING –August 2nd, 2018 at 7 PM**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Elaine Onofrey

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Mary Lou Harden, Jerry Kast and Elaine Onofrey

### THE PROGRAM:

**“The Three Root Systems Of Gesneriads”**  
**To be presented by Cece Lane**

Cece will demonstrate which gesneriads are fibrous rooted, tuberous or rhizomatous

**DAY MEETING – August 17th, 2018 at 10 AM**  
**Public Meeting Room**  
**Seffner-Mango Library**  
**410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Lynn Bandy

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Lynn Bandy, Linda Bennett and Therese Lynam

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Watering Plants My Way”**  
To be presented by Angelina Grundhoff

Angelina will demonstrate the various methods of watering violets.

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: July 5th, 2018**

### THE PROGRAM:

**“The Discovery, Habitat, And Origin Of The Saintpaulia”**

A DVD by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing  
Presented by Cece Lane

(This program was postponed due to inclement weather. Look for it at a future date.)

**DAY MEETING – July 20th, 2018**

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Columnneas and Aeschynanthus”**

Presented by Robert Cameron

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Linda Bennett  
8/9 Cece Lane  
8/11 Kathleen Pape  
8/27 Mary Fisher





**Thoughts and prayers to fellow members:**

Therese Lynam, Betty Wise, Jerry O'Keefe,  
Bonnie Smith, and Kathleen Pape  
Hope to see you all soon.

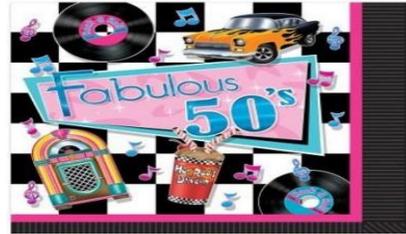


Dang Williamson, Lithia, FL

# COMING EVENTS

**September 8, 2018** – Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society's Gesneriad Celebration at USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Information: JoAnne Martinez, President, [4jam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:4jam@tampabay.rr.com).

## African Violet Council of Florida 2018 Presents Violet Vibes In The



**October 4-6, 2018**  
**HILTON GARDEN INN**  
**3839 Don Emerson Drive**  
**Lakeland, FL 33811**

**October 4-6, 2018** – African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Sale, "Violet Vibes in the Fabulous Fifties,"  
Information: Jim Boyer President,  
[iasb39@gmail.com](mailto:iasb39@gmail.com).

**October 13-14, 2018** - Fall Plant Festival, USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

**February 7-18-2019 Florida State Fair**

**February 23-24, 2019 TAVS Annual show and sale**  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603



**May 26 – June 2, 2019**

**AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW  
HOUSTON MARRIOTT**

**Put some *Violet Fun* in 2019!!**

Plan now to attend the 73rd Consecutive

hosted by Lonestar African Violet Council

- The African Violet Society of America 2019 National Show
- Open to public – Friday and Saturday, May 30 & June 1
- Commercial Vendor Salesroom, with vendors from across the nation
- Presentations, Tours, Food and Fun for All!

**Come & Have Some *Violet Fun* in the Texas Sun!!**

----- **By Plane, by Train or Automobile! –**  
**Two major Airports and Amtrak-----**

**Learn more about the wonders of  
Houston, Texas**  
[www.visithouston.com](http://www.visithouston.com)

**Take a peek at the Houston Marriott  
in the Galleria area**

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hou-wm-houston-marriott-westchase/>

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of Evening Meeting  
July 5th, 2018  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

(Due to the severe weather on the night of our July meeting, many of our members were unable to attend. The meeting was started late due to the weather, and it was a very short meeting.)

The meeting was called to order by Second Vice President, Jim Boyer at 7:35PM, as the President, Mary Lou Harden, was unable to attend the meeting. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance .

**REFRESHMENTS:** Refreshments were provided by Cece Lane and Lynne Wilson.

**PROGRAM:** Due to so few members able to attend the meeting and the late start of the meeting due to the weather, it was decided not to have Cece Lane present the Program, “The Discovery, Habit and Origin of the Saintpaulia”, a DVD presentation by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing. (Cece Lane will present tonight’s Program at another meeting time later this year or next year.)

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Jim Boyer led a brief discussion on the various show themes for the TAVS 2019 Annual Show, and Jim made a motion that we accept, “Dancing with Violets” as our theme. Cece Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jim Boyer reported that the AVCF Fall Show will be held October 5-6, 2018, at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Lakeland, Florida. Thad Scaggs is the Show Chair. Set-up will be on Thursday, October 4, 2018.

Jim Boyer reported that the AVCF is setting up a new web site and Facebook page.

Jim Boyer reported that the AVCF will host the DAVS Convention in November of 2019. (DAVS Convention will not be held in the Spring of 2019.) Jim Boyer also reported that the AVCF will not have a Show in 2019 due to the DAVS Convention taking place in November of 2019.)

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Minutes of Day Meeting  
July 20th, 2017  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden at 10:14 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Barbara Lopez

**GUESTS:** Dang Williamson a friend of Roselind Rovinsky

**REFRESHMENTS:** Barbara Lopez, Robert Cameron, Jim Matula, Roselind Rovinsky and Bonnie Smith

**PROGRAM: "Columneas and Aeschynanthus"** - Presented by Robert Cameron  
Robert gave us a very informative program that included propagating Gesneriads from seeds, tubers, rhizomes, suckers and stolons, repotting and his "Unique" watering system.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**  
The minutes of the June 15, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was unavailable but will be filed with the minutes.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Cece Lane is our "Program Director" and she will be taking ideas for upcoming programs for next year. If you have an idea or would like to present a program contact her before July 31st at [cecel@verizon.net](mailto:cecel@verizon.net)

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues of \$15 were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Glenn Shelton has been appointed our liaison for the AVSA. Glenn pointed out several articles from the most recent AVSA magazine and told everyone just how interesting and vital the magazine is and encouraged everyone to join this great group. AVSA membership, is \$35 per year, and includes a Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year) You can join by logging into the AVSA website or Glenn has membership forms. Carolee Carter is a member of AVSA's website

committee and will be reporting back to us on the progress.

**DAVS:** Lynne Wilson is DAVS President and is our appointed liaison. Annual dues of \$15 are due in February.

**AVCF:** Annual dues \$10. Preparations are underway for a show in Lakeland October 5-6, with set up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Thadd Scaggs is show chair. Carolee Carter reported that the Council will soon have a new website.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Annual dues \$25. Monthly meetings of the local club, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, are held every third Saturday in Tampa.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

We have a show theme: "Dancing with Violets." The night group voted on this theme and the day group voted to select this title also. Mary Lou Harden will be Show Chair and Lynn Bandy will be Co-Chair. Jim Matula has graciously accepted the role of Supplies Chairperson.

We still need Chairmen for The Florida State Fair and the USF fall and spring shows. If you are interested please contact either Mary Lou Harden @ [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net), or Jim Boyer @ [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

We encourage EVERY member to put down leaves and bring plants for the USF sales and our show!

Project plants are available for \$3 each. Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the show!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

We received a letter from Elvie Blakeley, a member of the Orlando club, requesting information about members of TAVS who were also members of AVCF and who have passed on. Elvie is preparing a tribute to them for the Council show. Information will be sent to Elvie on Rita Fitzsimmons and Nancy Lee Simmons.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

July Birthdays: Nancy Kast, Pat Rutzke, Lynne Wilson and Elizabeth Graham. (Sorry we

overlooked new member Roselind Rovinsky's birthday on July 22.)

Glenn Shelton reminded everyone about the bulk order to Lyndon Lyon. They have stated an order of only 25 items would garner a 15% discount. Anticipated order would be in August. Members who are interested in placing an order should contact Glenn by July 31<sup>st</sup> at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

Night Meeting August 5<sup>th</sup>- **"The Three Root Systems Of Gesneriads,"** to be presented by Cece Lane and the Day Meeting August 17<sup>th</sup>- **"Watering Plants My Way,"** to be presented by Angelina Grundhoff.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn E Bandy. Eighteen members and one visitor.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Lou brought Episcias My Precious, Jim's Lemon Zest and Checkerboard, and a Russian variety African violet, LE Lady Winter.

**RAFFLE:** Cathy Kessler

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** provided by Carolee Carter, Patsy Monk and Mary Lou Harden.

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

Lynn Bandy, Day Recording Secretary

## MEET THE MEMBER

**STAY TUNED**  
New member profiles coming soon!!!!

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

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Lynn Bandy*

### Chicken Delish

6-8 Boneless, skinless chicken thighs  
1 small jar Apricot preserves (10-12oz)  
1 small bottle Ranch Dressing (16oz)  
1 envelope onion soup mix

Place chicken in a greased 2- 3-quart glass baking dish  
Combine the preserves, the ranch dressing and the onion soup mix, pour over the chicken.  
Bake in a 350-degree oven for 45- 50 minutes until the sauce is bubbling and the chicken is cooked through  
Serve with rice and a side salad or vegetable.

I know the ingredients sound weird, but this dish is great, and I get rave reviews every time I serve it!

## AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This weeks growing tip was apropos for this time of year!

## Violets in the Oven



Kateri Pavlik had a disaster this spring in rural New York State  
“Oh, my gosh. I stupidly put them outside on a cloudy but warm day, thinking they'd love it. I can't believe it. Four boxes of species, Russians, all beautiful leaves and babies - dead.”



