The Petal

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

May 2026

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 (AVCF) and the Gesneriad Society.

The 80th Annual AVSA Convention is only 3 short weeks away!

Dallas, Texas May 25 - May 31, 2026

A message from our New President

It's May! Did you watch the Kentucky Derby or were you too busy with your African violets? Well, I did both! Saturday morning Glenn Shelton and I drove to Dunedin and spoke to the Dunedin Garden Club about African violets. Thanks go to Briony Tomalesky who invited us. Briony, besides being a member of DGC, is also a TAVS member, she comes to all our Zoom meetings.

I want to take a minute to say thank you to Sandi Soto for all the work she did the past year as club president and show chair. I know that as VP she will continue to be an active member who promotes the club in so many ways.

Speaking of promoting the club, at the end of May five of us will represent TAVS at the AVSA national convention in Dallas! Me, both Sandi Soto and Sandy Schultz and first-timers Tammi Fitzgerald and Joan Reynolds are going. It will be fun to connect with other AVSA members from around the country, see the programs and of course, look at and buy more African violets. I cannot wait. More plants, more plants! YAY!

As your new president, I am energized and ready for the year and hope to make it a great one with lots of things in the works. More on them later, as they become available. Please know that I always welcome your input - good, bad or indifferent, this is your club.

See you soon, Mary Beth, President

Zoom/Evening Meeting -

Thursday, May 7 @ 7pm

"How Does Your (Dish) Garden Grow?" - Join us this month for a PowerPoint presentation on designing dish gardens.

Image generated by ChatGPT

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324792391?pwd=ZzBkTmxZTmRJOFY0SmxZbHNnU1Evdz09&omn=86786460258
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!

Day Meeting -

Friday, May 15 @ 10am
Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)
5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

What we doin'??

MEETING MINUTES

Tampa African Violet Society

April 17, 2026

Day Meeting

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:18am by President Sandi Soto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Attending: Sandi Soto, Mary Lou Harden, Tammi Fitzgerald, Michael and Irene Kilcomons, Pat Rutzke, Jean Krauchik, Mary Beth Bryant, Sandy Schultz, Celeste Christman, Stu Swayze, Elaine McArthur, Amy Paternostro and Jim Boyer. There were no guests.

President Sandi Soto passed around membership application forms to gather member names, birthdays and addresses to be used to update the yearbook.

Program: President Sandi Soto gave a short program on tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) that can be used for pest eradication with AVID/Minx or Forbid/Oberon including a Tyvek suit, booties, respirator and chemical resistant gloves. Sandi recommended discarding all disposable gear (Tyvek items and gloves) after spraying. Sandi passed around a photo of a plant with a mite infestation (mites are invisible to the naked eye) and strongly recommended staying OUT OF THE SPRAYED AREA for a minimum of 12 hours, quarantining them if possible. A lively discussion followed on symptoms of various pests including thrips, mealy bugs and INSV. Following the pest program, Sandi distributed and reviewed the year-end report. The group was encouraged to join AVSA, AVCF and DAVS – membership in these organizations allows members to receive newsletters and participate in state, regional and national AV shows.

Mary Lou Harden mentioned the Gesneriad Reference Web (gesneriads.info) as a great resource for gesneriads.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the March meeting were approved as published in The Petal.

Officers' Reports: There was no treasurer's report and no officer's report.

Unfinished Business:

USF Plant Sale: The USF Plant Sale went very well with attendees nearly emptying the tables on Saturday.

Annual dues are due as May starts a new year for the club.

Michael Kilcomons brought in handouts with information from Minh Bui and Darryl Hoover on lighting.

The Lovely Ladies of TAVS

USF Plant Sale, April 12, 2026

These tables were FULL the previous day!!

No new news on embroidery for the club t-shirts, we're still looking for an embroiderer. Sandy Schultz will check with potential embroidery vendors in her area.

Mary Beth Bryant has been asked to speak at the Dunedin Garden Club on May 2. She has also been asked to speak at other clubs. Elaine McArthur inquired about giving talks at local libraries.

Meeting Adjourned: at 11:34 am. As there were no tickets for a raffle, members were encouraged to help themselves to plants.

