

The Petal

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



August 2025

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



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

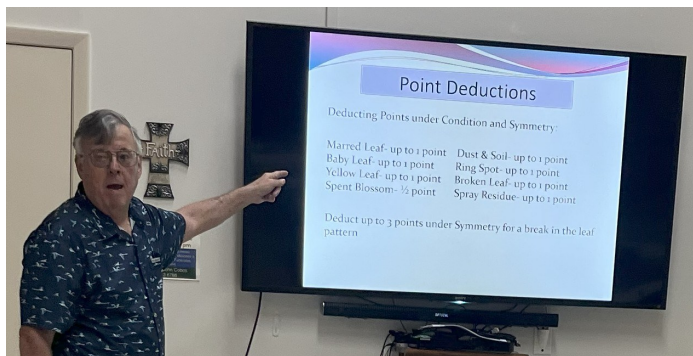
A message from our President

Happy August, my friends!

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

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

A message from our President (cont.)



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

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

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

Finally, it's Project Plant Time!!

PROJECT PLANT TIME!!

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

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

See you soon!

Sandi Soto



**Bob Serbin (8292)
09/21/1995 (J. Brownlie)
Photo by Sandy Schultz**



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

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

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



ZOOM/Evening Meeting -

Thursday, August 7 @ 7pm

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

Join ZOOM Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

Mary Beth Bryant will be hosting the virtual night meetings via ZOOM! We will have a program to begin and lots of time for any questions. Then we will open it up and do some show and tell. So get your precious blooming babies camera ready; I know we all want to see some flowers! Club business meeting will follow.

What's that you say? You don't know how to ZOOM? No problem. You don't need to have a ZOOM account or download anything permanently to your computer, tablet or phone. Be on the lookout for an email from Mary Beth/ Mary Lou a few days before the meeting with a link to access the meeting. Hope to see you then!

Our Meetings

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10am at our **NEW LOCATION:**

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334



Day Meeting -

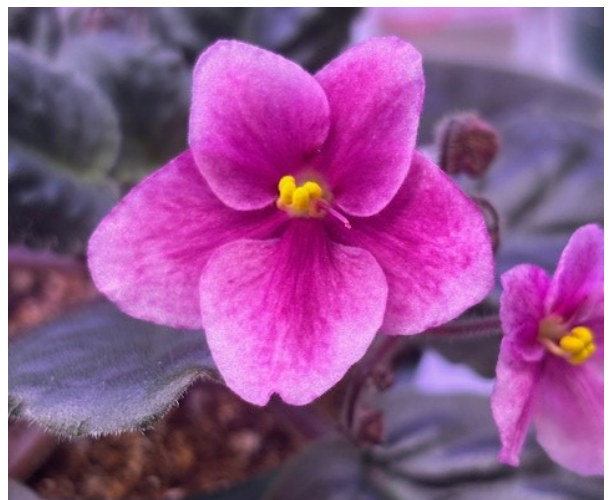
Friday, August 15 @ 10am

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

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



Smooch Me (8776)

11/14/1998 (K. Stork)

Photo by Sandi Soto



MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society

July 18, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

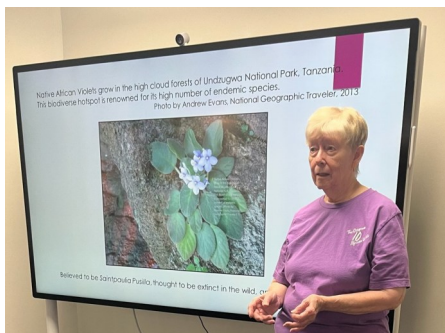
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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

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

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:45am.



Sandi Soto leading program

**"A Journey to the Usumbara Mountains -
Discovery of The Species"**

Program Notes

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

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



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

Recipe Box



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

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

Tabbouleh

From *The Complete Vegetarian Cookbook*

Ingredients:

Salt and pepper

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

1/2 cup medium-grind bulgur, rinsed

1/4 cup lemon juice

6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 1/2 cups minced parsley

1/2 cup minced fresh mint

2 scallions, sliced thin

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

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

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



WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PLANTS!

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



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

PROJECT PLANT TIME!!



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PROJECT PLANT

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

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

Good luck & happy growing!

Upcoming Events



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

September 11, 12 & 13, 2025

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

For more information: DAVS.org

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

VIOLET TREASURES

October 31-November 1, 2025



SAVE THE DATE!