She has shared her story as a warning to anyone who is tempted to think that violets would like to be outside in the fresh air. Kateri said, “Don't (put them outside), even on cloudy days! It was thunder stormy, but I guess they cooked.”

Keeping her leaves in clear plastic boxes as they went outside, caused the damage to occur very quickly. The heat built up and could not escape. Notice that Kateri's leaves just went limp, much like a cabbage leaf would collapse in boiling water.

Kateri kept the leaves a little longer hoping the below-ground stems might generate offspring. It was worth a try, but there was never any sign of life.

**Lesson learned... African violets grew outside originally in the shade of a deep forest canopy. They really won't tolerate sitting outside in bright direct light for very long, even on cloudy days. Keep those violets safe out there!**

Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends! [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

## 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!!



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

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# Become a **MEMBER**

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

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

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[Tampa African Violet Society](#)

**Look for us on Twitter:**

[AfricanViolets@TAVS\\_violets](#)

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**  
[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

## SEPTEMBER 2018

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



**Ma's Cosmic Paradise**

### **A Message from the President**

Dear Violet Friends,

By the time this newsletter reaches you, it will be SEPTEMBER. . .already! This will be just the beginning of our busy season. We have several events coming up in September and October. The first of these is the Gesneriad Celebration on Saturday, September 8, from 9 am until 2 pm at the USF Botanical Gardens. This plant sale is sponsored by the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society. It's an opportunity for you to learn more about the Gesneriad family and buy some new plants to add to your collection. Next is the annual show sponsored by the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF or Council) in Lakeland the first weekend in October – October 5-6. If you're not already a member of the Council, you can still participate

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

in the show. If you would like a copy of the Show Schedule, please let me know. A copy of the AVCF Membership Application is attached to this newsletter. Even if you don't enter plants or designs in the show, you can come and see a beautiful show and purchase new plants. Last is the Fall Plant Festival at USF's Botanical Gardens scheduled for the second weekend in October – October 13-14. We need member support for this event. You don't have to be an expert on growing violets in order to help. We need a few members to work the cash register at designated time slots, and we need people to assist with checkout at the register. We will be selling supplies and will need help with pricing and organizing the supplies and it's up to all of us to greet the people who come to us and answer their questions. Our 2018-2019 Yearbooks will be available at the September 7 night meeting. Cece Lane has done a great job arranging for this year's programs. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with programs and for providing refreshments and raffle plants at our meetings. Hope to see you at the September meetings!

Mary Lou Harden, Club President

# OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

**NIGHT MEETING –September 6th, 2018 at 7 PM**

**Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Mary Kay Ross

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Cece Lane, Mary Kay Ross and Mary Lou Harden

## THE PROGRAM:

**“The Discovery, Habitat and Origin of the Saintpaulia”** a DVD presentation by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing.

To be presented by Cece Lane

**DAY MEETING – September 21st, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Barbara Lopez

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Martha Morgan Glenn Shelton and Mary Lou Harden

## THE PROGRAM:

**An Overview of AVSA’s “First Class”**

To be presented by Jim Boyer

# RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: August 2nd, 2018**

## THE PROGRAM:

**“The Three Root Systems Of Gesneriads”  
Presented by Cece Lane**

Cece demonstrated which gesneriads are fibrous rooted, tuberous or rhizmatous

**DAY MEETING – August 17th, 2018**

## THE PROGRAM:

**“Watering Plants My Way”**

Presented by Angelina Grundhoff

Angelina demonstrated various methods of watering violets.



To a get-together at Mary Lou’s home on Saturday, September 15, at 10 am. We’ll have a brief training class on procedures to be followed at all plant sales, including how to use our cash register, tips on using First Class, and preparing your plants for sales.

We’ll also make initial plans for our State Fair exhibit and focal point for our show. And. . .we’ll mix and package soil in preparation for the October USF Plant Sale.

And YES -- brunch will be included! If you would like to bring a dish to share that would be greatly appreciated!

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/12 Sandra Kerns  
9/13 Sheryl Herold  
9/28 Karen Cavanaugh



# COMING

# EVENTS

**September 8, 2018** – Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society's Gesneriad Celebration at USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Information: JoAnne Martinez, President, [4jam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:4jam@tampabay.rr.com).

**October 4-6, 2018** – African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Sale, "Violet Vibes in the Fabulous Fifties,"

African Violet Council of Florida  
2018 Presents

Violet Vibes In The



**October 4-6, 2018**  
**HILTON GARDEN INN**  
3839 Don Emerson Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33811

Information: Jim Boyer President,  
[jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).  
(Meal reservation form included at end of Petal)

**October 13-14, 2018** - Fall Plant Festival, USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

February 7-18-2019 Florida State Fair

February 23-24, 2019 TAVS Annual show and sale

Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603



May 26 – June 2, 2019

**AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW**  
**HOUSTON MARRIOTT**

Put some *Violet Fun* in 2019!!

Plan now to attend the 73rd Consecutive hosted by Lonestar African Violet Council

- The African Violet Society of America 2019 National Show
- Open to public – Friday and Saturday, May 30 & June 1
- Commercial Vendor Salesroom, with vendors from across the nation
- Presentations, Tours, Food and Fun for All!

**Come & Have Some *Violet Fun* in the Texas Sun!!**

----- By Plane, by Train or Automobile! –  
Two major Airports and Amtrak-----

Learn more about the wonders of  
Houston, Texas

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

Take a peek at the Houston Marriott  
in the Galleria area

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hou-wm-houston-marriott-westchase/>

# MEETING MINUTES

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Evening Meeting**  
**August 2nd, 2018**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

Meeting minutes not available, will be read for approval at next meeting.

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of Day Meeting**  
**August 17th, 2017**  
**410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

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

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Lynn Bandy

**GUESTS:** Sharonmarie and Maggie

**REFRESHMENTS:** Lynn Bandy, Therese Lynam, Betty Smith, Roselind Rovinsky and Linda Bennett



**PROGRAM: "Watering Plants My Way"** presented by Angelina Grundhoff. Angelina, a five-year member of TAVS, demonstrated the various methods of watering violets, different wick material, the use of Fels Naptha soap to soak her wicks and the use of charcoal in the bottom of her containers, along with Physan 20 in her water to discourage algae.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the July 20, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report will be filed with the minutes.

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues of \$15 were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Glenn Shelton has been appointed our liaison for the AVSA. Glenn again pointed out several articles from the most recent AVSA magazine and told everyone just how interesting and vital the magazine is and encouraged everyone to join this great group. AVSA membership, is \$35 per year, and includes a Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year). You can join by logging into the AVSA website or Glenn has membership forms.

**DAVS:** Lynne Wilson is DAVS President and is our appointed liaison. Annual dues of \$15 are due in February. Mary Lou passed out several issues of their newsletter along with membership applications encouraging everyone to join this organization.

**AVCF:** Annual dues \$10. Preparations are underway for a show in Lakeland October 5-6, with set up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Thadd Scaggs is show chair. Reservation forms for this are included at the end of this newsletter.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Annual dues \$25. Monthly meetings of the local club, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, are held every third Saturday in Tampa.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

We have a show theme: "Dancing with Violets." Mary Lou Harden will be Show Chair and Lynn Bandy will be Co-Chair. The 2019 TAVS show Committee list is included at the end of this newsletter. David Matthews brought up the subject of lighting. Mary Lou stated that there is a possibility that the church may

improve their lighting before then, but if not we would be looking into renting something.

We still need Chairmen for The Florida State Fair and the USF fall and spring shows. If you are interested please contact either Mary Lou Harden @ [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net), or Jim Boyer @ [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

We encourage EVERY member to put down leaves and bring plants for the USF sales and our show!

Project plants are still available for \$3 each. Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the show!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou has organized a "Working Brunch" at her home on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am. During this brunch we will be learning how to use the cash register, discussing our show "Focal Point" and mixing soil. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we are trying to solve some of the issues regarding our show and get an early start on our focal point. Soil mixing is in preparation for the sale at USF in October. If you would like to bring a dish to share, that would be greatly appreciated

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

August Birthdays: Linda Bennett, Cece Lane, Kathleen Pape and Mary Fisher

Glenn Shelton said the order for plants from Lyndon Lyon was a success.

Night Meeting September 6<sup>th</sup> - "**The Discovery, Habitat and Origin of the Saintpaulia**" a DVD presentation by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing, to be presented by Cece Lane.

Day Meeting September 21st - **An Overview of AVSA's "First Class"** computer program, to be presented by Jim Boyer.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn E. Bandy. Twenty members and 2 visitors.

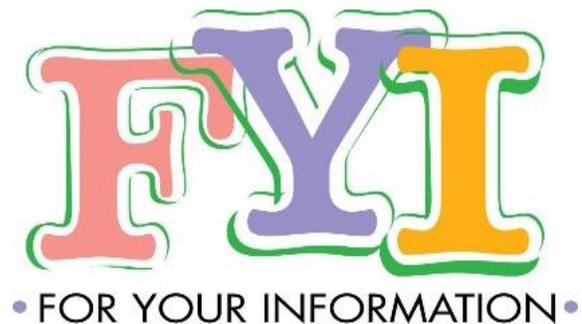
**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Lou brought Sinningias Prudence Risley and Party Dude.

