

The Petal

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



April 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.

A message from our **New** President

Spring has sprung, and the calendar be damned! It's too hot too soon, and there's nothing we can do about it now but get ready for the April USF Plant Sale. Now, about me, your new President: They cut another hole in my head, no doubt trying to let the demons out (!!), with limited success. So, I likely won't be presiding at our April day meeting, as their next project is to remake the skin on my forehead with some nasty formula no doubt concocted by witches! If there are young children in your life, make sure they know that without SPF 963 and a hat, the sun is NOT their friend.



Steffano's Azure Diamonds (11157)

03/21/2019 (S. Covolo)

Photo by Sandi Soto

Enough about me! Well, no. My final college major was Organizational Studies, with a focus on Organizational Change. If you like for things to stay just as they've always been, remember that I was elected under protest (mine), so you were warned! Keep in mind, however, that any changes in how TAVS operates will be changes a majority at least agrees to try. It may take some convincing to get to the "let's give it a whirl" point, and if things don't work out, there's always retreat!

So let's focus on TAVS and on YOU! I'd like each of you to give some thought to the following questions:

- ☼ Would meeting on the weekend improve our odds of growing our membership?
- ☼ Is the Florida State Fair (February) the best use of our members' time and resources?
- ☼ Is the one-day Carrollwood Conservancy Plant Sale (also February) something we have volunteers and time to be involved with if we continue with the Florida State Fair?

A message from our **New** President (continued)

- ⊗ Are the USF Botanical Gardens Spring & Fall sales beneficial to TAVS and something we should continue to support?
- ⊗ What programs can we offer to help YOU grow African violets that make YOU happy?
- ⊗ How can TAVS' most involved members encourage you to grow plants you'd be proud to enter in our 50th Anniversary Show in February 2026 and beyond?

The fact that I'm asking these questions doesn't mean I'm opposed to any specific activities that have long been on our calendar, but other than our Annual Show & Sale, I'm not married to any of them. That said, it never hurts to look at what you're doing and think critically and constructively about whether continuing "as-is" is worthwhile financially, or for group dynamics, or just plain fun! After all, we do like each other and enjoy our time spent together, right?

Like I said, there were signs that I really didn't want to take this job. That's because I tend to do everything I do with everything I have, which means I take it seriously, not lightly. I'm here for some serious fun, and a hobby I expect will last my lifetime, and I want it to be the best lifetime I can have. Hope you'll join me to make it so!

Sandi Soto

Zoom Meeting - Thursday, April 3 @ 7pm

Our presenter is Heidi Dillenbeck, the owner of Enchanted Gardens.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=86059105773>

Meeting ID: 932 479 2391

Passcode: TAVS

Day Meeting - Friday, April 18 @ 10am

Seffner-Mango Public Library

Someone will be presenting something. It's going to be a surprise!



Zoom Meetings

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

Our Meetings

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7pm and the third Friday of the month at 10am at the Seffner-Mango Public Library.

The library address is: 410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner, FL 33584

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!



Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- 🌸 Jim Matula - April 4
- 🌸 Mary Lou Harden - April 9
- 🌸 Lynn Bandy - April 17

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



Rhapsodie Juliana (6985)
11/19/1988 (Holtkamp)
Photo by Sandi Soto

Meeting Minutes

Tampa African Violet Society

March 21, 2025

Seffner-Mango Public Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:13am by Mary Beth Bryant, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL: Mary Beth Bryant. "You all make time for TAVS, our shared love of African violets gives us all inspiration. And we made it through February!"

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Mary Beth Bryant, Mary Lou Harden, Sandi Soto, Celeste Christman, Sandy Schultz, Laura Fellows (our newest member), Stuart Swayze, Joan Reynolds, Jim Boyer, Tammi Fitzgerald and Sheryl Herold.

SHOW REPORT: Sandi Soto, Asst. Show Chair, reported we had good turnout, but the results were disappointing. We earned maximum number in most categories, but the lone AVSA collection failed to meet the requirements for the AVSA Gold Rosette. With regards to our exhibits, most were excellent, with 60 plants and 10 designs receiving blue ribbons. A few plants were immature, and there were some staging errors including some plants in the wrong class and others needing grooming. Design division was very good, and Education was noted as Excellent in the judges' comments. Mary Beth Bryant applauded the efforts of new members showing for the first time, and 9 out of 15 active members showed plants or designs in our February Show & Sale. There were 67 horticulture exhibits and 14 designs, good numbers for our small membership.