Birthday wishes go out this month to:

- Kathy Glenn - May 5
- Mary Beth Bryant - May 9
- Jerry Kast - May 17
- Angelina Grundhoff - May 24

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing if you cannot attend the meetings.

RECIPES

Salmon Ball

Submitted by Mary Beth Bryant

1 can salmon - well drained

1 8-oz package of cream cheese

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 tablespoons grated onion

1 teaspoon prepared horseradish

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon liquid smoke

Mix well and shape into a ball and let set over-night. Can roll in chopped parsley, chopped nuts or a combination of both.

Sharon Gartner

Photo by Elaine McArthur

S. clone confusa (S 5b)

Saintpaulia species

Photo by Michael Kilcomons

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:

Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Service (HCAES)

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334

The Wide World of Sports

By Sandy Schultz, Petal Editor

I've been thinking a lot about sports lately – not the kind involving balls, bats, gloves, clubs,

or horses – but the African violet kind of sports.

A sport, in African violet parlance, refers to a genetic mutation that occurs within a plant causing changes to the blossom type or color, foliage or plant size. Many violets with fantasy type blossoms can sport to the solid color of the fantasy, a potential disappointment if you're eagerly anticipating spectacular fantasy blossoms for a show. However, most of the more interesting African violet variations – think variegated foliage, striped and pinwheel blossoms – are the result of sporting.

Blue Boy, one of the "Original Ten" varieties, was prone to sporting. This violet with single, dark violet-blue blossoms sported to produce, among other variations, pink blossoms, Geneva/white edge, doubles and girl foliage. Ralph Robinson, in the 1993 September-October issue of AVSA Magazine, noted that sporting may be caused by stressful conditions including abnormally low or high pH, overuse of insecticides or fertilizers and high temperatures.

I recently had a sport develop in my collection. A couple of months ago I noted that one of my

"The Triplets" Photo by Sandi Soto - All 3 came from the same leaf of Rebel's Splatter Kake

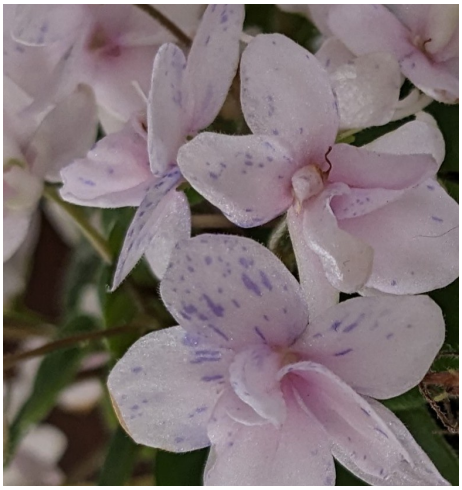
Rebel's Splatter Kake (8695)
01/31/1998 (R. Bann)
Front Center

Rebel's Iced Kake (10396)
03/02/2011 (R. Bann)
Back Right

Rebel's Night Breezes (8693)
01/31/1998 (R. Bann)
Back Left

Rob's Boolaroo plants (a very prolific grower - I have over 50) had not bloomed as expected. Instead of a semidouble light pink blossom with bright blue fantasy, it had produced a solid purple flower. I disbudded the plant and waited to see if it would bloom purple again, which it did. I was flummoxed at the change in blossom color (and loss of fantasy) until I recently received a photo from Sandi Soto showing her sports of Rebel's Splatter Kake – Rebel's Night Breezes and Rebel's Iced Kake. I had an "ah hah" moment which led to

Rob's Gundaroo (9294)
11/21/2003 (R. Robinson)
Photo by Sandy Schultz



Rob's Boolaroo (8053)
03/05/1994 (R. Robinson)
Photo by Sandy Schultz

a quick search on the AVSA website (africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/participate/plant-registration/african-violet-sports/). I am pleased to announce that I am now the proud plant mom of Rob's Gundaroo, a sport of Rob's Boolaroo.

While I'd prefer that the majority of my Rob's Boolaroo plants maintain their fantasy, I'm rather delighted to acquire a new variety without having to do anything. Now that the mystery of the purple blossom has been solved, perhaps it's time to check my plant pH again...

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:

Floridainorchidsss@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

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Tampa African Violet Society

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