**RAFFLE:** Cece Lane

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** provided by Patsy Monk and Mary Lou Harden.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

**Lynn Bandy, Day Recording Secretary**



From Carolee Carter

I just heard from a former member of the Ocala club who lives in Gainesville. She wants to sell her plant stand, and I thought perhaps some of our new TAVS members might be interested. Here are the details.

**Plant Stand for Sale**

A three-tier plant stand that holds four standard trays on each shelf. It is black and has been "powder coated" so that it never rusts or the paint never comes off. It has attached light fixtures for each shelf, and extra lamps will be "thrown in." The stand does not come apart for easy transport, so arrangements need to be made to take it on the back of a truck or in a large van. Asking price is \$150

Contact: Joy Rohan at 352-339-4209 or email her at [jrohan7@cox.net](mailto:jrohan7@cox.net).

# MEET THE MEMBER

This Month's Profile is from Karen Cavanaugh one of our new members!

I was born in International Falls, MN. and then my dad was drafted into the Navy when I was 3 years old, I had a brother who was 5 years older than me. After the war we moved to Minneapolis, MN and bought a home. I graduated from Roosevelt High School and worked at the Pillsbury Co from my senior year until I was married in 1962.

I have 2 sons that live in Minneapolis, and 4 step daughters. One in Minneapolis, one in New Hampshire, one in Toronto and one in England.

I decided to move to Ocala as a friend of mine lives here and I wanted to get out of the cold and ice of Minnesota winters. So, with the help of my step daughters, Bridget and Kelly and Kelly's husband Peter who found a house in Oak Run for me I flew here in February of 2012. At that time, I had two parakeets and a cat that also flew with me. Had them in special boxes and under the seats in the cabin. No one knew there were birds on board until we left the plane. The price of tickets for the pets, was \$125.00 each. Even the attendants said they never had parakeets on board before.

Art has always been a part of my life but not until I was in my 40's did I do oil painting. I taught, myself to knit and crochet and I sewed most of my clothes over the years and sewed for my two boys as well. I decided after my first marriage ended that I needed to get more education. I did not get to go to college as my parents could not afford it. I went to Normandale Technical College and took Business Marketing, I also took computer classes which were just coming on the scene so I had to keep taking classes as things improved as I wanted to get a good job. Worked quite a few years in the financial world of stocks and bonds. I worked in various department stores over the years and for 9 years I ran an office supply store in a medical building in a Minneapolis suburb. My last employment was with the State of Minnesota in the Business and Development Department. I

was the assistant to 7 representatives. I retired in 2009.

Over the years as my family grew up I was a member of a Garden Club. We grew all kinds of flowers and each year put on a flower show for the community. I loved doing the niche designs and won several ribbons. I have always loved violets and am enjoying the meetings and meeting new members and learning more on growing violets. I look forward to being a part of the Tampa club and working the violet shows when possible.

Thanks Karen!

## STAY TUNED

**New member profiles coming soon!!!!**

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

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Lynn 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

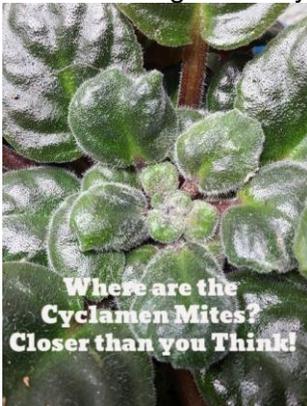
# AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## The July Issue? It has Mites!

That's right. You can always catch something new when you get the African Violet Magazine, a bimonthly publication of the African Violet Society of America.

For example, catch the article in the July issue titled "Where are the Cyclamen Mites? Closer than You Think!" You can [READ THE ARTICLE HERE](#). What else is inside? Read fun stories too, like the one about making a potted violet into a bridal bouquet. You'll love the full-color photos of beautifully grown African violets & other Gesneriads; columns by experts on topics like hybridizing; and even the advertisements of products from top vendors of all things African violet. If you've caught the "violet bug," you need this magazine in your mailbox too!



Get your copy of the *African Violet Magazine* as a benefit of membership in the African Violet Society of America.

**Join today!**

Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends! [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

### 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!! +

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

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)

## Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member:

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

**Visit us at:**

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## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Tampa African Violet Society

### Join us on Twitter:

[AfricanViolets@TAVS\\_violets](#)

Glen has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)

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

Annual membership fee which includes a quarterly newsletter, **The Florida Connection**, is \$10 per year. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.**

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

**(Find the Membership application included at end of newsletter)**

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

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## **2019 TAVS SHOW COMMITTEE**

**Show co-chairs:** Mary Lou Harden and Lynn Bandy

**Schedule:** Carolee Carter

**Entries:** Jim Boyer, Lynn Bandy

**Classification:** Kathy Glenn

**Plant Placement:** Terry Jordan

**Final Plant Placement:** Angela Newell

**Staging and Properties:** David Matthews and Tom Schaeffer

**Judges and Clerks:** Jim Boyer

**Awards:** Angela Newell

**Focal Point:**

**Plant Sales:** Cathy Kessler and Angela Newell

**Cash Register:** Martha Morgan

**Club Supplies:** Jim Matula

**Show Plant Sales:** Angelina Grundhoff

**Publicity:** Lynn Bandy, Mary Lou Harden

**Education:** Cece Lane

**Hospitality:** Jean Krauchik

**Novice Administrator:** Jim Boyer

**Design Administrator:** Mary Lou Harden

**Set up and clean Up:** **EVERYONE**



**The AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA**  
**“Violet Vibes in the Fabulous 50’s”**  
Hilton Garden Inn/3839 Don Emerson Dr/ Lakeland FL 33811  
Direct line to hotel: (863)647-0066

*Friday menu for dinner, October 5, 2018*  
*\$38 per person including tax and gratuities*

**Entrees: (check one)**

- Tilapia\*
- Herb Crusted Pork Loin\*
- Chef’s Pasta with Vegetables\*

\*All Dinners include green beans with garlic butter, red skinned herbed crusted potatoes, dinner rolls & Butter Coffee, Water, Iced tea, and Chef’s Choice Dessert

Please make Check payable to AVCF and mail by September 30<sup>th</sup> to:

**Sharon Gartner, 5036 Paradise Pond Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32207**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed for meals** \_\_\_\_\_

AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Membership payments due January 1st Delinquent February 1st Expires March 1st Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ Email:

\_\_\_\_\_ Home PH:

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell PH: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_ City:

\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate -

Month/Day: \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership: \_\_\_ Renewed Membership: \_\_\_ My local club is:

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Please check the following

statements that apply to you: \_\_\_\_\_ I am a charter member of the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an honorary member of the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of the

African Violet Society of America (AVSA) \_\_\_\_\_ I am a Life Member of the AfricanViolet Society of America

(AVSA) \_\_\_\_\_ I am an AVSA Judge Please circle appropriate Judge's status: Student Advanced Senior Master

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of DIXIE African Violet Society (DAVS) \_\_\_\_\_ I am Life Member of DIXIE

African Violet Society (DAVS) \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of the Gesneriad Society \_\_\_\_\_ I am an official

Gesneriad Judge ===== Note to

Affiliated Clubs: Please fill out the following information:

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Current

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Is Your Club is Covered by Insurance: Yes or No Club Meeting Time/Days/Dates

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Club Meeting

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Current Treasurer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Current Vice-President:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Current Secretary:

\_\_\_\_\_

===== Class of Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership is \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliated Club Membership is \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial

Membership is \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Honorary membership given to all past AVCF Presidents \_\_\_\_\_ A one year

honorary membership is given to the AVCF Show Sweepstakes Winner. \_\_\_\_\_ Free membership for affiliate

club member first time Blue Ribbon Winner. All Honorary members please fill out this form for inclusion in the

AVCF directory. Thank you! Please make your check payable to African Violet Council of Florida for the

appropriate amount (see above) and mail this form and your check to AVCF Treasurer: Sharon Gartner, 5036

Paradise Pond Lane, Jacksonville, Florida 32207



# THE PETAL

## OCTOBER 2018

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



**Burnt Autumn**

### **A Message from the President**

Dear Violet Friends,

Many thanks to everyone who came to my home on Saturday, September 15 – there were 15 of us and we had a fun time. I must say that TAVS members are great cooks! We had plenty of good food! Jim Boyer and Therese Lynam did a fine job of instructing us on the operation of our cash register – something that will be extremely helpful in the sales room at our shows and other sales events. We also briefly discussed ideas for our show's focal point, and we mixed and packaged soil in preparation for the USF Plant Festival and beyond. As my mom would say, "Many hands make light work." Thanks to all who helped!

Here we are at the final quarter of 2018! That means we are in the early preparation stages

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

for our annual show. Our project plants have been available for the past 3 months – we still have some available if you need another one. They're \$3 each and we want every member to grow a project plant for entry in the February show. Last year, we had a few entries in the Project Plant class at the show. I'm hoping this show we will have MANY!

The annual show sponsored by the African Violet Council of Florida, our statewide Council, takes place October 5 and 6 in Lakeland, with entries on Thursday, October 4. Since Lakeland is our close neighbor to the East, this is a great opportunity for us to become involved and enter plants and designs in the show. If you're unable to have entries, by all means take the time to come to Lakeland and see a beautiful show. Additionally, you'll also find many African violets and other Gesneriads for sale.