**2026 AVSA
CONVENTION**

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



**VIOLETS ARE
TEXAS STARS**

Become a **MEMBER**

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Annual membership (April 1 to March 31)

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

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

floridainorchids@gmail.com

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

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

Visit us at:

www.tampaafricanviolets.com

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Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

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Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

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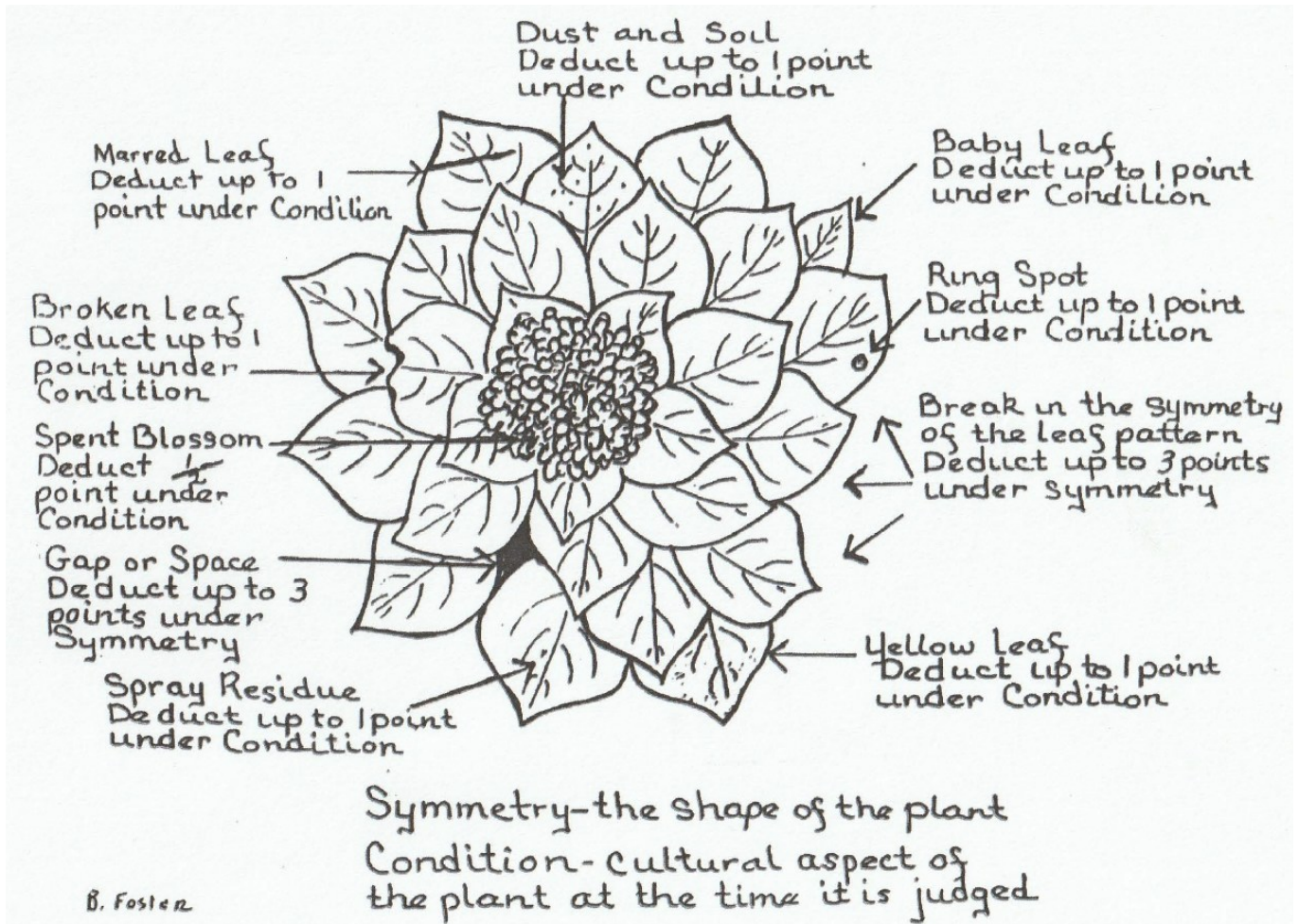
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Cajun's Rum Boogie

2019 (B. Thibodeaux)

Photo by Mary Beth Bryant



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