Tammi Fitzgerald asked if there is a way to better broadcast our annual show & sale to increase attendance - advertising in the newspaper? Social media directed to gardening clubs? Is there a way to measure attendance to see trends over time? Perhaps bringing flyers to the fall USF show? Next year will be our 3rd time at the same venue, and we will need to come up with a theme ahead of time. Our 2026 show will also be TAVS' 50th Anniversary show.

PROGRAM: "TAVS February 2025 Show & Sale Awards". Mary Lou Harden recognized all the people who participated in our February Show & Sale, we had wonderful participation with a lot of people helping, even if they didn't have plants to show. A complete list of all the awards presented and photos from the show are included in this month's issue.

BUSINESS MEETING: The minutes of the February 14, 2025 meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

Officers Reports: VP Mary Lou Harden didn't have anything to report.

Treasurer's Report: From 2/13/25 to 3/19/25 - Glenn Shelton sent the Treasurer's Report. The Carrollwood Conservancy sale was profitable, as was the annual show plant sale.

Unfinished Business:

USF Show April 12 & 13 - Setup changed by USF to Friday, April 11. If you can assist in setup, please be at USF at 11am. Tampa Gesneriad Society will NOT be attending, so there will be less setup, and we should be done quickly. Sandi Soto will send out an email blast with confirmed set-up date and time. This is a great opportunity, good

foot traffic, it usually sells out, it's a worthwhile event for TAVS. We will need sale plants; plants from Florida State Fair/our show & sale went to Glenn Shelton. We may not need a large plant order from Peacock Cottage.

Jim Boyer suggested we post a big sign at the fall USF Show with dates for our February Show & Sale. We could possibly post on a whiteboard or easel (people could take a picture to remind themselves) and print out flyers. We would need to pick a theme early to have it ready for the fall USF Show.

New Business: No correspondence.

The following members were nominated, nominations were closed, seconded by Sheryl Herold. Our new TAVS Officers are:

President - Sandi Soto

Vice President - Mary Beth Bryant

Treasurer - Glenn Shelton

Corresponding Secretary - Lynn Bandy

BIRTHDAYS: There were no member birthdays in March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April 19, 2025 @ 2pm EST African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) Spring Zoom Meeting - Min Bui, Ph.D. will be presenting "In the Dark About Lighting?" Contact Jim Boyer if interested.

March 23, 2025 @ 4pm EST AVSA Virtual Circle for AVSA members - Barbara Stewart will be presenting "A Bug's Life ... and Death", alternative non-chemical ways to control insects.

April 3, 2025 Zoom Meeting - Our presenter is Heidi Dillenbeck, the owner of Enchanted Gardens.

April 18, 2025 Day Meeting - Mystery presentation, what will it be? Show up to find out!

ROLL CALL: 11 members.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 11:15am, raffle followed.

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.

Recipe Box



Our members love to grow violets, but we also love to eat! 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 Editor at sandylovesviolets@gmail.com. Be sure to include the source so we can give credit.

African
Violet
Society of
America

GROWING TIPS

AVSA's series on learning foliage types will be continued in next month's issue of The Petal.

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

African Violets Take a European Holiday

TAVS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW & SALE

FEBRUARY 21 - 22, 2025

AWARDS

SANDI SOTO — 27 EXHIBITS

Entries Chair

Set-up, covering tables

Horticulture Sweepstakes

23 blue ribbons

Second Best in Show

Best Chimera

10 Best in Class

Cashier

GLENN SHELTON, TREASURER

13 exhibits — 13 blue ribbons

Best in Show

Best Experienced Exhibit (Standing Rule #2)

Best Standard

Best Miniature

Best Semiminiature

Best Lyon

7 Best in Class

STUART SWAYZE

2 exhibits

LYNN BANDY

Publicity & Petal Editor

JEAN KRAUCHIK

Dish Garden

Assisting where needed

JOAN REYNOLDS

2 Novice entries

(Novice award, Standing Rule #2)