The USF Fall Plant Festival will follow on the heels of the Council show. Dates are Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14. Hours on Saturday are 10 am until 3 pm and on Sunday they are 10 am until 2 pm. Thanks to Tom Schaefer who will pick up the tents on Thursday, October 11, and will be in charge of set-up at USF. We need volunteers to meet Tom at USF Botanical Gardens that Thursday at about 12:30 pm to help. As you know, Tom is

a “let’s git ‘er done” kind of guy – so setup will be done efficiently and correctly!  
Hope to see you at our October 11 or October 19 meeting!  
Mary Lou Harden Club President

**PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES OF MEETING DATES:**

**The October Night meeting is October 11 – NOT the 4<sup>th</sup>.**  
**The December Day meeting is December 14 – NOT the 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**The July 2019 Night meeting is July 11 – NOT the 4<sup>th</sup>**

**YEARBOOK CHANGES:**

Please make the following corrections in your 2018-2019 Yearbook:

**Page 48** – Change birthdate for Dolores Areias from 9/17 to 11/17  
Add Cathy Kessler’s birthdate – 12/25  
**Page 56** – Dolores Areias – birthdate is 11/17  
**Page 62** - Lisa Villabol’s telephone number is 813-871-0865.

**GUESTS IN SEPTEMBER:**

Karen Schmidt  
Juanita Jammes  
Red Glass, his daughter Jennifer and friend Mark.

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!  
(Please note the date change for this meeting)

**NIGHT MEETING –October 11th, 2018 at 7 PM**  
**Common Ground Christian Church**  
**4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**  
**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE**

**Inspirational:** Jerry Kast

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Kathy Glenn, Jerry Kast and Maria Whidden

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“RX Session: Free Check-ups!”**  
**Bring your plants for advice!**  
**A look back at the AVCF show**

**DAY MEETING – October 19th, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Public Meeting Room**  
**Seffner-Mango Library**  
**410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Bonnie Smith

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Linda Bennett, Angelina Grundhoff and Glenn Shelton

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Vintage and Species Plants**

To be presented by Glenn Shelton

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: September 6th, 2018**

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“The Discovery, Habitat and Origin of the Saintpaulia”** a DVD presentation by Dr. Jeff Smith and Barbara Pershing.  
To be presented by Cece Lane

Cece presented this very entertaining and informative DVD.

**DAY MEETING – September 21st, 2018**

**THE PROGRAM:**

**An Overview of AVSA’s “First Class”**

Jim Boyer presented an informative look into the AVSA’s data base.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/17 Annie Pirone  
10/21 Charles Fisher  
10/22 Lisa Villabol  
10/24 Peggy Waibel  
10/27 Susan Buys



# COMING

# EVENTS

**October 13-14, 2018** - Fall Plant Festival, USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

**October 31 - November 11, 2018**  
Heart of Jacksonville AVC Special African Violet Display in the Exhibit Hall at the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair.  
Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairground Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202

**November 3, 2018** – Heart of Jacksonville AVC, Plant Sale, 9 am to 4 pm, at Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretta Road, Jacksonville, FL 32223

**February 7-18-2019 Florida State Fair**

**February 23-24, 2019 TAVS Annual show and sale**  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603



May 26 – June 2, 2019

**AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW  
HOUSTON MARRIOTT**

**Put some *Violet Fun* in 2019!!**

Plan now to attend the 73rd Consecutive hosted by Lonestar African Violet Council

- The African Violet Society of America 2019 National Show
- Open to public – Friday and Saturday, May 30 & June 1
- Commercial Vendor Salesroom, with vendors from across the nation
- Presentations, Tours, Food and Fun for All!

**Come & Have Some *Violet Fun* in the Texas Sun!!**

----- **By Plane, by Train or Automobile! –  
Two major Airports and Amtrak-----**

**Learn more about the wonders of  
Houston, Texas**

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

**Take a peek at the Houston Marriott  
in the Galleria area**

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hou-wm-houston-marriott-westchase/>

# **MEETING MINUTES**

The August evening meeting minutes previously unavailable are being included for approval

## **TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Evening Meeting Minutes August 2nd, 2018 Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 7:04 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GUESTS:** Carol Wegman, Robert Bryan, grandson of Kathy Glenn

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Dr. Elaine Onofrey

**REFRESHMENTS:** Jean Krauchik, Jerry Kast, Elaine Onofrey

**PROGRAM:** The 3 Root Systems of Gesneriads, by Cece Lane

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the July 5, 2018, meeting were approved as published.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS** – Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that the annual dues for TAVS are \$15.00 and will be due next month (in April).

**AVCF** – Mary Lou Harden reported that the annual dues to join AVCF are \$10.00. Fall meeting and Show will be October 5-6 in Lakeland. Jim Boyer is AVCF president.

**AVSA** – Mary Lou Harden reported that the annual dues for AVSA are \$35.00. Mary Lou encourages every TAVS member to be a member of the AVSA.

**DAVS** – Mary Lou Harden reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00 and are due in February of each year.

**TBGS** – Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month at 10 am at the offices of Dr. Martinez on MLK in Tampa. Annual dues are \$10.

Kathy Glenn asked members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook page.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

TAVS project plants are still available at \$3 each

TAVS 2019 show is February 22-23, with set-up on February 21. Lynn Bandy will serve as co-chair with Mary Lou Harden. Carolee Carter is writing the show schedule.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

August Birthdays: Linda Bennett, Cece Lane, Kathleen Pape, Mary Fisher  
August Day meeting – Angelina Grundhoff – Watering Plants My Way

### **SHOW & TELL:**

Jerry Kast – Jersey Rose Trail, a semiminiature trailer  
Mary Lou Harden – Sinningia Prudence Risley  
Anita Adlin – Leaves of Picasso

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Evening Meeting Minutes  
September 6th, 2018  
Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 7:05 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GUESTS:** Karen Schmidt and Juanita Jammes

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Mary Kay Ross

**REFRESHMENTS:** Cece Lane, Mary Kay Ross, Mary Lou Harden

**PROGRAM:** The Discovery, Habitat & Origin of the Saintpaulia (DVD), by Cece Lane

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the August 2, 2018, meeting were not available.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that the annual dues for TAVS are \$15.00 and will be due next April.

She also reported that the annual dues to join AVCF are \$10.00 and that the Council's Fall meeting and Show will be October 5-6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lakeland.

Mary Lou also reminded members that the annual dues for AVSA are \$35.00. Mary Lou encourages every TAVS member to be a member of the AVSA.

Additionally, she reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00 and are due in February of each year.

Nancy Kast reminded members that annual membership fee for the Gesneriad Society is \$25 and the fee for the local Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society is \$10 annually. She also announced that TBGS will host the Gesneriad Celebration at the USF Botanical Gardens on Saturday, September 8, from 10 am to 2 pm.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

TAVS project plants are still available at \$3 each

TAVS 2019 show is February 22-23, with set-up on February 21. Lynn Bandy will serve as co-chair with Mary Lou Harden. Carolee Carter is writing the show schedule. Mary Lou announced that all members should be growing plants to sell at our show.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

September Birthdays: Sandra Kerns, Sheryl Herold, Karen Cavanaugh

September Day meeting – AVSA's First Class Computer Program – Jim Boyer; Repotting Demo – Cece Lane

October Night meeting will be Thursday, October 11, rather than October 4 so as not to conflict with the Council's show in Lakeland.

Gesneriad Celebration Plant Sale sponsored by Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society at USF Botanical Gardens on Saturday, September 8, from 10 am to 2 pm

Lisa Villabol announced that her correct phone number is 813-871-0865.

Mary Lou invited all members to a brunch at her home in Seffner on Saturday, September 15, at which Jim Boyer and Therese Lynam will give us instructions on operation of the cash register and procedures to be used at all plant sales. In addition there will be discussion and ideas on the show's focal point and plans for the Florida State Fair. We will also mix and package soil in preparation for the USF Fall Plant Festival.

Kathy Glenn told members about Urban Roots, a plant shop on North Dale Mabry in Tampa which is a great place to buy supplies.

#### **SHOW & TELL:**

Lisa Villabol – Blooms from Pink Watercolor  
Jerry Kast – Imp

Nancy Kast – Sinningia Leopoldii

Jean Krauchik – unnamed miniature

Cece Lane – Rob’s Suicidal Squirrel  
Anita Adlin – a few plants for advice  
Mary Lou Harden – Episcia Checkerboard

**PLANT RAFFLE**

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

**Angela Newell, Night Recording Secretary**

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Day Meeting Minutes  
September 21st, 2018  
Mango-Seffner Public Library  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:18 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Barbara Lopez

**GUESTS:** Red Glass, his daughter Jennifer and friend Mark.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Glenn Shelton, Martha Morgan and Mary Lou Harden

**PROGRAM: An Overview of AVSA’s “First Class”**

Jim Boyer explained the features of AVSA’s computer program and the benefits of using it especially in connection with our show.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the August 17th, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer’s Report will be filed with the minutes.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden announced that Glenn Shelton will present a program on Vintage & Species Plants at our October day meeting.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues of \$15 were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Glenn Shelton has been appointed our liaison for the AVSA. Glenn pointed out an article from the most recent AVSA magazine highlighting support for Commercial Vendors. AVSA membership, is \$35 per year, and includes a Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year).

You can join by logging into the AVSA website or Glenn has membership forms.

