THE PETAL

APRIL 2020

Monthly Publication of Tampa African Violet Society
www.tampaafricanviolets.com

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

EASTER MORNING

A Message from the President

Dear Violet Friends,

Could we have anticipated – while we were having such a great time at our show less than a month ago – that our country – indeed the whole world – would come to a standstill? I still find it hard to believe we're in a crisis condition. I am reminded of an old song, popular after WW2, "What a Difference a Day Makes – 24 little hours." Of course that's always been true, but it has been brought to our attention in a huge and unexpected way.

I hope all of you – our members – are staying safe and healthy, following all the guidelines about distancing yourself, washing hands often, and avoiding groups of more than ten. If any of you are in need of help, please let me know. We will do our best to look out for one another! Meanwhile, this will be my last message to you as your President. Congratulations are in order for our newly elected President, Angela Newell, as well as the other officers – Robert Cameron, First Vice President, Jim Boyer, Second Vice President, Lynn Bandy, Day Secretary, Kathy Glenn, Night Secretary, Jim Matula, Corresponding Secretary, and Glenn Shelton, Treasurer.

According to our Bylaws, newly elected officers are to assume their duties at the conclusion of the meeting in which they are installed. The installation was scheduled for our April 2, 2020, meeting. Since we will not be meeting on April 2, there will obviously be no installation of officers. According to Robert's Rules of Order, even if a formal installation ceremony is prescribed, **failure to hold it does not affect**

the time at which the new officers assume office. So. . . these newly elected officers will begin their duties on April 3.

I'm sure all of you are aware that our sister clubs have had to cancel their shows and plant sales, including the USF Spring Festival, the Green Thumb Festival in St Petersburg, other local events, and the AVSA annual convention and show. While we can't predict when we may be able to meet again, I encourage each of you to spend more time with your violets. Use this down-time to do your repotting.

If you need any supplies, you can call me or send me an email message and let me know what you need. We have plenty of soil, perlite, vermiculite, fertilizer, pots of all sizes, plant trays and domes. Also let me know when you will come to pick it up. I'll be glad to get your order together and can leave it by my gate in order to keep the distancing guidelines.

As you know, we have lost two more dear members – Therese Lynam, who served as our treasurer and hospitality chair for many years, and Lynne Wilson who served us in several capacities, including president, secretary and vice president. Their obituaries, along with that of Betty Wise, are included in this newsletter.

We'll keep you advised as to when we will be able to meet once again. So stay tuned and stay safe and healthy!

MARY LOU HARDEN President

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held twice a month the first Thursday and the third Friday.

At this time we have postponed meetings until the threat of Covid-19 has passed.

We will notify you once we know when we will be meeting again.

FEEDING YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS

The focus of our April meetings is FERTILIZER: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT

Here's the nut-shell version of what you need to know about fertilizers for your violets.

TAVS recommends that African violets be fertilized using the constant-feed method, so that every time you water the plants, they will get a small amount of fertilizer. You can use any well balanced fertilizer, such as 20-20-20, which contains equal parts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. You can also use fertilizers that are produced specifically for African violets. Whatever your choice, use only 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water. If directions call for one teaspoon fertilizer per gallon of water, reduce the amount to just 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. **Avoid fertilizers with high urea nitrogen content**.

With regard to fertilizers with urea nitrogen content, Dr. Optimara advises: "While it is often cheaper to use than other sources of nitrogen, urea is known to cause Root Burn on African Violets. The damage caused by Root Burn reduces an African Violet's ability to properly absorb water and nutrients. The most obvious signs of this are pale leaves and diminished flowering. Therefore, when selecting a fertilizer suitable for African Violets, make sure that it does not contain urea nitrogen. This can easily be determined by looking at the Guaranteed Analysis on the fertilizer label. If urea nitrogen is used, it will be listed."

So, be sure to read the label and be consistent in your fertilizing regimen from week to week

RECENT PROGRAMS

NIGHT MEETING: March 5th, 2020

"PRESENTATION OF SHOW AWARDS"
Awards Chair
THE PROGRAM:

"PANEL DISCUSSION ON POTS"
Plastic, Oyama, Clay, Ceramic, Dandy
Moderator: Jim Boyer

DAY MEETING: March 20th, 2020

Postponed

Lynne H Wilson Obituary
JULY 12, 1946 – MARCH 12, 2020

Wilson, Sandra Lynne (Hanselman) age 73, passed away on March 12, 2020 after a 5 year battle with lung cancer. She was born in Battle Creek, MI, and adopted at birth by Dorothy and George Hanselman of Kalamazoo, MI. When Lynne was 12, the family moved to Belleair, FL. After attending local schools, she graduated from Howey Academy, in Howey-in-the-Hills, FL. She married Bill Wilson of Tampa, and moved to Gainesville where he was a student, and worked as a Medical Assistant until the birth of their daughter, Sarah. They returned to Tampa where she was a homemaker, Girl Scout leader, and volunteer. Later she developed a passion for African Violets, and over the years was president of the Tampa African Violet Society, the African Violet Council of Florida, and the Dixie African Violet Society, which includes all of the southern states. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, William L Wilson, her daughter Sarah Anne Wilson and son-in-law Evan Shurak, sister and brother-in-law Jan and Leonard Zitnik, and nieces and nephew Wendy, Lisa, and Jackson. In deference to the current virus problem, a celebration of life will be held at a later date to avoid travel and being in a large group. The family would like to thank the doctors and staff at Moffitt Cancer Center for everything they did to help Lynne.