MARY LOU HARDEN

32 exhibits — 32 blue ribbons

Best Trailer

Best Gesneriad

Best Design

Best Streptocarpus

Best Club Project, Seasoned Grower

Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement

Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement

Best Container Garden

Best Natural Garden

Best Terrarium

Best Dish Garden

12 Best In Class

Design Sweepstakes (9 blue ribbons)

PAT RUTZKE - 2 exhibits

1 Best in Class

2nd Best in Design

MARY BETH BRYANT

Entries and Cashier

1 exhibit

1 blue ribbon

1 Best in Class

Show Plant Sales

JIM BOYER

Classification Chair

Judges' Chair

His famous stew

TAVS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW & SALE AWARDS (CONTINUED)

LISA VILLABOL

Exhibitor - 1 exhibit

ANGELA NEWELL

Judge & Club & Show support

CELESTE CHRISTMAN

Plant Sales & Club Supplies

Kitchen/Food organizer

TAMMI FITZGERALD

Education Chair

CELIA HOWE

Assisting where needed

SANDY SCHULTZ

Commercial Vendor – Petal Editor

Assisting where needed

SHERYL HEROLD

Assisting with set-up and where needed

JIM MATULA

Assisting where needed

ANITA ADLIN

Club & Show support

GLADYS COOK

Publicity & Posting show photos on our website

We thank the following for their financial support & donations:

ANGELINA & GEORGE GRUNDHOFF

TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY

LYNDON LYON

JO'S VIOLETS - JO SCHRIMSHER

HEIDI DILLENBECK, ENCHANTED GARDENS

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA

CELIA HOWE

PAT RUTZKE

CELESTE CHRISTMAN

GLENN SHELTON

JIM MATULA

JIM BOYER

JOAN REYNOLDS

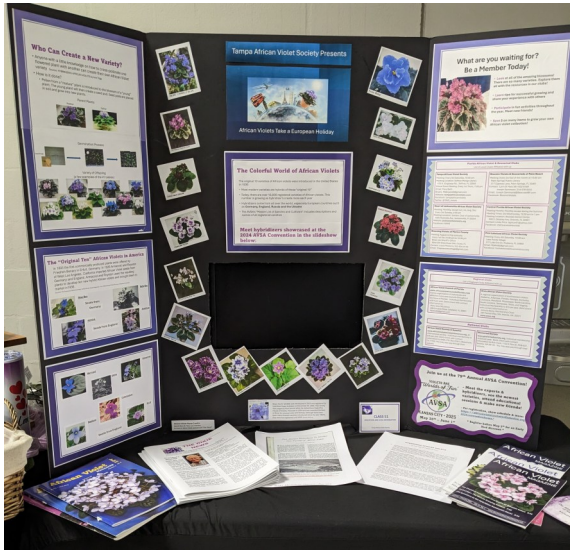
SANDI SOTO

JEAN KRAUCHIK

MARY LOU HARDEN

TAVS Standing Rule #2: A \$25 cash award will be given by TAVS to the Best Club Project Plants at its annual show, one award for best novice exhibit and one for best experienced exhibit.

TAVS ANNUAL PLANT SHOW & SALE



Educational Display
Tammi Fitzgerald



"Sharon Gartner"
Best in Show
Glenn Shelton



**Best Interpretive
Flower Arrangement**
Mary Lou Harden



"Sharon Gartner"
Second Best in Show
Sandi Soto



"Harbor Blue"
Sandi Soto



Best Design
Mary Lou Harden



"LE-Erica"
Mary Lou Harden



"Primulina tabacum"
Best Gesneriad
Mary Lou Harden



"Shirl's Hawaiian Lei"
Best Miniature
Glenn Shelton

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

Join us on Twitter:

Twitter.com/TAVSviolets

Visit us on Instagram:

Instagram.com/tampaafricanviolets/

Find us on Facebook

Tampa African Violet Society

Sandy Schultz

Petal Editor

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"Primulina omen"
Mary Lou Harden



"Ma's Debutante"
Sandi Soto