**DAVS:** Lynne Wilson is DAVS President and is our appointed liaison. Annual dues of \$15 are due in February. Mary Lou passed out several issues of their newsletter along with membership applications encouraging everyone to join this organization.

**AVCF:** Annual dues \$10. Preparations are underway for a show at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lakeland October 5-6, with set up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Thadd Scaggs is show chair. Carolee Carter is seeking “Awards” for this. Since the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS) will be holding its show October 2019 in Jacksonville, AVCF will not be having its own show but will be joining DAVS.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Annual dues are \$25. Monthly meetings of the local club, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, are held every third Saturday in Tampa.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Set up for the USF Fall sale will be Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help with set

up. Members were asked to sign up for specific times to help at the USF sale.

We encourage EVERY member to put down leaves and bring plants for the USF sales and our show!

Project plants are still available for \$3 each. Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the show!

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Carolee Carter has written the "Show" schedule, we are just awaiting approval before sharing.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

September Birthdays: Sandra Kerns, Sheryl Herold, and Karen Cavanaugh.

Glenn Shelton said the order for plants from Lyndon Lyon was a success. He reported that Rob Robinson of The Violet Barn in New York has a special offer of 10 different varieties, seller's choice, for \$50. Several members were taking advantage of this opportunity.

Night Meeting October 11th - **"RX Session: Free Check-ups!**

Bring your plants for free/expert advice!

Day Meeting October 19th – **"Vintage and Species Plants"** to be presented by Glenn Shelton

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn E. Bandy. Seventeen members and 3 visitors.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Lou gave us a demonstration of repotting a long neck plant.

**RAFFLE:** Cathy Kessler

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** provided by Patsy Monk, Carolee Carter and Mary Lou Harden.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

**Lynn Bandy, Day recording secretary**



Condolences to Terry Jordan on the passing of her Brother in law

## **MEET THE MEMBER**

This Month's Profile is from Cece Lane. Since joining TAVS in 2014 Cece has served as Recording Secretary, Program Chair, Auditor, Treasurer Pro Tem and Education Chair for our shows and is currently Corresponding Secretary, and First Vice President.

I was a war baby born in Duluth, Minnesota. My father was in Army Intelligence during and after WW II-stationed state side and so I lived in many places in my younger years.

We moved to Tampa in 1957 and I attended Wilson Jr. High and Plant High School and then on to Florida State University. In high school I was a member of the band (tenor sax) and swam on the swim team. My favorite subject was math. My major in college was elementary education.

My work experience has varied from accounting to teaching and sometimes both at the same time. I still substitute teach today.

My husband Ken and I have two grown children, a son and a daughter, both married and living in Tampa. We have four grandchildren, our only granddaughter is in college, our eldest grandson is a senior in high school and the younger boys ages eight and ten are in grade school.

My early love of flowers came from my maternal grandmother who had a summer country home

with beautiful flower beds. When visiting, she would allow me to pick fresh flowers for the house. However, I never experienced growing flowers until a good friend invited me to attend a Tampa African Violet Society meeting. And there, my curiosity got the best of me and I joined so I could learn about and experience growing violets. Grandmother would be proud!

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

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted*

*by Jim Boyer*

**BUTTERNUT SQUASH MAPLE BACON  
CASSEROLE**

12 servings

4 lb butternut squash, peeled and chopped  
(about 10 1/2 cups)

4 eggs, lightly beaten

1/3 cup butter, cut up

1/4 cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup maple syrup

1/4 cup milk

8 oz maple flavor bacon, chopped

1 medium onion, quartered and sliced

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon, or more to  
taste

Maple syrup

Preheat oven to 350F. Grease a 3 qt  
rectangular baking dish; set aside.

In a large Dutch oven cook butternut squash, covered, in enough boiling salted water to cover for 25-30 minutes or until tender; drain. Return to pan. Mash squash with a potato masher. Gradually stir about 1 cup of the mashed hot squash into the beaten eggs. Return mixture to remaining squash in pan. Add butter, brown sugar, the 1/4 cup maple syrup, and the milk. Whisk until well combined. Transfer squash mixture to the prepared baking dish. Bake uncovered for 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook bacon and onion over medium heat about 10 minutes or until bacon is slightly crispy and onion is tender, stirring frequently. Remove from heat, drain off any excess fat. Stir in cinnamon.

Top the casserole with the bacon and onion mixture. Bake uncovered about 10 minutes more or until edges are set and casserole is heated through. Drizzle with additional maple syrup. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

NOTES: 9-1-17 Tender after 25 min. Too sweet. Leave out brown sugar next time. 9-23-18 Made exactly but didn't add syrup at end – great.

## AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

September 10th, 201

### The Beautiful World of Violet Design

There is more than one way to enjoy your African violets...try using them artistically.

This artistic plant arrangement, titled "Hoop," by B.J. Ohme, won Best in Show at the 2018 AVSA Convention in Buffalo, New York.

B.J. used 4 painted embroidery hoops, foxtail fern, and 3 "Jolly Glow" semi-mini

violet plants in his design. The overall size was about 18 inches.



Get your copy of the *African Violet Magazine* as a benefit of membership in the African Violet Society of America.

**Join today!**

Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends! [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

## 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!!!! +

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

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)

## Become a MEMBER

**WANT TO JOIN TAVS?** Annual dues are \$15. Send an email to Therese Lynam if you're interested in becoming a member:

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

**Visit us at:**

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

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



### Tampa African Violet Society

Kathy Glenn asked members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook page. [kathybear555@gmail.com](mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com)

### Join us on Twitter:

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

Glen has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** [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.



**LE Autumn Fantasy**





# THE PETAL

## NOVEMBER 2018

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



**Burnt Autumn**

### **A Message from the President**

Dear Violet Friends,

Thank you, TAVS members, for your wonderful support at the Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens! You came through for us, and your help is appreciated! Several of our members brought plants to sell, and that's always a plus.

One of the perks of helping at these plant sales is the great camaraderie that we all enjoy. At our meetings, time is limited so we're happy to be able to share more time with one another – even if our visiting is sandwiched between serving our customers! The weather was just beautiful on Saturday, hence, the public came out and we had brisk sales throughout most of the day. Sunday was a little warmer so sales were a little less. However, overall, the Club did quite well.

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

One week prior to the USF Fall Plant Festival, several TAVS members were busily engaged in the annual show in Lakeland sponsored by the African Violet Council of Florida, of which Jim Boyer is president. There were 176 entries in the show, 164 in Horticulture and 14 in Design. Glenn Shelton served as Classification Chair and both he and Angela Newell were Judges. It was a beautiful show. Next year's show will be in October in or near Jacksonville, and will be a jointly sponsored show with Dixie AVS. Because of a fatal automobile accident on the Howard Frankland Bridge the morning of our October day meeting, our Pinellas County members were unable to attend the meeting. This meant that Glenn Shelton was unable to attend and present his program on Vintage & Species Plants. Glenn has agreed to give his program at the November 16 day meeting at which time Jim Boyer will also give us some advice on grooming plants for show. At the November 1 night meeting, Angela Newell will give us tips about grooming plants for show. A nominating committee will also be appointed at that meeting. Take advantage of any free time between now and the holidays to do some repotting. Once the holidays arrive, it's hard to find time to work on plants!

Hope to see you at one of the November meetings!

Mary Lou Harden Club President

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

### PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES OF MEETING DATES:

The December Day meeting is December 14 – NOT the 21<sup>st</sup>

The July 2019 Night meeting is July 11 – NOT the 4th

**NIGHT MEETING –November 1st, 2018 at 7 PM**

**Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603**

**Inspirational:** Tom Schaeffer

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Terry Jordan, Therese Lynam and Tom Schaeffer

### THE PROGRAM:

#### “Grooming for Show”

To be presented by Angela Newell  
Appointment of Nominating Committee

**DAY MEETING – November 16th, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584**

**Inspirational:** Celia Howe

**Refreshments and Raffle Plants:** Barbara Matthews, Tom Schaeffer and Nina Megginson

### THE PROGRAM:

#### “VINTAGE & SPECIES PLANTS”

By Glenn Shelton  
and

#### “Grooming for Show”

To be presented by Jim Boyer

## RECENT PROGRAMS

### NIGHT MEETING: October 11th, 2018

#### THE PROGRAM:

“RX Session: Free Check-ups!”  
Members brought plants for advice.

**A look back at the AVCF show**

#### AVCF SHOW WINNERS

“Violet Vibes in the Fabulous 50’s”  
Lakeland, FL – October 5-6, 2018

Best in Show, 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Show Horticulture; Best AVSA Collection, Standard; Best DAVS Collection, Standard; Best Standard; Best Trailer; Best Fantasy; Best Russian; Best Buckeye; Sharon Gartner, Jacksonville, FL.

3<sup>rd</sup> Best in Show Horticulture; Best AVSA Collection Mini/Semi mini; 2<sup>nd</sup> Best AVSA Collection Standard; Best DAVS Collection, Mini/Semi mini; 2<sup>nd</sup> Best DAVS Collection, Standard; Best Miniature; Best Semi miniature; 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Semi miniature; Best Vintage; Best Lyndon Lyon; Best Optimara; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Kurt Jablonski, Miami Beach, FL.

2<sup>nd</sup> Best AVSA Collection, Mini/Semi mini; Carolee Carter, Ocala, FL.

Best Species, Elvie Blakely, Titusville, FL.