Therese Lynam Obituary
January 15, 1941 – March 9, 2020

Lynam, Therese J, 79, of Brandon, passed away on March 9, 2020. Therese had a heart of gold and was always willing to help anyone who needed her. Her passion was growing African Violets and helping the homeless when she could. She was involved with the Nifty 50's and played in the bell choir at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Therese enjoyed having her nails done and they stopped people in their tracks on how beautiful they were. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Guy Caputo; second husband, Lee Roberts; parents, Thomas and Therese Lynam; and brother, Frank Lynam. Therese is survived by her loving family, 3 children, 3 siblings, and 3 grandchildren. There will be a memorial service scheduled at a later date.

Betty J. Wise nee Long Obituary
March 7, 1944 – February 29, 2020

Betty J. Wise, nee Long, 75, of Plant City, Florida, formerly of Seattle, Washington and Washington, D.C., born on March 7, 1944 in Plant City, entered into eternal rest on February 29, 2020. She was a graduate of the University of Washington, and a retired auditor for the Federal Aviation Administration. She loved her family, and friends and enjoyed gardening, arts & crafts, and traveling. She is survived by her children, Alicia Wise and husband Ian Barnes of London, England, and Jonathan Wise of Brooklyn, New York; grandchildren, Thom, Alex, and Elena; siblings, Thelma Hull, Martha Bauldauf, Mary Fewox, Hugh Long, and Gladys Kelley; and many extended family, and friends. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 4:00 P.M. at Plant City Commons Community Garden, 2001 East Cherry Street, Plant City 33563. Memorial contributions may be made to the Garden at plantcitycommunitygarden.com. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com.

BONNIE SMITH is experiencing some complications recovering from cataract surgery.

From our member Kathy Glenn

So many people are using this time at home to clean, garden, craft, sew and cook. I'm a bit jealous, because my time at home has been spent in a recliner with my leg elevated, primarily watching the movies I have saved on my DVR. Two weeks ago, I pulled a ligament(s) in my right knee and continued to work in a brace for a week. Since the restaurant is currently closed, I have been taking doctors orders to elevate and heal. It takes about 1200mg of Ibuprofen to get me off the couch, so I'm not getting too much else accomplished. I am thankful for this time to heal and am looking forward to being on my feet again soon! Y'all take care, stay home, and wash your hands!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our members during these difficult times.

Annual dues of $15 are due this month.

UPSIDE DOWN WAFFLE AND EGG CUPS
12 servings

12 frozen mini waffles, toasted
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (8 oz)
9 ounce pkg frozen cooked breakfast sausage links, thawed and chopped
6 eggs, lightly beaten
3 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
Maple Syrup

Preheat oven to 375F. Grease twelve 2 1/2" muffin cups.

Place mini waffles in prepared muffin cups. Sprinkle with 1 cup of the cheddar cheese. Top with sausage and remaining 1 cup cheddar cheese.

In a medium bowl combine next five ingredients (through salt). Spoon it over filling in muffin cups. Bake 15-18 min

Just send it to nybleb@aol.com

RECIPE BOX

This month's recipe submitted by Jim Boyer

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

AVSA
Weekly Growing Tip

March 2nd, 2020

ARE THESE THRIPS OR APHIDS?

Did You Guess Aphids?

That may surprise you if you have never experienced the nymph stage of aphids shedding their skins. The skins are more commonly found on leaves, but in this case the aphid shed occurred on the flowers. Seeing the photo, many would have leaped to diagnose this as a bad infestation of thrips. No thrips were present in these blossoms and the pollen sacs were entirely intact.

Is there an easy way to tell the difference?
Yes! Blow sharply into the center of a blossom. Thrips will exit the pollen sac and move about on the petals. The skin shed by aphids is simply debris -- it will blow off the petals.

What can be done to control aphids?
The University of California recommends first monitoring closely for aphids (and for the ants which often are present at the same time feeding on aphid honeydew.) Ladybugs and other biological predators may also be effective. Washing with insecticidal soap is a recommended treatment. Several pesticides are effective. (Note: UC suggests treating with oil -- this may be *TOXIC FOR VIOLETS*.) Aphids are common in nature and rarely kill a plant.

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

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. Your order will be brought to the meeting.

HELP!!!!!

Lynn Bandy is looking for interesting articles, member bios, and photos to publish in "The Petal". Submit these to: NYBLEB@AOL.COM

Gladys Cook is in the process of rebuilding the Club's website and is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to work with her and learn the process. Gladys can do "on the job" training. Please contact Gladys directly at gladyscook9320@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Become a MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TAVS? Annual dues are $15. Send an email to Glenn Shelton if you're interested in becoming a member: floridainorchids@gmail.com

Visit us at:

www.tampaafricanviolets.com

Mary Lou is looking for good articles, tips, professional quality pictures for the website.www.tampaafricanviolets.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

Join us on Twitter:

AfricanViolets@TAVS_violets

Glenn Shelton manages this site and has requested if anyone has photos they would like to share on our Twitter account to send them to him at floridainorchids@gmail.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, 1310 IH-10, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77707.** 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 **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.africanvioletcounciloffloridа.org**

Lynn E Bandy
Petal Editor
nybleb@aol.com

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