



THE FLORIDA CONNECTION

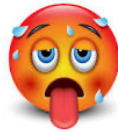
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CAN IT GET ANY HOTTER??????



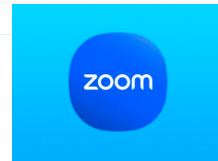
This has been another brutal summer – but cheer up hurricane season is here. Enough seriousness.

We held a Judges' school on July 26th & it was very successful. Four folks completed their exams & are now certified to judge. Let's give a shout out to Carol Ann Burrell (Advanced), Angela Newell (Student – soon to be Advanced), Debbie Wesch (Advanced) & Sandy Schultz (Student). Be sure to include them when you invite judges for your show.

We've got a show coming up at the end of October. Bobbi Johannsen is diligently working to make this a great show. She still needs a couple of people to assume committee duties. Please contact her & volunteer. She will be hosting a Zoom meeting on September 27th. If you're planning on showing, the growing schedule has started.

Try to stay cool

King James



There is MUCH information in this newsletter. But we still need to coordinate a few more things closer to the time of the show. A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for **Sat, Sept 27** at 2 pm EST. Please plan to attend for those last-minute questions!

Topic: AVCF 2025 Show mtg #2

Time: Sat, Sep 27, 2025 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84606866608?pwd=hh7ZQaE7zkErcaJtqysLuucsoMohjQ.1>

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WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A SHOW, DANG IT !!!

Bobbi Johannsen, AVCF 2025 Show Chair
bobbibiz@bellsouth.net



Even though it's 100 degrees out there I hope this picture cools you off a bit!

Cooler weather IS JUST around the corner (I hope!). And with it comes our October show in Lakeland. We have had several personnel changes since last year, but everyone is pulling together to get this organized. The resulting documents are included in this newsletter and accompanying documents.

You will see the usual items, show schedule (thanks to Linda Price) and show itinerary. You will also find a newly worked entries form (thanks, Sandi Soto), a show menu (thanks Mary Jane, aka MJ and Joann) and a list of nearby accommodations and restaurants (MJ). Bobbi adapted one of her local club's documents to create show and sales plant preparation. I think the sales workers and checkout clerks will appreciate seeing the same layout on all the sales tags. Get your sales number from Celeste Christman, our new sales room chair. Then you can fill out your sales tags at home.

Please share our fabulous show flier everywhere you can. People will travel farther than you think to see and buy some of our beauties, so spread the word wherever you can! Of course, tell your local club, but also post it online and in social media.

Since we are trying this new a la carte show format, there is no registration form (or fee) to participate in the show, therefore I have NO IDEA how many people will be attending. To help plan, I would love to hear if you hope to attend. We will hold EVERY event at the church, including the awards dinner. This will be a big savings on time and money, but we ask for your patience and help in making it work.

Please read the rules in the show schedule carefully, to make sure your entry will not be disqualified. ALSO, notice how MANY awards there are! You need to win some of them! The new entries form allows for pre-entries and should make Sandi Soto's job with entries much easier. She can add your exhibit info into the entries program ahead of time. What if you have some that you are not sure about? Send in all possibilities, it will be easier for her to delete them that day than to add from scratch.

The show menu is a starting place for you to know the basic food that will be offered. Mary Jane took over as Hospitality Chair and has some very healthful offerings for us. PLEASE bring your favorite dishes to share (and the recipes!), especially if you have any dietary restrictions. Also, we wonder how many tables will be required. PLEASE let me know your rough estimates (Show plants AND sale plants).

Do we need to get more tables for all your plants?? Also, be sure to let Mary Lou Harden know if you plan to bring a design or container garden. Affiliate members are those who belong to an affiliate club. They may exhibit and participate in the activities but are NOT allowed to sell in the sales room. Individual members can do it all !

Please look around for appropriate items for the auctions and raffles. We are glad that Carolyn Haug has agreed to be our chairperson. This will be one of the few money makers for AVCF at this event.

I want to thank everyone for really pulling together to make this "a la carte" show work, especially Mary Jane DiLorenzo and the host club, First Lakeland AVS. I really think we are onto something with this format... Paying for space and services at a hotel has become too expensive for us. But, this can only work if we ALL pitch in and help!

Please let me know if you plan to join us at the show. I look forward to seeing everyone again

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

VIOLET TREASURES

October 31-November 1, 2025



Christ Lutheran Church

2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33805

Hours

Friday: Sales Room, 11 am - 6 pm

Show Room, 1 - 6 pm

Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm

Information

Mary Jane DiLorenzo

863-647-1517

africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club

Facebook: AVCFL

Free admission and parking

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN THE NEXT ISSUE

NOVEMBER 20TH 2025

2025 SHOW - CALENDAR OF EVENTS
African Violet Council of Florida
October 31-November 1, 2025

Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
Wednesday, October 29, 2025



Show room set-up – Lakeland Club

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Noon – Church doors open

2:00 pm – 7:30 pm – Classification / Entries (If time contact Sandi Soto.)

2:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Plant Placement 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Designers begin work after checked in with Classification and Design chair

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Kitchen opens

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm – Plant sales open to designers only (Zoom room)

Friday, October 31, 2025

7:00 am – 8:45 am – Designers make finishing touches to their designs

7:30 am – 8:30 am – Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:00 am – Judges and Clerks instructions

9:00 am – Noon – Judging

Noon – 4:00 pm – Kitchen open

11:00 am – 6:00 pm – Salesroom open

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Showroom open to Public

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Auction/raffle open, tickets on sale

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm – Seminar, 'Growing Violets Successfully'

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Dinner (Church Quilting Room)

AVCF Annual Fall member meeting

Awards Ceremony

Saturday, November 1, 2025

7:30 am – 2:00 pm – Kitchen open

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Auction open, tickets on sale

9:00 am – 3:00 pm – Showroom open

9:00 am – 3:00 pm – Salesroom open (Zoom Room)

11:00 am – 11:45 am – Seminar, 'Growing Violets Successfully'

1:00 pm – Auction/raffle winners announced

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Sold show plants picked up

3:00 pm – Showroom and salesroom close

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Showroom / salesroom breakdown

ATTENTION, DESIGNERS

By Mary Lou

Hardenmlhard@verizon.net

We're looking for members who love to create flower and plant designs! We need YOU to sign up for a design. . .or 2 or 3. . .for our show which is coming soon!



The Design Schedule is Division 2 of the Show Schedule. There are 3 classes each for flower designs and plant arrangements and there are classes for terrariums, dish gardens and natural gardens.

Even if you have never entered the Design Division of a show, NOW is your opportunity to show us your creativity. So accept the challenge and let me know which classes you will enter. Doing a design can be a challenge, but it's also a lot of fun.

Please contact me at mlhard@verizon.net or call me at 813-924-2686. I'll be waiting for your call and anxious to hear you say, "SIGN ME UP!"

FOOD AND HELP DISHING IT OUT!

Mary Jane DiLorenzo Mjdilo92@gmail.com

As Hospitality Chair, I will try to ensure that we have nutritious and delicious food to keep us going through the show.



In the Show Packet is a menu of what I plan to have at the church. FYI: Lentil soup is a vegan dish with no onions. We will also have a salad mix, with tomatoes, cucumber, bell pepper, and black olives on the side... so you may add as you choose. I encourage everyone to bring other items, such as side dishes, desserts, etc. But please bring a card detailing what is in the dish. Many of our members have allergies. They need to be aware of what is in the food we serve. Please contact me with any questions about the menu and let me know what you plan to bring so that I may coordinate.

ALSO!! I am looking for volunteers! I will have most dishes prepared ahead but need help warming up, serving and cleaning up. Please let me know if you could help. Call me at 863-529-5420.

I can't wait to see everyone and all the beautiful plants. Happy Growing!



Get Ready for the AVCF Show October 31st & November 1st, 2025!

Make some money, and clear out some space on your stands for some new varieties by bringing in your pest free named plants and beautiful blooming NOIDs to sell at our Club Show and Sale coming up on October 31st and November 1st, 2025. Members who sell plants are expected to exhibit at least one entry, as well as help out at the Show for at least one hour.

For more information and your sales number (it's the same number as last year), contact Celeste Christman via email at:

CelesteChristman@C21be.com.

AWARDS



This is just a quick reminder that the 2025 AVCF SHOW “Violet Treasurers” is just around the corner. In case that theme seems familiar to you, it was our planned show theme for the storm cancelled 2024 show. Since the show schedule was already approved by AVSA and featured many interesting possibilities for designs, it was logical to recycle it for this year.

One of the exciting parts of a council show is the awards ceremony and this is where members come in. Carolee Carter, the amazingly organized 2024 chair, has kept meticulous records of who sent in money for awards last year, so rest assured your donations are being utilized. However there are some categories that do not have a sponsor yet. This would be a good opportunity to recognize a member of your club for outstanding contributions by sponsoring an award in their name.

While donations at any time and in any category are always appreciated, it would be extremely helpful if you sent me your check by Sept. 10. You can use the awards form here...or just sent me a note with your wishes.

2025 AVCF Awards Form

Name or

Affiliate _____

Address _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____ to be used for

☐

Or

☐

_____ **As Needed**

**Please make your check payable to AVCF and send it by Sept. 10th to
Carol Ann Burrell, 1032 Carefree Parkway, Sebring, FL 33872**

RAFFLES

Carolyn Haug
carolynsframeup@gmail.com
(863) 450-9399

We need your stuff!!!

Do you have some African violet or other items (new or used, in good shape) that you don't need any more? Why not bring them for the raffle at the upcoming AVCF Fall show?

Besides violet related items like: collectibles from past shows, plants or leaves of hard to find varieties, books, pictures, afghans with purple colors...consider anything that will catch the eye of raffle browsers. I will oversee our usual raffle AND will also have a silent auction if we receive some higher ticket items. This has always been a good money raiser for the club and we want to continue the tradition.

Please bring the items on set up day, Thursday, Oct 30 and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thanks and see you there!



September 11-13, 2025

**Dixie AVS Annual Show,
“Treasures in Grandma’s Attic,”**
Petals From the Past Nursery, 16034
County Road 29, Jemison, AL 35085.
For more information, visit their
website:

<https://www.davs.org/>



**AVCF
2024-2025 Officers**

President—Jim Boyer
(jasb39@gmail.com)

1st Vice President —Sandi Soto
(ssoto4@tampabay.rr.com)

**2d Vice President -- Carolee
Carter**(caroleeviolets@gmail.com)

Secretary—Bobbi Johannsen
(bobbiviolets@bellsouth.net)

Treasurer—Mary Jane DiLorenzo
(mjdilo92@gmail.com)

**ByLaws and Policies Chair — Mary Lou
Harden**

Newsletter Editor—Peggy Madison
(moonlightpeg@yahoo.com)

Judges Chair—Jim Boyer

Historian—Mary Jane DiLorenzo

Convention Handbook Chair—