Best Chimera, Martha Spyridon, Delray Beach, FL.

Best Other Gesneriad; Best Streptocarpus; Best Episcia; Best Terrarium; Bobbi Johannsen, Jacksonville, FL.

Best Novice Horticulture; Georgia Shaw.

Best in Design; 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Design; Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement; Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement; Best Natural Garden; Best Dish Garden, Design Sweepstakes; Mary Lou Harden, Seffner, FL.

**DAY MEETING – October 19th, 2018**

**THE PROGRAM:**

**“Vintage and Species Plants**

Our scheduled presenter for this program Glenn Shelton was caught in a horrific traffic jam and was not able to be present, so our illustrious President Mary Lou Harden stepped in and gave us an informative presentation on Episcias.

**GUESTS IN OCTOBER:**

Amanda Mendoza, Riverview, FL  
Garth McFadden, a visitor from Vancouver, Canada who is a member of the Vancouver African Violet Society and The Gesneriad Society

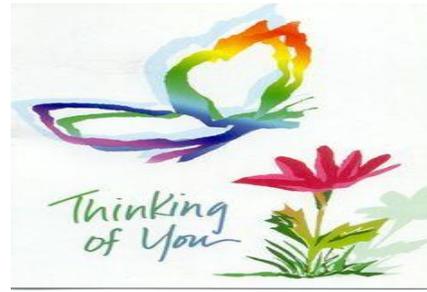
**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/1 Tom Schaeffer  
11/10 Carolee Carter  
11/17 Dolores Areias  
11/19 Glenn Shelton  
11/27 Barbara Matthews  
11/29 Linda Schwambach



**WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!**

Amanda Mendoza – [amen60@hotmail.com](mailto:amen60@hotmail.com)



Lynne Wilson has a new lung lesion, Bonnie Smith is recovering, Betty Wise continues to undergo Chemotherapy and Therese Lynam is recovering from one cataract extraction and will undergo another in December but on a light note she is feeling good enough to drive! Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.



**October 31 - November 11, 2018**

Heart of Jacksonville AVC Special African Violet Display in the Exhibit Hall at the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair.  
Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairground Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202

**November 3, 2018** – Heart of Jacksonville AVC, Plant Sale, 9 am to 4 pm, at Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretta Road, Jacksonville, FL 32223

**February 7-18-2019 Florida State Fair**

**February 23-24, 2019TAVS Annual show and sale**

Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

May 26 – June 2, 2019



## AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW HOUSTON MARRIOTT

Put some *Violet Fun* in 2019!!

Plan now to attend the 73rd Convention

2019 National Show hosted by the Lonestar African Violet Council  
Open to the public – Friday and Saturday, May 30 & June 1  
Commercial Vendor Salesroom, with vendors from across the nation  
Presentations, Tours, Food and Fun for All!

Come & Have Some *Violet Fun* in the Texas Sun!!

----- By Plane, by Train or Automobile! –  
Two major Airports and Amtrak-----

Learn more about the wonders of  
Houston, Texas  
[www.visithouston.com](http://www.visithouston.com)

Take a peek at the Houston Marriott  
in the Galleria area  
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/houwm-houston-marriott-westchase/>

## MEETING MINUTES

TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
Evening Meeting Minutes  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Harden at 7:15 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Jerry Kast

**REFRESHMENTS:** Maria Whidden, Kathy Glenn and Jerry Kast

**PROGRAM: Rx Session – Bring your plants for advice and a check-up.** Kathy Glenn brought plants showing mite damage as an educational tool. The plants had been treated with the insecticide Forbid. Lisa Villabol showed a violet that needed repotting. Anita Adlin brought a couple of violets that had long petioles which needed to be removed and the plants repotted. Mary Lou Harden showed a standard violet that had a neck and needed to be repotted.

**SHOW & TELL:** Following the program, we continued with Show & Tell. Jerry Kast showed one of his AV miniatures, and Nancy Kast showed Sinningia Leopoldii.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the August 2, 2018, and September 6, 2018, meetings were approved as published.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik – Twelve members were present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mary Lou Harden reminded everyone that the annual dues for TAVS are \$15.00 and will be due next April. She also reported that the annual dues to join AVCF are \$10.00 and that the Council's annual Show October 5-6 in Lakeland was a success. Mary Lou also reminded members that the annual dues for AVSA are \$35.00. Mary Lou encourages every TAVS member to be a member of the AVSA. Additionally, she reported that DAVS annual dues are \$15.00 and are due in February of each year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

TAVS project plants are still available at \$3 each

The annual Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens is Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14. Hours on Saturday are 10 am to 3 pm and on Sunday are 10 am to 2 pm. We need volunteers to help both days of the sale as well as setting up the tents on Thursday, October 11, at 1 pm.

TAVS 2019 show is February 22-23, with set-up on February 21. Lynn Bandy will serve as co-chair with Mary Lou Harden. Carolee Carter is writing the show schedule. Mary Lou announced that all members should be growing plants to sell at our show.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

October Birthdays: Annie Pirone, Charles Fisher, Lisa Villabol, Peggy Waibel, Susan Buys

Program for October 19 Day meeting – Vintage & Species Plants by Glenn Shelton

Program for November 1 Night meeting – Grooming for Show by Angela Newell.

Nominating Committee will be elected.

**PLANT RAFFLE – Cece Lane**

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

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

**TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**

**Day Meeting Minutes**

**October 19th, 2018**

**Seffner-Mango Public Library  
410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Boyer at 10:12 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GUESTS:** Amanda Mendoza and Garth McFadden

**REFRESHMENTS:** Linda Bennett, Martha Morgan and Mary Lou Harden

**PROGRAM: “Vintage and Species Plants”**

Our scheduled presenter for this program Glenn Shelton was caught in a horrific traffic jam and was not able to be present, so our illustrious President Mary Lou Harden stepped in and gave us an informative presentation on *Episcias*.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the September 21st, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer’s Report will be filed with the minutes.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Mary Lou Harden announced that both meetings for next month will be on “**Grooming for Show**” the evening meeting to be presented by Angela Newell and the day meeting to be presented by Jim Boyer

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues of \$15 were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Carolee Carter reported that the AVSA magazine has a new editor and that we would be looking forward to “Theme” magazines in the future.

AVSA membership, is \$35 per year, and includes a Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year). You can join by logging into the AVSA website or Glenn has membership forms.

**DAVS:** Lynne Wilson is DAVS President and is our appointed liaison. Annual dues of \$15 are due in February. Next year’s show

will be in October in Jacksonville in conjunction with the AVCF.

**AVCF:** Annual dues are \$10. Jim Boyer reported there were 169 entries, our own Mary Lou Harden swept away the Design category.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Annual dues are \$25. Monthly meetings of the local club, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, are held every third Saturday in Tampa.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mary Lou Harden reported that we received information regarding the Florida State Fair and she will report further next month.

Carolee Carter has completed the show schedule for our show in February, it is awaiting approval.

We encourage EVERY member to put down leaves and bring plants for sale at our show!

Project plants are still available for \$3 each. Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the show!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

October Birthdays: Anne Pirone, Charles Fisher, Lisa Villabol, Peggy Waibel and Susan Buys.

Lynne Wilson has a new lung lesion, Bonnie Smith is recovering, Betty Wise continues to undergo Chemotherapy and Therese Lynam is recovering from one cataract extraction and will undergo another in December but on a light note she is feeling good enough to drive!

Both meetings in November will be **“Grooming for Show”**

The evening program November 1<sup>st</sup> will be presented by Angela Newell and the day

program November 16<sup>th</sup> will be presented by Jim Boyer.

Appointment of Nominating Committee will also be at the evening meeting.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn E. Bandy. Sixteen members and 2 visitors.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Mary Lou brought a Sinningia Prudence Risley.

**TIP OF THE DAY:** Mary Lou and Jim both gave a tip to utilize Publix fruit containers as 1. A terrarium and 2. Use the top as a shallow planter.

**RAFFLE:** Cathy Kessler

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** provided by Carolee Carter and Mary Lou Harden.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am

Lynn Bandy, Day recording secretary

## **MEET THE MEMBER**

This month's member biography is from new member Peggy Waibel

### **Early Childhood**

**Where were you born?**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Any childhood memories?**  
Fishing with my parents

**Who was the most influential person to you as a child?**  
My mother and my art teacher

**Did you have any pets?**  
In the past I've had dogs, cats and a parrot

**What did you do during the summertime?**  
Spent the days hiking and fishing with family

**Did you have any nicknames?**

Legs

## Grade School/High School

**What was your favorite subject?**

Science

**What was your favorite sport?**

Ice skating

**How would you describe yourself as a student, both socially and academically?**

Average

**What extracurricular activities did you participate in as a teen?**

Ballet, Tap, and Jazz classes

**What was your favorite music/band/dance in high school?**

All of them- I loved music

**What would people you know find surprising about you as a teen?**

I was shy but comfortable on the stage doing ballet

## College

**Did you attend college?**

Yes

**Where?**

Davis and Elkins in West Virginia

**What subject(s) did you study and why?**

Art

**Did you get a degree?**

Attended school for 2 years and then got married.

## Career

**Describe your work career – jobs.**

I went back to school and studied nursing

## Family

**Do you have children?**

Yes: two wonderful boys ages 19 and 22

## African violets – Plants

**When and how did you become interested in growing African violets?**

My mother and Aunt always had beautiful plants

**How many violets do you have?**

100 plus

**What do you love the most about growing African violets?**

Watching them grow into beautiful plants

**Do you grow any other types of plants?**

I did when I was younger

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Socialize with friends, bake, and cook

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

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted  
by Lynn Bandy*

### **Creamy Breasts of Chicken**

8 boneless chicken breast halves  
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
1 can of cream of chicken soup undiluted  
3 cups crushed corn bread stuffing

1 stick melted butter

Layer in a shallow baking dish chicken, cheese, stuffing mix and butter  
Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour

This can be made with any cream soup, cheese or stuffing of your choice  
Despite it's ease of preparation this is a very elegant dish

## AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

October 22nd, 2018

### Violets Grown to Perfection



There is more than one way to enjoy your African violets... and some growers love to compete at African Violet Society of America shows. Competition builds the habits required to grow well consistently. Beautifully grown show plants challenge the rest of us to learn and to develop the same good culture.

This lovely exhibit of 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' was shown by Bobbie Lafashia from Wilmington, Delaware, at the 2018 AVSA Convention in Buffalo, NY. Her skill here is obvious, earning the Best Semiminiature African Violet in the show.

Bobbie said, "'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' has been winning awards for me for the 10 years that I have grown it. It is wick-watered, fertilized with Dyna-Gro 7-9-5,

and grown under T12 fluorescent lights for 12 hours a day. It blooms profusely and forms a symmetrical rosette. It is an excellent plant and never disappoints."

Smart exhibitors choose varieties which are naturally easy to grow. 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' and others may be found on the Honor Roll of Best Varieties, as voted by growers. 'Tally Time' lists varieties which have won major awards in AVSA shows. Studying those results is a great way to choose hybrids for show and for everyday growing

Get your copy of the *African Violet Magazine* as a benefit of membership in the African Violet Society of America.

**Join today!**

**Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends! [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)**

## Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

### 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

# HELP!!!!!! +

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

## Become a MEMBER

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

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

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK



#### Tampa African Violet Society

Kathy Glenn asked members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook page. [kathybear555@gmail.com](mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com)

#### Join us on Twitter:

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

Glen has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** [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.



Ozark Purple Zebra- Sinningia



Jim Boyer- AVCF President



Rose Bouquet



AVCF Show sales room



AVCF Show focal Point







# THE PETAL

## DECEMBER 2018

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



**Volkman's Merry Christmas**

### **A Message from the President**

Dear Violet Friends,

Here we are at year end and I suspect that your thoughts and activities are probably going to be directed towards many things other than African violets! Most of us will be planning family get-togethers, putting up Christmas trees, buying gifts and making some special holiday cookies and treats – leaving little time for our violets. However, since show time is now less than 3 months away, we really do need to pay attention to our plants.

The 2019 Grooming Schedule (pages 54-55 in Yearbook) began the week of November 18. So now we're just 11 weeks before the show. This is a good time to check show plants for any suckers and if any are found, remove them promptly. We've all seen how suckers that have not been removed from a plant can quickly

Tampa African Violet Society, is an Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc., Dixie African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida and The Gesneriad Society

destroy the symmetry. My advice is that you take at least a few minutes from your busy schedule to make sure your plants are getting plenty of strong light and that they are kept evenly moist. We need to have a spectacular show in February, and we need all members pitching in to help.

We've submitted our application to participate in the Florida State Fair in early February. We'll need lots of help to set up the display and then to staff our display throughout the 12 days of the Fair. In addition, we'll need member-grown plants for the display.

Our Nominating Committee will be actively working to come up with a proposed slate of officers to take office in the Spring. Please be thinking about ways you can help our club move forward. If you have ideas for making the club better, please share them.

Our December meetings will focus on Designs. The night meeting will be about flower and plant arrangements and the day meeting (December 14) will be on container gardens. I hope to see you at one or both of our meetings. And don't forget to bring a food item to share!

**THANK YOU!**

Dear Violet Friends at TAVS –

Many thanks for the cash award you donated to the Council show in Lakeland. I was pleased to win the award for my Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement.

Mary Lou Harden, Club President

## OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday. Come join us, visitors are ALWAYS welcome!!!!

### PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES OF MEETING DATES:

The December Day meeting is December 14 – NOT the 21<sup>st</sup>

The July 2019 Night meeting is July 11 – NOT the 4th

**NIGHT MEETING –December 6th, 2018 at 7 PM**

Common Ground Christian Church  
4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33603

**Inspirational:** Mary Lou Harden

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Covered Dish Dinner  
Everyone brings a dish to share

Each Member please bring a cash gift (\$5 suggested) to be donated to a local charity

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Flower and Plant Arrangements”**

To be Presented by Mary Lou Harden

**DAY MEETING – December 14th, 2018 at 10 AM**

**Please note the date change**

Public Meeting Room  
Seffner-Mango Library  
410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

**Inspirational:** Mary Lou Harden

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Covered Dish Dinner  
Everyone brings a dish to share

Each Member please bring a cash gift (\$5 suggested) to be donated to a local charity

### THE PROGRAM:

**“How To Create Award-winning Container Gardens**

To be presented by Mary Lou Harden

## RECENT PROGRAMS

**NIGHT MEETING: November 1st, 2018**

### THE PROGRAM:

**“Grooming for Show”**

Presented by Cece Lane

**DAY MEETING – November 16th, 2018**

### THE PROGRAM:

**“VINTAGE & SPECIES PLANTS”**

Presented by Glenn Shelton

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Luetta Donalds  
12/4 Maria Whidden  
12/11 Celia Howe  
12/25 Jim Boyer/ Cathy Kessler  
12/26 Melody Burke  
12/29 Elaine Onofrey  
12/29 Carla Alter/Amanda Mendoza





Lynne Wilson has been diagnosed with another lung tumor and will be undergoing chemotherapy again. To all our members feeling under the weather and battling serious illnesses. A warm hug and prayers for healing are coming your way.

May 26 – June 2, 2019



**AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW HOUSTON MARRIOTT**

**Put some *Violet Fun* in 2019!!**

Plan now to attend the 73rd Convention

2019 National Show hosted by the Lonestar African Violet Council

Open to the public – Friday and Saturday, May 30 & June 1

Commercial Vendor Salesroom, with vendors from across the nation

Presentations, Tours, Food and Fun for All!

**Come & Have Some *Violet Fun* in the Texas Sun!!**

----- By Plane, by Train or Automobile! –  
Two major Airports and Amtrak-----

Learn more about the wonders of  
Houston, Texas

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

Take a peek at the Houston Marriott  
in the Galleria area

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hou-wm-houston-marriott-westchase/>

**October 2019 – DAVS Annual Convention & Show**, Jacksonville, FL. Lynne Wilson, President

[tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com). Information: DAVS.org

**COMING**

**EVENTS**

**February 7-18, 2019 – Florida State Fair, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa**

**February 22-23, 2019 – Annual Show & Sale, “Dancing With Violets,”** Tampa AVS, Common Ground Christian Church, 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa FL 33603. Mary Lou Harden, President [mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net). Information: Tampaafricanviolets.com

**March 29-30, 2019 – Annual Show & Sale, Heart of Jacksonville AVS,** Jacksonville, FL. Sharon Gartner Gartner President: [svioletlady@yahoo.com](mailto:svioletlady@yahoo.com), Information: jacksonvilleviolets.org

# MEETING MINUTES

## **TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Evening Meeting Minutes November 1st, 2018 Common Ground Christian Church 4207 North Boulevard, Tampa, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Cece Lane at 7:10 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Cece Lane

**REFRESHMENTS:** Mary Lou Harden, Therese Lynam

**PROGRAM:** Cece Lane gave repotting advice and demonstration. There was also discussion regarding grooming for show.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 11, 2018, meeting were approved as published.

**ROLL CALL:** Jean Krauchik – Seven members were present.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

TAVS project plants are still available at \$3 each

Mary Lou gave a report on the annual Fall Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens in October. We had several volunteers helping both days of the sale as well as setting up and then removing the tents after the event.

Mary Lou reminded members that the TAVS 2019 show is February 22-23, with set-up on February 21. The show schedule will be available in November. All members should be growing plants to sell at our show.

Cece stated that awards are needed and are being accepted now.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

November Birthdays: Tom Schaefer, Carolee Carter, Glenn Shelton, Barbara Matthews, Linda Schwambach

Program for November 16 Day meeting – Vintage & Species Plants by Glenn Shelton

Program for December 6 Night meeting – Flower & Plant Arrangements by Mary Lou Harden.

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

Mary Lou Harden, Secretary Pro Tem

## **TAMPA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Day Meeting Minutes November 16th, 2018 Seffner-Mango Public Library 410 N Kingsway Rd, Seffner, FL**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Harden President at 10:10 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL:** Celia Howe

**GUESTS:** Barbara and Liz who normally attend the evening meetings, Marybeth Bryant from St Petersburg and Janice Jones

**REFRESHMENTS:** Tom Schaefer, Linda Bennett, Nina Megginson, Patsy Monk, Roselind Rovinsky

**PROGRAM:** "Vintage and Species Plants"

Presented by Glenn Shelton  
Glenn gave a very informative program about vintage and species plants. He had many beautiful examples of both.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the October 19th, 2018, day meeting were approved as published in "The Petal".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report will be filed with the minutes.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TAVS:** Annual dues of \$15 were due April 2018

**AVSA:** Glenn Shelton reminded us of the national convention next May in Houston, Texas. Glenn called attention to a very interesting article in this month's magazine about Russian hybridizing.

AVSA membership, is \$35 per year, and includes a Subscription to the **African Violet Magazine** (6 issues per year).

You can join by logging into the AVSA website or Glenn has membership forms.

**DAVS:** Lynne Wilson is DAVS President and is our appointed liaison. Annual dues of \$15 are due in February. Next year's show will be in October in Jacksonville in conjunction with the AVCF.

**AVCF:** Annual dues are \$10. Jim Boyer President. Their 2019 show will be in October in Jacksonville, held jointly with the Dixie AVS.

**GESNERIAD SOCIETY:** Annual dues are \$25. Next Year's convention/show is July 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> in Cincinnati, OH

**TBGS-** Annual dues are \$10  
Monthly meetings of the local club, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, are held every third Saturday in Tampa.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Carolee Carter has completed the show schedule for our show "Dancing with Violets" February 21-23, 2019.

Grooming schedule begins this Sunday, November 18th

We encourage EVERY member to put down leaves and bring plants for sale at our show!

Project plants: How are they doing?  
Several members expressed some lagging in blooming.  
Each member is encouraged to grow at least one project plant for the show!

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The nominating committee has been formed. The members are Lynn Bandy -chair, Lynne Wilson and Jim Matula. They will be reporting their decisions in January and are requesting everyone consider who they would like to see as our officers and forward any suggestions to either Lynn Bandy at [nybleb@aol.com](mailto:nybleb@aol.com), Lynne Wilson at [tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com) or Jim Matula at [jmichae47@yahoo.com](mailto:jmichae47@yahoo.com).

AVSA has launched an online fundraising campaign to enable its leadership to consider a broad range of solutions to protect the AVSA staff and to maintain operations. Options being considered are: Renovation of its current building, selling the building, buying new property or renting office space. A motion was made that TAVS donate \$500 to AVSA's fundraising campaign. Motion was unanimously adopted.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

November Birthdays: Tom Schaefer, Carolee Carter, Glenn Shelton, Barbara Matthews and Linda Schwambach.

December 6<sup>th</sup> evening meeting will be Flower and Plant arrangements to be presented by Mary Lou Harden.

This is our annual Christmas brunch and everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish to share and a \$5 cash donation for charity.

December 14th day meeting will be Container Gardens to be presented by Mary Lou Harden. This is our annual Christmas brunch and everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish to share and a \$5 cash donation for charity.

**ROLL CALL:** Lynn E. Bandy. Sixteen members and 2 visitors.

**RAFFLE:** Cathy Kessler

**RAFFLE PLANTS AND LEAVES:** provided by Carolee Carter, Angelina Grundhoff and Glenn Shelton.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am  
Lynn Bandy, Day recording secretary

# MEET THE MEMBER

This month's member biography is from new member Roselind Rovinsky



Hi, This is Roselind Rovinsky.

I was born and raised in Singapore. My late husband and I have traveled extensively within the Indonesian islands and the various parts of Europe. We relocated independently back to the USA in 1981. We lived 4 years in Phoenix, Arizona. Then spent 4+years in Honolulu, Hawaii. Finally, in 1990 we settled in Riverview, Florida.

**Singapore** is a city-state in South East Asia. Founded as a British trading colony in 1819, since it's independence it has become one of the world's most prosperous, tax-friendly countries and boasts the world's busiest port. Combining the skyscrapers and subways of a modern, affluent city with a medley of Chinese, Malay and Indian influences along with a tropical climate, tasty food from hawker centers to the exclusive eateries, copious shopping malls, and vibrant night-life scene, this Garden City makes a great stopover or springboard into the region. Singapore is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world for a lot of reasons, one of which is the less stringent entry requirements. Singapore is hot and humid due to the fact it is near the equator.

English was my first language in school, followed by Mandarin. My mother tongue is Cantonese and I can speak German, Indonesian, Malay and also understand a few of the different Chinese dialects. I studied most of the time and have done 2 years of Dutch dressmaking/sewing lessons. Raised with the ancient Chinese culture, I was instructed to study hard, keep up good grades and maintain a high standard of performances. Classical music was my favorite genre. I studied Arts and Business Administration.

Moving to the United States in 1981, my career was in the financial banking world in the area of Residential/Consumer/Commercial Lending. Then I moved into the Residential Mortgage Lending, Audit review/Compliance and Risk Management. I had to take an early retirement due to the severe repetitive movement carpal tunnel/Dequervein vein syndrome and nerve issues with both my hands. I am now taking time out to concentrate on healing. I do not miss the corporate world after having been in it for over 30+years.

I was introduced to the African Violets through my wonderful friend Maria (aka Delores) Areias. She gave me some of her beautiful violets and ALAS I was hooked! I am extremely grateful for all the miracles the universe has provided me with the many beautiful and exotic plants - the various species desert rose plants, Christmas cactus, Easter cactus, succulents, various herbs, and some Florida native plants. I currently have 80+ African violets. These God's beauties have taught me patience and when they are in the blooming mode they give me a rainbow of joy!

In between jobs at the bank, I studied 2 years of floral designing/floral retailing and 2 years in the horticulture program. Upon completion of my floral study, in 1998 I set up my own my retail floral business in Valrico. I had decided to give myself a break in the corporate banking environment to fulfill my various flowers/plants passion.

The elements of floral design - line, form, space, texture, and color. The principles of floral design are all about balance, proportion,

rhythm, contrast, harmony, and unity. My treasured memories!!

In my spare time I enjoy reading, researching the intranet for personal growth, fitness, nutrition/health, investments, travels, blogging and a whole host of nonfiction topics. I had the opportunity to learn the various skills of beading, gardening, various international cuisines and learned the various culinary skills under the direction of a personal retired executive chef. Recently I joined the fitness club and with the help of a personal coach, I have learned the technics of managing my pains, muscle strengthening and toning. Enjoying my retirement with keeping fit with daily workouts, Pilates and yoga. I like keeping in touch with friends and family internationally via WhatsApp.

I have always loved flowers and enjoy the various meetings at the Riverview Garden Club too. I am enjoying the continuous learning of growing African Violets through the various individuals at the Tampa Violet Club. I look forward to being more hands-on at the Tampa Violet Club and working the violet shows when possible.



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

## RECIPE BOX



*This month's recipe submitted by Lynn Bandy*

### ALMOND CRESCENTS

2 cups flour  
1 Tbs Vanilla  
½ tsp salt  
5 oz toasted almonds (ground fine)  
1 cup confectioner's sugar  
1 cup butter

Mix all above ingredients together. Form into a large ball and let rest for 30 minutes  
Form 1 tsp of dough into a ball, roll into crescent shape  
Bake in a 325 degree oven for 15-18 minutes until just slightly browned on the edges

When slightly cool, dust with additional confectioner's sugar,  
Dust again when completely cool  
Store in an airtight container

Makes 56 cookies

I also make these into balls and roll in red and green sugar crystals

# AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

September 10th, 2018

## Two Violets Sitting Pretty in Isolation



When violets need to be isolated, protected, or need more humidity some growers look for beautiful ways which also enhance home and decorating.

Andee Bui thought of *Beauty and the Beast* as she placed her miniature African violet 'Jolly Bambino' inside a Mason jar. Why is it in isolation? Andee says, "My jar is used to protect both the plant and Marcie, the cat, who loves when I put a blooming plant on a table. I just sprayed the plant with AzaMax, so the jar separates them. No cat hair on plant, no chemical on cat. Now she can take a nap next to it without being tempted to eat it."

A small jelly jar is set inside as a wick-watering reservoir. Occasionally Andee lifts the jar to diffuse condensation inside the glass.



Theresa Bennett of Indianapolis, Indiana, had a problem in the Spring of 2018. "I needed a way to isolate a sick violet and keep it from getting knocked off a table. And I wanted a pretty way to display some other violets too."

She went to the Internet to find an idea. What she came up with is this beautiful glass case made from picture frames! The style is similar to Wardian cases which were popular in the 19th century.

A glass case is useful for isolating a sick or a newly purchased violet. It may also help keep humidity around violets especially in drier climates. And, as an added advantage Theresa finds "It does keep the cat hair off the leaves... for a while." And it looks beautiful!

Get your copy of the *African Violet Magazine* as a benefit of membership in the African Violet Society of America.

**Join today!**

**Anyone is welcome to sign up for this growing tip from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends! [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)**

# Got Problems?

Any time you have a plant that has a problem and you can't identify the problem and would like some advice, bring the plant with you to a meeting and get some help. We can also help with repotting issues. Please be sure if you suspect insect/mite issues that you isolate the plant in a plastic bag

## 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). Your order will be brought to the meeting.

## HELP!!!! +

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

# Become a MEMBER

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

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

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



### Tampa African Violet Society

Kathy Glenn asked members to email pictures of named African violets so she can post to our Facebook page. [kathybear555@gmail.com](mailto:kathybear555@gmail.com)

### Join us on Twitter:

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

Glen has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at [shelgl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shelgl@tampabay.rr.com)

## 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, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702.** [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.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. Send check with contact information to: **Sharon Gartner, 1573 LaBaron Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207.** [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.

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